



Dear polio eradication supporter,

This month, new [data](#) from the WHO and UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage (WUENIC) revealed that global coverage for the [third dose of polio vaccine](#) (POL3) remained at 84% in 2024 – steady with 2023 but still below pre-pandemic levels. While the data shows signs of recovery in many countries, gaps persist particularly in fragile and conflict-affected settings, where the number of children who have not received any vaccine remains high. Ensuring comprehensive coverage and strengthening healthcare systems remains crucial for achieving a polio-free world.

### Senegal and Mauritania Introduce Hexavalent Vaccines



Senegal and Mauritania have taken a major step forward in protecting children by introducing the hexavalent vaccine into their national immunization schedules.

This new six-in-one

vaccine adds the inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) to the pentavalent vaccine (diphtheria, tetanus, whole-cell pertussis, hepatitis B, and Haemophilus influenzae type b), reducing the number of shots children need. This is a game-changer for children's health as countries can not only protect children more effectively but also strengthen the fight against polio. [\[More\]](#)

### POLIO IN NUMBERS

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

**Global Total: 16 (18)**

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

**Global Total: 91 (117)**

\*Data as of 22 July 2025. Numbers in brackets represent data at this time in 2024.

**Breakdown by country**  
**Polio this week**

### From Survivors to Champions: Polio Fighters Lead the Way in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

In Kikwit, Democratic Republic of the Congo, polio survivors like Adosy Nseyi and Paulin Masebau are transforming personal hardship into powerful advocacy. Adosy dedicates her life to supporting young girls with disabilities, raising awareness about the importance of vaccination. Paulin joins every polio vaccination campaign, going door to door to talk with families and support health teams. They are not only protecting children but promoting inclusion and dignity for people with disabilities. Learn more about how these polio survivors are inspiring action and saving lives [here](#).



Courtesy UNICEF ©Carmel Ndomba Mbikay

## Madagascar's New Lab Strengthens Polio Surveillance and Outbreak Response



A new state-of-the-art laboratory in Madagascar is bolstering the country's polio response capabilities. Fully accredited by the World Health Organization, the lab enhances Madagascar's ability to rapidly detect any trace of the virus. Since its establishment, the lab has played a pivotal role detecting cases of variant poliovirus, key to successfully [closing](#) Madagascar's outbreak of type 1 variant poliovirus. Learn more about Madagascar's strengthened polio infrastructure [here](#).

## POLIO IN THE NEWS

**Global Citizen:** [The UK Can Help Finish the Fight to Eradicate Polio - Here's How](#)

**Slate:** [The Curious Case of My Mother-in-Law's Polio](#)

**The New York Times:** [I'm a Pediatrician. I'm Afraid of Diseases I Thought I'd Never See.](#)

**SciDev:** [African surveillance labs can power eradication push](#)

## DONOR UPDATES

UNICEF would like to thank **Japan** for a contribution of US\$ 2.5 million to polio eradication for Afghanistan, with further funds allocated to routine immunization and indirect support costs.

## Photo of the Month



Paulin Masebau goes door-to-door during a polio vaccination campaign to raise awareness about the importance of vaccination. Courtesy UNICEF © Carmel Ndomba Mbikayi