

## WEEK 14 FOUNDATION MINUTE – THE FACES OF POLIO

Each October, Rotary reminds all of its members that the Eradication of Polio is its primary initiative. Yet, there still exist club members and leaders who insist that local needs should be tackled first. **WE CAN AND SHOULD DO BOTH!** A number of District 6440 Rotarians have participated in National Immunization Days – in India, Nigeria and Pakistan. It is impossible to remain on the sidelines of this debate – it changes you as a Rotarian, and as a human being. Why? Because of the faces.

- The face of an Indian mother of a Muslim child who offers her baby to you to receive the polio drops – concern at first, as you administer the vaccine, then a broad smile as she knows her baby will not face paralysis from polio;
- The insistent look on a teenage girl’s face, urging you to come to HER house to give her brothers and sisters the drops – pleading on behalf of her mother to make the detour;
- The faces of grinning slum children, who know the drill because vaccination days happen routinely, holding their fingers “This Close”, happy because we are saving their brothers and sisters;
- The despondent face of a teenage boy looking out of a second-floor window in a village where a foreign NID team was visiting for the first time. His crippled leg askew – we were told he was not vaccinated – for him it was too late.

Rotary has been working to eradicate polio for more than 30 years, and we’ve made incredible progress in the fight to rid the world of it forever. As a founding partner of the [Global Polio Eradication Initiative](#), we've helped to reduced polio cases by more than 99.9 percent. It’s crucial to eliminate polio from the last three countries where it remains endemic and to keep other countries polio-free.

If all eradication efforts stopped today, within 10 years, polio could paralyze as many as 200,000 children each year. **ISN’T IT TIME WE FINISHED THIS TASK?**

