

POLIO NEWS



Dear polio eradication supporter,
 Each year, the polio programme delivers health services to millions of people living in some of the world’s most challenging settings. This incredible, globe-spanning infrastructure has been built by many hands – by the countless vaccinators, scientists and advocates who work tirelessly each day to advance progress against the virus. Whether in a mosque, laboratory, or traveling door-to-door, these dedicated men and women are united by a common goal: a world in which all children are safe from the crippling effects of polio.

Special request for our readers: we want to hear from you! Johns Hopkins University is conducting a study on lessons learned from GPEI in order to improve future public health efforts. Please click here to learn more about how you can share your experiences with us: [GPEI Lessons Learned Project](#)

IN THIS ISSUE

- [Photo Story: The Many Faces of the DRC’s Outbreak Response](#)
- [Photo Story: In Pakistan, An Imam Raises his Voice for Vaccine Acceptance](#)
- [Remembering Ali Maalin: A Life at the Intersection of Two Eradication Stories](#)

Wild Poliovirus in Numbers



Data as of 18 September 2018, compared to the same point in 2017.



© Credit: UNICEF / Serge WINGI

Photo Story: The Many Faces of the DRC’s Outbreak Response

On a hot day in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), a nurse carefully stows a vial of the lifesaving polio vaccine into a cooler. Elsewhere, a health worker wades across a river on his way to a remote village. A year into the DRC’s response to vaccine-derived polio outbreaks, countless scenes like these play out every day in the fight to stop the virus. Learn more about these critical efforts, and see just what it takes to boost immunity in a setting challenged by weak health systems and humanitarian crisis. [\[Read more\]](#)



© Credit: WHO Pakistan/Dawood Batozai

Photo Story: In Pakistan, An Imam Raises his Voice for Vaccine Acceptance

Imam Qari Mehboo is a powerful voice in his community – in more ways than one. Whether at the loudspeaker in his mosque, or the doorstep of a family refusing the polio vaccine, Mehboo uses his trusted status as a religious cleric to raise awareness about the dangers of the poliovirus in his hometown of Gulshan-e-Buner, Pakistan. Learn more about the important role that Mehboo and other religious leaders play in advocating for vaccine acceptance and protecting all children from polio. [\[Read more\]](#)



© Credit: WHO Archives

Remembering Ali Maalin: A Life at the Intersection of Two Eradication Stories

What legacy do you want to leave behind? For Somali polio vaccinator Ali Maalin, the answer to that question was clear: a world where more children are safe from vaccine-preventable diseases. Maalin's incredible journey to vaccine advocacy began in 1977, when he became the world's last person to contract naturally occurring smallpox. But – inspired to help tackle a different virus – Maalin's mark on history didn't end there. Learn more about how this inspiring advocate used his story to improve vaccine acceptance and root out wild poliovirus from Somalia.

[\[Read more\]](#)

CIRCULATING VACCINE DERIVED POLIOVIRUS CASES 2018*

- Democratic Republic of the Congo: 15 (9)
- Niger 2 (0)
- Nigeria: 11 (0)
- Papua New Guinea: 14 (0)
- Somalia: 8 (0)
- Syria: 0 (39)

More information: [Polio this week](#)

*Data as of 18 September 2018, compared to the same point in 2017.

POLIO IN THE NEWS

- The Telegraph: [Pakistan's female vaccinating team moves from polio to measles](#)
- Radio New Zealand: [How Papua New Guinea brought back polio](#)
- Cosmos: [The battle against polio still has a ways to go](#)

Benefits from the fight against polio ripple worldwide: With staff, tools and equipment in some of the world's most vulnerable communities, the polio programme has also helped respond to natural disasters and stop outbreaks of deadly diseases like Ebola. In this edition of Coffee with Polio Experts, learn more about these "broader benefits" and how polio programme assets will continue to strengthen health systems once eradication is achieved. [\[More\]](#)

Vaccinators break down gender barriers: To wipe out polio everywhere, it is critical to understand how local gender norms can impact vaccine delivery. Learn about the special role of female vaccinators in reaching every household, and how the polio programme is working to reach every child – boy or girl. [\[More\]](#)

A day in the life of a virus hunter: From a sewage sampling site to the home of a child with paralysis symptoms, Dr Nosheen Safdar's job as a surveillance officer takes her to the farthest reaches of her home city of Islamabad. Follow Dr Sadfar as she works to detect the poliovirus before it can harm another child. [\[More\]](#)

Picture of the Month



© Credit: UNICEF / Serge WINGI

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), a boy is vaccinated against polio after waiting in line with his mother. With one of the lowest immunisation rates worldwide, the DRC's response to the current vaccine-derived polio outbreak will help strengthen the country's health system for the future.

FUNDING UPDATES

- UNICEF received US\$ 75 000 from a Hong Kong Corporate Donor, dedicating this fund towards the fight against Polio.
- The Principality of Liechtenstein has made a Sw.fr.25 000 contribution to WHO for polio eradication operations worldwide. Liechtenstein is long-standing donor to polio eradication efforts and its total donation amounts to US\$ 230 000 to date.

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