

GAZA POLIO CAMPAIGN UPDATE

ROUND 2 - 14 OCTOBER 2024

HIGHLIGHTS:

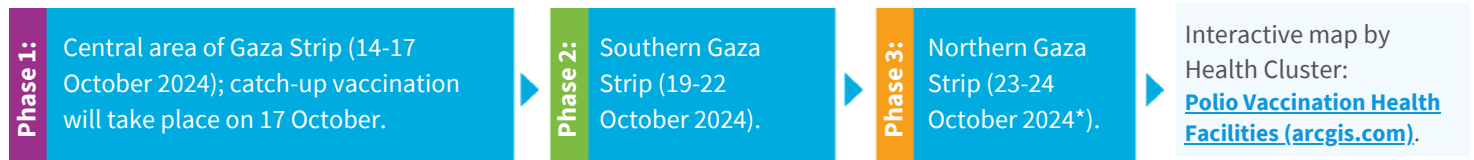
Building on the successes of the first round, **the second round of an emergency polio vaccination campaign started on 14 October 2024 in Gaza, in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)**. The campaign aims to vaccinate an estimated 591 700 children under ten years of age with a second dose of the novel oral polio vaccine type 2 (nOPV2) vaccine. In this round, vitamin A will be co-administered alongside polio vaccine, to help boost overall immunity among children between the ages of two and ten years.

The campaign, which is being conducted by the Palestinian Ministry of Health in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA), and other partners is part of emergency efforts to stop the polio outbreak in Gaza, which was detected on 16 July 2024, and prevent further spread of poliovirus.

Day 1 update:

- ✔ **The campaign began successfully in Central Gaza on 14 October**, with teams showing strong commitment. Strong supervision was provided in all 14 municipalities where the campaign was implemented.
- ✔ High levels of community participation were observed. Preliminary data shows a total of 92 821 children under 10 years were reached with polio vaccine and a total of 76 394 children between 2 and 10 years received Vitamin A on Day 1. However, final coverage will be updated after receiving all data.
- ✔ Coordination efforts made it possible to reach beyond the humanitarian pause areas during the first day of the campaign, allowing for the vaccination of children that would have been otherwise missed.
- ✔ Lessons learned from Day 1 have been captured and will be streamlined from Day 2 including improved coordination between social mobilisers and vaccination teams and stronger supervision of team deployments and logistics distributions.
- ✔ The intra-campaign activities were supervised and monitored by technical staff from WHO, UNICEF, UNRWA, and the Ministry of Health.
- ✔ The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for round 2 was fully functional ahead of the campaign start. On day 1 the EOC conducted its daily evening meeting to review key field findings and establish action points for further improvement.

As in the first round, the second round of the campaign will be conducted in three phases:



*Pending further coordination

DAY 1 BY THE NUMBERS:



Children reached with polio vaccination on Day 1:

Preliminary data shows a total of **92 821*** children under 10 years were reached **with polio vaccine**.



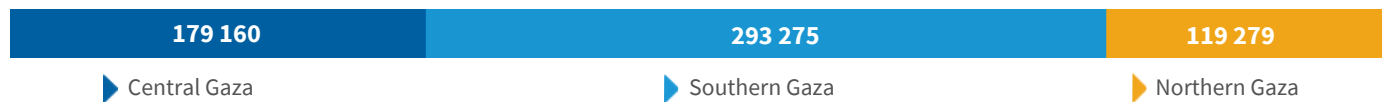
Children reached with vitamin A on Day 1:

A total of **76 394*** children between 2 and 10 years received **Vitamin A** on Day 1.

* Final coverage of both polio and Vitamin A will be updated after receiving all data.

ROUND 2 BY THE NUMBERS:

Target population for polio Round 2 (children aged under ten years):



Number of vaccination sites:

345 including hospitals, medical points, primary health care centers, temporary learning spaces, schools, food and water distribution points among other sites.



Number of teams delivering polio vaccine and Vitamin A:

1 201 teams, including health workers and community outreach workers reaching communities living in tents and hard-to-reach areas and **466** Team Supervisors and **54** Municipality Supervisors will be involved in all phases of the campaign.



Number of vaccine carriers:

almost **800** vaccine carriers are available in Gaza for round 2.



Vaccination coverage needed:

at least **90%** of all children in all communities and neighbourhoods during round 2.

Social mobilization:

Community mobilization efforts started on 12 October, with Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials widely disseminated, including 600 banners, 6 000 posters, and 200 000 brochures. SMS messages, radio spots, and announcements were also coordinated for maximum reach.

Comprehensive microplans:

were updated for the second round with maximum flexibility to ensure supervisors can allocate teams based on the identified needs.



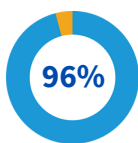
Cold chain:

Distribution plan for vaccines, ice packs, vaccine carriers prepared; central cold chain will remain operational over 24 hour-periods to ensure optimum storage conditions for vaccines. In the past two months 20 refrigerators, 10 freezers, 100 ice boxes, and 800 vaccine carriers have been delivered to Gaza — all equipment required to maintain vaccines at a temperature between 2 and 8°C.

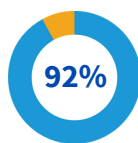
Oversight of campaign implementation:



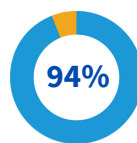
Monitoring: Intra-Campaign Monitoring (ICM) from Day 1 reported observations from 72 teams (including 15 mobile teams) across 54 sites:



of teams were trained



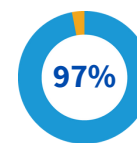
included local members



had adequate supplies



had female presence



adhered to proper finger-marking

Children moved efficiently through fixed sites, receiving vaccinations first, followed by Vitamin A supplementation for eligible age groups.



An **Emergency Operations Center (EOC)** will operate from 6 am – 9 am and will convene at 4 pm daily for a daily review. A summary of events will be presented to the EOC at 7 pm daily.



Challenges:

Overwhelming logistical challenges remain, including operating amid devastated infrastructure and constant population movements.

Needs:

The humanitarian pauses remain an absolute prerequisite, particularly to ensure all polio workers can operate in a safe and secure environment, and communities and families can obtain vaccination for children without fear.



SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

The Global Polio Laboratory Network (GPLN) detected circulating variant poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) in six environmental samples collected from Deir al Balah and Khan Younis in Gaza on 16 July 2024.

On 22 August 2024, the Ministry of Health reported poliovirus in a 10-month-old unvaccinated child living in Deir al-Balah, the Gaza Strip. Genetic sequencing confirmed that the poliovirus is linked to the strain confirmed in the environmental samples in Gaza in July 2024.

cVDPV2 has since been confirmed in another five environmental samples collected from Khan Younis (3 sites) and Deir-El-Balah (2 sites) on 5 September 2024.

NOTE:

The **first round** was successfully implemented from 1-12 September 2024 and vaccinated 559 161 children, or an estimated 95% of eligible children at governorate level, according to independently conducted post-campaign monitoring.

Thanks to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) partners, donors, and Member States of the Region for their support, and to the **UAE for their allocation of critical funding** of US\$ 5m towards the polio vaccination campaign.