



In partnership with
Canada

VWA 2024
Vaccination Week In the Americas

The Polio Eradication Initiative in the Americas: Current situation and the way forward

Anne Eudes Jean Baptiste
Regional Immunization Advisor
PAHO/WHO



Outline

1

BACKGROUND

- History of Polio
- Global effort to immunize children against polio
- Launching of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative – GPEI

2

GLOBAL UPDATE

- Global Polio Eradication Strategy
- Where are we?
- Global wild poliovirus type 1 & circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus Cases

3

REGIONAL UPDATE

- Summary of the situation in the Americas Region
- Polio3 Vaccination Coverage in Children <1 year
- Key outcomes of the RCC meetings

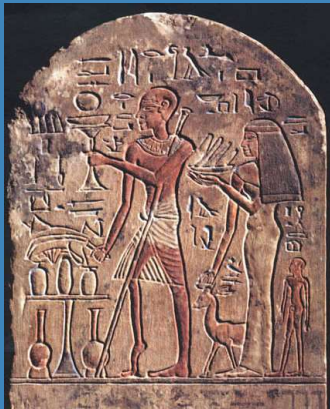
BACKGROUND



PAHO/WHO United States | 1955. Making History:
The First Children to Receive the Polio Vaccine.

History of Polio

1994
The WHO region of the Americas is certified polio-free



1580 – 1350 B.C.
Egyptian stele

1955
Dr. Jonas Salk – First vaccine against polio – inactivated (killed) polio vaccine (IPV)



1961
Dr. Albert Sabin – A “live” oral vaccine against polio (OPV)

1970 – 1980
Introduction of routine immunization with OPV
1974
Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI)



Bolivia, La Paz | 1986
Vaccination campaign



Peru, Junín | 1991
Last case of poliomyelitis recorded in the Americas.

1970s, **routine immunization was introduced worldwide** as part of national immunization programmes, **helping to control the disease in many countries.**

Sources:

- <https://polioeradication.org/polio-today/history-of-polio/>;
- <https://www.paho.org/es/120/exposicion-fotografica-aniversario-mundo-sin-polio-para-futuras-generaciones>

VWA 2024

Vaccination Week in the Americas



END
POLIO
NOW

#GetVax

<https://www.rotary.org/en/our-causes/ending-polio>

Where the Vision Became Action.

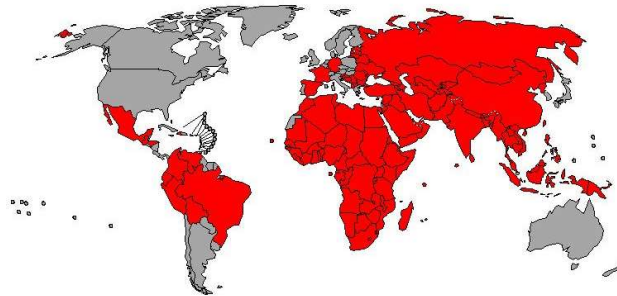
*"I am here because Rotary takes ordinary men and gives them **extraordinary opportunities to do with their lives what they never dreamed possible.** I'm here because Rotary **cares about people...**"*

Sir Clem Renouf

Rotary International President 1978 - 1979

Launching of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative – GPEI

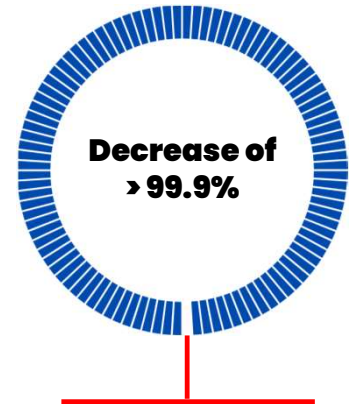
1988
> 350,000 cases of paralytic poliomyelitis
125 endemic countries
3 poliovirus serotypes: 1, 2, 3



World Health Assembly established the **GPEI to achieve polio eradication by the year 2000**



Global eradication of **wild poliovirus (WPV) type 2 was certified on September 20, 2015** and of **WPV3 on October 24, 2019**.



2024
2 endemic countries
Serotype: 1

Endemic countries 

GLOBAL UPDATE



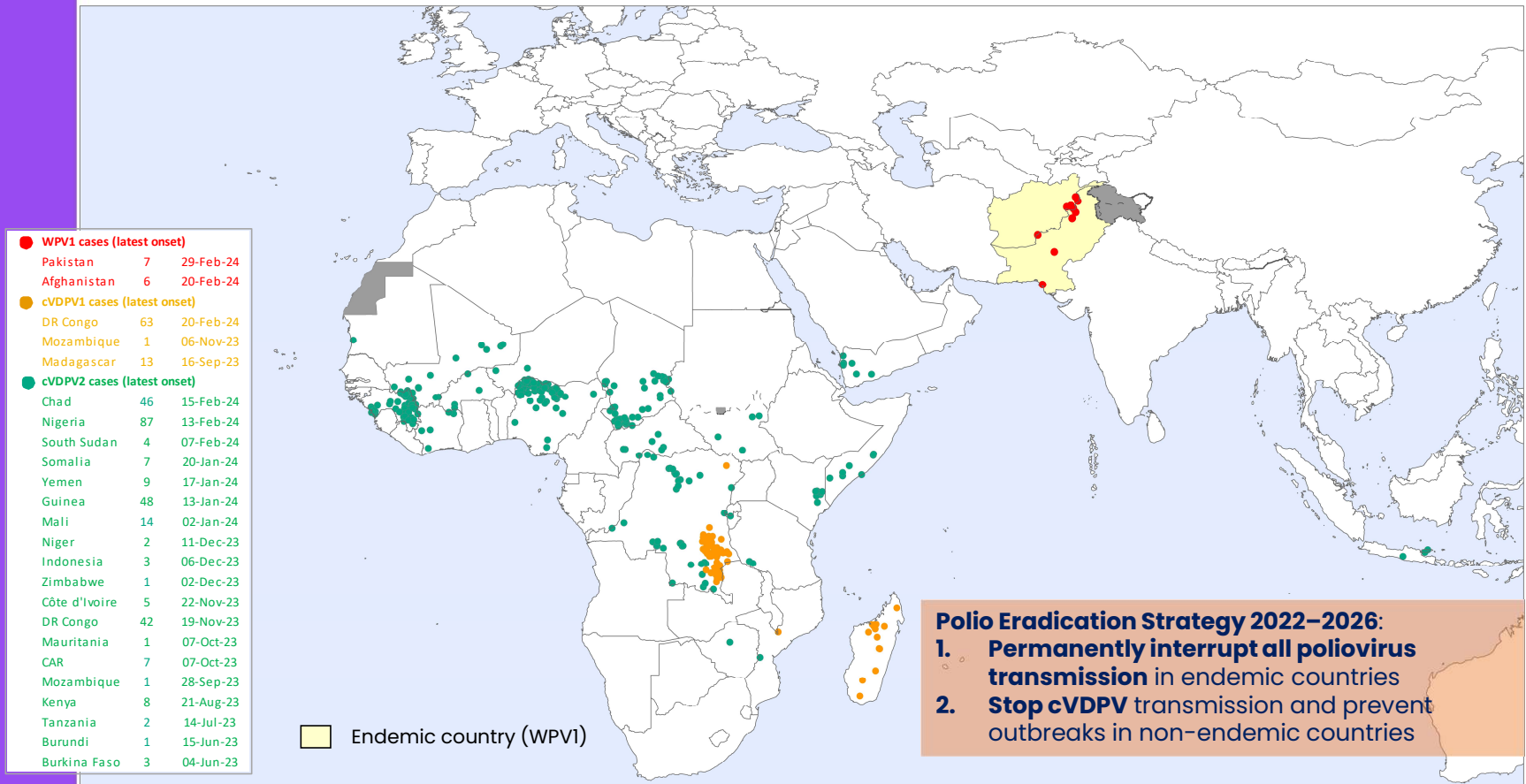
Nigeria | 2012.

The last case of wild polio type 3 is recorded in Nigeria in November.

<https://polioeradication.org>

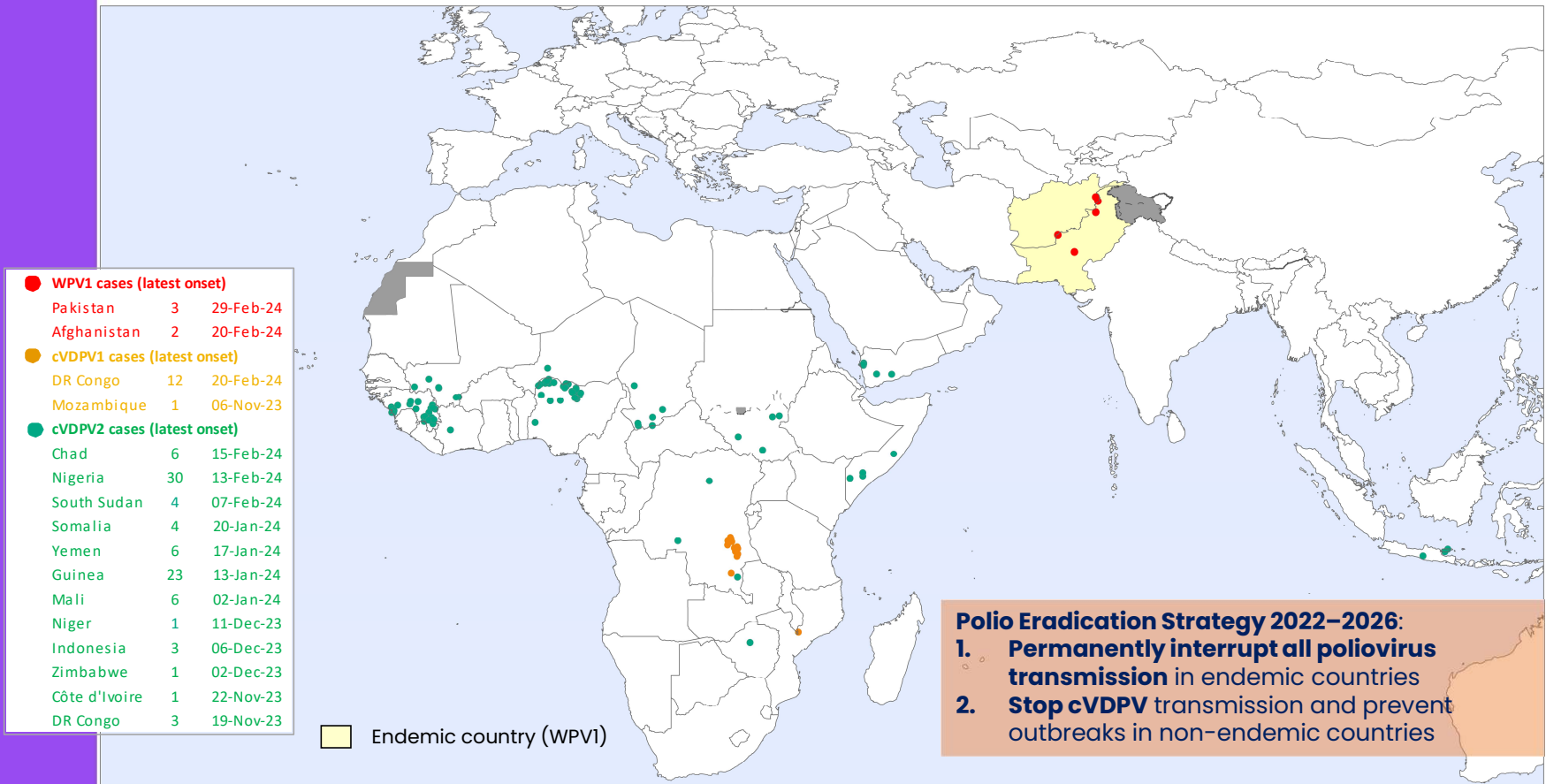
#GetVax

Global WPV1 & circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV) Cases¹, Previous 12 Months²



¹Excludes viruses detected from environmental surveillance; ²Onset of paralysis: 17 Apr. 2023 to 16 Apr. 2024

Global WPV1 & cVDPV Cases¹, Previous 6 Months²



¹Excludes viruses detected from environmental surveillance; ²Onset of paralysis: 17 Oct. 2023 to 16 Apr. 2024

REGIONAL UPDATE



© WHO Mexico | 1986. Children march through the streets of Mexico on National Immunization Day carrying signs in favor of polio immunization. PHOTO: Liba Taylor.

Summary of the situation in the Americas Region

First time in 21 years that a person was paralyzed in the region by a cVDPV

- **An unvaccinated young adult** in Rockland County, **New York**, was diagnosed with **paralytic polio caused by vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2** on July 21, 2022.
- **Peru** IHR National Focal Point notified PAHO/WHO, on the 21st of March 2023 of a **confirmed case of vaccine-derived poliovirus type 1 – Unvaccinated 16-month-old boy** (age at onset date).

July 2022

Figure-1 Detection of genetically linked cVDPV2 isolates in the United Kingdom and the United States of America from February to August 2022



March 2023

PAHO
Pan American Health Organization
World Health Organization
Region of the Americas

**Epidemiological Update
Poliomyelitis in the
Region of the Americas**

23 March 2023

The global and regional epidemiological situation summary of poliovirus circulation is presented in this epidemiological update, as well as information on a confirmed vaccine derived poliovirus case recently reported by Peru. The Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) reiterates to Member States the importance of achieving and maintaining polio vaccination coverage greater than 95% in each district or municipality to minimize the risk of a poliomyelitis outbreak, strengthen epidemiological surveillance of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) and update national poliovirus outbreak

2023



Polio3 Vaccination Coverage in Children <1 year: Region of the Americas, 2018-2022

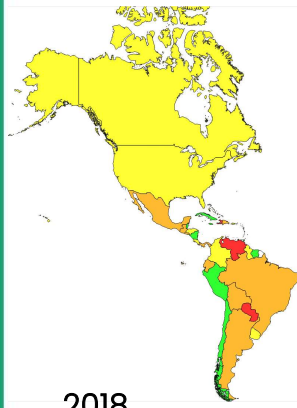
Region: 88%

Region: 87%

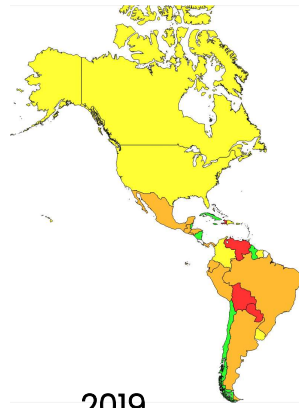
Region: 82%

Region: 80%

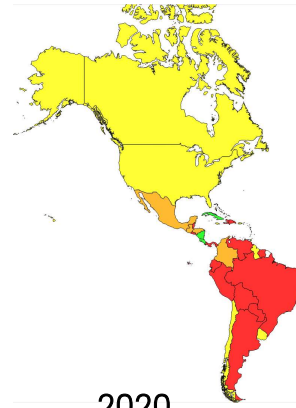
Region: 83%



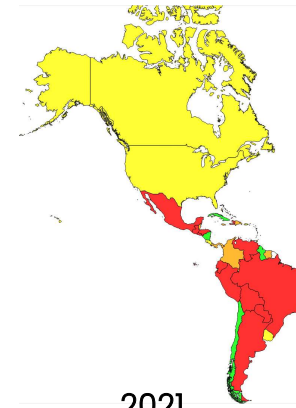
2018



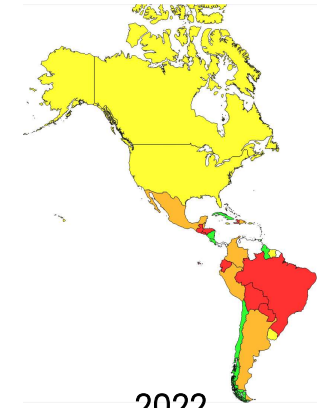
2019



2020

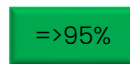


2021



2022

Coverage range



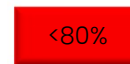
=>95%



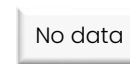
90-94%



80-89%



<80%



No data

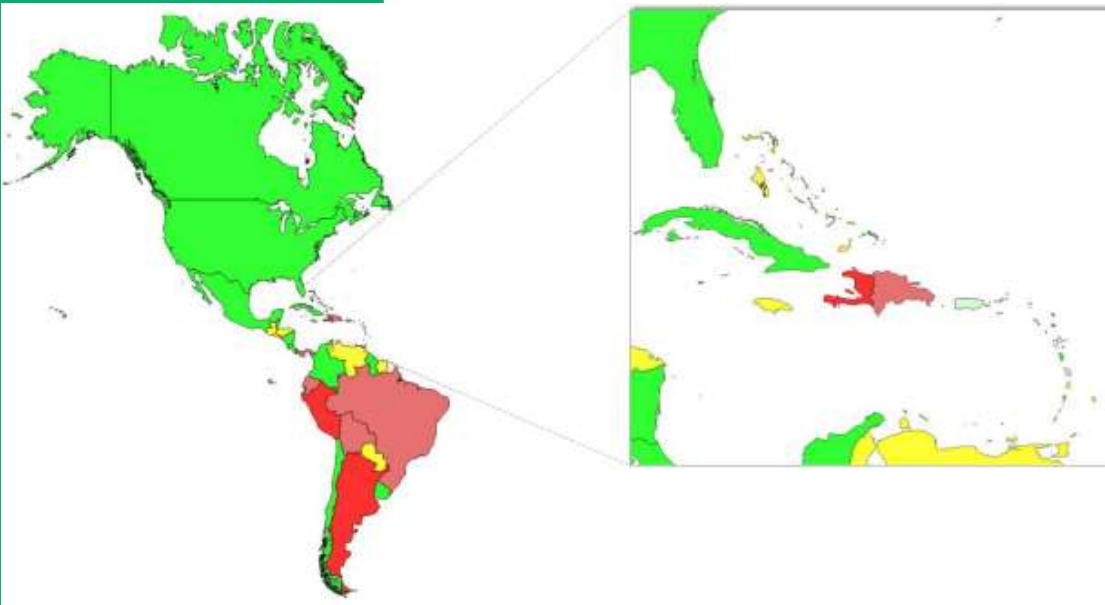
Polio vaccination is
below the 95%
recommended coverage
rate

#GetVax

Source: Country reports through the electronic PAHO-WHO/UNICEF Joint Reporting Form (eJRF).

Key outcomes of the Regional Certification Commission for the Polio Endgame in the Region of the Americas – RCC meetings

Updated risk assessment of countries: 2023*



Country	Risk score
Haiti	82
Peru	68
Argentina	63
Ecuador	60
Panama	58
Dominican Republic	57
Brazil	52
Bolivia	50
Sint Maarten	50
Venezuela	48
El Salvador	47
Paraguay	47
Suriname	45
Bahamas	44
Curaçao	44
Trinidad and Tobago	43
Anguilla	42
Grenada	42
Saint Lucia	41
Honduras	39
Barbados	38
Jamaica	37
Guatemala	36
Virgin Islands (UK)	36
Montserrat	35

Country	Risk score
Mexico	34
Guyana	34
Cayman Islands	33
Aruba	32
Turks and Caicos Islands	32
Antigua and Barbuda	29
Dominica	29
Saint Vincent & the Grenadines	29
USA	28
Canada	27
Colombia	27
Saint Kitts and Nevis	22
Uruguay	20
Bermuda	20
Nicaragua	18
Chile	14
Belize	7
Costa Rica	4
Cuba	4

Risk Category
Very High
High
Medium
Low

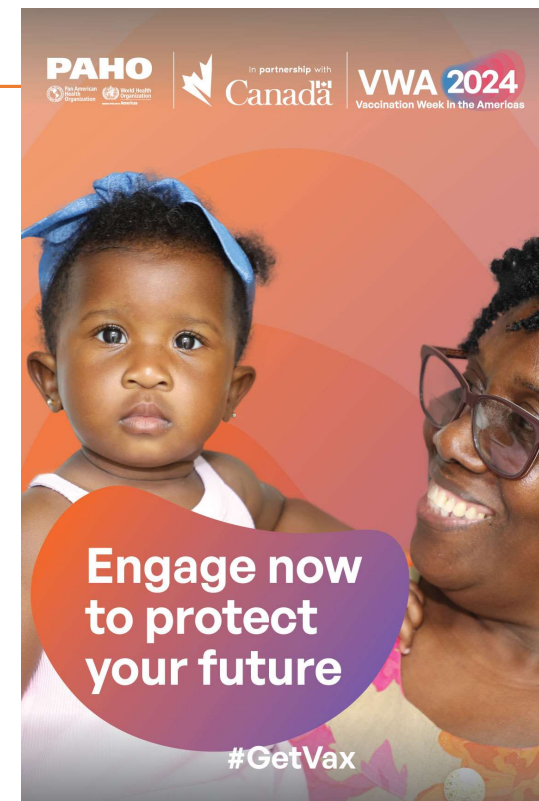
The risk assessment was based on indicators of immunization coverage, surveillance, containment status, health determinants, and outbreak preparedness and response as well as **RCC's expert opinion**.

*Risk Assessment for 2023 was prepared with data from 2022.

Source: Country annual reports; Meetings of the RCC for the Polio Endgame in the Region of the Americas.

Conclusions

- The world is one step away from making history:
 - **A polio-free world for future generations.**
- The Region of the Americas has remained polio-free for more than 30 years.
 - **However, the work is not yet finished.**



PAHO



In partnership with
Canada

VWA 2024
Vaccination Week In the Americas



**Thank you!
Merci!
¡Gracias!
Obrigada!**

#GetVax



In partnership with
Canada

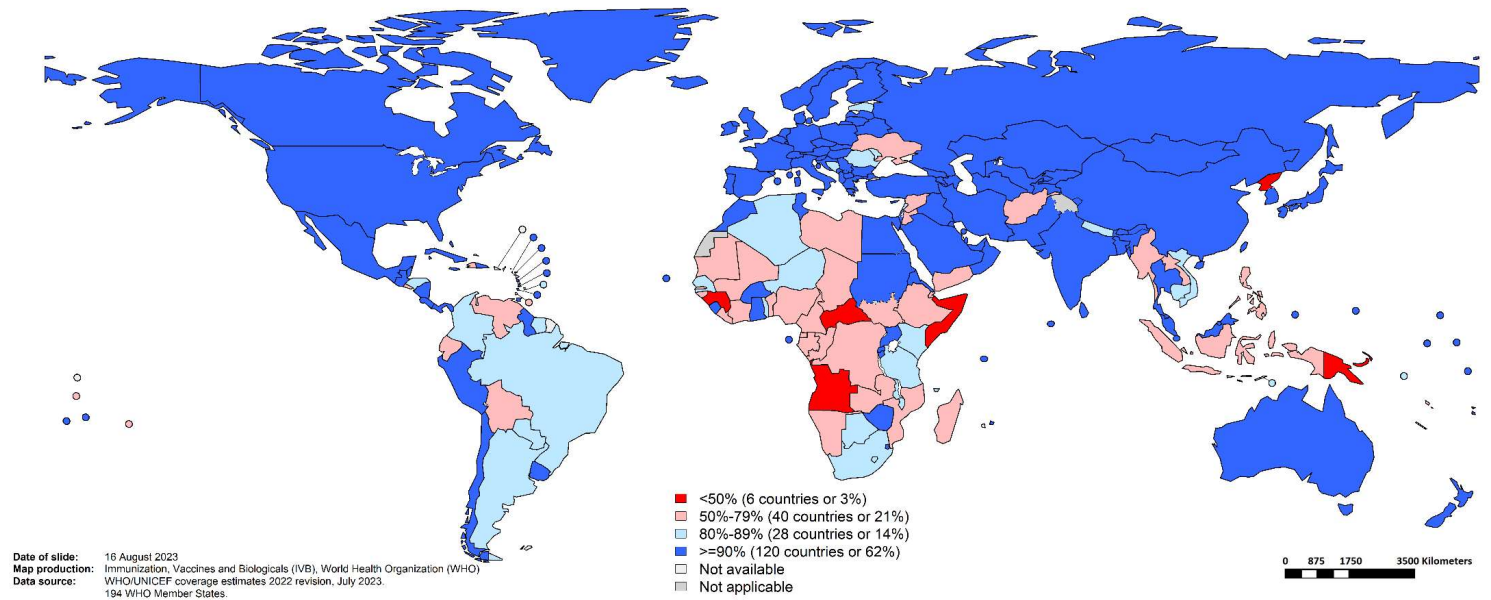
VWA 2024
Vaccination Week In the Americas

EXTRA SLIDES

#GetVax

IA 2030 Zero Dose Agenda

Big Catch-Up in 2023



Date of slide: 16 August 2023
 Map production: Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals (IVB), World Health Organization (WHO)
 Data source: WHO/UNICEF coverage estimates 2022 revision, July 2023, 194 WHO Member States.

Disclaimer:
 The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area nor of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.
 World Health Organization, WHO, 2023. All rights reserved.

Immunization coverage with IPV 1 in infants, 2022*

- *These are national estimates with significant subnational variance
- Countries on 2 or more doses of IPV (152 countries or 78%)
- Countries on 1 dose only of IPV (42 countries or 22%)

Active surveillance of Acute Flaccid Paralysis – AFP – cases

Rate of AFP cases in children under 15 years of age



Last 52 Weeks*
Region, Rate: 1.28



*Last 52 Weeks epi. (Data up to EPI Week 5)
Source: Country report to PAHO;
<https://www.paho.org/en/polio-surveillance-dashboard>