The first four cases wild poliovirus cases type 1 (WPV1) have been reported for 2014. All cases were reported from North Waziristan, FATA, Pakistan. North Waziristan is the district with the largest number of children being paralyzed by poliovirus in the world. As long as polio still exists in reservoirs like North Waziristan, the world will always be at risk of outbreaks.

The Gates Annual Letter for 2014 is now available, and polio eradication is shown as an example of what works in foreign aid.

The WHO/UNICEF Strategic Plan for Polio Outbreak Response in the Middle East [pdf] outlines the action plan for Syria and neighbouring countries in response to the circulation of wild poliovirus following importation. The objective is to stop the outbreak in Syria by the end of March 2014 and prevent any further international spread.

The WHO Executive Board (EB) is meeting in Geneva on 20-25 January. Ahead of the EB session, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) published the report: “Poliomyelitis: intensification of the global eradication initiative”. The full report is available in English and French here.

### Wild Poliovirus (WPV) cases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total cases</th>
<th>Year-to-date 2014</th>
<th>Year-to-date 2013</th>
<th>Total in 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Globally</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- in endemic countries</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- in non-endemic countries</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>232</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Case breakdown by country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>Year-to-date 2014</th>
<th>Year-to-date 2013</th>
<th>Total in 2013</th>
<th>Date of most recent case</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WPV1</td>
<td>WPV3</td>
<td>W1W3</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syrian Arab Republic</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total in endemic countries</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total outbreak</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Afghanistan

No new wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) case was reported in the past week. The total number of WPV1 cases for 2013 remains 13. The most recent WPV1 case had onset of paralysis on 20 December from Watapur, Kunar province. All but one of the WPV1 cases 2013 in Afghanistan are reported from Eastern Region, close to the Pakistan border.

No new circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) cases were reported in the past week. The total number of cVDPV2 cases in 2013 remains three. The most recent cVDPV2 case had onset of paralysis on 13 March (from Kandahar, Southern Region).

Subnational immunization days (SNIDs) using bivalent OPV were conducted 23-25 November, 15-17 December. In 2014, SNIDs were completed in early January and further SNIDs are currently underway.

Nigeria

No new WPV cases were reported this week. The total number of WPV cases for Nigeria 2013 remains 53 (all WPV1). The most recent WPV1 case in the country had onset of paralysis on 15 December from Damboa, Borno.

No new cVDPV2 case was reported in the past week. The total number of cVDPV2 cases for 2013 remains 3. The most recent cVDPV case had onset of paralysis on 6 November (from Konduga, Borno).

SNIDs were conducted in south-eastern states of Nigeria on 7-9 and 14-17 December. Further NIDs are planned for late January, followed by National immunization days (NIDs) in March.

Pakistan

Four new WPV1 cases were reported in the past week, all from North Waziristan, FATA. The total number for WPV1 cases for Pakistan in 2014 is now 4. The total number of WPV1 cases for Pakistan in 2013 remains 91. The most recent WPV1 case had onset of paralysis on 5 January (from North Waziristan, FATA).

No new cVDPV2 case was reported in the past week. The total number of cVDPV2 cases for 2013 remains 44. The most recent cVDPV case had onset of paralysis on 10 November (from North Waziristan).

North Waziristan is the district with the largest number of children being paralyzed by poliovirus in the world. Immunization activities have been suspended by local leaders since June 2012. It is critical that children in all areas are vaccinated and protected from poliovirus. Immunizations in neighbouring high-risk areas are being intensified, to further boost population immunity levels in those areas and prevent further spread of this outbreak.

The climate of violence continues in the country, with three health workers and accompanying security personnel killed this week, an act condemned by the government and political and religious leaders. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative mourns with the families of the victims.

Central African Republic

In Cameroon, no new WPV1 cases were reported in the past week. The total number of WPV1 cases remains four. The most recent case in Cameroon had onset of paralysis on 30 October 2013 (WPV1 from Ouest).

No new cVDPV2 cases were reported in the past week in Cameroon. The total number of cVDPV2 cases for 2013 remains four. The most recent case had onset of paralysis on 12 August (from Kolfata, Extreme-Nord).

SNIDs were conducted in northern and western provinces of Cameroon 6-8 December 2013. NIDs were conducted 16-19 January 2014. Further campaigns planned for end February.

In Chad, no new WPV cases were reported in the past week. The most recent WPV case had onset of paralysis on 14 June 2012 (WPV1 from Lac). No new cVDPV2 cases were reported in the past week. The total number of cVDPV2 cases for 2013 remains four (the most recent cVDPV2 case had onset of paralysis on 12 May from Ennedi).

NIDs were conducted in Chad from 22-24 November 2013. Further NIDs are planned for late February 2014.

Horn of Africa

In Ethiopia, one new WPV1 case was reported in the past week. The most recent case had onset of paralysis on 5 November and was reported from Warder district, Somali region.

In Somalia, four new WPV1 cases were reported in the past week. Two of the cases had onset of paralysis in August and one in June 2013. The fourth and most recent case was reported from Bossaso district, Bari region with onset of paralysis on 20 December 2013.

The total number of WPV1 cases in the Horn of Africa is now 213 (189 from Somalia, 14 from Kenya and nine from Ethiopia). The most recent WPV1 case in the region had onset of paralysis on 20 December (from Bossaso district, Bari region in Somalia).

Outbreak response across the Horn of Africa is on-going. All efforts continue to be made to reach all children across the region.

Israel and West Bank and Gaza

WPV1-positive samples have been detected by environmental surveillance in Israel and West Bank and Gaza since February 2013 and continue to be detected in 2014.

Since 2005, only inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) has been used for routine childhood immunization in Israel. To interrupt WPV1 transmission, a nationwide supplementary immunization activity (SIA) with bivalent OPV targeting children < 10 years of age was conducted from August to October.

Following a consultation with the country's immunization advisory group, the Israeli Ministry of Health has recently decided to re-introduce OPV into the national immunization schedule. SIAs in West Bank and Gaza Strip were conducted 8-15 December 2013 and 8-15 January 2014.

Middle East

In Syria, no new WPV1 cases were reported in the past week. The total number of WPV1 cases is now 16. The case reported from Damascus was found to be sabin-like. Prior to the outbreak, wild poliovirus was last reported in Syria in 1999.
In the Middle East, a comprehensive outbreak response continues to be implemented across the region. A third large-scale supplementary immunization activity commenced on 5 January. Initial reporting indicates that over 2 million children were reached during this third SIA.

The highest focus is on ensuring that data from all areas meets international standards so that response can be adequately informed.

Seven countries and territories are holding mass polio vaccination campaigns repeatedly targeting 22 million children under the age of five years over the next 6-8 months. In a joint resolution, all countries of the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region have declared polio eradication to be an emergency, calling for support in negotiating and establishing access to those children who are currently unreached with polio vaccination.

WHO and UNICEF are committed to working with all organizations and agencies providing humanitarian assistance to Syrians affected by the conflict. This includes vaccinating all Syrian children no matter where they are, whether in government or contested areas, or outside Syria.

**West Africa**

No new WPV cases were reported in the past week. The most recent case in the region was due to WPV1 from Tahoua province in Niger with onset of paralysis on 15 November 2012.

No new cVDPV2 cases were reported in the past week from Niger. The country has reported a single case of cVDPV2 in 2013, with onset of paralysis on 11 July. Genetic sequencing has shown that the virus is related to that seen in Cameroon, Chad and Nigeria (Borno).

Multi-country synchronized immunization campaigns were conducted in West Africa 25-28 October. Additional national campaigns were conducted 22-25 November. Further national campaigns are planned for Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali for April.