## POLICIERADICATION INITIATIVE

#### **ANNUAL REPORT** 2016













### **GLOBAL POLIO ERADICATION INITIATIVE**

**Annual Report 2016** 









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Cover photo: A young girl shows ink mark on her finger, which confirms that she has received polio vaccine during Sehat Ka Ittehad campaign, in Peshawar city, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Province, Pakistan. ©Unicef/PAK/Asad Zaidi.

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#### **ACRONYMS**

bOPV	Bivalent oral polio vaccine		
ccs	Containment certification scheme		
cVDPV	Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus		
cVDPV2	Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2		
GAPIII	WHO Global Action Plan to minimize poliovirus facility-associated risk after type-specific eradication of wild polioviruses and sequential cessation of oral polio vaccine use		
GCC	Global Commission for the Certification of the Eradication of Poliomyelitis		
GPEI	Global Polio Eradication Initiative		
IPV	Inactivated polio vaccine		
m0PV	Monovalent oral polio vaccine		
m0PV2	Monovalent oral polio vaccine type 2		
OPV	Oral polio vaccine		
OPV2	Oral polio vaccine type 2		
SAGE	Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on immunization		
TIMB	Transition Independent Monitoring Board		
tOPV	Trivalent oral polio vaccine		
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund		
USAID	United States Agency for International Development		
VAPP	Vaccine-associated paralytic polio		
VDPV	Vaccine-derived poliovirus		
VDPV2	Vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2		
WH0	World Health Organization		
WPV	Wild poliovirus		
WPV1	Wild poliovirus type 1		
WPV2	Wild poliovirus type 2		
WPV3	Wild poliovirus type 3		



# WHAT WE WANT YOU TO TAKE AWAY FROM THIS REPORT...

#### Global Polio Eradication Initiative – The worldwide eradication of a disease

- Polio is a devastating disease, which paralyses children for life.
- There is no cure for polio but a simple and effective vaccine protects a child for life.
- In 1988, a global movement was started to ensure that every child is vaccinated against polio.
- At that time, every year more than 350 000 children were paralysed by the disease, in more than 125 countries.
- In 2016, only 37 cases were reported, from just 3 countries: Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria.
- The world has never been closer to being polio-free. But if we do not succeed, polio will come roaring back. Within ten years, 200 000 children could again be paralysed all over the world every single year!
- Please help us eradicate polio once and for all. For just US\$ 0.50, you can protect a child for life against this terrible disease.

Together, let's achieve something historic!

Let's make sure that no child will ever again be paralysed by polio.

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In 2016, fewer children were paralysed by polio than in any other year in history, and the world moved closer still to eradicating polio. Circulating in a few areas of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria, wild poliovirus (WPV) is more geographically constrained than ever before. Every country using trivalent oral polio vaccine (tOPV) switched to bivalent oral polio vaccine (bOPV) thanks to the eradication of wild poliovirus type 2 (WPV2), which had been certified in September 2015. This progress continues to be made possible by the over 20 million volunteers and front-line staff who vaccinate over 400 million children worldwide each year as part of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI).

## ERADICATING ALL POLIOVIRUSES

After circulating undetected for several years, WPV reared its head in north-eastern Nigeria. Despite persistent improvements in operational quality accompanied by marked innovations, children in Pakistan and Afghanistan continue to be paralysed by polio. As WPV teeters on the edge of eradication,

response to vaccine-derived polioviruses (VDPVs) takes on a larger role. And as the public health community zeros in on all poliovirus, containing any virus in safe, essential facilities becomes more urgent.

Pakistan and Afghanistan both continued to intensify eradication efforts and implement their respective national emergency action plans, overseen by their heads of state. The countries treat virus transmission as a single epidemiological block and emphasize the coordination of activities across their common border. In Pakistan, the proportion of children who have never had a dose of polio vaccine continued to decline in 2016, as more children are now being immunized than ever before, in particular in historical reservoir areas. In Afghanistan, 9 out of 10 areas tested met the coverage standards for vaccination campaigns. Both countries introduced a number of innovations, including the recruitment of community-based vaccinators (often female), increased environmental testing to complement the surveillance of observed cases of acute flaccid paralysis, additional crossborder vaccination teams, and remote monitoring of the quality of operations in inaccessible areas through mobile technology and independent monitors.

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