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A Newsletter for Rotary Leaders

# Our Foundation



As Rotary leaders, we can help our fellow Rotarians to realize that this is their Foundation and that they should take ownership by supporting the Annual Programs Fund, the Polio Eradication Campaign, the Permanent Fund, and the Rotary Peace Centers.

*William B. "Bill" Boyd, Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair, 2011-12*

Polio: What Now?

Issue # 121

## THE ERADICATION OF POLIO

### MUCH HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED IN THE CHALLENGE TO ERADICATE POLIO

- Rotary International has succeeded in meeting the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's US\$200 million match in funding for polio eradication, raising more than \$202.6 million as of 17 January, 2012.
- The Gates foundation is committing an additional \$50 million to extend our partnership
- By the time the world is certified polio-free, Rotary's contributions to the global polio eradication effort will exceed \$1.2 billion.
- Rotary's \$1.2 billion contribution constitutes nearly 14 percent of all contributions to the global budget through 2010 and represents approximately 66 percent of private sector contributions to the initiative.
- As long as polio threatens even one child anywhere in the world, children everywhere remain at risk. The stakes are that high.
- Polio: What now? What next?



*Eddie Blender,  
Publisher,  
Our Foundation*

**AS LONG AS POLIO THREATENS EVEN ONE CHILD ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, CHILDREN EVERYWHERE REMAIN AT RISK. THE STAKES ARE THAT HIGH.**

*Continued ...*

# POLIO: WHAT NOW?

- \* We've reached our Gates Challenge total of \$200 million (+).
  - \* Do we turn off the switch?
  - \* Is everything concluded?
  - \* Do we move to another initiative?
- Of course not - but I've not yet heard that message.

***Calum Thomson, Editor, Our Foundation Newsletter***



- \* A Year without polio in India
- \* The job is not over.
- \* With one case in India this last year we have just reached one milestone in the journey towards global eradication of Polio.
- \* There is no looking back!
- \* Polio: what now?

***Jeetendra Sharma, Associate Editor***

- \* What must we do to put the final nails in the "Polio" coffin?
- What is the message that Rotarians should hear now?
- Rotarians wish to see the light at the end of the tunnel ... What do they need to do now?
- \* What will Rotarians hear..... what can they expect to hear when the battle is finally won?

***Dr. Edward "Eddie" Blender, Publisher***

**COMPLETING THE GATES POLIO CHALLENGE DOES NOT MEAN THAT POLIO WILL BE ERADICATED - BUT IT DOES MEAN THAT ROTARY KEEPS ITS COMMITMENTS AND WE WILL CONTINUE WITH OUR COMMITMENTS TO ALL OF THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD.**

## THE WORK MUST CONTINUE

- Polio remains a threat in a number of countries, particularly in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria.
- India needs to sustain its high-quality efforts to prevent re-introduction of polio, and to ensure all children are protected from the disease
- The networking initiative that has been established for polio can continue to be used to immunize children against other preventable diseases and support additional health services that ensure even the most vulnerable children have a healthy start to life.
- Polio: what now?

# EXCITING TIMES AT THE POLIOPLUS OFFICE

*By Dr. Robert "Bob" S. Scott,  
Chair of Rotary's International PolioPlus Committee*

The month of January 2012 has been one of tremendous excitement in the polio eradication effort. Rotarians call it PolioPlus and with our partners the **Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI)**. There have been several highs but unfortunately some lows. The highs we can rejoice in but it is the lows we must urgently plan to overcome. Please allow me to briefly give an overview without details and then present the outline of an exciting plan going forward

## THE HIGHS

**First**, the as always generous, Rotarians have 6 months ahead of time passed the \$200 million USD challenge from the Gates Foundation and the total as of January 17 was USD \$202 hundred million and rising due to the ongoing efforts of so many districts and clubs. Great thanks go to Trustee John Germ and his team and to every Rotarian.

**Secondly**, to acknowledge Rotarian's generosity the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has given a further USD \$50 million without any matching challenge.

**Thirdly**, India has not had a polio case in more than 12 months and will come off the endemic list early in February as soon as all the remaining samples from 2011 are cleared as negative. In 2009 India reported 742 case and in 2010, 42 case and in 2010, 1 case.

Once again the naysayers were proved wrong. This

*Continued ...*



**THE HIGHS WE  
CAN REJOICE IN  
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effort proves beyond doubt it can be done and done quickly once the governments at all levels are:

- onside,
- the micro planning is efficient,
- the funds are in place,
- and most of all the vaccine gets placed into the mouths of the children.



Indian Rotarians played a huge part in this effort and are ensuring that no one takes their foot off the proverbial pedal for at least another two years.

**Fourthly**, the actual number of cases in 2011 is 642 compared to 1352 in 2010 -- a 53% reduction and only 6 cases worldwide of type 3 in the last 4 months

**Fifthly**, at the Commonwealth

leaders' meeting in Perth Australia the host country, Nigeria, Canada and the UK pledged over \$100 million USD. The US increased its annual amount by \$17 million USD from \$133 million USD.

**INDIAN ROTARIANS PLAYED A HUGE PART IN THIS EFFORT AND ARE ENSURING THAT NO ONE TAKES THEIR FOOT OFF THE PEDAL FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER TWO YEARS.**

### THE LOWS

**First**, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria all increased by considerable percentages the number of cases. This is primarily related to poor planning at the ground level and up to the state levels in these three countries.

The leaders of all the countries are onside and all have publically encouraged their polio appointees to get the job done. India's success is having a catalytic effect at least in the short term.

**Secondly**, The Independent Monitoring Board of

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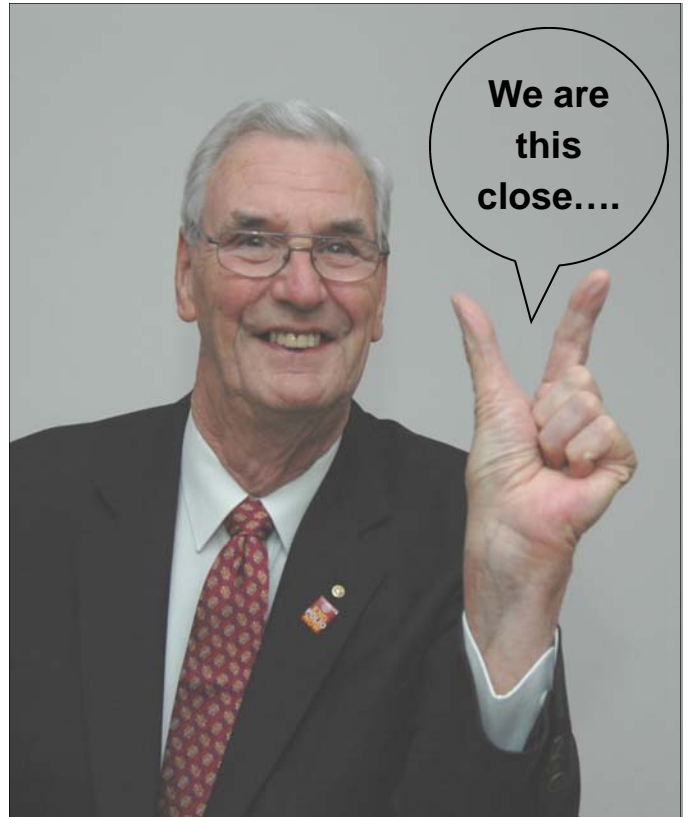
experts while noting the total polio eradication is possible continuing the present plan would NOT eradicate polio

**Thirdly**, despite the tremendous generosity of Rotarians and of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundations funding is precarious again. Despite the above pledges from the Commonwealth Governments all governments must be persuaded to increase their share which has been falling percentage wise for some years.

## THE PLAN

The overarching theme and reaction following the Independent Monitoring Board's report is that the continuing existence of polio anywhere in the world is a threat to World Health and its eradication must become a World Health emergency. This is an exciting new development which has been answered as follows:

- **First**, the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta (CDC) has moved all staff involved to its Emergency Operating Center (EOC) for at least 18 months.
- **Secondly**, at the recent Executive board meeting of the World Health Organization (WHO) the decision was made to request the World Health Assembly (WHA) in May to agree to polio eradication as "a programmatic emergency for global public health".
- **Thirdly**, the UNICEF Executive Director, established an inter-divisional Polio Emergency Coordinating Committee and the polio division is being markedly strengthened both in the field and centrally
- **Fourthly**, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation continues to state unequivocally that polio eradication is their number one project.



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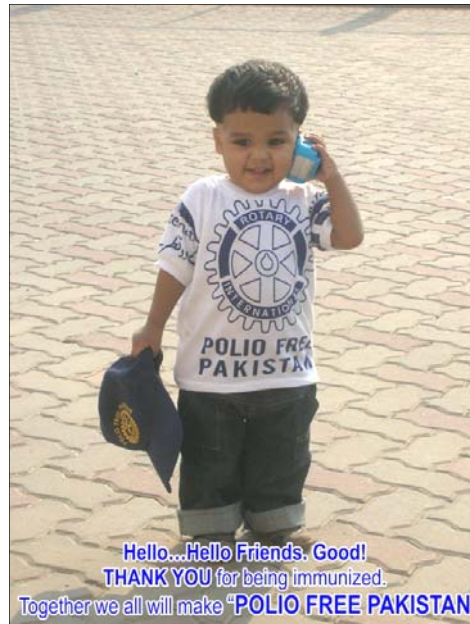
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... EXCITING TIMES  
AT THE POLIOPLUS  
OFFICE

## THE ATLANTA ACCORDS

A meeting took place in early December at the EOC in Atlanta where for the first time in my memory all the partners sat round a table and together took the initial steps to launch the emergency plan in a consensual way. I am calling the result of this meeting the Atlanta Accords. The follow up to this very exciting meeting has been swift and positive with as an example a weekly one to two hour meeting with all the partners and as required country representatives on a telephone meeting with visuals to be updated on all situations as they are occurring and together agree on a solution.



THE BILL AND MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION CONTINUES TO STATE UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT POLIO ERADICATION IS THEIR NUMBER ONE PROJECT.

### WHAT IS ROTARY'S REACTION AND WHAT SHOULD ROTARIANS DO?

#### 1. FUNDS ARE STILL REQUIRED.

First, many of the Rotarians who have been so successfully raising funds are as of first July to change their name to END POLIO NOW coordinators to be advocates at all levels and to indicate that funds are still required.

#### 2. A DISTRICT POLIO CHAIR IS STILL REQUIRED

Secondly, all districts should have a district a polio chair. This has been in effect since the start of PolioPlus but

*Continued ...*

many districts have become delinquent. Without a person whose job it is to remind, cajole polio is apt to be forgotten no matter how many times it is mentioned by the RI board or the President or the Trustees and the Chair or even me.

### **3. COORDINATE WITH RRFCs**

Thirdly District Foundation chairs in particular should coordinate with their RRFC and National Advocacy Advisors or National PolioPlus chairs

### **4. ROTARIANS MUST REMAIN — SOLID ERADICATION OF POLIO ADVOCATES**

Fourthly, Rotarians should be constantly talking it up. Write those in authority; write to the newspapers particularly when Rotary is not mentioned. Let the TV and radio stations know of our involvement-don't wait to be asked. Get the information you need on the excellent Rotary Social media sites such as Facebook or at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) Don't leave it to the IPPC or the district committee. We are 1.2 million advocates. Let the politicians and those in authority know that Polio still exists and their help is needed. Together with one voice we can make a huge difference.

### **5. "END POLIO NOW" NEEDS YOUR TIME AND MONEY.**

Fifthly, we must still donate our time and money

### **6. POLIO CAN BE AND IS BEING ERADICATED**

Lastly, plans to help Pakistan and Nigeria are well formulated and through the emergency procedures now in place that the remaining virus is on the way out.

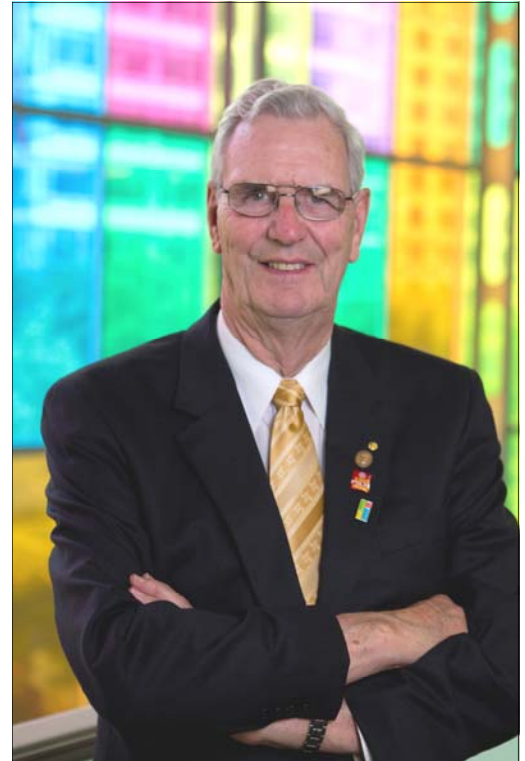
Believe as I do that Polio can be and is being eradicated.

Let's all join together to END POLIO NOW

We truly are 'This Close'.

These are indeed exciting times.

*By Dr. Robert "Bob" S. Scott,*



**IT IS TRUE!  
POLIO  
CAN BE  
AND IS  
BEING  
ERADICATED.**



# BIGGER FUNDING GAPS, WEAKER FUNDING PIPELINE

AS LONG AS  
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WITH ALL OF OUR OPTIMISM, STATISTICS SHOW THAT THE FUNDING TO ERADICATE POLIO HAS DIMINISHED. NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO “STEP BACK” WE NEED TO REMAIN ON COURSE.

WE HAVE MAJOR CHALLENGES TO COMPLETELY FINISH THIS JOB, TO END POLIO NOW, TO ERADICATE POLIO AND IT'S DOABLE.

THERE REMAINS MAJOR FINANCIAL PROBLEM, WHICH ARE A REFLECTION OF THE PRESENT HARD TIMES AND PERHAPS ALSO AN INDICATION OF FATIGUE IN SUPPORT OF THE PROGRAM.

REGARDLESS, WE MUST REMAIN ON COURSE.

*EDDIE BLENDER, PUBLISHER, OUR FOUNDATION*

## BIGGER FUNDING GAPS AND WEAKER FUNDING PIPELINE

<b>"OPERATIONAL GAPS"</b>
<b>Against 2012 funding gap of \$ 405 m:</b>
– We have 75% likely funding of \$ 170 m
– "Operational gap" becomes \$ 235 m
<b>Against 2013 funding gap of \$ 684 m:</b>
– We have 75% likely funding of \$ 88 m
– "Operational gap" becomes \$ 596 m

*Continued ...*

The following graph tells a huge story and the ongoing financial problem we have.

It is not only a reflection of hard economic times but also an indication of the need for stronger support for the program.

The amounts of increase from New Zealand and Belgium are small but psychologically very significant and a good lever for the Official Development Assistance Program (ODA).

## ODA Projections/Expectations: 2012 and beyond

Increasing	Holding Steady	Decreasing	
UK	Canada	Japan	Netherlands
Germany		France	Austria
Australia		South Korea	Sweden
EU		Italy	Switzerland
Belgium		Spain	Denmark
New Zealand		Ireland	Finland
US		New EU	

**WE ARE IN THE THROES OF AN ECONOMIC CRISIS, AND WE MUST HAVE THOSE COUNTRIES THAT ARE CONTRIBUTORS IMMEDIATELY STEP UP THEIR FUNDING.**

### WHAT'S HAPPENING?

*We are in the throes of an economic crisis, and to that we can add donor fatigue with a lack of growth in budgetary ODA, which poses challenges to raise the resources needed for polio.*

### CAN ODA AND DEBT RELIEF MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

*Yes! Aid works when directed at development needs. The record is clear on one kind of health project after another, exemplified by the disease control programs supported by the Carter Center (e.g. trachoma, guinea worm, river blindness, schistosomiasis); the eradication of smallpox and polio; and the campaigns to extend immunization.*

*ODA and debt relief will be indispensable, especially for the least developed countries.*



... A LIGHT AT THE  
END OF THE TUNNEL



# POLIO ERADICATION: THE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL



**Carol Pandak**  
**Manager, Division of PolioPlus**  
**The Rotary Foundation**  
**of Rotary International**

For the past 12 years, Carol Pandak has worked for national and international nonprofit organizations, including the Society of Actuaries, the American Academy of Pediatrics and Rotary International.

Carol directed a national program at the American Academy of Pediatrics to increase access to health care for all children.

At Rotary, Carol Pandak is the Manager of the PolioPlus Program and there she oversees the day-to-day operation of Rotary's polio eradication initiative. She is the staff focal point for the World Health Organization, UNICEF, CDC and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

In addition, Carol provides support to the International PolioPlus Committee.

Recent news accounts have often painted a gloomy picture of the prospects for eradicating polio. They have highlighted increased case counts and new outbreaks, and focused on enduring political and social challenges in the countries where polio still lingers. Some experts have publically expressed doubts about the feasibility of eradicating this disease. And to be sure, Rotary and its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) have faced challenges and suffered setbacks.

## **GREAT PROGRESS IN THE FIGHT**

But what often gets missed in these reports is that, in spite of the challenges, we are continuing to make progress in our fight against polio.

In fact, from 2010 to 2011 there was a 53% drop in the total number of polio cases. And new developments are helping us to confront challenges, increasing collaboration and requiring innovative ways of thinking about not only how we vaccinate kids against polio, but about how we address broader global public health issues.

Changes are being made in order to win our longstanding fight against this persistent

*Continued ...*

and resourceful adversary, but there is a light at the end of the tunnel. Polio eradication is within reach and Rotary has an important part to play in getting us there.

## **POLIO ERADICATION IS WITHIN REACH**

First, let's focus on the good news. The most exciting development occurred in India, which has long been considered one of the most challenging places to eradicate polio. India reported only one case of polio in January 2011, so it has now gone almost 14 months without a single case.

As of February 2012, India will no longer be considered an endemic country, which means circulation of the wild polio virus has now been interrupted.

This success was accomplished after more than 740 cases were reported in 2010, showing that with the right political will and operational structure in place, rapid progress can be made.

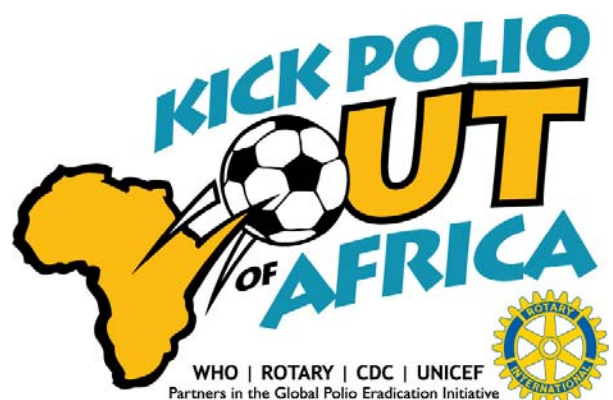
## **RELENTLESS SURVEILLANCE CONTINUES**

Rotarians have been instrumental in helping to ensure that the most vulnerable children in India are getting vaccinated, especially those in migrant communities. Now the focus must be on relentless surveillance, so that any signs of an outbreak can be quickly identified and addressed.

And as a result of India's success, there are now only three countries on the polio endemic list – Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria. All three of these countries have reported an increase in cases in 2011, and that is a concerning trend.

There have also been new outbreaks in Africa that are cause for concern, particularly

**ANY SIGNS  
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QUICKLY  
IDENTIFIED  
AND  
ADDRESSED**



*Continued ...*



... A LIGHT AT THE  
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in Chad and DRC. The governments in each of the countries have affirmed their commitment to addressing the challenges that have slowed or reversed progress, but better planning, monitoring and accountability is required.



*Carol Pandak helps to kick polio out of Africa*

Political instability and security have hampered efforts, but new Emergency Action Plans and better engagement can help. And India's success has put pressure on these remaining endemic countries.

**IF IT CAN BE DONE IN INDIA,  
IT CAN BE DONE ANYWHERE**

Indian Rotarians and government officials will hold a PolioPlus Summit at the end of February where health officials from all the polio-affected countries can

gather to discuss lessons learned in India, and talk about ways to apply these lessons in their own countries. If it can be done in a densely populated country like India, it can be done anywhere.

**ROTARY MUST FOLLOW SUIT WITH ITS OWN INNOVATIONS AND CONSIDER HOW WE CAN BEST SUPPORT THE WORK OF POLIO ERADICATION IN THIS FINAL PHASE.**

**ACCOUNTABILITY**

Accountability is an important factor in helping to reach our goal. The Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) meets quarterly to review the achievement of program milestones, and to offer suggestions for the way forward. As a result, the partners in the GPEI and officials from the polio-affected countries are working to respond positively to the review process.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has moved its polio eradication program to its Emergency Operation Center (EOC) for at least the next 18

*Continued ...*

months, the WHO Executive Board has requested that the World Health Assembly make polio eradication “a programmatic emergency for global public health” at its May 2012 meeting, and UNICEF is stepping up its staffing and communication efforts in the field.

## **FOCUSING ON NEW INNOVATIONS**

All the partners are focusing on new innovations and increased accountability in their respective roles.

Where does Rotary fit into this picture? Rotary must follow suit with its own innovations and consider how we can best support the work of polio eradication in this final phase. While fundraising will remain a feature of Rotary’s involvement, Rotarians can also play an advocacy role, reaching out to others to help raise awareness and to encourage contributions to the program.



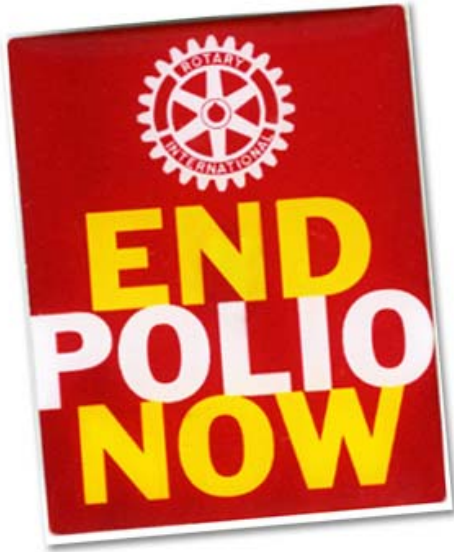
We’ve met the milestone of the \$200 Million Challenge, but additional financial resources are required, and it will take a combined effort to close the gap and meet our most pressing programmatic needs. Rotarians can put their global network to use, and ask others to share the financial responsibility. There will never be a better opportunity to end polio, but we must have the funds to finish the job.

## **ROTARIANS MUST RAISE THEIR VOICES**

Rotarians must also raise their voices and tell the story of their longstanding commitment to the cause of polio eradication. We’ve been there since the beginning, standing side by side with those in the communities most impacted by polio, raising funds,

**ROTARY —  
REACHING OUT  
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*Continued ...*



**ROTARY  
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helping immunize, giving our time and our resources.

## **SEEK OUT OPPORTUNITIES TO SPREAD THE WORD**

Rotary's strength is its diversity - there are many stories to tell and a rich history to share. We must seek out opportunities to spread the word in our speeches, on the radio and in newspapers, and by taking advantage of new social media outlets like Facebook and Twitter.

The PolioPlus Program has many resources available to help, but we need your voices to bring Rotary's PolioPlus story to life.

So where does that leave us in this fight against polio? There will be those who continue to doubt whether we can do it, but we cannot afford to falter in the face of these claims. If we don't capitalize on this historic opportunity, we will quickly find ourselves faced with a resurgence of cases.

However, with only 647 cases of polio reported in 2011, we are moving in the right direction.

**Rotarians have an opportunity to impact the outcome:**

**... by helping to raise funds,**

**... increasing awareness**

**... and inspiring others with the story of their efforts to rid the world of this devastating virus.**

**The way has been long, but there is a light at the end of the tunnel in our fight against polio.**

**Rotarians, keep it firmly in your sight.**

*By Dr. Carol Pandak  
Manager, Division of PolioPlus*

Polio still cripples thousands of children around the world. With your help, we can wipe this disease off the face of the earth forever. Visit [rotary.org/endpolio](http://rotary.org/endpolio) to help.



END POLIO NOW

Rotary

We Are ThisClose to Ending Polio.

Jackie Chan



... ALMOST ISN'T  
GOOD ENOUGH

# ALMOST ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH WITH A DISEASE THIS TERRIFYING



Polio is almost eradicated. But as Dr. Bruce Aylward (former director of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative at the World Health Organization) says: “... almost isn't good enough with a disease this terrifying.”

Aylward lays out the plan to continue the scientific miracle that ended polio in most of the world -- and to snuff it out everywhere, forever.

## SNUFF IT OUT WITH A COMBINATION OF:

- smart people,
- smart technology
- and with smart investments,
- - polio can now be eradicated anywhere.

Aylward continued, “... We have major challenges, you can imagine, to finish this job, but as you've also seen, it's doable, it has great secondary benefits, and polio eradication is a great buy.

**WE HAVE  
MAJOR  
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BUT IT'S  
DOABLE.**

And as long as any child anywhere is paralyzed by this virus, it's a stark reminder that we are failing, as a society, to reach children with the most basic of services. And for that reason, polio eradication: it's the ultimate in equity; and it's the ultimate in social justice. “

“The huge social movement that's been involved in polio eradication,” Aylward said, “... is ready to do way more for these children. It's ready to reach them with bed

*Continued ...*

nets, with other things. But capitalizing on their enthusiasm, capitalizing on their energy means finishing the job that they started 20 years ago.”

## THE SMART AND RIGHT THING TO DO

“Finishing polio is a smart thing to do, and it's the right thing to do.”

“Now we're in tough times economically. But as David Cameron of the United Kingdom said about a month ago when he was talking about polio, ... There's never a wrong time to do the right thing.”

Finishing polio eradication is the right thing to do. And we are at a crossroads right now in this great effort over the last 20 years.

- We have a new vaccine,
- we have new resolve,
- and we have new tactics.
- We have the chance to write an entirely new polio-free chapter in human history.

But if we blink now, we will lose forever the chance to eradicate an ancient disease.

## HERE'S A GREAT IDEA TO SPREAD:

- End polio now.
- Help us tell the story.
- Help us build the momentum.

- So that very soon every child, every parent everywhere can also take for granted a polio-free life forever.

**WE HAVE A NEW  
VACCINE,  
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NEW TACTICS**

**POLIO CAN  
NOW BE  
ERADICATED  
ANYWHERE**



Continued ...



... ALMOST ISN'T  
GOOD ENOUGH

# ERADICATION IS DOABLE



**Bill Gates Jr. wrote:**  
" ... Rotary continues to be the heart and soul of polio eradication, supporting the program directly while also taking on a larger role in encouraging other donors to give more."

Rotarians, we call for your support to help eradicate the second human disease in history (Smallpox was the first!).

We call on you to continue the work and to continue to fund the critical work of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), which will provide vaccines for hundreds of millions of the world's poorest children and support health workers to protect future generations from this debilitating disease

Polio – a disease which has disabled millions and pulled people further into poverty – has been reduced by 99% over the past 25 years.

Global efforts have delivered incredible progress: immunizing more than 2 billion children and saving more than 5 million children from life-long paralysis or death.

We recently reached a remarkable milestone in the fight to eradicate polio - 12 months without a case of polio in India for the first time in history.

But progress towards eradication is at risk: with the critical work of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative constrained by a \$535 million funding gap - threatening international polio eradication efforts.



That's why the Global Poverty Project is working with partners (Rotarians) to support the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, and make the end of polio reality.



... ALMOST ISN'T  
GOOD ENOUGH

# ERADICATION “Q” & “A”

## ***Q: What are the risks after polio has been declared eradicated?***

**A:** Once polio has been eradicated, the risk of polio associated with oral polio vaccine will be greater than the risk of naturally occurring polio because oral polio vaccine can cause — in very rare instances — vaccine-associated paralytic poliomyelitis.

At the same time the oral polio vaccine virus has the potential to mutate and actually cause outbreaks. Though this is also extremely rare, use of oral polio vaccine from routine immunization programmes will have to be stopped and countries will have to do it through a mechanism on which we are beginning now to agree.



## ***Q: What will happen to this group working on polio at WHO when the disease is eradicated?***

**A:** At the end of polio, our goal will be to ensure that it stays eradicated. That means ensuring containment and safe handling of polio viruses in laboratories and vaccine manufacturing sites and continuing to conduct surveillance for polio in case the virus is re-introduced or re-emerges.

Secondly — where we could really see another big payoff from polio eradication — we must mainstream the polio infrastructure so that it can tackle other diseases and continue to strengthen health systems at country level. Countries have mobilized a network of 20 million volunteers and health workers to implement the polio eradication strategies. These are the people who deliver the vaccine to children, and this workforce must be used to deliver other basic health services, such as bed nets to prevent malaria, for example.

By mainstreaming the polio infrastructure, it can continue to benefit health systems long after the polio virus has been eradicated.

## ***Q: When is polio eradication likely to be official?***

**A:** With the new polio vaccines and new diagnostic procedures that are now available, the last four polio- endemic countries should be able to interrupt their last chains of polio virus transmission in the coming 24 months. Once we have seen the last case of polio, however, it will still take a further full three years of surveillance to be able to certify all WHO regions as polio-free.

Only at that point can we then take the final step and begin the process of stopping routine immunization with the oral polio virus vaccine, and thereby eliminate all paralysis due to polio viruses.



# A MILESTONE IN THE POLIO ERADICATION PROGRAM IN INDIA

**TRF TRUSTEE ASHOK MAHAJAN HAS BEEN RELENTLESS IN HIS LEADERSHIP TO ERADICATE POLIO IN INDIA. HE HAS HELPED TO ACHIEVE A YEAR WITHOUT ANY POLIO CASES IN INDIA BUT HE REMINDS US THAT THE BATTLE IS NOT YET OVER.**

This year 2012 on January 13, India completed an entire year without an incidence of polio. India is a country of 1.2 billion people. Out of these approximately 174 million children comprise India's population. With such figures, it is hard to imagine the herculean task of making India polio-free.



## **WE ARE ON THE THRESHOLD OF MAKING HISTORY.**

**NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO GET COMPLACENT.**

But today, the polio eradication campaign is one of the biggest public health programs in the country. Every NID (National Immunization Day) has as many as 174 million children of India reached with the polio vaccine. We have done it over and over again so successfully that today we are on the threshold of making history.

## **THE CHALLENGE IS TWO MORE YEARS WITHOUT AN INCIDENCE OF POLIO**

The entire country, Rotarians, health workers and polio partners are in a jubilant mood with the end so close. And this is a time to rejoice for we have earned it. Having said this, I am confident that Rotarians are aware that while the 'one year without polio' milestone has been achieved, we still have the polio-free goal to achieve in the next two years. And how we do that — two more years without an incidence of polio — is where the challenge and our greatest triumph lies.

Now is not the time to get complacent but now is definitely the time to up the ante and ensure India's path to a polio-free goal. In light

*Continued ...*

of this, the Rotary leadership has managed to enlist the support of the Government of India and will be hosting with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Polio summit on 25th and 26th February. Each and every one of you must be there on 25 February to mark this historic event in India's fight against polio.

While you ensure your participation in this historic event, please also remember that Rotary's commitment to ensuring funds for the campaign is equally important. Despite the amazing response to the Gates' challenge grant where Rotarians managed to match the funds by raising USD 202.6 million (as on 17th January), there is still much to be done.



*Trustee Ashok and RI General Secretary John Hewko immunizing at the polio campaign.*

## **FACING HUGE CHALLENGES**

The global polio campaign is facing huge challenge with the increasing funding gaps. These funds are extremely important to sustain the on ground eradication activities in endemic countries like India, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria. The fund deficit must be bridged to ensure India's success is sustained in the coming years.

I am confident each one of you will give your best in bridging this gap, in your club, in your district and in your region.

## **A YEAR WITHOUT A CASE OF POLIO**

For the first time in the history of the campaign in India, we start a year without a case of polio. We will continue to keep the lead and be out again on 19 February, NID to protect India's approximately 174 million children against polio. Rotarians through their club, and district must ensure that no child is left without the vital two drops.

The year 2012 will be remembered as the year when India came off the endemic countries list.

*By Trustee, The Rotary Foundation  
Ashok Mahajan*

**FOR THE FIRST  
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A YEAR  
WITHOUT  
A CASE  
OF POLIO.**

# ROTARY'S WORK

END  
POLIO  
NOW

PolioPlus, the most ambitious program in Rotary's history, is the volunteer arm of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. (GPEI).

For more than 25 years, Rotary has led the private sector in the global effort to rid the world of this crippling disease.



Today, PolioPlus and its role in the initiative is recognized worldwide as a model of public-private cooperation in pursuit of a humanitarian goal.

THOUSANDS OF ROTARIANS AROUND THE WORLD HAVE VOLUNTEERED DURING NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION DAYS TO IMMUNIZE CHILDREN.

- Rotary's financial contributions to the global polio eradication effort will exceed US\$1.2 billion by the time the world is certified polio-free.
- Rotary's leadership, beginning in 1985, inspired the World Health Assembly to pass a resolution to eradicate polio, which paved the way for the formation of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in 1988



- Thousands of Rotarians around the world have volunteered during National Immunization Days to immunize children.
- The PolioPlus program helps Rotary fund operational costs, such as transportation, vaccine delivery, social mobilization, and training of health workers, and support surveillance activities.
- Rotarians work to encourage both donor and polio-affected governments to commit the political and financial resources needed to eradicate polio.

# WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW!

Issue # 121

Many people are unfamiliar with Rotary's contribution to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI).

Some aren't members of Rotary clubs, whereas others are new to Rotary, live in polio-free countries, or simply haven't kept up with the ongoing eradication effort.



- Organize a presentation to share the latest news on Rotary's progress toward ridding the world of polio, to explain the remaining challenges, and to discuss ways to help in the final push against the disease.



- Rotarians, if you've been involved in polio eradication efforts such as NIDs or have had personal experiences with the disease, offer to speak at other clubs.
- After hearing a firsthand account, many people will understand the threat the wild poliovirus still poses to children in certain areas of the world.

**AFTER HEARING  
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POLIOVIRUS  
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CHILDREN IN  
CERTAIN AREAS  
OF THE WORLD.**

\*\*For an up-to-date PowerPoint presentation on PolioPlus, please contact: [polioplus@rotary.org](mailto:polioplus@rotary.org) or telephone 847-

# INDIA'S FIRST POLIO FREE YEAR - EVER

END  
POLIO  
NOW

January 13, 2011 to January 13, 2012 was an historic year. In that time only one case of Polio occurred in all of India.

## ALL OF INDIA MOBILIZED

Did you know that the Baby Rukhsar, the last case in India was never immunized. The year following the Baby Rukhsar story all of India became mobilized to intense response operations by the India Government, Bengal State Government, World Health Organization, Rotary International, the National Polio Surveillance Project and Unicef. And of course Rotarians world wide were the public drumbeaters.... resulting in no new cases over the past 15 months.



Rotary International TRF Trustee (2009-13) Ashok Mahajan recently wrote:

***“... It is with great sense of satisfaction that we will renew our pledge to eradicate this dreaded disease from the world.*”**



When we recall that three decades ago tens of thousands of children were being crippled, even killed by polio each year, it sends a chill down our spine.

## THE FIGHT MUST CONTINUE

The fight to vaccinate the children and protect the little ones from this dreadful polio has been long and hard.

*Continued ...*



Mistakes were made and lessons learnt.

The other countries in WHO's South East Asian Region have already broken the transmission of the virus.

We, as members of the International PolioPlus committee are confident that the transmission in Pakistan and Afghanistan will also be stopped soon and the entire region will be certified as polio-free.

### **WE CANNOT LOWER OUR GUARD**

But we cannot lower our guard in the matter of immunizing the children against polio for a considerable length of time. Even if the wild polio-virus is no longer circulating in India, there is always the risk of an imported strain entering through our porous borders”.

**EVEN IF THE WILD POLIO-VIRUS IS NO LONGER CIRCULATING IN INDIA, THERE IS ALWAYS THE RISK OF AN IMPORTED STRAIN ENTERING THROUGH OUR POROUS BORDERS.**



# POLIO IN PAKISTAN

**POLIO: A CRIPPLING, PARALYZING AND AT TIMES FATAL DISEASE. PREVENTION?  
HERE IS ONE MORE WAY IN WHICH PAKISTAN IS FAILING ITS PEOPLE.**



For a symptom of Pakistan's problems, consider the spread of poliomyelitis.

In 2011 there were 644 confirmed case of polio, a crippling and at times fatal disease passed on virally, mainly through bad hygiene. The tally is continuing well up this year.

In most countries polio is barely a memory. Rich countries had largely eliminated it by the 1970s, and many poor countries soon followed suit.

Three decades ago the world saw an estimated 400,000 polio cases a year. Over 1000 cases per day.

Thanks to a cheap and effective vaccine, administered by two drops into a child's mouth and washed down with dollops of public and private money, the annual global number has been reduced substantially.

Only in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria is it still endemic, though it occasionally flares elsewhere.

Since even very poor countries such as Sudan and Myanmar are rid of polio, doctors dream it could follow smallpox and rinderpest to become the third disease wiped from the planet.

## ***Polio Eradication Update***

<b>2011 POLIO CASE BREAKDOWN BY COUNTRY. (GREEN NUMBERS ARE 2010 TOTALS)</b>		
<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
INDIA	42	1
NIGERIA	21	57
PAKISTAN	144	197
AFGHANISTAN	25	80

*Continued ...*

# VACCINES UNAFFORDABLE: WITH PUBLIC HOSPITALS SHUT, POOR CHILDREN AT RISK.

## ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN:

**GENERALLY, OVER 200 CHILDREN ARE VACCINATED IN OUTPATIENT DEPARTMENTS (OPDs).**

Lal Khan came all the way from Rawalpindi to get his nine-month-old grandson vaccinated at Polyclinic Hospital. But the 65-year-old had to take back the baby home as all the public sector hospitals were closed due to the strike by paramedics and non-medical staff.

“This was the second time I came to get my grandson vaccinated and was told to go back and come when the strike ends.” Being poor, old and ill, it is not easy for me to come here again and again and also bear travelling costs, he lamented.

“The problem is that he [grandson] is registered at Polyclinic, so I cannot get him vaccinated from any other public hospital and cannot afford to have it done at a private hospital,” Khan said while talking to *The Express Tribune* recently.

Sadly, Khan is not alone. Every day, between 100-150 children each come to Polyclinic and Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) for vaccination against eight diseases—

- childhood tuberculosis, poliomyelitis, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, hepatitis B, haemophilus influenza type b and measles under the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI).

Meanwhile, no polio camps were set at federal hospitals during the recent national campaign.

According to hospital sources, well over 200 children are vaccinated in children’s OPDs, or over 8,000 this year. Talking to *The Express Tribune*, health experts were of the view that only parents who were aware of the importance of vaccination would have taken their children to private facilities. However, those who are unaware would have missed the scheduled vaccination, making their children susceptible to these diseases.

Pakistan already seems unlikely to meet health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), with such delays adding to the chance of that eventuality. Among others, polio is one of the diseases still on the rise, with seven cases as of 7 February reported (2012) this year.



**WELL OVER  
200 CHILDREN  
ARE  
VACCINATED  
PER DAY  
IN OUT  
PATIENT  
DEPARTMENTS  
(OPDS),  
TOTALING OVER  
8,000  
PER YEAR.**

*Continued ...*

TOTAL PARALYSIS CASES	TOTAL CASES 2011	TOTAL CASES 2010
GLOBALLY	642	1,352
- IN ENDEMIC COUNTRIES:	333	232
- IN NON-ENDEMIC COUNTRIES:	309	1,120

Dr Sajjadur Rehman at Pims Children Hospital said that many parents whose children were refused vaccination went home and said that they would stop vaccinating them in future.

### FEES EQUATE TO ABOUT US \$10.00 to \$30.00

“A majority of parents who comes here are poor and are

not much aware of the importance of vaccination and cannot afford to have it done at private hospitals as it cost from (in Rupees) Rs500-Rs1,500,” he said. Which equates to about US \$10.00 to \$30.00

He said vaccination against childhood TB is very important and even if missed just once, a child easily can become prone to the disease, while

tetanus has a 100 per cent mortality rate if the vaccination is missed.

Normally, over 400 children are given polio drops in OPDs during anti-polio campaigns, while 1,000-1,500 are admitted in various wards.

Talking to *The Express Tribune*, EPI National Manager Dr Zahid Larik said routine immunisation for children should not be delayed for more than a week.

**“It is true that the ongoing strike disturbed the vaccination program but even now, we have not receive details about it from the capital’s district administration,”** he said.

Meanwhile, Capital Development Authority (CDA) Health Director Dr Hassan Urooj said catering to the number of children coming to the federal hospitals for vaccination was beyond the authority’s control, while adding, “It was unfortunate that only a few TV channels cooperated and ran the toll free number for the parents of children who missed vaccinations,” he said.

*Published in The Express Tribune, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012.*



**A MAJORITY OF PARENTS WHO COMES HERE ARE POOR AND ARE NOT MUCH AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF VACCINATION AND CANNOT AFFORD TO HAVE IT DONE AT PRIVATE HOSPITALS.**

**“OUR ULTIMATE GOAL IS THE CERTIFICATION OF THE ERADICATION OF POLIO,” SAID JOHN F. GERM, CHAIR OF THE ROTARY CHALLENGE COMMITTEE.**

Rotary International has succeeded in meeting the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation’s US\$200 million match in funding for polio eradication, raising more than \$202.6 million as of 17 January, 2012.

***“We’ll celebrate this milestone, but it doesn’t mean that we’ll stop raising money or spreading the word about polio eradication,”*** Rotary Foundation Trustee John F. Germ told Rotary leaders at the International Assembly in San Diego, California, USA. ***“We can’t stop until our entire world is certified as polio-free.”***

To date, Rotarians worldwide have contributed more than \$1 billion toward the eradication of polio, a cause Rotary took on in 1985.

In 1988, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention joined Rotary as spearheading partners of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

More recently, the Gates Foundation has become a major supporter. In 2007, the Gates Foundation gave Rotary a \$100 million challenge grant for polio eradication, increasing it to \$355 million in 2009. Rotary agreed to raise \$200 million in matching funds by 30 June 2012.



*Jeff Raikes, chief executive officer of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (left), shakes hands with Rotary Foundation Trustee John F. Germ during the fourth plenary session of the International Assembly.*

*Rotary Images/Alyce Henson*

**TO DATE,  
ROTARIANS  
WORLDWIDE  
HAVE  
CONTRIBUTED  
MORE THAN \$1  
BILLION  
TOWARD THE  
ERADICATION  
OF POLIO**

**THE GATES FOUNDATION IS COMMITTING AN ADDITIONAL \$50 MILLION TO EXTEND OUR PARTNERSHIP,” SAID JEFF RAIKES, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE GATES FOUNDATION**

**END  
POLIO  
NOW**



*Jeff Raikes, chief executive officer of the Gates Foundation*

**“In recognition of Rotary’s great work, and to inspire Rotarians in the future, the [Gates] foundation is committing an additional \$50 million to extend our partnership,”** said Jeff Raikes, chief executive officer of the Gates Foundation. **“Rotary started the global fight against polio, and continues to set the tone for private fundraising, grassroots engagement, and maintaining polio at the top of the agenda with key policymakers.”**

The new \$50 million grant from the Gates Foundation is not a challenge grant.

The wild poliovirus is now endemic in only four countries: Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan. However, India on 13 January marked a full calendar year without a case, paving the way for its removal from the endemic list.

But other countries also remain at risk for polio cases imported from the endemic countries. In Africa in 2011, Chad and the Democratic Republic of the Congo had significant outbreaks. Also in 2011, a small cluster of polio cases in China, which had been polio-free for a decade, was traced to Pakistan.

**"ROTARY CONTINUES TO BE THE HEART AND SOUL OF POLIO ERADICATION, SUPPORTING THE PROGRAM DIRECTLY WHILE ALSO TAKING ON A LARGER ROLE IN ENCOURAGING OTHER DONORS TO GIVE MORE."**  
**BILL GATES, JR.**





# POLIO: WHAT NEXT?

## Fighting Disease - a truly Herculean Task

*By Calum Thomson, Editor-in-chief, Our Foundation*



Disease is a gigantic hydra - a mythical, splenetic sea serpent with multiple heads and tentacles- who the Ancient Greek legend Heracles slew as part of his twelve labors. Just like disease, our Greek hero found that when he cut off one of the hydra's heads, another and another appeared in its place.

In place of each venomous head, imagine a deadly disease which seems

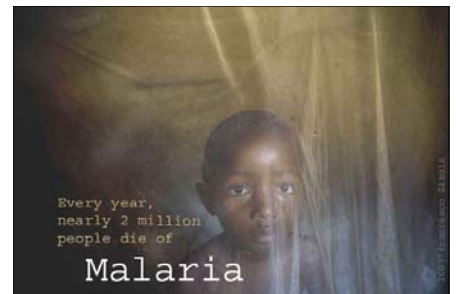
to exist simply in order to attack human beings and bring about our destruction.

Today, we learn that scientists may have underestimated the number of children affected by malaria and that the true figure is 1.2 million: think of that, one for each Rotary Club member.

When we examine closely humanity's fight against disease we find a farrago of results . For example:

- Blinding trachoma is a wide ranging disease with more than 40 million people at risk and 8 million in danger of imminent blindness;
- Leprosy accounts for 213,000 cases in 17 countries but this is a 90% reduction since 1985 (our inaugural year in fighting Polio);
- the Guinea worm disease has been almost won thanks to a successful eradication campaign that relied on pipe filters to block ingestion of worms in drinking water.

**EVERY YEAR  
NEARLY 2  
MILLION PEOPLE  
DIE FROM  
MALARIA.  
  
THE GREATER  
PERCENTAGE  
THAT DIE  
ARE CHILDREN.**



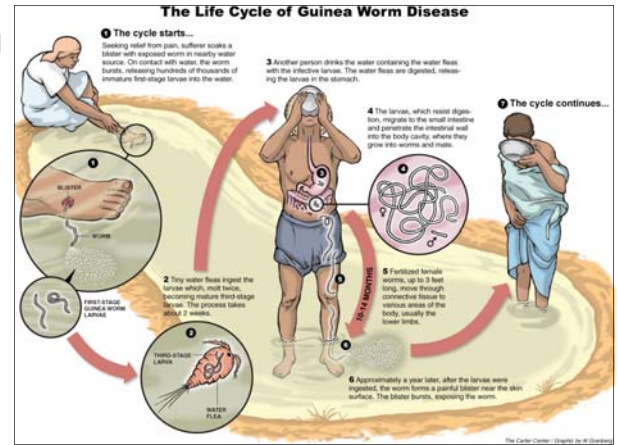
*Continued ...*



... POLIO: WHAT NEXT?

- Other disease such as Leishmaniasis, a parasitic disease endemic in 88 countries affecting 12 million people has been prevalent due to a lack of effective drugs;
- and Schistosomiasis (Bilharzia) can cause life threatening urinary or liver disease or cancers. A staggering 76 million children need a single dose for preventive treatment.

Rotary's success in fighting Polio shows that the monster can be taken on. Though strategic partnerships, the mobilization of volunteers and our unique ability to come together as one dedicated group of fundraisers. We have set a very high benchmark with many now asking: Where do we go from here?



**POLIO IS NOT ERADICATED— IT TAKES THREE YEARS OF NO CASES FOR AN ENDEMIC COUNTRY TO BE DECLARED POLIO-FREE.**

I still remember vividly being misrepresented by a facilitator at a zone institute 2 years or so. The question posed to our round table discussion group was: What should Rotary do after polio is eradicated? My answer was misunderstood and the answer announced to the Institute attendees was: let's take a rest. What I had said was that I felt Rotary, as an organization, should not rush headlong into another corporate program without adequate reflection.

Clubs and Rotarians have so many good causes; we have so many diseases to fight. Thanks to the future vision we will focus our efforts more effectively. There is so much still to do.

**POLIO IS NOT ERADICATED**

Polio is not eradicated - it takes three years of no cases for an endemic country to be declared Polio-free. And as we all know, there are huge problems within the other three countries (Afghanistan,



Continued ...



Pakistan and Nigeria) - each nation has huge problems that dominate our news media.

The \$200 million challenge has been reached. But, I submit, the challenge remains. Do we retrench from our fundraising efforts -No, of course not. This challenge was a minimum, like our \$100 Every Rotarian Every Year - a minimum, not a goal. We can do more; we can do much better.

As Rotarians we have continually exceeded fundraising challenges realizing in that the more we give the more lives we can change and save.

A Rotary hiatus? -we do not know what this means. Rotarians have countries but this is a 90% reduction since 1985 (our inaugural year in dedicated themselves to Polio Eradication- from senior leaders and their successful advocacy of governments to young Rotaractors, Foundation Alumni and RYLarians who have helped find the last few dollars to meet this incredible challenge.

A truly heroic effort.

**THE ANSWER MUST BE — KEEP GOING**

The answer must be—Keep going, one disease at a time. Maybe one day, like that ancient super-hero Heracles, we shall find the solution to disease prevention and finally slay the hydra.

*By Calum Thomson, Editor-in-chief, Our Foundation*



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COLLATERAL  
DAMAGES?

PEACE  
THROUGH  
SERVICE

## COLLATERAL WAR DAMAGE? CHILDREN FROZEN TO DEATH?

**Kabul, Afghanistan — The following children froze to death in Kabul over the past month, after their families had fled war zones in Afghanistan for refugee camps there:**

- Mirwais, son of Hayatullah Haideri. He was 1 1/2 years old and had just started to learn how to walk, holding unsteadily to the poles of the family tent, before flopping onto the frozen razor-backs of the muddy floor.
- Abdul Hadi, son of Abdul Ghani. He was not even a year old and was already trying to stand, although his father said that during those last few days he seemed more shaky than normal.
- Naghma and Nazia, the twin daughters of Musa Jan. They were only 3 months old and just starting to roll over.



Ismail, the son of Juma Gul. "He was never warm in his entire life," Gul said. "Not once." It was a short life, 30 days long.

### **IT WAS A SHORT LIFE, ONLY 30 DAYS LONG.**

These children are among at least 22 who have died in the past month, a time of unseasonably fierce cold and snowstorms.

The deaths, which government officials have sought to suppress or play down, have prompted some soul-searching among aid workers here.

After 10 years of a large international presence, comprising about 2,000 aid groups, at least \$3.5 billion of humanitarian aid and \$58 billion of development assistance, how could children be dying of something as predictable — and manageable — as the cold?

"The fact that every year there's winter shouldn't come as a surprise," said Federico Motka, whose German aid group, Welthungerhilfe, is one of the few at work in these camps, which aid

**"THERE ARE 35,000 PEOPLE IN THOSE CAMPS IN THE MIDDLE OF KABUL, WITH NO HEAT OR ELECTRICITY IN THE MIDDLE OF WINTER; THAT'S A HUMANITARIAN CRISIS,"**

*Continued ...*

workers call the Kabul informal settlements — since calling them what they actually are, camps for displaced persons or war refugees, is politically sensitive.

## IT IS TOO DANGEROUS TO GO HOME

The Afghan government insists that the residents should and could return to their original homes; the residents say it is too dangerous for them to do so.

The deaths occurred at two of the largest camps, Charahi Qam-bar (8 cold-related deaths), and Nasaji Bagrami (14 such deaths). Both camps are populated largely with refugees who fled the fighting in areas of conflict like Helmand Province in the south. Some people have been in the camps for as long as seven years; others have arrived over the past year.



"There are 35,000 people in those camps in the middle of Kabul, with no heat or electricity in the middle of winter; that's a humanitarian crisis," said Michael Keating, the United Nations humanitarian coordinator. "I just don't think the humanitarian story is sufficiently understood here. You've got a lot of people who really are in dire straits."

*Rod Nordland, NYT*

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## “DOING GOOD IN THE WORLD” VIDEOS

THERE ARE A SERIES OF “DOING GOOD IN THE WORLD” VIDEOS THAT HIGHLIGHT ROTARY'S

### [six areas of focus.](#)

<http://www.rotary.org/en/serviceandfellowship/areasoffocus/Pages/ridefault.aspx>

THESE SHORT VIDEOS MAY BE VIEWED ON VIMEO, A VIDEO-SHARING WEBSITE, AT THE LINKS LISTED BELOW.

### [Intro](#)

<http://vimeo.com/34051471>

### [Supporting Education](#)

<http://vimeo.com/33737948>

### [Growing Local Economies](#)

<http://vimeo.com/33736218>

### [Fighting Disease](#)

<http://vimeo.com/33735961>

### [Providing Clean Water](#)

<http://vimeo.com/33735494>

### [Saving Mothers and Children](#)

<http://vimeo.com/33690570>

### [Promoting Peace](#)

<http://vimeo.com/33671034>



“DOING GOOD  
IN THE  
WORLD”

# HUMAN RIGHTS, PEACE AND JUSTICE

PEACE  
THROUGH  
SERVICE

**THE ARAB SPRING: THE PROTESTS HAVE SHARED TECHNIQUES OF CIVIL RESISTANCE IN SUSTAINED CAMPAIGNS INVOLVING STRIKES, DEMONSTRATIONS, MARCHES, AND RALLIES, AS WELL AS THE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA TO ORGANIZE, COMMUNICATE, AND RAISE AWARENESS IN THE FACE OF STATE ATTEMPTS AT REPRESSION AND INTERNET CENSORSHIP.**

THE CURRENT WAVE OF PROTESTS IS NOT AN ENTIRELY NEW PHENOMENON. RESULTING IN PART FROM THE ACTIVITIES OF DISSIDENT ACTIVISTS AS WELL AS MEMBERS OF A VARIETY OF SOCIAL AND UNION ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ACTIVE FOR YEARS IN TUNISIA, ALGERIA, EGYPT, AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE AREA, AS WELL AS IN THE TERRITORY OF THE WESTERN SAHARA.

A basic tenet of human rights is to assert the most human of emotions, the quest for dignity, the quest for justice and the right to shape one's own future. Yes, human rights, peace and justice.



The quest emerges from a very deep place in people's souls. Those mounting these emotions are not sitting around calculating the odds of success before they start. They just happen. We are all spectators, watching an authentic human wave.

While the protests are propelled by deep aspirations for dignity, justice and self-determination, such heroic emotions have to compete with other less noble impulses and embedded interests in these societies.

You can't have a democracy without citizens, and you can't have citizens without trust — without trust that everyone will be treated equally under the law, no matter who is in power, and without trust in a shared vision of what kind of society people are trying to build.



**YES, ROTARY CELEBRATES INDIA'S FIRST  
POLIO-FREE YEAR. ROTARIANS HAVE  
PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN THE  
MILESTONE ACHIEVEMENT, BUT  
THE JOB IS NOT YET FINISHED.**

Issue # 121



*Sporting their signature yellow vests and caps, the nearly 119,000 Rotarians in India have helped administer vaccine to children, organize free health camps and polio awareness rallies, and distribute banners, caps, comic books, and other items.*

***“With the support of their Rotary brothers and sisters around the world, Indian Rotarians have worked diligently month after month, year after year, to help organize and carry out the National Immunization Days that reach millions of children with the oral polio vaccine,”*** says RI President Kalyan Banerjee (2011-12), of the Rotary Club of Vapi, Gujarat.

***“The achievement of a polio-free India for a full year is a significant step towards a polio-free world -- an example as to what can be accomplished no matter what problems need to be overcome,”*** says Robert S. Scott, chair of Rotary’s International PolioPlus Committee. ***“Rotarians of India are and should be proud of the key efforts they have made at all levels, without which the world would not be marking this milestone.”***

Deepak Kapur, chair of the India PolioPlus Committee, also credits the Indian Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for its commitment to ending polio. To date, the Indian government has spent more than US\$1.2 billion on domestic polio eradication activities. ***“Government support is crucial if we are to defeat polio, and we are fortunate that our government is our biggest advocate in this effort,”*** Kapur says.

**“AS AN INDIAN, I AM IMMENSELY PROUD OF WHAT ROTARY HAS ACCOMPLISHED,”** RIP BANERJEE SAYS. **“HOWEVER, WE KNOW THIS IS NOT THE END OF OUR WORK. ROTARY AND OUR PARTNERS MUST CONTINUE TO IMMUNIZE CHILDREN IN INDIA AND IN OTHER COUNTRIES UNTIL THE GOAL OF A POLIO-FREE WORLD IS FINALLY ACHIEVED.”**

## OUR FOUNDATION POLIO: WHAT NOW?

Calum Thomson, Editor  
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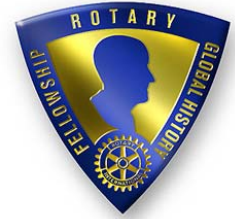
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[www.ourfoundation.info](http://www.ourfoundation.info)



## PEACE THROUGH SERVICE

*"In Rotary, our business is not profit. Our business is peace.*

*Our reward is not financial, but the happiness and satisfaction of seeing a better, more peaceful world, one that we have achieved through our own efforts."*

*RI President-elect Sakuji Tanaka*

