

1 Polio (Source: Down To Earth)

POLIO

**A PARALYSING DISEASE,
PREVENTABLE AND ERADICABLE**

Polio (poliomyelitis) is a highly infectious disease caused by the poliovirus. It mainly affects children under 5 years of age and can lead to lifelong paralysis or even death. But through vaccination, it can be prevented and the world can be polio-free.



WHAT IS POLIO?



Polio is caused by the poliovirus which spreads from person to person, mainly through the fecal-oral route or contaminated water and food.

HOW DOES IT AFFECT?

The virus attacks the nervous system and can cause irreversible paralysis (usually in the legs). In severe cases, it can lead to difficulty in breathing and can be fatal.



SIGNS & SYMPTOMS



• Fever



• Sore throat

• Headache



• Vomiting

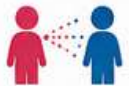
• Fatigue



• Stiffness in neck and limbs

• Sudden weakness or paralysis (usually in legs)

HOW IS IT SPREAD?



By close contact with an infected person.



By consuming contaminated water or food.



Poor sanitation and hygiene increase the risk.

PREVENTION: VACCINATION

Vaccination is the only effective protection against polio.



OPV
(Oral Polio Vaccine) Drops



IPV
(Inactivated Polio Vaccine) Injection

- ✓ Multiple doses give lifelong protection.
- ✓ Ensure every child receives all doses as per the schedule.

WHO IS AT RISK?



Children under 5 years of age are most at risk, but unvaccinated persons of any age can also be infected.

GLOBAL PROGRESS



Polio cases have reduced by more than 99% since 1988.



Only a few countries still report cases.



India has been polio-free since 2014 and was certified polio-free by WHO in 2014.



Global efforts continue to achieve a polio-free world.

WHAT YOU CAN DO



Ensure your child gets every polio vaccine dose.



Participate in every Pulse Polio Immunization (PPI) campaign.



Maintain good hygiene and clean surroundings.



Spread awareness and encourage others.

POLIO-FREE WORLD: OUR GOAL



With continued vaccination, awareness and global cooperation, we can **END POLIO FOREVER** and give children a healthy, paralysis-free future.



VACCINES WORK • POLIO CAN BE PREVENTED • TOGETHER, WE CAN ERADICATE POLIO

GET YOUR CHILD VACCINATED. PROTECT THEIR FUTURE.



DATE: 22 AUGUST 2026

2 Kuril Island (Source: The Hindu)

- Kuril Islands are a disputed territory between Japan and Russia.
- The Kuril Islands are a volcanic archipelago administered as part of the Sakhalin Oblast in the Russian Far East.
- The islands stretch approximately 1,300 km northeast from Hokkaido in Japan to the Kamchatka Peninsula in Russia, separating the Sea of Okhotsk from the North Pacific Ocean.



DATE: 22 AUGUST 2026

3 United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) (Source: Down To Earth)



UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION (UNCCD)

LAND. LIFE. LEGACY.

The UNCCD is the only legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management.



ORIGIN

- In the late 20th century, severe droughts and land degradation—especially in Africa—threatened livelihoods and ecosystems.
- The 1992 Earth Summit in Rio recognized desertification as a global challenge.
- The UNCCD was adopted on 17 June 1994 and entered into force on 26 December 1996.

It was the first legally binding treaty to address land degradation and drought.

WHAT IS UNCCD?

Adopted in 1994 and entered into force in 1996, the UNCCD aims to combat desertification, land degradation and drought in affected countries—particularly in Africa—while promoting sustainable development everywhere.

OBJECTIVES

- Combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought.
- Promote sustainable land management and conservation.
- Contribute to poverty eradication and improvement of the livelihoods of affected populations.
- Address the underlying causes of land degradation.

KEY PROVISIONS

- National Action Programmes (NAPs):** Each Party prepares and implements NAPs with participatory approaches.
- Partnership and Cooperation:** Encourages all stakeholders, including local communities, civil society, private sector and international organizations.
- Scientific Knowledge:** Promotes research, technology transfer and early warning systems.
- Financial Resources:** Developed country Parties provide financial and technical support to affected countries.
- Reporting and Review:** Parties submit reports and participate in a Committee on Science—Policy Interface (CSPi) for guidance.

WHO ARE THE PARTIES?

The UNCCD has 197 Parties (196 countries + European Union), making it one of the most universally ratified UN treaties.

It focuses on areas affected by desertification, land degradation and drought—particularly in Africa, but also in Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and Mediterranean regions.

MAJOR COPS (CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES)

The supreme decision-making body of the Convention.

COP	Year	Location	Key Outcome
COP 1	1997	Rome, Italy	Adopted the Rules of Procedure and set the foundation for implementation.
COP 3	1999	Recife, Brazil	Adopted the 10-Year Strategic Plan and Framework to enhance implementation.
COP 7	2007	Nairobi, Kenya	Adopted the Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.
COP 10	2011	Changwon, Korea	Adopted the Strategy for enhancing financial resources and reviewed progress.
COP 13	2017	Ordos, China	Adopted the Ordos Declaration to boost land restoration and sustainable development.
COP 15	2022	Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire	Adopted the Abidjan Declaration for Land Restoration, Drought Resilience and Tenure Security.
COP 16	2024	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	Focus on drought resilience, innovation, youth engagement and stronger partnerships.

COPs are held every two years.

IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

- Conference of the Parties (COP):** The supreme decision-making body.
- Secretariat:** Based in Bonn, Germany.
- Global Mechanism (GM):** Facilitates knowledge sharing, capacity-building and support.
- Financial Mechanism:** Includes the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other funding sources.

SIGNIFICANCE

- Addresses land degradation, which affects 3.2 billion people globally.
- Supports climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Promotes biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration.
- Key to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 15 (Life on Land).

MAJOR CHALLENGES

- Climate change and increasing frequency of droughts.
- Unsustainable land use and overexploitation.
- Inadequate financial resources and technology.
- Weak governance and lack of capacity at local levels.

THE WAY FORWARD

- Strengthen local communities and indigenous knowledge.
- Invest in sustainable land management and green technologies.
- Enhance international cooperation and financial support.
- Raise awareness and build capacity at all levels.
- Restore land. Unlock opportunities. Build a sustainable future.

SDG 15
Life on Land

HEALTHY LAND. RESILIENT COMMUNITIES. PROSPEROUS FUTURE.
TOGETHER, LET'S RESTORE THE LAND AND SECURE OUR FUTURE.