

Photo story: Somalia celebrates 3 years polio-free

13 August 2017

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{besps_c}0|1-1.jpg|This week, Somalia celebrated 3 years of being polio free with HE President of Somalia Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed “Farmajo” (centre) presiding; HE the Minister of Health Dr Fawziya Abiikar Nur and HE Minister of Commerce and Industry Khadra Ahmed Dualeh (left) also attended the opening event. WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean Dr Mahmoud Fikri and United Nations Resident Coordinator Peter de Clercq (right) are also there to celebrate Somalia’s achievement.{/besps_c}

{besps_c}0|1-2.jpg|Tens of thousands of people in the country have been involved in polio eradication efforts: vaccinators, community mobilizers, cold-chain technicians, religious leaders, volunteers and the media. The absence of cases of polio in Somalia today is testament to the leadership, commitment and hard work of the Government and people of Somalia.{/besps_c}

{besps_c}0|1-3.jpg|WHO Regional Director Dr Mahmoud Fikry and WHO Representative to Somalia, Dr Ghulam Popal head for the celebration.{/besps_c}

{besps_c}0|1-4.jpg|WHO Regional Director commends the Government of Somalia, and in particular HE the Minister of Health Dr Fawziya Abiikar Nur for her Ministry’s endless efforts to reach every child with the polio vaccine. Somalia faces many challenges, one of which is a nomadic population who are repeatedly on the move. {/besps_c}

{besps_c}0|1-5.jpg|HE the Minister of Health Dr Fawziya Abiikar Nur and HE Minister of Commerce and Industry Khadra Ahmed Dualeh, as well as United Nations Resident Coordinator Peter de Clercq, WHO Regional Manager of the polio eradication programme Christopher Maher and Samson Agbo from UNICEF attend the celebration. {/besps_c}

{besps_c}0|1-6.jpg|Dr Fikry reiterates the need to remain vigilant to protect children against the poliovirus. {/besps_c}

{besps_c}0|1-7.jpg|He calls on all parents to continue to bring their children for immunization. {/besps_c}

{besps_c}0|1-8.jpg|President of Somalia Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed “Farmajo” gives an award to the WHO Regional Director Dr Mahmoud Fikri in gratitude for WHO’s continued and effective support.{/besps_c}

{besps_c}01-9,jpg|Somalia's Minister of Health applauds WHO's efforts and hands out awards to WHO staff {/besps_c}

{besps_c}02,jpg|Prior to his departure, the WHO Regional Director has a farewell lunch with WHO staff, praising them for their contribution to this historical achievement.

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