**Ashley Low - Bhutan**

Thank you, Megan. Today I'll be focusing on Bhutan and its' efforts to eradicate polio. Bhutan first established their Immunization Programme in 1979, with a goal of protecting children against vaccine preventable diseases. To address subnational coverage gaps and equity challenges, vaccination records of more than 2,500 children under the age of 15 from urban and highland communities were reviewed. Children who had missed vaccines were identified quickly and provided with the required doses. These efforts focused on reaching those hard-to-reach populations and ensuring that no child was left unprotected. Thanks to their hard work, Bhutan's last reported clinical case of polio was in 1986, about 40 years ago. Sustained vaccination alongside an expanding health system, and disease surveillance helped the country maintain that achievement.

Today, as recent as January of this year, the World Health Organization confirms that Bhutan continues to maintain its polio-free status. The geography of Bhutan makes this an ongoing challenge that their government remains dedicated to. Reaching remote mountain communities requires reliable outreach and vaccine storage, which Bhutan is responding to by continuing their programme of "catch-up" vaccination, digital temperature monitoring, and solar-powered vaccine storage equipment in facilities affected by power outages. Bhutan remains focused on providing sustained public-health work in order to maintain the health of their community.