



Dear polio eradication supporter,

Investments in polio eradication are helping protect children from far more than polio. This was the key message of “[One Investment, Multiple Returns: Strengthening Child Health through Polio Eradication](#),” the GPEI’s flagship event at UNGA81, which explored how polio workers are bringing more services to the children who need them most, from integrated service delivery and joint polio-measles campaigns in Somalia, to cross-border campaigns in the Lake Chad Basin. A full recording of the event can be viewed [here](#).

Looking ahead, the world will celebrate World Polio Day on 24 October. From Nairobi to Brussels and across social media, partners will come together to celebrate the progress made, honor the health workers and communities who make it possible, and renew our commitment to finishing the job. Stay tuned for ways to join in at [makepoliohistory.org](#).

Luxembourg on Why Polio Investments Pay Off Beyond Eradication

A decade after making its first commitment to ending polio, Luxembourg remains committed to finishing the job. In an interview with *Devex*, the country’s development cooperation directorate explains how investments in polio also help fight measles in Nigeria and Pakistan and respond to Ebola in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. [\[More\]](#)

Telling Polio’s Story to a New Generation



Professor Carl Kurlander,
Producer: The Shot Felt
‘Round the World’

Vaccines have become victims of their own success—many Americans no longer remember the iron lungs, shuttered swimming pools, and “polio seasons” of the last century. In the latest GPEI 321 High-Level Interview, filmmaker and professor Carl Kurlander reflects on how storytelling can make this “forgotten” disease resonate with young people today. [\[More\]](#)

POLIO IN NUMBERS

Wild Poliovirus in 2026 (2025)*

Global Total: 39 (31)

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

Global Total: 164 (153)

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

Breakdown by country
Polio this week

Why 21 000 Unvaccinated Children Are a Warning Sign



Courtesy Dr Frank Intert,
Rotary International End
Polio Now Coordinator Zone
15 & 16

In Germany, approximately 21 000 children have not received their first vaccination against dangerous childhood diseases. Dr Frank Intert, Rotary International's End Polio Now Coordinator for Germany, Switzerland, and Liechtenstein, argues that this seemingly small number should concern us all. With poliovirus repeatedly detected in wastewater across Europe—including in Germany—he warns that high vaccination rates

can't be taken for granted, and that every generation must be reminded why vaccines matter. [[More](#)]

POLIO IN THE NEWS

Arab News: [Pakistan to vaccinate 31 million children in September polio drive](#) (September 15)

Medscape: [Eradication of Measles and Polio: Why Has Progress Stalled?](#) (September 9)

Devdiscourse: [Wild Polio Is Gone, but Vaccine-Derived Outbreaks Are Testing Africa's Defences](#) (September 3)

In case you missed it

New WHO Polio Director

The GPEI is excited to welcome Christopher Wolff as the World Health Organization's Director of Polio Eradication. Chris brings a wealth of experience across immunization programs, having worked previously in outbreak response, disease surveillance, and global policy at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Gates Foundation, and WHO.

Independent Monitoring Board publishes its 25th report

The Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) has published its 25th report, providing a candid assessment of progress and remaining challenges on the road to a polio-free world. The report highlights encouraging progress in Pakistan alongside a shifting epidemiological focus towards Afghanistan, while setting out 21 recommendations to accelerate eradication and strengthen the systems needed to sustain a polio-free world.

Lifetime Achievement Award for Professor Helen Rees

The Chair of the International Health Regulations (IHR) Emergency Committee on polio received South Africa's National Research Foundation 2026 Lifetime Achievement Award for her contributions to public health and to polio eradication.

Polio Transition in Iraq

During the virtual week of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean, Iraq shared how polio assets are now strengthening its surveillance, laboratories, and immunization systems.

Global Certification Commission reviews progress towards a polio-free world

The Global Certification Commission for the Eradication of Poliomyelitis (GCC) met in Geneva this week to review progress towards global polio eradication, including updates from all six WHO regions and the two countries where wild poliovirus remains endemic. The Commission also reviewed the status and performance of poliovirus surveillance – a critical component of demonstrating that transmission has been interrupted. The GCC's report and recommendations will be published in due course.

Photo of the Month



A child is administered oral polio vaccine on childhood vaccination day at Nankandulo Health Center IV in Kamuli District, Uganda. Photo by: Allison Shelley / Emic Films for United Nations Foundation