



***PolioPlus***

*A programme of The Rotary Foundation that Supports global polio eradication efforts in Polio endemic countries by conducting National Immunisation Days, monitoring poliovirus Transmission and other activities*

**August 2006**

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## **POLIO NEWS IN BRIEF**

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Firstly, **CONGRATULATIONS** to the clubs who have become new contributors to PolioPlus Partners:

**Barnet & East Barnet  
Canary Wharf  
Paddington**

Kennington are, at present, considering their probabilities of contributing. I am sure you do not have to be reminded that cash contributions to PolioPlus Partners are matched to the value of 50% thereof by funds from a special Trustee Grant.

There is no minimum contribution; all contributions of any value will be “put to good use” – imagine only £150 from each club in the District, and we would have contributed £11,000!!! £250 and it would be £18,500!!!

Contributions and enquiries direct to me, please.

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Rotary and UNICEF continue to journey to that final day when Polio is fully eradicated.

Every time a child tastes a drop of the oral polio vaccine, the partnership between Rotary and UNICEF is at work. This last September UNICEF

agreed to work with Rotary on the eradication campaign for another five years.

Now it is for us Rotarians also to continue to find the contributions to enable that eradication work to completely rid the world of polio.

And also, remember that part of the legacy of our Polio eradication initiative will not only be a polio-free world, but a world with stronger capacity to tackle other diseases.

As Bill Sergeant (Chairman of the International PolioPlus Committee) has said: “Rotary must continue its advocacy efforts and help with social mobilisation efforts in polio-infested countries. This can be done through contributions to PolioPlus Partners.”

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### **THE STATE OF POLIO ERADICATION**

Only 4 countries are still polio-endemic - an all-time low: Nigeria, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

But, in addition to the endemic countries, nine countries have now reported polio cases in 2006 due to importations.

Polio cases in 2006 as of week of 01 August 2006

Nigeria (endemic)	566
India (endemic)	136
Somalia (importation)	27
Namibia (importation)	20
Afghanistan (endemic)	20
Pakistan (endemic)	12
Bangladesh (importation)	9
Democratic Republic of Congo (importation)	8
Niger (importation)	7
Ethiopia (importation)	6
Indonesia (importation)	2
Yemen (importation)	1
Nepal (importation)	1

**THE G8 COUNTRIES AGAIN DISCUSSED POLIO ERADICATION**

which has been on their agenda since their 2002 Summit in Canada. The G8 is the largest donor base to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative representing 52% of the US\$ 4.1 billion budget to date.

The Group's combined leadership has been integral in mobilising other partners around the world.

At their recent meeting, the spearheading partners of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative welcomed the political statements testifying to the longstanding support of the Group of Eight and call urgently on the G8 to turn these statements into action. A shortfall of US\$85 million for the remainder of 2006 must be filled immediately, in addition to the 2007/08 funding gap of US\$ 400 Million.

Without these funds immunisation activities in key political affected and

high risk countries will have to be scaled back which could result in a higher number of children being paralysed for life.

The necessary tools to eradicate polio are in place. Stopping polio transmission can be completed rapidly, except in Nigeria, where at least an additional 12 months will be required to finish the job, due to intense transmission in key states.

Progress in stopping outbreaks puts spotlight back on 4 endemic countries: In 2006, 90% of all polio cases are from endemic countries (Nigeria, India, Afghanistan and Pakistan), with 10% of cases from re-infected countries. This is a reverse situation from 2005, when the bulk of all polio cases (65%) were found in re-infected countries. With outbreaks in re-infected countries increasingly stopped or significantly slowing, the success of the global polio eradication effort lies in urgently stopping indigenous polio transmission in the remaining four endemic countries.

Let us Rotarians remain

at the forefront of this fight

to eradicate polio

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS**

**DO YOU ONPASS THIS NEWSLETTER TO OTHER MEMBERS OF YOUR CLUB?**

**IF NOT**

**WHAT ABOUT DOING SO!**

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