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## POLIO ERADICATION

Eradicating polio is humanity's next historic public health achievement. The United States and Indonesia are committed to implementing the Global Polio Eradication and Endgame Strategy to ensure that every child is safe from the paralysis caused by the virus and that no family will have to bear the emotional and financial costs of polio again.

Poliovirus is very contagious; a single case constitutes an outbreak of international concern. Indonesia is classified by the International Health Regulations as a state no longer infected with polio, but which remains vulnerable to re-infection. The country faces challenges on its journey to polio eradication, from expanding access to vaccination to improving disease surveillance with responsive and innovative solutions tailored to the needs of a diverse and vast archipelago.

### POLIO ERADICATION INITIATIVE GRANT

USAID, through the Polio Eradication Initiative Grant, partners with the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO), and other key stakeholders to support the Government of Indonesia in implementing the 2019-2023 Global Polio Eradication and Endgame Strategy (GPEES). The GPEES aims to overcome the final hurdles to eradication, end all forms of polio, and sustain a polio-free future. USAID support focuses on improving polio surveillance and a phased switch from oral polio vaccines (OPV) to

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inactivated polio vaccines (IPV). As OPV can unintentionally transmit polio since their active ingredients are weakened polioviruses, the switch is a critical step in the GPEES. IPV vaccination coverage had been slowly improving nationally, but dropped significantly due to COVID-19; pockets of low coverage remain in remote areas and in some urban neighborhoods.

## RESULTS

USAID financial and technical support through IFRC, UNICEF, and WHO assisted Indonesia by:

- Supporting the Ministry of Health to activate vaccine preventable disease (VPD) specimen shipments and biweekly VPD desk reviews covering 100 priority districts. Starting in mid-2021, this regular review showed an 85 percent increase in acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) case finding in 2021 compared to 2020;
- Conducting environmental surveillance in ten sites covering ten provinces. As of February 2022, no vaccine-derived poliovirus or wild poliovirus has been detected in the surveillance sites;
- Strengthening AFP surveillance in areas with limited report of AFP surveillance by conducting training for newly deployed provincial surveillance officers and advocacy meetings with local governments, and pediatricians;
- Supporting the Ministry of Health to conduct IPV supplementary immunization activity to reach more than 95 percent of children in North Kalimantan in 2021;
- Planning, surveillance, testing, and community action/outreach services for the ongoing routine immunization program;
- Immunizing more than two million children below the age of 15 in the two affected provinces during sub-national immunization Days in 2019, reaching 100 percent of the target in West Papua and 85 percent in Papua;
- Developing the Ministry of Health's Polio circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus-1 (cVDPV1) Outbreak Response and Sustainability Plan Phase 2 response: November 2019 – April 2020, which guides the ongoing response in Papua; and
- Addressing key challenges in the immunization system, working to improve surveillance for vaccine preventable diseases, and providing routine immunization.

## CONTACT

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