

POLIO NEWS



Dear polio eradication supporter,
 Protecting every last child against polio involves more than just vaccine delivery – it requires building trust among communities. From Lake Chad to Afghanistan, frontline polio workers show the importance of relationship-building as they educate parents and local leaders about the lifesaving polio vaccine. This work, combined with incredible efforts to track the disease and revisit children missed with vaccines, is helping achieve eradication, while helping to strengthen battles against other diseases.

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Wild Poliovirus in Numbers

2018	6	6	0	0
	GLOBAL	AFGHANISTAN	PAKISTAN	NIGERIA
2017	5	3	2	0



Data as of 29 March 2018, compared to the same point in 2017.



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Reaching the children of the Lake Chad islands

Insecurity and miles of challenging landscape – these are just two of the barriers that stand between polio worker Dr Adele and vaccinating the children of the Lake Chad islands. Travelling long distances by canoe, Dr Adele uses careful planning and community collaboration to maximize the number of children vaccinated every trip. For many of those she reaches, the oral polio drops may be their very first interaction with a health system. Dr Adele's work underscores what it takes to reach every last child, and exemplifies the dedication of frontline polio workers everywhere. [[Read more](#)]



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Polio workers join efforts to curb Lassa fever in Nigeria

"Nothing prepared me for the tasks ahead other than my work in polio eradication." With Nigeria currently experiencing its worst ever Lassa fever outbreak, hundreds of polio workers are being deployed to help respond. Thanks to their experience fighting polio, these skilled health workers are able to rapidly support efforts to find and stop new cases of Lassa fever, demonstrating the significant strengths that polio resources can bring to other health initiatives. [[Read more](#)]



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Tracking polio from field to lab: A stool sample's journey

What happens after a polio worker collects a stool sample? In Pakistan, where 53 sampling sites comprise the largest polio environmental surveillance network in the world, surveillance has been crucial to the programme's efforts to end transmission. Follow the journey of a stool sample, and see firsthand how acute flaccid paralysis and environmental surveillance networks are helping scientists track down the last reservoirs of the virus. [\[Read more\]](#)

For Somalia's vaccinators, the "office doesn't close"

Though the country stopped indigenous wild polio in 2002, Somalia is at risk of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 after recent detection of the virus in the environment. Meet the women working to protect Somalia's children from an outbreak. [\[Read more\]](#)

What does it take to vaccinate every child in Afghanistan?

Peek behind the scenes to find out how Afghanistan vaccinated ten million children in just five days. [\[Read more\]](#)

Building trust to fight polio in Nigeria

A conversation can save a life. Learn how social mobilizers in Nigeria are building relationships with parents to ensure that every child is reached with the polio vaccine and other key health services. [\[Read more\]](#)

Circulating vaccine derived poliovirus type 2 cases 2018*

- Democratic Republic of the Congo: 3 (0)
- Syria: 0 (0)

*Data as of 29 March 2018, compared to the same point in 2017.

POLIO IN THE NEWS

The Boston Globe: [The world defeated smallpox. Why does polio still exist?](#)

Scientific American: [3 ways to end polio once and for all](#)

Great Big Story: [One woman's mission to end polio in Pakistan](#)

The Nation: [This Pakistan Day: Getting together for polio-free Pakistan](#)

Picture of the Month



©Polio Free Afghanistan

A child with a purple fingermark hugs one of over 1.2 million balloons given to children vaccinated against polio during the March campaign in Afghanistan.

FUNDING UPDATES

As part of its Can\$ 100 million pledge in June 2017 in Atlanta, **Canada** signed an agreement with WHO for Can\$ 40 million and UNICEF for Can\$ 30 million to support global polio eradication activities.

Continuing its strong and long standing support for Pakistan, **Japan** signed an agreement with WHO on 2 March for [US\\$ 3.2 million to support the National Polio Reference Laboratory](#).

The **Korean Foundation for International Health** fast-tracked US\$ 500 000 to support the outbreak response campaign in Niger.

Additionally, **Monaco** provided €100 000 for Niger's activities in 2018. Niger is part of the overall response effort in the Lake Chad region.

UNICEF is grateful to the **United Nations Foundation** for providing an additional US\$ 105 532 out of a total US \$1 260 875 contribution, which will secure procurement and distribution of oral polio vaccines to children in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

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