



Dear polio eradication supporter,

Amidst a challenging geopolitical and climatic backdrop in 2023, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative [continued to lay the groundwork](#) for a polio-free world. As we enter 2024, we do so with complete focus and the celebration of a groundbreaking milestone – the [WHO Prequalification](#) of the next-generation polio vaccine, nOPV2. Approximately 1 billion doses of nOPV2 have already been administered across 35 countries, and now with its final stamp of regulatory approval, more countries will be able to access and use this vaccine, protecting children from polio’s devastating consequences. As the first-ever vaccine to move from WHO’s Emergency Use Listing to Prequalification, nOPV2 continues to pave the way for other life-saving innovations. With this impactful news, the GPEI is starting 2024 strong, and remains confident that through continued dedication we can make the dream of a polio-free world a reality.

The fight to stop variant poliovirus



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In 2021, cases of variant poliovirus surged in Nigeria, paralyzing 418 children in 12 months. Determined to stop the spread and protect children across the country, Nigeria became a pioneer in rolling out nOPV2—and with remarkable results. Since nOPV2 rollout began, the country has achieved an 85% reduction in cases from the 2021 peak, and the virus’ genetic diversity is falling. Learn more about Nigeria’s progress through a new [data visualization story](#), and see how history can be made in one of the virus’s last remaining strongholds. [\[More\]](#)

POLIO IN NUMBERS

Wild Poliovirus in 2023 (2022)*

Global Total: 12 (30)

Circulating Vaccine Derived Poliovirus in 2023 (2022)*

Global Total: 447 (581)

*Data as of 3 January 2024. Numbers in brackets represent data at this time in 2022.

Breakdown by country
[Polio this week](#)

POLIO IN THE NEWS

[STAT](#): 3 issues to watch in global health in 2024

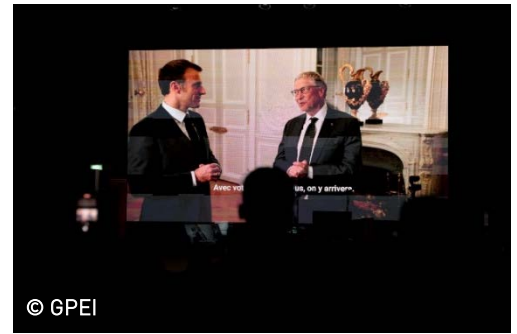
[The New York Times](#): This Was a Terrible Year, and Also Maybe the Best One Yet for Humanity

[Les Echos](#): Home stretch for polio eradication

[BBC \(Rotary feature\)](#): Purple crocuses planted on island in bid to end polio

France's commitment to a polio-free world

On 5 December, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the French Development Agency (AFD) announced an exciting new partnership to aid polio eradication efforts, beginning with a loan of up to €55 million from AFD to support polio vaccination and health system resilience in Pakistan. Following this incredible funding commitment, advocates from France's esports community joined forces in a [special tournament at the Eiffel Tower](#), vying to defeat @POL_10, a common enemy in the gaming scene and alias for the true threat of polio. Together, they demonstrated that that with solidarity and global support, we can end not just @POL_10 but polio, too. [\[More\]](#)



Supporting Pakistan's efforts to end polio for good

At the Reaching the Last Mile Forum held during COP28 in Dubai, UAE, the Islamic Development Bank announced a US\$100 million loan to Pakistan to support polio eradication efforts in the country. This new funding is critical to secure and deliver millions of polio vaccines to protect children across Pakistan. Thanks to the Pakistan governments continued commitment to polio eradication efforts, as well as funding commitments like these, we are one step closer to a polio-free world. [\[More\]](#)



DONOR UPDATES

WHO acknowledges gratefully the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**, which provided US\$ 208.57 million in 2023 to support polio outbreak response campaigns, surge capacity and research activities.

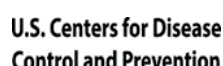
WHO would like to extend gratitude to **Rotary International** for the generous contribution of US\$ 69.19 million in 2023 to support technical assistance in headquarters and the African and Eastern Mediterranean Regions, operational costs for SIAs in Afghanistan and Pakistan, global outbreak response, surveillance in Nigeria and research activities.

WHO is very grateful to **US CDC** for the generous contribution of US\$ 47.67 million to global polio eradication efforts in 2023 including support for technical assistance, laboratory strengthening and the GPEI STOP Program.

WHO would like to thank **USAID** for the generous contribution of US\$ 42.97 million in 2023 for global polio surveillance.

WHO thanks the **Gates Philanthropic Partners** who provided US\$ 11.2 million in 2023 to support operational costs for outbreak response campaigns and technical assistance.

On 5 December 2023, the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** and the **French Development Agency (AFD)** announced a [new partnership](#) to fund polio eradication efforts and support climate-resilient health systems in Pakistan. This announcement includes a new loan of up to €55 million from AFD to Pakistan, going to support WHO's polio operations in the country.



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@EndPolioNow

@CDCGlobal

@UNICEF

@GatesFoundation

@Gavi

Photo of the Month



The French gaming community comes together to defeat a common enemy – polio. [@GPEI](#)



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