

“Top Ten Polio Facts”

1. More than 20 million people are walking or alive today because of the polio eradication efforts of Rotary and our partners.
2. Since 1988, when the Global Polio Eradication Initiative was launched, more than three billion children have been immunized against polio.
3. Since 1988 only two countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan, have never stopped the transmission of the wild poliovirus, down from 125.
4. Up to 370 million children are vaccinated each year in polio-affected and high-risk countries to sustain high population immunity because as long as the poliovirus circulates anywhere in the world it is a threat everywhere.
5. During four-day polio immunization campaigns, over 45 million children under the age of five are immunized in Pakistan and over 11 million in Afghanistan.
6. There are 146 specialized polio laboratories around the world. Collectively they test over 200,000 stool samples every year.
7. It costs on average US\$0.73 to immunize a child against polio in Afghanistan and US\$0.52 in Pakistan, including the cost of the vaccine and activities required to deliver the vaccine to children. A child must receive multiple doses of polio vaccine to be fully protected and therefore must be reached multiple times.
8. In Pakistan, there are over 300,000 frontline health workers, mostly women, who provide vaccinations to children during immunization campaigns.
9. Through the PolioPlus program, Rotary provides US\$150 million/year for the polio eradication efforts carried out by WHO and UNICEF.
10. If polio is not fully eradicated, we could see a global resurgence of the disease with as many as 200,000 new cases each year within the next 10 years.