



PolioPlus in Action

Monthly Update

Progress Report

July/August 2006

Inside this Issue:

- ❖ Monthly Update
- ❖ Progress Report
- ❖ Country Focus: India
- ❖ Tools and Resources
- ❖ Media Relations Corner
- ❖ Thank You
- ❖ PolioPlus Partners

What's New?

PolioPlus Photo Gallery

The PolioPlus section of the RI Web site now features a Photo Gallery where you will find photos that tell the story of the work Rotarians are doing towards the goal of polio eradication worldwide. www.rotary.org/foundation/polioplus/index.html

Web site Information

Want to know the most up-to-date statistics on polio eradication? Go to the WHO Web site at www.polioeradication.org where you will find regularly updated facts and figures.

PolioPlus Partners Initiative

The war on polio will not be won until the last case of polio is gone which must be done as quickly as possible. Details on the 2006-07 PolioPlus Partners Initiative can be found on page 3 of this newsletter.

Need more info?

Contact the PolioPlus Program by phone at 847-866-3305, fax at 847-866-0269, or via e-mail at polioplus@rotary.org.

As the post convention excitement begins to fade, we look toward the new Rotary Year. In 2006, Egypt and Niger were removed as polio-endemic countries. At the same time, as of July 2006, several countries were considered reinfected with the virus due to importations from either Nigeria or India. At the recent International PolioPlus Committee (IPPC) meeting in Copenhagen in June 2006, representatives from World Health Organization (WHO) and US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) gave a very positive outlook with high praise for Rotary's efforts and resolve to date, stating that such resolve *will be critically vital* in the future to achieve the final goal.

Leaders of G8 countries recently declared their continued support for global polio eradication during their summit held from 14-16 July in St. Petersburg, Russia. Noting the progress the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) has made, the G8 members urgently call for mobilization of financial support and will continue to work collectively and with donors to close the funding gap for 2007-2008, and to finish the program and declare our planet polio-free in the near future. As host of the 2006 summit, Russia announced a contribution of US\$10 million. Contributions from G8 member states account for slightly more than half of all funds contributed to the GPEI.

The Global Polio Laboratory Network is implementing plans to significantly reduce the time to confirm the presence of wild polioviruses in stool samples. Field trials conducted in reference polio laboratories in India and Pakistan have shown an acceleration in confirming wild poliovirus by as much as 10 days (from an average of 20 days). Improvement in case confirmation time will have a dramatic impact, as outbreak responses can now be conducted more rapidly.

As of 1 August 2006, there are 815 global cases of polio in 13 countries which is down from 977 at the same point in 2005. Listed below is each country, its classification, and the number of polio cases reported.

Nigeria (endemic)	566
India (endemic)	136
Somalia (importation)	27
Namibia (importation)	20
Afghanistan (endemic)	20
Pakistan (endemic)	12
Bangladesh (importation)	9
Democratic Republic of Congo (importation)	8
Niger (importation)	7
Ethiopia (importation)	6
Indonesia (importation)	2
Yemen (importation)	1
Nepal (importation)	1

Namibia is conducting high-quality National Immunization Days (NIDs) in response to an unusual outbreak affecting primarily adults; the Government of Namibia launched the first of three NIDs on 21 June. Targeting the entire population, rather than the usual under-five-year old segment, the vaccination campaign reached an estimated 95% of the target population.

In 2006, 526 cases have been reported in Nigeria to date, compared to 194 cases for the same period in 2005. Five states in the north account for over two-thirds (67%) of all cases worldwide. The second round Immunization Plus Days (IPDs) were held on 29 June, in 11 northern states.

In Pakistan, 7 cases have been reported this year, compared with 10 for the same period last year. In Afghanistan, 14 cases have been reported this year, compared with 3 for the same period last year. With frequent population movements across the border with Pakistan, both countries are continuing to synchronize immunization activities.

Country Focus

INDIA

Along with all 192 member nations of the World Health Organization, the Government of India in 1988 committed the nation to the goal of global polio eradication. Since 1995, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been conducting intensive immunization and surveillance activities aimed at the complete elimination of poliovirus and paralytic polio.

While India has experienced a significant increase in new cases reported in 2006 compared to the previous year (73 cases compared to 20 cases for the same period in 2005), nearly half of these cases are in a single district of western Uttar Pradesh (UP): Moradabad. To urgently address this, additional strategies are being actively implemented in Moradabad.

In June 2006, Rotary's India National PolioPlus Committee (INPPC) organized a series of media workshops in the endemic districts of western UP. The workshops were held to exchange information between the media and the polio eradication program partners. All participants offered their commitment to work for this program and thanked Rotary for initiating such meetings.

Sub-national Immunization Days took place 30 July 2006. Two more rounds of immunization will take place in September and November. The INPPC is active in submitting PolioPlus Partners projects to support these immunization activities.

View this month's current Open Projects List for 2006 India funding needs.
www.rotary.org/foundation/polioplus/partners/about.html

Tools & Resources

Polio Museum Exhibit

The Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History has extended the "Whatever Happened to Polio?" exhibit to 4 September 2006.

The exhibit, which was originally scheduled to run for 12 months, opened April 2005 to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the first effective polio vaccine. The exhibit shows how polio affected the United States and how medical science and popular support triumphed over the disease. Rotary International is one of the leading sponsors of the exhibit. A virtual tour of the exhibit is available on Rotary's Web site:

www.rotary.org/newsroom/polio/060724_exhibit.html

PR Grants

The Rotary International Board of Directors has approved funds for grants to assist Rotary clubs and districts in their outreach efforts to the general public in order to promote Rotary and improve Rotary's public image. The grants help clubs implement Rotary's "Humanity in Motion," public image campaign, which provides ready-to-use content for billboards, banners and television and radio public service announcements. Other worthy PR projects will also be considered, including the use of paid newspaper supplements that feature local Rotary stories.

Clubs and districts will be approved for funds up to US\$3,000 per grant to support PR projects launched during the 2006-07 Rotary year. Applications must be submitted by 31 October 2006. Click below for more information and an application form.
www.rotary.org/support/prtools/awards/pr_grants.html

Media Relations Corner

Listed below are several recent media stories that have featured or mentioned Rotary's work with polio eradication.

Please note that links to some of these stories can be found on RI's Web site at www.rotary.org/newsroom/presscenter/ritnews/index.html

North Shore Times

Australia
"Battle Against Polio Focus of Exhibition"
June 2, 2006

The Canadian Press

Canada
"Namibia launches nationwide polio vaccinations after first case in decades"
July 17, 2006

Pine Rivers Press.

Australia
"Rotary is stamping out polio"
August 2, 2006

Associated Press

"Bangladesh orders new round of national polio vaccines after disease resurfaces"
August 3, 2006

Promote PolioPlus in the Media

Visit the Public Relations section of the RI Web site for basic guidelines and tools to help your club or district achieve media success and other forms of community recognition.
www.rotary.org/support/prtools/index.html

Thank You

In 2005-06 PolioPlus Partners received contributions from nearly 619 clubs in 311 districts and 33 zones. Partners was able to provide funding for 31 projects. The PolioPlus Partners District Designated Funds (DDF) Urgent Appeal for unallocated DDF in the second half of the year helped us reach our funding goal in 2005-06, raising approximately US\$3 million. We thank each of you for your dedication and commitment. Keep up the good work!

PolioPlus Partners

PolioPlus Partners is a Rotary Foundation program by which Rotary clubs, districts, and individual Rotarians may voluntarily assist Rotary International and its Foundation to reach its goal of a polio-free world. They support the immunization activities of Rotary and its worldwide partners, WHO, United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), and CDC by keeping Rotarians informed of progress, promoting accurate media coverage, volunteering in NIDs, and providing needed resources in regions with, or at risk, for polio.

PolioPlus Partners Task Force

PolioPlus Partners has a task force of dedicated Rotarians who are available to make presentations or answer questions related to Rotary’s involvement in polio eradication.

In order to make PolioPlus Partners even more effective, it has been restructured on a regional basis. A complete listing of members is not found in the *Official Directory*. For a complete list of Task Force members, contact the PolioPlus Partners Senior Coordinator, Carrie CHARLES, by phone at 847-866-3255 or by e-mail at carrie.charles@rotary.org.

The Need – PolioPlus Partners in 06-07

Every Rotary district needs to demonstrate resolve and support for fellow Rotarians conducting social mobilization in the polio-endemic, importation, and high risk countries. These Rotarians are working on the front lines of the battle against polio. They organize volunteers to go door-to-door to deliver the vaccine, inform parents about the need for vaccine and how to get it, and put the drops into children’s mouths. In order to be successful, they need tools that require additional funding of at least US\$3 million in 2006-07. These tools are provided through the PolioPlus Partners program.

2006-07 PolioPlus Partners Initiative

Funding for PolioPlus Partners is essential to help all Rotarians achieve the goal of a polio-free world. To help meet the immediate needs, we are:

1. Asking each district to consider a specific and modest amount of DDF up-front, at the beginning of this 2006-07 Rotary year, without intruding on the district’s planning process for other Rotary Foundation projects.
2. Requesting district leaders to encourage all clubs chartered after 1 July 2003 to consider making a club contribution, have a fundraiser, or make individual contributions to PolioPlus Partners. *Note: The Trustees of The Rotary Foundation will match US\$.50 for every US\$1.00 of cash contributed.*
3. Asking district leaders to inform and continuously update all Rotarians on the PolioPlus Partners program.
4. Encouraging all Rotarians that view PolioPlus as their primary Rotary interest to make a contribution to PolioPlus Partners.

All districts need to be reached with the message of the 2006-07 Partners Initiative. Contact your District Governor or District Rotary Foundation Chair to encourage them to support this initiative.



With every district’s continuing support, we shall demonstrate our resolve and achieve the final goal of a polio free world for all the worlds’ children – forever.



Suggestions?

We look forward to providing you with information resources regarding topics of interest. Please submit your ideas for future editions of *PolioPlus in Action*. Your ideas may be sent to: polioplus@rotary.org. If you would like to submit photographs, please use the contact information below.

PolioPlus Partners
PolioPlus Division
Rotary International
One Rotary Center
Evanston, IL 60201, USA
E-mail: polioplus@rotary.org