



## Join us on the “last mile” to end polio!!

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Almost weekly polio update.....

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**Four more cases of wild poliovirus caused paralysis confirmed this week-- all from Pakistan but zero positive environmental samples.**

Wild Poliovirus Cases reported this year: Forty (40)—19 in Afghanistan & 21 in Pakistan.

Onset most recent wild poliovirus cases: [Afghanistan: 08/10/24](#) [Pakistan: 09/05/24](#)

Human cases confirmed	As of 9/18/24	Total	Total	Total	Total
	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
<b>WPV (Wild Poliovirus)</b>	40 (7 at same time in 2023)	12	30	6	140
<b>WPV–Afghanistan</b>	19	6	2	4	56
<b>WPV-Pakistan</b>	21	6	20	1	84
<b>WPV- Other countries</b>	0	0	8	1	0
<b>Variant (circulating vaccine derived - polio weekly global confirmed cases)</b>	171 (276 at same time in 2023)	528*	878	699	1117

*Polioviruses reported from other sources (environmental) this week, in parentheses ( ) is the total year-to-date for 2024, and in brackets{} are the total reported from 2023.*

*Wild poliovirus: —0; (418); {190}*

*cVDPV (variant) Types 1,2, and 3 =2; (159); {441}*

**This week, 6 children confirmed paralyzed by variant poliovirus type 2 in 2 countries—2 in Democratic Republic of Congo and 4 in Nigeria. And two positive environmental samples.**

## Notes from Reg Ling this week. GPEI Polio position updates:

Keith Paver has circulated the week 39 WHO epidemiological reports (84 pages). There were 4 WPV1 cases and 1 contact in Pakistan. There were 4 African countries with cVDPV2 reports and VDPV reports of all 3 types. Also, there was an advance warning of 3 cVDPV3 positive ES samples collected in French Guiana (South America). The totals of the polio virus reports are shown in my usual attachments, and I continue to focus on the comparisons with the numbers of reports from countries in 2023:

- WPV1: Still more increases. So far this year 40 cases reported from Afghanistan and Pakistan with concerns particularly on the number of WPV1 positive ES samples in Pakistan and the news of a suspension of immunizations in Afghanistan.
- cVDPV2: The 165 cases across 27 countries is 42% of the 2023 total. 16 countries have had cases with onset of polio in 2024; 4 are from countries that had no cases reported in 2023.
- cVDPV1: The number of cases confirmed from 2 countries is less than 5% of the number in 2023 when infections were in 3 countries.
- cVDPV3: There have been no reports for over two years, but this week came advance notification of 3 positive ES samples in French Guiana.

## Media News:

GPEI has noted the publication of [the 23rd report from the Independent Monitoring Board \(IMB\)](#), which followed from the IMB meeting in July. While details are given, in short the report notes:

- The promising decline of types 1 and 2 variant poliovirus cases globally in the past year, though that progress against variant poliovirus to date is extremely fragile and variable across geographies.
- The strong regional commitment to eradication throughout the Eastern Mediterranean Region, and that the recent rise in wild poliovirus detections in Pakistan and Afghanistan is of serious concern.

The IMB recognizes the incredibly complex environments where the virus remains and the external factors impeding the program's ability to consistently reach children in these places, so it has decided to extend the timeline of certifying the eradication of wild polio to 2027 and certifying the elimination of type 2 variant polio to 2029. (This had previously been commented on, so it was not a surprise.)

Since the IMB's meeting, a coordinated vaccination campaign round reached approximately 560,000 children with the polio vaccine in Gaza. This was an incredible testament to the dedication and bravery of families and health workers and underscores the program's ability, in coordination with its partners, to reach children with vaccine, even when facing immense obstacles. The GPEI will soon be releasing a document outlining the key tactical shifts that it will implement to enable stronger accountability and ownership across all levels of the program during this period. This also includes a more systematic approach to integrating polio activities with other health services and improving coordination with essential immunization programs to set the foundation to sustain a polio-free world.

One interesting article from Pakistan records the visit of a delegation of TRF headed by Mark Maloney together with Trustee Aziz Memon, Director Faiz Kidwai, Eric Schmeling, Rizwan Aadhia, and others. The information included that TRF has established 23 immunization centers across Pakistan and is providing support in high-risk union councils in Sindh. It is facilitating social mobilization and fostering confidence-building among families who previously refused vaccination of their children in high-risk areas. **On the latter point, it was indicated that with coordinated efforts, the health dept successfully vaccinated over 5,000 children of previously resistant families.**

Articles on Afghanistan suspending polio immunizations continue though now the reports are that it is temporary and is due to security fears and that women are involved in administering the vaccine. While the Taliban have banned women from working in various sectors, women in healthcare have largely been allowed to remain in their jobs, but women in the southern region face restrictions from local authorities particularly in rural areas from participating in the program.

News from Gaza has been somewhat limited. UNICEF announced on 19 September that it will be introducing additional measures during the second round of the polio vaccination campaign to tackle the immediate threat posed by polio and to address broader health and nutritional needs within the region. Discussions are underway to incorporate additional vaccinations, including measles immunization, and it's evident there is momentum and willingness from health officials and organizations to tackle Gaza's pressing health crises. Overall, there lies significant potential within these collaborative initiatives but details of the phases in the second round of immunizations have yet to be published.



**WORLD POLIO DAY  
IS 24 OCTOBER**



Promotional materials are now ready on many websites. Google "World Polio Day 2024" and several options will pop up and you can get some graphics at [https://brandcenter.rotary.org/en-us/search?tab=0&dt\\_campaign=World+Polio+Day&tt\\_lang=EN&dt\\_lang=EN](https://brandcenter.rotary.org/en-us/search?tab=0&dt_campaign=World+Polio+Day&tt_lang=EN&dt_lang=EN)

**Remember to register your event at: [www.endpolio.org](http://www.endpolio.org)**

**Register Your Club's Action:**

**Show the world how many of Rotary's 46,000+ Rotary, Rotaract, and Interact clubs are taking action to #EndPolio!**

*Note: This update is going out to those on Bob Roger's previous list and all Zones 26,27 DGs and DPPCs. Let me know if you no longer wish to receive these updates or if you have others that should be added. Email me: [marnyeul@me.com](mailto:marnyeul@me.com) For those that send out copies or use this newsletter as a template for sending info to your Polio Warriors, I publish this and the attachments from GPEI in two different formats to allow you to choose whichever format works best for your purpose*