



© WHO

GAZA POLIO CAMPAIGN UPDATE

2 SEPTEMBER 2024

HIGHLIGHTS:

A two-round polio vaccination campaign kicked off on **1 September 2024 in Gaza**, in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). During each round of the campaign, the Palestinian Ministry of Health (MOH), in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and partners, will provide two drops of novel oral polio vaccine type 2 (nOPV2) to more than 640 000 children under ten years of age.

Day 1 update:

- ✓ The campaign began successfully, with teams showing strong commitment. All teams, including fixed, outreach and transit teams, were well-organized with enlisted health workers diligently vaccinating.
- ✓ All health facilities designated for the polio campaign delivered vaccination as planned.
- ✓ High levels of community participation were observed.
- ✓ From Day 2 onwards, logistical activities, such as more effective placement of mobile teams, prioritization of transit teams' functions, distribution of vaccines, team supervision, and finger-marking after vaccinating children will be streamlined further.

The campaign will be conducted in three phases:

Phase 1

Central area of Gaza (1-4 September 2024); catch-up vaccination will take place on 4 September.

Phase 2

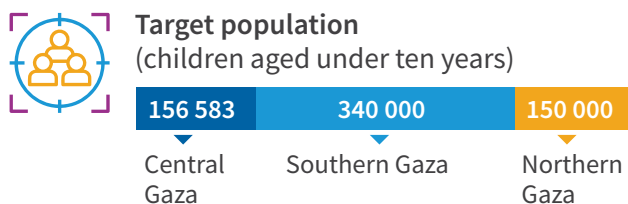
Southern Gaza (5-8 September 2024).

Phase 3

Northern Gaza (9-11 September 2024).

Interactive map by Health Cluster: [Polio Vaccination Health Facilities \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com).

BY THE NUMBERS:



Number of vaccination sites: 143 including hospitals, medical points, primary health care centers, temporary learning spaces, schools, food and water distribution points among other sites.

Number of doses of vaccines currently in Gaza: 1.26 million doses; 400 000 additional vaccine doses will arrive soon.

Vaccination coverage needed: At least 90 percent for each round.

Children reached with vaccination: data shows **86 683 children** were vaccinated on day 1; However, final coverage will be updated after receiving all data.

Teams delivering vaccination: 513 teams, including health workers and community outreach workers reaching communities living in tents and hard-to-reach areas.

Number of vaccine carriers: 500 vaccine carriers in Gaza. Some distribution sites and fixed sites already have around 100 cold boxes.

Social mobilization:

Two days of social mobilization activities before the start of the campaign were conducted and will be ongoing ahead of each phase to raise awareness around benefits of novel oral polio vaccine type 2 (nOPV2) and nearest vaccination sites.

Comprehensive microplans:

These were developed to reach every eligible child (less than 10 years of age). They were prepared and revised according to the number of days of tranquility.

Data collection:

Tools and communication protocols have been established.

Oversight of campaign implementation:

Monitoring

An intra-campaign monitoring plan has been developed, prioritizing high-risk areas; 15 independent monitors from a partner organization have been trained to cover at least five vaccination teams per day and report back any challenges faced. Vaccination coverage will be monitored throughout the campaign. It has been agreed that vaccination will be extended by one day wherever necessary.

An Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

will operate from 6 am – 9 am and will convene at 4 pm daily for a daily review. A summary of events will be presented to the EOC at 7 pm daily.

Challenges: Damage to road and infrastructure, constant population displacement.

Needs: Sustained tranquility to allow children and families to safely access health facilities and community outreach workers to get to children who cannot access health facilities for polio vaccination.



SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

The Global Polio Laboratory Network (GPLN) detected circulating variant poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) in six environmental samples collected from Deir al Balah and Khan Younis in Gaza on 16 July 2024.

On 22 August 2024, the Ministry of Health reported poliovirus in a 10-month-old unvaccinated child living in Deir al-Balah, the Gaza Strip. Genetic sequencing confirmed that the poliovirus is linked to the strain that was detected in the environmental samples in Gaza in July 2024.

On 19 August 2024, a fourth acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) case was reported from Khan Younis, after the child presented at a hospital in Gaza. Testing to confirm or rule out polio is pending. So far, four AFP cases, including the confirmed polio case, have been reported since the re-sensitization of health care workers on AFP surveillance. Two of the reported cases tested negative for poliovirus.

NOTE:

Thanks to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) partners, donors, and Member States of the Region for their support, and to the [UAE for their allocation of critical funding](#) of US\$ 5m towards the polio vaccination campaign.