



## **WHAT ROTARY IS DOING**

**Updated April 2014**

### **GLOBAL**

#### **Rotary's biggest impact has been fundraising, advocacy, and community engagement**

- Rotary is the community-based, volunteer arm of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI)
- We have 1.2 million members who live and work in these communities

#### **Polio eradication is Rotary's top philanthropic goal.**

- After a pilot project in the Philippines in 1979, Rotary launched its PolioPlus program in 1985, the first global effort to eradicate polio.
- This served as the catalyst for the World Health Organization (WHO), U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and UNICEF to join with Rotary to form the GPEI in 1988.
- Since 1985, Rotary members have donated their time and money to help immunize more than 2 billion children in 122 countries.
- To date, Rotary has raised more than US\$1 billion dollars and committed countless volunteer hours to fight the disease.

#### **Rotary members around the world advocate to ensure governments, the private sector and the general public are aware of this historic opportunity to eradicate polio.**

- Rotary members work to engage all levels of government, to encourage them to provide the necessary financial and political support.
- Rotary's advocacy efforts have played a role in decisions by donor governments to contribute over \$9 billion to the effort.
- Government involvement is critical to raising the \$5.5 billion needed to finish the job.

### **PAKISTAN (ENDEMIC COUNTRY)**

More than 3,000 Rotary members live in Pakistan, the majority of who are heavily engaged in the fight to end polio

**Coordinating vaccinations at cross-border and transit points is an important way to reach migrant and inaccessible children.** In particular, children in Pakistan's FATA region are not being vaccinated due to a ban by religious leaders. They are vaccinated upon entry/exit at border points, where the Afghanistan border (Torkham) meets Peshawar in KPK and Spin Boldak meets the Chaman border in Balochistan.

- In 2012, Rotary installed two mobile health clinics at the entry and exit checkpoints (Toll Plaza) connecting Karachi to other parts of Sindh. These mobile clinics, supervised by WHO, are staffed 24/7. On average, 800-1,000 children are targeted at both exit and entry points daily.
- A similar permanent vaccination transit post (PVTP) was established 47 kilometers away from the Pak-Afghan border in Kila Abdullah in Balochistan, one of Pakistan's high risk districts.
- Rotary is a core part of those working to bring PVTPs to Punjab, and has with immediate effect ordered two PTPs to be made for two transit points at Mandi Mor, Lari Ada District Rawalpindi and Khurd in District Attock. Both these districts are bordering the KPK province. Both PTPs will be ready by end Jan. and transported to these districts. Additional PTPs for Punjab are also in the pipeline for 2014.



- Three additional PVTP s are in the pipeline for Karachi and one for Turbat in Balochistan. Yes, three additional PVTPs were made, but two were placed in Interior Sindh at the behest of WHO at Gharo (Sindh/Balochistan border) and Jacobabad; the third was placed in Gujranwalla, on the GT Road, where travellers from KPK enter Punjab.

**Recently, Pakistan agreed to immunize children in vaccination points set up in the international terminals of the airports.**

- Prior to this decision, Pakistan National PolioPlus Chairman (NPPC) Mr. Aziz Memon met with the Pakistani government and proposed delivering the polio vaccine at all airports for domestic and international flights. The airport at Karachi has polio booths made at International and Domestic terminals, made by Rotary, but placed outside the airport. We are awaiting approval from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to place these booths inside the airport terminals, to target inbound and outbound passengers. Please see in a separate email, letter written to the Focal Person by the National Chair.
- Rotary provided vests, caps and kiosks for airport terminals; and provides the same to our partners WHO; Govt. of Pakistan & UNICEF on their request during polio campaigns.

**In December 2012, the Pakistan Rotary Polio Resource Center in Killa Abdullah organized a workshop attended by nearly 50 local community leaders, tribal elders and social activists.**

- They were invited to give their perceptions of the polio vaccine.
- Following the workshop, these influential community leaders agreed to advocate for the vaccine.
- Rotary is now working to replicate this activity in other Pushtun communities.
- Community meetings are organized as part of the Resource Centre activity in Sindh and Balochistan and KPK, on a weekly basis.

**Rotary has organized health camps in high-risk districts for polio.**

- These health camps facilitate the dissemination of health offerings in needy and underprivileged communities.
- On average, 1,000 – 1,500 people benefit from the free health camps.
- This is a “lesson learned” from India, where the use of health camps helped interrupt transmission of the disease.
- The aim of the resource centers is to strengthen routine immunization in newborns and infants, create awareness about polio and build confidence in the vaccine in the surrounding communities.
- We have 13 permanent immunization centres across the country.

**Rotary undertakes steps to educate the public about polio and the vaccine.**

- In October 2013, Rotary launched a “speaking book” in Pakistan on World Polio Day, in conjunction with UNICEF. This book, entitled “A Story of Health,” has audio text available in Urdu and Pashto languages, and educates Pakistani parents and children about polio. 5,000 copies were distributed.
- In April and March 2013, some 22 billboards on polio were installed in different cities of Pakistan for the S/NIDs with the goal of raising awareness among the local populations.
- Pakistan’s National PolioPlus Committee made an animation for public consumption on polio, which is used in health camps, seminars, community meetings, etc .
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**In April 2012, Rotary in Pakistan handed over 45,000 vaccine carriers to ensure the vaccine stays cold.**

- The oral polio vaccine has to be kept below a certain temperature to remain viable.
- Rotary has funded 135,000 vaccine carriers for the children of Pakistan.
- Rotary Pakistan & Coca Cola collaborated on the Reverse Osmosis (RO) Water Filtration Plant, which was just inaugurated on January 4, 2014 at the Malir permanent immunization center. The center serves which serves a community of approximately 20,000 people. The RO plant will provide clean potable water to people (clean water/sanitation is a crucial part of stopping transmission of the disease).

**NIGERIA (ENDEMIC COUNTRY)**

More than 6,000 Rotary members live in Nigeria. This large network is engrained in the fight to end polio in a number of ways.

**Rotary District 9125, in collaboration with Nigeria's National PolioPlus Committee, will be organizing a polio summit event to occur in April 2014.**

- Those involved in the Nigerian polio eradication program, members of the Nigerian federal government, international partners, stakeholders, and others are expected to attend.

**A key principle of Rotary's PolioPlus program is distributing additional health and humanitarian services in conjunction with vaccination activities, where appropriate** (or, giving a "plus" in addition to the polio vaccine). In 2013, Rotary:

- Distributed insecticide-treated nets (ITNs) to health facilities for distribution to women who bring their children for immunization support. ITNs have been proven an effective way to prevent malaria. This incentive encourages parents to bring their children for routine immunizations (including polio).
- Donated 100 cartons of bar soap in high-risk districts in Borno state. Donated hundreds of cartons of bar soap to other high-risk states, including Kaduna, Katsina, Zamfara, Sokoto and Kebbi.
- Donated sweets and balloons in high-risk states, which helped incentivize parents to bring out their children for immunizations.

**At the end of 2012, a team of Indian, Rotarian doctors traveled to Abuja to conduct about 400 polio-corrective surgeries on young polio victims.**

- Rotary provided calipers (leg braces) for the operated patients, to assist with improved mobility post-surgery.
- In April 2014, the Nigerian government requested that Rotary assist with another 650 cases. Rotarians in India and Nigeria are currently working together to organize this undertaking, which will greatly improve the quality of life for those children impacted.
- The 2012 polio-corrective surgeries also granted the Rotarian doctors access to Nigerian parents, allowing them to persuade parents to permit their children to be vaccinated against polio.



**Sani Musa Danja, a popular Nigerian actor and musician, joined Rotary as a polio ambassador in 2013.**

- Sani helped with public education, including countering propaganda against the oral polio virus and encouraging parents to get their children vaccinated.
- A jingle developed by Rotary and Sani Danja was aired before and during September 2013 immunizations rounds in Kano to further create awareness and ensure more children are reached. The recorded jingle was later sent to other high-risk states for use before immunization rounds.
- Sani, in conjunction with Rotary's NPPC for Nigeria, undertook four "roadshows" in Kano in September, where Sani spoke with community leaders and the public to encourage immunization.

**Funke Akindele, a well-known Nollywood star, joined Rotary as a 'polio ambassador in 2013.**

**Rotary members in Nigeria are being mobilized from the south of the country (polio-free) to help monitor immunization campaigns in the north.**

- This increases accountability and accuracy for the program.

**Rotarians in Nigeria have plans to raise money to purchase 100 wheelchairs for students in the Lagos and Ogun states who are polio survivors.**

#### **MIDDLE EAST (CURRENT OUTBREAK IN SYRIA)**

##### ***Egypt***

- Rotarians across Egypt volunteered in emergency NIDs in November and December.
- Rotary raised public awareness about the NIDs by printing, distributing and posting informative posters.
- Rotary provided items that the Ministry of Health could not afford: 10 fridges, 55 loudspeakers for the vaccination teams, and lunches for volunteers.
- The local Rotary Public Image Coordinator (RPIC) arranged for major Egyptian news outlets to cover the NID, and also coordinated for foreign press based in Cairo to join the campaign.

##### ***Lebanon***

- More than 200 Rotarians across Lebanon volunteered in the emergency December NID
- Outdoors and media awareness campaign, March –April 2014: TV and Radio spots, Newspapers, Billboards, Unipoles, Backlit scrollers all over Lebanon

##### ***Turkey***

- Turkish Rotarians donated more than one million balloons and several hundred thousand lollipops, as requested by the Ministry of Health, for the emergency December NID. These items are used to entice parents to bring their children (or siblings to their brothers and sisters) out to be immunized.
- Rotary volunteers helped supply transportation for health personnel to vaccination stations.
- Rotary provided lunch packets for health workers during the NID.

##### ***Jordan***

- Rotarians had billboards about End Polio Now hung in Amman.

##### ***Palestine***

- Volunteers from Rotary clubs in Palestine participated in an emergency NID in December.
- They coordinated for a Jerusalem-based foreign correspondent to join the campaign.