



Dear polio eradication supporter,

This month, leaders from across the [WHO Western Pacific Region](#) gathered in Tokyo to celebrate 25 years since the region was certified polio-free, reaffirming their commitment to constant vigilance, strong surveillance, and strengthened immunization efforts in every community. This anniversary comes as Indonesia [officially announces](#) the closure of its type 2 poliovirus outbreak, following an extensive response, thanks to dedicated health workers and communities, that delivered nearly 60 million additional doses of polio vaccines to children nationwide. Indonesia's outbreak closure and a recent outbreak in [Papua New Guinea](#) serve as a critical reminder that polio anywhere is a threat to children everywhere, even in regions long polio-free. Learn more about the Western Pacific's renewed commitment to ending polio [here](#).

Dr Hamid Jafari's Enduring Legacy on Polio Eradication



When Dr Hamid Jafari began his career in global health, polio was paralyzing 350 000 children every year across 125 countries. Now, as he retires as Director of Polio Eradication and Vaccine-Preventable Diseases for

the World Health Organization's Eastern Mediterranean Region, the virus remains endemic in just two countries. Dr Jafari has been at the forefront of historic progress to end polio. From helping India achieve polio-free status to leading efforts in the last two endemic countries, Pakistan and Afghanistan, Dr Jafari's impact spans decades and continents. The GPEI extends its best wishes to Dr Jafari as he begins a new chapter. Learn about his remarkable journey. [\[More\]](#)

The GPEI is excited to share the launch of its new [Instagram channel](#)! Follow [here](#) to see exciting new content from the partnership.

POLIO IN NUMBERS

Wild Poliovirus in 2025 (2024)*

Global Total: 39 (78)

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

Global Total: 185 (223)

*Data as of 25 November 2025. Numbers in brackets represent data at this time in 2024.

Breakdown by country
Polio this week

DONOR UPDATES

UNICEF extends its gratitude to the Government of **Japan** for their continued engagement and financial contribution of 515 000 000 yen to support polio eradication efforts in Pakistan.

UNICEF is inspired by the commitment of the **students of Jerudong International School in Brunei**, and grateful for their contribution of US\$ 10 000 through the Polio Points scheme, to support ongoing polio eradication efforts globally.

New Digital Payment Systems Support Polio Workers in Kenya



For years, polio workers in Kenya faced long delays in receiving compensation for their work in vaccination campaigns, undermining morale and disrupting polio outbreak response. To solve this problem, Kenya introduced a new digital payment system to ensure health workers are paid faster and more reliably. So far, over 12 000

frontline workers have registered, and payments are reaching health workers in as little as 72 hours. Learn about how this innovative payment system is supporting health workers better deliver lifesaving vaccines to every child. [[More](#)].

Ending Polio in Pakistan is Within Reach



At a recent event in Karachi, experts from the WHO and the Aga Khan University, affirmed that eradicating polio in Pakistan and around the world, remains achievable, despite challenges. Over the past three decades, Pakistan has reduced polio cases by over 99%, thanks to robust vaccination campaigns and advanced surveillance systems to detect every trace of the virus. Although the last

mile remains the hardest, experts emphasized that with collaboration and unwavering commitment we can deliver a polio-free Pakistan. [[More](#)]

POLIO IN THE NEWS

The Associated Press: [WHO declares end of Indonesia's poliovirus outbreak following yearslong vaccination campaign](#)

The Associated Press: [Pakistan launches drive to vaccinate 57 million children against measles, rubella and polio](#)

DW: [Poliovirus discovered in water in Germany for first time in decades](#)

Reuters: [Why has wild polio been found in Germany and what does it mean?](#)

Photo of the Month



A vaccinator marks a child's pinky after she is vaccinated against polio © WHO