

END POLIO NOW ALMOST THERE!

POLIO REPORT February 2015

NEWS UPDATE

- The last recorded case in AFRICA was in Nigeria on 24th July 2014. This milestone marks a major achievement for the global programme, which has faced significant challenges in Nigeria in past years. Through increased political commitment, programmatic innovations and determination from a huge number of stakeholders, Nigeria has taken a significant step forwards. While the need for vigilance remains, the country has never passed six months without a case, leading to a cautious hope for the programme.
- Despite the major progress in Nigeria in 2014, focus must be maintained for the critical months ahead. The gains that have been made are delicate. Losing momentum now, when so much has been done to protect children across Africa, would be a major setback for the global programme.
- This week, 18 countries across western and central Africa have been holding synchronised polio immunization campaigns to reach nearly 94 million children with oral polio vaccine (OPV). This is a monumental coordination effort, incorporating strong governmental commitment, global support from international organisations such as the World Health Organization and UNICEF and the motivation of members of communities themselves to mobilize their friends and neighbours to ensure every child is protected.
- In conclusion, in AFRICA there is a fragile element of hope that the considerable efforts of 2014 are showing signs that the end of polio in this continent is in sight. As stated above, Nigeria and the other states in Africa are in 2015 taking further major efforts to ensure that the gains made are not lost.

All data and information provided by www.polioeradication.org and www.rotarygbi.org

NO CASES WORLDWIDE	@ 4th Feb 2015	@ 4th Feb 2014	Total 2014	Total 2013
Endemic Countries	6	8	339	160
Non Endemic Countries	0	0	19	256
TOTAL worldwide	6	8	358	416

PAKISTAN UPDATE

- Most of Pakistan is polio-free.
- Transmission is intense in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), and periodically spreads to other parts of the country and internationally.
- Pakistan accounted for more than 85% of all WPV1 cases worldwide in 2014.
- Political leaders from all levels of government were joined by public health experts, partners of the polio eradication programme and community leaders from across the country. A detailed review was made of the current situation in order to develop tailored approaches for specific high risk areas of the country. The meeting focussed on several specific issues such as improving the quality of activities in accessible areas, increasing the security measures for protecting health workers, developing special strategies for reaching mobile populations, and also using inactivated polio vaccine in areas where unvaccinated children are leaving areas of conflict. The increased focus on micro planning will be crucial in pursuing the virus into its final

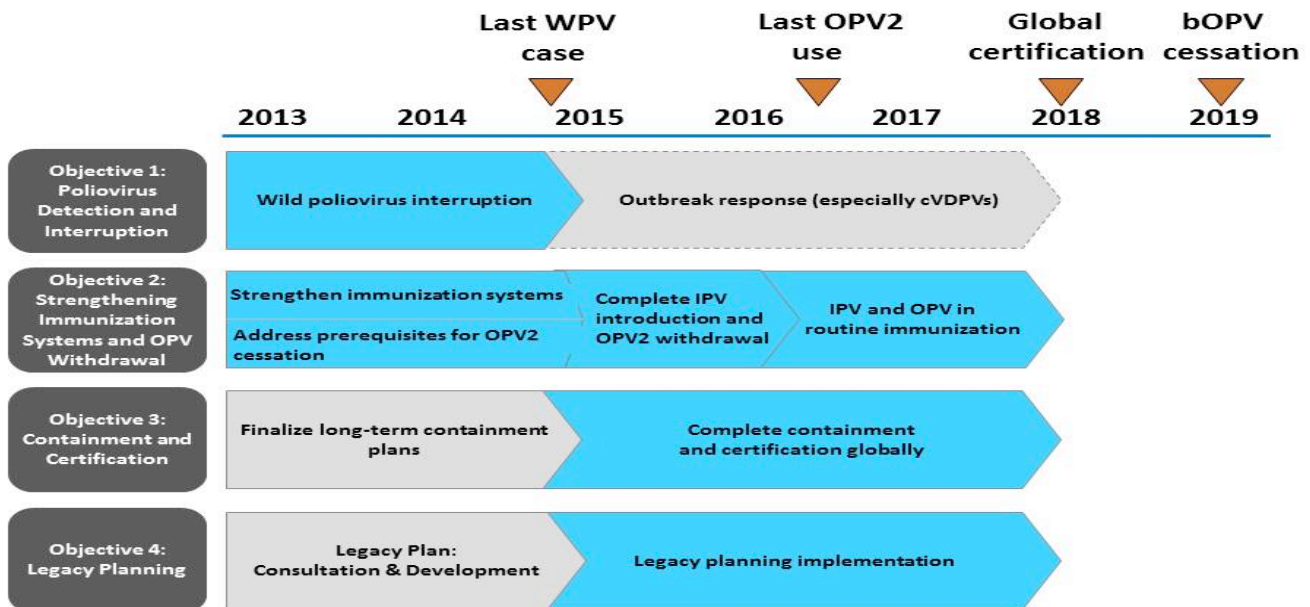
hiding places and ending its grip in Pakistan for good.

- Lessons learned globally from the eradication efforts teach us that no country struggles against polio in isolation. While the virus exists anywhere, children everywhere remain at risk of paralysis. With an increase in cases in Afghanistan in the last year due to cross-border transmission from Pakistan

NO CASES GROUP OF COUNTRIES	@ 4th Feb 2015	@ 4 th Feb 2014	Total 2014	Last reported case
Pakistan	6	7	305	07/01/15
Afghanistan	0	1	28	04/12/14
Nigeria	0	0	6	24/07/15
Iraq & Syria	0	0	3	07/04/14 -Iraq
Rest of Africa	0	0	16	11/08/14 - Somalia

WORLD END POLIO PLAN

- 29 January 2015 - Ministers of health, health leaders and other global public health experts attending this week's Executive Board (EB) meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, were encouraged by progress towards achieving a polio-free world. Yet they warned that as long as the disease remained anywhere, children everywhere are at risk. The meeting noted that achieving eradication, a global public good, could only be achieved through global solidarity.
- Rotary International provided an impassioned plea for all stakeholders to redouble their efforts, while reiterating the unwavering commitment of Rotarians worldwide.
- The Executive Board has agreed an ambitious plan that will take us to 2018



Information Sources: www.polioeradication.org,

DISTRICT AND CLUB NEWS:

- Rotarian Greg Maskalick has started a new Polio blog on: <http://polioat60.blogspot.co.uk> with some interesting articles, links and updates. Take a few moments to take a look. Its good stuff.
- District 1220 website also has an International and Polio section.

- **CAN YOU ARRANGE A FUND RAISER FOR POLIO THIS YEAR. THE ROTARY INITIATIVE IS MAKING REAL PROGRESS – LET’S SEE THE JOB FINISHED - SEE THE TIME PLAN ABOVE.**
- District donations for Polio year to date is £9,689.00 this is slightly down on last year when £10,707 was donated. Many thanks to the 13 clubs that have sent me a cheque but it would be great to get a donation from all the others.

**THE GATES OFFER OF \$2 FOR EVERY \$1 THAT WE COLLECT REMAINS IN PLACE.
THIS CONTRIBUTED \$70 Million TO THE ROTARY EFFORT LAST YEAR**

CHEQUES MADE OUT TO“RFUK POLIO ERADICATION” AND SEND ME AT THE ADDRESS BELOW

Albert Ripamonti, District 1220, “End Polio Now” 18 February 2015 ;

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