

STATUS OF POLIO ERADICATION Information Provided By Rotary International As of March 14th – 27th, 2014

We are at a “tipping point” for polio eradication.

- 11 South-East Asia countries certified polio free – see enclosed World Health Organization release March 27th.
- There have been **33** reported polio cases globally in 2014 (as of 12 March 2014).
- There were **406** reported polio cases globally in 2013.
- 80% of the world’s population is now in CERTIFIED polio-free regions.
- In Afghanistan, no indigenous cases of wild poliovirus were reported in 2013 - all cases were linked to cross-border transmission with neighboring Pakistan.
- One polio case has been reported in Afghanistan in 2014 (14 Jan 2014)
- The last case of type 3 wild poliovirus was 10 November 2012.
- In 2013, polio cases in the **endemic countries** were approximately 40 percent lower than in 2012. Most of the world’s polio cases (240 out of 406) were from **outbreaks** in previously polio-free countries (including Syria, Somalia, Kenya, Cameroon and Ethiopia).

Polio-free countries remain at risk for outbreaks until endemic transmission is stopped. Polio anywhere is a threat to unimmunized children everywhere.

- More than half of 2013 polio cases were due to **polio outbreaks in parts of Africa and the Middle East.**
- Outbreak response was strong and swift, with multiple mass immunization rounds in the weeks following the first reported cases.
- Rotarians across the Middle East and Africa supported emergency campaigns with volunteer hours during NIDs; funding; and by raising awareness.
- Rotary also released \$500,000 for Horn of Africa outbreak response.
- Rotary released \$500,000 in funds to WHO for Middle East outbreak response.

We have a real opportunity to end polio forever, thanks to tremendous progress.

- Since the global initiative began more than 25 years, Rotary and its partners have reduced polio cases by 99 percent worldwide.
- When the initiative started in 1988, more than 350,000 people were stricken by polio every year - nearly 1,000 new polio cases every day.
- The polio cases represented by the remaining one percent are the most difficult to prevent, due to factors such as geographical isolation, poor public infrastructure, armed conflict and cultural barriers.

Funding the Polio Eradication Endgame Strategic Plan from 2013 through 2018 will cost US\$5.5 billion. At the 2013 Global Vaccine Summit in Abu Dhabi, governments and philanthropists made pledges totaling US\$4 billion.

- The endgame plan is based on in-depth, data-driven calculation of costs.
- Full, upfront funding commitments give the polio program predictability, certainty and unrelenting focus.

- Fully funding the plan protects vaccination campaigns from being delayed or cancelled, and allows the program to maximize investment.
- Rotary is working to help ensure that those pledges are met, and to help raising the remaining \$1.5 billion.

WHY POLIO

Polio anywhere is a risk to children everywhere.

- There are only three countries where the wild poliovirus has never been stopped: Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan.
- However, until polio is stopped, unimmunized children everywhere remain at risk.
- **Polio is “only a plane ride away.”**
- Outbreaks (genetically traced back to the three endemic countries) continue to threaten previously polio-free countries.

We will make history by ending polio which will reap benefits for generations to come.

- Polio will be only the second human disease ever eradicated (after smallpox)
- No child anywhere in the world will have to suffer from this debilitating disease.
- Ending polio is a concrete, achievable goal that will benefit global health.
- Ending polio is proof that all children can be protected from vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Polio efforts are reaching previously inaccessible children, which opens the door to them benefiting from other global health and development resources.

Economic Benefits: US\$40-50 billion in benefits when the goal is achieved.

- More than 10 million cases of life-long polio paralysis have been prevented
- Polio eradication is cost-effective. A 2010 study by KidRisk estimates the net benefits are between US\$ 40-50 billion through 2035; low-income countries account for 85% of savings.
- Between US\$17-90 billion in additional savings from add-ons such as Vitamin A.

ROTARY’S ROLE

As the volunteer arm of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, polio eradication is Rotary’s top philanthropic goal and the catalyst behind the effort.

- Rotary’s chief role is fundraising, advocacy, awareness raising and mobilizing volunteers.
- GPEI partners: World Health Organization, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, the Gates Foundation, and world governments.
- Rotary’s involvement started with a successful pilot project to immunize children in the Philippines in 1979.
- Since 1985, polio eradication has been Rotary’s flagship project, with members donating time and money to help immunize more than 2 billion children in 122 countries.

FOR GENERAL MEDIA INFORMATION

Robyn Braley, President
UniMark Creative
Tel: (403) 280-1093 Cell: (403) 829-3340
Email: robyn@unimarkcreative.com
www.unimarkcreative.com

FOR CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Patrick Killoran, District Governor
Rotary District 5360
Tel: 403 - 328 7600 Cell: 403 - 393 0506
Email: killoran.rotary@shaw.ca
www.discon.rotary5360.ca