



Dear polio eradication supporter,

Last month, [polio program leaders](#), [donors](#), and [advocates](#) came together on the sidelines of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) for an important event to discuss the critical need for equitable immunization to protect children against vaccine-preventable diseases like measles and polio and create a healthier future. The event served as a platform for donors like [Canada](#), the [United Arab Emirates](#), the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Indonesia to reaffirm their commitment to advancing immunization and ending polio everywhere. Attendees also heard remarks from a range of speakers including Dr. Sania Nishtar (CEO, Gavi), Bruce Aylward (WHO), Fy (UNICEF youth advocate), and Minda Dentler (author, Ironman athlete and polio survivor). Minda then had the exciting opportunity to speak on-stage at the [Global Citizen Festival](#) about the critical need to reach every child with vaccines. Also, during UNGA week, the GPEI welcomed the [23rd annual report](#) from the Independent Monitoring Board. This independent assessment of the program provides critical recommendations to help accelerate progress toward a polio-free world.

First Round of Emergency Polio Vaccination Campaign Reaches 560 000 Children in Gaza



Amidst the devastating war in Gaza, critical humanitarian pauses were granted to allow for an emergency vaccination campaign, reaching approximately

560 000 children under ten years old between 1-12 September. This effort, coordinated by the Palestinian Ministry of Health in collaboration with WHO, UNICEF, and UNRWA, aimed to stop the spread of type 2 variant poliovirus after a child was paralyzed by polio in Gaza for the first time in over 25 years. Despite challenges such as infrastructure damage and ongoing conflict, health workers successfully delivered the type 2 novel oral polio vaccine through fixed sites, mobile teams, and outreach efforts. This success is an incredible testament to the dedication of health workers and families, who, even in such dire circumstances, brought their children to be vaccinated. A second vaccination round is being planned to ensure children's full protection and prevent further transmission. [\[More\]](#)

POLIO IN NUMBERS

Wild Poliovirus in 2024 (2023)*

Global Total: 46 (8)

Circulating Vaccine Derived Poliovirus in 2024 (2023)*

Global Total: 173 (281)

*Data as of 1 October 2024. Numbers in brackets represent data at this time in 2023.

Breakdown by country
[Polio this week](#)

POLIO IN THE NEWS

The Telegraph: [Wave of boycotts hinder polio eradication campaign in Pakistan](#)

The New York Times: [Pakistan Seemed Close to Beating Polio. Now It's Spreading Quickly.](#)

Canada Pledges Can\$ 151 million to Support Global Polio Eradication Efforts

On 20 September 2024, the Government of Canada announced a new pledge of Can\$ 151 million over the next three years to the GPEI. This funding aims to support the GPEI's mission of eradicating polio globally, immunizing 370 million children annually and strengthening health systems in vulnerable regions. This new investment comes as part of ongoing efforts to eliminate polio, particularly in challenging areas like Afghanistan and Pakistan, the final two countries where wild poliovirus remains endemic. Canada's total contributions to GPEI now exceed Can\$ 1 billion, underscoring its leadership in this historic effort. The announcement was made by Canada's Minister of International Development, Ahmed Hussen, at a Rotary regional conference in Toronto, Ontario. [\[More\]](#)



Left to right: Past Rotary President Jennifer Jones, Rotary member Ramesh Ferris, Minister Ahmed Hussen, and Rotary member Dean Rohrs

Religious Leaders Shift Vaccine Attitudes in Northwestern Pakistan



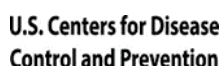
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In Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Islamic scholars are playing a pivotal role in overcoming vaccine hesitancy, particularly regarding polio. At a recent conference, over 190 religious leaders pledged their support for immunization, helping dispel myths about vaccines being harmful or forbidden under Islamic principles. Their outreach has transformed communities like Bazidkhel, once known for widespread refusal of polio drops, into areas of high vaccine acceptance. Through sermons and personal visits, religious figures have reduced religious-based vaccine refusals, significantly aiding Pakistan's ongoing fight against polio. Learn more about their efforts [here](#).

Photo of the Month



Partners celebrate the Government of Canada's new pledge to the GPEI of Can\$ 151 million. ©Rotary



@GPEI

@WHO

@EndPolioNow

@CDCGlobal

@UNICEF

@GatesFoundation

@Gavi

DONOR UPDATES

UNICEF and WHO welcome the **Government of Canada's** new pledge of Can\$ 151 million over the next three years to support the work of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. Canada continues to be a leading supporter of the global polio eradication effort since its inception, helping the GPEI to reduce cases globally by over 99% and prevent more than 20 million cases of paralysis from polio.

UNICEF and WHO recognize the support of the **Government of Switzerland** for the humanitarian response in Gaza, including a contribution of Sw.fr. 1 million towards immediate polio outbreak response activities.

WHO thanks the **Gates Philanthropy Partners** who provided US\$ 10 million to support technical assistance for core GPEI activities including polio campaigns, surveillance and in-country operations.

WHO extends gratitude to the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** for the generous contribution of US\$ 16 million in support of polio campaigns in Afghanistan.

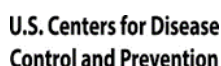
WHO thanks the Government of **Japan** for its contribution of US\$ 60 000 to support global polio eradication efforts.

UNICEF is thankful for the **CDC's** longstanding support and its annual contribution of US\$ 23 million for polio eradication efforts, along with an additional US\$ 1 085 000 specifically for the procurement of OPV in support of the Big Catch-up campaigns.

UNICEF thanks the Government of the **Republic of Korea** for their contribution of 3.1 billion Korean won to support global polio eradication efforts.

UNICEF appreciates the recent US\$ 600 000 from the **Islamic Food and Nutrition Council of America (IFANCA)** as part of their ongoing support for polio response efforts around the world.

WHO extends gratitude to the Government of **Australia** for the generous contribution of Aus\$ 8.25 million for polio eradication operations worldwide.



@GPEI

@WHO

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