

Polio eradication in Africa 2026 in review

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

Impact figures (January - September 2026)



230
POLIO DETECTIONS
In the first nine months of 2026

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



168M
CHILDREN VACCINATED
With at least one dose of the polio vaccine

Between January and September 2026, over 168 million children received polio vaccines, integrated with measles, diphtheria, vitamin A, malaria and NTD interventions in priority areas.

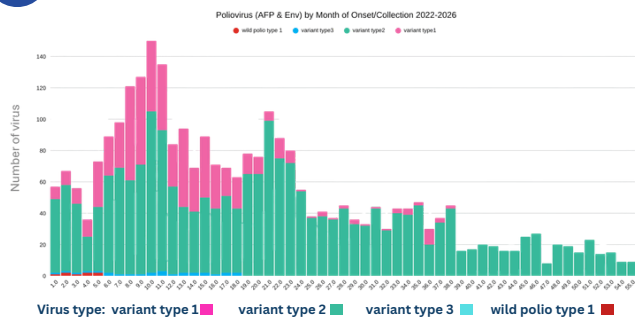


22
COUNTRIES CONDUCTED
55 vaccination campaigns

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



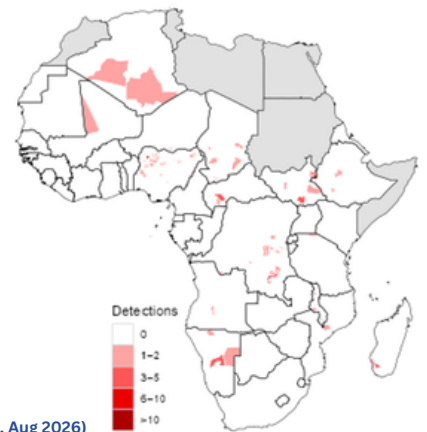
Positive trend overtime



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 - September 2026)



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



980,000 + health workers paid digitally in 2026 in 13 African countries using innovative tools like Mobile Money.



Stronger laboratories: 14 labs upgraded in the past 2 years, 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.