



Dear polio eradication supporter,

In a significant boost to global polio eradication efforts, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reaffirmed a US\$ 500 million commitment to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), during the fourth Riyadh International Humanitarian Forum. The funds are critical to help end wild polio in Pakistan and Afghanistan and to stop outbreaks of variant polio. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's commitment will help reach 370 million children annually with lifesaving polio vaccines. This pledge underscores Saudi Arabia's dedication to protecting the world's most vulnerable children and contributing to a polio-free future. Learn more about this monumental commitment and its impact [here](#).

### Ensuring Polio Protection in Gaza Amid Crisis



A five-day mass polio vaccination campaign in the Gaza Strip successfully reached nearly 603 000 children under 10, marking a crucial step in containing an ongoing poliovirus outbreak. With improved access during the ceasefire, health workers vaccinated 40,000 more children than in previous rounds, ensuring broader protection for children previously unreachable. Led by the Palestinian Ministry of Health with support from WHO, UNICEF, and other partners, the campaign demonstrates the power of coordinated efforts in safeguarding children's health amidst crises. [\[More\]](#).

### Leading the Charge with Pakistan's First Polio Campaign of 2025

At the beginning of February, GPEI and country partners successfully completed a nationwide immunization campaign in Pakistan, one of the last two countries where wild poliovirus remains endemic. The campaign aims to vaccinate over 45.4 million children under the age of 5 across 159 of the country's 166 districts. More than 400 000 frontline workers went house to house to ensure every child was reached. This effort was critical to ensure every child is protected

### POLIO IN NUMBERS

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

Global Total: 4 (0)

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

Global Total: 0 (3)

\*Data as of 26 February 2025. Numbers in brackets represent data at this time in 2024.

[Breakdown by country](#)  
[Polio this week](#)

### POLIO IN THE NEWS

NPR: [Pakistan just vaccinated 45 million kids in response to 2024's polio resurgence](#)

CNN: [What to know about polio vaccines, in 4 charts](#)

Scientific American: [Polio Vaccines Saved America from the Disease. What Happens If We Lose Them?](#)

from polio's devastating consequences. Learn more about the strategies and collaborations that are driving this monumental effort [here](#).

### Free Radio in Mozambique Helps Keep Kids Safe from Polio

In Mozambique, a network of publicly funded community radio stations has been instrumental in promoting polio vaccination. Familiar voices speaking local languages have been spreading the message about the importance of immunization, reaching even the most remote communities. This initiative has played a vital role ensuring that children in densely populated and underserved areas, like Matola, receive their polio vaccines. Learn more about how these efforts are making a difference [here](#).

### DONOR UPDATES

WHO and UNICEF would like to thank the Kingdom of **Saudi Arabia** for signing a grant agreement totaling USD 500 m for polio eradication operations worldwide. Critical funds will be immediately used to help end wild polio in Pakistan and Afghanistan and stop outbreaks of variant polio.

## Photo of the Month



In Islamabad, Pakistan, a child receives oral polio drops during a home visit by a community health worker, part of a government-led nationwide polio campaign supported by UNICEF and other partners committed to eradicating polio. The campaign kicked off in February 2025 and aims to reach 45.4 million children across 159 districts. © UNICEF

GPEI is pleased to announce the launch of [PolioPulse](#), an online page for the latest news and social media insights on polio eradication.

Scan bar code or visit [poliokit.org/](http://poliokit.org/)

