Special focus session on Polio Eradication

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UNICEF Executive Board
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Special focus session
CHILDREN PARALYSED BY POLIO: 2020–2023

Wild poliovirus

- 1,257 (2020)
- 905 (2022)
- 707 (2021)
- 485 (2023)

Variant poliovirus

- 1,117 (2020)
- 701 (2021)
- 875 (2022)
- 473 (2023)

Source: WHO HQ, 23 Jan. 2024
CHALLENGES IN THE ‘FINAL MILE’

- Conflict and insecurity
- Climate emergencies
- Low routine immunization
- Mobile populations
- Vaccine misinformation and hesitancy
- Funding

Immunity gaps in polio-free countries

CHILDREN STILL MISSING VACCINES
‘ZERO-DOSE’ CHILDREN
VARIANT POLIOVIRUS OUTBREAKS
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

Commitment of Member States to polio eradication and childhood vaccination
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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