



April 2008

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What's New?

April Open Projects List

The PolioPlus Partners program expects to receive over US\$5 million in project requests in 2007-08.

The April PolioPlus Partners [Open Projects List](#) (OPL) contains ten polio eradication projects in need of a total of **US\$ 3,552,739**.

PolioPlus Partners Projects for India

Read about the 6 new PolioPlus Partners projects for India on page 2 of this newsletter!

Need more information?

Contact the PolioPlus program -
Phone: 1-847-866-3305
Fax: 1-847-866-0269
E-mail: polioplus@rotary.org

Gates Foundation Challenge Grant

PolioPlus in Action

Rotary disburses first US\$40 million from Gates Foundation grant

Nine countries and two World Health Organization regions have received The Rotary Foundation's first distribution from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's \$100 million challenge grant for polio eradication. Made in January, the US\$40 million disbursement is being used by WHO and UNICEF to carry out immunization activities in the four remaining polio-endemic countries — Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan — plus five others where "imported" polio cases have been reported. Surveillance and technical support are also being funded in WHO's African and Eastern Mediterranean regions. [Read more](#)

New "mini" Web site aimed at the general public

Rotary has launched a new "mini" Web site to give the general public an opportunity to help end polio by contributing to Rotary's US\$100 Million Challenge View the three-page site at www.rotary.org/endpolio.

Santa Barbara Sunrise Rotary Club raises \$3,000 in one evening

On 9 March 2008, the Santa Barbara Sunrise RC in California, USA held a fundraising event at a local Italian restaurant. 50 guests enjoyed a three course dinner while listening to the live sounds of a jazz group and a soprano soloist. Past TRF Trustee Michael Abdalla presented an update on polio eradication.

The restaurant charged the Santa Barbara Sunrise Rotary Club \$25 per person and the club sold tickets for \$75, with the \$50 profit being sent to PolioPlus. They also had various local businesses contribute prizes for a raffle that they held during the dinner. Guests received one ticket when they arrived and were able to purchase more raffle tickets with the proceeds also going to PolioPlus.

Monthly Update

Key Indian state turns the tide against polio

Last year, Uttar Pradesh not only accounted for nearly 40 percent of

India's 864 polio cases but more than a quarter of those worldwide.

If current trends continue, however, India's most populous state will no longer qualify as the "poliovirus capital of the world," as some health experts have called it.

Eighty percent of Uttar Pradesh's 339 polio cases occurred in the Muslim community in 2007. But a Rotary-led initiative helped drop that rate to 30 percent of 20 cases during the first three months of 2008. [Read more](#)

Somalia scores 'historic' polio-free achievement

In a triumph over violence, poverty, and poor infrastructure, Somalia has once again become polio-free. [Read more](#)

Afghanistan presses ahead to end polio

Afghanistan's relentless effort to finish polio has succeeded in cornering the virus in the country's southern region, according to a World Health Organization report in February. [Read more](#)



Dr Nasir Khan, President of the Rotary Club of Jalalabad, immunizes a child against polio during Afghanistan's March NIDs.

Global Polio Eradication Initiative

Keeping Sudan polio-free

Sudan's drive to eradicate polio has been one of the most successful health stories in Africa in recent years.

[Read more](#)

Before the flood season

Bihar prepares to tackle remaining polio transmission in the riverine areas.

[Read more](#)

Getting the message across in Balochistan. Provincial team trained in social mobilization tools

[Read more](#)

Progress Report

Visit the Global Polio Eradication Initiative Web site for the most up-to-date progress report information, including:

- ⇒ [Total cases in 2007 compared to 2006, including case breakdown and information by country](#)
- ⇒ [Monthly Situation Report](#)

India PolioPlus Partners Projects

There are 6 projects for 2008-09 that are scheduled to take place in India. Any donations to the Partners program received between now and the end of 2007-08 will help ensure support for these and other Partners projects in the future, as well as count towards matching the Gates Foundation grant.

Contributions to these PolioPlus Partners projects will be provided to Rotary's National PolioPlus Committee in India in order to implement "social mobilization" activities, i.e., essential activities that are carried out to: inform parents and community members that polio immunization activities are taking place; provide community education on the benefits of immunizing children against polio; and training health workers and volunteers.



Rotarians hold a poster used to publicize upcoming immunization days.

An example of some of the items needed for just one social mobilization activity in India is as follows: 80,000 banners and 100,000 posters to publicize the immunization activity, various types of media coverage before and during the immunization activity, 4 million whistles and 1.5 million masks as rewards for children once they are immunized, 75,000 caps and 50,000 aprons to identify the volunteer workers, along with transportation for the immunizers to reach the children.



An Indian child blows a whistle received after being immunized against polio

Tools & Resources

Polio Photos on the RI website

Rotary Images is a photo library containing thousands of images of extraordinary projects, programs, and Rotarians from around the world. Photos can be downloaded, free of charge, and used to enhance your club's Web site, print publications, and public relations efforts. When publishing these images, please include the following credit: Rotary Images/(name of photographer). Polio photos can be found in this section of the [RI website](#).



Just one of the photos available in Rotary Images.

Media Relations Corner

Listed below are several recent media stories that have featured or mentioned Rotary's work in polio eradication.

Vanguard
Lagos, Nigeria

April 1, 2008

Somalia shows Nigeria the way to go about polio eradication

Voice of America

March 25, 2008

Somalia Declared polio-free, despite violence and displacement

Scottish Sunday Post
Scotland

30 March and 6 April

Published a two-part series on efforts to eradicate polio in India, focusing on Rotary's role. The first part featured a two-page spread on Trustee Chair Bob Scott and polio survivor Gautam Lewis. The second part was a 2-page spread with three articles on polio in India highlighting Rotary's role.

Reuters and Bloomberg News Services

Published and distributed stories on the joint partner announcement that polio transmission has been stopped in Somalia.

BBC 24

Aired interview with Rotary polio notable Gautam Lewis in connection with Rotary's 103rd anniversary and Rotary wheel with "End Polio Now" projected on the Houses of Parliament

Le Soleil and Quebec Hebdo
Quebec, Canada

Rotary National Immunization Day trip to Bangladesh

Danish Frederiksborg Amts Avis –

Front page story highlighting Danish Rotarian's Helge Anderson National Immunization Day trip

