

POLIO NEWS



Dear polio eradication supporter,
 The year's end offers the chance to reflect on the polio programme's progress and look ahead to the challenges that we still need to overcome to reach every child. While the past year has brought more progress, the continued commitment of health workers, country governments, donors and partners—combined with innovative strategies to deliver vaccines to children in every corner of the globe—will be essential to ending polio once and for all.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Working toward a Polio-Free Future: 2017 in Review
- Responding to Challenges in Syria
- Striving to Reach All Children, Everywhere

Wild Poliovirus in Numbers



Data as of 13 December 2017, compared to the same point in 2016.



© UNICEF/Pakistan 2017/Kyinat Motla

Working toward a Polio-Free Future: 2017 in Review

2017 brought new political and financial commitments, as well as important programmatic advances, that will be crucial to ending polio. If the programme continues to overcome obstacles and maintain high levels of commitment from countries, donors and partners, the world will have its best chance yet to rapidly end the disease once and for all. [\[Read more\]](#)



© WHO Syria

Responding to Challenges in Syria

In Syria, where ongoing conflict has severely disrupted the delivery of health services, polio workers are responding to an outbreak of vaccine-derived polio. Ongoing vaccination campaigns have reached hundreds of thousands of children since the outbreak began in June, and complementary strategies, such as vaccination at transit points, are helping to pinpoint and protect the most vulnerable children. These efforts demonstrate how the polio programme strives to effectively reach children in conflict and insecure zones.

[\[Read more\]](#)



© UNICEF/Pakistan 2017/Kyinat Motla

Striving to Reach All Children, Everywhere

For many people living in urban environments, accessing health services can be hard due to lack of infrastructure and attention from health authorities. In Pakistan, polio workers and routine immunization teams exchange information to identify and vaccinate children living in these dense urban areas. This is just one example of how the polio programme works with other initiatives to deliver essential health services to all children.

[\[Read more\]](#)

Helping polio survivors achieve their full potential

Workshops in Burkina Faso supported by Rotary International are providing custom-made wheelchairs.

[\[Read more\]](#)

New recommendations to end transmission in Pakistan and Afghanistan

Technical Advisory Groups met to assess country programmes and discuss ways to reach mobile populations. [\[Read more\]](#)

Guidance for the next generation of health advocates

The Islamic Advisory Group created a manual for religious students to help them advocate for vital health programmes. [\[Read more\]](#)

Circulating vaccine derived poliovirus type 2 cases 2017*

- Democratic Republic of the Congo: 10 (0)
- Syria: 74 (0)

*Data as of 13 December 2017, compared to the same point in 2016.

POLIO IN THE NEWS

Belfast Telegraph: [How 1957 polio epidemic changed lives of Belfast](#)

The Conversation: [Vaccines aren't enough – we're working on a way to stop the poliovirus for good](#)

Picture of the Month



In the last polio vaccination campaign of the month in Afghanistan, young brothers Imran and Irfan were protected against the virus in Kandahar.
© WHO EMRO/T. Hongisto

FUNDING UPDATES

Germany has announced [new pledges](#) for Nigeria (€19.9 million) and Pakistan (€2 million) for critical activities in 2018.

Italy has fulfilled its commitment from the Atlanta Pledging Moment, [providing €4.5 million](#) to WHO and UNICEF for polio activities in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

WHO received Sw.fr. 500 000 from **Switzerland** for polio transition operations, bringing Switzerland's contribution to polio transition to Sw.fr. 1 million.

Continuing with its long-standing support to polio eradication efforts, **Liechtenstein** contributed Sw.fr. 15 000 to Rotary International for polio eradication activities worldwide, which will be match by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, bringing the total amount to Sw.fr. 45 000.

DONATE

every last child



@WHO



@EndPolioNow

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

@CDCGlobal



@UNICEF

BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation

@GatesFoundation