



Dear polio eradication supporter,

Last year, the WHO African Region (AFRO) was certified free of wild poliovirus after decades of commitment from Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) partners, governments, donors and frontline polio workers, and four years without a case of wild polio in any of the Region's 47 countries. However, ongoing outbreaks of [circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus \(cVDPV\)](#) continue to persist in under-immunized communities.

On the first anniversary of WHO AFRO wild polio-free certification on 25 August 2021 and during the 71st WHO Regional Committee for Africa, WHO AFRO will be hosting a side event for health ministers from African countries to reaffirm their support for ending all forms of poliovirus in Africa. The GPEI has the [tools](#) and the [strategy](#) to stop these outbreaks before they begin – and with leaders' renewed commitments – we can end polio in Africa once and for all.

Polio network slows COVID-19 spread in Kenya



©Abjata Khalif

Facing the threat of the rapid spread of COVID-19 in Nairobi's slums, Kenya turned to its polio volunteers and their expertise in fighting disease. Leaning on years of experience building relationships and navigating hard-to-access areas to maintain high levels of polio immunization and surveillance, frontline health workers were able to quickly mobilize and slow the spread of COVID-19. [\[More\]](#)

UAE lends critical assistance



© UAE PAP

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) increased its 2021 funding for Pakistan's programmes to end polio within its borders to a total of US\$ 23 million. The UAE has long been a vital donor to the GPEI, and this current support will help to vaccinate 16 million more children in Pakistan's most vulnerable communities, protecting progress made against poliovirus this year. [\[More\]](#)

POLIO IN NUMBERS

Wild Poliovirus in 2021 (2020)*

Global Total: 2 (87)

Circulating Vaccine Derived Poliovirus in 2021 (2020)*

Global Total: 160 (206)

*Data as of 21 July 2021. Numbers in brackets represent data at this time in 2020.

Breakdown by country
[Polio this week](#)

POLIO IN THE NEWS

[CNBC Africa](#): How mobile money platforms can help reduce inefficiencies in Africa's healthcare sector

[Daily Trust](#): Stop new polio infections now

[Gates Notes](#): Iron will

Women creating polio-free futures in Pakistan

Working with parents to overcome vaccine refusals is a key part of reaching every last child with polio drops in Pakistan. Follow three women vaccinators in Pakistan's polio programme as they travel long distances over challenging terrain in order build trust, raise awareness and create healthier futures for children across the country. [\[More\]](#)



©WHO EMRO

DONOR UPDATES

UNICEF would like to thank **National Philanthropic Trust** for their generous contribution of US\$ 3 780 038 which will support social mobilization and community engagement activities in endemics and outbreak countries.

UNICEF is very grateful to **CDC** for their generous contribution of US\$ 23 000 which will support UNICEF's global polio eradication activities.

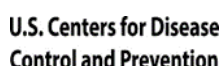
UNICEF would like to thank donors of the **UNICEF Switzerland National Committee** for their donation of US\$ 100 000 towards UNICEF's work for polio eradication.

United Arab Emirates continues its strong [support](#) for Pakistan, releasing US\$ 9.6 million for activities in the remainder of 2021. UAE's support for 2021 for Pakistan totals US\$ 23 million.

Photo of the Month



A child in Pakistan is vaccinated against polio by a health worker from the UAE Pakistan Assistance Programme. © UAE PAP



@WHO

@EndPolioNow

@CDCGlobal

@UNICEF

@GatesFoundation

@Gavi