

## 50 YEARS OF WINNING THE BATTLE AGAINST POLIO

You may have never heard about polio, but here is why you should care...

### QUICK FACTS ABOUT POLIO:

- There is no cure for polio, it can only be prevented. Polio vaccine, given multiple times, can protect a child for life.
- Polio mainly affects children under five years of age.
- Polio is a highly infectious disease caused by a virus. Poliovirus invades the nervous system, and can cause total paralysis in a matter of hours.
- One in 200 infections leads to irreversible paralysis (usually in the legs). Among those paralyzed, 5% to 10% die when their breathing muscles become immobilized.
- In the late 1940s to the early 1950s, in the United States alone, polio crippled around 35,000 people each year making it one of the most feared diseases of the twentieth century.

### 35,000 IS ENOUGH TO FILL A STADIUM

1955

VACCINE DEVELOPED BY JONAS SALK IS LICENSED FOR USE; VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS BEGIN

EARLY 1960s

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY CAMPAIGNS BEGIN USING NEW ORAL POLIO VACCINE (OPV) DEVELOPED BY ALBERT SABID AND LICENSED FOR USE IN 1962

So polio isn't in the U.S. & there is a vaccine, so what's the URGENCY about polio now?

2009-2010 23 previously polio-free countries were re-infected due to imports of the virus

MANY POLIO VICTIMS SPENT LONG HOURS INSIDE "IRON LUNGS" TO KEEP THEM BREATHING

1979 LAST CASE OF POLIO, CAUSED BY WILD POLIOVIRUS ACQUIRED IN THE UNITED STATES

BY 2012, MORE THAN 20 MILLION HEALTH WORKERS AND VOLUNTEERS WORLDWIDE HAVE BEEN TRAINED TO DELIVER THE POLIO VACCINE

1980 APPROXIMATELY 400,000 CASES OF PARALYTIC (CAUSING PARALYSIS) POLIO ARE REPORTED WORLDWIDE, MOSTLY AFFECTING CHILDREN

what's being DONE? and how close are we? since 1988, about 2.5 billion children around the globe have been vaccinated against polio, and number of polio cases per year has decreased by 99%.

why ERADICATE? as long as a single child remains infected with poliovirus, children in all countries are at risk of contracting the virus.

ERADICATE: (erad-i-cate) destroy completely, put an end to

1988 AN ESTIMATED 350,000 POLIO CASES OCCUR WORLDWIDE, IN OVER 125 COUNTRIES

1988 Global Polio eradication Initiative (GPEI) launched. GPEI is led by the World Health Organization (WHO), Rotary International, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Its goal is to eradicate polio worldwide. Other major partners include National Governments and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

1998 134 MILLION CHILDREN ARE VACCINATED AGAINST POLIO ON A SINGLE DAY IN INDIA

2002 EUROPE CERTIFIED "POLIO FREE"

FEBRUARY 2012, INDIA WHICH AS EARLY AS THE 1990s STILL HAD 50,000 TO 100,000 CASES EVERY YEAR, IS DECLARED "POLIO FREE"

2012 only 3 polio-endemic countries remain – AFGHANISTAN, NIGERIA, AND PAKISTAN.

1988 [global map showing polio in large portions of central and south America, all of Africa, most of Asia]

2012 [global map showing polio in Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan]

THE NUMBER OF POLIO CASES PER YEAR HAVE DECREASED BY 99%

GET INVOLVED. FINISH THE JOB.

Learn more at:

[www.polioeradication.org/](http://www.polioeradication.org/)

[www.gatesfoundation.org/polio](http://www.gatesfoundation.org/polio)

[www.cdc.gov/polio](http://www.cdc.gov/polio)