



**NOT LONG AGO,
THE WORLD WAS PARALYZED
BY THE FEAR OF POLIO**

From the launch of the global polio eradication initiative in 1988 to its projected completion in 2005, five million people who would otherwise have been paralyzed will be walking — thanks to their immunization against polio.

Although the forefront of the initiative's success is in the developing world, the poliovirus travels — it knows no borders. Even recently, it has been imported into nonendemic areas of Africa, Europe, and Asia.

**ROTARY'S GOAL: THE GLOBAL
CERTIFICATION OF POLIO
ERADICATION**

Since 1985, Rotary International's PolioPlus program has contributed greatly to the protection of more than two billion children from the dreaded disease of polio. Rotary International's goal is the certification of polio eradication. Polio eradication means the interruption of the transmission of the wild poliovirus. With its vast volunteer network of 1.2 million members in more than 165 countries, Rotary is the key private sector partner in the war against polio, penetrating nearly every polio-endemic and high-risk country to immunize the world's children. Rotarian contributions support transporting the vaccine and health workers to immunization posts and initiating dynamic public education programs to motivate parents to vaccinate their children.

By the time the world is certified polio-free, Rotary's contributions to the global polio eradication effort will reach nearly US\$600 million.

**INTERNATIONAL
ADVOCACY**

Polio-endemic countries once provided about 80 percent of the resources needed for eradication. But the last strongholds of the disease remain in the world's poorest countries, which require much greater levels of outside support.

Rotarians are working to inform global, national, and local leaders about the benefits of polio eradication so that financial, technical, and other resources required to reach this goal will be committed on a timely basis.



To learn how you or your organization can help, please contact:

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**5 MILLION PEOPLE
DESTINED TO BE
POLIO VICTIMS ARE
TODAY WALKING
AND ENJOYING A
BETTER LIFE BECAUSE
OF GLOBAL
IMMUNIZATION**

POLIO CAN BE DEFEATED

BY THE TIME THE WORLD IS CERTIFIED POLIO-FREE, ROTARY'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GLOBAL POLIO ERADICATION EFFORT WILL REACH NEARLY US\$600 MILLION.



VACCINATE

As long as one case of polio remains in the world, no child is safe from this deadly disease.

CHALLENGES IN GLOBAL VACCINATION:

- Funding
- Political commitment
- Weak infrastructure in many developing countries
- War and internal conflict
- Lack of health services
- Difficult-to-reach refugee, migrant, and displaced populations



ERADICATE

The spearheading partners in the global polio eradication initiative are Rotary International, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

STRATEGIES FOR ERADICATION:

- Hold national immunization drives for all children under age five in endemic and high-risk countries.
- Maintain high levels of routine immunization.
- Track any possible incidence of the disease.
- Re-immunize all areas with reported cases.

Once eradication is achieved, polio will be the second disease banished from the world.



CELEBRATE

Rotarians look forward to a day when no child will ever again be crippled or killed by this disease.

AS A RESULT OF POLIO ERADICATION:

- The savings of polio eradication after immunization has ceased are potentially as high as US\$1.5 billion per year — funds that could be used to address other public health priorities.
- Public health infrastructures worldwide will have been strengthened to fight against other infectious diseases.



Jean-Marc Giboux

1954 First inactivated polio vaccine announced by Dr. Jonas Salk.

1961 Dr. Albert Sabin's oral polio vaccine approved for use.

1974 World Health Organization begins Expanded Programme on Immunization to combat measles, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, tuberculosis, and polio.

1979 Rotary International and the government of the Philippines join forces to immunize Philippine children against polio.

World certified free of smallpox. Eradication has saved the world US\$1 billion annually.

1985 Rotary International launches PolioPlus program.

1986 Rotary's Council on Legislation adopts a resolution endorsing a goal of immunizing the world's children against polio and authorizes a fundraising campaign. The goal was set at US\$120 million.

1988 Rotary International exceeds its PolioPlus fundraising campaign goal, achieving a total of US\$247 million.

The World Health Assembly resolves to eradicate polio.

1990 World achieves full immunization for 80 percent of all children.

1994 Western Hemisphere declared polio-free.

1995 China and India immunize 165 million children in a single week.

1996 150 nations are polio-free.

Reported incidence of polio is 85 percent less than in 1988.

Kick Polio Out of Africa initiative launched to immunize 120 million children in sub-Saharan African countries.

2000 Western Pacific region declared polio-free.

2002 European region declared polio-free.

2003 Polio eradication fundraising campaign to raise US\$80 million concludes successfully.