



Dear polio eradication supporter,

This year is off to an intense start to maintain global momentum and resources for eradication. In January, the WHO Executive Board recommitted to supporting global efforts, and the incoming and outgoing Chairs of the Polio Oversight Board travelled to Afghanistan and Pakistan to witness and support the work of those countries. Health workers on the front lines vaccinated hard-to-reach children, drivers transported vaccines to warehouses, and surveillance officers worked to quickly and effectively track down the virus.

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Wild Poliovirus in Numbers



Data as of 26 February 2019, compared to the same point in 2018.

Total for 2018: Global 33, Afghanistan 21, Pakistan 12, Nigeria 0



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WHO Executive Board steps up polio support

The 34-Member State WHO Executive Board convened in Geneva in late January to discuss a variety of health topics, including the urgent need to end polio once and for all. On the sidelines of the meeting, Director-General of WHO Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus held a stakeholder consultation where leaders committed to transparent long-term budgets for eradication efforts. Read more about their discussion on polio eradication now and in the future. [\[More\]](#)



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Life in the driver's seat

Accessing some 38 million children for Pakistan's polio campaigns would be nearly impossible without an organized fleet of dedicated drivers and their vehicles. Read about these drivers who work every day—and some for over 15 years—to ensure vaccines reach every child. [\[More\]](#)



Real-time polio surveillance in Africa demonstrated for KOICA

The idea is simple: surveillance officers use an app on their mobile phones to document active case searching as it happens, by tagging the location of every healthcare facility they visit and check. A delegation from the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) received a first-hand demonstration of this system on their visit to WHO's Regional Office for Africa in Brazzaville. Disease surveillance is fundamental to effective outbreak response and builds on Korea's support for polio eradication efforts. [\[More\]](#)

CIRCULATING VACCINE DERIVED POLIOVIRUS CASES 2019*

Democratic Republic of the Congo: 0 (3)
 Indonesia 0 (0)
 Mozambique 0 (0)
 Niger 0 (0)
 Nigeria: 0 (0)
 Papua New Guinea: 0 (0)
 Somalia: 0 (0)

More information:
[Polio this week](#)

*Data as of 26 February 2019, compared to the same point in 2018.
 Total for 2018: Global 103 - DRC 20, Indonesia 1, Mozambique 1, Niger 9, Nigeria 34, PNG 26, Somalia 12.

POLIO IN THE NEWS

[CSIS Take as Directed](#): (Center for Strategic & International Studies): Sustaining momentum for polio eradication in Pakistan
[Australian Broadcasting Corporation](#): Poo and polio: How researchers are using one to find the other
[Undark](#): Coming of age unvaccinated

FUNDING UPDATES

Monaco has contributed €50 000 for polio eradication activities in Niger as a part of its long-standing commitment to global effort for polio eradication since 2005, which is further reiterated by Ambassador Carole Lanteri's past co-chairmanship of the Polio Partners Group.

At the January 2019 meeting of the **Rotary Foundation Board of Trustees**, more than US\$27 million was approved in funding for the World Health Organization's (WHO) work on polio surveillance in the African Region and operational support in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Iraq, Kenya, Pakistan, South Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen, and for research activities.

The **National Philanthropic Trust** granted more than US\$22 million in funding to WHO to support outbreak activities, replenishing the monovalent oral polio vaccine stockpile, the deployment of consultants to high-risk countries, and support for supplemental immunization activities in DRC, Chad, Cameroon, and Niger.

Polio chairs visit Afghanistan and Pakistan:

The incoming and outgoing Polio Oversight Board Chairs released a joint statement underscoring their commitment in this critical year. WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and Chris Elias, President of Global Development at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, reflected on their visits to Afghanistan and Pakistan, where they witnessed the continuing progress and efforts to end polio. The Chairs also announced their most recent partner on the board: Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. Learn more about their trip and their hopes for a momentous 2019. [\[More\]](#)

Nowhere to hide:

Timely and sensitive surveillance is key to locating and eradicating polio. The latest Polio Surveillance Action Plan for 2018-2020 includes new strategies for improving virus detection and field team coordination. Learn more about how this plan can help us better track down the remaining virus. [\[More\]](#)

Picture of the Month



Sample stool and sewage collection in environmental surveillance has improved polio surveillance by allowing early virus detection. © WHO

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