

WEEK 16 FOUNDATION MINUTE – POLIO WORKERS AID COVID EFFORTS

As part of the planning for Rotary’s centenary celebrations in 2005, a decision was made that Rotary would announce a ‘gift of a polio-free world’ to the children. The global Rotary Centenary Project was known as ‘PolioPlus’ indicating Rotary’s support for protecting children against all vaccine-preventable diseases.

But PolioPlus goes beyond eradicating polio: The “plus” is something else provided as part of the polio eradication campaign. It might be a hand-operated tricycle, access to water, bed nets, additional medical treatment or soap. A 2010 study estimated that vitamin A drops given to children along with the Polio vaccine prevented 1.25 million deaths by decreasing susceptibility to infectious diseases.

In 2020, using the vast infrastructure developed to identify the poliovirus and deliver vaccination campaigns, the polio eradication program is helping to protect the vulnerable from CoVid-19, especially in polio-endemic countries, and those where ongoing vaccination programs are still employed. Rotary’s years of experience in fighting disease outbreaks now supports governments as they respond to the new virus. In country after country, Rotary’s impact since the 1970’s has improved the health infrastructure in countless communities. The EPN vaccine delivery system is now being redirected to assist communities in fighting CoVid and will streamline delivery of treatments and vaccines when developed.

Your donations to EPN fuel these initiatives. Please be generous. Make it personal – Be like Jack