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  {
    "url": "https://www.endpolio.com.pk/polioin-pakistan",
    "title": "\r\n          Polio in Pakistan          ",
    "paragraphs": [
      "Since 1994, the Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme has been fighting to end the crippling poliovirus from the country. The initiative is driven by up to 339,521 trained and dedicated polio workers, the largest surveillance network in the world, quality data collection and analysis, behavioral change communication, state of the art laboratories, and some of the best epidemiologists and public health experts in Pakistan and the world.",
      "Poliomyelitis (polio) is a highly infectious viral disease, which mainly affects young children. The polio virus is transmitted by person-to-person and is spread mainly through the faecal-oral route, or, less frequently, by a common vehicle, such as contaminated water or food. Thereafter, the polio virus multiplies in the intestine, from where it can invade the nervous system and cause paralysis.",
      "The initial symptoms of polio include fever, fatigue, headaches, vomiting, stiffness in the neck, and pain in the limbs. In a small proportion of cases, the disease can cause paralysis, which is often permanent. There is no cure for polio, and it can only be prevented by immunization.",
      "Pakistan, Afghanistan are the only two countries left in the world where the poliovirus continues to threaten the health and well-being of children. Since 1994, the Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme has been committed to ending polio virus transmission in Pakistan. Through its efforts, case numbers have declined by up to 99% from the 20,000 cases that were reported in the early 1990s.",
      "Throughout the year, the programme implements high quality vaccination campaigns that aim to reach all children under the age of across Pakistan. These campaigns are implemented by 400,000 frontline health workers who go door-to-door to make sure that each and every child in Pakistan is administered the polio vaccine that protects them from the crippling poliovirus. At the same time, the programme undertakes highly sensitive surveillance, detection and response activities to track and limit virus transmission across the country, alongside communication and social mobilization activities which encourage health seeking behaviors amongst communities nationwide.",
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    "url": "https://www.endpolio.com.pk/polioin-pakistan/eradication-strategy",
    "title": "\r\n          Eradication Strategy          ",
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      "The Global Polio Eradication Initiative has worked hand in hand with governments and global partners to eradicate poliovirus worldwide, bringing about a substantial 99% reduction in global cases. However, wild poliovirus - remains endemic only in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and interrupting virus transmission in this one epidemiological block is critical to reaching zero polio. Benefiting from the unwavering commitment of the Government of Pakistan, the National Polio Eradication Programme remains steadfast in its mission to eradicate poliovirus, ensuring a healthier future for children, both within the country and globally. Despite significant strides, several challenges persist, leaving a significant number of children with suboptimal immunity due to the complex socioeconomic and security environment in the - polio high-risk areas. Besides the programme's - operational gaps, inconsistent access to all vulnerable children on account of
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insecurity, vaccine hesitancy, refusals, demand-based boycotts and massive population movements continue to hinder achieving zero polio in the country. To finish the job, the Programme has developed a detailed, comprehensive roadmap to enhance operational and managerial capacities to eradication levels and ensure that the circulation of poliovirus is interrupted across the country by June 2025. The roadmap consists of Three phases:",

"To ensure high-quality implementation of the roadmap and enhance access to all activities, programme oversight and accountability will be strengthened, together with a focus on improving security and access, as well as Migrant and Mobile Population (MMP) tracking and vaccination and improved coordination with the Afghanistan program throughout in all three phases of the roadmap. Each phase will address key programmatic components, which are:",

"National Emergency Action Plan (July 2024 - June 2025) :
<https://www.endpolio.com.pk/images/reports/NEAP.pdf> ",

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"url": "https://www.endpolio.com.pk/polioin-pakistan/surveillance",

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"Surveillance is one of the main pillars of the Polio Eradication Programme. The programme is able to identify where the polio virus is circulating through its highly sensitive surveillance activities. These activities includes testing stool samples of children suffering from acute flaccid paralysis (the clearest symptom the virus) and testing samples taken from sewage water across the country.",

"AFP surveillance, or finding and reporting children with acute flaccid paralysis (AFP), is fundamental in detecting polio cases. Acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) is defined as a sudden onset of paralysis/weakness in any part of the body of a child less than 15 years of age. Each case of AFP acts as a signal to the polio surveillance system where polio is circulating and who it is likely to affect. The best available method to confirm the diagnosis of poliomyelitis is the isolation and identification of poliovirus from the stool. All stool specimens collected from reported AFP cases are tested at the Regional Reference Laboratory (RRL) for polio eradication in Islamabad.",

"If poliovirus is isolated in a stool sample, further tests are carried out to determine where the strain may have originated. By determining the exact genetic makeup of the virus, wild viruses can be compared to others and classified into genetic families which cluster in defined geographical areas. This process helps determine the most appropriate immunization strategies to prevent further spread of the poliovirus.",

"In Pakistan, AFP surveillance began in 1997, but was given focused attention in 2000. Currently, Pakistan has a well-functioning and sensitive AFP surveillance system at national, provincial, and district levels.",

"In addition to AFP surveillance, environmental surveillance helps enhance the sensitivity of surveillance for polioviruses. Environmental surveillance involves testing sewage or other environmental samples for the presence of poliovirus.",

"Over the past couple of years, the number of sites for environmental surveillance has increased, making it the largest environmental surveillance network in the world. There are currently 127 environmental sampling sites for environmental detection in 87 districts of the country.",

"The programme conducts periodic stool surveys among children from high

risk populations who may be carrying the poliovirus without any signs of paralysis, or wherein circulation has been difficult to detect through regular AFP surveillance.",

"For more information on surveillance activities, see the photo essay: "The journey of a stool sample: Understanding polio surveillance""",

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"url": "https://www.endpolio.com.pk/polioin-pakistan/partners-and-donors",

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"The Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme is a public-private partnership led by The Government of Pakistan, and spearheaded by partners such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), Rotary International and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).",

"The Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme has always been driven by strong Government commitment and leadership. Such commitment and leadership has been critical to ensuring that polio eradication remains a top priority under each Government and has unwavering support from across the political spectrum. Government management and oversight has sustained programme operations at every level, including functionality and coordination across National and Provincial Emergency Operation Centres, the National Task Force, Provincial Task Forces, Divisional Task Forces, and District Polio Control Rooms.",

"The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination maintains direct oversight of the implementation of the National Emergency Action Plan (NEAP) for Polio Eradication. All operational oversight is provided by the National Coordinator at the National Emergency Operations Centre in collaboration with all Provincial Emergency Operations Centre Coordinators situated in the provinces.",

"WHO coordinates the major strategic planning, management and administration processes of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI). WHO is responsible for the systematic collection, collation and dissemination of standardized information on strategy implementation and impact, particularly in the areas of surveillance and supplementary immunization activities.",

"WHO also coordinates operational and basic research, provides technical and operational support to the Ministry of Health, and coordinates training and deployment of human resources for supplementary technical assistance.",

"In addition, WHO has a lead role in establishing certification-standard surveillance of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP), resource mobilization, donor coordination, advocacy and communications. WHO serves as a secretariat for the certification process and facilitates implementation and monitoring of biocontainment activities.",

"To read more about World Health Organization (WHO) and the Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme. ",

"Rotary International is the world's first and largest humanitarian service organization, with a global network of 1.2 million members in more than 200 countries.",

"Through its PolioPlus programme, established in 1985, Rotary became one the first organizations to envisage a polio-free world. More than one million Rotary members have volunteered their time and personal resources to polio eradication.",

"Rotary members have also provided valuable field support during

National Immunization Days through social mobilization activities and by administering the oral polio vaccine to children.",

"To read more about Rotary International and the Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme. ",

"CDC works to protect people from health threats by conducting critical scientific research and supplying health information. CDC provides scientific and technical expertise to the GPEI through the Global Immunization Division (GID), Polio and Picornavirus Laboratory, and Stop Transmission of Polio (STOP) teams. GID staff works jointly with WHO, UNICEF, and other GPEI partners, as well as national Ministries of Health, to plan and monitor polio surveillance and immunization activities in countries, and supports other eradication projects, such as tracking disease transmission trends and vaccine efficacy research.",

"The Polio and Picornavirus Laboratory in CDC's Division of Viral Diseases is a WHO Global Specialized Laboratory and delivers technical and programmatic assistance to the Global Polio Laboratory Network. CDC's labs provide critical diagnostic services, perform genomic sequencing of polioviruses to guide eradication efforts, and help overcome specific operational challenges to enable more rapid detection of wild poliovirus and allow for faster outbreak response. STOP staffers help build capacity for acute flaccid paralysis surveillance, the gold-standard for detecting polio, as well as plan, implement, and evaluate immunization campaigns, in collaboration with GPEI partners.",

"To read more about US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Polio Eradication Programme. ",

"UNICEF procures and distributes polio vaccines for routine and supplementary immunizations. In addition, UNICEF supports Pakistan in the implementation of intensified National Immunization Days. (NIDs) and Sub-National Immunization Days (SNIDs), and mop-up campaigns through the funding of more than 20,000 community-based vaccinators, nearly all female (allowing the vaccinators to immunize children who are "inside the home").",

"UNICEF also helps the Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme develop communication strategies that are vital in encouraging local acceptance of the vaccine.",

"UNICEF also assists in developing action plans and securing logistical access to hard-to-reach places, especially in countries affected by conflict. UNICEF contributes to the development of eradication policies, plans of action, training materials and public information, while also being an active partner in advocacy and resource mobilization.",

"To read more about UNICEF and immunization programmes, ",

"Polio eradication is a top priority of the Gates Foundation. As a major supporter of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), it contributes technical and financial resources to partners to accelerate efforts to eradicate polio.",

"The Foundation is also working with partners on innovative ways to enhance polio surveillance and outbreak response, accelerate the development and use of safer and more effective polio vaccines, while also galvanizing financial and political support for polio eradication efforts from both donor and polio-affected countries.",

"To read more about Gates Foundation and Polio Eradication Programme. ",

"Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance is a public-private partnership committed to saving children's lives and protecting people's health by increasing equitable use of vaccines in lower-income countries. Gavi uses innovative finance mechanisms to secure sustainable funding and adequate supply of quality vaccines. Since 2000, Gavi has contributed to the immunisation of more than 760 million children and the prevention of over 13 million future deaths.",

"Gavi supports the inclusion of inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) in routine immunisation programmes and the strengthening of health systems in Gavi-supported countries. Gavi and GPEI collaborated to successfully introduce IPV into the national immunisation programmes of 71 Gavi-supported countries by early 2019 -

the fastest ever global introduction of a new vaccine and a critical milestone for achieving and sustaining a polio-free world.",

"In June 2018, the Gavi Board exceptionally approved support for IPV for 2019-20 and furthered its engagement in the fight against polio in June 2019 when the Board approved continued IPV support as an integral part of Gavi's next strategic cycle. This will ensure every child is protected against the disease and provide insurance against polio re-emergence once it is eradicated. Gavi joined the GPEI in March 2019.",

"To read more about Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and Polio Eradication Programme. ",

"The Government of Pakistan and the Pakistan Polio Eradication Program extend heartfelt gratitude to all the generous donors who have steadfastly supported the program since its inception. The financial and in-kind contributions received to date have been pivotal in driving our efforts forward, bringing us closer to eradicating polio from our communities. The unwavering support is vital to our mission, and together, we will finish the job and secure a healthier future for all.",

"A special note of thanks to our current donors: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Global Affairs Canada (GAC), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Rotary International, United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), United States Centers for Disease Control (CDC), United States Agency for Development (USAID), KS Relief, French Development Agency (AFP), His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Abu Dhabi, and the United Arab Emirates Pakistan Assistance Program.",

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"url": "https://www.endpolio.com.pk/polioin-pakistan/high-risk-area",

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"Pakistan polio program categorizes districts into four distinct risk categories—endemic/core reservoir, outbreak, risk reduction, and maintenance—based on the risk present, allowing for the implementation of appropriate risk-based activities.",

"Endemic Districts: South KP, comprising 7 districts, is classified as endemic.",

"Core Reservoirs: 13 districts of Karachi, Peshawar, Khyber, and the Quetta block are considered core reservoirs. These areas are defined as contiguous geographic zones with persistent local WPV1 circulation for at least 12 months and a history of repeatedly reseeding the virus outside the immediate transmission zones.",

"Outbreak Districts: Districts with recent detections of the poliovirus, either from human cases or environmental samples, are classified as outbreak districts.",

"Risk Reduction: High consequence districts based on risk assessment. These are vulnerable districts adjacent to outbreak or infected areas.",

"Maintenance Districts: All other districts fall under this category.",

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    "title": "\r\n          Global Polio Situation          ",
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        "Tremendous achievements have been made in the global fight against polio since 1988 when the World Health Assembly resolved to eradicate the disease. When the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) began in 1988, polio used to paralyze more than 350,000 children worldwide annually. Today, the global incidence of polio is down by more than 99%.",
        "This success was made possible through a global investment of USD 11 billion which helped vaccinate more than 2.5 billion children in 200 countries. This means that, thanks to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, more than ten million children are walking today, who would otherwise be paralyzed by polio.",
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    "url": "https://www.endpolio.com.pk/global-polio-pakistan/history-of-polio",
    "title": "\r\n          History of Polio          ",
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        "In the early 20th century, polio was one of the most feared diseases in industrialized countries, paralyzing hundreds of thousands of children every year. Soon after the introduction of effective vaccines in the 1950s and 1960s, however, polio was brought under control and practically eliminated as a public health emergency in these countries.",
        "It took somewhat longer for polio to be recognized as a major problem in developing countries. Lameness surveys during the 1970s revealed that the disease was also prevalent in developing countries. As a result, during the 1970s, routine immunization was introduced worldwide as part of national immunization programmes, helping to control the disease in many developing countries.",
        "In 1988, when the Global Polio Eradication Initiative began, polio paralyzed more than 1000 children worldwide every day. Since then, global incidence of polio has declined by 99%, and more than 2.5 billion children have been immunized against polio thanks to the cooperation of more than 200 countries and 20 million volunteers, backed by an international investment of more than US$ 11 billion.",
        "There are now only 2 countries that have never stopped polio transmission: Pakistan, and Afghanistan.",
        "There has also been success in eradicating certain strains of the WPV1 virus. For example, the last case of type 2 was reported in 1999 and its eradication was declared in September 2015. Meanwhile, the most recent case of type 3 dates to November 2012.",
        "However, tackling the last 1% of polio cases has still proved to be difficult. Conflict, political instability, hard-to-reach populations, and poor infrastructure continue to pose challenges to eradicating the disease. Each country offers a unique set of challenges which require local solutions.",
        "In 2013, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative launched its most comprehensive and ambitious plan for completely eradicating polio. It is an all-

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encompassing strategic plan that clearly outlines measures for eliminating polio in its last strongholds and for maintaining a polio-free world.",

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"url": "https://www.endpolio.com.pk/global-polio-pakistan/polio-legacy",

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"A polio-free world requires updated vaccination policies, including the phased withdrawal of oral polio vaccines (OPV), appropriate containment of the poliovirus in facilities, certification that polio has been eradicated, and planning for the transition of knowledge and infrastructure to serve other health goals.",

"The Polio Eradication and Endgame Strategy Plan 2019-2023 and polio legacy transition planning in the National Emergency Action Plan 2018/19 for Polio Eradication in Pakistan are long-term comprehensive strategies which aim at not only complete eradication but also that the long-term investments in polio eradication will contribute to other health goals once polio is eradicated from Pakistan.",

"The plan has three goals:",

"National governments and GPEI partners must plan for some essential functions and activities to be incorporated into existing public health programmes in order to keep the world polio-free. As a result, in consultation with key stakeholders, GPEI is developing a polio Post-Certification Strategy to define, at a global level, the technical standards that will be needed in order to maintain a polio-free world.",

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"url": "https://www.endpolio.com.pk/global-polio-pakistan/public-health-emergency",

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"The term Public Health Emergency of International Concern is defined in the International Health Regulations (2005) as "an extraordinary event which is determined, as provided in these Regulations, to constitute a public health risk to other States through the international spread of disease; and to potentially require a coordinated international response." In 2014, the international spread of poliovirus was declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) under the International Health Regulations [IHR 2005].",

"The International Health Regulations (2005), or IHR (2005), represents a binding international legal agreement involving 196 countries across the globe, including all the Member States of World Health Organization. Their aim is to help the international community prevent and respond to acute public health risks that have the potential to cross borders and threaten people worldwide. The purpose and scope of the IHR (2005) is to prevent, protect against, control and provide a public health response to the international spread of disease in ways that are commensurate with and restricted to public health risks, and which avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade.",

"On 5 May 2014, the WHO Director-General declared the international spread of poliovirus a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) under the International Health Regulations [IHR 2005], and issued Temporary Recommendations to reduce the international spread of poliovirus, as well as a reassessment of the situation by the Emergency Committee every 3 months.",

"The twenty-third meeting of the Emergency Committee under the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR) was convened by the Director General on 11 December 2019 at the World Health Organization (WHO) headquarters with members, advisers and invited Member States attending via teleconference, with support from the WHO secretariat. The Emergency Committee reviewed the data on wild poliovirus (WPV1) and circulating vaccine derived polioviruses (cVDPV) and the Secretariat presented a report of progress for affected IHR States Parties subject to Temporary Recommendations.",

"The committee's full report is Available Here ",

"See here for more information on states infected with poliovirus:

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"url": "https://www.endpolio.com.pk/faqs",

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"url": "https://www.endpolio.com.pk/certificate/vaccination-certificate",

"title": "Polio Vaccination and International Travel",

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"Polio vaccination is required for all international travelers from Pakistan, regardless of age, to prevent the spread of poliovirus to other countries. Pakistan remains among the only two countries in the world where wild poliovirus remains in circulation, so it is crucial to make sure everyone crossing borders or traveling from infected countries gets vaccinated. Unvaccinated people can get infected with poliovirus and spread it to others too. Polio vaccination prior to travel helps protect travelers and stops the virus from spreading globally.",

"International recommendations on polio vaccination for travelers, which are based on WHO's International Health Regulations, can be found here: <https://www.who.int/news/item/12-05-2023-statement-of-the-thirty-fifth-polio-ihremergency-committee>",

"All travelers, including country nationals and long-term visitors – those staying for four weeks or longer – of all ages should receive a dose of the oral polio vaccine (bOPV) or injectable vaccine (IPV) between four weeks and 12 months before international travel.",

"If you are intending to travel abroad in the coming weeks, you would need to present proof of polio vaccination at the time of departure. Visit your nearest District Health Office, take the polio drops and ensure your details are recorded. Following this, you can visit NADRA's portal <https://nims.nadra.gov.pk/nims/> or the Pak Vaccination Pass app, available for

Android and iOS users, enter your details and download the digital vaccination certificate for a fee of Rs100.",

"The polio vaccination certificate is valid for one year.",

"Those who are traveling urgently and have not received a dose of the oral or injectable polio vaccine in the past four weeks to 12 months must get vaccinated at least by the time of departure at the international airport's polio vaccination designated counters as this will still provide some benefit, particularly for frequent travelers.",

"Yes, a polio vaccination certificate is needed for all travelers to show proof of vaccination.",

"Emergency counters have been set up at international airports for polio vaccination, catering to individuals who may have missed the opportunity to receive the vaccine and certificate earlier. Travelers will also be provided with a polio vaccination certificate upon arrival at the airport, after vaccination. ",

"No, you do not need to provide a polio vaccination certificate when entering Pakistan. Only outbound international travelers need to provide proof of polio vaccination at the time of departure.",

"The polio vaccine is required for adults travelling from Pakistan due to the country being one of only two countries left that have wild poliovirus circulation. Polio is highly contagious and can affect not only children but also unvaccinated adults, therefore, travelers from polio-endemic regions pose a risk of carrying the virus to other countries where polio has been eradicated. To prevent this spread, many countries have implemented regulations mandating proof of polio vaccination for incoming travelers. Therefore, travelers from Pakistan are required to present a polio vaccination certificate, ensuring both their safety and that of the communities they visit. These measures form part of the global efforts to control and ultimately eradicate polio worldwide.",

"If you are staying in Pakistan for more than four weeks, you would need to present polio vaccination certificate when embarking on return travel.",

"Based on International Health Regulations, any visitor who stays in Pakistan for less than four weeks is not required to provide proof of polio vaccination. However, long-term visitors are encouraged to get the polio vaccine and certificate for their own protection and to prevent the spread of polio.",

"Both polio vaccine and vaccination certificate can be readily obtained from District Health Offices, even in emergency situations. Additionally, designated polio vaccination counters at international airports are offering these services to travelers in need of polio vaccination and certification.",

"The oral polio vaccine is safe and should be administered to all children, including sick children, to protect them from polio. In fact, it is particularly critical that sick children are immunized because their immunity levels are lower than other children.",

"The oral polio vaccine is one of the safest vaccines ever developed and it is halal. All Muslim countries have used the same vaccine to eradicate polio and it is endorsed by the Imam-E-Kaaba.",

"National immunization management system",

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