



Dear polio eradication supporter,

This month, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) launched a [new campaign](#) to unite athletes, global leaders, and dedicated supporters in the fight to eradicate polio: Team End Polio. This powerhouse team, featuring [global sports legends](#) and [influential advocates](#) from around the world, is rallying behind the mission to ensure no child has to live in fear of being paralyzed by this devastating disease. With their unwavering commitment, team members will raise their voices on social media and at major sporting events, to drive awareness and action. The world has made incredible progress against polio, with cases down 99.9% over the past four decades, but the final stretch remains the toughest. With ongoing support from donors and affected countries, together we can eradicate this disease for good. Learn more about Team End Polio and how you can support this historic effort at [teamendpolio.org](https://teamendpolio.org).

### Variant type 2 poliovirus detected in Gaza



Recent wastewater samples from Gaza have revealed that variant type 2 poliovirus is circulating in the area. The virus was detected in six wastewater samples, collected from two environmental surveillance sites. While no

paralytic cases have been detected, the ongoing conflict has drastically disrupted health services and led to a significant drop in polio vaccination rates, heightening the risk of polio spreading within Gaza. For more context on the situation, check out the op-ed by WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus in The Guardian [here](#). Additionally, [read the interview](#) with UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell. [\[More\]](#)

### WHO polio workers' heroic response to earthquake

#### POLIO IN NUMBERS

##### Wild Poliovirus in 2024 (2023)\*

Global Total: 18 (6)

##### Circulating Vaccine Derived Poliovirus in 2024 (2023)\*

Global Total: 127 (185)

\*Data as of 31 July 2024. Numbers in brackets represent data at this time in 2023.

Breakdown by country  
[Polio this week](#)

#### POLIO IN THE NEWS

[BBC](#): WHO 'extremely worried' about possible Gaza polio outbreak.

[Bloomberg](#): Poliovirus Traces Detected in Gaza, Raising Fears of Outbreak

[NPR](#): Investigators search Gaza for cases of polio after the virus turns up in wastewater

[AFP](#): Poliovirus detected in Gaza sewage: Gaza, Israel health ministries.



When a 5.9-magnitude earthquake struck southeastern Afghanistan on 22 June 2022, WHO's polio workers were among the first to respond. They provided essential medical care, set up temporary clinics, and assisted in rescue efforts. Polio teams, including district polio officers and coordinators, utilized their local knowledge and resources to aid survivors, manage the flow of injured people, and distribute emergency supplies. Their work extended from treating wounds and transporting victims to organizing aid and setting up temporary

health services in devastated areas. Read the full [story](#) to learn more about these polio workers' extraordinary efforts.

### Global childhood immunization trends

New data from the WHO and UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage (WUENIC) reveals that global childhood immunization levels stagnated in 2023, with 2.7 million more children un- or under-vaccinated compared to 2019. Affecting all vaccination programs including polio, the increase in unvaccinated children, particularly in conflict-affected areas, underscores the need for persistent and robust immunization campaigns to prevent the resurgence of vaccine-preventable diseases. Ensuring comprehensive coverage and strengthening healthcare systems remain crucial for achieving a polio-free world. Learn more about this new data [here](#).



### DONOR UPDATES

WHO and UNICEF would like to express gratitude to **Germany's** Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) for the continued support to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative and for the flexible annual contribution of €37 million to support implementation of the Polio Eradication Strategy 2022-2026: Delivering on a promise.

WHO would like to thank the **Gates Philanthropy Partners** (GPP) for the generous contribution of US\$ 5 million in support of technical assistance for outbreak response activities in 2024 and 2025.

WHO would like to thank the **US CDC** for the contribution of US\$ 27.3 million to support technical assistance, surveillance, global outbreak response and the GPEI Stop (Stop Transmission of Polio) Program.

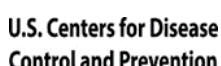


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## Photo of the Month



A child is vaccinated against polio. ©GPEI