



African region marks one year since being certified wild polio-free

Together, we've made tremendous progress in the fight to end polio. In August 2020, the World Health Organization's African region was certified free of wild poliovirus — an incredible milestone that was made possible by the leadership, dedication, and support of countless Rotary members and health workers, our partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), and African region leaders.

The eradication of wild polio in the African region shows that total wild polio eradication is possible. Learn more about this historic achievement and Rotary's commitment to **keeping Africa free of wild poliovirus and ending polio worldwide.**

Get ready for World Polio Day

Take action for World Polio Day on 24 October by promoting awareness of Rotary's polio eradication efforts, raising funds, and planning club events. Let's engage our communities in the fight against polio, because as long as polio exists anywhere, it remains a threat everywhere. Download the **World Polio Day Toolkit** for resources and tips for participating in promoting a polio-free world.



Be sure to register your club participation for World Polio Day on endpolio.org to show how Rotary, Rotaract, and Interact clubs around the world are striving to eradicate polio. Club presidents who register their events, fundraisers, and promotions by 14 October will receive access one week early to download Rotary's World Polio Day Global Update program, which is scheduled to broadcast on 24 October on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/rotary) and at endpolio.org.

Register your club's participation

Lessons from the African region

In an inspiring blog post for the Global Institute for Disease Elimination, Dr. Tunji Funsho, chair of Rotary's Nigeria PolioPlus Committee, explains how Rotary's work in eradicating wild poliovirus in the African region shows us a path toward eradicating polio worldwide. Despite immense odds, wild polio was certified eliminated across the World Health Organization's African region last year, thanks to the perseverance of Rotary members working with our partners, governments, health workers, and communities.



Dr. Funsho emphasizes that to stop wild polio transmission in the last two countries where polio is endemic, Afghanistan and Pakistan, we must maintain our focus on combatting vaccine hesitancy, reaching children in the most difficult places, and providing additional health services along with the polio vaccine.

Read the full blog story

Rotary in the news

In an interview with India's The Week magazine, RI President Shekhar Mehta shares his goals for the Rotary year and reflects on **the organization's 100-year legacy of assisting communities throughout India**, including its role in the elimination of wild polio in the country. The World Health Organization's South-East Asia Region, which includes India, was certified free of wild poliovirus more than seven years ago. Looking ahead, Mehta emphasizes Rotary's continued role as a partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) in maintaining India's wild polio-free status and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic through the leadership of Rotary's India COVID-19 Task Force.

An article in Foreign Affairs features **the tireless work of female health workers in Pakistan** who have continued going door-to-door to vaccinate children against polio despite the COVID-19 outbreak and other challenges. Rotary member and polio eradication organizer Tayyaba Gul describes the vital role women play in reaching local households to overcome vaccine hesitancy and deliver other health services alongside the polio drops. The story notes how this network of dedicated female health workers can greatly support the rollout of COVID-19 vaccinations in their communities.

Donate to help eradicate polio

With World Polio Day approaching, now is the time to support Rotary's fight against polio. Join us in the effort to make polio the second human disease ever to be eradicated.

Thanks to our generous members and donors, we reached our 2020-21 PolioPlus fundraising goal. With donations matched 2-to-1 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, every contribution goes even further toward ending this paralyzing disease for good.

[Donate today](#)

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