



Dear polio eradication supporter,

750 000 fewer children were living unprotected from dangerous, vaccine-preventable diseases in 2025. That's what recently released [WHO/UNICEF data](#) tell us about the state of global immunization, which has almost caught up to pre-COVID-19 levels. While coverage is up—and more children were fully protected from polio than in 2024—13.5 million children were still “zero-dose”, having received no immunizations of any kind.

Political commitment is key to closing immunization gaps and ending polio for good. That's why members of the [GPEI's Polio Oversight Board](#) met with national leadership in Afghanistan and Pakistan earlier this month, demonstrating global support for domestic efforts and ensuring national programmes have the resources and strategies they need to stop all wild polio transmission. As the programme works to reach the final children still being missed, scientists and researchers of the GPEI's [Polio Research and Analytics Group](#) are continuing to innovate, shaping the next generation of tools and strategies needed to deliver and sustain a polio-free world.

The World Cup may be over, but the football frenzy is not. Follow along with the GPEI's ["Kick Out Polio" campaign](#), bringing energy to the match against polio throughout the Women's Africa Cup of Nations. The campaign, which launched on July 22 and will run through the end of the tournament in August, will spotlight women breaking barriers in football and health.

A Conversation with Mike McGovern: Partnership at the Heart of Polio Eradication



In the latest installment of GPEI's High-Level Interview series, Mike McGovern, Chair of the Polio Oversight Board and of Rotary's International PolioPlus Committee, reflects on the power of partnership

in the fight to end polio. He speaks to Rotary's unique role in the GPEI, from the US\$50 million Rotary members raise annually to creative grassroots fundraising efforts like the “Flight to End Polio,” in which three Rotarians piloted single-engine planes across multiple countries to raise awareness and funds. With case numbers moving in the right direction, he says now is the time to keep up the momentum. [\[More\]](#)

POLIO IN NUMBERS

Wild Poliovirus in 2026 (2025)*

Global Total: 18 (19)

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

Global Total: 95 (96)

*Data as of 29 July 2026. Numbers in brackets represent data this time in 2025.

Breakdown by country
Polio this week

Updated Standards Aim to Stop Outbreaks Faster

The GPEI has released updated outbreak response Standard Operating Procedures, reflecting a decade of operational experience and new scientific evidence. The revised guidance sharpens how countries detect, assess, and respond to poliovirus outbreaks with clearer, time-bound outbreak definitions and a more risk-based approach, allowing the programme to tailor vaccination strategies to local immunity gaps, surveillance strength, and past response quality. [\[More\]](#)



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Reaching Nigeria's Missed Children, One Community at a Time



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In some communities in Edo State, Nigeria, up to 76% of children have never received a routine vaccine. Some have been left with life-long polio paralysis. To close this gap, the Edo State Government, alongside WHO and partners, used immunization data to identify underserved communities and sent health workers door to door to address parents' concerns. During African Vaccination Week, outreach teams vaccinated nearly 4 600 children under two, alongside vitamin A supplementation, malnutrition screening, and HPV vaccination for hundreds of girls. More than 1 000 communities were reached, though officials note the work is far from finished, with dozens of wards still unreachable. [\[More\]](#)

POLIO IN THE NEWS

Nature: [Polio will come roaring back if the task of eradicating it isn't finished soon](#)

LSHTM Viral: [Polio: Forgotten, but not gone](#)

Al Jazeera: [How Kenyan volunteers hunt polio's hidden trail](#)

Arab News: [Global body warns shrinking funding threatens final push to end poliovirus in Pakistan, Afghanistan](#)

DONOR UPDATES

UNICEF and WHO extend their sincere appreciation to the Government of **Germany** for its flexible €23.2 million contribution to advance global polio eradication efforts, representing Germany's 2026 pledge announced in Abu Dhabi.

WHO thanks the Government of **Monaco** for the generous contribution of €100 000 to support global polio eradication efforts in 2026.

WHO would like to extend its gratitude to the Board of Trustees of the **Rotary Foundation** for the approval of new grants totaling US\$ 35 million at its June IPPC meeting in support of polio campaign operations in Afghanistan and Pakistan, global outbreak response and polio research activities.

UNICEF and WHO thank the **Gates Foundation** for its generous contributions totaling US\$ 33.9 million to support polio eradication efforts. This includes US\$ 16.5 million to UNICEF for outbreak response, global fractional inactivated polio vaccine (fIPV) support and immunization activities in Pakistan, and US\$ 17.4 million to WHO for technical assistance, surveillance and immunization activities in Pakistan.

Photo of the Month



A child's finger is marked after receiving a fractional Inactivated Polio Vaccine (fIPV) during a campaign in Afghanistan, October 2025. © WHO / Khesraw Omid Farooq