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GAZA POLIO CAMPAIGN UPDATE

ROUND 2 - 17 AND 18 OCTOBER 2024 (DAY 4/CATCH-UP AND PREP DAY)

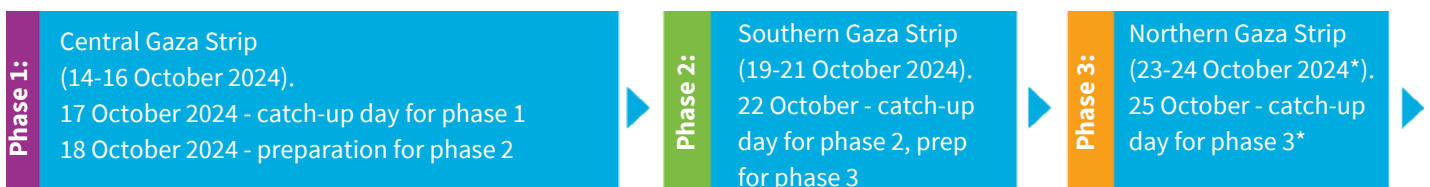
HIGHLIGHTS:

Children continued to receive polio vaccination and Vitamin A in central Gaza on 17 October 2024 as part of catch-up activities for phase 1; 18 October was scheduled as a preparation day ahead of the phase 2 implementation in southern Gaza.

Catch-up day for phase 1 and preparation day for southern Gaza:

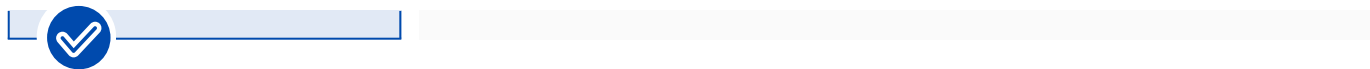
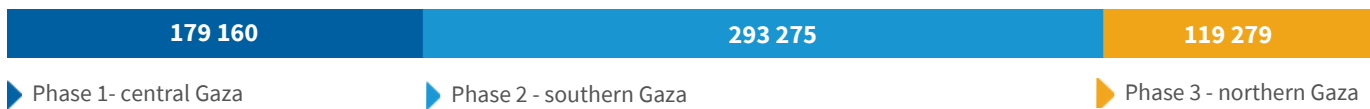
- ✔ 17 October 2024 marked the first catch-up day in phase 1/Day 4 of this round, involving fixed team activity at eight selected health facilities across central Gaza. The catch-up activities will continue until 22 October to ensure comprehensive coverage.
- ✔ On Day 4, a total of 2127 children under 10 years were vaccinated against polio (nOPV2) and 1563 children aged between 2 and 10 years received Vitamin A dose.
- ✔ **At the end of Day 4, the cumulative coverage reached 183 556 children for nOPV2 and 149 627 children for Vitamin A.**
- ✔ 18 October was a preparation day to ensure comprehensive planning phase 2. Preparations focused on ensuring all logistics are in place in the areas of southern Gaza where the campaign will be implemented.
- ✔ A humanitarian pause has been assured to enable phase 2 to be implemented over three days, from 19–21 October and an additional catch-up day on 22 October.

As in the first round, the second round of the campaign will be conducted in three phases:



*Pending further coordination

Target population for polio in Round 2 (children aged under ten years):



Reached 101%
of the target population for phase 1



KEY PREPARATION FOR PHASE 2

- ✔ UNICEF completed cold chain assessments in Khan Younis, confirming sufficient cold boxes, and ice packs for distribution during phase 2 implementation. The EOC directed cold boxes be utilized strategically to mitigate a shortfall in vaccine carriers at the large fixed vaccination sites.
- ✔ All vaccine vials, cold chain equipment, and Vitamin A supplies were delivered to the 10 distribution centres: seven main and three sub-distribution centres on 18 October 2024.
- ✔ To ensure better distribution of Vitamin A, teams will receive a targeted number of capsules to match daily demand in phase 2, rather than the full 500-capsule Vitamin A bottles.
- ✔ During phase 2, a total of 568 teams, and 28 special teams, covering both inside and outside humanitarian pause areas will be operational. Of these teams, teams will operate from 140 health facilities from 19 to 22 October.
- ✔ All logistics, vaccines, and Vitamin A were pre-positioned at two main distribution centers – Japanese Health Center and WHO office – for vaccination activities that will be conducted outside of the humanitarian pause areas during phase 2.
- ✔ A total of 15 Intra-Campaign Monitoring (ICM) monitors will be involved, targeting shelter homes/camps. WHO has prepared a supervision plan, involving participation of the MOH, WHO, UNICEF and UNRWA.
- ✔ Social mobilization activities began on 16 October with 339 mobilizers engaged. There is a plan to enhance visibility efforts in Khan Younis and Rafah, including banners, posters, town criers, megaphone announcements, and social media to boost awareness.

NOTE:

The [first round](#) was successfully implemented from 1-12 September 2024 and vaccinated 559 161 children, or an estimated 95% of eligible children at governorate level, according to independently conducted post-campaign monitoring.

Thanks to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) partners, donors, and Member States of the Region for their support, and to the [UAE for their allocation of critical funding](#) of US\$ 5m towards the polio vaccination campaign.