



Dear polio eradication supporter,

Last month, polio [program leaders](#), donors, and advocates came together on the sidelines of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) for an [important event](#) to reaffirm commitment to end polio everywhere. Co-hosted by the GPEI, UNICEF, WHO, and KSRelief, the event emphasized the importance of sustained funding to finish the job, highlighting the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's US\$ 500 million pledge to the GPEI, announced in April 2024. Also, during UNGA week, the [Polio Oversight Board convened](#) to discuss progress made and the remaining challenges to end polio. The group committed to building on investments in vaccination, surveillance, and integration to protect the health of children everywhere. Additionally, the GPEI welcomed the [24th report](#) from the Independent Monitoring Board. This independent assessment of the program provides critical recommendations to help accelerate progress toward a polio-free world.

We're looking forward to celebrating World Polio Day on 24 October – stay tuned for World Polio Day content on the [Make Polio History website!](#)

Reaching Every Child with Lifesaving Vaccines



© UNICEF/UNI855235/Ndomba Mbikayi

In Kisangani, Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNICEF's polio campaign is driven by local heroes like Marguerite Simba and Adosy Nseyi—a health worker and a

polio survivor—who go door-to-door to vaccinate children and raise awareness about the importance of vaccination. Their work is part of a broader effort that so far has reached over 28 million children across the country this year, despite challenges like ongoing conflict and displacement. This success highlights the critical role of community outreach to reach children in high-risk areas. Learn more about how UNICEF, with support from GPEI partners, is protecting children across the country [here](#).

POLIO IN NUMBERS

Wild Poliovirus in 2025 (2024)*

Global Total: 33 (46)

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

Global Total: 153 (172)

*Data as of 1 October 2025. Numbers in brackets represent data at this time in 2024.

Breakdown by country
Polio this week

POLIO IN THE NEWS

The Atlantic: [A World-Changing Vaccination Campaign, in Photos](#)

Arab News: [Polio eradication: It's not time to quit, it's time to recommit](#)

Continued Investment in a Polio-Free Future



Despite historic progress towards eradicating polio, recent setbacks threaten to reverse decades of gains. Funding cuts, alongside slipping vaccination rates, weak infrastructure, or misinformation in at-risk communities, allow the virus to persist and threaten its resurgence in previously polio-free countries. Experts from WHO warn that without renewed global commitment, the virus could quickly make a comeback. Learn more about the risks and what's needed to finish the fight against polio [here](#).

Côte d'Ivoire Boosts Polio Surveillance with New Laboratory

In a major step to protect children from polio, Côte d'Ivoire launched a modernized laboratory at the Institut Pasteur to accelerate virus detection and response efforts. Equipped with cutting-edge tools, the facility enables rapid analysis of environmental and Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) samples, eliminating the need to send them abroad. This upgraded lab enhances regional capacity to detect the virus early, putting Côte d'Ivoire in the frontline of the fight against polio in West Africa. Learn more about how this lab is transforming surveillance and response [here](#).



DONOR UPDATES

UNICEF and WHO gratefully acknowledge the generous contribution of US\$ 46.7 million from the **Gates Foundation** to support critical eradication activities in Pakistan and polio outbreak response efforts globally.

WHO also extends its sincere appreciation to the Governments of **Australia** and **New Zealand** for their contributions of Aus\$ 5 million and NZ\$ 2 million, respectively, in support of polio outbreak response activities in Papua New Guinea.

UNICEF is thankful for the **US CDC's** component funding of US\$ 23.3 million to support vaccine procurement and integrated service delivery in Pakistan; S.T.O.P deployments and polio outbreak response efforts globally.

Photo of the Month



Children show their marked fingers after receiving the polio vaccine in Kisangani, DRC © UNICEF/UNI855260/Ndomba Mbikayi