

Oversight Role of the Independent Monitoring Board of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative

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The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) established its Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) in 2010 to monitor and guide its progress toward stopping polio transmission globally. The concept of an IMB is innovative, with no clear analogue in the history of the GPEI or in any other global health program. The IMB meets with senior program officials every 3–6 months. Its reports provide analysis and recommendations about individual polio-affected countries. The IMB also examines issues affecting the global program as a whole. Its areas of focus have included escalating the level of priority afforded to polio eradication (particularly by recommending a World Health Assembly resolution to declare polio eradication a programmatic emergency, which was enacted in May 2012), placing greater emphasis on people factors in the delivery of the program, encouraging innovation, strengthening focus on the small number of so-called sanctuaries where polio persists, and continuous quality improvement to reach every missed child with vaccination. The IMB's true independence from the agencies and countries delivering the program has enabled it to raise difficult issues that others cannot. Other global health programs might benefit from establishing similar independent monitoring mechanisms.

Keywords: polio eradication; program governance; monitoring.

The establishment of the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in November 2010 was a novel development for the GPEI and an innovation in global health program governance. Throughout its 25-year history, the GPEI has established (and disbanded) a number of boards, advisory groups, and committees to provide expertise and advice to the program. The IMB is the first truly independent group charged with assessing the program's progress, strengths, and weaknesses [1].

The IMB was established at a critical time for the GPEI. Founded in 1988, the GPEI achieved substantial progress over its first 12 years, reducing the global

incidence of polio by 99%. A difficult decade followed, in which the incidence of polio remained stubbornly unchanged despite considerable effort and investment. At the end of that decade, in 2010, the program resolved to break the deadlock and to finally complete eradication. Establishing the IMB was part of its plan to do so [2]. This article describes the work of this unique group to date.

IMB CHARACTERISTICS

Structure, Operation, and Functions

The IMB consists of 9 members, each of whom is a public health or communications expert [3]. Some had close prior knowledge of the GPEI, but the majority did not. The IMB's small secretariat is entirely independent of the GPEI agencies. Every other GPEI committee or board, current and historical, has involved program staff within the group or a partner agency acting as secretariat to the group, or both. The IMB's crucial difference is its absolute independence and freedom from

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Global Guidelines Independent Monitoring Of Polio

Ying Liu



Global Guidelines Independent Monitoring Of Polio:

Standard operating procedures: responding to a poliovirus event or outbreak, version 3.1 World Health Organization, 2020-03-31 **Estimating and monitoring yellow fever reactive campaign vaccination coverage** World Health Organization, 2024-04-16 Yellow fever YF is an acute viral haemorrhagic disease transmitted by infected mosquitoes YF is prevented by a highly effective safe and affordable vaccine a single dose of vaccine provides sustained immunity and lifelong protection against YF disease Unprecedented urban outbreaks in 2016 in Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo demonstrated that despite routine immunization challenges remain in ending YF epidemics Outbreaks occur in Africa and the Americas but there is also increased risk of international spread through viraemic travellers as seen in 2017 with YF cases who travelled to China The comprehensive global strategy Eliminate Yellow fever Epidemics EYE is a coalition of partners Gavi the Vaccine Alliance the United Nations Children's Fund and WHO and affected countries set up in response to these challenges The EYE Strategy is aligned to face YF's changing epidemiology the resurgence of mosquitoes and the increased risk of urban outbreaks and international spread *Global Polio Surveillance Action Plan 2022-2024* World Health Organization, 2022-05-20 *Global guidance for conducting acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) surveillance in the context of poliovirus eradication* World Health Organization, 2024-04-26 **Global Polio Surveillance Action Plan 2025-2026** World Health Organization, 2025-07-25 The Global Polio Surveillance Action Plan 2025-2026 defines the surveillance activities required to achieve the goals of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative GPEI for the interruption of wild poliovirus type 1 WPV1 transmission and outbreaks of circulating vaccine derived poliovirus type 2 cVDPV2 The Global Polio Surveillance Action Plan GPSAP brings together the five surveillance work streams that collectively function to help guide the polio eradication effort namely 1 syndromic surveillance for cases of acute flaccid paralysis AFP in children aged under 15 years referred to as AFP surveillance 2 surveillance for poliovirus in sewage and wastewater referred to as environmental surveillance 3 surveillance for immunodeficiency associated vaccine derived poliovirus in patients with primary immunodeficiency disorders referred to as iVDPV surveillance 4 laboratory testing to provide confirmation and genetic sequencing of polioviruses provided by the Global Polio Laboratory Network and 5 data and information management that support reporting detections and monitoring poliovirus surveillance via a centralized repository referred to as the Polio Information System or POLIS Lessons learned from the earlier Global Polio Surveillance Action Plan 2022-2024 inform changes in the new action plan This GPSAP also continues to align with and support polio surveillance objectives and activities detailed in the GPEI Polio Eradication Strategy *Polio Eradication Strategy 2022-2026* World Health Organization, 2025-08-26 Based on today's epidemiology and after critical analysis and expert consultations the Strategy Committee and Polio Oversight Board POB of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative GPEI have decided to extend the timeline for certifying the eradication of wild poliovirus type 1 WPV1 to the end of 2027 and certifying the elimination of circulating

type 2 variant poliovirus cVDPV2 also known as vaccine derived poliovirus to the end of 2029 This document complements the original Polio Eradication Strategy 2022 2026 by outlining the obstacles that have hindered progress towards these goals since the start of the strategic period 2022 and defining adjustments that will be made in the extension period from now to the end of 2029 to overcome them It summarizes key tactical shifts that will enable more effective implementation and accountability the rationale for continued investment in the promise of a polio free world and the plan to sustain eradication once it is achieved **Standard operating procedures: responding to a poliovirus event or outbreak, version 4**

World Health Organization,2022-05-31 This is a significant revision of the existing Standard Operating Procedures necessitated by recent advances in outbreak response principally the Emergency Use Listing of novel oral polio vaccine type 2 in 2021 This is the fourth version of the polio outbreak SOPs which give response teams in countries step by step guidance on how to respond including vaccine choice and scope of the response in countries and how these steps are supported by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative GPEI Global Polio Eradication Initiative: annual report 2022 World Health

Organization,2024-03-10 **Global Polio Eradication Initiative** World Health Organization,2024-10-17 The Global Polio Eradication Initiative Annual Report 2023 is an annual publication that provides insight to key stakeholders partners countries and donors on the progress toward achieving a polio free world It provides a situation analysis against all objectives of the GPEI Polio Eradication Strategic Plan 2022 2026 Delivering on a Promise and key indicators measuring the situation **Polio Eradication Strategy 2022-2026** ,2021-10-07 The Global Polio Eradication Strategy 2022 2026 supersedes the Polio Strategy 2019 2023 taking into account new tools and approaches including the novel oral polio vaccine type 2 and need to more concertedly address vaccine derived polioviruses as well as new operations tactics in light of the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic It is intended to layout the roadmap to achieving and sustaining a polio free world free of all forms of poliovirus It is intended to be a strategic resource and guidance document for GPEI stakeholders partners donors and affected country governments

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