



Dear polio eradication supporter,

This month, more than 37 000 people gathered at Rotary International's annual convention in Taipei, where Rotary's top leadership made the case for how we can—and will—achieve a polio-free world. Michael McGovern, Chair of the Polio Oversight Board; Carol Pandak, Director of PolioPlus; and Aziz Memon, Chair of the Pakistan National PolioPlus Committee, addressed the convention through breakout sessions and keynotes, while hundreds of participants joined the End Polio Now 3K and 12.5K charity runs.

In Seattle, the Gates Foundation hosted "Beyond the Game: Sport for a Healthier Future" around the FIFA World Cup, bringing together roughly 80 guests from Rotary, the University of Washington, PATH, and other partners for panels and fireside chats on the role of sport in advancing child health—including why sport partnerships, like Team End Polio and Zero Malaria FC, matter to the science and advocacy behind getting to zero.

WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Discusses What It Will Take to End Polio



The world has reduced polio cases by more than 99%, but eradication means we can't stop short of 100%. In an interview with the GPEI, WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus reflects on why this moment is so critical, and why now is not the time to step back. He discusses the barriers that remain—including insecurity, community mistrust, and the challenge of reaching the most vulnerable children in the most complex settings—and makes the case that what the effort needs most is sustained commitment.

[More]

POLIO IN NUMBERS

Wild Poliovirus in 2026 (2025)*

Global Total: 9 (14)

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

Global Total: 71 (77)

*Data as of 24 June 2026. Numbers in brackets represent data this time in 2025.

**Breakdown by country
Polio this week**

The World Cup and Taking Our Shot Against Viruses That Could Kill Us

As millions of fans descend on cities across North America for the FIFA World Cup, filmmaker and global health advocate Carl Kurlander draws a powerful parallel between the global tournament and the fight to eradicate polio. In this compelling piece, Kurlander makes the case that the same spirit of unity and ambition that drives nations to compete for a championship is exactly what the world needs to defeat the viruses that still threaten children's lives. [More]



In DRC, a vaccination campaign is a chance to find missed-out children

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, health workers are going the extra mile to reach children who have never received a single vaccine dose. To mark African Vaccination Week (24 – 30 April), the Ministry of Public Health, Hygiene and Social Welfare launched a second phase of its campaign to introduce both the polio vaccine and the measles-rubella (MR)



Courtesy Gavi, © Patrick Kahondwa

vaccine, offering children in 11 provinces both immunizations for the first time. In remote areas like Mbusempoto Rivière Ngange in Mai-Ndombe province, vaccinators brought additional antigens on their journeys to communities, ensuring no child was left behind. [\[More\]](#)

POLIO IN THE NEWS

Smithsonian Magazine: [When the Fear of Polio Grippped the World, Jonas Salk's Determination Led to a Liberating Medical Breakthrough](#)

Dawn: [Refusal cases in polio vaccination drives continue downward trend](#)

UNICEF: ["The greatest disease we must eradicate first is misinformation"](#)

MIT News: [A new vaccine adjuvant could make it easier to eradicate polio](#)

Hindustan Times: [Sustaining India's polio-free legacy](#)

DONOR UPDATES

WHO thanks the Government of **Luxembourg** for its contribution of €720 000 to support global polio eradication operations in 2026.

Photo of the Month



Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus vaccinating a child against polio © WHO