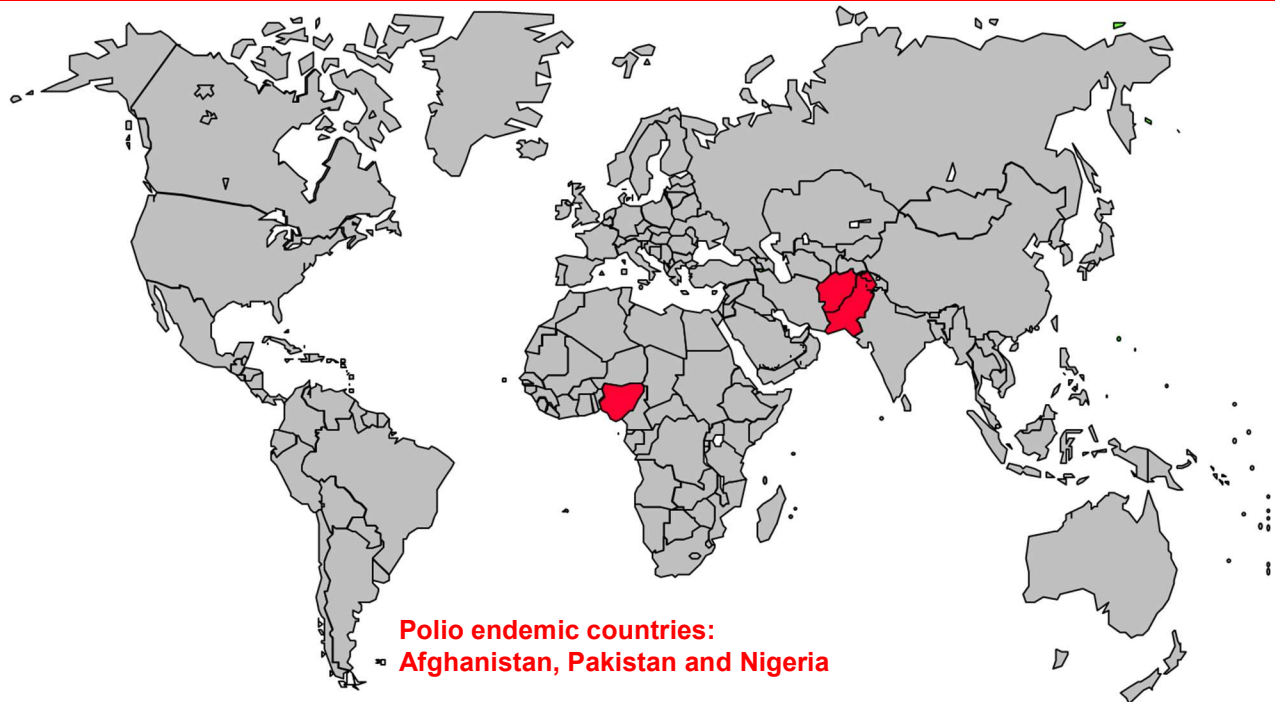


Global Polio Situation



Fiscal Year 2018

Two agencies of the U.S. Government support the global polio eradication campaign, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Agency for International Development. For Fiscal Year 2018 Rotary International is seeking:

- \$174 million for the polio eradication efforts of the CDC
- \$59 million for the polio eradication activities of USAID

The Role of Rotary International

Rotary is a global network of leaders who connect in their communities and take action to solve pressing problems. Our commitment to the global eradication of polio spans more than 25 years and is our top priority. We proudly work with the United States Government and governments around the world to build community trust, participate in immunization campaigns, raise essential funds and public awareness and focus political attention on the historic opportunity to permanently conquer this crippling disease.

Our more than 325,000 members throughout the United States have raised more than **US\$331** million of the more than US\$1.7 billion Rotary has contributed to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. This represents the largest contribution by an international service organization to a public health initiative ever. These funds have benefited 122 countries. They are used to buy vaccine and the equipment needed to keep it at the right temperature, and support the means to ensure it reaches every child. Our funds also support the training of health workers and the laboratories that monitor polio transmission and test suspected cases of polio. More importantly, tens of thousands of our volunteers have been mobilized to work together with their national ministries of health, UNICEF and WHO, and with health providers at the grassroots level in thousands of communities.

Global Polio Situation

Progress in the Global Program to Eradicate Polio

- Eradication efforts have led to more than a 99% decrease in cases since the launch of the GPEI in 1988 and saved 16 million people from paralysis.
- Fewer children were paralyzed by polio in 2016 than any other year in history, with the virus limited to a few areas of just three countries – Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria. And within those countries, the virus is paralyzing fewer children than ever before.
- Only wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) is still causing cases of paralysis. Type 2 (WPV2) was declared eradicated in September 2015. Type 3 (WPV3) has not been seen since November 2012. Eradicating one of the three strains of polio is proof that a polio-free world is achievable.
- The detection in July 2016 of wild polio in Nigeria after two years was a sobering reminder that polio is a difficult disease to eradicate, especially in areas with humanitarian crises and faltering health systems.
- While polio exists anywhere in our globalized world, it is a threat to children everywhere and efforts must continue to immunize more than 450 million children in some 60 at-risk countries;
- US leadership remains vital to achieve the goal of a polio free world and ensure that the investment in polio eradication infrastructure and resources lives on to benefit other health efforts.

Benefits of Polio Eradication

Since 1985, more than two and a half billion children have received the oral polio vaccine. Thousands of public health workers have been trained to investigate cases of acute flaccid paralysis and manage massive immunization programs. Cold chain, transport and communications systems for immunization have been strengthened because of the polio eradication initiative.

Polio eradication is helping countries to develop public health and disease surveillance systems useful in the control of other vaccine-preventable infectious diseases. The disease surveillance system--the network of 145 laboratories and trained personnel established during the Polio Eradication Initiative--is now being used to track measles, rubella, yellow fever, meningitis, and other deadly infectious diseases. The Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) surveillance system and global laboratory network that supports it will continue to support the surveillance of other diseases long after polio has been eradicated. And, in 2014, Nigeria polio eradication infrastructure and technology was used to implement a rapid and effective outbreak response to thwart the deadliest Ebola virus in history.

National Immunization Days (NIDs) for polio have been used as an opportunity to provide other essential health services such as the distribution of treated bed nets to protect against malaria, administration of other vaccines, and distribution of essential vitamin A, which, like polio, is administered orally; an intervention which has saved the lives of more than 1.25 million children since 1998.

A study published in the November 2010 issue of the journal *Vaccine* estimates that the global eradication of polio could provide net benefits of at least \$40-50 ***billion*** if transmission of wild polio viruses is stopped within the next five years. Polio eradication is a cost-effective public health investment, as its benefits accrue forever. On the other hand, as many as 200,000 children could be paralyzed annually in the next 10 years if the world fails to capitalize on the more than \$14 billion already invested in eradication.

Our Legacy

In 1985, Rotary made the historic decision to immunize all the world's children against polio. Today, the world is nearly polio free. Eradicating polio means that no child ever again will be paralyzed by or die from the wild poliovirus. Now is the time to respond. With the continued leadership of the United States, that of polio-affected countries, civil society, and UN agencies, we will conquer polio.