

# POLIO NEWS



Dear polio eradication supporter,  
 This month, health leaders convened at the 71st World Health Assembly (WHA), where the eradication effort and its future were the [subject of detailed discussions](#), and led to a landmark [resolution on poliovirus containment](#). WHA also marked 30 years since the resolution to eradicate polio launched the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. While the virus has proven a difficult opponent, the programme has shown creativity and tenacity in working to corner the disease. These efforts are showcased from the mountains of Laos to slums in Pakistan, where partners continue the vital work of delivering polio vaccines, alongside other health interventions, to every last child.

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## Wild Poliovirus in Numbers

<b>2018</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
	GLOBAL	AFGHANISTAN	PAKISTAN	NIGERIA
<b>2017</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>



Data as of 25 May 2018, compared to the same point in 2017.



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### Smallpox and Polio: An Expert Reflects on Two Different Roads to Eradication

What does it take to eradicate a disease? Few are more equipped to answer this question than Professor David Heymann, whose work has brought him to the frontlines of eradication efforts against both smallpox and polio. In this edition of Coffee with Polio Experts, find out what has made eradicating polio uniquely challenging, and how lessons learned from the smallpox campaign might help to finally end polio. [\[Read more\]](#)



© Sweden National Authority for Containment

### Swedish Lab Takes Steps to Help Poliovirus Containment Process

Though declared eradicated in 2015, type-2 wild poliovirus samples still exist in labs for research and to manufacture vaccines. Containing these samples is essential to securing a polio-free world. Read about the steps one Swedish vaccine manufacturer is taking to ensure that its type-2 wild poliovirus samples are safely managed and contained. [\[Read more\]](#)



© WHO Pakistan

## Rotary Deploys Clean Water to Fight Polio in Pakistan

For the residents in Orangi Town, Karachi, drinking a glass of water can be a matter of life or death. Weak infrastructure means water can become contaminated with human waste before ending up in a child's cup -- which could spread diseases like polio, hepatitis A and typhoid. Learn about how, alongside vaccination efforts, a new Rotary-supported water filtration system is helping to protect the children of Orangi Town against not just polio, but many other deadly waterborne diseases. [[Read more](#)]

### In Pakistan, community trust helps drop vaccine refusals to zero:

For the polio-vulnerable town of Killa Saifullah, Dr. Taj is not just a polio medical officer; he is also a dedicated member of the community. Discover how efforts to build community trust have helped Dr. Taj and the other polio workers of Killa Saifullah counter misconceptions about vaccination. [[Read more](#)]

### Even the highest mountains are no match for the polio workers of Laos:

Daeng Xayaseng knows that keeping polio out of Laos – where vaccine-derived poliovirus broke out in 2015 – requires the perseverance to reach the most vulnerable, remote communities. Learn how health workers like Daeng are reaching nearly half a million of the world's most isolated children with life-saving vaccines. [[Read more](#)]

### With increasing detail, microplans help Afghanistan's vaccinators reach more children:

Detailed plans showing vaccinators which children to reach with the polio vaccine also incorporate vaccination supply lists, and ensure that every team knows which doors to knock on. Discover how this powerful tool is helping Afghanistan's vaccinators deliver more vaccines and foster community trust. [[Read more](#)]

### Circulating vaccine derived poliovirus type 2 cases 2018\*

- Democratic Republic of the Congo: 4 (4)
- Nigeria: 1 (0)
- Syria: 0 (0)

\*Data as of 25 May 2018, compared to the same point in 2017.

## POLIO IN THE NEWS

The New York Times: [Pakistan Has Just One New Polio Case, but Isn't Declaring Victory Yet](#)

TIME: [How Nigeria's Start-Stop Immunization Battle Is Winning the War to Eradicate Polio in Africa](#)

The Telegraph: [Polio Could Be Wiped Out Within a Year](#)

## Picture of the Month



© UNICEF Kenya

Glorine holds her daughter Ella showing her pinky finger marked with indelible ink after receiving OPV during the outbreak response campaign in Nairobi, Kenya. The GPEI is working with donors to secure funding for the Horn of Africa outbreak response in coordination with neighbouring countries.

## FUNDING UPDATES

[Canada has monetized its Atlanta pledge](#) of Can\$ 100 million to help eradicate polio in Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan, and to continue to protect many polio-free countries.

The Pakistan Assistance Program of the United Arab Emirates continued its strong support for eradication efforts in Pakistan, providing US\$ 8.9 million to WHO for campaign activities in high-risk districts.

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