



# Global Effort to Eradicate Polio

January 2024



# A reality check



An Egyptian Stele of a man with polio;  
1403-1365 BC

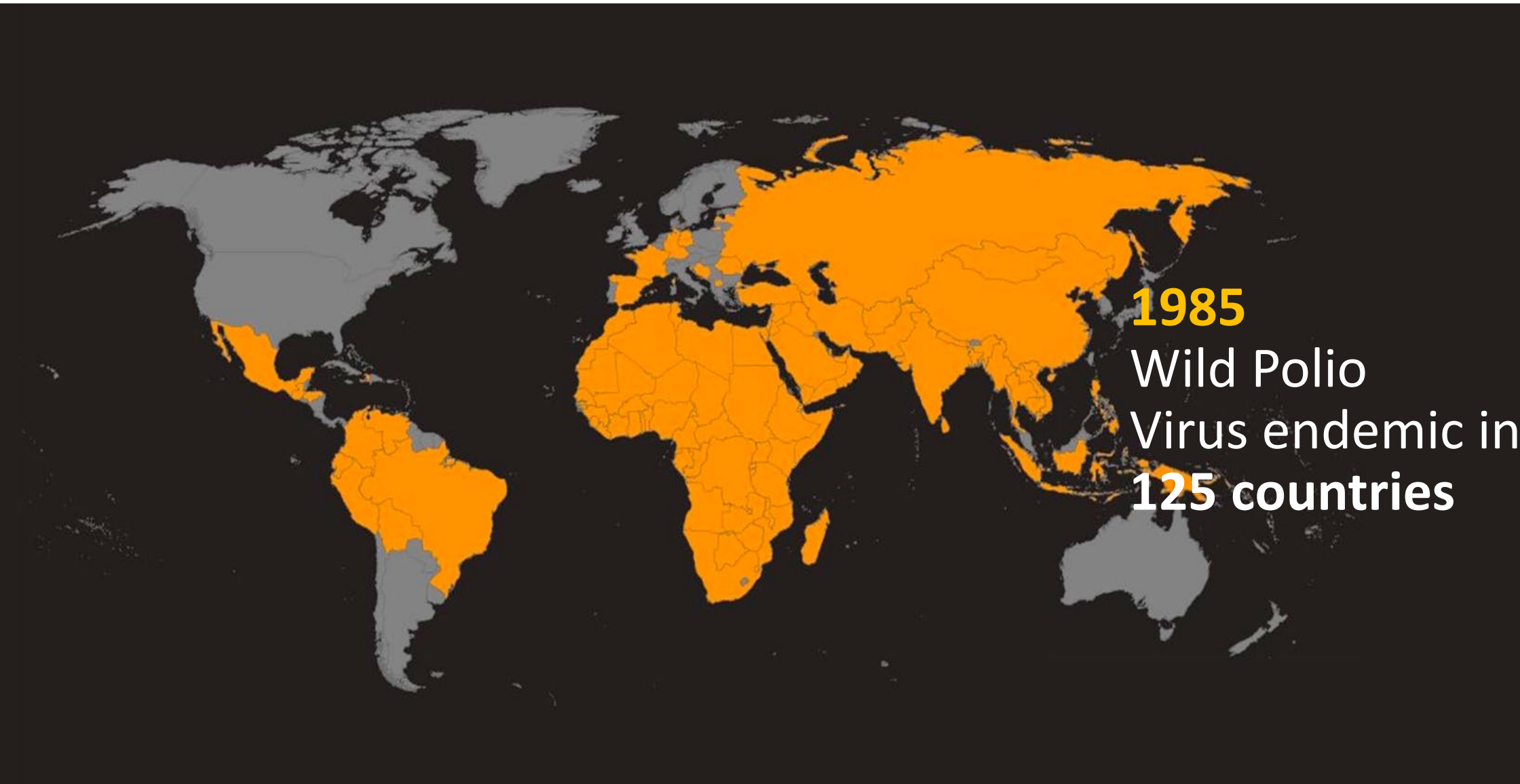


More than 17 million people are walking, who would otherwise have been paralyzed



A child with polio with deformities in the legs; Tajikistan, October 2016





**1985**

Wild Polio  
Virus endemic in  
**125 countries**



**2023**  
Only two endemic  
countries

Many partners help ensure success

Health ministries

Private sector

20 million volunteers



NGOs



Media

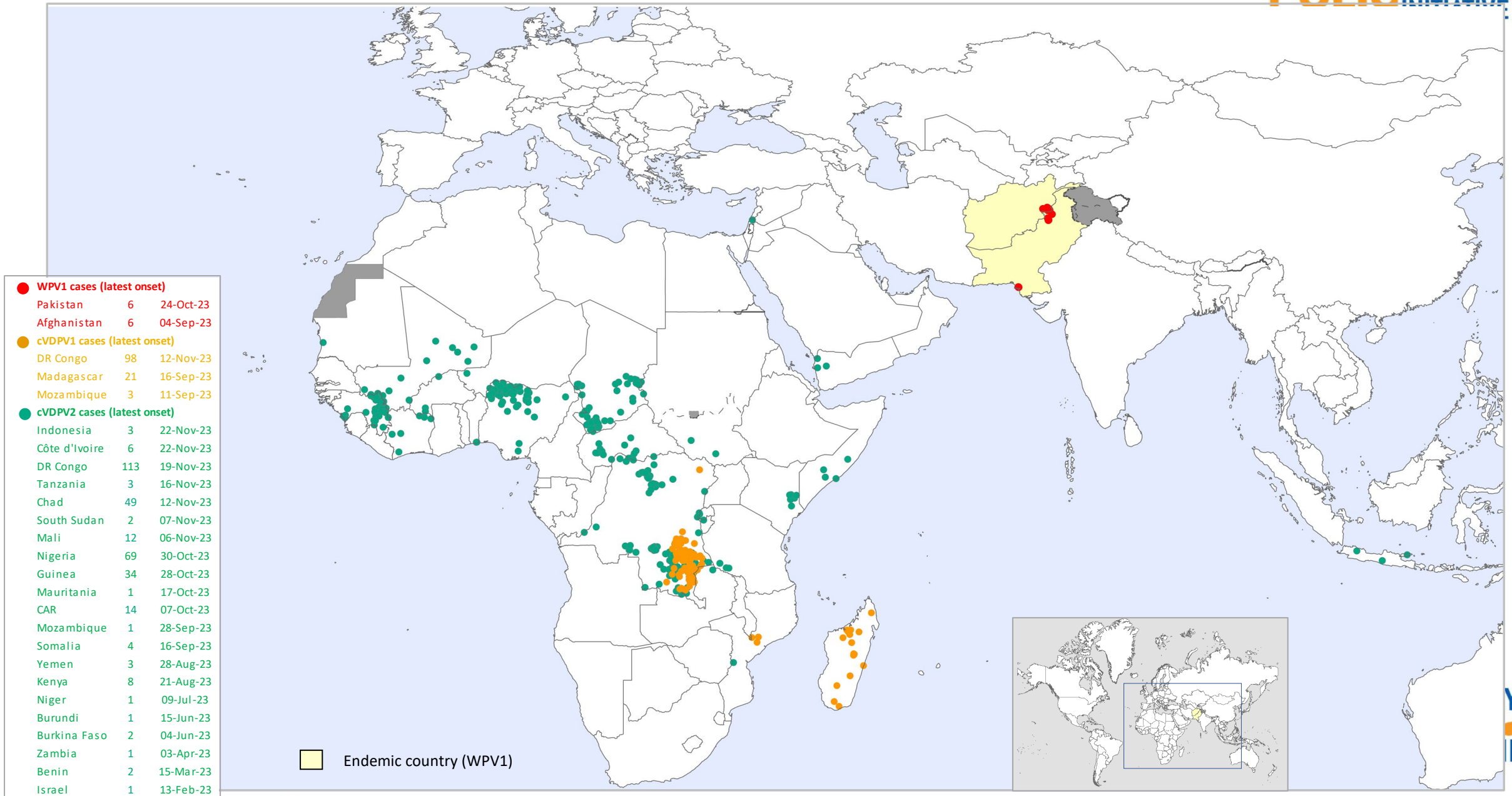


Donors

(governments, development banks, private foundations, etc)



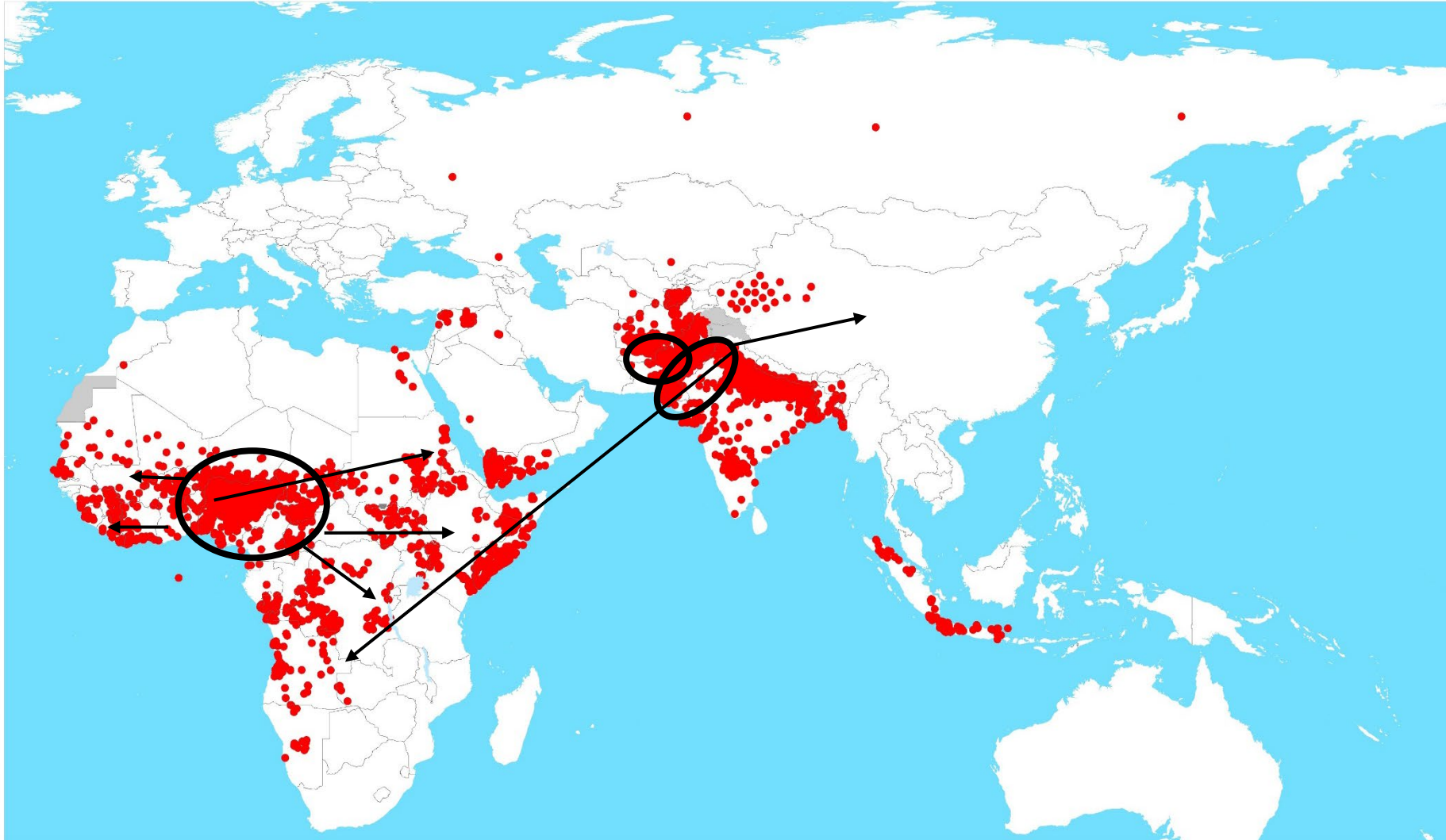
# Global WPV1 & cVDPV Cases<sup>1</sup>, Previous 12 Months<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Excludes viruses detected from environmental surveillance; <sup>2</sup>Onset of paralysis: 17 Jan. 2023 to 16 Jan. 2024



**...The risk of renewed international spread of polio,  
unless we eradicate it completely!  
Global polio spread, 2003-2017**



# All countries at risk until the disease is eradicated completely

## GPEI deeply concerned for health of Ukrainian people amid escalating crisis

### Insecurity and displacement increase risk of diseases such as polio

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) is extremely concerned about the unfolding effects of the country's health system. A functioning health system must be kept neutral and protected from affecting countries, to ensure that people have continued access to critical and essential care.

At the same time, we have seen time and again that large-scale population movements, insecurity and greatly to the emergence and/or spread of infectious diseases, such as polio.

Ukraine is currently affected by a [circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 \(cVDPV2\)](#) outbreak, first detected in January 2022 (with disease onset in December 2021).

## Updated statement on report of polio detection in United States

29 July 2022

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) has been informed of a case of paralytic polio in an unvaccinated individual in Rockland County, New York, United States.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are coordinating with New York State health authorities on their case is [type 2 VDPV](#).

↙) has confirmed that the VDPV2 isolated from the case is from environmental samples in early June in both New York and 2 from environmental samples in London, UK. Further determine possible spread of the virus and potential risk tions around the world.

## Vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (VDPV2) detected in environmental samples in London

22 June 2022

The Global Polio Laboratory Network (GPLN) has confirmed the isolation of type 2 vaccine-derived poliovirus (VDPV2) from environmental samples in London, United Kingdom (UK), which were detected as part of ongoing disease surveillance. It is important to note that the virus has been isolated from environmental samples only – no associated cases of paralysis have been detected. Recent coverage for the primary course of DTaP/IPV/Hib/HepB vaccination, which protects against several diseases including polio, in London suggests immunization coverage of 86.6%.

Initially, vaccine-like type 2 poliovirus (SL2) had been isolated from samples taken from the same site between February and May 2022. Genetic analysis suggests that the new VDPV2 and previous SL2 isolates have a common origin, still to be identified, but the technical definition and criteria for 'circulation' of VDPV2 are not met at this time. Additional sewage samples collected upstream from the main waste-water treatment plant's inlet are being analysed.



# PV detections of concern in EUR, 2023

Country (no. isolates)	Category	Type	Genetic distance (%)	Information
Israel (88)*	cVDPV	2	2.2	4 samples from AFP case and 17 samples from contacts, and 67 sewage samples (Jan-May 2023)
Poland (3)	VDPV	3	3.1-4.6	Sewage samples, Lublin (Feb, Jul, Aug 2023)
Russian Federation (1)	VDPV	2	12.2	Sewage sample, Tver (May 2023)
United Kingdom (1)	WPV	1		Sewage sample, Leeds (Sep 2023)

\* No or very few seqs in LDMS

# Polio outbreaks in the WHO European Region, 2022-2023

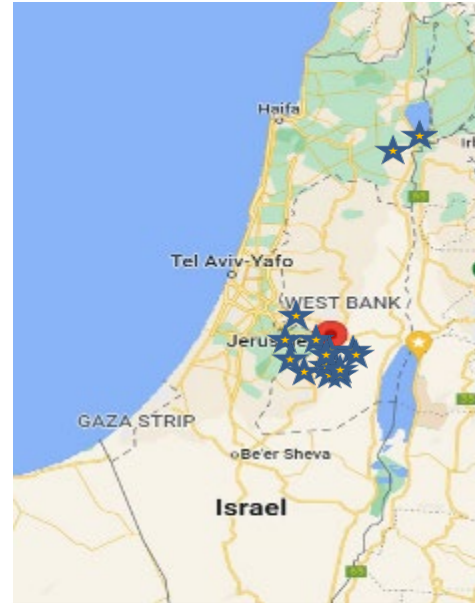
cVDPV2 outbreak, Ukraine, 2021



Last isolate:  
24 December 2021

Closed Sep 2023

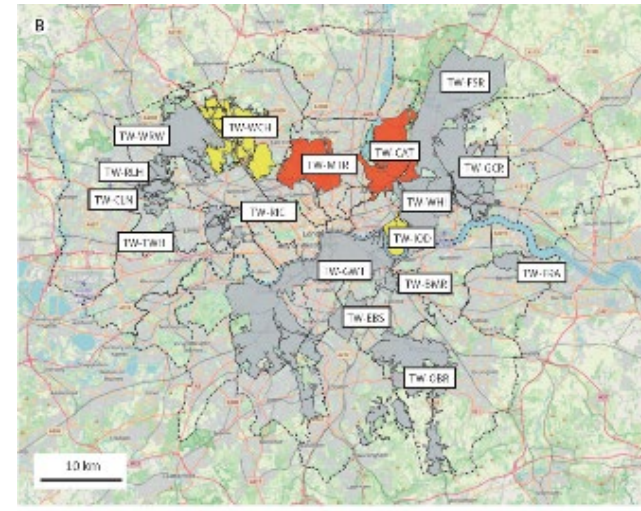
cVDPV3 outbreak, Israel, 2022



Last isolate:  
16 May 2022

Closed Sep 2023

Environmental cVDPV2 detection, London, 2022



Last isolate:  
8 November 2022

Considered for closure

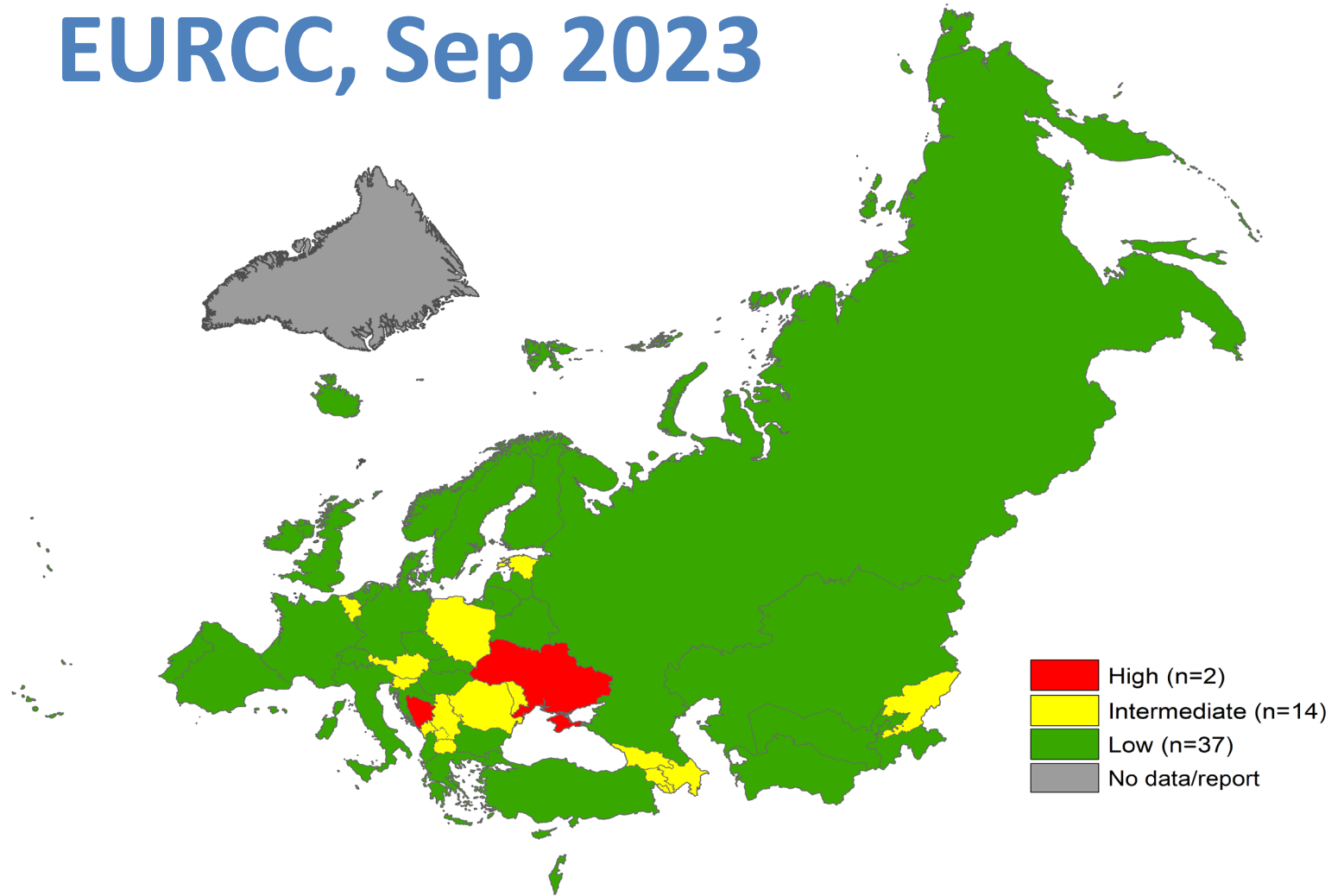
cVDPV2 outbreak, Israel, 2022--2023



Frequency, concentration, geographic distribution rapidly declining in 2023

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

# Composite Risk Assessment for 2022 by EURCC, Sep 2023



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Source: RCC Report 2022

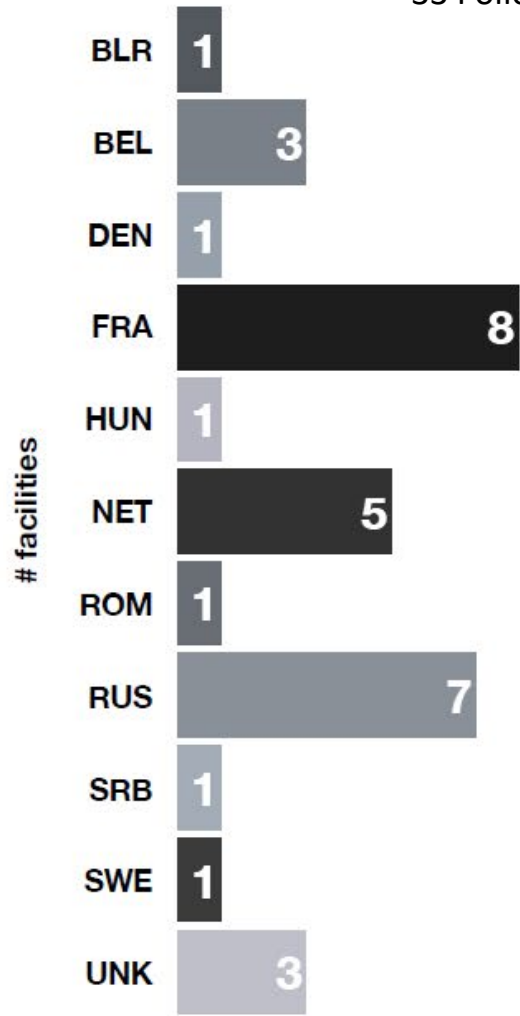
Updated on: 18 September 2023

Map Production: Vaccine-preventable Diseases and Immunization (VPI),  
Division of Communicable Diseases, Environment and Health (DCE),  
World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe.



# Countries and facilities with retained polioviruses in the Region

- ~300 facilities handling Poliovirus
- 33 Poliovirus-essential facilities (PEFs, )





## Global commitments

WHA

Rotary Convention G20 Health/Development Ministers

G7 Leaders

Commonwealth Heads of Government

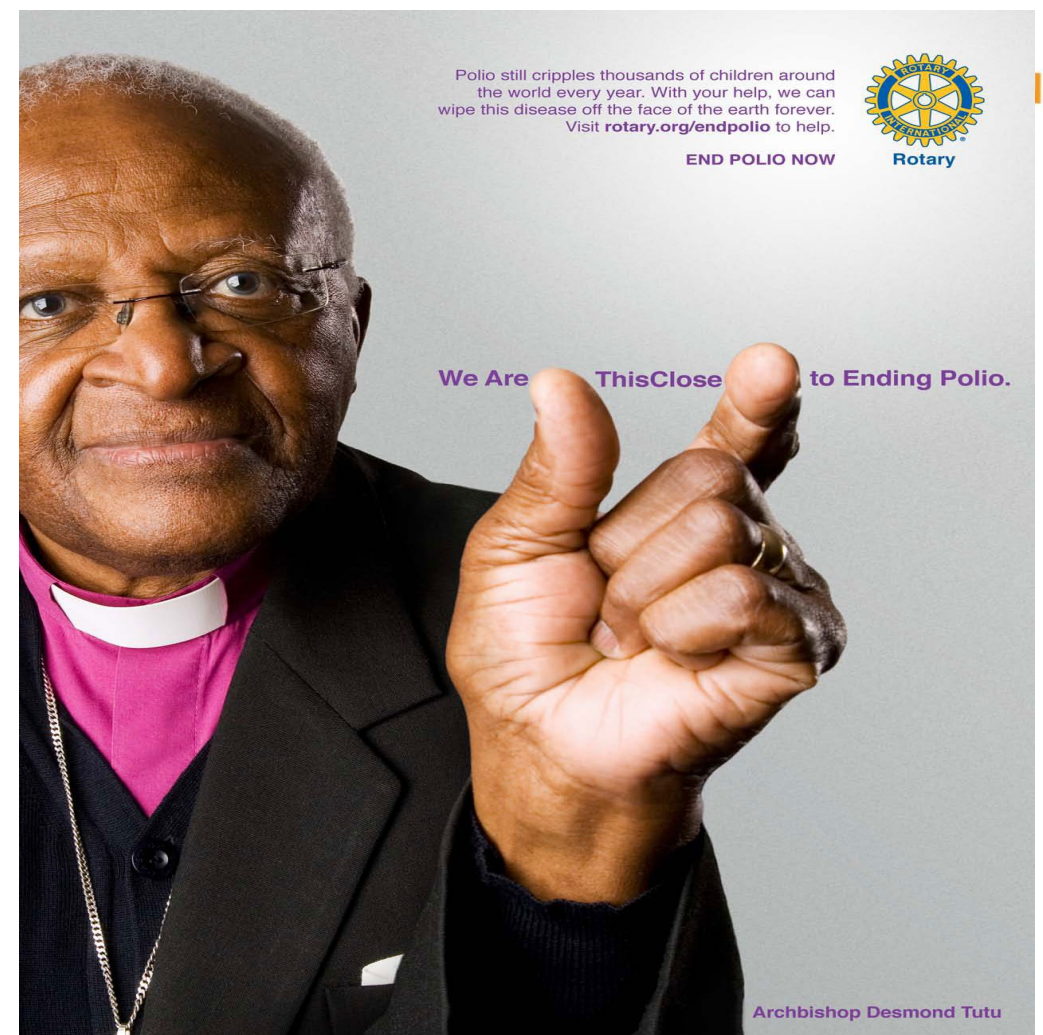
# Thanks to PolioPlus

>20 million cases averted

>1.5 million lives saved


>20 million volunteers mobilised

>400 million children vaccinated  
(every year)



# Determination – Adaptation – Opportunities

**WHY END POLIO NOW?  
TOP 5 REASONS  
TO END POLIO  
NOW**



**TO SAVE  
MONEY**



**TO INVEST IN  
THE FUTURE**



**TO IMPROVE  
LIVES**



**TO IMPROVE  
CHILD HEALTH**



**TO MAKE  
HISTORY**