

End of Polio outbreak in 5 African countries

Prelims: Current events of national and international relations | International relations

Why in News?

The WHO Regional Office for Africa confirmed the end of poliovirus type 2 outbreaks in 5 African countries after independent outbreak assessments conducted recently.

- **Countries** - Burundi, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Republic of Congo, Uganda
- **Basis for Outbreak Closure** -
 - The assessment examined
 - Disease surveillance
 - Laboratory and epidemiological evidence
 - Population immunity
 - Vaccination campaign performance
- **Country-Specific Examples**
 - **Burundi** - Strengthened routine immunisation, investigations and environmental surveillance.
 - **Uganda** - Improved disease surveillance and outbreak response after detection in 2024.
 - **Ghana** - Strengthened laboratory capacity and disease surveillance.
 - **Guinea-Bissau** - Focused on underserved communities; no poliovirus detected since July 2021.
 - **Republic of Congo** - Strengthened surveillance and vaccination; last detection was in December 2023.
- **Risk concerns** -
 - Ending an outbreak does not mean that the threat of polio has disappeared.
 - Countries bordering areas where poliovirus continues to circulate remain vulnerable.
 - Continued high vaccination coverage and strong surveillance are essential to prevent re-emergence.

Polio

- **Polio** is a highly infectious viral disease.
- It can cause irreversible paralysis.
- It is preventable through vaccination.
- Strong surveillance, immunisation and rapid outbreak response are key to stopping transmission.

Reference

[End of Polio outbreak - Five African countries](#)

