

## Eradication

In 1988, the World Health Organisation (WHO) undertook to eradicate wild poliovirus from the world, by the year 2000. Eradication is being achieved by means of:<sup>4</sup>

- Mass immunisation programs;
- Careful surveillance; and
- Targeting areas in which wild virus persists.

Despite the extensive, worldwide use of polio vaccines, polio has not been eradicated. As of 1 May 1999, 6277 polio cases with onset during 1998 were reported world-wide. Poliovirus transmission is now largely confined to southern Asia and parts of Africa. In the European Region, polio transmission is confined to south-eastern Turkey. The Western Pacific Region has not detected wild poliovirus since March 1997 and the Region of the Americas has been polio-free since 1991.<sup>32</sup>