

“Rotary” has launched a vaccination campaign for polio

Jazzar: “Start field work is scheduled on November 8th.”

“Al Markazia” Press Agency – Beirut – October 25, 2013 - Rotary Clubs of Lebanon have joined the campaign with the Lebanese Ministry of Health and UNICEF to vaccinate children of Lebanon and Syria, especially those of displaced families below five years of age, against polio; it is part of a plan with the first stage next November 8 and the second stage on December 6, 2013. This is after the appearance of the disease among displaced Syrian children, with the aim of reducing its spreading and the stopping of its transmission.

“In this context, said Dr. Michel Jazzar, one Rotary figure in the campaign, the Rotary International will finance part of the campaign in partnership with local governments.”

He told "Al Markazia": "This campaign will be carried out at present in Lebanon in two phases after being unable to reach some conflict areas in Syria, because it is our duty as Lebanese to re-vaccinate all children between the ages of 0 and 5 years old for fear of transmission of the infection, despite the fact that Lebanon and since 2000 has not seen any cases of polio. The previous national immunization campaigns have cost Lebanon a lot financially; this is why the Rotary Clubs of Lebanon will meet to organize this campaign in coordination with the Lebanese Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization."

"The role of the Rotary Clubs is a logistic one, serving to facilitate the work of volunteers through the delivery of vaccines to children in a healthy way, after receiving them from the World Health Organization, which will cover all costs and provide vaccines and the needed sterilization and other medical items that will be used by volunteers during their “door to door” in all areas of Lebanon to carry out their duties perfectly.”

Dr. Jazzar added “the strategy will be determined next week, by the 24 Rotary Clubs of Lebanon and Senior Rotarians, under the leadership of Dr. Joseph Rachkidi, Rotary Polio Plus Committee chair for Lebanon. Their work will begin on November 8, the date for the start of the national immunization campaign.

"The Rotary action plan will be to divide Rotary volunteers into groups trained and equipped to conduct this campaign in coordination with the Lebanese Red Cross and the Red Crescent, and will be transferred for consideration to the Ministry of Public Health, to coordinate with them the distribution of roles, and see places of shortage and provide volunteers if needed with the help of the 'new generations' members of the Rotaract Clubs."

Arabic post: <http://www.almarkazia.com/Politics/Article?ID=88973>