



Dear polio eradication supporter,

On 24 October, partners and champions from around the world came together to celebrate World Polio Day and call for the urgent need to end polio everywhere. Among many highlights, [Team End Polio announced](#) three new team members; [Bill Gates](#), alongside polio survivors Nancy Brown and Ramesh Ferris, emphasized why we must keep fighting for a polio-free future; and Rotary member and UNICEF digital communications specialist, [Diana Maria Pirga](#), shared about how the polio program in Pakistan is building trust one child at a time. Additionally, at a World Polio Day event hosted by UNICEF and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, the [UAE announced](#) that it will host a high-level polio pledging moment in December, bringing together countries, partners, and donors behind a shared goal: a polio-free future. Rotarians [around the world](#) were also active on World Polio Day, advocating for a polio-free world for children everywhere. In Lucerne, Switzerland, Rotary hosted a [benefit concert](#), raising enough funds to protect more than 100 000 children from polio.

This month, the GPEI also released its [2026 Action Plan](#), a comprehensive roadmap to streamline operations and sustain momentum toward a polio-free world. The plan sets out how the GPEI will focus activities where they will have the greatest impact and safeguard hard-won gains toward a polio-free world.

Protecting Liberia's Children from Polio



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When variant poliovirus was detected in Monrovia's sewage in 2021, UNICEF immunization specialist Evans Lablah, helped mobilize a rapid response to protect Liberia's children. After growing up in Monrovia during Liberia's 14-year civil war, Evans

became a trained health worker, determined to make a difference in his community. His efforts, alongside thousands of health workers, helped vaccinate over 1.8 million children to stop the outbreak. Learn about Liberia's fight to end polio. [\[More\]](#)

POLIO IN NUMBERS

Wild Poliovirus in 2025 (2024)*

Global Total: 39 (64)

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

Global Total: 169 (194)

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

Breakdown by country
[Polio this week](#)

Stopping Burundi's Polio Outbreak



In 2023, Four-year-old Kaneza Ndayisaba was paralyzed by polio – Burundi's first case in 30 years. The devastating case prompted an immediate and coordinated response from health authorities and GPEI partners. The country launched a nationwide vaccination campaign targeting over 2 730 000 children across the country and engaged communities to build trust and awareness. Learn about how Burundi mobilized to protect its children and prevent further spread of the virus. [\[More\]](#).

Health Leaders Reaffirm Commitment



This month, health leaders from Djibouti, Somalia, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Yemen convened to address the circulation of variant poliovirus across the [Horn of Africa and Yemen](#). Despite insecurity, inaccessibility, operational

barriers, and climate-related disruptions, over 18 million children were vaccinated in early 2025. Leaders pledged stronger cross-border coordination, improved surveillance, and to continue integrating polio activities with other essential health services. Days later, at the WHO Regional Committee meeting for the Eastern Mediterranean in Cairo, health ministers also reaffirmed their commitment to ending polio. With support from donors like the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates, the region is intensifying efforts to reach every child and stop transmission once and for all. [\[More\]](#)

POLIO IN THE NEWS

The Times: [Cutting funds for polio eradication would be fatal](#)

TIME: [Women Hold the Key to Ending Polio for Good](#)

Devex: [Against the odds: Madagascar's fragile polio victory](#)

Peak Point: [Driving Polio Eradication with France Support](#)

TIME: [The Best Inventions of 2025 - Hexavalent vaccines](#)

Reuters: [Ending polio still possible, health officials say, as funding cut by 30%](#)

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 October 2025 meeting. Funding will support surveillance in the WHO African region, operational support in Afghanistan and Pakistan, global outbreak response, and technical expertise.

Photo of the Month



A child's finger being marked during a polio vaccination campaign. ©WHO/Somalia