



Dear polio eradication supporter,

This month, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative held a virtual briefing with polio experts around the world including **Dr Michael J. Ryan** (WHO HQ), Dr Hamid Jafari (WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean), Tsedeye Girma (UNICEF), Dr Stella Anyangwe (Rotary), Dr Omotayo Bolu (CDC) and Dr Ananda Bandyopadhyay (BMGF). Speakers discussed ongoing challenges and inspiring progress in the fight to end polio everywhere. Two videos also premiered during the event, providing an update on the [polio campaigns in Gaza](#), as well as a look at the exciting work of [Team End Polio](#). To watch the full recording of the event see [here](#).

### Gaza's second round of polio vaccinations completed amid conflict



The Palestinian Ministry of Health, with partners including UNICEF and WHO successfully completed the second round of the polio vaccination campaign in Gaza, reaching over 556 774 children under ten with their

second dose of the polio vaccine, and 448 425 children between two and ten with Vitamin A. The campaign, which began in September 2024 a few weeks after a child was paralyzed in Gaza for the first time in 25 years, faced significant challenges. Intense bombardments and mass displacements led to part of the campaign being delayed in northern Gaza. Despite these obstacles, dedicated health workers were able to reach 94% of the target population with the life-saving vaccine. Still, as many as 10 000 children remained inaccessible due to the war, but surveillance is ongoing to detect and respond to any further spread. Stopping polio in Gaza is [crucial](#) to prevent outbreaks and protect vulnerable populations. Learn more about the importance of this successful campaign [here](#).

### Dr Hamid Jafari on achieving polio eradication

In an insightful interview, Dr Hamid Jafari (Director, Polio Eradication, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean) discusses the complex journey towards polio eradication and the formidable challenges faced in the last two polio-endemic countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Dr Jafari highlights the

### POLIO IN NUMBERS

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

**Global Total: 78 (11)**

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

**Global Total: 224 (374)**

\*Data as of 27 November 2024. Numbers in brackets represent data at this time in 2023.

Breakdown by country  
[Polio this week](#)

### Poliovirus detections in European Region underscore importance of vaccination and vigilance

Poliovirus has been detected through routine surveillance of wastewater systems in 3 countries in the WHO European Region (Germany, Poland and Spain) since September this year. While no cases have been detected to date, the presence of the virus underscores the importance of vaccination and surveillance, as well as the ongoing risk that any form of poliovirus poses to all countries everywhere. [More](#)

non-linear nature of progress, noting the significant fluctuations in polio cases over the years. He emphasizes the critical need to reach all children with vaccines, despite difficult contexts, to prevent further outbreaks. The conversation sheds light on the ongoing efforts and the resilience required to achieve the ultimate goal of a polio-free world – read the full interview [here](#).



## Global efforts to eradicate polio continue amid outbreaks



Despite a challenging year marked by a rise in wild poliovirus transmission in Afghanistan and Pakistan and new variant polio outbreaks in places like Gaza, global leaders remain steadfast in their commitment to polio eradication. Commonwealth, G7 and G20

leaders and health ministers remain determined to stop all forms of polioviruses, and such support is being echoed by community groups, youth activists and organizations like Rotary International. Political backing at all levels is critical to overcome the final obstacles to eradication and to reach every child with polio vaccines. Learn more about the political support required to end polio [here](#).

## POLIO IN THE NEWS

The Associated Press: [Pakistan reports new polio case in northwest, raising nationwide tally to 50 cases this year](#)

## DONOR UPDATES

WHO extends its gratitude to **Türkiye** for the longstanding support and for the recent contribution of US\$ 20 000 for global polio eradication efforts.

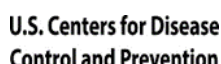
WHO is grateful to the Board of Trustees of the **Rotary Foundation** for the approval of US\$ 37.6 million in new grants at the October 2024 International PolioPlus Committee (IPPC) meeting. Funding will support technical assistance for surveillance in the African Region, polio campaign operations in Afghanistan and Pakistan, global outbreak response and technical expertise.

UNICEF is grateful to the Board of Trustees of the **Rotary Foundation** for the approval of US\$ 12.5 million in new grants at the October 2024 International PolioPlus Committee (IPPC) meeting. Funding will support critical activities in Pakistan and Afghanistan, as well as in outbreak response countries.

WHO thanks the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** for the contribution of US\$ 5.6 million to support research activities of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

UNICEF thanks the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** for the contribution of US\$ 23.6 million to support nOPV2 stockpile and associated costs.

UNICEF is grateful to the **US Center for Disease and Control (CDC)** for their continued support and additional contribution of US\$ 1.6 million to support activities in Afghanistan and in Somalia, bringing their annual contribution to UNICEF to US\$ 25.1 million in 2024.



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## Photo of the Month



A child receives polio vaccine at Bamyan Provincial Hospital. ©WHO/Kiana Hayeri



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