

Dear polio eradication supporter,

In September, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) continued to work closely with the governments of Nigeria and surrounding countries in response to the recent polio outbreak, while new campaigns in Afghanistan and Pakistan reached millions more children with polio vaccines. Ramping up vaccination efforts and strengthening surveillance in these countries will be crucial in the next few months, which are typically a high season for polio transmission.

In this issue:

- [GPEI Asks for Support in Responding to the Nigeria Outbreak](#)
- [Polio Vaccination Campaign in Afghanistan Reaches over 9.5 Million Children](#)
- [United Arab Emirates Campaign Reaches Millions with Vaccines in Pakistan](#)

GPEI ASKS FOR SUPPORT IN RESPONDING TO THE NIGERIA OUTBREAK



© WHO Nigeria

Following reports of new polio cases in Nigeria in July, the first in more than two years, the country has been placed back on the endemic list. While the Government of Nigeria is working closely with the GPEI and neighbouring countries in rapidly responding to the outbreak, the humanitarian crisis in Borno State is also posing significant challenges. Currently, over 7 million people across

Nigeria have limited access to basic health services and are in need of assistance. A funding gap of US\$ 33 million must be closed in order to carry out the necessary surveillance and immunization efforts in Nigeria and the rest of the Lake Chad region. [\[Read more\]](#)

POLIO VACCINATION CAMPAIGN IN AFGHANISTAN REACHES OVER 9.5 MILLION CHILDREN

At the end of August, Afghanistan's Ministry of Public Health, with the support of WHO and UNICEF, launched a campaign to deliver vaccines to all children under five across the country. The vaccination campaign was carried out by over 65 000 trained and trusted community polio workers, who also provided Vitamin A supplements to strengthen childhood immunity. With increased activity at the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan, both countries must remain vigilant in their surveillance and immunisation efforts. [\[Read more\]](#)



© WHO Afghanistan

New GPEI website

Visit the [refreshed GPEI website](#), which has updated data visualisations, interactive graphics, and regular updates on the polio programme.

G7 Health Ministers Meeting

At the recent meeting of the G7 Health Ministers, sustaining commitment to polio eradication was stated as a top priority. [\[Read more\]](#)

Spotlight on Polio Eradication at the UN General Assembly

On 20 September an event at the New York Public Library marked 100 years of progress since the first major polio outbreak in New York City. The Global Citizen Festival in New York on 24 September also highlighted polio as a global health priority. [\[Read more\]](#)

POLIO IN THE NEWS

Associated Press: [Urgent polio vaccination drive kicks off in Nigeria, targets 25 million children](#)

Science: [Nigeria outbreak forces rethink of polio strategies](#)

TIME: [Erna Solberg: U.N. Must Work to Eradicate Polio for Good](#)

POLIO IN NUMBERS

Wild poliovirus in 2016

- Global Total: 26 (44) ↓
- Global WPV1: 26 (44) ↓
- Global WPV3: 0 (0)

Endemic: 26 (44) ↓

- Afghanistan: 9 (12) ↓
- Pakistan: 14 (32) ↓
- Nigeria: 3 (0) ↑

Data as of 28 September 2016. Numbers in brackets represent data at this time in 2015.

[Current case map](#)

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES CAMPAIGN REACHES MILLIONS WITH VACCINES IN PAKISTAN

More than 15.5 million children across Pakistan's highest-risk districts have received the oral polio vaccine thanks to a contribution of US\$ 8.3 million from the United Arab Emirates Pakistan Assistance Programme. The UAE has played a pivotal role in supporting global eradication efforts throughout the years, with a particular focus on Pakistan. These well-planned, high-quality immunisation campaigns are instrumental to improving childhood immunity in high-risk areas. [\[Read more\]](#)



every last child

FUNDING UPDATES

Rotary provided an [emergency rapid response grant](#) of US\$ 500 000 for the outbreak response in the Lake Chad region.

To ensure its outbreak response is fully funded, the Federal Government of **Nigeria** released N9.6 billion to WHO and UNICEF. The Government also reprogrammed US\$ 20 million in 2015 World Bank funding for OPV procurement via UNICEF.

The **US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** provided US\$ 3 436 000 to UNICEF as a supplement funding for 2016 for the vaccination efforts of Community Based Volunteers in Pakistan and US\$ 18.6 million to WHO for technical assistance, operations and outbreak response.

The **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** released US\$ 30 million to WHO for operations and emergency response.

At the [Global Citizen Festival](#), Prime Minister Xavier Bettel of **Luxembourg** [committed](#) US\$2 million over the next three years and Prime Minister Joseph Muscat of **Malta** [pledged](#) additional funding of US\$ 10 000 per year to the GPEI for the next three years, to ensure that children can live in a polio-free future.

Prime Minister Trudeau [pledged](#), also at the Global Citizen Festival, that **Canada** will remain a strong partner of polio to the end.

DONATE

