



Rotary International, WHO, UNICEF, CDC, and most recently, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation are partnering in a massive campaign, aimed at inoculating some 22 million children against polio in Syria and six other Middle Eastern countries.

**Lebanon NIDs are scheduled on 15-21 of October and 15-21 November 2014.**

### 2014-2015 issue #2

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# World's greatest meal for polio

Message from  
PRID & TRF Trustee  
Ashok Mahajan



There has been a wonderful project called the **WGM** - World's Greatest Meal - started by Rotarians: Susanne

Rea (a polio victim herself) Polio Chair of D9550 is spearheading it

and doing her best to make this project a huge success for PolioPlus and PDG Madhukar Malhotra [India] has been promoting it and coordinating the effort for quite some time now. **This project will be great for raising the much needed funds for PolioPlus.**

Briefly, WGM - **World's Greatest Meal** – is a fun fundraiser for polio with food and fellowship. The concept is simple - combine food and fellowship to make any meal a fun fundraising event.

District Governors are the leaders who can take this project forward and make it big.

You are good with ideas and can best promote the idea in your own inimitable way with Rotarians in your area.

However, some of the **quick examples to help you with are:**

**1-**Two friends sharing a cup of coffee donate an equal amount becomes a WGM event, a family or group of friends go out for dinner and donate an equal amount or maybe 10\$ per head or voluntary donations to suit each individual and sends the amount to TRF makes it a WGM fundraiser. The same can be duplicated at club or district level.

**2-**Another good plan, that Rotarians there have planned for November 2014 is an '**Eat and Serve**' event where a club ties up with a local restaurant and acts as waiters for the regular clients and invitees, friends and family and naturally get good tips and a % of turnover. It is good PR and great for Rotary image building as is for the restaurant also. At least two DG'S have made every GOV a WGM event and are collecting good funds.

**3-World Polio Day** – 24 October 2014 - are good occasions to plan a WGM event, the possibility are endless. All funds are remitted direct to TRF.

The global effort to end Polio is, indeed, at a decisive stage today and the funds are extremely important to ensure the setbacks suffered in Pakistan, Afghanistan and the rise of Polio in the polio-free areas due to importation can be overcome [Syria, Iraq-ME]. We need funds to attain our dream of a world free of Polio and until that is achieved we must in Southeast Asia, in Americas, in Europe, in Middle East continue to do our best in mobilizing the funds and the will to end Polio forever. Please remember, every penny added is like a drop that makes the ocean and hence counts as much. Efforts such as WGM and many more that Rotarians across in India and world are undertaking will help meet that challenge we are faced with.

As Rotary you have the platform and resources available to raise funds for the PolioPlus effort. The Rotary Foundation needs your generosity and wisdom to make such efforts like WGM a huge success. Please make it count with your support and leadership! [..]

Meanwhile you can also visit the WGM page at [www.wgmeal.com](http://www.wgmeal.com)

**[Your attention is highly needed in RI D.2452: Please send your Club's ideas if any and confirm or not your Club's involvement donate for polio the 10\$/person in a Rotary lunch/diner to [Jazzar@micheljazzar.com](mailto:Jazzar@micheljazzar.com)]**

## US\$43.6 million boost from Rotary



The fight to end polio will receive an additional US\$43.6 million boost from Rotary in support of polio immunization activities, surveillance and research to be carried out by the **Global Polio Eradication Initiative**, which aims to end the disease worldwide by 2018.

Part of this sum, \$15.1 million, will fund eradication efforts in the Eastern Mediterranean region. \$ 148,000 will be spent for monitoring in the Eastern Mediterranean region.

And, the amount of \$ 150,000 is granted for polio NIDs activities in Lebanon during RY 2014-15.

## WHY DOES POLIO ERADICATION MATTER?

**REDUCED BY**  
**99%**

Polio has been reduced by 99% and we are closer than ever to ending it.

-  No child anywhere in the world will have to suffer from this crippling disease.
-  Reaching all children with the polio vaccine leads the way to reaching them with other life-saving resources.
-  Until polio is stopped, children everywhere are at risk.
-  Achieving a polio-free world will prove what's possible when the global community comes together to improve children's lives.

JOIN IN. Share your voice and donate. Let's make history together. [Endpolionow.org](http://Endpolionow.org) 

## Important to know on Polio

**Polio Oversight Board (POB)** heads of Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) partners WHO, UNICEF, Rotary International and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and senior leadership of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

### The resurfacing of polio is an area of concern, polio virus still exists

On the challenges ahead, we must bear/accept in mind that, polio still exists in Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan. Regrettably, new cases of polio are getting reported in Pakistan. In Afghanistan and Nigeria, the situation is looking better but even a single case is already one too many. Syria [wild polio virus was last reported in 1999], Cameroon, Ethiopia and Kenya suffered outbreaks of polio cases in 2013, after being free of polio in 2012.

Hence, there is no room for complacency. We have to continue the momentum. We have to maintain, sensitive surveillance and as WHO has advised, we must ensure high childhood immunity, against the polio virus. On the other hand, we must ensure that in the near future, polio is annihilated from the face of the earth. Besides commitment to this cause, there is the overwhelming need for funds.

### What Polio eradication will prevent for the future?

Polio eradication by 2018 will help prevent more than 10 million cases of life-long paralysis because of global polio activities, with net economic benefits of up to \$50 billion.

We have the tools and we have the vaccines, but continuing political and religious leaders will and support, and strong global partnerships are vital to achieving our goal of a world without polio.

### Fatigue:

To take our foot of the pedal would be to risk endangering the fantastic results of the last twenty years, one of development's greatest success stories. So let's keep up the momentum, let's keep polio under the spotlight...so in six year's time we'll be here celebrating consigning polio to the history books." **Light up Rotary** within polio eradication.

## RI D.2452 PolioPlus Subcommittee 2014-15

**Michel P. Jazzar, Chair**

[jazzar@micheljazzar.com](mailto:jazzar@micheljazzar.com)

**PP Khalil Al Obaidat, Vice Chair - Bahrain**

**PP Grigor Melkonyan - Armenia**

**PP Seyran Martirosyan - Armenia**

**PP Raed AlSamahiji - Bahrain**

**PDG John Strongylos - Cyprus**

**Rtn Giorgi Arsenidze - Georgia**

**Rtn Irakli Maghlaperidze - Georgia**

**PP Bachir Zaouk - Lebanon**

### Polio Country's chairpersons 2014-15

**PP Khalil Al Obaidat -Bahrain**

**PP Christina Covotsou-Patroclou -Cyprus**

**Rtn Nino Ehlukidze -Georgia**

**PP Badr Ghazzawi -Lebanon**

**PP Sohaib El Badawi -Sudan**

**Rtn Nabil Mitry -UAE**

### EMR –Regional Polio 2014-17

**PDG Usama Barghouty –Jordan**

**PP Joseph Rachkidi –Lebanon**

### EPN Zone 20B Coordinator 2014-15

**PDG Farid Gebran –Lebanon**

## The remaining 1%

### THE PROMISE

From 2013 to 2018, every US\$. Rotary commits to WHO and UNICEF in direct support for polio immunization will be matched 2 to 1 (up to US\$35 million per year) by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

YOUR DONATION **US\$25** + BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION **US\$50**

**TOTAL CONTRIBUTION US\$75**

150 VESTS FOR VOLUNTEERS  
Bright yellow vests help those seeking vaccination to recognize health workers and volunteers easily.

OR


75 VACCINE CARRIERS  
Oral polio vaccine must be kept cool to remain effective.

OR

600 PURPLE FINGER MARKERS  
Children's pinky fingers are marked with purple ink to show they've been immunized.


### WE'RE THIS CLOSE

Only three countries are polio-endemic:



**THE REMAINING 1%**

of polio cases are the most difficult to prevent because the virus persists in the hardest-to-reach areas.

**YOU CAN HELP NOW** 

## **Message from PP Dr Carol PANDAK, PolioPlus Program director**



### **Let the world know that Rotary's priority is a polio free world for all!**

October 24 is when we celebrate World Polio Day to bring global attention to Rotary's top priority: a polio-free world for all children.

This year—we can point to progress in several areas. Nigeria has reported only six cases of polio so far this year—the lowest number ever. Type 2 polio was last seen in 1999, and type 3 has not been reported since November 2012, further demonstrating progress in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative-GPEI.

Outbreaks such that occurred in the Middle East are coming under control—thanks to the aggressive response by Rotary club members, our partners, and government. The last case of polio in Syria was reported in January of 2014, and the last case of Iraq was reported in April 2014.

However, we must remain vigilant as the threat of polio still looms with the current instability in the region and the virus is flourishing in Pakistan. This year, Pakistan has seen a sharp increase of polio cases. Your fellow Rotarians in Pakistan are working tirelessly with government officials and our partners to develop strategies to increase the quality of vaccination campaigns, provide security to health care workers, and immunize children fleeing areas of conflict, many who have not been immunized for over two years. A recent meeting co-hosted by the United Arab Emirates during the UN General Assembly focused a spotlight on Pakistan. It was heartening to hear the commitment of the UAE, donor partners, and the Pakistan representative. But the road ahead will not be easy. I would like to personally thank the Rotarians in District 2452 [9 countries] who quickly mobilized to address the outbreak in the region.

I invite you all to listen to Rotary's "End Polio Now: Make History Today" livestream event on World Polio Day (the event will be archived so that all Rotarians can listen at their convenience—visit [www.endpolio/worldpolioday](http://www.endpolio/worldpolioday) for resources you can use to mark the day. And do one thing for polio eradication on World Polio Day: wear your End Polio Now pin, tell a member of the media about Rotary's role in polio eradication, host a club program on Rotary's PolioPlus program, contact a government official to encourage their support for polio immunization activities, or make a donation.

Let the world know that Rotary's priority is a polio free world for all!

## ROTARY'S POLIOPLUS PROGRAM FACT - As of August 2014

**Why It Matters.** Every child deserves the right to walk, run, and play without fear of paralysis due to infection with polio virus. Although polio is largely unknown in industrialized nations, it is a disease that still robs children of that right in other parts of the world. It is transmitted via contaminated water and food supplies, enters through a child's mouth, and then multiplies in the throat and intestines. In a matter of hours, the poliovirus can enter the brain and spinal cord, destroying the cells that enable muscles to contract and causing paralysis. In 5% to 10% of cases, the child dies.

The good news is that polio is completely preventable. Since the virus only infects humans and cannot live long outside the human body, the proper immunization of children can not only prevent the disease, it can eradicate it by stopping transmission of the virus. Although polio currently circulates in only a few countries, it is a highly infectious disease and spreads rapidly. As long as polio threatens even one child anywhere in the world, children everywhere are at risk. Only the complete eradication of polio will ensure that no child ever again suffers polio's cruel effects.

**Rotary's Role.** Rotary International is an organization of business and professional leaders with 1.2 million members worldwide in more than 200 countries and geographic regions. Since 1985 Rotarians have served as grassroots mobilizers for polio eradication, motivating international groups, governments, private organizations, communities and individuals to join the global effort to rid the world of polio. Rotary works with partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), including the World Health Organization (WHO), the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the governments of the world to achieve this important public health goal. As part of that effort, Rotarians raise funds, advocate for government support, serve as volunteers to help immunize children, and raise awareness in their communities. As indicated by the "plus" in PolioPlus, Rotarians also provide support for related health services, such as distributing Vitamin A, zinc tablets and providing bed nets to prevent the spread of malaria.

**How We Achieve It.** The GPEI works to interrupt transmission of the wild polio virus by pursuing the four pillars of eradication:

1. Routine immunization – Immunization coverage of more than 80% of children in the first year of life, with at least three doses of the oral polio vaccine as part of national immunization schedules.
2. Supplementary immunization activities – Mass immunization campaigns, known as National Immunization Days (NIDs) or supplementary immunization activities (SIAs) intended to complement – not replace – routine immunization. They interrupt circulation of the virus by immunizing children under five with two doses of oral polio vaccine, regardless of previous immunization status.
3. Surveillance – Staff in all health facilities and health workers in the field must identify and promptly report every case of acute flaccid paralysis (sudden weakness which may be caused by the polio virus). To test for polio, stool samples are sent to a special laboratory to determine whether the "wild" poliovirus is present and where it comes from. Environmental surveillance involves testing sewage or other environmental samples for the presence of polio virus. This provides important supplementary surveillance data.
4. Targeted mop-up campaigns – Door-to-door immunization campaigns that are conducted in specific areas where the poliovirus is known to be present or is suspected of circulating. These are often areas with high population density, poor sanitation, or low routine immunization coverage.

**Where We Are Today.** When Rotary launched the PolioPlus program in 1985, there were over 350,000 cases of polio worldwide in more than 125 countries. Since then, Rotary has worked with the GPEI to help immunize more than two billion children and reduced the number of polio cases by 99%. The term "endemic" refers to an area where transmission of the polio virus has never been interrupted, and in 1985 there were over 125 polio endemic countries. Today there are only three endemic countries – Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan – and within these countries the virus is being contained within increasingly smaller geographic areas. In 2012, the GPEI vaccinated more than 429 million children in 45 countries using more than two billion doses of the polio vaccine. For more details on the program, please go to <http://www.polioeradication.org>.

**What We Are Doing Going Forward.** In 2012, recognizing both the epidemiological opportunity for success but also the consequences of potential failure (200,000 new cases every year, within ten years), the World Health Assembly declared the completion of polio eradication a programmatic emergency for global public health. It also called for the development of a comprehensive polio endgame strategy, aimed at securing a lasting polio-free world. In broad consultation with polio-infected countries, stakeholders, donors and advisory bodies, the GPEI has developed a new *Polio Eradication and Endgame Strategic Plan 2013-2018* (<http://www.polioeradication.org/resource/library/strategyandwork.aspx>). This new plan was presented at a Global Vaccine Summit in Abu Dhabi in April 2013 and endorsed by the World Health Assembly in May 2013.

The new *Polio Endgame* provides a comprehensive approach to ensure the rapid and simultaneous eradication of all polioviruses (wild and vaccine-derived), and addresses the long-term risks of polio, which includes phasing out use of the oral polio vaccine and ensuring the biocontainment of polioviruses. In this way, full implementation and financing of the *Polio Endgame* would result in a lasting polio-free world.

**What The Significant Challenges Are.** As long as the wild polio virus circulates in the remaining endemic countries, the risk of international spread of poliovirus remains high. Particularly vulnerable are high-risk countries, i.e. those bordering endemic areas, those with security challenges, those with close socio-cultural-economic ties to endemic areas and those with low routine immunization levels. Experience since 2003 has shown that outbreaks can be rapidly stopped, if internationally-agreed outbreak response guidelines are fully implemented. However, failure to fully implement these guidelines can result in persistent outbreaks, i.e. where transmission of imported poliovirus persists for >12 months. In 2013 and 2014, new outbreaks occurred in Cameroon, the Horn of Africa (centered around Somalia); and in the Middle East, with cases confirmed in Syria and Iraq. Aggressive and comprehensive outbreak response activities are successfully ongoing across these regions to rapidly stop these outbreaks.

**Special Challenges of the Circulating Vaccine Derived Polio Virus (cVDPV).** Wild Polio Virus type 2 (WPV2) was eradicated in 1999. Circulating Vaccine Derived Polio Virus (cVDPV) has become a significant cause of paralytic polio. More than 90% of the cVDPV cases in recent years were caused by the live vaccine derived type 2 virus. To deal with this problem, all countries have been asked to introduce at least one dose of Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV) in their routine immunization program by 2015 and then withdraw Oral Polio Vaccine type 2 (OPV2) by 2016. At that point Trivalent Oral Polio Virus Vaccine (tOPV) which has been used in the past will be replaced by Bivalent Oral Polio Vaccine (bOPV) which contains vaccines for Polio types 1 and 3.

**How Rotarians Contribute.** Rotary's contributions to the global polio eradication effort now exceed US\$1.2 billion. Rotary's contribution to the GPEI since 1988 accounts for nearly 11% of all contributions to the global budget through 2013 and represents approximately 42% of private sector contributions to the Initiative. In addition to fundraising efforts, more than one million Rotarians have contributed personally to the effort, serving as grassroots mobilizers and volunteers to make sure that children everywhere are reached with the polio vaccine. In 1995, Rotary launched a task force to advocate the cause of polio eradication to donor governments which now works closely with the GPEI's Polio Advocacy Group. This work has resulted in more than US\$10 billion to date in contributions and commitments from donor governments to the GPEI.

**How Funds Are Spent.** In the initial stages of PolioPlus, Rotary paid for oral polio vaccine and supported start-up costs for Rotarians' social mobilization efforts in endemic countries. Since the mid-1990s, Rotary has conferred continuously with its spearheading partners (WHO, UNICEF and CDC) to determine how best to deploy PolioPlus funds to achieve the greatest impact on global program needs. Currently, Rotary funding supports the following areas: salaries for technical advisers, operational support, surveillance, social mobilization and stipends for the millions of volunteers who conduct NIDs and perform house-to-house follow-up visits and research into new products and approaches to facilitate eradication.

**What Will Polio Eradication Cost.** From 2013 through 2018, an estimated US\$5.5 billion from all sources is needed in donor contributions to fully implement the activities of the *Polio Endgame*. We have so far received almost US\$2 billion with another US\$3 billion committed. The funding gap is currently approximately US\$500 million.

**Why We Need Your Help.** We have made a lot of progress in the fight to end polio, but our work is not yet done. Rotary's strength is its membership, and it is through engagement at the local level that we can have the strongest impact. Rotary has committed to raising US\$35 million per year through 2018. Many clubs organize creative fundraising campaigns in their local communities and educate the public about the ongoing fight to eradicate polio through targeted public relations campaigns. Rotarians can write to their government representatives, make a donation, share stories on our <http://www.endpolio.org/> website, and encourage others to join our cause. Once we've eradicated polio, these same ideas can be used to tackle other important public health challenges. When you join the fight to eradicate polio, you are not just helping end a disease you are helping change the face of public health forever.

**Rotary's Legacy.** The world will be declared polio free when an independent commission considers global certification after no infection with wild polio virus occurs for at least three years in the presence of certification-standard surveillance. Once polio has been officially eradicated, the world will reap substantial financial, as well as humanitarian, dividends due to foregone polio treatment and rehabilitation costs. Depending on national decisions on the future use of polio vaccines, these savings could exceed US\$1 billion per year, savings that can be used to fund other public health priorities. A study published in November 2010 in the leading medical journal, *Vaccine*, estimates the economic benefits of the GPEI at between US\$40-50 billion based on activities from 1988 to 2035. The *Polio Eradication and End Game Strategic Plan 2013-2018* provides a framework for maximizing these benefits and preserving the legacy of the polio eradication effort.

## What Rotary has done in the fight against polio?

Mobilizing volunteers, commits for more of \$1.2 billion for polio eradication in the last 25 years, and countless hours of volunteer service. Rotary is not just about giving money, Rotarians' advocacy and community engagement is a vital part of the program.

Rotary plays a huge role in the defeat of polio with financial contributions, forming an important plank of this support. Rotary's polio eradication advocacy taskforce, has helped not only in garnering funds, but importantly, mobilizing a large volunteer army of over 1 million Rotarians worldwide, who have helped bring success to the project.

As a matter of fact, Rotary's sustained political advocacy efforts influenced many governments.

Rotary's multifaceted role in making "This Close to Ending Polio" a reality.

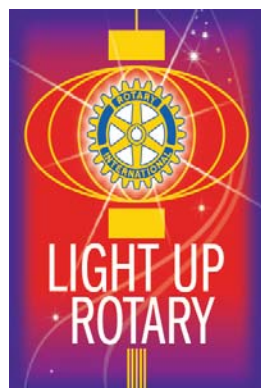
"End Polio Now" in different languages: English, Arabic, French, Urdu and Portuguese.



**Adha Moubarac -Oct.  
Merry Christmas -Dec.**

### PolioPlus resources:

- *End Polio Now Brochure (940-EN): Describes Rotary's commitment to eradicating polio and encourages support*
- *End Polio Now Poster (941-EN): Describes Rotary's commitment to eradicating polio and encourages support*
- *End Polio Now Video and Digital Resources (942-USB): Provides an overview of Rotary's efforts to eradicate polio*
- *End Polio Now Pins (988-MUP): Lapel pins with the End Polio Now logo*
- *Middle East Technical Polio Bulletin:*  
<http://www.emro.who.int/polio/strategy-surveillance/middleeastpoliotechnicalbulletin.html>



### For more information on the PolioPlus Program:

<https://rotary.org/myrotary/en/take-action/end-polio>  
[www.endpolio.org](http://www.endpolio.org) or [www.endpolionow.org](http://www.endpolionow.org)



### Social Media:

Facebook: [https://m.facebook.com/profile.php?id=78976274836&\\_rd=1](https://m.facebook.com/profile.php?id=78976274836&_rd=1)

Twitter: [@End\\_PolioNow](https://twitter.com/EndPolioNow)

Pinterest: [www.pinterest.com/rotary/endpolionow](http://www.pinterest.com/rotary/endpolionow)