

December 2018 Polio Newsletter

to all Rotarians in Rotary District 5040

Complacency is the Biggest Risk to Achieving a Polio-free World. - WHO urges all for greater political and financial will.

“The reality is that there is no reason why we should not be able to finish this job, but we have to keep at it.”

So close to ending polio for good, it is more important than ever to maintain momentum against the virus. WHO’s emergency committee affirmed this need for urgency last week by announcing that the risk of international spread of poliovirus remains a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). The committee’s experts cited complacency as the biggest risk, and added continuing challenges in Afghanistan and Pakistan and the spread of VDPVs as key factors in their decision. They warned that without strong efforts, polio could return to paralyze 200-300,000 children every year. **The committee urged donors, partners, and affected countries to marshal even greater political and financial will to finish polio once and for all.** [Read more about this important decision.](#)

Syria Polio Outbreak Stopped.



After an 18-month long intensive vaccination campaign in the face of the cVDPV2 poliovirus outbreak in Syria, the outbreak has been successfully stopped.

[Read MORE.](#)

PM says Government fully committed to ending Polio in Pakistan



On October 24th, Prime Minister Imran Khan reiterated his government’s commitment to eradicating polio-virus from the country.

In a message on the occasion of World Polio Day, the prime minister said: “Our government is fully committed to ending polio in Pakistan. On World Polio Day, I am confident, together with our people, we will achieve a safer, healthier and polio-free Pakistan for our children.”

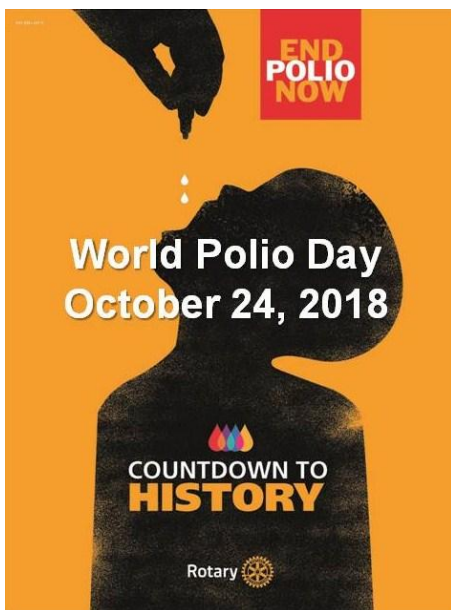
[Read MORE.](#)

World Polio Day on October 24th in District 5040.



Communities across District 5040 proclaimed World Polio Day on October 24th to create awareness of Rotary and our campaign for a polio-free world. In total, thirteen communities proclaimed and/or recognised World polio Day on October 24th, 2018, which included 34 of the 51 clubs in District 5040.

[Read MORE.](#)



In addition, many clubs held events to celebrate World Polio Day:

Prince George had a tri-club fundraising meeting with polio survivor Joan Toone as a guest speaker.

Tsawwassen devoted their regular meeting to polio with guest speakers & fundraising.

Ladner had a pumpkin patch and a wine raffle with proceeds going to polio.

Vancouver Sunrise and **WestVan Sunrise** celebrated Polio Day with their Interact clubs.

Squamish had polio booths around town for information & donations.

Terrace and **Skeena Valley** held a polio walk.

Powell River put on a Pasta for Polio fundraising dinner.

Williams Lake Daybreak held a "world's greatest meal" fundraiser.

Country Updates (as of December 4th, 2018).
since the October newsletter.

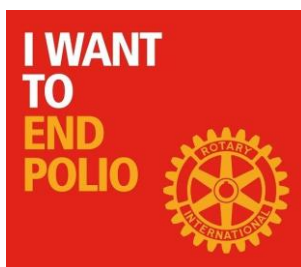
- **Afghanistan:**
- Five new cases of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) have been confirmed. The total cases in 2018 is now twenty.
- **Pakistan:**
- Four new cases of WPV1 has been reported, The total cases in 2018 is now eight.
- **Nigeria:**
- No new cases of the wild polio virus have been detected since 21-Aug-2016.

Case breakdown by Country (as of December 4th, 2018).

Countries	YTD 2018		YTD 2017		Total 2017	
	WPV	cVDPV	WPV	cVDPV	WPV	cVDPV
Afghanistan	20	0	11	0	14	0
DR of the Congo	0	21	0	10	0	22
Nigeria	0	31	0	0	0	0
Pakistan	8	0	5	0	8	0
Other non-endemic countries	0	46	0	70	0	74
TOTAL	28	98	16	80	22	96

Reference Links

- [End Polio Now](#)
- [Global Polio Eradication Initiative](#)
- [The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation](#)



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