

The polio eradication programme brings together regional-level expertise to drive eradication efforts in Afghanistan and Pakistan and to support other countries in EMR to remain polio-free.



Children show their marked fingers after receiving a dose of polio vaccine during sub-national immunization days (SNID) in August 2021 in Lahore, Pakistan. WHO Syed Mehdi Bokhari

WHO's regional polio eradication programme works to respond to polio outbreaks and drive eradication efforts across 22 countries, with a particular focus on Afghanistan and Pakistan, the world's only countries with endemic wild poliovirus. It works closely with the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), a public private partnership, whose aim is to complete the eradication and containment of all wild, vaccine-related and Sabin polioviruses, such that no child ever again suffers paralytic poliomyelitis.

The regional programme is headed by [Dr Hamid Syed Jafari](#) , the Director of Polio Eradication in the Eastern Mediterranean Region.

[He tweets @Dr_HamidJafari](#)



Regional offices provide technical assistance and support to countries in the Region, across data



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Stop Cholera in the Middle East and North Africa Region. A global expert team from WHO aims:



Regional offices provide technical assistance and support to countries in the EMR, including the establishment of a Strategic

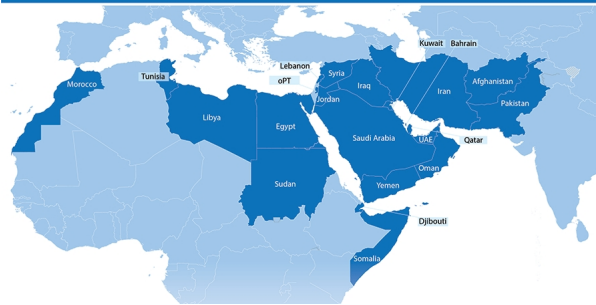


As part of the regional strategy, WHO is supporting governments of the Region to strengthen regional progress reports,



Defining, developing, and implementing evidence-based, locally adapted, and context-specific polio eradication strategies

Where we work in the Eastern Mediterranean Region



Policy

WHO supports governance bodies and technical advisory groups to generate policy on vaccination programmes, polio transition and health advocacy commitments and actions, and technical guidance for countries working to eradicate polio.

[Declarations and resolutions](#)

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