

February 2019 Polio Newsletter

to all Rotarians in Rotary District 5040

2018 in Review

from [GPEI News 29/01/2019](#)

Progress in the challenging last mile of eradication

2018 was supposed to be the year that we saw the last case of a child paralyzed by the wild polio virus. Sadly this didn't happen. In fact we saw more cases in 2018 (33) than we did in 2017 (22).

However, the Endgame Plan through 2018 brought the world another year closer to being polio-free, 2018 set the tone for the new strategic plan, building on the lessons learned and mapping out a certification strategy by 2023. 2018 was also marked by expanded efforts to reach children with vaccines, increased environmental surveillance, the launch of innovative tools and strategies, critical policy decisions and renewed donor commitment to the fight.

Looking ahead: 2019 and Beyond

Over the last five years, the programme has been guided by the [2013-2018 Polio Eradication & Endgame Strategic Plan](#), helping to bring the world to the brink of polio eradication. This spring, the programme will finalize a new strategy, GPEI Strategic Plan 2019-2023, which will aim to sharpen the tools and tactics that led to this incredible progress.

Success in the coming years will hinge on harnessing **renewed financial and political support** to fully implement the plan at all levels, with our one clear goal in sight: reach every last child with the polio vaccine to end this disease once and for all. Echoing similar sentiments, Chairs of the effort's main advisory bodies issued an extraordinary joint statement urging all to step up their performance to end polio (read [MORE](#)). **2019 may very well be the watershed year** that the world will finally eradicate polio, thanks to the global expertise and experience over 3 decades.

What can **WE** do?

I urge you to join me and the D5040 Leadership Team in keeping Polio Eradication at the top of the Rotary agenda; to encourage fellow Rotarians, your clubs, your family and friends, and your colleagues and associates, to raise awareness of our promise to End Polio and to fundraise and donate to PolioPlus.

Every donation, small or large, will help us reach our goal, And every donation will be matched 2:1 by the Gates Foundation.

You can donate now at www.endpolio.org.

In Rotary we finish what we start.....



“We must keep pushing on, with patience and resolve, for in Rotary, we finish what we start. We can and will eradicate this disease.”

Pakistan National PolioPlus Chair Aziz Memon gave the polio update at the Rotary International Assembly in San Diego, 15 January 2019.

You can view the update video [HERE](#).



In 2009, 60% of the world's polio cases were in India. Today, India has been polio-free almost 5 years, and we still vaccinate 172 million children there every year.

It's tough work, but if we can end polio in India, we can end polio everywhere.



On January 20th, in Pakistan, a week-long national immunization campaign began and more than 39 million children will be vaccinated against polio.

Global Update *(as of January 30th, 2019). since the December newsletter.*

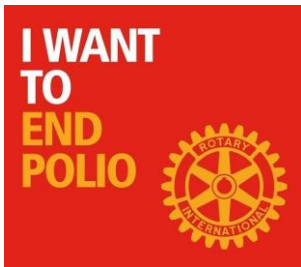
- There have been **no** wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) or vaccine derived poliovirus (cVDPV) cases reported so far in 2019.
- The total number of wild poliovirus cases in 2018 was 33, compared to 22 in 2017.

Case breakdown by Country in 2018 *(preliminary as of December 31st, 2018).*

Countries	Total 2018		Total 2017	
	WPV	cVDPV	WPV	cVDPV
Afghanistan	21	0	14	0
DR of the Congo	0	20	0	22
Nigeria	0	34	0	0
Pakistan	12	0	8	0
Papua New Guinea	0	26	0	0
Other non-endemic countries	<u>0</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>74</u>
TOTAL	33	102	22	96

Reference Links

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



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