



Dear polio eradication supporter,

During last week’s United Nations General Assembly meeting, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), represented by Rotary International, proudly [co-sponsored an event](#) promoting gender equality across global health efforts. Building on the GPEI’s [commitments](#) made at the [Generation Equality Forum](#) earlier this year, this event called for governments and global health organizations to continue working to lower gender-related barriers across all sectors of the health world. The GPEI would like to thank His Excellency Mr Franz Fayot (Minister of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs, Luxembourg) for [recognizing](#) the programme’s commitments to ending polio and empowering women.

Women have long been at the forefront of the global effort to [reach all children](#) with polio vaccines, and the GPEI’s new strategy, “[Delivering on a Promise](#)”, strives to acknowledge their impact and support their crucial work. On **24 October 2021**, the GPEI is pleased to be celebrating **World Polio Day** by recognizing that promise and the future that it holds. Please join us in reflecting on the progress made since the GPEI’s inception in 1988 – billions of polio vaccines delivered to children worldwide and countless cases of paralysis averted – while staying cognizant of the work that lays ahead to achieve a polio-free world.

G20 Health Ministers recommit to ending polio



At their meeting in Rome, Italy earlier this month, Health Ministers of the G20 countries reaffirmed their support for polio eradication efforts worldwide. Read more about how their commitment recognizes the GPEI’s unique ability to support the global COVID-19 response by leveraging its virus surveillance programs, experience coordinating immunization campaigns and more. [\[More\]](#)

POLIO IN NUMBERS

Wild Poliovirus in 2021 (2020)*

Global Total: 2 (116)

Circulating Vaccine Derived Poliovirus in 2021 (2020)*

Global Total: 305 (381)

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

Breakdown by country
[Polio this week](#)

Reaching mothers on the polio frontlines in South Sudan

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A roadmap to ending all forms of polio in Nigeria



Professor O. Tomori © WHO/AFRO

Nigeria's efforts to stop wild polio transmission in 2016 were inspiring, and leading virologist Professor Oyewale Tomori wants to see that work continue to protect children from all forms of the virus. In a new interview, hear Professor Tomori discuss what Nigeria and other countries can

do to sustainably fight cVDPV2 outbreaks and create a truly polio-free world. [\[More\]](#)

POLIO IN THE NEWS

[STAT](#): Africa has a chance to help the world end polio for good. It needs to seize it now.

[Devex](#): Can a new vaccine halt the rising tide of vaccine-derived polio?

[Nature](#): The incoming Afghan government must allow immunizations

SAVE THE DATE!

Monday 25 October 2021

09:00 NYC | 14:00 Abuja |
15:00 Geneva | 18:00 Islamabad

**The Role of Gender in
Polio Eradication**

60-min online event

Invitations for event registration
will be shared on 18 October.

Photo of the Month



A vaccinator in South Sudan gives Oral Polio Vaccine to a baby at Munuki Health Center.

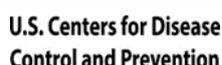
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