

# GAZA POLIO CAMPAIGN UPDATE

3 SEPTEMBER 2024

## HIGHLIGHTS:

### Day 2 update:

- ✓ Strong momentum in vaccination efforts in central Gaza continued as families brought their children to receive vaccines on Day 2 of the campaign.
- ✓ Visits to several camps showed that majority of children were already vaccinated, indicating high community participation and awareness.
- ✓ Number of children under ten years of age vaccinated: An estimated **74 340** (preliminary data).
- ✓ Estimated number of children under ten years of age vaccinated in two days in central Gaza: **161 000** (surpassed estimated total target of 157 000 for central Gaza).



**Target populations** seem to have been underestimated, due to constant population movement but ongoing vaccination efforts have been adjusted to ensure no child is missed.



To ensure **no child is missed**, multiple teams have been deployed at larger fixed sites, allowing some to function as mobile teams to proactively reach children who may have been missed for various reasons (access issues, low confidence in vaccination, refusals, lack of awareness of the campaign and lack of easily accessible vaccination site).



**Special coordinated missions** were conducted on Day 2, to vaccinate children in areas just outside the agreed zone for humanitarian pauses, in Al-Maghazi, Al-Bureij and Al-Mussader. These areas were covered from Day 2 onwards. Vaccination teams encountered larger-than-expected populations in these areas. Additional vaccine supplies were delivered to health facilities in Al-Maghazi and Al-Bureij to meet the excess needs.

## BY THE NUMBERS:

Reports from independent monitors from Day 1 show that:



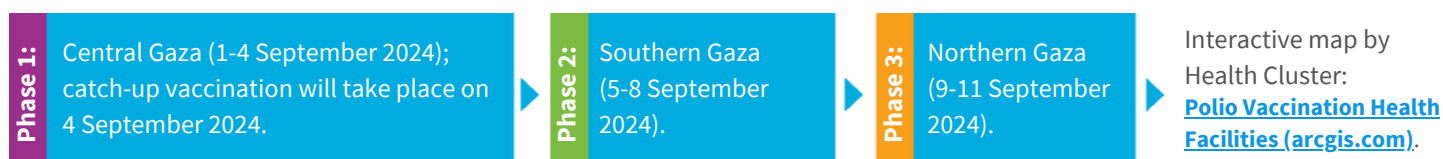
Approximately **95% of vaccination sites were operational**. More than half of the teams had at least one female member; a quarter of the teams were fully comprised of women.



Over **93% of the teams were correctly fingerprint-marking children**.

All **27** monitored mobile teams actively **visited shelter homes and tents** in their designated areas for vaccination.

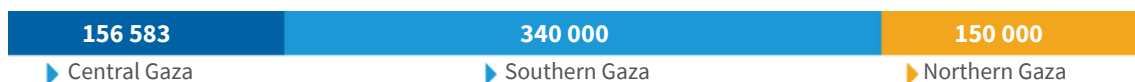
The campaign will be conducted in three phases:



### Target population\*

(children aged under ten years)

\*Estimates



## SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

So far, Gaza has confirmed four cases of children with acute flaccid paralysis (AFP), including one child who tested positive for circulating variant poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2). Two of the reported cases tested negative for poliovirus. Laboratory results are pending on samples from the fourth AFP case.

Health care workers, who have been re-sensitized on AFP surveillance, are actively searching for any children with AFP.

The Ministry of Health (MOH) and WHO are working to collect environmental samples, with a focus on prioritising sites from where positive environmental samples were collected in the middle of Central Gaza.

### Quote of the day

*"It is very important to stop this disease, especially in light of the circumstances we are living through. The vaccine is important for every child."*

Ramzy Al-Bakri, parent of a child under ten years of age, Gaza.

### NOTE:

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.