

# POLIO NEWS



Dear polio eradication supporter,  
 This month, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative marked World Polio Day by honouring the unsung heroes working to end the disease. Frontline workers – who are [braving difficult conditions](#) and [developing innovative ways](#) to reach children with vaccines – continue to inspire the global community and bring us closer than ever to reaching every last child.

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# Wild Poliovirus in Numbers



Data as of 25 October 2017, compared to the same point in 2016.



## Rotary Praises Unsung Heroes on World Polio Day

On 24 October, Rotary International and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation co-hosted an event featuring polio experts, polio survivors and celebrity champions—all of whom gathered in Seattle to honour the unsung heroes of the polio eradication effort. Sue Desmond-Hellmann, the Foundation’s Chief Executive Officer, thanked vaccinators working tirelessly to protect children worldwide, often in perilous conditions. Rotary International Vice President Dean Rohrs praised the steadfast commitment of Rotarians around the world. [[Read more](#)]



## Hard to Reach Series: Dense Urban Environments

Cities pose a unique set of challenges to polio eradicators: slums, high rise buildings, marginalised communities and big populations that can change overnight. Poor sanitation and overcrowding can encourage the spread of the virus. But while the tactics might be different, the goal is the same as in the remote countryside: to reach every single child. [[Read more](#)]



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## Mobile Circus Bringing Afghanistan Closer to Eradication

The Afghan Mobile Mini Circus is using a new tool to fight polio: laughter. The circus, supported by UNICEF, is made up of young performers, many of whom come from displaced communities around Kabul. Touring through high-risk communities across Afghanistan, these young people perform acrobatics, juggling and theatre – all infused with messages about the importance of polio vaccination.

[\[Read more\]](#)

### Polio workers in Yemen aim to vaccinate 5.3 million children

In the midst of a humanitarian crisis, unsung heroes have delivered vaccines and other essential health services to millions of children over a three-day campaign. [\[Read more\]](#)

### Building trust through data

Watch experts from Harvard University, UNICEF and the government of Pakistan explain how data is building community ownership of the polio programme. [\[Read more\]](#)

### A Closer Look at 10 Interventions in Afghanistan

This photo story shows how border vaccinations, transit teams and other innovative approaches are bringing Afghanistan closer to ending polio. [\[Read more\]](#)

### Circulating vaccine derived poliovirus type 2 cases 2017\*

- Democratic Republic of the Congo: 9 (0)
- Syria: 52 (0)

\*Data as of 25 October 2017, compared to the same point in 2016.

## POLIO IN THE NEWS

Undark: [Amid Fear and Guns, Polio Finds a Refuge](#)

National Geographic: [Here's Why Vaccines Are So Crucial](#)

NPR: [Webcast: Can The World Finally Wipe Out Polio?](#)

New York Times: [The Long War with Polio, as Recalled by its Generals](#)

## FUNDING UPDATES

Rotary awarded [US\\$ 49.5 million](#) in grants to support immunizations and surveillance activities led by WHO and UNICEF.

The **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** granted WHO US\$ 22.34 million to support the implementation of vaccination campaigns in the African and Eastern Mediterranean regions.

Following their pledge at the Rotary International convention in June 2017, **Australia** signed an agreement with GPEI for [A\\$ 18 million](#), bringing their total pledged support to A\$ 105 million until 2020.

UNICEF is grateful to the **Government of Japan** for a contribution of US\$ 4.63 million to the polio eradication programme in Pakistan. The signing ceremony took place between the Government of Japan, JICA and UNICEF.

The **Government of Italy** provided a combined grant totalling €2.5 million to WHO and UNICEF for the polio programme in Afghanistan. The GPEI values tremendously Italy's renewed commitment to rid the world from polio once and for all.

WHO received US\$ 9.9 million from **USAID** to support critical immunization and surveillance activities in the African and the Middle Eastern regions.

## Picture of the Month



These smiles make the work of all of the unsung heroes ending polio worthwhile! In Afghanistan, children show off the dot of ink on their fingertip which shows that they have been vaccinated.  
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every last child



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