

Polio eradication in Africa 2026 in review

Together, we are closer to a polio-free Africa.

Impact figures (January - July 2026)



183

**POLIO
DETECTIONS**

In the first seven
months of 2026

- Polio detections are down 33% since 2024, but rising detections of polio types 1 and 3 remain a concern.



142M

**CHILDREN
VACCINATED**

With at least one dose
of the polio vaccine

In 2026, 248 million polio doses were delivered from January to July, with vaccination integrated with measles, diphtheria, vitamin A, malaria and NTD interventions in key geographies.



17

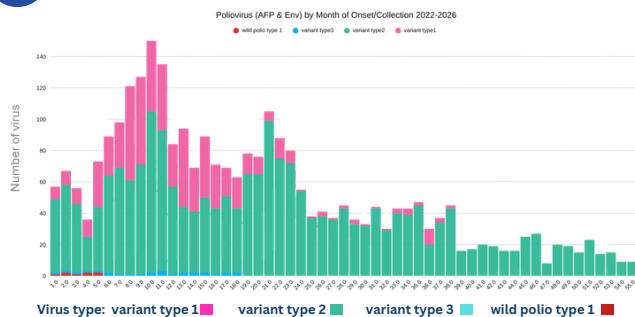
**COUNTRIES
CONDUCTED**

Vaccination
campaigns

Including synchronized cross-border campaigns across the African Region, particularly in the Lake Chad Basin.



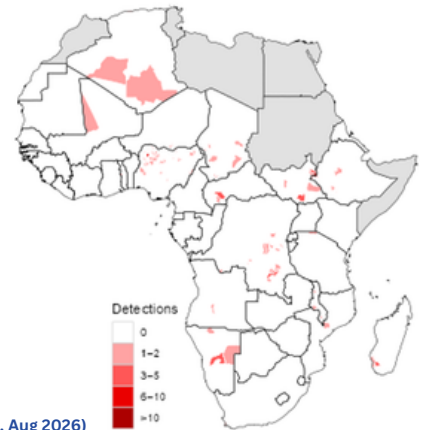
Positive trend overtime



Across Africa, polio detections have declined from 2024 to 2026, with 31 of 47 countries reporting fewer cases and an overall 33% reduction. Most Lake Chad Basin countries also saw declines, although transmission persists. Of 183 latest detections, 133 were cVDPV2, while recent increases in cVDPV1 and cVDPV3 remain a concern, highlighting the need for continued vaccination, surveillance and rapid response.



Where we are focusing



Africa's highest-burden
polio reporting areas
(District-Level density map, Aug 2026)

Success stories (January - July 2026)



DIGIT health campaign management initiated in Chad: Transforming polio data into faster, smarter action across the continent.



650,000+ health workers paid digitally in 2026 using innovative tools like Mobile Money.



Stronger laboratories: 10 labs upgraded, including Maiduguri in Nigeria, now the Region's 5th Sanger-accredited lab, enabling faster detection and strengthening the global polio lab network.



AFRO Geodatabase launched: Harnessing data to drive smarter polio decisions and reach every last child.



5 polio outbreaks closed: Timely response and enhanced surveillance drive progress towards a Polio-Free Africa.



eSurv Companion App operational in 19 countries across the region, enhancing active surveillance.

Polio transition framework 2026-2035

Historic commitment:

The Framework for Polio Transition and Sustainability in the WHO African Region ensures these investments continue **delivering health benefits long after polio is eradicated** by integrating surveillance, laboratory, workforce and emergency response capacities into national health systems.



Background:

While progress against polio is clear—with the African Region certified free of wild poliovirus in 2020 and **detections continuing to decline** from 2024 to 2026—recent increases in cVDPV1 and cVDPV3 show that the risk remains. **Sustaining this surveillance and response network is vital** not only to finish the job on polio, but also to strengthen public health across the Region.

Why the framework matters

The Framework for Polio Transition and Sustainability protects decades of GPEI investments, ensuring that the public health assets built to eradicate polio continue to strengthen health systems and safeguard communities from future health threats.



High quality surveillance networks that detect and respond to disease threats rapidly.



Strong lab and data systems and skilled workforce across the Region.



Prepared emergency operations and outbreak response capacity.



Immunization platforms that reach millions of children and communities

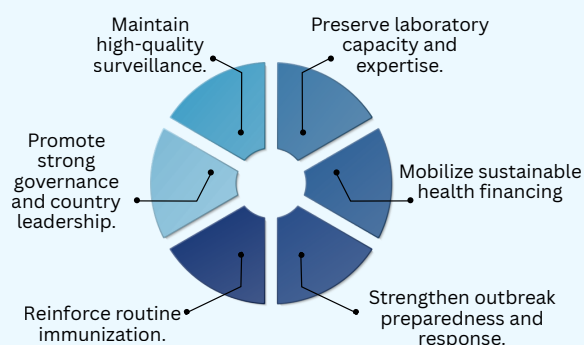


Community trust and proven ability to support responses to Ebola, Mpox, Cholera, Marburg and more.



The framework ensures these investments continue delivering health benefits long after polio is eradicated

Key priority areas:



Commitment by Member States:

- Develop or strengthen national polio transition plans aligned with this regional framework.
- Integrate polio assets into broader national health programmes and systems to sustain essential functions and strengthen public health security
- Mobilize sustainable domestic financing to protect core capacities.
- Monitor progress through a regional accountability and reporting mechanism.