



Wild Polio Case

First in Africa in five years



[VIRONIKA](#)



[@vironika_om](#)
(@vironika_om)



[t.me/vironika_om](#)



[@vironikaom](#)



vironika.studyiq@gmail.com





- Malawi has recorded **Africa's first wild poliovirus (WPV) case in five years**, the Global Polio Laboratory Network (GPLN) confirmed February 17, 2022.
- The infected girl experienced the onset of paralysis on November 19, 2021, and was subsequently tested.



NEWS

LIVE TV

INDIA
TODAY

APP

MAGAZINE



HOME



MY FEED

ELECTIONS

CORONA

INDIA

BUSINESS



TECH

MOVIES



SPORTS

News / World / 3-year-old girl is Africa's first case of wild polio in 5 years

3-year-old girl is Africa's first case of wild polio in 5 years

The girl was tested after she experienced the onset of paralysis in November last year.



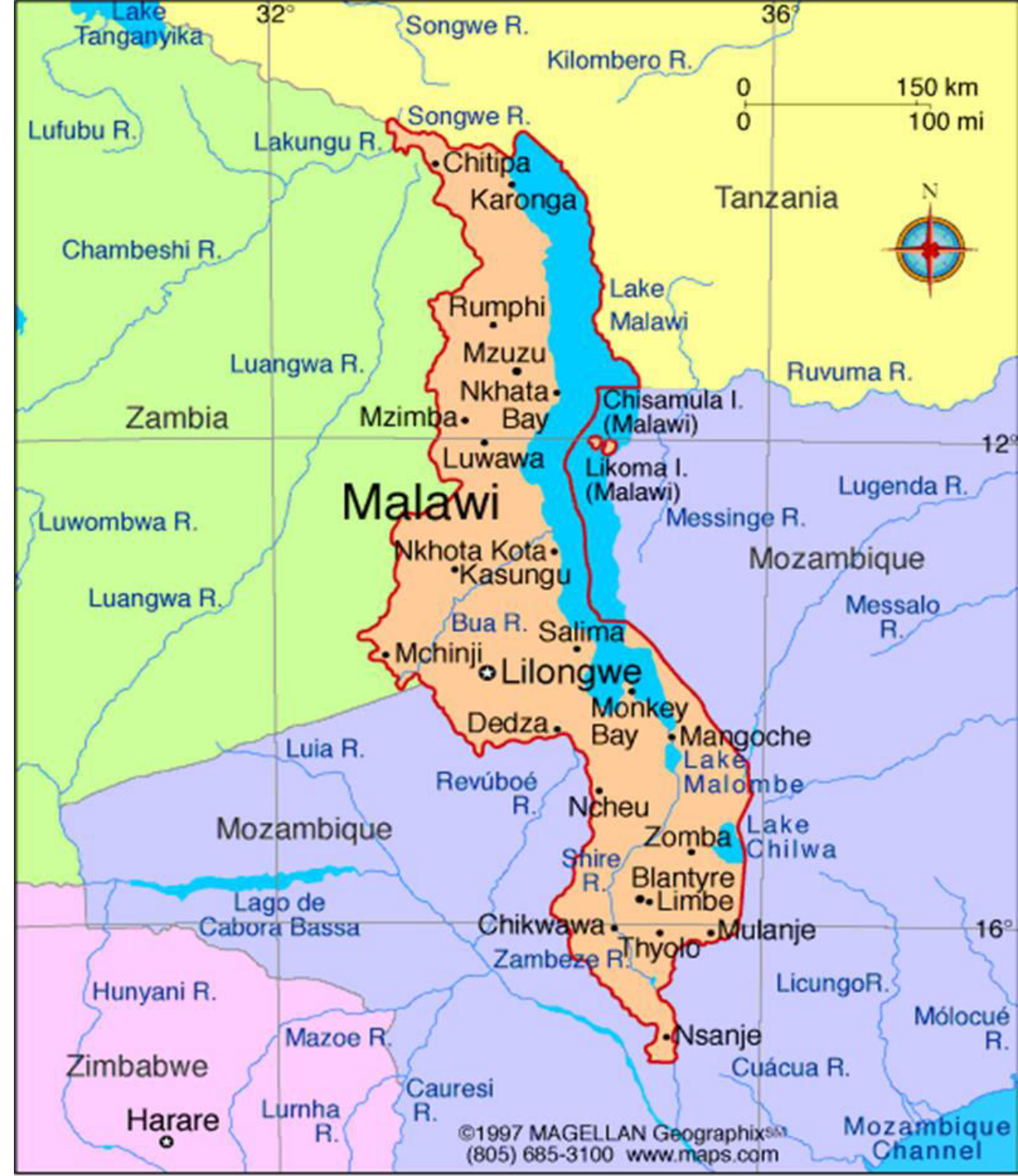
Sneha Mordani



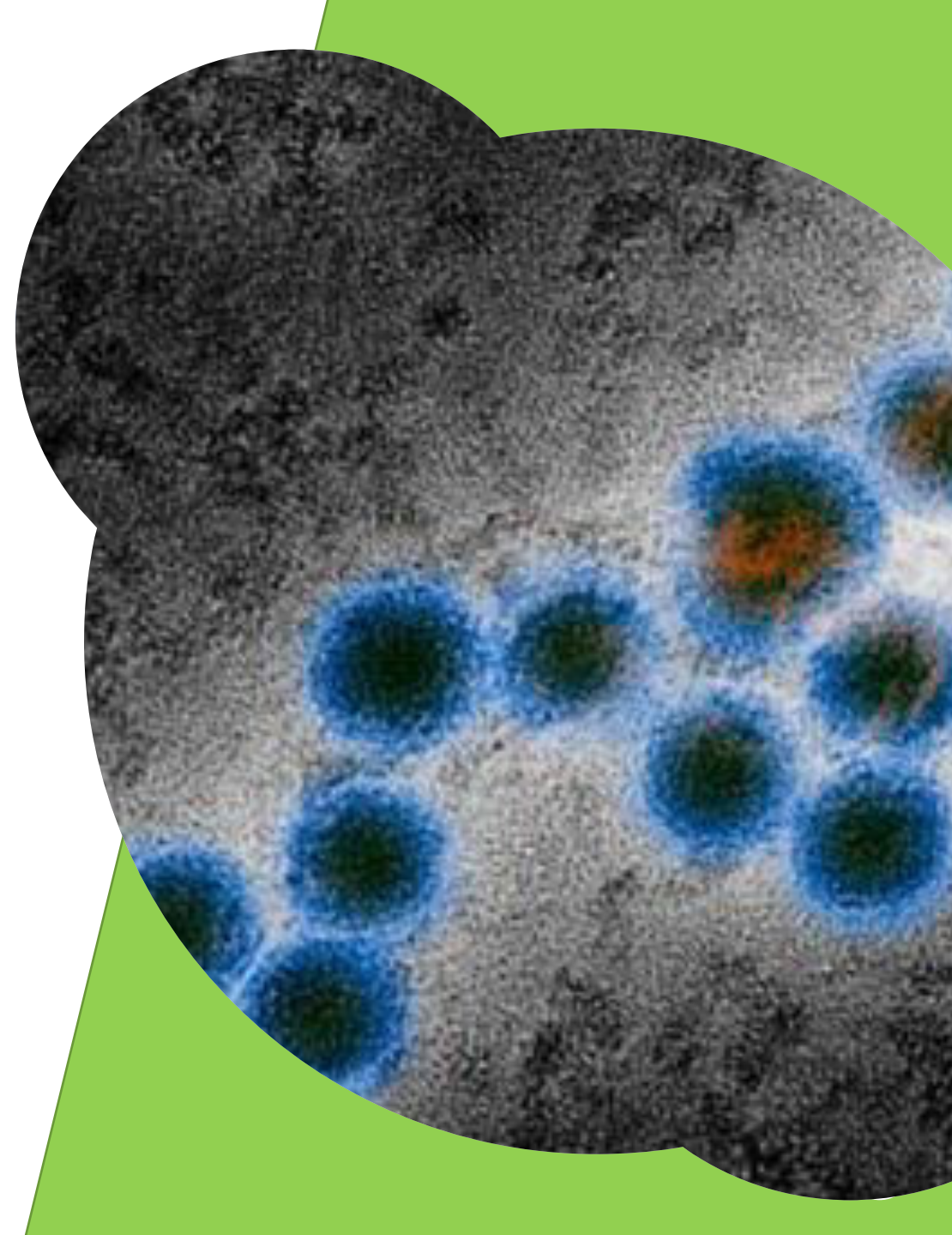
New Delhi

February 18, 2022 UPDATED: February 18, 2022 14:40 IST



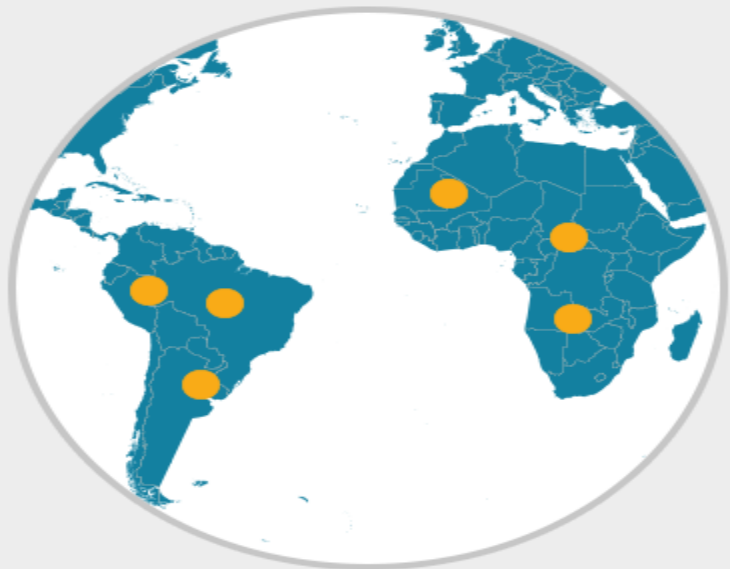


- The WHO said in a statement that laboratory analysis showed the strain detected in Malawi was linked to one that has been circulating in **Pakistan's Sindh province, where it is still endemic.**



What's the difference between an endemic, epidemic and pandemic disease?

Endemic disease



Constantly present
in a population
or region, with
relatively low spread

Epidemic disease



Sudden increase in
cases spreading
through a large
population

Pandemic disease



Sudden increase in
cases across several
countries, continents
or the world

- In November 2021, the World Health Organization (WHO) had stated that cases of wild poliovirus are on the decline.
- Only two cases of the disease were detected last year — both in countries where it remains endemic (Pakistan and Afghanistan).



Wild polio eradicated in Africa

Countries with polio cases in the past 12 months

■ Vaccine-derived poliovirus ■ Wild poliovirus



*Afghanistan and Pakistan also have cases of vaccine-derived poliovirus

Source: WHO (data up to 19 August 2020)



- The case was confirmed after tests were carried out on samples from the infected child who was suffering from paralysis, according to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.
- Polio usually **affects children under five**, sometimes leading to irreversible paralysis. Death can occur when breathing muscles are affected.

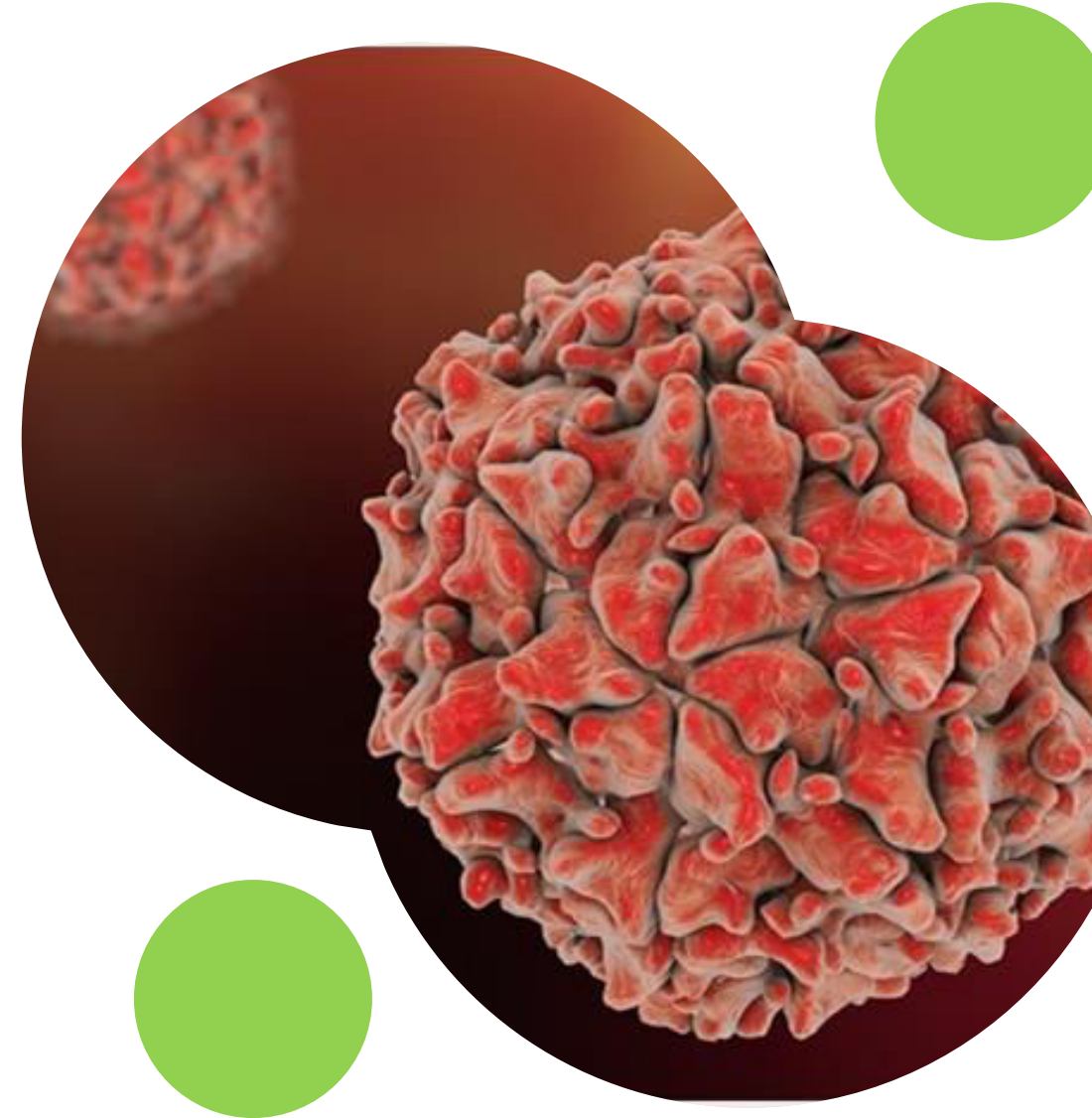


- Twenty-five years ago thousands of children in Africa were paralysed by the virus.

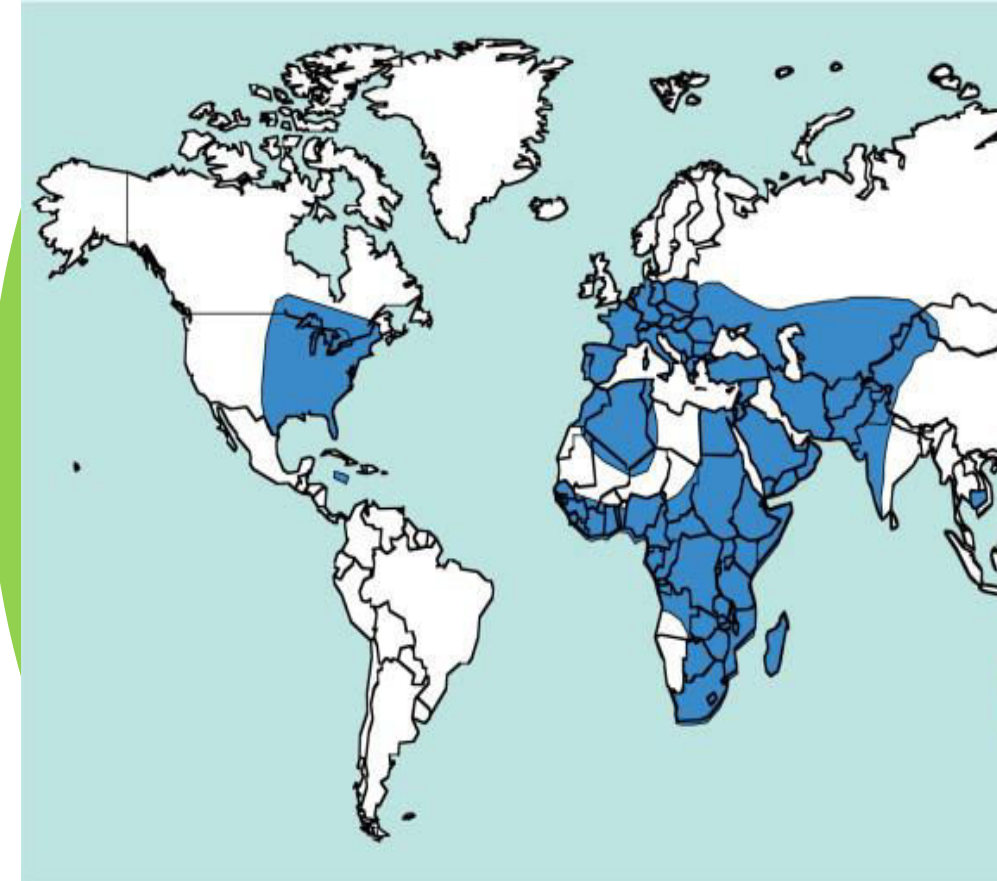


- But following a mass vaccination campaign across the continent 95% of the population has been immunised.
- There is no cure but the polio vaccine protects children for life.

- As an imported case of infection from Pakistan, the detection does not affect the region's wild poliovirus-free certification status, the **Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI)** said in a statement.
- The GPEI is the largest international coalition on public health aimed at eradicating polio. The initiative is led by the World Health Organisation (WHO).



- It is originally originated from Africa, the virus has spread in Europe, Asia and North America.
- It is mainly transmitted through mosquito bites and can lead to a fatal neurological disease in humans, although most people infected never develop any symptoms.


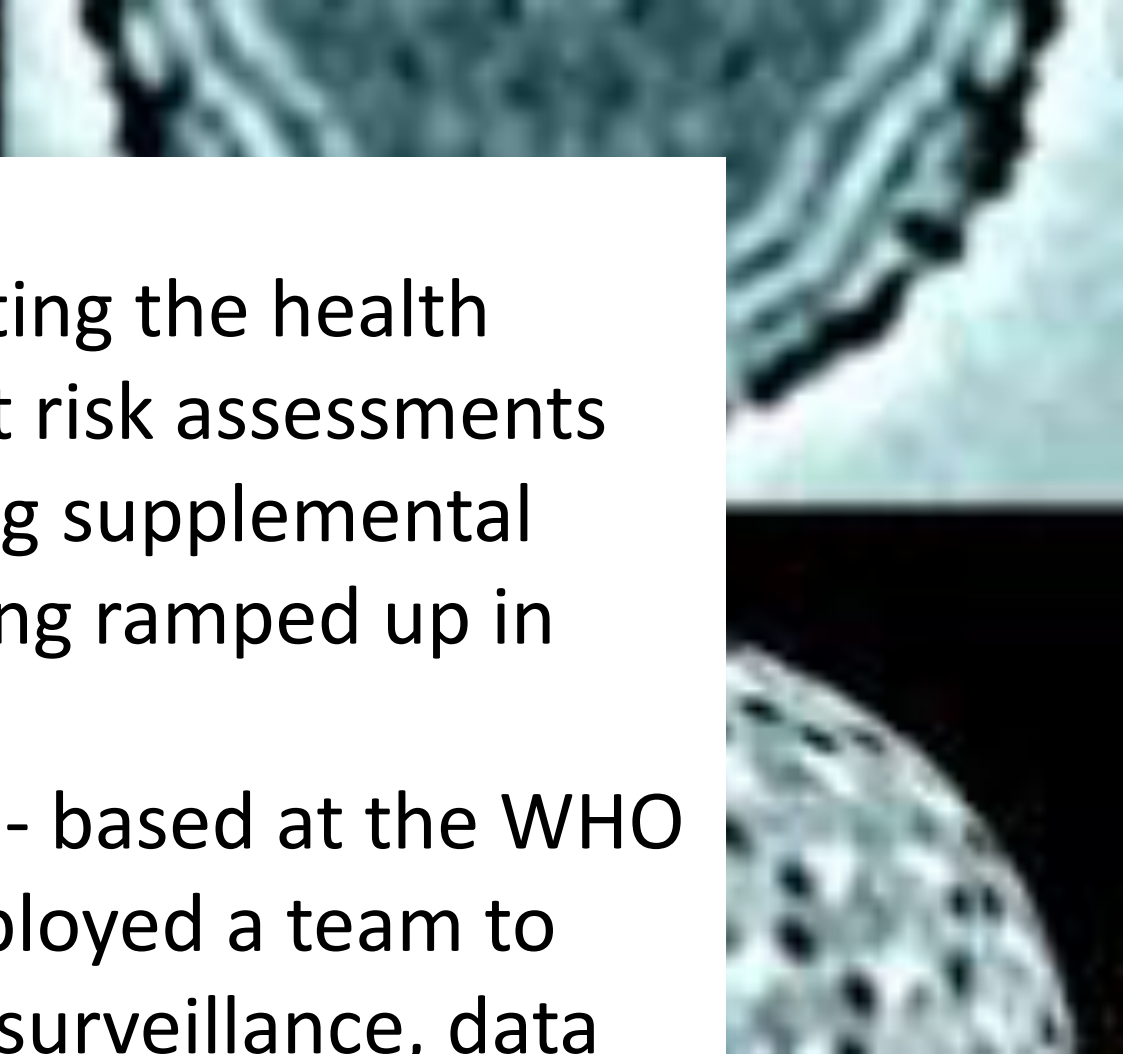


What health bodies are doing to curb spread

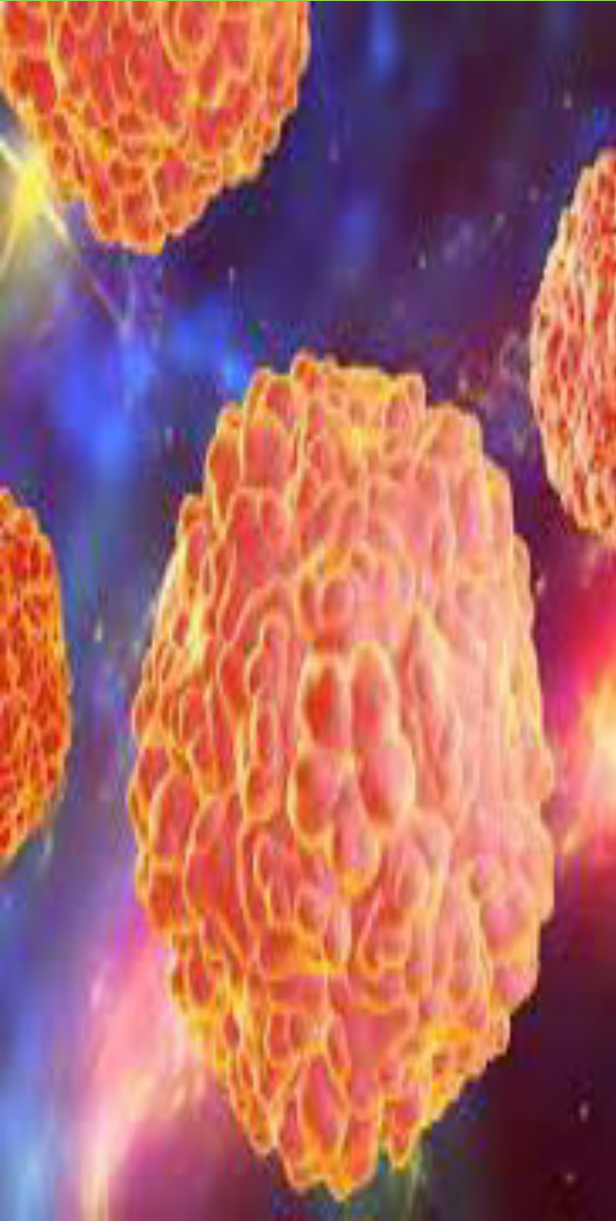


Malawi last recorded a case of wild poliovirus in 1992. The polio eradication programme has seen importations from endemic countries to regions that have been certified wild poliovirus-free in the past, and has moved quickly to successfully stop transmission of the virus in these areas.



- 
- 
- The global health body is supporting the health authorities in Malawi to carry out risk assessments and outbreak responses, including supplemental immunization. Surveillance is being ramped up in neighbouring countries.
 - The GPEI's Rapid Response Team - based at the WHO Regional Office in Africa - has deployed a team to Malawi to support coordination, surveillance, data management, communications, and operations.

More about this disease



- Wild polio is caught from the environment, but there is another type of polio linked to the oral vaccine (which contains live, weakened virus) that is equally worrying.
- It can **linger in the gut, mutate and spread in areas where few people are vaccinated.**

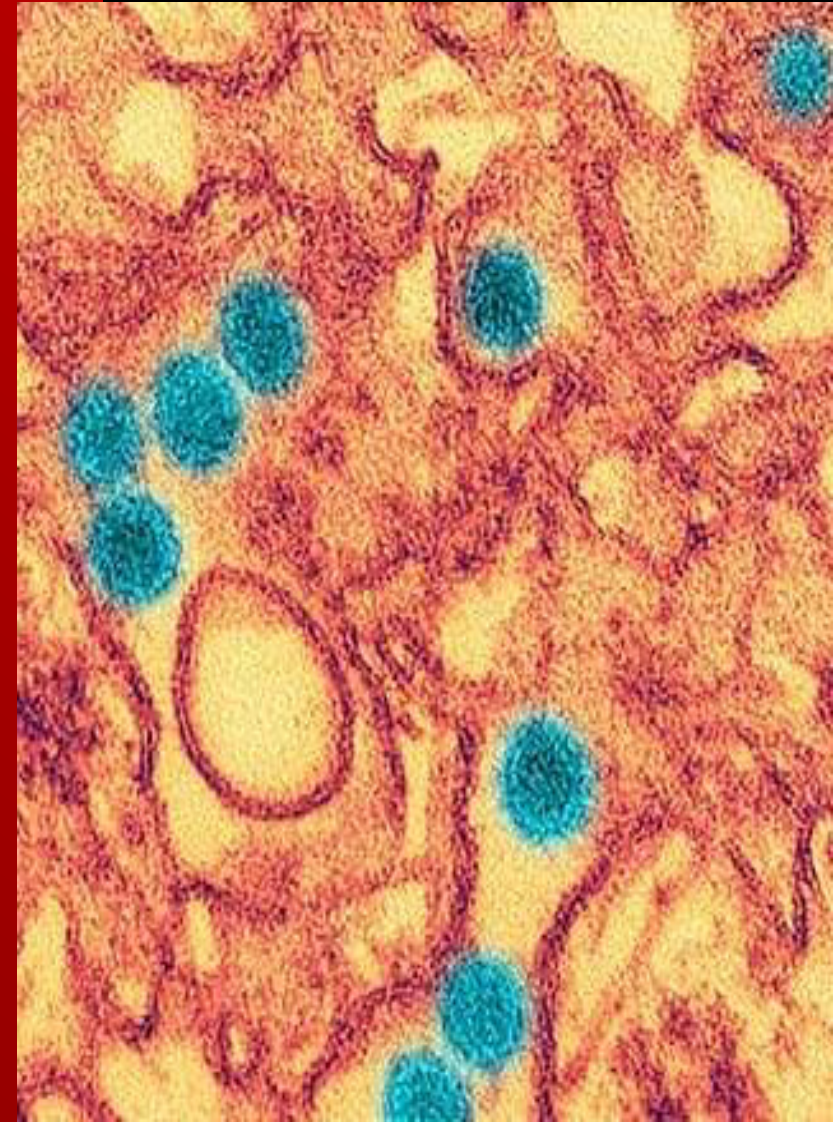
- There have been outbreaks of this form of polio in more than 20 African countries in recent years.
- But an injectable form of the vaccine is now used, containing dead virus, which does not lead to polio cases.





Setback for the continent

- The first case in Africa for five years is devastating for this young girl who faces a lifetime of paralysis. It is also a setback for a continent that thought it had seen the back of wild polio.
- The size of the outbreak is unclear. Only one case has been reported, but paralysis occurs in less than one in 200 polio infections. The immediate goal will be to ensure Malawi does not suffer a large outbreak.

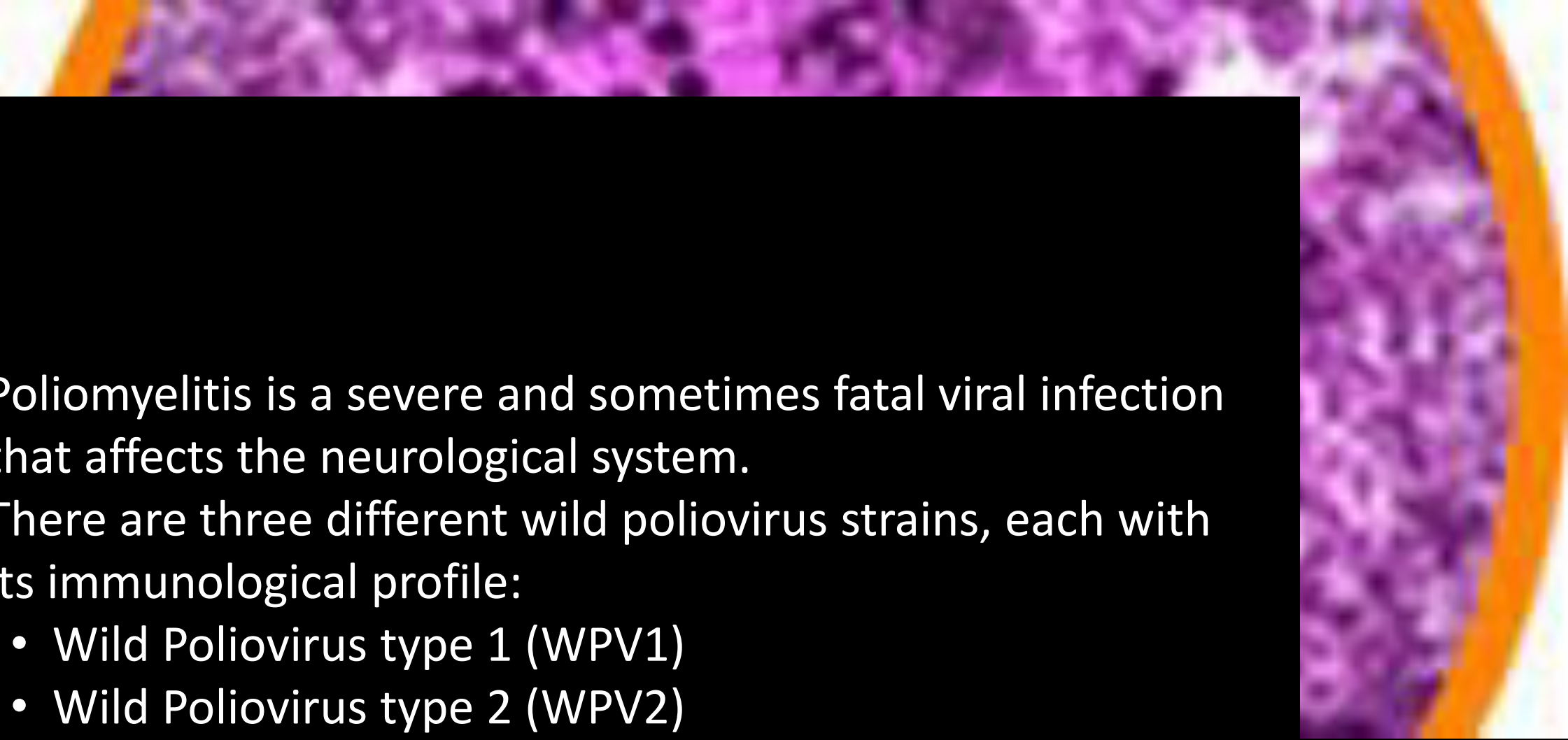


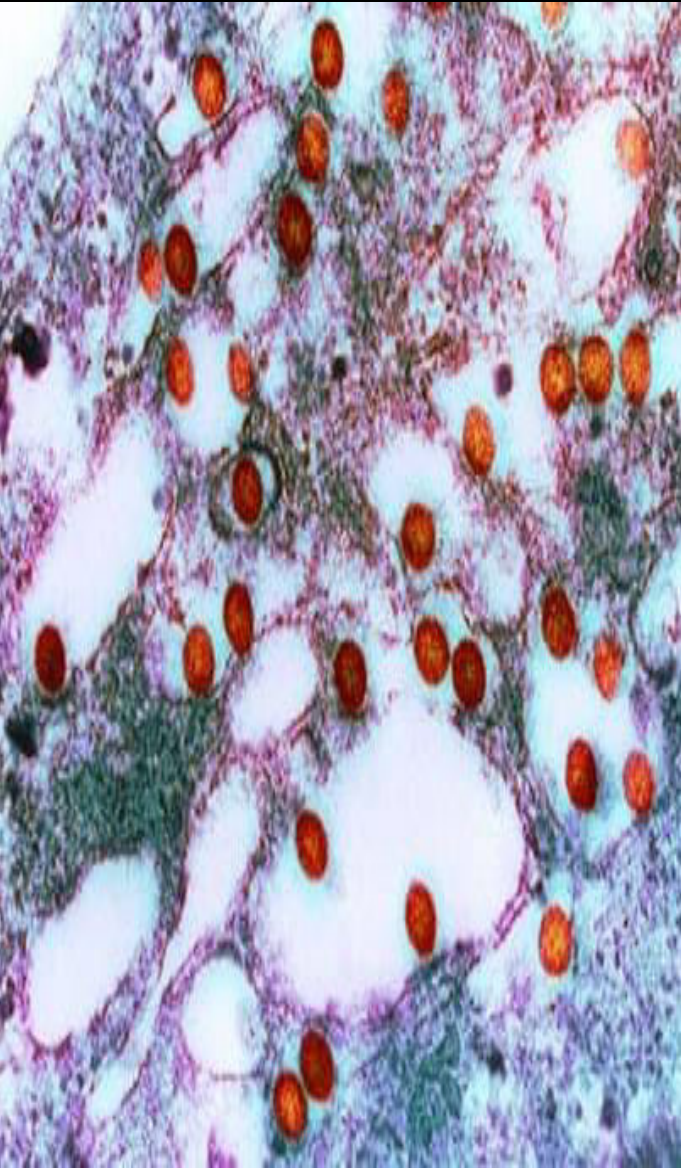


Let's Know about the Polio



- The World Health Organization (WHO) defines polio or poliomyelitis as “a highly infectious viral disease, which mainly affects young children.”
- The virus is transmitted by person-to-person, spread mainly through the faecal-oral route or, less frequently, by a common vehicle (e.g. contaminated water or food) and multiplies in the intestine, from where it can invade the nervous system and can cause paralysis.

- 
- Poliomyelitis is a severe and sometimes fatal viral infection that affects the neurological system.
 - There are three different wild poliovirus strains, each with its immunological profile:
 - Wild Poliovirus type 1 (WPV1)
 - Wild Poliovirus type 2 (WPV2)
 - Wild Poliovirus type 3 (WPV3)



Available Vaccine

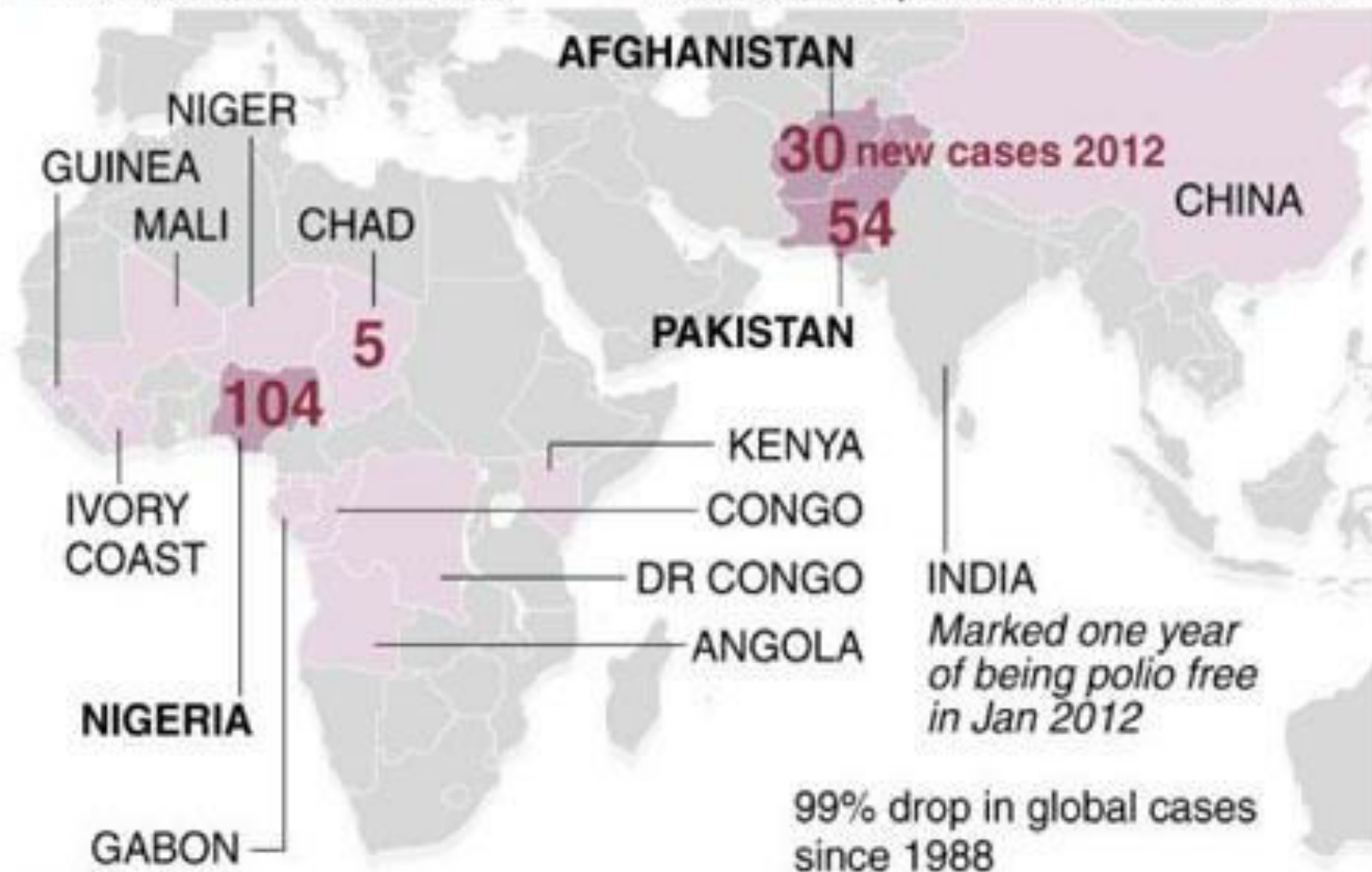
- **Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV):** It is administered orally as a newborn dose in institutional births, followed by three primary doses at 6, 10, and 14 weeks, and one booster dose at 16-24 months of age.
- **IPV (Injectable Polio Vaccine):** Under the Universal Immunisation Programme, it is administered as an extra dosage alongside the third dose of DPT (Diphtheria, Pertussis, and Tetanus) (UIP).

Polio around the world

Endemic only in three countries in 2012

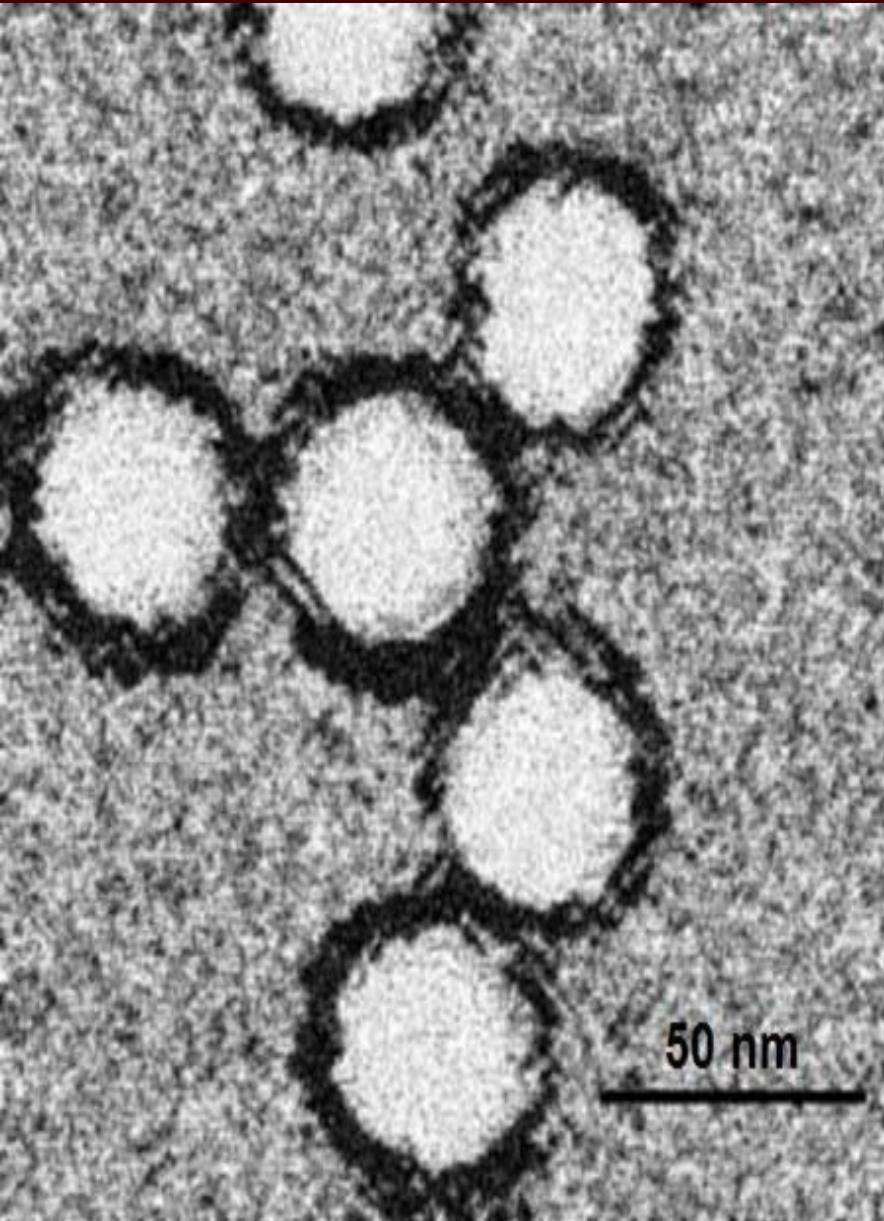
■ Polio-endemic countries

■ New cases reported since start of 2011



99% drop in global cases since 1988

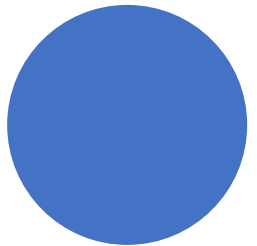
Polio in India



- The WHO on February 24, 2012, removed India from the list of countries with active endemic wild polio virus transmission.
- Two years later, the South-East Asia Region of the WHO, of which India is a part, was certified as polio-free.



Diseases that spread from one person to another are called _____.

- (a) Communicable diseases
 - (b) Degenerative diseases
 - (c) Non-communicable diseases
 - (d) None of the above
- 

UPSC/IAS! (Pre + Mains) Smart Course



EMI Available



Visit studyiq.com or Download The APP

