



## January PolioPlus Update

### Wild Polio Case Counts (as of 16 January 2016)

Country	2014 (calendar year)	2015 (to date)	Date of last case
Pakistan	306	53	2 Dec 15
Afghanistan	28	19	19 Nov 15
Somalia	5	0	11 Aug 14
Nigeria	6	0	24 July 14
Cameroon	5	0	9 July 14
Equatorial Guinea	5	0	3 May 14
Iraq	2	0	7 April 14
Syria	1	0	21 Jan 14
Ethiopia	1	0	4 Jan 14
<b>Total</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>72</b>	

### Circulating Vaccine-Derived Polio Cases (as of 16 January 2016)

Country	2014 (calendar year)	2015 (to date)	Date of last case
Myanmar	0	2	5 Oct 15
Laos	0	7	18 Dec 15
Ukraine	0	2	7 July 15
Madagascar	0	10	22 Aug 15
Guinea	1	4	2 October
Nigeria	30	1	16 May 15
Pakistan	22	2	9 Feb 15
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>27</b>	

## Program News

- Polio Security Personnel Killed in Pakistan** - A bomb attack in Quetta, Pakistan took the lives of 15 security personnel outside a polio immunization center. Those killed were protecting vaccinators who were preparing to conduct polio immunization campaigns as part of National Immunization Day campaigns. Rotary has publically condemned the attack, and applauds the government's commitment to continue their fight against polio, despite these horrific incidents. We stand together with our partners and the government of Pakistan in avowing our firm commitment to support the vital contribution of all those – from frontline workers to security personnel - who are working to end polio in Pakistan. Read more at:

<https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/my-rotary/rotary-condemns-deadly-attack-polio-security-personnel-pakistan>

- **Rotary approves \$35 million in the fight to eradication polio** - Rotary announces \$35 million in grants to support the global effort to end polio. In 2015, the world saw historic progress against the paralyzing disease, with just two countries – Afghanistan and Pakistan – reporting a single strain of the wild virus. If the current momentum is strengthened, this year may mark the last case of wild poliovirus. Read more at <https://www.rotary.org/en/rotary-gives-us35-million-end-polio-worldwide>.
- **Rotarian honored for polio work in Cote d'Ivoire** – former National PolioPlus Committee Chair and 2015-16 District Governor Marie-Irene Richmond Ahoua, District 9101, was recognized for her distinguished service to the country. Rotarian Richmond Ahoua served as National PolioPlus Chair in Cote d'Ivoire for many years and is a member of the African Regional PolioPlus Committee where she works with National PolioPlus Chairs in the polio endemic and high risk countries. She resigned as National PolioPlus Chair to undertake her role as 2015-16 District Governor, but remains very active in the global effort. She was among 14 women honored on 7 January during a ceremony at the Grand Chancellery Headquarters, where she received a medal for her outstanding work. This award is very well deserved and Rotary is grateful for her many contributions to polio eradication.

## Country Updates

### **Afghanistan**

- **Jalalabad Rotarians provide supplies to tent school** – Rotarians from Jalalabad Rotary Club and Afghan Youth Connect (AYC) went to Omid Abaad Primary high school near Behsood Bridge. Classes are conducted in tents or in open air, with limited supplies and a lack of quality teachers for the school. Rotarians provided End Polio Now school bags and notebooks for the students, and shared information about the importance of being vaccinated against polio. The students were thrilled to receive the supplies, and Rotarians will visit more schools in high risk areas of the country.
- **Campaign monitoring in Kunar** – National PolioPlus Committee Chair Mohammad Ishaq participated in monitoring in Kunar during immunization activities on 22-23 December. All issues were shared during the evening meeting and the next day the problems were fixed and a plan was made to revisit the families with absent children. The major issue for inaccessibility in Kunar is the presence of anti-vaccination religious groups from the SWAT region of Pakistan, where more than 5,000 children have not been allowed to receive vaccinations. Partners are working with religious leaders to



encourage them to share messages through their mosques about the importance of polio vaccines.

## Nigeria

- **Heroes for Polio Eradication (HOPE)** – The Heroes of Polio Eradication (HOPE) Awards were presented in Abu Dhabi by His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Armed Forces, and Bill Gates, Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The awards highlight progress made toward polio eradication and the dedication of those who have worked tirelessly to end the disease around the world, often in difficult and dangerous situations. National PolioPlus Committee Chair Dr. Tunji Funsho attended the event and nominated one of the recipients of the award, Mr. Lawan Didi Misbahu from Nigeria, Chairman of The Association of Polio Survivors of Nigeria and President of the Para-Soccer Federation of Nigeria and a polio survivor. He received the award for the innovative program focused on engaging and rehabilitating 3000 paraplegics, who are mostly polio survivors in Nigeria. The Association of Polio Survivors has had a core role in Nigeria's polio program, mobilizing nearly 1300 polio survivors.

## Pakistan

- **APPNA Delegation visits Pakistan** – the Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America held a conference in Lahore on 20 December. In advance of the conference, APPNA President Dr. Mubashar Rana and President-elect Dr. Nasar Qureshi made time to meet with government officials and partners in Islamabad to discuss their support of polio eradication in Pakistan. During their visit, they offered to provide continued advocacy, communications support, medical specialists for health camps, and help strengthen surveillance. The President of Pakistan was the Chief Guest at the APPNA conference in Lahore, where polio eradication was highlighted.
- **New Permanent Immunization Post in High Risk Areas** – The National PolioPlus Committee has established a new Permanent Immunization Center at Aza Khel, located in the Nowshera District, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, near Afghan refugees and in the area of vaccine refusals. Because of the lack of services in the area, the permanent immunization posts are meeting a critical need, providing routine immunization and assisting with polio immunization and catch-up efforts. The facility is well equipped and has quickly established good support with the local community.

## Fundraising Goals & Progress for 2015-16\*

Fundraising Goals	Fundraising Progress
US\$1,500 per club/US\$35 million total	Total Contributions (as of 14 December 2015) US\$16.1 million
20% or more DDF from all districts/US\$7 million total	DDF raised: US\$3.1 million
US\$3.5 million in Major Gifts	Major Gifts: US\$1,828,000

\*If you want specific club or district fundraising information, please contact Clare Monroe in PolioPlus at [polioplus@rotary.org](mailto:polioplus@rotary.org).

- Humble Bundle Contribution** – In late 2015, San Francisco-based Humble Bundle Inc. – an online marketplace for downloadable videogames – contributed over US\$12,000 to The Rotary Foundation for PolioPlus. This relationship with Rotary, which was forged in 2014 by UK Rotarians when they partnered with Bristol-based Humble Bundle client Yogscast Ltd. to raise money for PolioPlus, was expanded by RI Director Brad Howard after his meeting with Humble Bundle in July 2015. Humble Bundle encourages its customers to donate a percentage of their purchase price at checkout to featured charities, which has resulted in over US\$60 million of donations to hundreds of organizations since 2010.

## Advocacy Update

- US Appropriations for polio** - On 18 December, the United States Government finalized the fiscal year (FY) 2016 federal budget. The overall total approved for global polio eradication efforts is US\$228 million: US\$169 million for the polio eradication activities of the CDC; and a total of US\$59 million for the polio eradication activities of USAID. FY16 funding for polio eradication is US\$10.2 million higher than the FY15 level of US\$158.8 million.

## Communications Update

### MEDIA

- A January [National Geographic](#) story previewed the opportunities and challenges ahead for polio eradication in 2016. The piece exclusively quoted PolioPlus Director Carol Pandak.
- National PolioPlus Chair for Pakistan Aziz Memon spent a day in New York City in January holding face-to-face meetings with key media from the **New York Times**, **Time Magazine**, **ABC News** and **Quartz**. These meetings aimed to deepen relationships with core polio reporters, and to educate them on Rotary's leadership in ending polio in Pakistan. This visit resulted in an on-line article by Times health Editor Jeffrey Kluger.
- Following a Rotary-sponsored media tour to India in September, freelance German health reporter Martina Merten published four of seven planned stories on polio eradication in December and January. The articles ran in top Swiss and German news outlets: [Deutsche Welle](#), [Ärzte Zeitung](#), [TAZ \(Tageszeitung\)](#) and **G+G Magazine**. These stories all mention Rotary and quote Rotary spokespeople in India, including National PolioPlus Committee Chair Deepak Kapur and Lokesh Gupta of the India National PolioPlus Committee office.
- Leading Japanese newspaper, **The Asahi Shimbun Globe**, ran a feature story on polio eradication in Pakistan, featuring National PolioPlus Committee Chair Aziz Memon.

### SOCIAL MEDIA

- Rotary announced its latest round of IPPC funding on January 13, by issuing a press release, sharing the news on Rotary website and announcing the grants on social media. The grants social media posts reached **39,895 people**, creating **1,728 engagements**.
- Rotary's End Polio Now social media presence was strong in 2015. End Polio Now's Facebook and Twitter channels grew by an additional **20,830 followers**.
- Throughout 2015, End Polio Now's Twitter handle and Facebook page **reached 17.9 million people**, creating **305,702 engagements**.
- At the end on the year, End Polio Now featured the top five media highlights of the year. The ten posts across Facebook and Twitter **reached 166,900 people** resulting in **5,726 engagements**.