



Dear polio eradication supporter,

This month, the [Technical Advisory Group \(TAG\)](#) on polio eradication met in Islamabad, Pakistan to evaluate emergency measures to stop polio once and for all in Pakistan. With 73 wild poliovirus cases reported in 2024 compared to just 6 in 2023, and a significant increase in environmental detections across historic poliovirus reservoirs, the urgency to interrupt transmission by the end of 2025 has never been greater. The TAG convened by Dr Hanan Balkhy, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean, emphasized the need for extraordinary efforts to reach continued missed children in insecure, high-risk areas and among migrant and mobile populations. Read more about the [TAG meeting outcomes](#). Additionally, this month the program updated the Global Polio Surveillance Action Plan – see the new plan [here](#). Lastly, to learn more about the history of polio eradication, listen to this new Humanly Possible [podcast episode](#).

### Innovations Transforming Pakistan's Fight to End Polio



© WHO / Asad Zaidi

A decade ago, Pakistan's fight to end polio looked very different – the tools were simpler, but grassroots strategies laid the foundation for years of progress.

Today, thanks to technological advances, the country has made significant progress in eradicating polio. Innovations like needle-free syringes, introduced by the World Health Organization in 2019, and geographic information systems to identify missed children, have made the vaccination process more efficient and less invasive. Learn more about the technological innovations transforming Pakistan's polio fight [here](#).

### Poliovirus detections in Europe

Urgent action needed to keep Europe polio-free. Click [here](#) for an editorial by Pamela Rendi-Wagner, Director of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and Hans Kluge, WHO Regional Director for Europe, on the recent detections of poliovirus which highlight the ongoing risk of polio resurgence anywhere.

### POLIO IN NUMBERS

#### Wild Poliovirus in 2025 (2024)\*

Global Total: 1 (0)

#### Circulating Vaccine Derived Poliovirus in 2025 (2024)\*

Global Total: 0 (3)

\*Data as of 28 January 2025. Numbers in brackets represent data at this time in 2024.

Breakdown by country  
[Polio this week](#)

### POLIO IN THE NEWS

STAT: [When your child can't walk and it could be polio](#)

Gulf Times: [Gates Foundation in collaboration with Qatar to launch Polio Legacy Challenge](#)

Time: [Why We Need to Remember the Physical Effects of Polio](#)

STAT: [The infamous 'Cutter vaccine' changed my family forever – but we still support vaccination](#)

## Partnership with KSRelief to Strengthen Immunization

The partnership between King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSrelief) and UNICEF is making significant strides in improving immunization efforts to end polio in Afghanistan and Pakistan. In Afghanistan, KSrelief and UNICEF have installed 13 generators in hospitals across 12 provinces, ensuring uninterrupted electricity for the cold chain system necessary for the safe storage of vaccines. In [Pakistan](#), the collaboration resulted in procurement and distribution of 2.8 million doses of oral polio vaccine, between May and September 2024. KSRelief's generous funding is instrumental in protecting children from polio. Learn more about the KSrelief and UNICEF partnership's impact on immunization efforts in [Afghanistan](#) and [Pakistan](#).

## DONOR UPDATES

WHO thanks the **Gates Foundation** for the generous contribution of US\$ 25 million to support polio outbreak response campaigns and enhance surge capacity. Such support allows the programme to take rapid action wherever outbreaks threaten children.

## Photo of the Month



Polio staff Husna Bibi (right) vaccinates a 4 months old baby girl carried by her father during a sub-national immunization day (SNID) in Punjab province, Pakistan. © UNICEF/UNI729643/Bukhari