



United Nations Secretary General António Guterres lent his support to Pakistan's national polio vaccination campaign this morning. More than 39 million children across the country are set to be vaccinated this week. Photo: Syed Mehdi Bukhari

Lahore, 18 February 2020 – The Secretary General of the United Nations António Guterres today visited a kindergarten school in Lahore during the first nationwide polio campaign of the year and vaccinated 3 students with the polio vaccine. More than 39 million children across the country are set to be vaccinated during the February campaign.

The Secretary General commented on the polio eradication efforts of the country, saying that, “Polio is one of the few diseases we can eradicate in the world in the next few years. This is a priority of the United Nations and I am extremely happy to see it is a clear priority for the Government of Pakistan.”

“My appeal to all leaders, religious leaders, community leaders, is to fully support the Government of Pakistan and other governments around the world to make sure that we will be able to fully eradicate polio.”

As part of his visit, the United Nations Secretary General met with frontline workers of the Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme and expressed his deep solidarity. There are currently 265 000 frontline workers who go door to door during campaigns to ensure that as many children as possible are vaccinated against polio. Almost 62% of these workers are female. Women are key to helping the programme rally community members, parents and caregivers in support of polio eradication.



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