



Dear polio eradication supporter,

Last month, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) recognized World Immunization Week: an opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of immunization in protecting all children against vaccine-preventable diseases. To mark this week, the WHO, UNICEF, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and other partners launched the "Humanly Possible" [campaign](#), celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) – an initiative aimed at providing universal access to life-saving vaccines, for children in every country across the globe. WHO and The Lancet published a landmark [report](#) revealing that more than 20 million people are able to walk today who would otherwise have been paralyzed as the result of vaccination against polio. Throughout the week, GPEI leadership, such as Dr Hamid Jafari, Director of Polio Eradication for the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region, emphasized the [incredible impact](#) routine immunization has had, underscoring that we must continue to strengthen our efforts to deliver a polio-free world.

A critical investment towards a polio-free world

The World Economic Forum held its first-ever Special Meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. During this event, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia made a historic pledge: US \$500 million over the next five years to support the GPEI - their largest contribution to date towards polio eradication efforts. This funding is part of a [broader partnership](#) between Saudi Arabia and the Gates Foundation to support both polio eradication and other global health initiatives, including the Islamic Development Bank's [Lives and Livelihoods Fund](#) and the Polio Legacy Challenge, a region-led effort to strengthen health systems in Afghanistan while incentivizing



progress against polio. Learn more about this historic investment [here](#).

In parallel, the [Islamic Development Bank \(IsDB\)](#)

celebrated its 50th anniversary. Since 2013, the IsDB has been a key supporter of polio eradication and is one of the largest providers of funding to the national polio eradication program in Pakistan.

Polio survivor advocates for commitment to polio eradication

POLIO IN NUMBERS

Wild Poliovirus in 2024 (2023)*

Global Total: 4 (1)

Circulating Vaccine Derived Poliovirus in 2024 (2023)*

Global Total: 27 (62)

*Data as of 1 May 2024. Numbers in brackets represent data at this time in 2023.

Breakdown by country
[Polio this week](#)

POLIO IN THE NEWS

[The Hill Times](#): How women, past and present, are helping deliver a healthier, polio-free world

[Voice of America](#): Anti-polio gains threatened by returning migrants, 200,000 unvaccinated children in Afghanistan

[Reuters](#): Wiping out polio 'not guaranteed', support needed, Bill Gates says



Minda Dentler © Rotary International

Minda Dentler, survivor and immunization advocate penned a compelling piece calling for continued global commitment to vaccination, in the context of India's 10-year polio-free certification anniversary. Drawing from her personal journey of contracting polio as a child prior to the widespread availability of polio vaccines in India, Minda highlights the remarkable success of eliminating polio within the country. She urges global leaders to continue to learn from India's strategies, to meet today's challenges and reach every child with a polio vaccine. [\[More\]](#)

Champions of polio eradication share their stories

Two polio survivors, Safia Ibrahim and Julius Ntobuah, and a UNICEF polio communications officer, Wasif Mahmood, share an important message, "Everyone, everywhere should be vaccinated against this preventable disease." As they reflect on their personal experiences with polio – from grappling with the virus' devastating impacts to being on the frontlines of polio campaigns – they underscore the critical importance of vaccination. [Read on](#) Oliver to learn their inspiring stories.

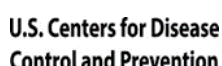


Wasif Mahmood, Safia Ibrahim and Julius Ntobuah © United Nations Fund

DONOR UPDATES

WHO would like to express gratitude to the Government of **Monaco** for its €100 000 contribution to global polio eradication efforts. This represents the second disbursement of a €400 000 pledge towards the implementation of the Polio Eradication Strategy 2022-2026.

WHO would like to thank the **United Kingdom** for its contribution amounting to £15 million to polio eradication operations worldwide. The United Kingdom has fully honoured its £50 million to GPEI.



@GPEI

@WHO

@EndPolioNow

@CDCGlobal

@UNICEF

@GatesFoundation

@Gavi

Photo of the Month



Polio survivor Safia Ibrahim is committed to fighting for a polio-free world. © Safia Ibrahim



@GPEI

@WHO

@EndPolioNow

@CDCGlobal

@UNICEF

@GatesFoundation

@Gavi