



Dear polio eradication supporter,

We welcome you to 2025 with an excerpt from the GPEI's End of Year Letter from Steven Lauwerier, Director for Polio Eradication, UNICEF, and Chair of the GPEI Strategy Committee:

In this polarized world, polio eradication has shown a way to work together, from the highest levels of government to health workers, local influencers, to parents and caretakers in communities, and to Rotarians, donors and partners all around the world. Aidan O'Leary, our dear friend, and my counterpart at the World Health Organization who we tragically lost earlier this year, strongly believed in this fact and exemplified it through his life and his work.

We have the tools and strategies to make polio history. Proven and context specific eradication strategies, if fully implemented, will lead to a clear outcome: eradication of wild polio and the end of all variant polioviruses. When we work together, with the financial and political capital we need, we know that a polio-free world is within reach.

Thank you for committing your time and energy to a healthier future for children everywhere, and we look forward to continuing our work together in 2025. Read the full letter [here](#).

### Recent Poliovirus Detections in Europe Emphasize the Importance of Vaccination



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Recent detections of poliovirus in wastewater systems across five countries in the WHO European Region underscore the critical importance of maintaining high vaccination rates and robust surveillance. While

no cases of paralysis have been reported, the presence of the virus in places long polio-free including Finland, Germany, Poland, Spain, and the United Kingdom serves as a stark reminder of the ongoing risk polio poses to children everywhere, as long as it exists anywhere. Continued vigilance and strengthened immunization efforts are needed to ensure any further transmission is put to a stop. Learn more about the detections [here](#).

### POLIO IN NUMBERS

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

Global Total: 92 (12)

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

Global Total: 252 (447)

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

Breakdown by country  
[Polio this week](#)

### POLIO IN THE NEWS

Associated Press: [Pakistan begins last anti-polio vaccination campaign of the year after a surge in cases](#)

Science: [Poliovirus keeps popping up in European wastewater, perplexing and worrying scientists](#)

## Integrating Efforts to Combat Polio and Other Diseases in Madagascar

In Madagascar, the integration of polio vaccination campaigns with efforts to combat diseases like lymphatic filariasis (LF) and measles has proven to be a successful strategy in protecting vulnerable communities. By combining these initiatives, health workers can reach more children with both polio vaccines and other lifesaving care. Integrated campaigns to protect against LF and measles not only improved vaccination coverage but resulted in significant cost savings for the health system, helping to reach more children for less. Learn more about the impact of these integrated campaigns in Madagascar in this [webstory](#) on the LF campaign and step into the measles campaign in this [photo story](#). If you're interested in learning more about the GPEI's global integration efforts, read our updated factsheet [here](#).

## Dr Walt Orenstein on the Polio Vaccine's Enduring Impact

Dr Walt Orenstein recently spoke with *Think Global Health* about the pivotal role of the polio vaccine, often hailed as a "miracle," in nearly eradicating the disease worldwide. The polio vaccine's impact on global health is undeniable, with cases dropping over 99% since the GPEI's founding in 1988. Dr Orenstein emphasizes the importance of continued vaccination to "finish the job" and protect future generations from this debilitating disease. Read his conversation to learn more about the enduring legacy of the polio vaccine and the ongoing efforts to safeguard its success [here](#).



### DONOR UPDATES

UNICEF extends its gratitude to the Government of **Japan** for their continued engagement and financial contribution of ¥455 million to support polio eradication efforts in Pakistan.

WHO is grateful to the Government of **Luxembourg** for the unwavering commitment to polio eradication, including the recent multi-year pledge of €2.88 million to support global polio eradication efforts.

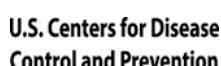
WHO sincerely appreciates **Canada's** significant contribution to global polio eradication efforts, including the initial Can\$ 30 million installment from their total pledge of Can\$ 90 million.

WHO thanks the **US CDC** for the generous contribution of US\$ 21 million to support technical assistance, the Stop Transmission of Polio (STOP) Program and global polio eradication activities.

WHO extends gratitude to the Government of **Austria** for its contribution of €100 000 to support polio eradication operations worldwide.

WHO is grateful to His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the **United Arab Emirates**, for the contribution of US\$ 2.5 million to support the polio outbreak response in Gaza and broader efforts to prevent a wider regional polio outbreak.

WHO also thanks the Government of the **United Arab Emirates** for its contribution of US\$ 2.98 million to the UAE Pakistan Assistance Program (UAE PAP) to support polio vaccination campaigns in Pakistan.



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