



unicef
for every child

Polio

SUDAN

Key Facts

After 11 years of being polio free, Sudan has declared Polio outbreak. Sudan's last reported polio case was in March 2009 and the country was announced polio-free in 2015 by the World Health Organization (WHO).

COVID 19 is disrupting life-saving immunization services around the world, putting millions of children – in rich and poor countries alike – at risk of diseases like measles and polio.

Polio re-emergence is a public health concern as one infected child means that children across the country and even beyond are at risk of contracting polio. Seeing polio disappear means every child, in every household must continue to be vaccinated.

Poliomyelitis is a highly infectious disease that can lead to permanent paralysis or death. It can strike at any age but mainly affects children under 5 years old.

Poliomyelitis is caused by a virus (wild poliovirus) that is spread through contaminated food and water or close contact with an infected person.

It's particularly devastating because it can lead to lifelong paralysis, making it challenging for children to live healthy, normal lives. Around 1 in 200 infected people develop paralysis as a result of the infection.

Transmission is concentrated in areas with overcrowding and very poor sanitation and health care. So, the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children are the ones most heavily affected.

Sudan is fighting an outbreak of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2), a kind of polio caused by low population immunity.

TARGET



8.6 million

Children under five

RESPONSE

UNICEF and WHO are working closely with the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) and partners to plan and implement high quality mass vaccination activities (NID) to reach all children under the age of five at least twice with type 2 oral polio vaccine (**mOPV2**).

The goal is to rapidly raise population immunity to a level high enough to stop the current outbreak.

Polio nationwide campaigns:
two rounds

Vaccinators will aim to provide polio drops to **8.6 million** children under age five in all 18 states of Sudan in October, and again in November.