



END POLIO NOW



The
Rotary
Foundation



Region 20

Rotary in the North Midlands and North of England, Isle of Man, North Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland

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PolioPlus News

Dear Rotary friend,

I am writing this on the day when the whole country has gone into total lockdown for the second time in 8 months. Except for a period of a few weeks in the summer, the 12 districts in Region 20 have been subject to varying levels of restriction depending on whichever country they are in, and the incidence of infection with Covid-19 in the community. As a result, clubs have not been able to meet face to face since the 23rd March, and the opportunities for social engagement and fundraising in local communities have been drastically curtailed.

Donations to the Rotary Foundation in the first 3 months of the Rotary year are at their lowest level for many years, but cash donations to PolioPlus from clubs and individual donors have been hit even harder. The cumulative total at the end of October for the whole region was \$63,443 which is about 37%% of the total by this stage last year. Over half of this total was donated in October, some of that possibly as a result of events for World Polio Day. This shortfall compared to previous years is both understandable and totally excusable given the awful circumstances which we are all experiencing.

Although Rotarians in Great Britain & Ireland are challenged to donate the equivalent of \$55 per member each year, it was never anticipated that that should come out of their own pockets, but should be raised by a variety of fundraising events in local communities, and Jannine Birtwistle regularly sends emails to district PolioPlus subcommittee chairs, or End Polio Now champions as we call them, with exciting ideas under the banner of Purple4Polio.

Transfers from District Designated Funds have fared rather better and the total at the end of October was \$36,754. I am confident that all districts will honour the request from the Rotary Foundation Trustees to transfer 20% of new DDF to PolioPlus well before the end of the Rotary year.

The economic effects of the restrictions that have been necessary to control the coronavirus pandemic and especially prevent the National Health Service from being overwhelmed affect Rotarians as much as the rest of the public, but the protection of human life and health is a moral duty following directly from our motto of Service above Self. However, as your End Polio Now Coordinator, I am making a personal appeal to all 20,200 Rotarians in Region 20 to think seriously about making a personal gift-aided donation through RFUK to the polio eradication campaign using the appropriate form, and to all 836 Rotary Clubs to make a donation out of club funds.

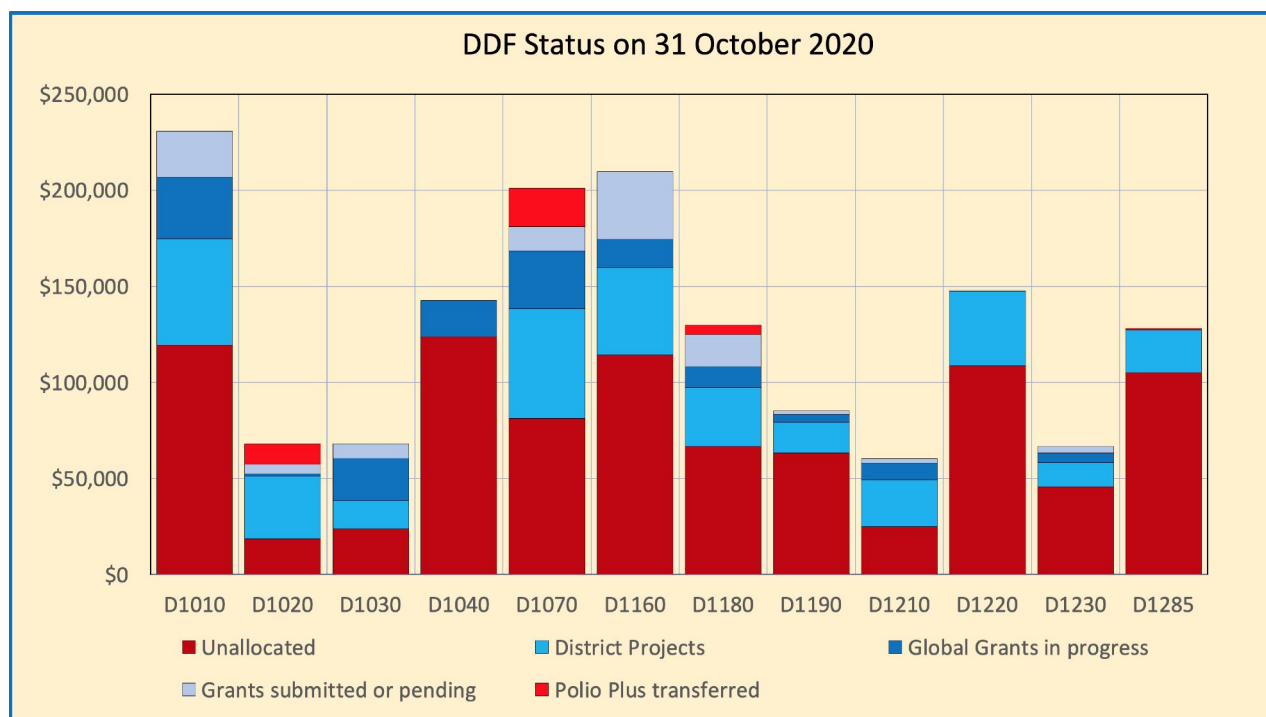
As I will attempt to show by simple maps and charts in this and subsequent newsletters, the goal of the eradication of wild type poliovirus made at the World Health Assembly in 1988 as a result of the passionate advocacy of Rotarians is within our grasp as long as we don't flag or allow ourselves to be discouraged.



Giving to PolioPlus at a Glance July - October 2020

Managing your DDF

Rotary Foundation recommended level is 20% of new DDF

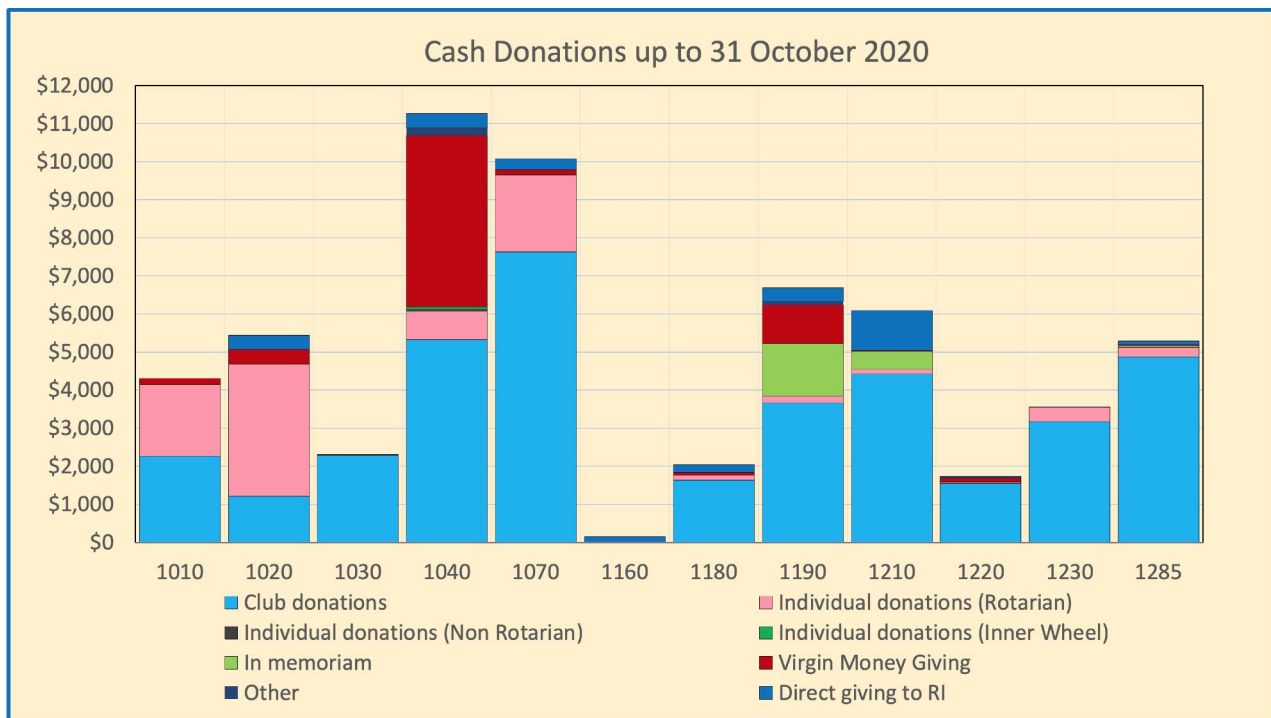




Giving to PolioPlus at a Glance July - October 2020

Cash Donations

Every donation is important whatever the amount. These could include direct giving by Rotarians, their family and friends, cash transfers from club funds, bequests and collections in memory of members who have passed to higher service, community fundraising, and finally major gifts.



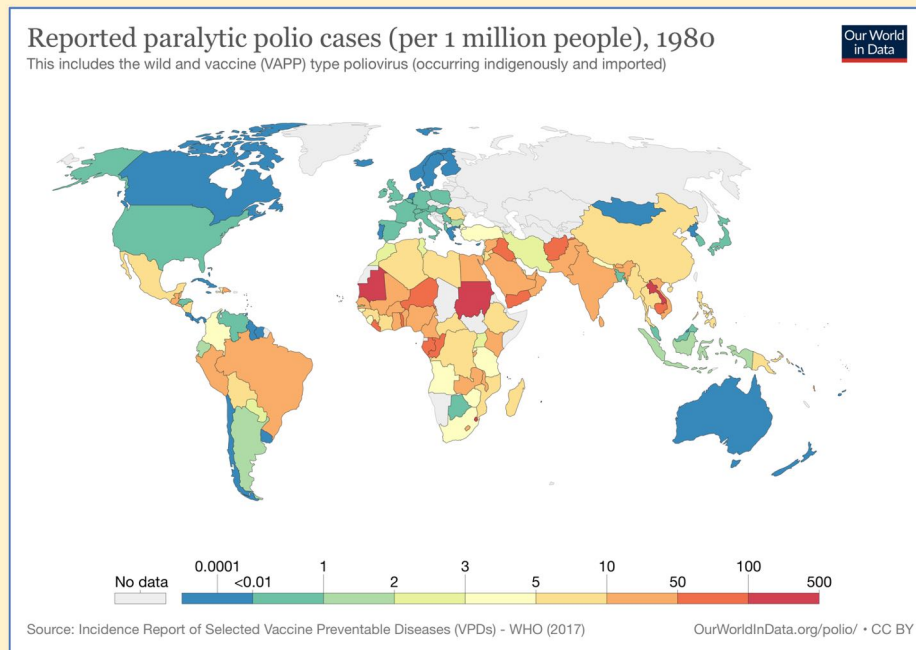
World Polio Day October 24th 2020

Despite the Covid-19 restrictions I have learned that many clubs celebrated World Polio Day. Please send me your stories and I will include as many as I can in future editions of the newsletter.

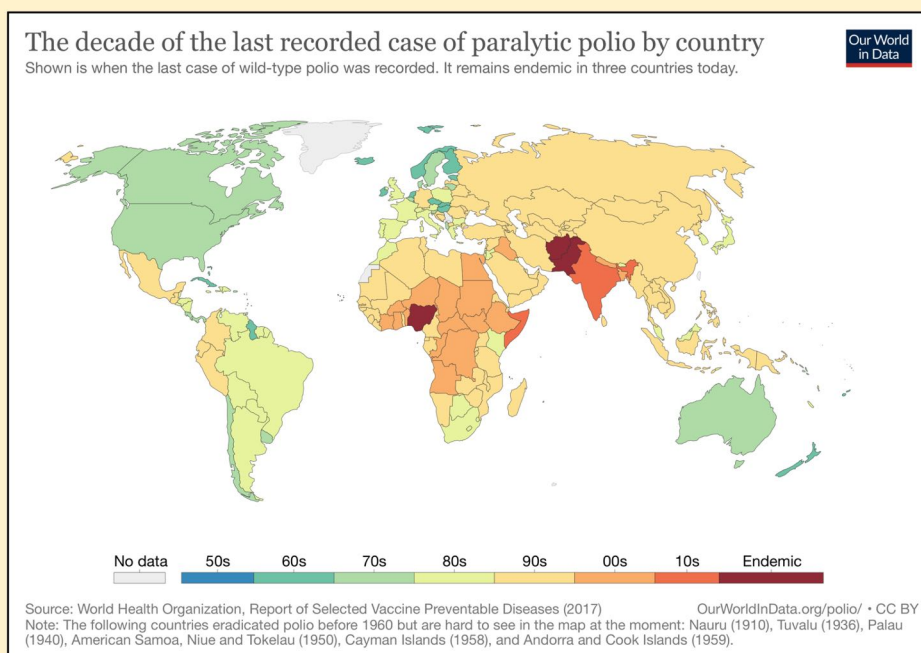
Polio Eradication Campaign 1988-2020

A Global Success Story

From 350,00 cases of paralytic polio in more than 125 countries in 1988 to 133 in just 2 countries in 2020.

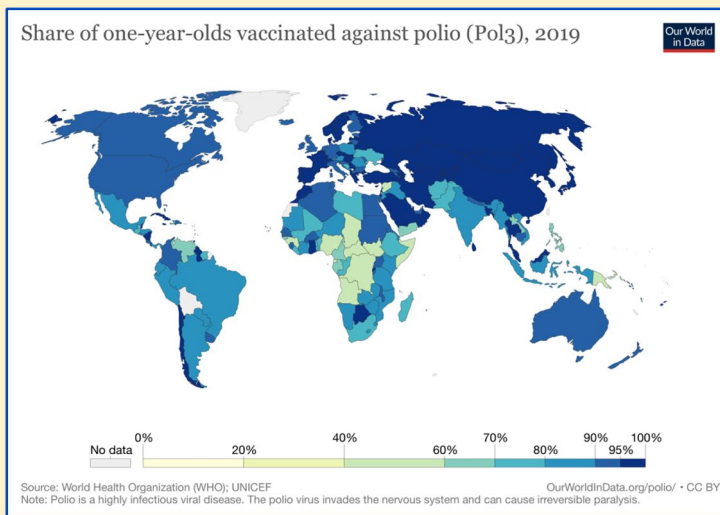


Polio type 3 was eradicated by 2012 and type 2 by 2015
Africa was declared to be polio free on 25th August 2020
Afghanistan & Pakistan are the only countries with endemic type 1 polio





450 million children in 50 countries receive at least one dose of oral polio vaccine every year at a cost of \$225 million



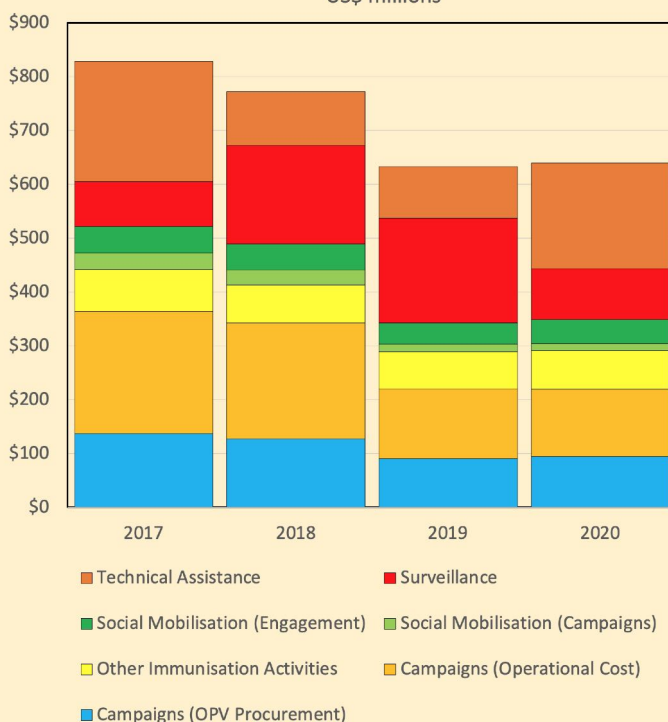
The polio eradication campaign is about so much more than giving children under 5 oral polio drops.

Example 1. Supplying clean water to vulnerable communities is a priority of the PolioPlus program not only in Nigeria, but also in Afghanistan and Pakistan — the only other remaining polio-endemic nations, or countries where transmission of the virus has never been interrupted. “Giving water is noble work also,” says Aziz Memon, chair of Rotary’s Pakistan PolioPlus Committee.

Example 2. Rotarians’ contributions to PolioPlus help fund planning by technical experts, large-scale communication efforts to make people aware of the benefits of vaccinations, and support for volunteers who go door to door. Volunteer community mobilizers are a critical part of vaccination campaigns in Nigeria’s hardest-to-reach communities. The volunteers are selected and trained by UNICEF, one of Rotary’s partners in the GPEI, and then deployed in the community or displaced persons camp where they live. They take advantage of the time they spend connecting with community members about polio to talk about other strategies to improve their families’ health.

Example 3. Children protected from polio still face other illnesses, and in Borno, malaria kills more people than all other diseases combined. Worldwide, a child dies of malaria every two minutes. To prevent its spread, insecticide-treated bed nets are often distributed for free during polio immunization events.

The Cost of Poliovirus Detection and Interruption
US\$ millions



November 2020

EMERGENCY CALL TO ACTION

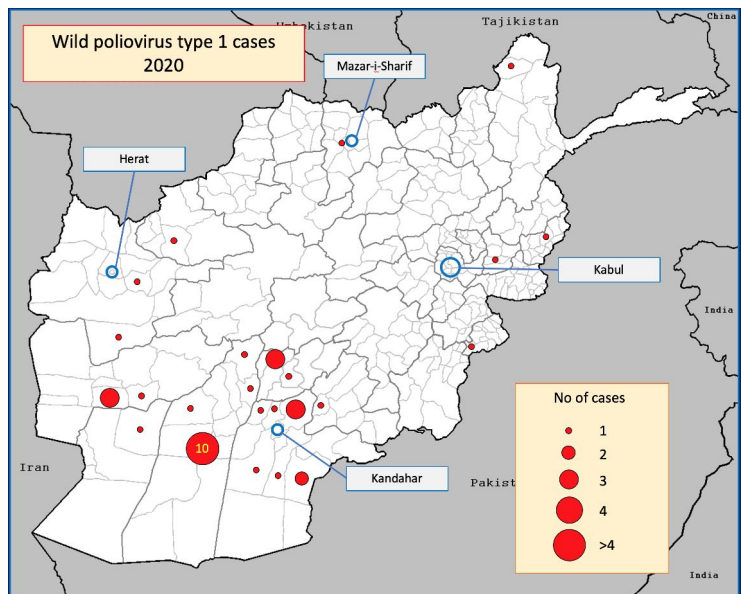
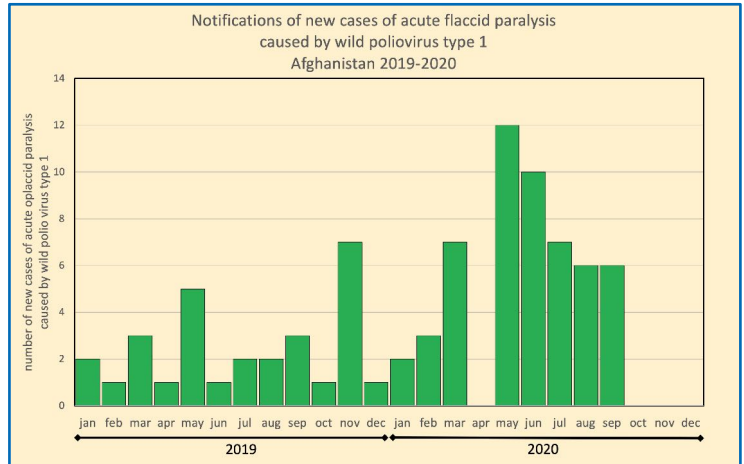
FOR MEASLES AND POLIO OUTBREAK PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

As COVID-19 disrupts immunization, a call for action and funds to protect children by vaccination

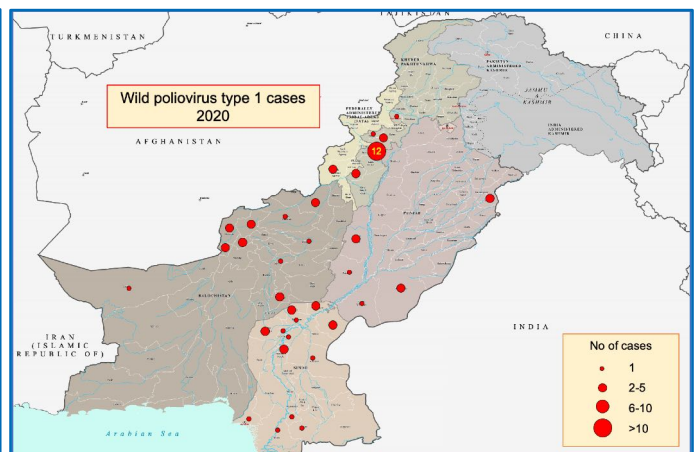
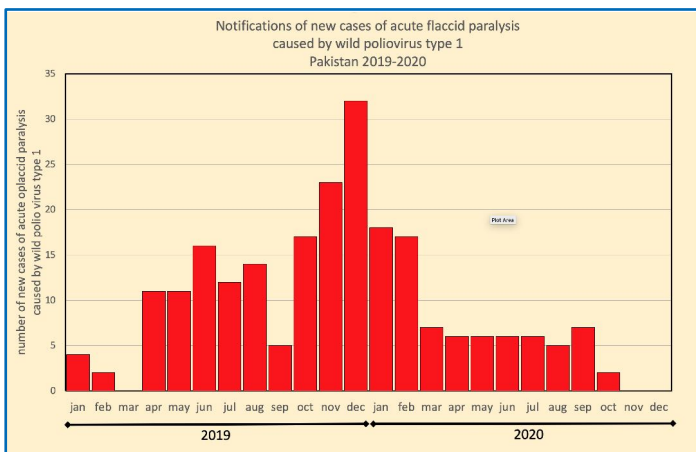


Latest data from WHO of the number of cases of acute flaccid paralysis caused by wild type 1 poliovirus.

AFGHANISTAN



PAKISTAN



Future editions of this newsletter will explain some simple facts about poliovirus, the history of research into vaccines and future developments, and the problems of vaccine derived paralytic polio. Please feel free to distribute this newsletter to Rotary and Rotaract clubs and other supporters of the campaign.