

Global Polio Eradication Initiative Member State Information Session

Securing and sustaining a world
free from all forms of polioviruses

17 November 2025



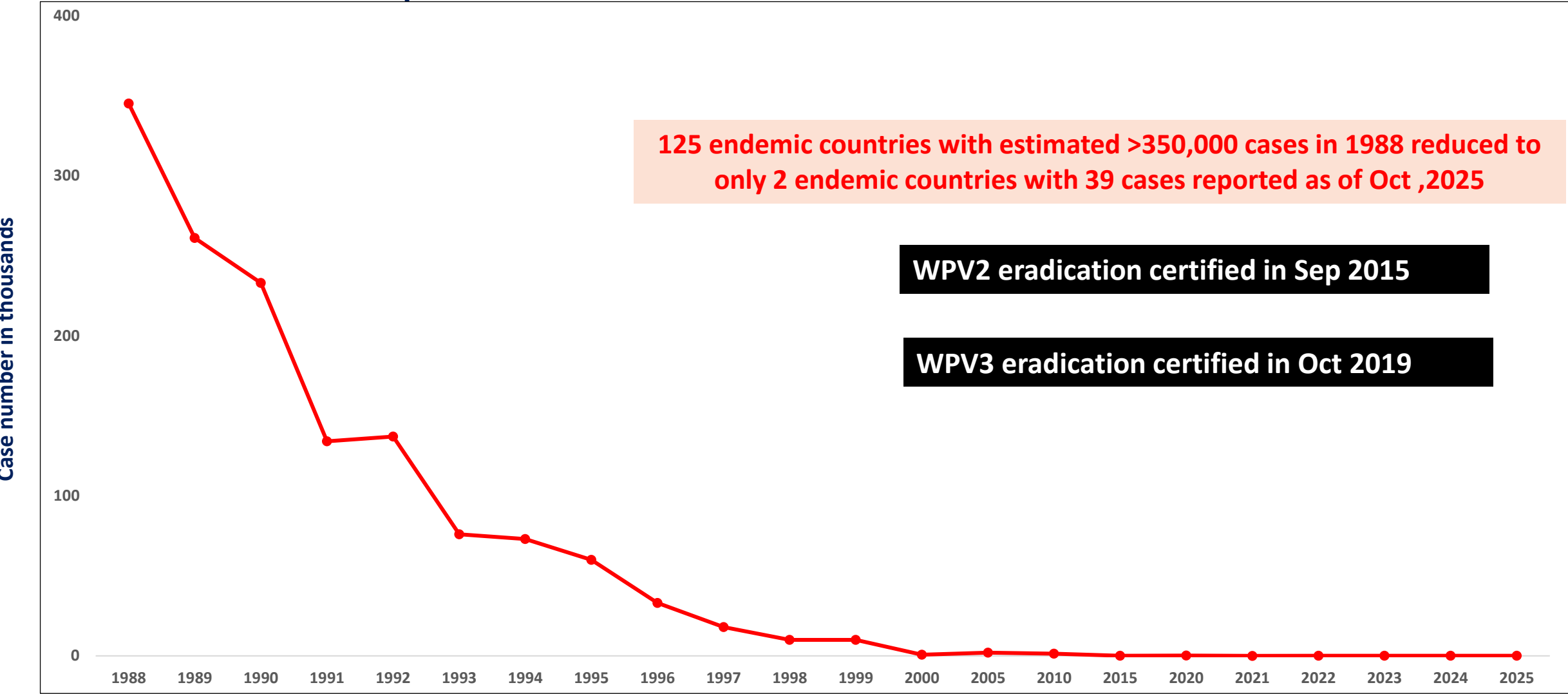
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Programmatic and epidemiological update

Polio cases – wild poliovirus 1988-2025



International spread of poliovirus remains a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)

43rd meeting of the Emergency Committee held in Oct 2025, concluded that **the risk of international spread of poliovirus continues to constitute a PHEIC**



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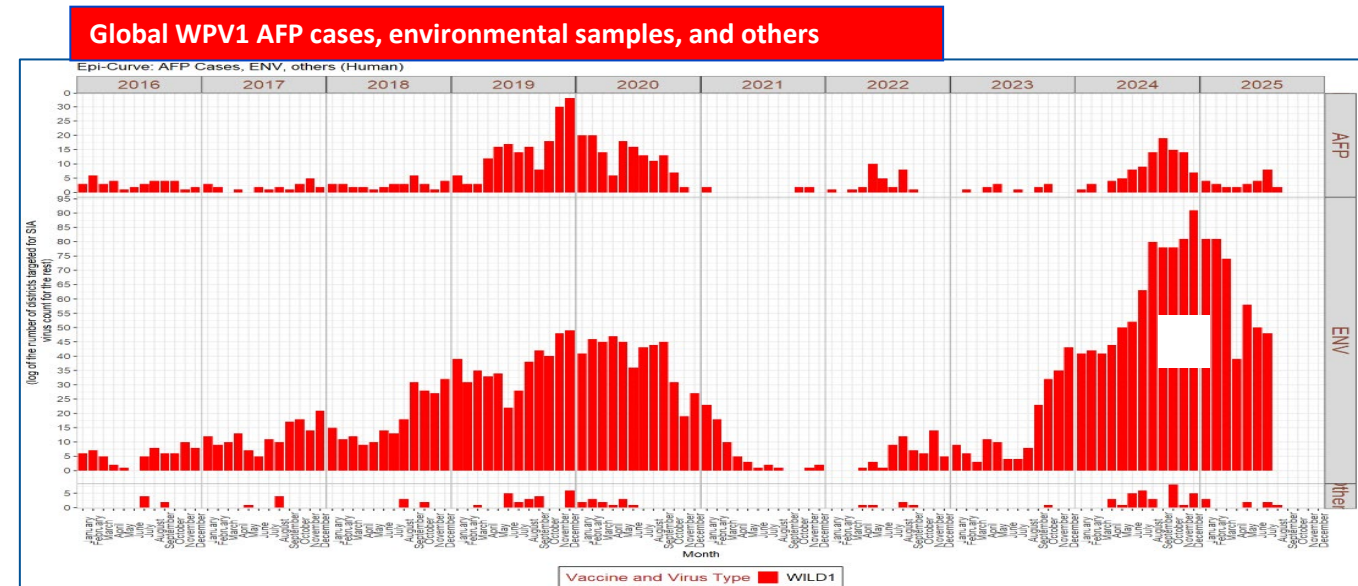
Statement of the Forty-second meeting of the Polio IHR Emergency Committee

28 July 2025 | Statement | Geneva | Reading time: 18 min (4776 words)

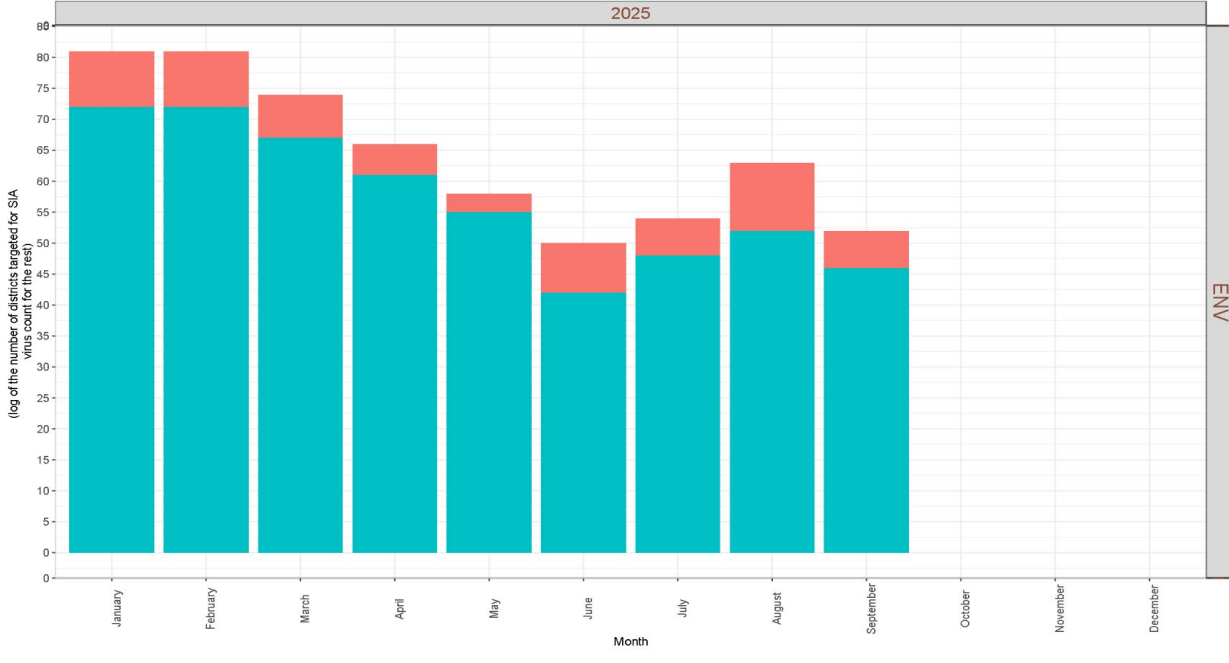
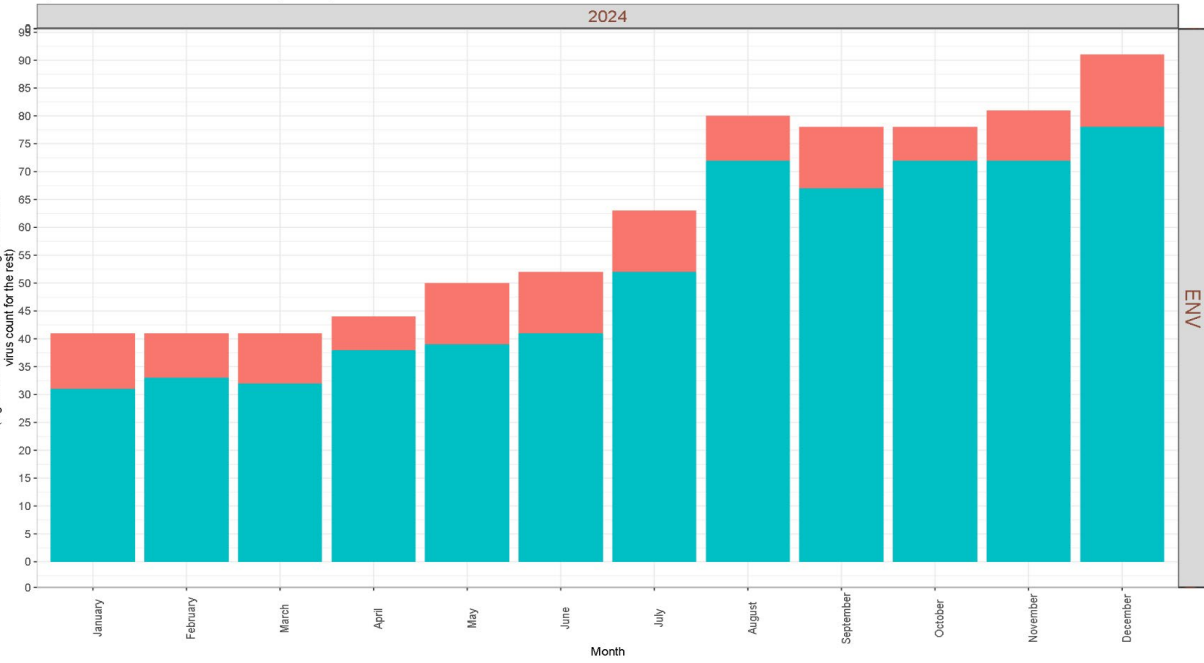
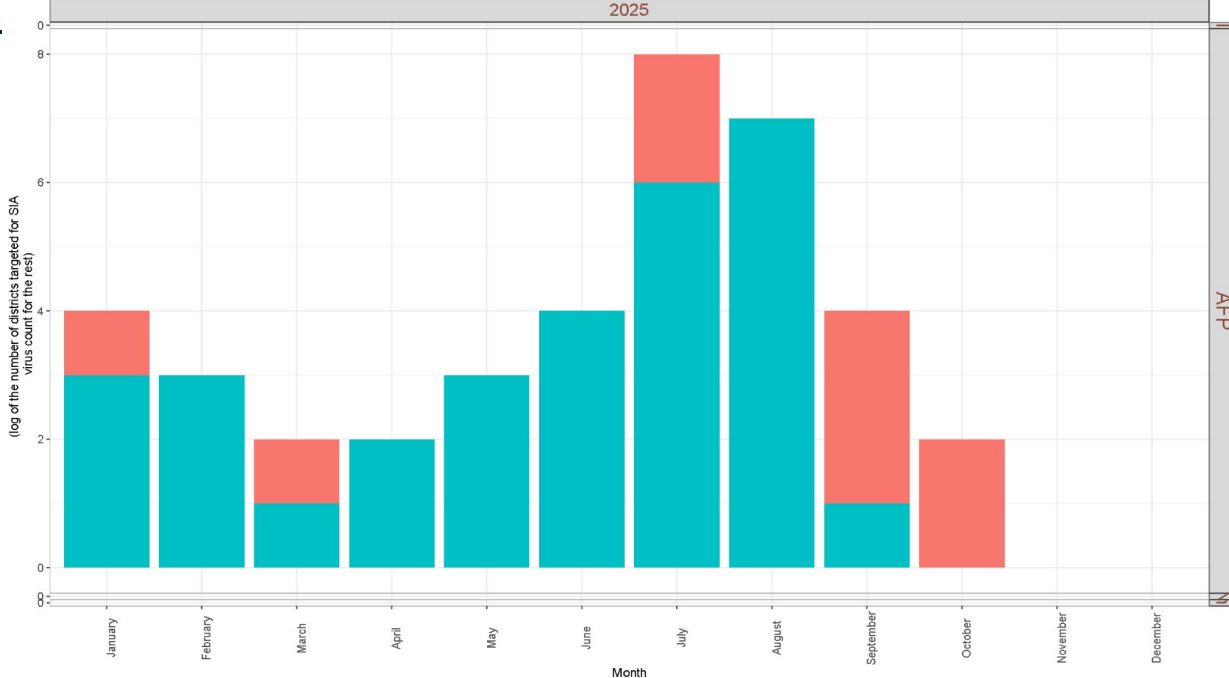
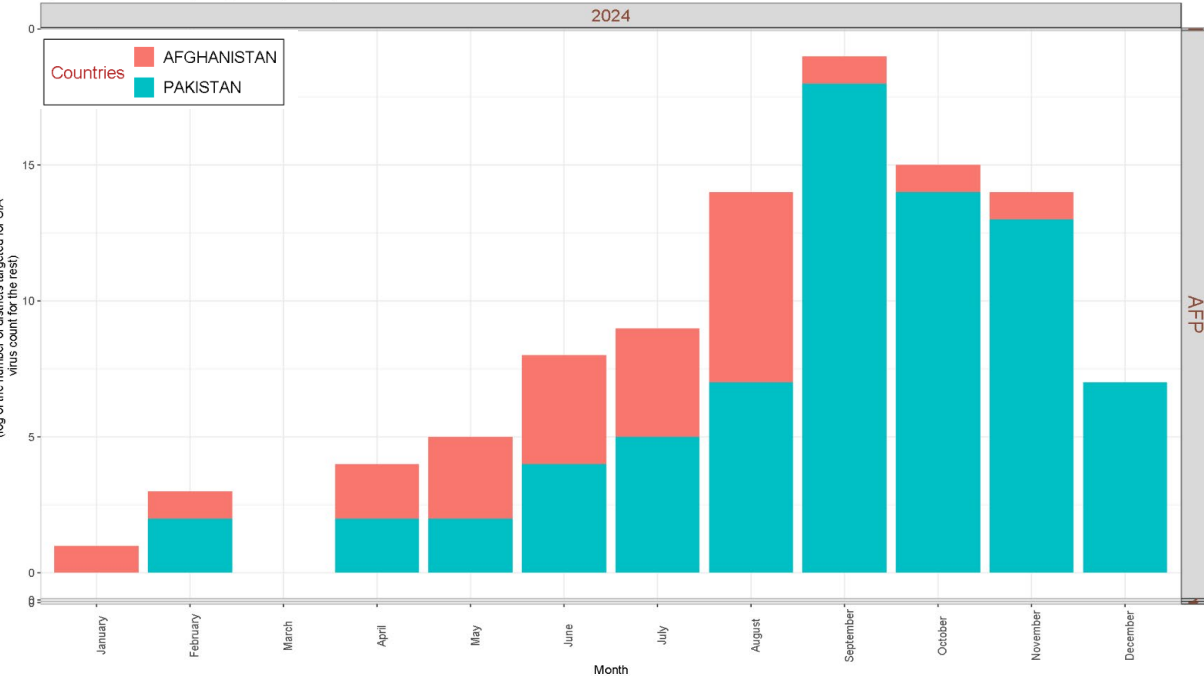
The Forty-second meeting of the Emergency Committee under the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR) on the international spread of poliovirus was convened by the WHO Director-General on 18 June 2025 with committee members and advisers meeting via video conference with affected countries, supported by the WHO Secretariat. The Emergency Committee reviewed the data on wild poliovirus (WPV1) and circulating vaccine derived polioviruses (cVDPV) in the context of the global target of interruption and certification of WPV1 eradication by 2027 and interruption and certification of cVDPV2 elimination by 2029. Technical updates were received about the situation in the following countries: Afghanistan, Angola, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Papua New Guinea.

Goal 1: Continued transmission, driven by core-reservoirs

- 99 WPV1 cases in all of 2024 (25 in Afghanistan, 74 in Pakistan), compared to 12 in 2023 (6 each)
- 38 WPV1 cases reported in 2025: 9 in Afghanistan and 29 in Pakistan (as of 09 Sep)
- Surge in WPV1 detections from wastewater samples since September 2023 may have peaked



Wild Poliovirus Type 1 Overview, Pakistan & Afghanistan (2024-2025)

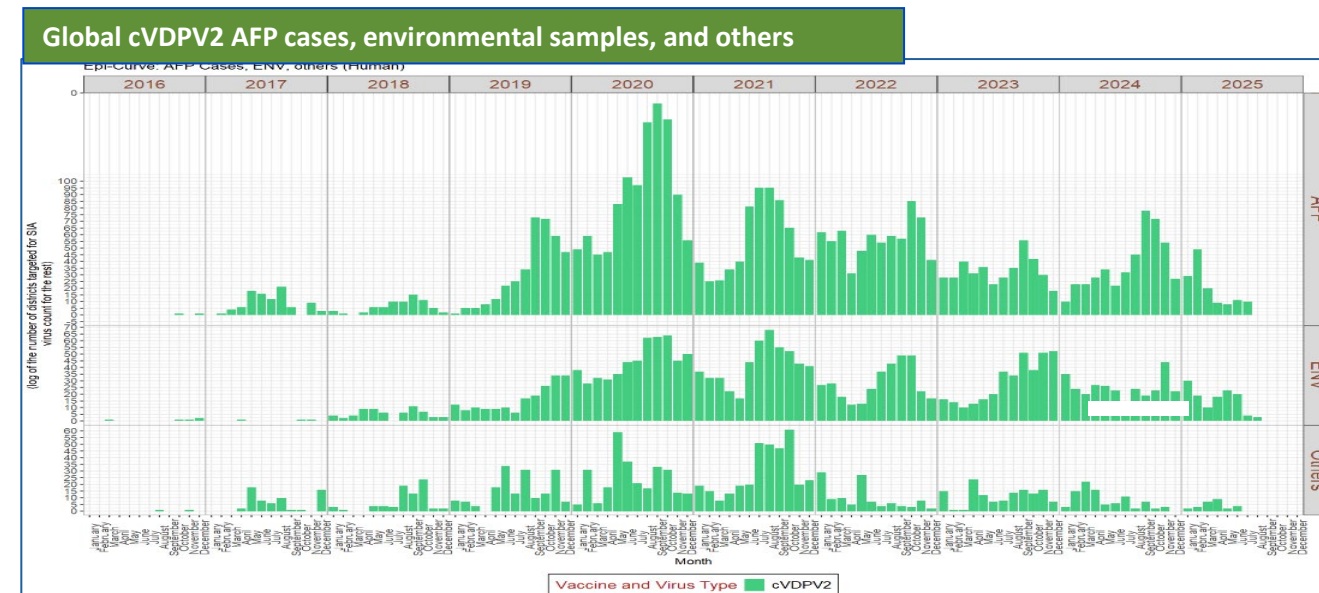


Endemics key challenges

Afghanistan	Pakistan
• Primary challenge: Weak political commitment resulting in poor quality SIAs, especially in south region. • Limited ownership by provincial authorities in south contributed to incomplete implementation of 'Reset Strategy.' • Ban on female community-based workers, particularly in the south.	• Primary challenge: Persistent inaccessibility in South Khyber Pakhtunkhwa contributing to significant number of unreached children. • Challenges to consistent high-quality vaccination campaigns in historic reservoir areas. • SIA quality and coverage compromised by vaccine hesitancy.
Common across the epidemiological bloc	
• Low RI coverage in polio-affected areas. • Intense population movement in-country and across borders, including returnees, requires constant mapping and flexible and targeted strategies to vaccinate mobile and migrant populations (MMPs). • Misinformation about polio and polio vaccinations creates distrust and loss of confidence in eradication efforts.	

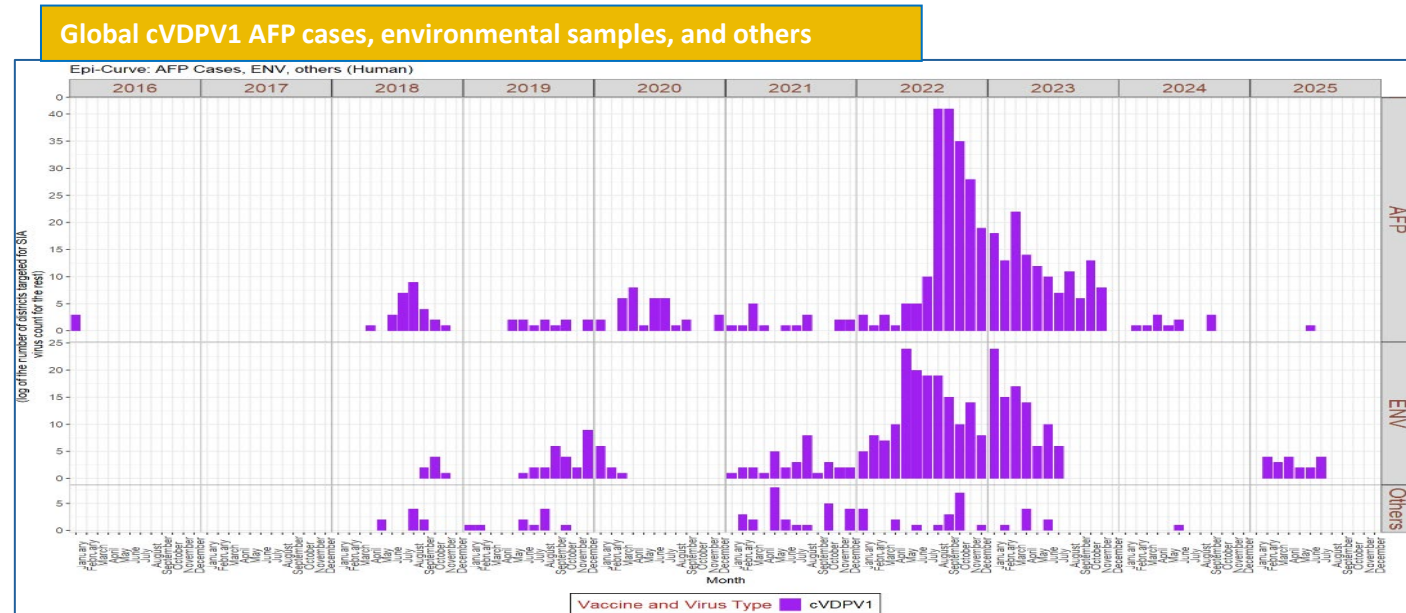
Goal 2: Progress in Southern Africa & Democratic Republic of Congo; Lake Chad Basin and Horn of Africa driving transmission

- 448 cVDPV2 cases in 2024, compared to 395 in 2023 (688 in 2022) — After a general decline since 2020, cVDPV2 cases showed an uptick in 2024 compared to the previous year.
- Total of 136 cVDPV2 cases reported in 2025 (as of 09 Sep)
 - 102 from the African Region (9 countries)
 - Rest from EMR; (1 Djibouti, 1 Somalia, 2 Sudan, 29 Yemen) and WPR; (1 Papua New Guinea)
- cVDPV2 detections from wastewater samples from multiple countries of European Region



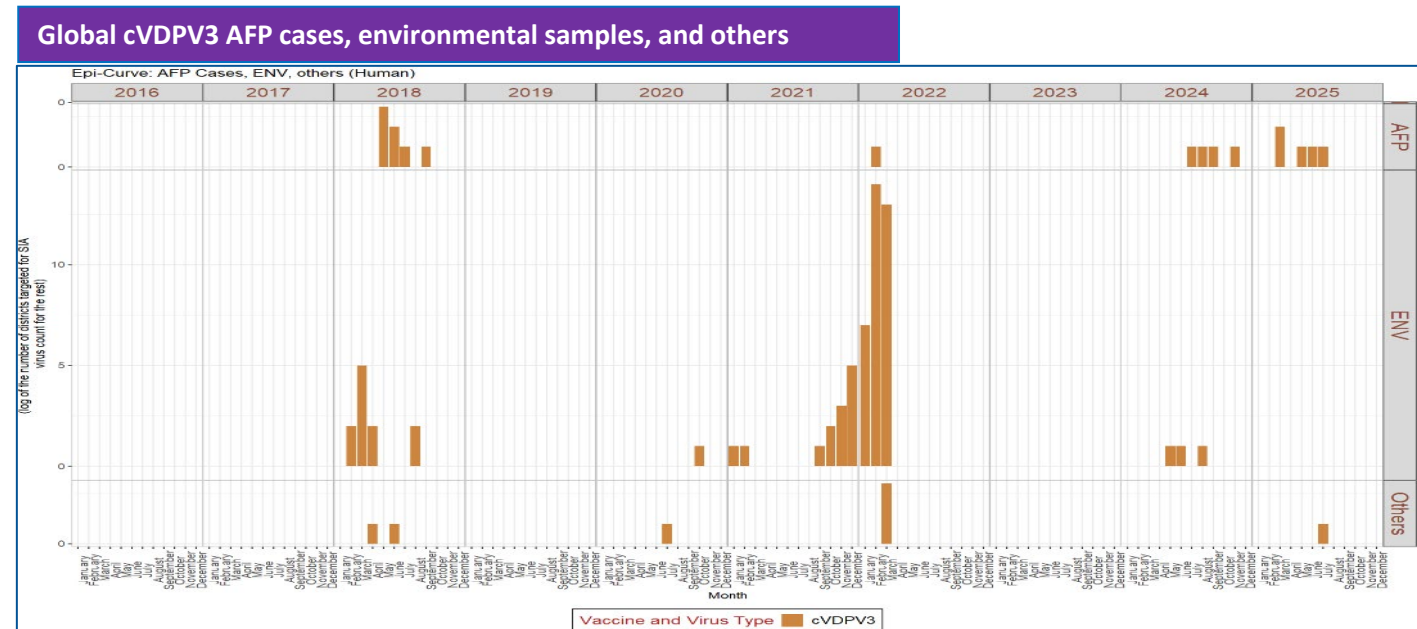
One cVDPV1 case to date in 2025

- 11 cVDPV1 cases in 2024, compared to 134 in 2023 (192 in 2022)
- 1 cVDPV1 case reported in 2025 (09 Sep) in Democratic Republic of Congo, two new cVDPV1 outbreak have been detected in Djibouti with 9 +ve ES; and in Israel with 10 +ve ES;
- cVDPV1 outbreak closed in Madagascar



cVDPV3; Globally, low transmission levels, Ongoing Detection in Guinea and new detection in Cameroon and Chad

- 4 cVDPV3 cases in 2024 (all in Guinea), compared to none in 2023. Three +ve ES in French Guiana
- 5 cVDPV3 cases reported in 2025: 1 in Cameroon, 2 in Chad and 2 in Guinea (09 Sep)



Polio Outbreak Response in Gaza Strip

		R-1 R-2 R-3												
Governorate	ES Site	23-Jun-24	5-Sep-24	8-Oct-24	24-Oct-24	4-Nov-24	7-Dec-24	9-Jan-25	5-Feb-25	5-Mar-25	6-Apr-25	5-May-25	4-Jun-25 (KY 16 Jun)	6-Jul-25
North Gaza	Nazla													
Gaza City	Sheikh Ridhwan													
Dier-El-Balah	Al-Basa													
	Near Poly Technical College													
	Berka													
Khan Younis	Hesbit El Samak													
	El Amal storm water collection													
	Mawasi													
	Balad													
	Wafiya													
	Asdaa													
Dt. samples transported to IL			22-Sep-24	6-Nov-24	6-Nov-24	6-Nov-24	11-Dec-24	14-Jan-25	6-Feb-25	13-Mar-25	22-Apr-25	22-May-25	19-Jun-25	TBC
Dt. samples transported to JOR			22-Sep-24	6-Nov-24	6-Nov-24	6-Nov-24	25-Dec-24	14-Jan-25	7-Feb-25	16-Mar-25	19-May-25	22-May-25	25-Jun-25	TBC

	Pending
	cVDPV2
	aVDPV2-n
	VDPV-1
	nOPV2+ve
	Negative
	NPEV



Vaccines: 1.6 million doses of nOPV2 released for over 640,500 children



Cold chain – over 650 sets of fridges, freezers, cold boxes and vaccine carriers



SBC + awareness activities: Building trust, community engagement, mass media, misinformation management



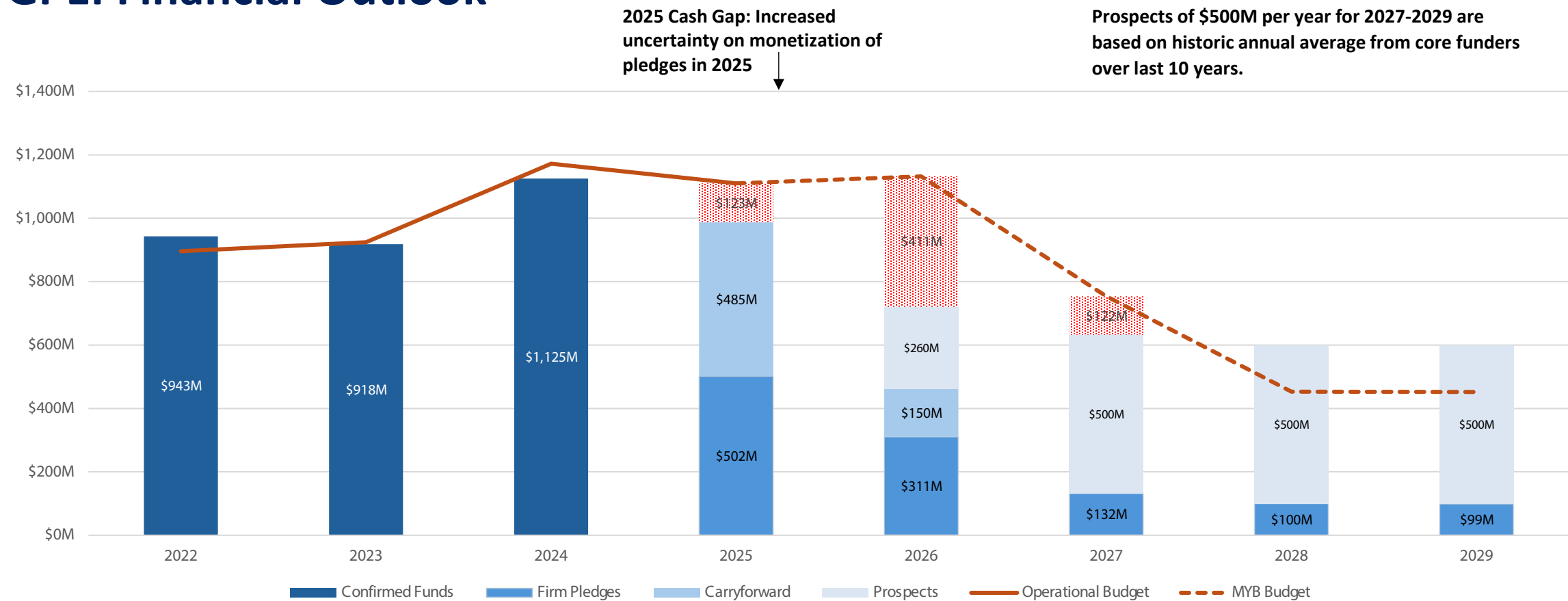
Coordination WHO, UNICEF and UNRWA along with partners continue support to the MoH

Strategic imperative

Staying the course toward eradication – a defining moment for GPEI

As the global health landscape is experiencing significant change, longer-term programmatic adjustments are required to align to a new fiscal reality. Continued leadership and donor voice is critical during this time of change.

GPEI Financial Outlook



GPEI Action Plan 2026

Purpose:

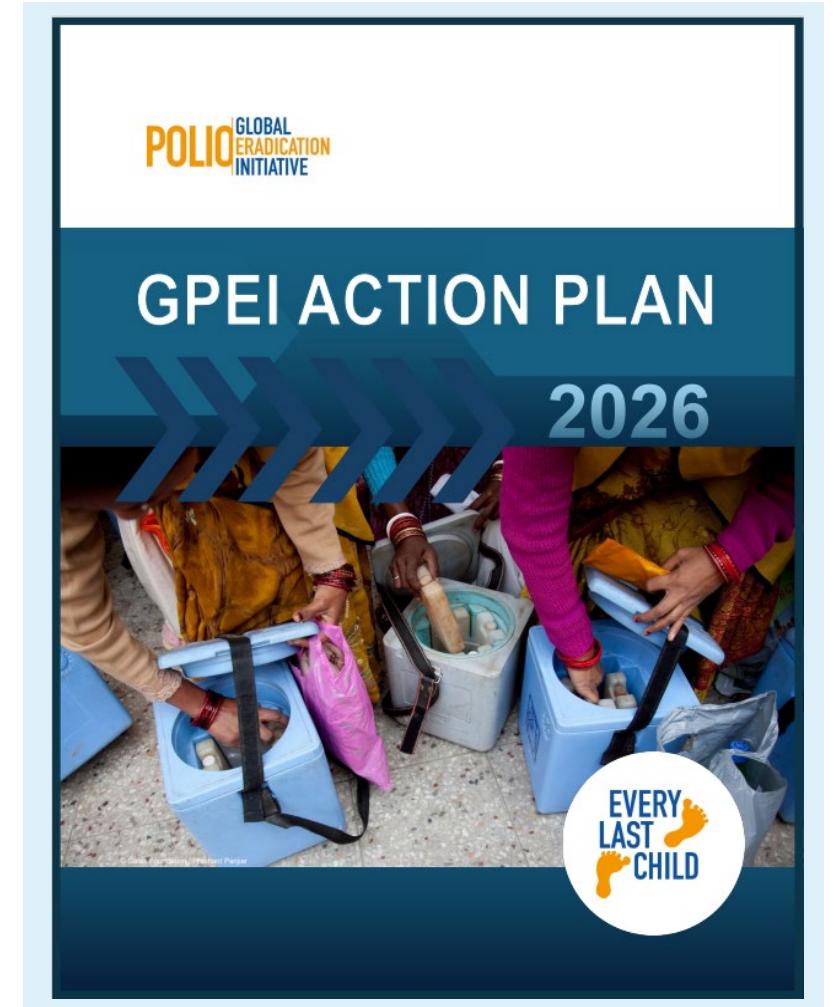
- Operationalizes the Eradication Strategy and Extension (approved by POB in October 2024)
- Defines concrete actions in the critical areas required to meet the final challenges and achieve eradication
- Increases visibility and agility to respond to problems as they arise

Audience: Internal stakeholders to enable "whole-programme planning"

Timeline: Focused on 2026, with a view to 2027 planning

Content:

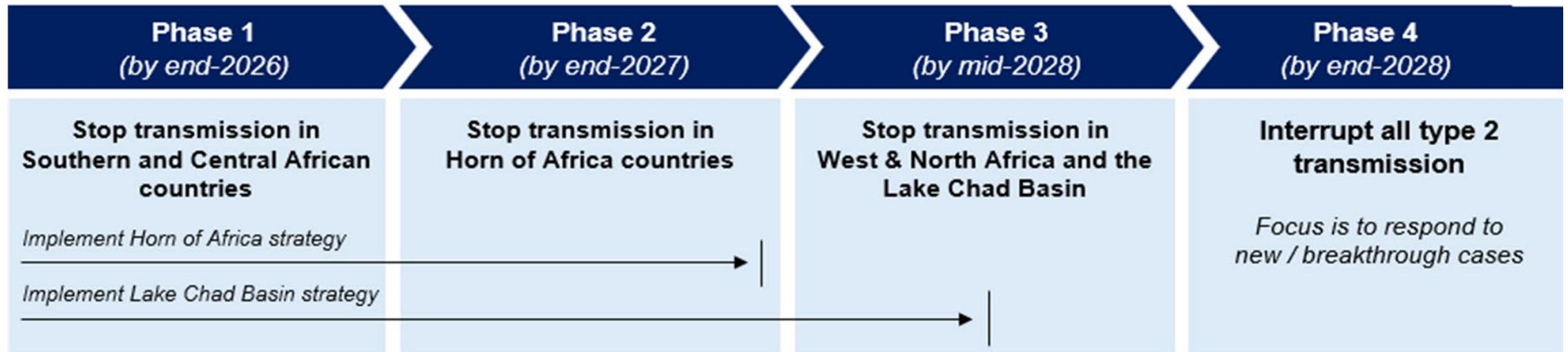
- Summary of strategy, activities and risk mitigation for Goal 1 and 2
- Subnational plans for core geographies
- Information on strategic allocation of resources & efficiencies implemented across the programme
- An assessment of budget shifts and resource mobilization forecasts
- Accountability framework
- Sections on gender, integration and special interventions



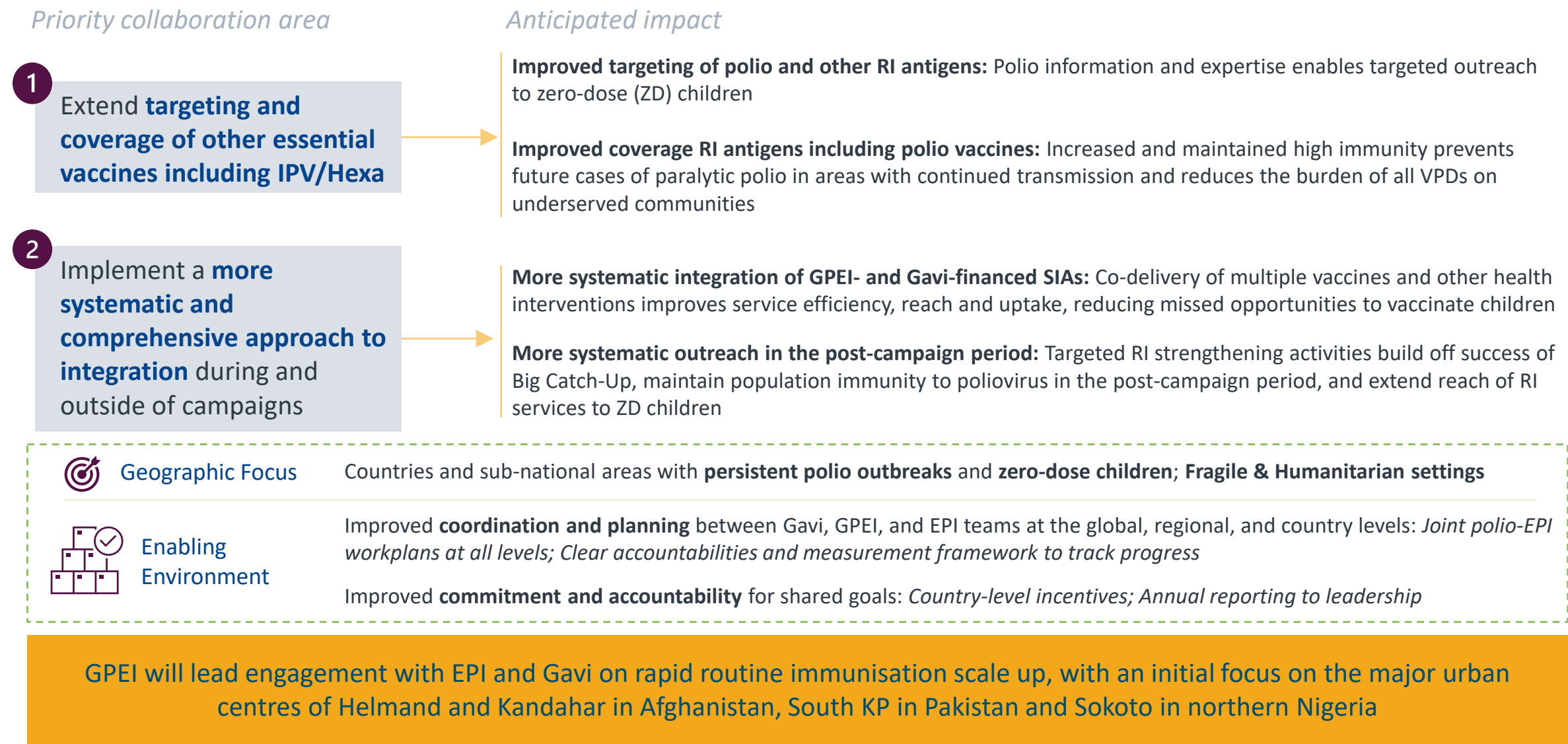
Goal 2: Phased approach to cVDPV2 elimination

Pillars for phased cVDPV elimination

1. Maintain the gains by deploying active, aggressive responses to any cVDPV detections to ensure certified regions remain polio-free.
2. Stop cVDPV transmission in areas with persistent transmission by sequentially targeting transmission across epidemiological blocs and ensuring circulation is controlled globally



Improved GPEI-Gavi Alliance-EPI collaboration is a core part of subnational plans



Conclusion

Major progress in some geographies but challenges remain



Launching supplementary immunization activities in Madagascar, May 2024
Credit: WHO Madagascar

- **Big wins in 2023/2024**
 - WPV in Southern Africa closed
 - Outbreak in Madagascar closed
 - Substantial progress in DRC, Eastern and Southern Africa
- **Setback**
 - inaccessibility in parts of Pakistan, and restrictions in SIA modalities in Afghanistan
 - Persistent cVDPV2 transmission in Lake Chad basin countries especially Nigeria and Chad
 - Expanding conflict in Sudan, restrictions in access to populations in Northern Yemen
- **Strategic imperatives for success**
 - Making the programme work efficiently and deliver under a changing geopolitical paradigm
 - All hands on deck for WPV; maximizing support for Afghanistan and Pakistan
 - Dedicated effort to combat misinformation to address vaccine hesitancy
- **What should success look like by end of the low season in 2025/2026**
 - Substantial progress in Afghanistan, Pakistan
 - Substantial progress in ending cVDPV transmission in the Lake Chad Basin, West Africa, Horn of Africa
 - All **active** cVDPV1 outbreaks closed; continued vigilance against type 1 and type 3 outbreaks

Sustaining a Polio-Free World: managing risks, building resilience



- Even after eradication, the risk of poliovirus resurgence will persist.
- Sustaining a polio-free world requires continued investment in surveillance, immunization, and rapid outbreak response capacities.
- The *Sustaining a Polio-Free World (SPW)* strategy currently under development defines the technical standards to manage this risk through stronger, more resilient and equitable national health systems.
- This marks the bridge from emergency eradication efforts to long-term sustainability within integrated health systems.

Sustaining a Polio-free World: A strategy for long-term success

Member State Information Session

Geneva, Switzerland – 17 November 2025



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Strategy goals and objectives



Goal One: Protect populations

- **Objective 1.1:** To prepare and implement a globally synchronized cessation of bOPV use in routine immunization.
- **Objective 1.2:** To provide access to safe, effective polio vaccines for the long-term protection of global populations.



Goal Two: Detect & respond

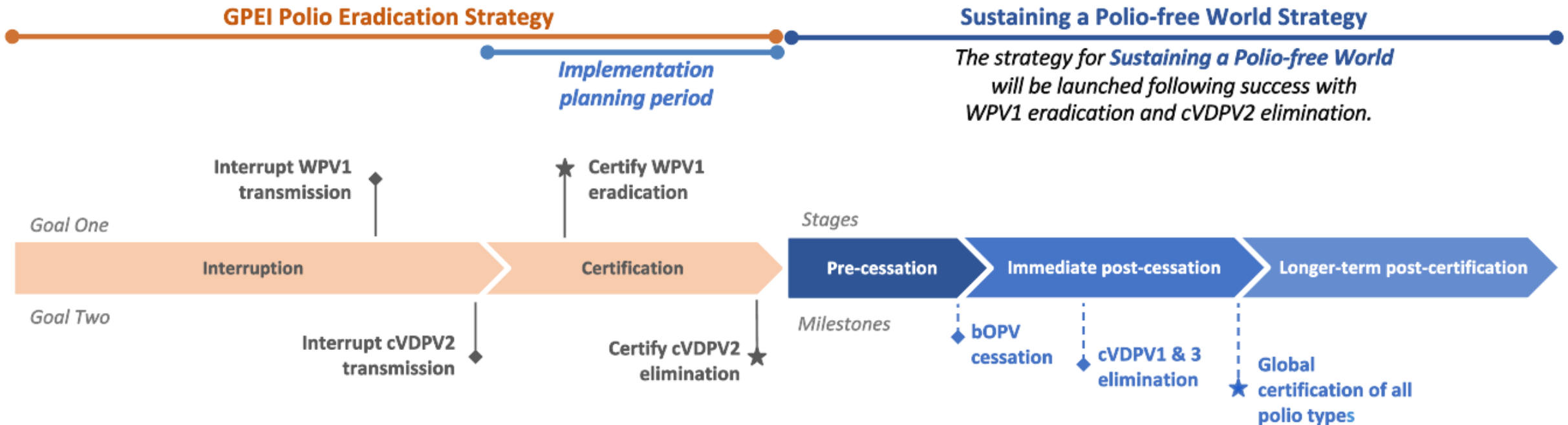
- **Objective 2.1:** To promptly detect any poliovirus in a human or in the environment through a sensitive surveillance system.
- **Objective 2.2:** To develop and maintain adequate global and regional capacity and resources to support national efforts to contain any detected poliovirus and stop transmission.



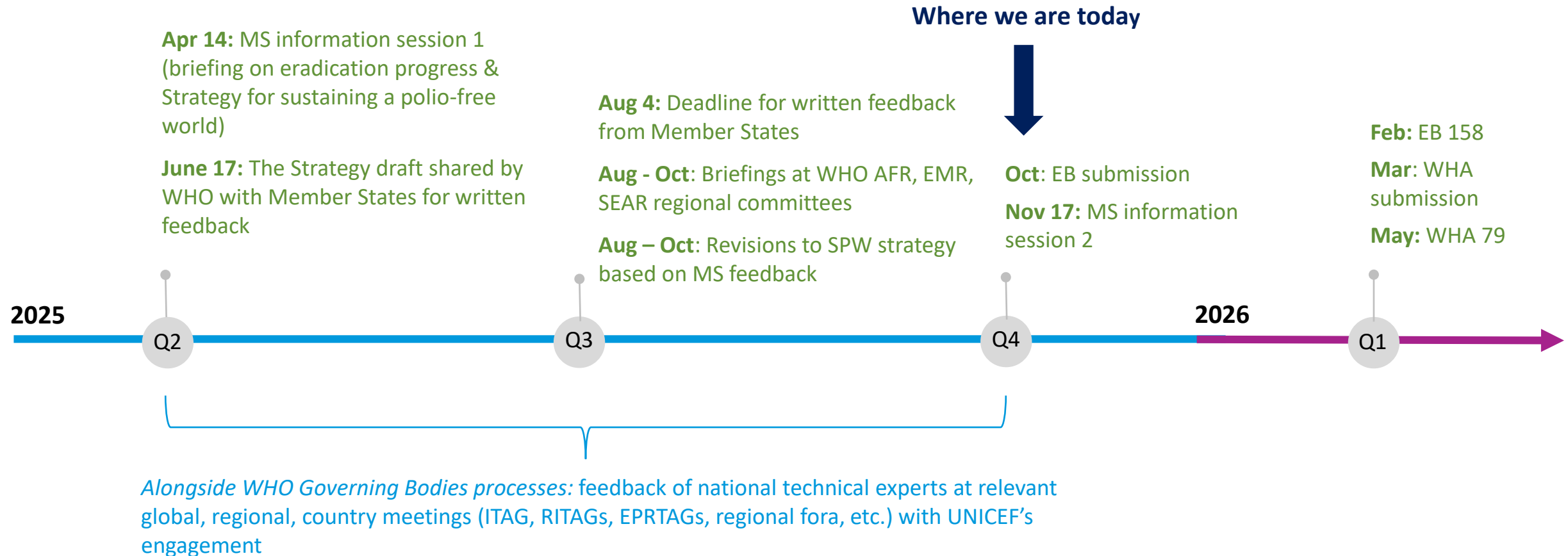
Goal Three: Contain polioviruses

- **Objective 3.1:** To sustain safe and secure poliovirus containment in laboratories, vaccine manufacturing sites and other facilities retaining polioviruses.

Polio Eradication Strategy and Sustaining a Polio-free World Strategy timeline



Member States engagement process



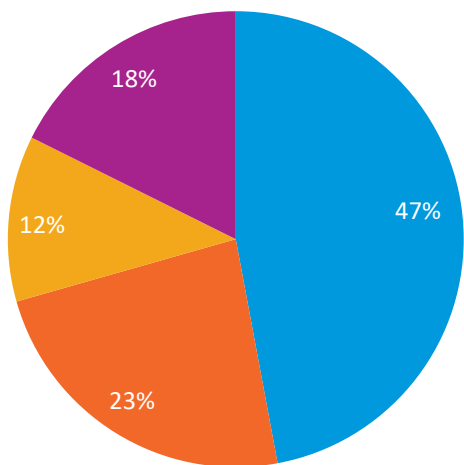
Member State written feedback

We received written responses from 18 Member States during the consultation period, June – August 2025.

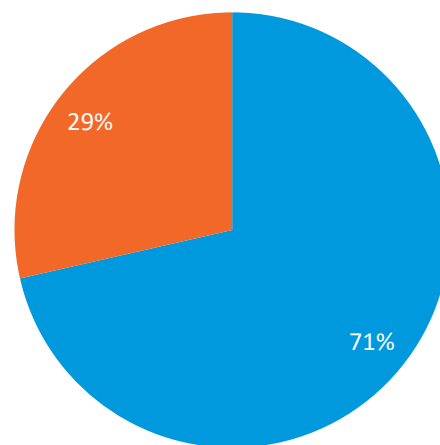
- Bahrain
- Brazil
- Chile
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Cyprus
- France
- Greece
- Hungary
- Iraq
- Liberia
- Lithuania
- Paraguay
- Qatar
- Slovakia
- Spain
- South Sudan
- Thailand
- Zambia

In addition, comments were received from the National Certification Committees of Bhutan and India, the National Authority for Containment in Australia, and WHO Regional Offices.

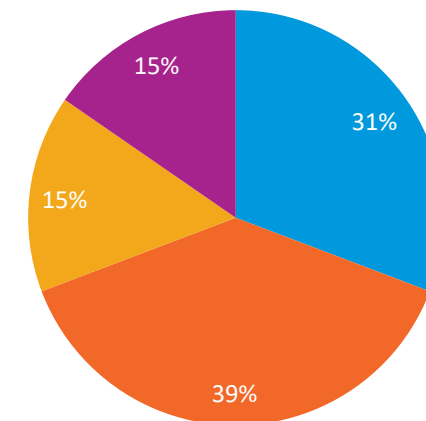
Summary of Member State feedback received on overarching questions



Does the strategy align with your country's current immunization and health security goals and priorities?



Does the strategy appropriately reflect risks and challenges? If not, which risks and challenges should be included?

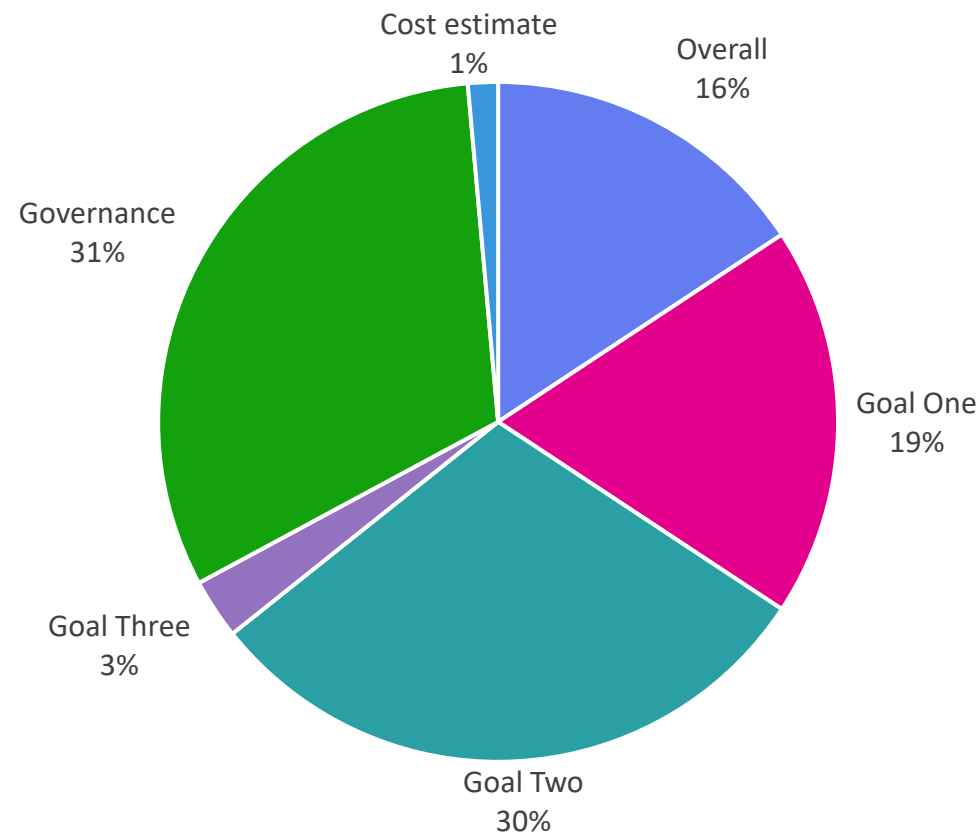


Do you have any specific feedback on the considerations for future governance for the period of the strategy? Is the outlined evolving model sufficient to support the delivery of polio-essential functions by national health systems, in line with the evolving risk profile of these functions?

Member State feedback by thematic area

Key themes included:

- Ensuring operational readiness for bOPV cessation
- Supporting long-term sustainability of surveillance systems
- Strengthening national capacity
- Preference for flexible governance models adaptable to country and regional contexts
- Articulation of country-level risks (e.g. conflict, environmental risks, operational issues, workforce shortages) & regional considerations



Feedback by document area

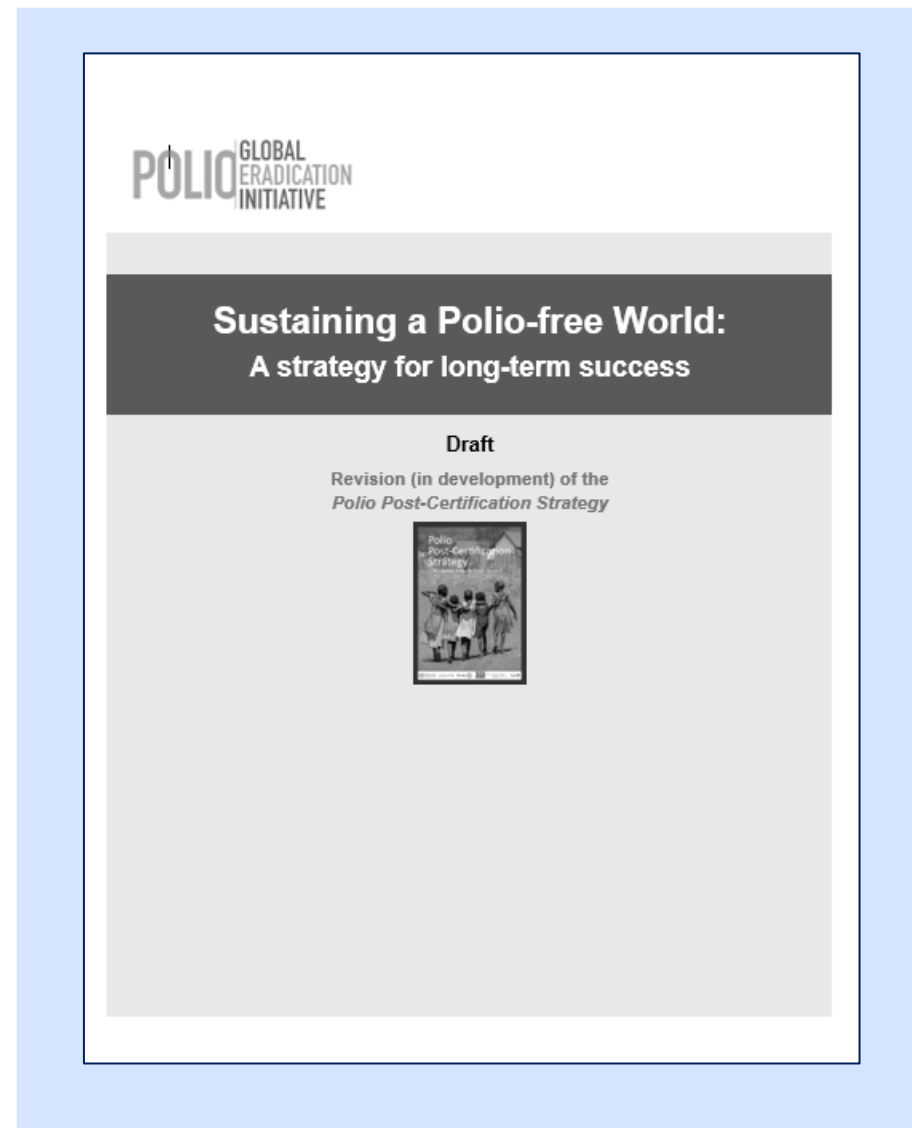
Response to Member State feedback

Review of more than **70 comments** from MS by technical leads to inform document edits between September – October 2025:

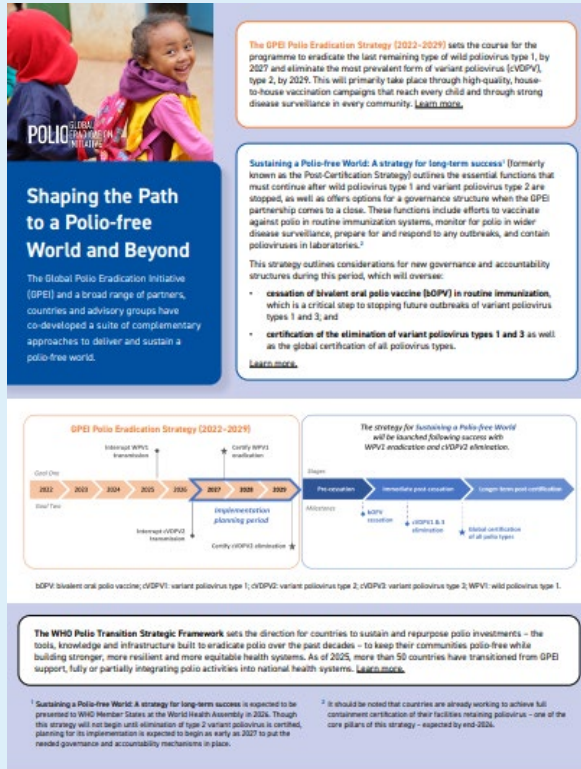
- Comments responded to via in-text edits, updates to risk tables where appropriate and greater articulation of technical areas highlighted by Member States.
- Updates have been made to some areas of the Strategy to reflect the latest technical developments.
- Some comments on implementation and governance were beyond the scope of the strategy and will be addressed during the planning period for sustaining a polio-free world, following WHA79.

Next steps

- The **revised version of the Strategy** and updated **Executive Summary** will be available on the [GPEI website](#) in **December 2025**.
- An updated [Stakeholder Consultation report](#) will also be made available.
- Member States are requested to provide any further comments during the polio session at **EB158** in **February 2026**.



Sustaining a Polio-free World supporting resources



Shaping the Path to a Polio-free World and Beyond

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) and a broad range of partners, countries and advisory groups have co-developed a suite of complementary approaches to deliver and sustain a polio-free world.

The GPEI Polio Eradication Strategy (2022-2029) sets the course for the programme to eradicate the last remaining type of wild poliovirus type 1, by 2027 and eliminate the most prevalent form of variant poliovirus (vDPV), type 2, by 2029. This will primarily take place through high-quality, house-to-house vaccination campaigns that reach every child and through strong disease surveillance in every community. [Learn more.](#)

Sustaining a Polio-free World: A strategy for long-term success¹ (formerly known as the Post-Certification Strategy) outlines the essential functions that must continue after wild poliovirus type 1 and variant poliovirus type 2 are stopped, as well as offers options for a governance structure when the GPEI partnership comes to a close. These functions include efforts to vaccinate against polio in routine immunization systems, monitor for polio in wider disease surveillance, prepare for and respond to any outbreaks, and contain polioviruses in laboratories.²

This strategy outlines considerations for new governance and accountability structures during this period, which will oversee:

- **cessation of bivalent oral polio vaccine (bOPV) in routine immunization**, which is a critical step to stopping future outbreaks of variant poliovirus types 1 and 3; and
- **certification of the elimination of variant poliovirus types 1 and 3** as well as the global certification of all poliovirus types.

[Learn more.](#)

GPEI Polio Eradication Strategy (2022-2029)

Goal One: Intensify WPV1 eradication efforts. Goal Two: Intensify vDPV2 eradication efforts. Goal Three: Intensify vDPV3 eradication efforts.

The strategy for Sustaining a Polio-free World will be launched following success with WPV1 eradication and vDPV2 elimination.

Pre-eradication: Intensify WPV1 eradication efforts. Post-eradication: Intensify vDPV2 eradication efforts. Long-term post-eradication: Intensify vDPV3 eradication efforts.

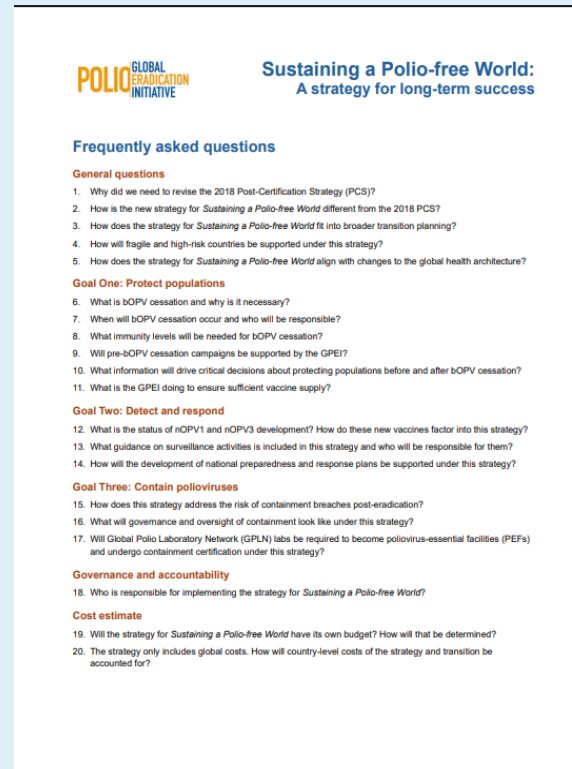
bOPV: bivalent oral polio vaccine; vDPV1: variant poliovirus type 1; vDPV2: variant poliovirus type 2; vDPV3: variant poliovirus type 3; WPV1: wild poliovirus type 1.

The WHO Polio Transition Strategic Framework sets the direction for countries to sustain and repurpose polio investments – the tools, knowledge and infrastructure built to eradicate polio over the past decades – to keep their communities polio-free while building stronger, more resilient and more equitable health systems. As of 2025, more than 50 countries have transitioned from GPEI support, fully or partially integrating polio activities into national health systems. [Learn more.](#)

¹ Sustaining a Polio-free World: A strategy for long-term success is expected to be presented to WHO Member States at the World Health Assembly in 2024. Though this strategy will not begin until elimination of type 2 variant poliovirus is certified, planning for its implementation is expected to begin as early as 2027 to put the needed governance and accountability mechanisms in place.

² It should be noted that countries are already working to achieve full containment certification of their facilities regarding poliovirus – one of the core pillars of this strategy – expected by end-2024.

[One page overview](#)



POLIO GLOBAL ERADICATION INITIATIVE

Sustaining a Polio-free World: A strategy for long-term success

Frequently asked questions

General questions

1. Why did we need to revise the 2018 Post-Certification Strategy (PCS)?
2. How is the new strategy for Sustaining a Polio-free World different from the 2018 PCS?
3. How does the strategy for Sustaining a Polio-free World fit into broader transition planning?
4. How will fragile and high-risk countries be supported under this strategy?
5. How does the strategy for Sustaining a Polio-free World align with changes to the global health architecture?

Goal One: Protect populations

6. What is bOPV cessation and why is it necessary?
7. When will bOPV cessation occur and who will be responsible?
8. What immunity levels will be needed for bOPV cessation?
9. Will pre-bOPV cessation campaigns be supported by the GPEI?
10. What information will drive critical decisions about protecting populations before and after bOPV cessation?
11. What is the GPEI doing to ensure sufficient vaccine supply?

Goal Two: Detect and respond

12. What is the status of nOPV1 and nOPV3 development? How do these new vaccines factor into this strategy?
13. What guidance on surveillance activities is included in this strategy and who will be responsible for them?
14. How will the development of national preparedness and response plans be supported under this strategy?

Goal Three: Contain polioviruses

15. How does this strategy address the risk of containment breaches post-eradication?
16. What will governance and oversight of containment look like under this strategy?
17. Will Global Polio Laboratory Network (GPLN) labs be required to become poliovirus-essential facilities (PEFs) and undergo containment certification under this strategy?

Governance and accountability

18. Who is responsible for implementing the strategy for Sustaining a Polio-free World?

Cost estimate

19. Will the strategy for Sustaining a Polio-free World have its own budget? How will that be determined?
20. The strategy only includes global costs. How will country-level costs of the strategy and transition be accounted for?

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)



POLIO GLOBAL ERADICATION INITIATIVE

Sustaining a Polio-free World: A strategy for long-term success

Stakeholder consultation report

June 2025

[Stakeholder consultation report](#)

Call to Action: Sustaining a Polio-Free World

Since 1988...

- >22 million cases averted
- Cases reduced by 99%
- World on threshold of being polio-free

Together, we can safeguard the gains and ensure a polio-free future for every generation to come.



Questions and answers

Thank you



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