



END POLIO NOW

Our final fight against polio – we are not alone !

| <u>Country</u> | <u>Year-to-date 2019</u> | <u>Year-to-date 2018</u> |
|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Pakistan | 45 | 3 |
| Afghanistan | 11 | 10 |
| Nigeria | 0 ! | 0 ! |

Global updates, 24 July 2019

EPNZC – Letter August 2019

Dear Friends in Rotary,

The yearly challenge to receive as much as possible support from all clubs and districts around the world is very debilitating. Why? As Bill Gates announced during the Rotary Convention in Atlanta to double the amount of Rotaries collected donations up the amount of USD 50 millions in favor of the end fight against polio, we as grass-root Rotarians but even more as National Advocacy advisors or Zone Coordinators were under constant pressure to reach this ambitious goal by the end of June. But we do not have to be a Rotarian to achieve this high goal – like the marathon runner who had the goal in mind. More or less in the very last minutes USD 50 millions we reached it. This is the moment to thank all members of our zones 13A&C, 18B and parts 19 (D 2000) to be part of this tremendous effort. I am very proud of you!

Poliopolis

In early June 2019 first preliminary results concerning a novel oral polio vaccine for type 2 polio (nOPV2) were published in one of the prestigious medical journals „*The Lancet*“ [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(19\)31279-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(19)31279-6) . The research is another new way lead by GPEI to overcome the hurdles in our common fight. Candidates designed by a consortium of scientists from NIBSC, CDC, UCSF were vaccinated either in Belgium (Prof. P. van Damme, Antwerp) or Panama. The advantage of this new developed vaccine has its effects without the same risks of mutating into vaccine-derived poliovirus in underimmunised populations.

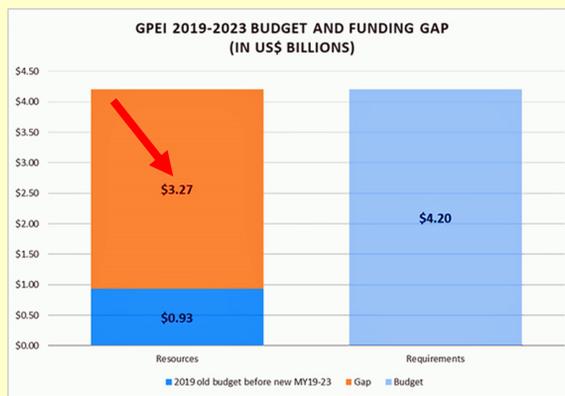


G20 Osaka Leader's Declaration

End of June G 20 leaders met in Osaka and confirmed a historical support: „We reaffirm our commitment to eradicate polio as well as to end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria and look forward to the success of the sixth replenishment of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria“.

The pledging event of the GPEI will be hosted by UAE in November 2019 to ensure full financing and implementation of the efforts to finish the job. I would like to point out that we still have a financial gap of \$ 3.27 billion.

„It's important for all to know that there is no alternative to polio vaccination“!



Nigeria fight against polio and its results

Makoko, a sprawling water city is a slum community mainly consisting of pile dwellings in the Lagos Mainland Local Government Area of the megacity Lagos. A real challenge to get all children vaccinated in this area and still hand-drawn maps make it possible to identify areas we have yet to reach during the immunization exercise. Similar conditions we find within the Niger delta – riverine state Bayelsa - where routine vaccinations are difficult to perform. Innovative strategies such as, immunizations boats at sea and community engagement through the traditional hierarchy and sensitization activities were introduced to reach a wider net of children.



Let's not forget that in **Nigeria** the last case was detected **August 21st 2016!** Nigeria will be declared polio free very soon. With this step Africa will become polio free.

Contributions of our governments since 1985 (millions US\$)

| | |
|---------------|--------|
| Belgium | 4.10 |
| Liechtenstein | 0.24 |
| Luxembourg | 20.09 |
| Netherlands | 113.84 |
| Switzerland | 4.64 |

The Netherlands, Luxembourg and Liechtenstein have shown a very great commitment, whereas Belgium and my home country show shameful involvements – advocacy by us Rotarians is mandatory. In Switzerland, we are about to launch a new initiative together with our PPNAA Oliver Rosenbauer.

A single vaccination costs less than 1 € and that for lifetime if we renounce on something unimportant.