



ROTARY
DISTRICT 1130



PolioPlus

A programme of The Rotary Foundation that Supports global polio eradication efforts in Polio endemic countries by conducting National Immunisation Days, monitoring poliovirus Transmission and other activities

January/February 2008

POLIO NEWS IN BRIEF

*To accomplish great things,
We must not only act,
But also **dream**;
Not only plan,
But also **believe**.*

Anatole France

We enter another year in our “struggle” to eradicate Polio. We are nearly there but all of you are aware that the final finishing “stretch” of anything we do, is the hardest and requires “that” more effort. The “war” on Polio will not be won until the last case of Polio is gone.

Are you and your club members responding to the needs of these few remaining polio victims in the endemic countries? When last did your club contribute to PolioPlus and/or PolioPlus Partners (PPP)? This is the programme that most urgently needs assistance. Its Cash contributions are further supported by a 50% Grant from the Trustees of TRF.

The PPP contributions are for those Rotarians directly conducting social mobilisation and surveillance activities in those polio-endemic countries as

well as other high risk countries and especially for importations.

Social mobilisation refers to the organised community activities designed to help make immunisation activities successful. Rotarians play a critical assisting role in such activities by using the PPP contributions to communicate when and where the immunisation activities will occur, to purchase stickers/balloons to reward the children and parents to encourage them to participate in the eradication programme as well as the future follow-up programme.

The two RIBI Zones 17 and 18 covering all of England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, are endeavouring to fully support some Sub-National Immunisation Days (SNID) in India in March 2008 costing \$300,682, by our Zones’ collective ability to contribute \$200,000 toward those SNID’s.

In India, one day of vaccinations can involve the following:

- 709,000 vaccination booths
- 2.5 million vaccinators
- 1.17 million vaccination teams
- 155,000 supervisors with 155,000 vehicles (cars, motorcycles, mopeds, bicycles,

**Mortimer H. (Tim) Raath Chairman DRFC and
PolioPlus/PolioPlus Partners Committee
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boats, elephants, camels or whatever it takes)

- 225 million doses of polio vaccine carried around the country in 2 million vaccine carrier bags
- 6.3 million ice packs to keep all the doses of polio vaccine cold
- 209 million homes visited
- 172 million children immunised in one NID in India

Consideration is now being given to a “one-off” visit to India in a month or two for, say, one week/ten days to assist in these vaccinations of the children.

And remember that our investment in the Polio Eradication Programme pays additional dividends in addition to the preventing of polio. The Programme includes work on other disease control activities through, for example, Vitamin A supplementation and through Measles reduction.

Are there any Volunteers in D-1130 – *please contact me for further details.*

Are your club members responding effectively? Rotary’s initiative has satisfactorily reduced polio cases 99 per cent over the past two decades. The final 1 per cent is proving to be the most persistent and costly to eradicate; this is due to the geographical isolation of those areas, their poor public infrastructure, and mostly areas of armed conflict and cultural barriers.

And, finally, and most regrettably, the “slow-down” is increasingly due to the fatigue of health workers and volunteers after so many years of

campaigns. It is here that our task is unquestionably a formidable one, but we can, and must, succeed to keep Rotary great. Thus, participation by each of us is now crucial to making our Polio-free World. And we can actually do something positive in a few months’ time by partaking in those SNID’s in India in March. I look forward to your early enquiries of a supportive visit to India.

Total Cases	2007 To Date	2006
Globally	895	1997
Endemic		
Afghanistan	13	31
India	500	676
Nigeria	264	1122
Pakistan	24	40
Non-endemic		
Various countries	94	128

**DO YOU ONPASS THIS
NEWSLETTER TO OTHER
MEMBERS OF YOUR CLUB**

IF NOT

WHAT ABOUT DOING SO?

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