



Dear polio eradication supporter,

From 24 to 30 April, GPEI partners and immunization advocates celebrated World Immunization Week (WIW). This year’s theme, [For Every Generation, Vaccines Work](#), gave us the opportunity to recognize the power of vaccines to save lives and rally for continued support for polio eradication and broader immunization efforts. Throughout the week, [GPEI leaders](#) underscored that we must act now to reach every child with lifesaving vaccines. The partnership also recognized the [health workers](#) who play a critical role delivering vaccines around the world. Additionally, the polio program thanked country governments and donors for their ongoing support to protect children from polio. The week emphasized that with continued global partnership and commitment we can deliver a polio-free world.

### Integrating Health Services to Close the Gap on Polio



To accelerate efforts to reach every child with polio vaccines, the polio program is innovating to provide broader health services, from nutrition to maternal care, alongside vaccines. Key to this approach is implementing integrated

campaigns to protect children from other vaccine-preventable diseases. New materials, including the [Operational Best Practices for Integrated Measles-Rubella and Polio Vaccination Campaigns](#), provide practical guidance to support decision-making and implementation of integrated polio and measles campaigns. [Best Practices & Lessons Learned from Somalia’s Integrated MCV-PCV-Polio Campaign](#) is a resource that provides insight into Somalia’s integrated campaign highlighting best practices, lessons learned, and opportunities for future campaign planning. [[More](#)]

### POLIO IN NUMBERS

#### Wild Poliovirus in 2026 (2025)\*

Global Total: 4 (10)

#### Circulating Variant (Vaccine Derived) Poliovirus in 2026 (2025)\*

Global Total: 32 (42)

\*Data as of 28 April 2026. Numbers in brackets represent data this time in 2025.

Breakdown by country  
**Polio this week**

### DONOR UPDATES

The Government of Japan’s generous support of US\$ 3.5 million continues to play a vital role in advancing polio eradication efforts in Afghanistan, enabling the delivery of lifesaving vaccines to reach children in high-risk areas and interrupt transmission.

## Polio Survivors Lead Vaccination Efforts in Zambia



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In Zambia, polio survivors are turning their lived experience into purpose — going door-to-door with polio vaccines to ensure no child suffers like they did.

Ahead of Africa Vaccination Week, the Government of Zambia launched a sub-national vaccination campaign following the detection of variant poliovirus. Leading the charge are social mobilizers like Felistus Ngoma, Chairperson of the Polio Survivors Association of Zambia, whose personal stories of living with polio cut through vaccine hesitancy and help build the community trust essential to reaching every child. [\[More\]](#)

## POLIO IN THE NEWS

The Yorkshire Post: [Labour has gone into retreat in war on polio at vital moment: Allan Jagger](#)

The Guardian: [Funding is vital to end the scourge of polio | Polio | The Guardian](#)

BBC Culture: ['Blind alleys are always opportunities': The scientist who developed the polio vaccine](#)

Asharq Al-Awsat: [In Times of Conflict...We Cannot Afford Any Decline in Vaccination](#)

## From Polio Survivor to Advocate: Éliane Fuseau's Story



© Éliane Fuseau

In the early 1950s, before polio vaccines were widespread in France, Éliane Fuseau was one of thousands of children paralyzed after contracting the virus. Separated from her family and sent hundreds of kilometres away for years of rehabilitation, she learned to walk again and grew up in a community of children whose lives were shaped by polio. Today, as polio nears global eradication, Éliane and fellow survivors are preserving their stories to remind future generations what vaccination has prevented—and why it still matters.

[\[More\]](#)

## Photo of the Month



A child smiles proudly as she holds up her vaccination card, a symbol of protect from preventable diseases © UNICEF Somalia