

# POLIO NEWS



Dear polio eradication supporter,  
 World Children's Day on 20 November offered a chance to reflect on the people at the heart of the polio eradication programme: the children around the world whom we strive to reach and protect. From Afghanistan to Nigeria, health workers are employing new and strategic ways to fill vaccination gaps, improve communities' resilience and use the polio infrastructure to deliver additional health services to every last child. This work is ensuring that, one day soon, all children will live in a polio-free world.

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Polio Infrastructure Helping Stop Malaria in Nigeria
- Protecting Children from Polio at the Afghanistan-Pakistan Border
- Building Resilience for Disease Surveillance in Sudan

## Wild Poliovirus in Numbers



Data as of 22 November 2017, compared to the same point in 2016.



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### Polio Infrastructure Helping Stop Malaria in Nigeria

In Borno State, where conflict has displaced thousands of people, malaria is currently claiming more lives than all other diseases combined. Polio workers are the driving force behind a major public health campaign to stop the disease, delivering antimalarial medications alongside polio vaccinations on a mass scale. Their efforts are an important example of how the polio programme works with other initiatives to meet the wider health needs of vulnerable populations. [\[Read more\]](#)



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### Protecting Children from Polio at the Afghanistan-Pakistan Border

At the Torkham border between Pakistan and Afghanistan, 38 dedicated polio workers stand guard against the poliovirus. Working in shifts and operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week, these vaccination teams stop each passing vehicle to vaccinate children, educate travellers and check for potential polio cases. Their work protects children on both sides of the border and advances the fight against polio in one of its final strongholds. [\[Read more\]](#)



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## Building Resilience for Disease Surveillance in Sudan

Surveillance is essential to ending polio for good, even in countries where the wild poliovirus hasn't been seen in years. In Sudan, a new approach for transporting stool samples from the field to the laboratory – the process known as the 'reverse cold chain' – is helping ensure that the samples arrive at the right temperature for testing, improving the ability to test for poliovirus and stay polio-free.

[\[Read more\]](#)

### Preserving lessons from the polio programme

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation awarded a grant to the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health to study and share lessons learned from the polio programme. [\[Read more\]](#)

### To mark World Children's Day, a closer look into the polio programme's impact in Nigeria

A strong network of community mobilisers in northeast Nigeria works to reach every child. [\[Read more\]](#)

### Afghanistan finding unreached children

Learn how blood tests can help vaccination campaigns reach missed children. [\[Read more\]](#)

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

- Democratic Republic of the Congo: 10 (0)
- Syria: 70 (0)

\*Data as of 22 November 2017, compared to the same point in 2016.

## POLIO IN THE NEWS

Voice of America: [Pakistan, Afghanistan Report Historic Dip in Polio Cases](#)

Gizmodo: [The Last of the Iron Lungs](#)

Devex: [How Pakistan got to near zero on polio](#)

## Picture of the Month



In India, a volunteer vaccinates a child against polio on a moving train.

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## FUNDING UPDATES

WHO received €10 000 in support for polio eradication activities worldwide, part of the €30 000 pledge announced by **Maltese** Prime Minister Joseph Muscat at the Global Citizen Festival on 24 September 2016.

Recognizing the extraordinary engagement of **Luxembourg** to polio eradication efforts, Rotary [presented the Polio Eradication Champion Award](#) to Prime Minister Xavier Bettel on 16 November 2017.

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