

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

On behalf of the partners of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) – Rotary International, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Gates Foundation and Gavi – we extend our warmest congratulations on [REDACTED]. This distinguished achievement reflects the tremendous trust and confidence placed in your leadership.

As we face the final and most challenging phase of polio eradication, Germany's role has never been more critical. Since its inception in 1988, the GPEI has made remarkable progress, helping to immunize more than three billion children in 122 countries and reducing global polio cases by 99.9%. The success of the polio programme in particularly complex environments shows that with collaboration and commitment, we can reach children in even the toughest situations. However, we still have critical work to do. Polio is still endemic in Afghanistan and Pakistan – two countries that have worked hard to fight polio but are struggling with unique challenges to reach the least-served children. Additionally, the detection of poliovirus in wastewater across several German cities highlights that polio remains a significant public health threat.

Germany has been a key supporter of the fight against polio. The polio pledging moment at the 2022 World Health Summit in Berlin showcased Germany's exemplary leadership in global government's financial support and unwavering leadership, which continue to be essential to eradicating the virus once and for all. We sincerely hope to build on our shared progress and count [REDACTED] continued, invaluable support in ensuring sustained commitment to this vital cause.

We are, of course, available at any time should you have any questions or wish to engage in further discussion.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]