

1. Introduction – End Polio Now!

Polio is more geographically focused than ever before, yet some challenges remain. This presentation will provide an update on the status of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, the role of Rotary International in the effort, and what Rotarians can do to support Rotary’s US\$200 Million Challenge. We must End Polio Now (*click*).

Rotary is not alone in its effort to eradicate polio (*click*). We are one of four spearheading partners of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative which also includes the World Health Organization, UNICEF and the Centers for Disease Control... (*click*)

...in support of the governments of the world, both in the polio-affected and donor countries... (*click*)

With the recent tremendous support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

2. Global Progress

When Rotary launched its PolioPlus program in 1985, there were over 350,000 cases of polio each year- 1,000 cases per day, in over 125 countries. Today (*click*), annual cases of polio paralysis are down to fewer than 1700 a year—that’s a 99% reduction in the number of infections worldwide. In 2009, only four countries remain polio endemic – India, Nigeria, Pakistan and Afghanistan. This is the lowest number in history and, more importantly, polio only circulates in limited geographic areas in each country.

3. Progress in India

For example (*click*), most of southern India is polio free as you can see from this map. The Indian Expert Advisory Committee that met in June 2009 determined that the epidemiologic, virologic, genetic, operational and technical evidence all suggest that India is firmly on the right path to finish eradication. A primary focus will be on improving vaccination activities in the Kosi river area of Bihar and accessing mobile populations moving out of Uttar Pradesh.

4. Progress in Nigeria

Nigeria has made tremendous progress in reducing the number of the more dangerous type 1 polio cases (indicated by the red dots) in the northern states from 2008 (*click*) to 2009. Because of the aggressive use of the monovalent type 1 polio vaccine, the northern states are now reporting more type 3 cases. Efforts are underway to significantly improve campaign quality in the entire country with renewed political commitment at the federal and state level.

5. Progress in Pakistan and Afghanistan

In Pakistan and Afghanistan (*click*), polio transmission continues especially in the highly populated Sindh province of Pakistan, among mobile groups, and in communities who live in insecure areas. To reach these “hard to reach” populations, immunization posts have been set up at key migrant gathering areas and known border crossings between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Rotary this year supplied two immunization booths at one of the crossings on each side of the border. Immunization campaigns are being synchronized in these areas to vaccinate children that are traveling within these groups. In addition, Days of Tranquility have been negotiated in 11 of the highest risk districts in Afghanistan and children fleeing conflict in Pakistan are being immunized in refugee camps.

6. Global Polio Cases 2009

In 2008 there were 1651 cases of polio. As of 9 Sept 2009, there have been 969 reported cases. Pakistan and Afghanistan have nearly eradicated polio. In India, a majority of the cases are the less virulent type 3. Work needs to be done in Nigeria, but recent political commitments from Nigeria along with intense advocacy efforts by Rotary and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation make us optimistic that we will see progress very soon. Nigeria is responsible for infecting several other previously polio-free countries with the polio virus as indicated by the “others” category.

7. New Bivalent Vaccine

As noted earlier, countries such as Nigeria and India have effectively dealt with one type of polio only to suffer a major outbreak of the other type of polio (*click*). To address this issue, a new bivalent vaccine has been developed that is superior to the trivalent vaccine that worked against all three types of polio and is almost as effective as the monovalent vaccines that work against just one type of polio. This new vaccine will be used strategically where both types of polio are circulating to more effectively reduce the number of polio cases.

8. Commitment by Global Leaders

Political commitment in support of polio eradication is high not only in the endemic countries, but also globally. Rotary International was privileged to have the Secretary General of the United Nations address the 2009 Convention in Birmingham. The Secretary General has been very supportive of Rotary and polio eradication efforts. He has personally administered polio vaccine to children, written to the heads of state of the four remaining polio endemic countries, and negotiated Days of Tranquility in conflict countries such as Afghanistan in order to allow polio vaccinations to take place. He is a good friend to Rotary and to polio eradication.

9. Commitment by Global Leaders

At this critical time in the effort, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative is enjoying unprecedented political support not only from the United Nations Secretary General, but from other world leaders such United States President Barack Obama. Three of the four remaining polio endemic countries are member states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference: Nigeria, Pakistan and Afghanistan. This statement of commitment from the US government has energized the polio eradication effort and galvanized support for the program.

10. Commitment by Global leaders

Rotary was privileged to have another recognized world leader at the International Assembly in January 2009 (*click*). At that meeting, Bill Gates announced that the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation had awarded US\$255 million to Rotary International to support the global effort to eradicate polio, in addition to the Gates Foundation's 2007 grant of \$100 million (*click*).

The two challenge grants now total \$355 million, of which Rotary has committed to matching \$200 million by 30 June 2012.

11. Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge

This new fundraising effort is called Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge.

12. Fundraising Progress

At the June 2009 Convention in Birmingham, The Trustee Chair announced that Rotarians had already raised over US\$90 million—almost one-half--of the US\$200

million goal. Momentum and enthusiasm are strong as Rotarians see that while there is hard work ahead, the end of polio is in sight with global commitment at the highest level yet.

13. What are Rotarians Being Asked to Do?

Each club is being challenged to organize a public fundraising event each year for the three years of the challenge. Rotaract and Interact clubs are also asked to participate and contribute to the challenge. They can organize fundraising events independently or in conjunction with their sponsor clubs. The entire family of Rotary is invited to participate in Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge.

14. What are Rotarians Being Asked to Do?

Clubs are being asked to commit to a goal for next three years. Clubs are encouraged to reach out to the public to secure contributions for Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge.

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Individual Rotarians are also invited to personally take part in the challenge, with special emphasis on newer members and clubs who have not had the opportunity to participate in PolioPlus, Rotary's priority program.

16. Fundraising Successes

There is no limit to the creativity of Rotarians and the family of Rotary when it comes to raising money for polio eradication. Here, an Interact student paints a child's finger purple—in this case in return for a contribution-- just as is done during national immunization days to indicate that a child has been immunized.

17. Fundraising Successes

Raising awareness about Rotary's role in polio eradication is also an important element of Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge. A car magnet sold as a fundraiser also communicates a message to the community. And local Rotarians braved the cold waters off of Scotland at a New Year's Day fundraiser for his club. For more fundraising ideas, subscribe to the End Polio Now electronic newsletter via the Rotary website.

18. Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge

Both Cash and District Designated Funds will be accepted to help meet the challenge. (*click*).

Contributions to the Challenge will qualify for Paul Harris Fellow and Major Donor recognition

19. Contributions by Text Message

This is a tool available in the U.S and a limited number of other countries. You can use it at your fundraisers or public events as a way to make giving even easier.

20. PolioPlus Expenditures

While focusing on raising funds for polio eradication, it is important for Rotarians to know how PolioPlus funds are spent and today I'd like to provide an overview for you.

21. PolioPlus Expenditures

PolioPlus funds for the most part are spent in three major categories of activities: operational support, surveillance and social mobilization which are defined on this slide.

A very small amount of funding is allocated for research as per our agreement with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Almost 100% of the funding is granted to WHO and UNICEF. These organizations submit joint proposals to the International PolioPlus Committee which meets three times per year. The proposals are vetted with input from our advisors.

The International PolioPlus Committee then makes recommendations for funding to the Trustees who make the final decisions.

A very small amount of funding supports the administrative requirements of our National PolioPlus Committee Chairs in the polio endemic and polio-affected countries.

22. PolioPlus Expenditures-by activity

This pie chart shows the distribution of polio funds since 2002. As you can see, most of the funding has been granted for operational support; those activities required getting the vaccine in to the mouths of children, followed by surveillance and social mobilization. Since 2002, grant expenditures are just over US\$300 million.

23. PolioPlus Expenditures-by country

This pie chart shows in which countries Rotary makes grants. The majority of funding since 2002 has been spent in the four remaining polio endemic countries: India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria. The balance of funding supports activities in the high risk and importation countries such as Angola, Chad, Ethiopia, Nepal, Niger, Sudan, and others.

24. End Polio Now!

The world is on the brink of eradicating polio (*click*). Political commitment is at a high point. There is evidence of progress in India and Nigeria. It has been documented that over a 20 year period, the cost of controlling and treating polio would be higher, in human suffering and dollars, than the cost of finishing eradication. Over 200,000 children a year would be paralyzed, if we don't finish. We cannot—will not-- let that happen. We made a promise to the children of the world that we must keep. I ask you to support Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge. **We must End Polio Now!**