



Dear polio eradication supporter,

From 24 to 30 April, GPEI partners and immunization advocates celebrated World Immunization Week (WIW). This year's theme, [Humanly Possible: Immunization for All](#), gave us the opportunity to recognize the remarkable impact vaccines have had on our world and rally for continued support for polio eradication and broader immunization efforts. Throughout the week, GPEI partners amplified the 1.6 million [lives saved](#) thanks to polio vaccines, and [reaffirmed commitments](#) to reach every child. The partnership also recognized the [health workers](#) who play a critical role delivering vaccines around the world. Additionally, the polio program and its champions thanked country governments and donors like the [Kingdom of Saudi Arabia](#), the [United Arab Emirates](#), and the [European Investment Bank](#) for their ongoing support to protect children from polio. Overall, WIW underscored how with global partnership and collaboration we can deliver a polio-free world.

WIW also marked the start of the Rise Together campaign on [Strava](#) and a month-long movement challenge to log 40 million collective minutes: one minute for each of the 20 million people walking today thanks to eradication efforts and the 20 million health workers fighting to end polio. [Sign up here](#) to start logging your minutes.

If you haven't already, a reminder to follow the new [GPEI LinkedIn](#), which has been posting great highlights from across the partnership.

## Health Ministers Reaffirm Solidarity to End Polio



On April 27, health ministers from across the Eastern Mediterranean Region and GPEI partners convened virtually for the 13th meeting of the Regional Subcommittee for Polio Eradication and Outbreaks. The ministers reaffirmed their collective solidarity to end polio, the longest running Public Health Emergency of International Concern. Despite significant progress, wild poliovirus continues to paralyze children in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and variant poliovirus outbreaks persist in Djibouti, Gaza, and Somalia. The ministers emphasized the urgent need for intensified support and concerted actions to reach zero polio. [Learn more about the efforts and challenges faced in the region](#) [here](#).

## POLIO IN NUMBERS

### Wild Poliovirus in 2025 (2024)\*

Global Total: 10 (4)

### Circulating Vaccine Derived Poliovirus in 2025 (2024)\*

Global Total: 41 (27)

\*Data as of 29 Apr 2025. Numbers in brackets represent data at this time in 2024.

Breakdown by country  
[Polio this week](#)

## Using existing polio infrastructure to save lives



When cholera was first reported in Angola in January, swift response was urgently needed to save lives. Fortunately, existing infrastructure already created for polio eradication efforts, including mobile teams, community surveillance networks, and logistical systems, were quickly adapted to help stop the spread of cholera. Thanks to these efforts, one million people were reached in the country's first oral vaccination campaign against cholera. [[More](#)]

## POLIO IN THE NEWS

The Conversation: [To eradicate polio once and for all, we need a new vaccine – that's what we're working on](#)

The Associated Press: [Pakistan begins 2nd anti-polio vaccination campaign of the year to protect millions of children](#)

NPR: [Could polio be poised for a comeback?](#)

## Celebrating 70 Years of Polio Vaccination



On 12 April 1955, the world witnessed a monumental breakthrough with the announcement of the first successful polio vaccine developed by Dr Jonas Salk. This historic achievement marked the beginning of a new medical age, dramatically reducing the incidence of polio and transforming public health. Over the past 70 years, the Salk vaccine and subsequent polio vaccines have played a crucial role in nearly eradicating the disease globally. As we celebrate this milestone, we reflect on the progress made and the ongoing efforts to achieve a polio-free world. Learn more about the journey and impact of polio vaccination [here](#).

## DONOR UPDATES

WHO and UNICEF gratefully acknowledge the **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia** for its generous contribution to global polio eradication efforts, including the first instalment of US\$ 60 million and US\$ 40 million respectively, to help end wild polio in Pakistan and Afghanistan and to stop outbreaks of variant polio worldwide.

WHO and UNICEF thanks the **Gates Philanthropy Partners** for their contribution of US\$ 21.75 million and US\$ 11.75 million respectively, to support polio outbreak response efforts, including the implementation of large-scale multi-country synchronized campaigns, in-country operations and technical assistance.

WHO extends its gratitude to the **Gates Foundation** for its contribution of US\$ 4 million to support outbreak response activities in countries in the Eastern Mediterranean region.

## Photo of the Month



Existing polio infrastructure helps health workers and surveillance officers respond quickly to the cholera outbreak in Angola © WHO African Region