



United States Diplomatic Mission to Nigeria, Public Affairs Section
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PRESS RELEASE

August 27, 2019

For Immediate Release

U.S. Congratulates Nigeria on Wild Polio-free Status, Calls for Vigilance and Improved Routine Immunization

Abuja – U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria Mary Beth Leonard congratulated the government and people of Nigeria for attaining a wild poliovirus-free status after years of joint efforts to qualify Nigeria to be removed from the list of wild polio endemic countries.

“We are proud of our partnership with Nigeria and cherish the cooperation that ensures the country has the technical expertise and resources required for success,” the Ambassador said at an August 24 Town Hall meeting with Embassy staff and polio eradication stakeholders. “No country could have achieved this great feat without the support of its partners.”

She added that the United States stands ready to continue its partnership with Nigeria as it consolidates and builds upon its successes in fighting polio, including strengthening routine immunization, and improving the health of children and their families.

The certification comes after four years without any reported cases of polio in Nigeria and following an in-depth review and acceptance of the country’s certification documentation.

Ambassador Leonard said she is confident that Nigeria has strategies in place to ensure the gains made in the polio eradication efforts are not lost and that the momentum achieved in achieving this certification continues. Despite the certification, a resurgence of polio can still occur.

It is therefore critical that the country’s disease surveillance system is sensitive enough to quickly detect and respond to diseases.

Ambassador Leonard recognized the role of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) at the forefront of partnering with the people of Nigeria toward polio eradication efforts in the country.

Since 2012, the CDC and USAID have invested approximately \$150 million and \$70 million, respectively, toward Nigeria's polio eradication efforts. The agencies work in Nigeria at the state and local levels to strengthen surveillance, polio campaigns, polio outbreak response efforts, and routine immunization.

Implementing partners include: the African Field Epidemiology Network, Core Group Partners Program, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, UNICEF, and World Health Organization.

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***ABOUT CDC:** CDC Nigeria is the country office of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, with a vision of Public Health Excellence for Healthy Nigerians. The office supports the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH), states ministries of health and several key partners in the development, implementation, and evaluation of disease response efforts and programs that contribute to a strengthened public health infrastructure in Nigeria.*

***ABOUT USAID:** USAID leads international development and humanitarian efforts to save lives, reduce poverty, strengthen democratic governance and help people progress beyond assistance, supports transparent and accountable governance, promotes a more market-led economy, and enhances Nigeria's capacity as a responsible regional and trade partner. For more information about USAID and its programs, please visit www.usaid.gov. Follow us [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).*

PHOTO CAPTION: Since 2012, the CDC and USAID have invested approximately \$220 million toward Nigeria's polio eradication effort.

Relevant information about U.S. policies and programs in Nigeria can be found on our websites: <http://nigeria.usembassy.gov> and www.usaid.gov/ng



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CLEARANCE PAGE FOR CDC-USAID PRESS RELEASE ON POLIO

Date: 8/27/2020

Approved: AMB Leonard () Date

Drafted: CDC – HUsman, x 4567

Cleared:		Date
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