

Statement by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

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Agenda item 19 – Poliomyelitis

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Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Cases of wild polio have dropped 99% since 1988, when the Global Polio Eradication Initiative was established.

However ongoing conflicts, fragility and humanitarian crises, have given polio the space it needed to fight back. Gavi is concerned by the upsurge in cases of polio in 2024, and its re-emergence in places that had long been polio-free.

To achieve and maintain a world free of poliovirus, we must prioritise scaling up routine immunisation, and reaching the estimated 21 million under- and unvaccinated children worldwide.

Gavi, as a core partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, will continue to provide vaccine and routine immunisation strengthening support to advance global polio eradication efforts, and will continue to collaborate with partners to ensure our collective goals are reached.

Gavi calls upon Member States to:

1. Ensure an integrated approach to reaching zero-dose children with life-saving vaccination and other primary health care interventions, especially in humanitarian and complex emergencies settings.
2. Promote and accelerate the transition of essential polio and broader immunisation functions by integrating polio-funded assets into existing national health systems.

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