

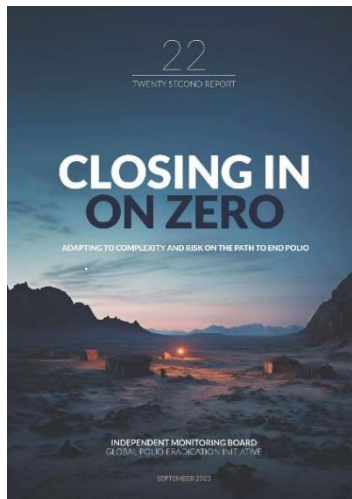


Dear polio eradication supporter,

Amidst the packed schedules of the United Nations General Assembly this past month, support for polio eradication made its way to stages across New York City. On 21 September, a [live storytelling event](#) featured diverse perspectives on the polio effort, from Safia Ibrahim, a polio survivor born in Somalia, to Wasif Mahmood, a community worker from Pakistan, to Oyewale Tomori, a virologist from Nigeria. Days later, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (DG, WHO) joined Ibrahim and Japanese entertainer EXILE Tetsuya on stage at the [Global Citizen Festival](#), calling for commitment to a polio-free world. Global leaders also recognized the importance of ending polio in their [political declaration on universal health coverage \(UHC\)](#)—an essential display of support for a polio-free world.

Checking progress towards eradication

In early September, the GPEI welcomed the [latest report](#) on the polio program’s progress from the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB). The IMB conducted a rigorous review of the program’s strategy and progress towards its goals – interrupting all remaining wild poliovirus type 1 transmission and circulating variant poliovirus type 2 transmission by the end of 2023. Despite immense progress towards eradication, challenges remain in reaching these goals. Read on to learn more about the GPEI’s response and continued commitment to eradicating polio. [\[More\]](#)



POLIO IN NUMBERS

Wild Poliovirus in 2023 (2022)*

Global Total: 7 (27)

Circulating Vaccine Derived Poliovirus in 2023 (2022)*

Global Total: 276 (359)

*Data as of 27 September 2023. Numbers in brackets represent data at this time in 2022.

Breakdown by country
[Polio this week](#)

Closing the polio outbreak in Ukraine

For nearly two years, amid an escalating war and widespread devastation, health workers in Ukraine were working hard to close an outbreak of variant poliovirus that left two children paralyzed. This month, following a thorough assessment of



Launching the Make Polio History Campaign!

On 26 September, we officially launched the [Make Polio History campaign](#)—an opportunity for people everywhere to voice their support for polio eradication. Check out the [campaign website](#) to learn more about how you can participate in the leadup to World Polio Day on 24 October and show the world that a future free from polio is possible today.

environmental surveillance nationwide, health authorities officially declared the outbreak to be closed. Hear from experts at the WHO Regional Office for Europe about what it takes to stop a polio outbreak, even in some of the direst conditions. [\[More\]](#)

Rapid response in Mozambique



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Following the return of wild poliovirus to Mozambique last year, the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) jumped in to provide rapid response support and prevent further spread. Working with local health partners, the CDC's Global Immunization Division organized vaccination campaigns and conducted quality disease surveillance to stop transmission and find the last traces of the virus. Joint efforts like this are what we need to stop wild poliovirus transmission in its tracks. [\[More\]](#)

POLIO IN THE NEWS

[The Washington Post](#): The world has the tools to end polio. But eradication remains elusive. (The Editorial Board, 28 September 2023)

[Forbes](#): The butterfly effect and combating human trafficking. (Brittany Dunn, 26 September 2023)

[Reuters](#): More bumps in the road to wiping out polio, report says. (Jen Rigby, 22 September 2023)

[Incubation](#): Polio: The Last Mile. (Jacob Goldstein with Ananda Bandyopadhyay, 14 September)

[The Telegraph](#) : Why climate mitigation starts with life-saving vaccines. (Sania Nishtar, 11 September)

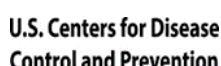
DONOR UPDATES

WHO and UNICEF would like to thank **Germany's** Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) for the longstanding support to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative and for the flexible annual contribution of €37 million to support implementation of the Polio Eradication Strategy 2022-2026: Delivering on a promise.

WHO and UNICEF are also very grateful for the continued support from the Government of **Australia**, represented by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and would like to recognize its recent contribution of Aus\$ 36.05 million to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative for the period 2023 through 2026.

WHO would like to thank **Türkiye** for its decade-long support to global polio eradication operations and for its recent contribution of US\$ 20 000 to polio eradication efforts.

The **Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust** announced a US\$ 3 million grant to support the GPEI. The contribution is intended to help vaccinate nearly 370 million children against polio annually for the next four years among other programmatic goals. [Read more...](#)



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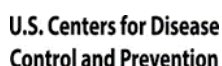
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Photo of the Month



A child in Ukraine gets vaccinated against polio at a community health center. ©WHO/EURO



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