

The polio eradication programme brings together regional-level expertise to drive eradication efforts in Afghanistan and Pakistan and to support other countries in EMR to remain polio-free.



Children show their marked fingers after receiving a dose of polio vaccine during sub-national immunization days (SNID) in August 2021 in Lahore, Pakistan. WHO Syed Mehdi Bokhari

WHO's regional polio eradication programme works to respond to polio outbreaks and drive eradication efforts across 22 countries, with a particular focus on Afghanistan and Pakistan, the world's only countries with endemic wild poliovirus. It works closely with the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), a public private partnership, whose aim is to complete the eradication and containment of all wild, vaccine-related and Sabin polioviruses, such that no child ever again suffers paralytic poliomyelitis.

The regional programme is headed by [Dr Hamid Syed Jafari](#) , the Director of Polio Eradication in the Eastern Mediterranean Region.

[He tweets @Dr\\_HamidJafari](#)



Regional offices provide technical assistance and support to countries in the Region, across data



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Stop COVID-19 transmission and prevent a second wave. Afghanistan expects to start with a strong aim:



to public health services in the region. The main focus is on the management of the COVID-19 (MS) and

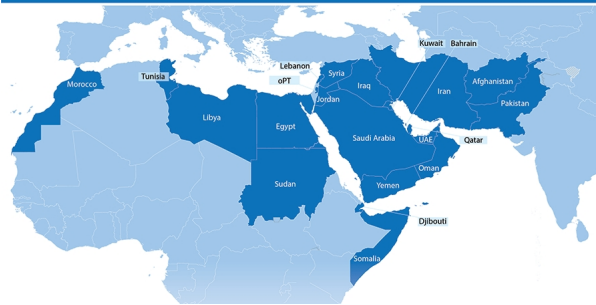


As part of the regional strategy, WHO is supporting the efforts of the health sector to improve the quality of health services and to



Defining, developing, and strengthening surveillance systems, and supporting countries to improve their surveillance systems.

**Where we work in the Eastern Mediterranean Region**



**Policy**

WHO supports governance bodies and technical advisory groups to generate policy on vaccination programmes, polio transition and health advocacy commitments and actions, and technical guidance for countries working to eradicate polio.

**[Declarations and resolutions](#)**

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