

POLIO NEWS



Dear polio eradication supporter,
 Every year, the polio programme delivers lifesaving health services to thousands of communities worldwide — each one with a distinct culture and set of customs. From gender norms, to national holidays, this context-specific knowledge is essential to understanding how to most effectively find and protect every last child from the crippling effects of polio. By collaborating with community leaders, hiring resident vaccinators and tailoring strategies to fit local customs, the polio programme is able to build critical trust within polio-vulnerable communities and reach more children with the lifesaving polio vaccine than ever before.

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Wild Poliovirus in Numbers

2018	15	12	3	0
	GLOBAL	AFGHANISTAN	PAKISTAN	NIGERIA
2017	9	6	3	0



Data as of 28 August 2018, compared to the same point in 2017.



Source: Twitter / Kofi Annan

Remembering Kofi Annan

The passing of former Secretary-General of the United Nations Kofi Annan earlier this month was a significant loss to the world of international diplomacy, peace, and efforts to deliver a more equitable life to millions worldwide. In this retrospective, we look back at his important contributions to global polio eradication efforts. [\[Read more\]](#)



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On Pakistan's Independence Day, vaccinators fight for a polio-free nation

This year, vaccination supervisor Mehwish Sheikh spent Pakistan's Independence Day fighting for another kind of freedom for her country — freedom from polio. As millions gathered in celebration at the mausoleum of Pakistan's founding father, Mehwish and her small team worked to immunize every child in the crowd — ultimately reaching over 11 000 children with the lifesaving vaccine. Meet Mehwish, and learn more about her team's record-breaking effort to ensure every last child in Pakistan is forever free from the threat of polio. [\[Read more\]](#)



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In Lake Chad, innovations help polio workers overcome a challenging landscape

From boats and generators, to disease surveillance and mapping technologies, check out the tools and strategies that polio vaccinators are using to reach children on every last boat, house, and island in one of the world's hardest-to-reach places. [\[Read more\]](#)

When it comes to vaccination, this father is determined

To his six children, Nasiru is not only their dad — he is also their vaccine champion. In parts of Nigeria where women are not able to take their children to vaccination clinics, social mobilizers are working to ensure that fathers like Nasiru understand the lifesaving importance of vaccination against polio and other deadly, preventable diseases. [\[Read more\]](#)

Lessons from a veteran polio eradicator

From remote Pacific islands to crowded cities in India, WHO's Chris Maher has helped curb polio in some of the world's most challenging settings. Find out what this expert has learned about reaching children, building trust and collaborating with local communities over 25 years of fighting the virus. [\[Read more\]](#)

Picture of the Month



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Locals in traditional dress provide entertainment for families attending the supplementary vaccination sessions at Malahang health clinic in Papua New Guinea. A national public awareness campaign has played a key part in the government's comprehensive response to the polio outbreak, helping to maximise vaccination coverage of children under five years old.

Rooting out polio in Papua New Guinea

To swiftly close an outbreak, coordination is essential. In Papua New Guinea — where low immunization coverage has contributed to recent cases of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus — local officials have worked with the polio programme to rapidly mobilize over 2 900 health workers, vaccinators and volunteers with the goal of reaching thousands of children with polio vaccines. Check out this photo story for an on-the-ground look at this critical effort to keep Papua New Guinea's children safe from the virus. [\[Read more\]](#)

Circulating vaccine derived poliovirus cases 2018*

- Democratic Republic of the Congo: 13 (8)
- Nigeria: 8 (0)
- Papua New Guinea: 6 (0)
- Somalia: 5 (0)
- Syria: 0 (39)

More information: [Polio this week](#)

*Data as of 28 August 2018, compared to the same point in 2017.

POLIO IN THE NEWS

ABC: [Inside Pakistan's fight for zero polio cases, where women are on the frontlines](#)

Reuters: [Nigeria approves \\$150 million World Bank loan to fight polio](#)

The Express Tribune: [From 179 to zero in four years: FATA's polio success story](#)

FUNDING UPDATES

In June 2018, Rotary approved more than US\$ 96 million in funding in new grants to WHO and UNICEF, of which US\$ 50.1 million has been released to both organizations.

WHO and CDC have started a new five-year cooperative agreement to support global immunization efforts. CDC has released US\$ 28.9 million in funding to support personnel, technical assistance, operational support for supplemental immunization activities, laboratory costs, surveillance, and program evaluation.

The UAE Pakistan Assistance Program provided US\$ 2.61 million in additional funding to support campaign activities in July and August in the highest risk districts.

As part of its €55 million commitment made at the Atlanta Pledging Moment, the European Commission concluded an agreement for €15 million for Afghanistan over the next 12 months, equally distributed to WHO and UNICEF.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation provided US\$ 7.5 million in urgently needed funding to replenish the mOPV2 stockpile held at WHO.

Outbreak funding is critical for the Initiative to launch rapid responses to any virus. UNICEF received funding from the Swiss National Committee to the amount of US\$ 189 351 and from easyJet to the amount of US\$ 477 442. These funds will be used for urgent outbreak response needs.

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