

## SUSTAINED PROGRESS TOWARDS ENDING POLIO

- The African Region was officially declared free of indigenous wild poliovirus by the independent Africa Regional Certification Commission (ARCC) for Polio Eradication in August 2020, a historic achievement for the continent.
- WHO Regional Office for Africa is committed to ending all forms of polio and, together with other Global Polio Eradication Initiative partners, is implementing a comprehensive set of response activities to address the challenge of variant poliovirus outbreaks that are affecting multiple countries. These include:
  - Expanded multi-country supplementary immunization activities.
  - Accelerated essential immunization recovery.
  - Enhanced early detection through improved surveillance and building laboratory capacity.
  - Increased direct technical support.
- Achievements made between July 2022 and June 2023 include:
  - A total of 54 immunization campaigns undertaken in response to new and ongoing outbreaks.
  - More than 122 million children reached with at least one polio vaccine dose in 22 countries<sup>1</sup>, through supplementary immunization activities (SIAs).
  - 18 countries<sup>2</sup> carried out novel oral polio vaccine type 2 (nOPV2) immunization campaigns, with over 90 million doses administered.
  - All 47 countries have functioning polio surveillance systems supported by WHO and partners.
  - A total of 33 801 cases of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) were reported in 2022, up from 31 763 AFP reported between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022, through AFP surveillance; 791 polioviruses detected in 19 countries<sup>3</sup> in the region.
  - The availability of 16 polio laboratories enabled the rapid determination of the origin and type of polioviruses and genetic sequencing capacity was stepped up through training and testing technologies; three laboratories in the region now have genomic sequencing capacity.
  - Three countries established environmental surveillance systems to complement AFP surveillance, bringing the total to 40 countries.
  - WHO AFRO's Geographic Information Systems Centre boosted the capacity of countries to map cross-border communities, migratory routes, border crossings and transit routes using key electronic data tools.
- As part of the polio transition, WHO AFRO is leveraging existing polio structures and assets to support other crucial public health priorities, including enhancing vaccine-preventable disease surveillance, strengthening essential immunization, and increasing response capacity for other epidemic-prone diseases.

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<sup>1</sup> Algeria, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe

<sup>2</sup> Algeria, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Togo, Uganda, Zambia

<sup>3</sup> Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Togo, Zambia