



Polio

Eliminating polio one vaccination at a time



Polio mainly affects children younger than five years old.

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Polio remains endemic in only four countries: Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan. Once a problem in Canada, the disease was finally eradicated in 1994. In Afghanistan, however, polio remains persistent, mostly affecting children younger than five years old. The highest number of polio cases in Afghanistan is in the south.

What Canada is doing

Canada is committed to eradicating polio in Afghanistan, and we are working alongside the international community to eliminate this debilitating disease. We are the largest international donor in the fight against polio in Afghanistan, supporting the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the Government of Afghanistan, who work closely together to deliver vaccinations and reinforce routine immunizations as part of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

Through numerous polio vaccination campaigns each year, an estimated seven million children across Afghanistan will be vaccinated against the disease, including 400,000 children living in Kandahar province in the south.

*"I will not let polio hurt
any more children in my village."*

– Mohammad, father of a polio victim living in
Khairtoot village in Kandahar province.

