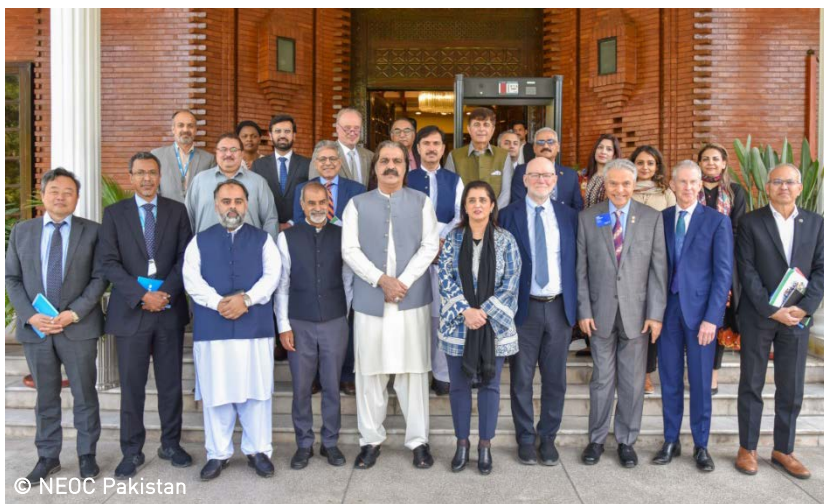




Dear polio eradication supporter,

This month we celebrated the [official closure](#) of the Malawi and Mozambique wild poliovirus type 1 outbreaks. This incredible achievement is thanks to unwavering commitment from African governments, health workers, and partners who helped ensure robust surveillance, quality vaccination campaigns, and enhanced community engagement to stop the spread of the virus. Last week, this milestone was celebrated by the Malawi and Mozambique Ministers of Health at an eliminating outbreaks event, held during the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly ([WHA](#)). Along with marking global health achievements, the WHA is critically important for polio eradication efforts, as Member States examine the global polio situation, celebrate successes, and discuss a path forward to end transmission of both wild and variant polio. On the other side of the globe, Rotarians convened in Singapore for the [Rotary International Convention](#). At both the WHA and the Rotary International Convention, participants reaffirmed their commitment to fighting for a polio-free world.

Ending Polio in Pakistan



A high-level delegation from the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) recently visited Pakistan, to strengthen political commitment with Pakistan's new leadership, to eradicate polio in the country. The delegation emphasized the need for a unified approach, urging strong collaboration between government officials, healthcare workers, partners and community leaders, to overcome remaining obstacles, and reach all children with a polio vaccine. [\[More\]](#)

POLIO IN NUMBERS

Wild Poliovirus in 2024 (2023)*

Global Total: 6 (4)

Circulating Vaccine Derived Poliovirus in 2024 (2023)*

Global Total: 61 (83)

*Data as of 29 May 2024. Numbers in brackets represent data at this time in 2023.

Breakdown by country

[Polio this week](#)

POLIO IN THE NEWS

[The New York Times](#): The End of Polio Is in Sight. What Have We Learned?

[GPEI](#): Closing the gap: the Afghan women gaining ground against vaccine refusals and zero dose children

Kicking polio out of the Democratic Republic of the Congo



The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), in collaboration with UNICEF and partners launched the "Red Card Against Polio" campaign to unite communities in the fight against polio. Inspired by the nation's love for soccer, the campaign garnered widespread community support to "kick polio out of DRC," and no longer allow it to "play" with the lives of children. Through mass media messaging and digital platforms, so far, the campaign has helped raise awareness among parents, contributing to over 25 million children

being reached during a polio vaccination campaign in November 2023. [\[More\]](#)

Honoring a polio champion



John Sever, an infectious disease specialist and champion of Rotary's polio eradication program passed away last month at 92 years old. Following John's recommendation in 1979, Rotary embarked on its decades-long effort to eradicate polio globally. His leadership, his pioneering contributions, and his continued resolve were instrumental in paving the way for innovative strategies driving the global campaign to end polio. He was an inspiration to all, and his impact on the efforts towards a polio-free world will be felt for years to come. Learn more about John's legacy [here](#).

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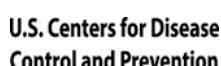
DONOR UPDATES

WHO would like to extend gratitude to **Luxembourg** for the generous contribution of €700 000 to support global polio eradication activities in 2024.

WHO would like to thank the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** for the contributions of US\$ 12 million to support technical assistance, surveillance and other immunization activities in Afghanistan and US\$ 3.7 million to support technical assistance in Somalia and the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office.

UNICEF is thankful to the government and people of **Japan** for the contribution of US\$ 1.9 million to support polio eradication efforts in Afghanistan. The funds will enable us to reach over 4.7 million children with the polio vaccine through national immunization campaigns.

UNICEF expresses its deepest gratitude to the **Islamic Food and Nutrition Council of America** for the contribution of US\$ 600 000 as part of a US\$ 1.8 million commitment to support polio eradication efforts globally.



@GPEI

@WHO

@EndPolioNow

@CDCGlobal

@UNICEF

@GatesFoundation

@Gavi

Photo of the Month



A village chief in the DRC and his five-year old son Bisimba show the “Red Card Against Polio” after Bisimba received the polio vaccine. ©UNICEF/DR Congo