

Rotary



polio global  
eradication  
initiative

## *Rotary PolioPlus – December 2018*

- **To all Rotarians: Thank you!:**

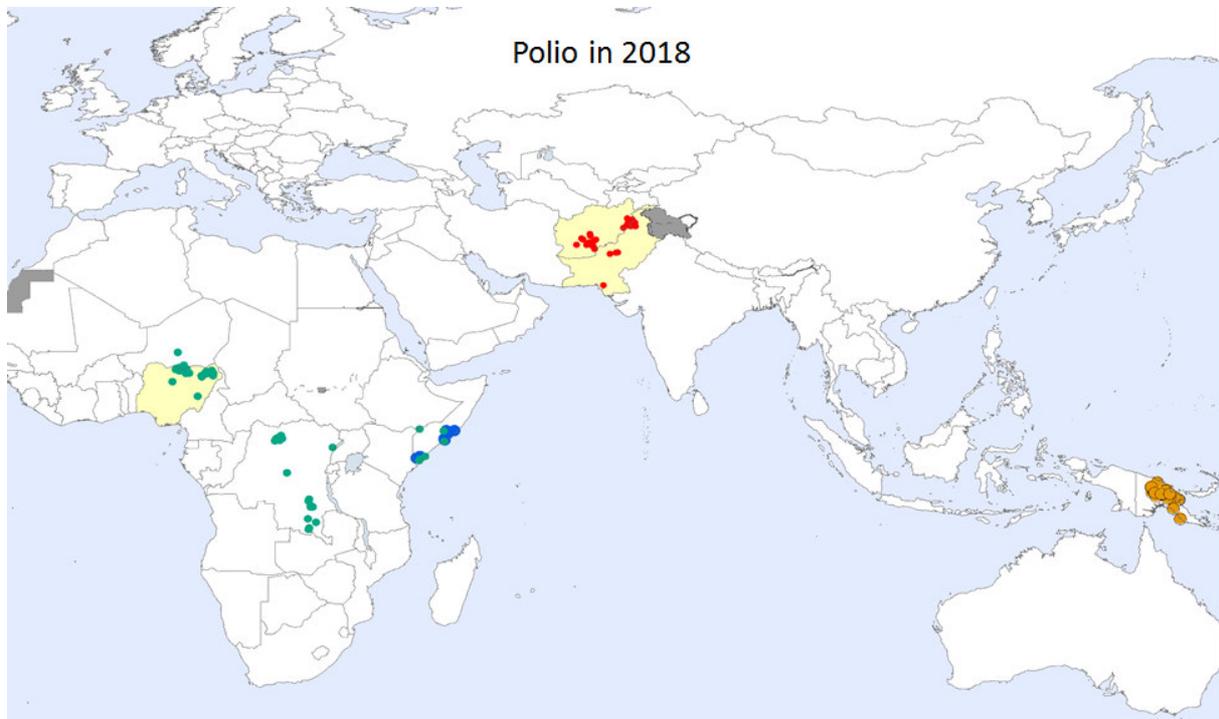
- At the end of 2018, we wanted to deliver a simple and short message to all Rotarians across Switzerland and Liechtenstein: THANK YOU!
- 2018 was a phenomenally successful year for PolioPlus CH/FL. Rotarians and Rotaractors across Switzerland and Liechtenstein actively engaged in PolioPlus activities, raising funds and awareness across the public and private sectors, and among communities.
- We sold tulips, chocolates, participated in global fundraising campaigns to mark World Polio Day in October and ran a special fundraising activity led by iPDG Christiane Griessen, D1990. And all of that were the 'supplementary' activities.... Clubs and Rotarians of course continued to support PolioPlus through their ongoing and regular fundraising and awareness raising activities.
- While the final figures are not yet in, it is clear that Rotarians and Rotaractors in Switzerland and Liechtenstein last year raised well over CHF500,000. As a result of these efforts, more than one million children will now be protected from lifelong polio paralysis in the few remaining countries where the disease remains prevalent.
- More importantly, this support brings the world one giant step closer to being polio-free. As you can see from the map on the next page, which shows the global polio epidemiology in 2018, we are nearly there!
- Now let us redouble our efforts in 2019, and capitalise on this momentum. It is only through this persistent engagement by Rotarians around the world that this disease will be eradicated.
- To this end, allow me to share with you words delivered recently by Rotary International President Barry Rassin and WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus: "Polio eradication may very well be the single most important endeavour that any of us will ever have the privilege and honour to join. But with this privilege comes the responsibility to succeed. And to meet that responsibility, we will need the unwavering commitment of every partner, every stakeholder, every donor, every political leader, every mother and father. So today, we have two messages for you, our partners in this effort. First, thank you for what you have done already – for having brought the world so close to being polio-free. And second, please redouble your efforts for a final push to get us over the finish line. Together, let us achieve something historic. Let us ensure that no child, anywhere, will ever again know the pain of lifelong polio paralysis."

***“To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition, to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived – this is to have succeeded.”***

***Ralph Waldo Emerson***

### **Bank details for donations:**

Verein Rotary Distriktskasse 1980, c/o Confiducia AG, Postfach 212, 4127 Birsfelden  
Reference: EndPolioNow IBAN: CH68 8077 4000 0018 7151 6,  
Raiffeisenbank Birsig, 4104 Oberwil



### *PolioPlus – Key points*

- Polio is a devastating disease, which paralyses children for life.
- There is no cure for polio – but a simple and effective vaccine protects a child for life.
- In 1985, Rotary started a worldwide movement to ensure that every child is vaccinated against polio.
- At that time, every year more than 350,000 children were paralysed by the disease, in more than 125 countries.
- In 2018, only 28 wild poliovirus cases were reported, from just 2 countries: Pakistan and Afghanistan.
- The world has never been closer to being polio-free. But if we do not succeed, polio will come roaring back. Within 10 years, 200,000 children will again be paralysed all over the world - every single year!
- Please help us eradicate polio once and for all. For just CHF0.50, you can help protect a child for life against this terrible disease.

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