



Dear polio eradication supporter,

This month, African health ministers gathered in Lusaka, Zambia, to renew their commitment to ending all forms of polio across the continent. At [the World Health Organization Regional Committee for Africa](#), leaders pledged stronger coordinated and enhanced cross-border collaboration to stop type 2 variant poliovirus that continues to circulate in the Lake Chad Basin and Horn of Africa. Meanwhile, the latest [Polio International Health Regulations Emergency Committee](#) meeting highlighted ongoing challenges, noting re-established wild polio transmission in Pakistan's core reservoirs and continued cross border spread of variant polio. These developments underscore the critical need for sustained vigilance and commitment at all levels. The GPEI also extends its deepest sympathy to everyone affected by the devastating landslide in Sudan, the earthquake in Afghanistan, and the flooding Pakistan. The polio program will support relief efforts to help alleviate suffering and provide urgently needed health assistance.

The GPEI mourns the passing of Professor Tony Adams, a distinguished physician and public servant who served as Australia's Chief Medical Officer and later chaired the WHO Global Commission for the Certification of Poliomyelitis Eradication. As Chair of the Western Pacific Regional Commission, he guided the region to become only the second certified polio-free area globally and contributed to the South-east Asia Regional Commission's polio-free certification. Professor Adams inspired countless public health professionals worldwide, leaving behind a powerful legacy in the global fight toward a polio-free world.

Humanitarian Workers Risk Their Lives to Protect Gaza's Children

After the first polio case in 25 years was confirmed in Gaza in August 2024, humanitarian workers launched an extraordinary mission to vaccinate 600 000 children in an active conflict zone. A new documentary, "Gaza's Silent Threat," follows Dr Younis R. Awadallah, UNICEF's public health specialist in Gaza, and Fairuz Abuwarda, UNICEF Coordinator, as they navigate brief ceasefires and security threats to deliver polio vaccines across Gaza. The film serves as both a tribute to the courage of humanitarian workers and a stark reminder of how conflict creates ideal conditions for deadly disease outbreaks among the world's most vulnerable children. Watch the documentary [here](#).

POLIO IN NUMBERS

Wild Poliovirus in 2025 (2024)*

Global Total: 24 (33)

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

Global Total: 129 (146)

*Data as of 27 August 2025. Numbers in brackets represent data at this time in 2024.

Breakdown by country
Polio this week



Overcoming Vaccine Hesitancy in Pakistan

Sana, a 29-year-old mother from Karachi, initially refused to vaccinate her youngest daughter after seeing viral WhatsApp and Facebook videos claiming polio vaccines were harmful to children. During a polio vaccination campaign, a female health worker took the time to address her concerns directly, explaining that children may face paralysis from polio itself, not from the vaccine. Following this conversation, Sana chose to vaccinate her daughter and now encourages other hesitant mothers to educate themselves about the critical importance of vaccines. [\[More\]](#).

Responding to Community Health Needs

[Responding to Community Health Needs](#): Recently, the GPEI published new materials highlighting the program's integration efforts to help end all polio transmission and meet the broader health needs of communities now. Integration involves using polio tools, staff, expertise and other resources to deliver critical health interventions alongside polio vaccines – from measles vaccines to vitamin A supplements. The GPEI's [integration factsheet](#) showcases examples of integration in practice and the [Multi-Antigen briefing note](#) provides countries, regions, and global stakeholders with practical guidance and considerations on delivering other antigens alongside polio vaccines. Check out these helpful resources [here](#).

POLIO IN THE NEWS

World Health Organization: [Papua New Guinea Confirms First Human Case of Polio in Ongoing Outbreak](#)

Tagesspiegel Background: [Polio nearly eradicated – and Germany cuts back?](#)

Dawn: [One polio case confirmed each in KP and Sindh, taking nationwide 2025 tally to 21](#)

Al Jazeera: [Health champions': Local women lead the fight against polio in Nigeria.](#)

The Times of Israel: [Sampling turns up polio in Jerusalem, other cities — ministry](#)

DONOR UPDATES

UNICEF and WHO are grateful to the Board of Trustees of the **Rotary Foundation** for the approval of US\$ 50 million in new grants at their June 2025 meeting. Funding will support surveillance in Nigeria, operational support in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and global outbreak response.

UNICEF and WHO would like to extend their gratitude to the **European Investment Bank (EIB)** for the contribution of approximately €119 million to support outbreak response activities globally. This represents the final disbursement of an innovative financing partnership between the EIB, the **European Commission** and the **Gates Foundation**, together investing €500 million in support of the GPEI.

UNICEF and WHO thank the Government of **Canada** for releasing Can\$ 3 million as part of its total Can\$ 151 million pledge to support polio eradication operations in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

WHO thanks the Government of **Spain** for its generous contribution of €100 000 to support polio eradication operations worldwide.

WHO expresses gratitude to the Government of **Monaco** for its €100 000 contribution toward global eradication efforts. This marks the third disbursement of a €400 000 pledge supporting the Polio Eradication Strategy 2022-2026.

UNICEF and WHO expresses its sincere gratitude to the **Gates Foundation** for its generous contribution of US\$ 40 million in support of polio eradication efforts in Afghanistan and Pakistan, including polio campaign operations, technical assistance, and other immunization activities.

UNICEF is thankful for the **US CDC's** its annual contribution of US\$ 23 million to support vaccine procurement, social behavior change, integrated service delivery and outbreak response activities for polio eradication efforts globally.

Photo of the Month



Children receive their polio vaccines during UNICEF's historic 2024 vaccination campaign amid war in the Gaza Strip. © UNICEF/UNI847182/