



Dear polio eradication supporter,

Last month, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) recognized [World Immunization Week](#): a critical moment for global solidarity behind reaching every child with the vaccines they need to stay healthy. The week launched with UNICEF's [State of the World's Children](#) report, which shone a light on the 67 million children who have missed out on vaccines since 2020 and the nearly 1 in 5 children who have never received a single vaccine. Without a "[Big Catch-Up](#)"—a global movement to quickly vaccinate millions of kids across the world—vaccine-preventable diseases once considered by many to be in the history books will make their return, and [polio is at the top of the list](#). In support of this goal, [Rotary](#) and other partners highlighted the GPEI's commitment to reaching all zero-dose children with polio vaccines, while [WHO](#) shared stories of the health workers who are helping deliver a polio-free world. In May, WHO Member States will come together to address the need to bolster immunization efforts at the World Health Assembly, including important discussions on [polio eradication efforts](#) and [polio transition planning](#).

Leaving no child behind



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On Danyal Sikandri's first journey to vaccinate children in nomadic settlements across Pakistan, his nervousness turned into surprise when the community he reached happily brought their children forward to receive life-saving polio vaccines. Since the [Nomads Immunization Initiative](#) began in September 2022, health workers like Danyal have reached over 114 000 nomadic children with polio vaccines, bridging a crucial gap in Pakistan's health system and effort to end polio for good. [\[More\]](#)

POLIO IN NUMBERS

Wild Poliovirus in 2023 (2022)*

Global Total: 1 (2)

Circulating Vaccine Derived Poliovirus in 2023 (2022)*

Global Total: 61 (52)

*Data as of 26 April 2023. Numbers in brackets represent data at this time in 2022.

Breakdown by country
[Polio this week](#)

Creating positive change



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Adam Gorish Hamid's family was shattered when his nephew, Mostafa, contracted polio in December 2022. Mostafa was never vaccinated against polio, and now is left to live with its

debilitating impacts. Today, his uncle Hamid has chosen to help other families avoid this tragedy and is leading the fight against vaccine-preventable diseases as an advocate in his nomadic community in Sudan. [[More](#)]

Amplifying the voices of women health workers



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A polio-free Pakistan is within reach—but it will only become a reality with the collaboration of the women at the forefront of eradication efforts. In a first-of-its-kind initiative, women polio workers are now being given a voice to co-design solutions that will end polio for good, while also building their own futures beyond eradication. Here, Dr. Atiya Aabroo, a core member of the team behind this initiative, shares how it will help to deliver success. [[More](#)]

POLIO IN THE NEWS

[Dawn](#): What lies ahead for frontline polio workers in a polio-free Pakistan? (Yasal Munim, 25 April 2023)

[Forbes](#): Inside look: Polio fight to the finish. [Interview with Mike McGovern of Rotary International] (Maryanne Murray Buechner, 25 April 2023)

[Rotary](#): Tools and vision: How ending polio helps fight malaria. (Etelka Lehoczky, 25 April 2023)

[WHO](#): WHO's Science in 5: Will the world eradicate polio in 2023? (21 April 2023)

[UN Foundation](#): The 'Big Catch Up': The race to get childhood vaccinations back on track. (Megan Rabbitt, Dynahlee Padilla-Vasquez, 20 April 2023)

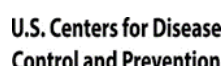
[The Telegraph](#): A rare form of polio threatens DR Congo – this is why it matters in the UK. (Andrei Popoviciu, 12 April 2023)

[Devex](#): WHO targets unvaccinated children as top priority for polio eradication. (4 April 2023)

DONOR UPDATES

WHO would like to thank the Government of the **United Kingdom** (UK), through its Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), for its latest contribution of £15 million. This generous support is part of the UK's multi-year commitment to the global polio eradication effort.

UNICEF is grateful to the Government of **Canada** for its generous funding of Can\$ 2.5 million to the polio eradication programme in Afghanistan to support essential vaccination activities.



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Photo of the Month



A child in Sudan gets vaccinated against polio. © UNICEF/UN0822740/Hassan Nazmi Ahmed



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