



A mother brings her child to get polio vaccination on first day of campaign in Banadir region, Somalia 22 October 2022

Mogadishu, 24 October 2022 – Living by its principle of ‘delivering on a promise’, WHO and the Government of Somalia are commemorating the World Polio Day by launching fifth round of this year’s sub-national vaccination campaign across high-risk areas to keep the country free from wild polio virus and ensure every child in this country lives a healthier life.

The World Polio Day was established by Rotary International over a decade ago to commemorate the birth of Jonas Salk, who led the first team to develop a vaccine against poliomyelitis. Use of this inactivated poliovirus vaccine and subsequent widespread use of the oral poliovirus, developed by Albert Sabin, led to the establishment of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) in 1988.

Though the country is free from wild polio virus, a rare strain of polio-called the vaccine-derived polio virus continues to circulate in the country owing to poor immunization coverage amongst the children living or residing in hard-to-reach and partially inaccessible areas. So far, 4 children have been identified with circulating vaccine-derived polio virus type 2.





<https://www.who.int/emro/news/2022/05/01/who-emro-world-polio-day-2022>