

# Polio eradication hinges on four countries

October 13 2006

---

Successfully global eradication of polio depends four countries' efforts to vaccinate children, the Swiss-based Advisory Committee on Polio Eradication said.

The committee said most countries that experienced recent polio outbreaks are again polio-free through targeted vaccine and faster tracking methods, the World Health Organization said in a news release. In the Afghanistan, India, Nigeria and Pakistan, there is a persistent failure to vaccinate all children.

"Eradicating polio is no longer a technical issue alone. Success is now more a question of the political will to ensure effective administration at all levels so that all children get vaccine," said Stephen Cochi, ACPE chairman and senior adviser to the Director of the Global Immunization Division at the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

The four countries should set realistic target dates for stopping polio transmission, WHO said, adding that improvements in vaccinating all children in these areas has been incremental.

ACPE estimated that it would take more than a year for Afghanistan, India, Nigeria and Pakistan to end polio.

The global eradication initiative is spearheaded by WHO, national governments, Rotary International, the CDC and UNICEF.

*Copyright 2006 by United Press International*

Citation: Polio eradication hinges on four countries (2006, October 13) retrieved 15 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2006-10-polio-eradication-hinges-countries.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.