

# Polio transition in a snapshot: Indonesia



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## Background

### DEMOGRAPHICS<sup>1</sup>



Total population, 2020:  
**275 million**



Birth rate (per 1000 people),  
2021: **16**



Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live  
births), 2021: **19**



Under-5 mortality rate (per 1000  
live births), 2021: **22**

### FINANCIALS<sup>2</sup>



GDP per capita, 2022:  
**US\$ 4,788**



Domestic Government Health  
Expenditure per capita, 2020: **US\$ 228**



Current Health Expenditure (% of GDP),  
2020: **3.4%**



External Health Expenditure (% of  
current health expenditure), 2020: **0.5%**

### KEY RESOURCES

- Sustainability Planning for Maintaining Indonesia's Polio-Free Status, Final Report, 22 March 2017
- South-East Asia Regional Strategic Plan for Polio Transition

1 World Bank Data (<https://data.worldbank.org/country/indonesia>)

2 World Bank Data (<https://data.worldbank.org/country/indonesia>)



# Overview of polio eradication and transition planning in Indonesia

Since the beginning, the Government of the Republic of Indonesia has taken full ownership of polio eradication efforts, providing the majority of funding for all activities. Key activities, including acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) surveillance, oral polio vaccine (OPV) vaccination and the development of laboratory capacities and a national laboratory network have been implemented through the Ministry of Health (MoH) and integrated into the country's broader Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) and surveillance programmes. Indonesia successfully stopped the transmission of indigenous wild polio virus (WPV) in 1995 and was certified wild polio-free along with the rest of the South-East Asia Region in 2014. Since 2014, the country has responded to outbreaks of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 1 and type 2.

Indonesia has one of the largest numbers of under and unvaccinated children in the world, with 26% of children considered 'zero-dose' in

2021<sup>3</sup>. Since then, the government has undertaken comprehensive efforts to increase coverage in the highest-risk provinces and recover from backsliding during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As polio has long been eradicated in Indonesia, other health priorities have taken precedent. Nonetheless, the government retains strong ownership of critical functions, and is committed to responding to sub-national immunization and surveillance gaps where they occur. In addition to ramping up routine vaccination, there is a need to improve AFP surveillance in some provinces to detect any outbreak of virus, and ensure strong containment of poliovirus held in laboratories and vaccine-production facilities. Planning is focused on sustaining the polio essential functions at quality, including ensuring predictable funding from domestic and external sources.



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3 World Health Organization [<https://www.who.int/indonesia/news/detail/03-05-2023-indonesia-targets-low-vaccination-areas-to-tackle-decline-in-childhood-immunization>]

# Sustainability planning in Indonesia

The overall aim of polio transition is to safeguard the polio essential functions (poliovirus surveillance, immunization with appropriate polio vaccines, outbreak response and containment) that are needed to sustain a polio-free world, and use the polio investments - the tools, knowledge and infrastructure established through the eradication effort - to strengthen national health systems. A dedicated Regional Strategic Plan for the South-East Asia Region sets out the aims of regional polio transition.

To maintain its polio-free status, Indonesia will need to maintain high immunization coverage, sensitive polio surveillance, rigorous containment measures, and a robust outbreak response capacity. Therefore, the focus of the Indonesia plan is to ensure the sustainability of functions.

The objectives of the sustainability plan are focused on assessing the status of eradication in the country, identifying urgent actions, and recommending a multi-pronged approach to ensure the country remains polio-free.

## Key actions identified in the sustainability plan

The Indonesia plan identifies necessary actions to strengthen and sustain functions in a coordinated manner, under the leadership of the Government of Indonesia and Directorate of Surveillance and Health Quarantine. The actions are intended to support the sustaining of polio eradication through targeted action and the activities of other programmes.

The plan underscores that there is no single pathway or option to successfully sustain polio functions. Rather, action is necessary on many fronts, with close coordination from partners and stakeholders. In addition, Indonesia is undertaking sustainability planning in line with the technical requirements of the Polio Post-Certification Strategy<sup>4</sup>.

**To ensure the polio-free status in Indonesia, the sustainability plan identifies some urgent actions to address existing weaknesses:**

- Create a national oversight body to facilitate interaction with ministries outside of the Ministry of Health and implementation at the provincial level;
- Integrate polio eradication-related goals and activities into programmes and initiatives that address other public health and development priorities, with a focus on “lessons learned”;

- Identify and vaccinate un- and under-vaccinated children who have missed doses of bOPV and/or IPV;
- Identify districts with poor AFP surveillance indicators and hire health center surveillance staff to conduct active AFP surveillance in the catchment area of health centers; ramp-up environmental surveillance;
- Conduct simulation exercise using the National Polio Outbreak Response Plan guidelines to assess readiness and response capabilities;
- Advocate at the global, national and provincial and municipality level to maintain the focus on polio eradication.

**To guide further action, a tool has been developed as part of the plan to track recommendations and action underway. This is intended to enable the Government of Indonesia to update progress and add new actions to ensure sustainability as required.**

## Financial sustainability

Since the start of polio eradication efforts in Indonesia, the government has provided the majority of funding required for activities including:

- Hiring and supporting Government staff in polio-related immunization, surveillance, and laboratory positions.
- Developing and maintaining the infrastructure for vaccine production, procurement and logistics, surveillance and data reporting and management.
- Full financing of polio vaccines.
- Purchasing physical assets, such as laboratory equipment and computers.
- Covering operational costs for mass immunization activities, such as National Immunization Days and Outbreak Response Immunization.

The central government contributes a higher share to these activities than provincial governments. Mechanisms for decentralization are being developed.

Several external funding partners have historically provided funding to Indonesia for immunization, surveillance, and laboratory activities. In 2022, support from the Global Polio Eradication Initiative was limited to funding costs associated with sustaining the polio laboratory, with critical surveillance functions supported by WHO. It is vital for resources to be mobilized from alternative sources and partners in the long-term in order to sustain the polio essential functions.

4 Global Polio Eradication Initiative [<https://polioeradication.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/polio-post-certification-strategy-20180424-2.pdf>]





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## Monitoring and evaluation

The Polio Transition Monitoring & Evaluation framework consists of two sets of indicators to measure health system performance in relation to the polio essential functions, and the polio transition process. The framework aims to guide decision-making, facilitate progress, and enable the monitoring of the quality of performance of the polio essential functions.

The datasets related to Indonesia can be accessed at <https://www.who.int/teams/polio-transition-programme>.

## Risks/challenges

- Mobilizing sufficient resources to sustainably finance polio essential functions.
- Preventing backsliding in immunization or surveillance quality.

## Next steps

- In line with the objectives of the sustainability plan, ensuring polio vaccination coverage and surveillance are retained at adequate levels until global certification of polio eradication and beyond.
- Incorporating lessons learned from polio eradication into other programmes.
- Maintaining continuous advocacy at all levels to mobilize adequate long-term financing to sustain the essential polio functions.