

Bill Gates
World Health Summit Video Statement
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Hello everyone.

As Mark shared, our foundation is pledging \$1.2 billion in support of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

In recent months, the news media has been paying more attention to polio lately, because of its reappearance in places like the U.S. and U.K.

But a committed group of people have been paying attention for decades.

It's horrifying to see children paralyzed by a disease that's totally preventable. Polio is a dark illustration of health inequity. There is something incredibly unjust about kids facing a disease that has been nearly wiped out in every part of the world except in their country.

The campaign to end polio also means so much to me because it shows what we can achieve when we work together. The number of annual polio cases has fallen from 350,000 a year in 1988 to less than a thousand a year today. Eradication is very close.

Finally, there's the fact that the tools designed to combat polio have proved vital to fighting other diseases, including COVID-19. Investing in the fight against polio means stronger health systems for everyone.

So we've come a long ways but polio is still a threat. Together we can end that threat forever – if we choose to.

I am grateful to the people of Germany for their strong support of polio eradication efforts. Now it's up to all of us to get the job done. Thank you.