



Shaping the Path to a Polio-free World and Beyond

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) and a broad range of partners, countries and advisory groups have co-developed a suite of complementary approaches to deliver and sustain a polio-free world.

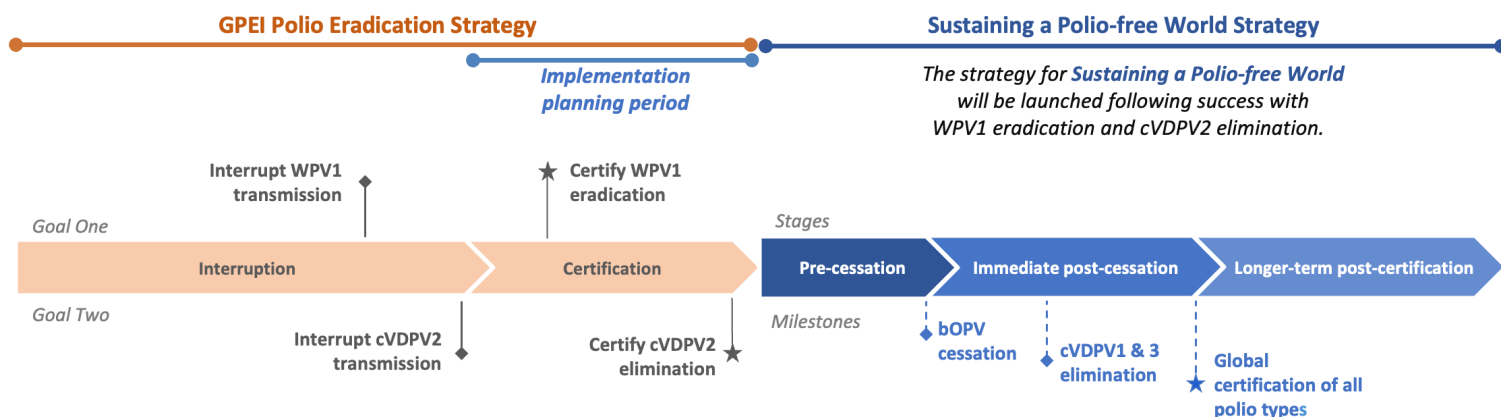
The GPEI Polio Eradication Strategy (2022–2029) sets the course for the programme to eradicate the last remaining type of wild poliovirus type 1, by 2027 and eliminate the most prevalent form of variant poliovirus (cVDPV), type 2, by 2029. This will primarily take place through high-quality, house-to-house vaccination campaigns that reach every child and through strong disease surveillance in every community. [Learn more.](#)

Sustaining a Polio-free World: A strategy for long-term success¹ (formerly known as the Post-Certification Strategy) outlines the essential functions that must continue after wild poliovirus type 1 and variant poliovirus type 2 are stopped, as well as offers options for a governance structure when the GPEI partnership comes to a close. These functions include efforts to vaccinate against polio in routine immunization systems, monitor for polio in wider disease surveillance, prepare for and respond to any outbreaks, and contain polioviruses in laboratories.²

This strategy outlines considerations for new governance and accountability structures during this period, which will oversee:

- **cessation of bivalent oral polio vaccine (bOPV) in routine immunization**, which is a critical step to stopping future outbreaks of variant poliovirus types 1 and 3; and
- **certification of the elimination of variant poliovirus types 1 and 3** as well as the global certification of all poliovirus types.

[Learn more.](#)



bOPV: bivalent oral polio vaccine; cVDPV1: variant poliovirus type 1; cVDPV2: variant poliovirus type 2; cVDPV3: variant poliovirus type 3; WPV1: wild poliovirus type 1.

The WHO Polio Transition Strategic Framework sets the direction for countries to sustain and repurpose polio investments – the tools, knowledge and infrastructure built to eradicate polio over the past decades – to keep their communities polio-free while building stronger, more resilient and more equitable health systems. As of 2025, more than 50 countries have transitioned from GPEI support, fully or partially integrating polio activities into national health systems. [Learn more.](#)

¹ **Sustaining a Polio-free World: A strategy for long-term success** is expected to be presented to WHO Member States at the World Health Assembly in 2026. Though this strategy will not begin until elimination of type 2 variant poliovirus is certified, planning for its implementation is expected to begin as early as 2027 to put the needed governance and accountability mechanisms in place.

² It should be noted that countries are already working to achieve full containment certification of their facilities retaining poliovirus – one of the core pillars of this strategy – expected by end-2026.