



Dear polio eradication supporter,

This month, the global polio programme came together in key moments of celebration and collaboration. GPEI leaders and staff observed International Women’s Day (8 March) by recognizing the leading role of female health workers in the charge against polio, and – just weeks later – marked five years since the WHO’s South-East-Asia region was certified polio-free (27 March). Amid these celebrations, the programme continued to make new strides against the virus, convening donors, experts and health officials for key meetings in Geneva and Brazzaville.

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Wild Poliovirus in Numbers



Data as of 29 March 2019, compared to the same point in 2018.

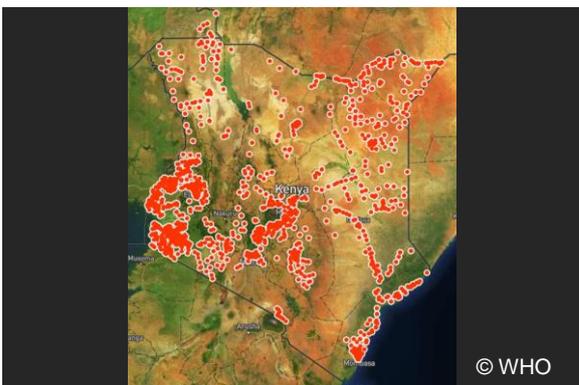
Total for 2018: Global 33, Afghanistan 21, Pakistan 12, Nigeria 0



© Rotary International

Women march ahead to end polio

The inspiring women of the polio programme don’t just go [door-to-door](#) vaccinating children – they also educate parents on the importance of the vaccine and help improve the programme’s [surveillance systems](#). In honour of International Women’s Day, check out the latest stories and [photos](#) celebrating the foundational role that women play in the global push against polio.



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New tech helps track the virus

In the Republic of Congo, Korea International Cooperation Agency delegates recently received a [first-hand demonstration](#) of an innovative mobile app that helps accelerate health workers’ response to suspected cases of polio. Learn more about this powerful virus-tracking tool, and its potential to help tackle other diseases including cholera, measles and yellow fever. [\[More\]](#)



Defining the steps to eradication

In February, the Global Commission for Certification of Poliomyelitis Eradication met to review progress in countries still battling the poliovirus, examine remaining challenges and evaluate strategies for safely containing the virus in laboratories. Read more about their work to define the next steps for certifying the world as polio-free. [\[More\]](#)

CIRCULATING VACCINE DERIVED POLIOVIRUS CASES 2019*

- Democratic Republic of the Congo: 0 (3)
- Indonesia 0 (0)
- Mozambique 0 (0)
- Niger 0 (0)
- Nigeria: 4 (0)
- Papua New Guinea: 0 (0)
- Somalia: 0 (0)

More information:
[Polio this week](#)

*Data as of 29 March 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.

FUNDING UPDATES

The UN Foundation provided US\$ 1.64 million to support oral polio vaccine (OPV) procurement in 2019.

The **Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi** has released US\$ 6.2 million through the UAE Pakistan Assistance Programme to support campaigns in high-risk districts. These funds are part of the US\$ 30 million pledged at the Rotary Convention in 2017 in Atlanta, USA.

New Zealand has pledged 2 million New Zealand dollars towards the outbreak response in Papua New Guinea as well as funds to revitalize the routine immunization system. These polio funds are in addition to the 5 million New Zealand dollars pledged at the 2017 Rotary Convention. Australia also provided additional 3 million Australian dollars, bringing its total allocation to 9 million Australian dollars. The [2018 Outbreak Response Report](#) highlights the heroic efforts of polio workers, with the support of the Government of Australia.

POLIO IN THE NEWS

- [Voice of America](#): India, Southeast Asia to mark five years of being polio-free
- [Reuters](#): Bill Gates urges Afghanistan and Pakistan to 'get to zero' in polio fight
- [Devex](#): Opinion: We are at a critical moment to invest in immunization
- [Wired](#): Polio is nearly wiped out—unless some lab tech screws up

Picture of the Month



Hafiza administering polio vaccine to a young child in Islamabad, Pakistan. © WHO Pakistan/S.Kashif

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