

POLIO | GLOBAL ERADICATION INITIATIVE

Special focus session on Polio Eradication

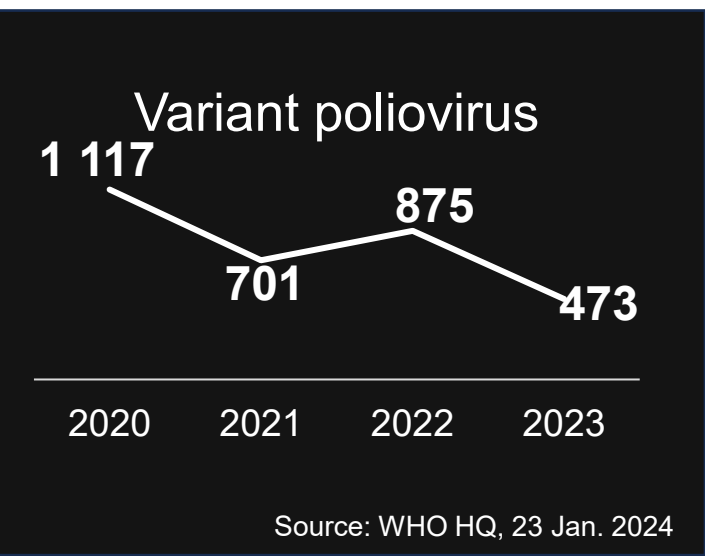
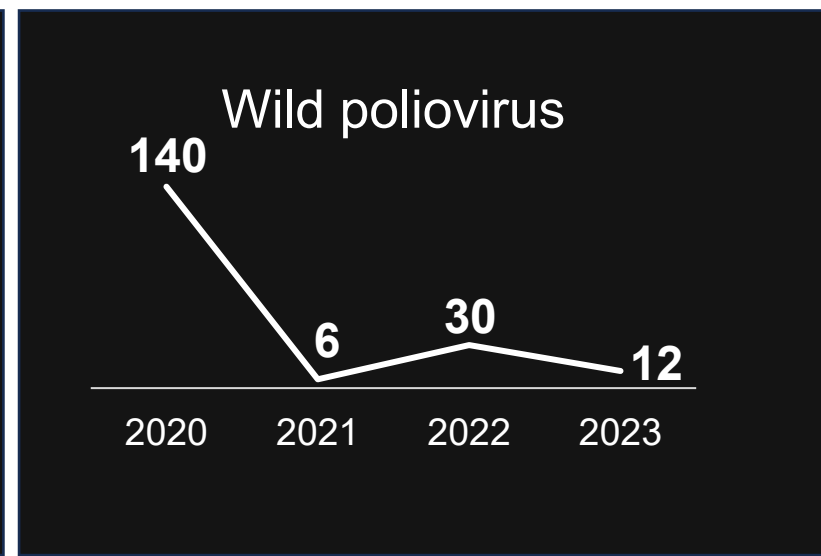
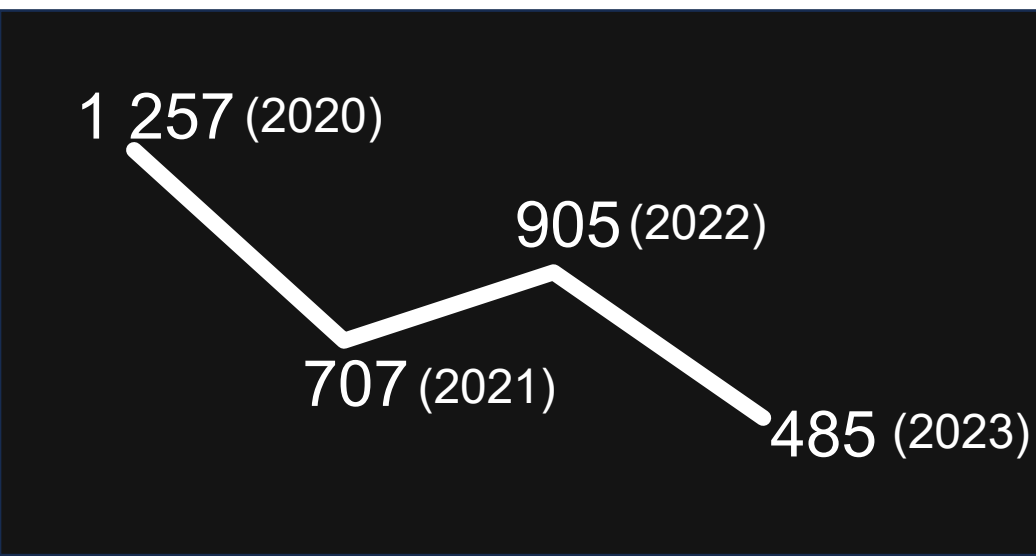
Steven Lauwerier
Director, Polio Eradication

UNICEF Executive Board
2024 first regular session (6-8 February 2024)
Special focus session






CHILDREN PARALYSED BY POLIO: 2020–2023



Source: WHO HQ, 23 Jan. 2024

CHALLENGES IN THE 'FINAL MILE'

-  CHILDREN STILL MISSING VACCINES
-  'ZERO-DOSE' CHILDREN
-  VARIANT POLIOVIRUS OUTBREAKS

Conflict and insecurity

Climate emergencies

Low routine immunization

Mobile populations

Vaccine misinformation and hesitancy

Funding

Immunity gaps in polio-free countries



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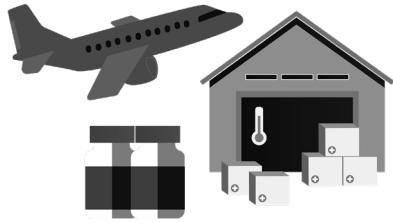
CLOSING THE 'POLIOVIRUS TAP'



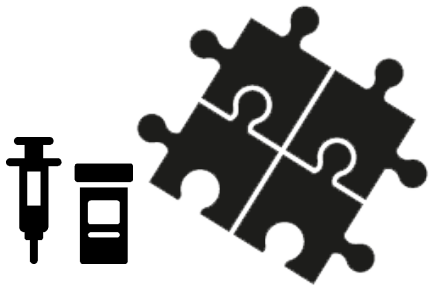
Subnational regions where children are at the highest risk of encountering and spreading the poliovirus.

- Eastern Afghanistan,
- Pakistan (seven endemic districts)
- Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo
- North-western Nigeria
- South-central Somalia
- Northern Yemen
- Madagascar

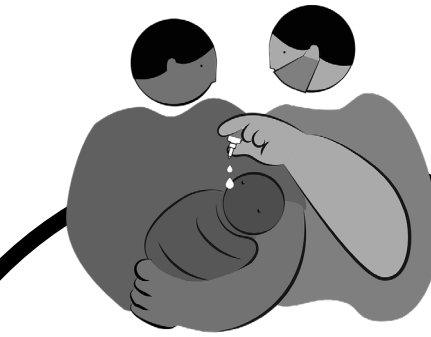
STRATEGIES AND TACTICS IN THE 'FINAL MILE'



Timely & adequate supply of vaccines



Strengthening routine immunization + health systems



Commitment of Member States to polio eradication and childhood vaccination



Strong engagement with communities



Gender equality in programming



Thank you!

Photo: Aissatou Moussa, a community health worker from Niamey, Niger, takes a moment to smile for the UNICEF photographer in between her household visits to build trust in vaccines among parents and caregivers.

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