

# PolioPlus News

END  
POLIO  
NOW

Regions 20 & 21

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## Keith Paver

End Polio Now Coordinator for Region 20

## Derek Rothwell

End Polio Now Coordinator for Region 21



This is the second joint newsletter following hot on the heels of the widely acclaimed first. We want you to be able to skim the newsletter and for you to capture the key points, but also to find some of the excruciating detail which some of you need. So this is how it works. Read the front page and immerse yourself in the summary. Want more detail then click on the link opposite to take you to tables and reports. Not enough? Then please tell us what you need.

### Table of Links

[1 R20/21 EPNC website](#)

[2 District Data](#)

[3 Regional DDF Audit](#)

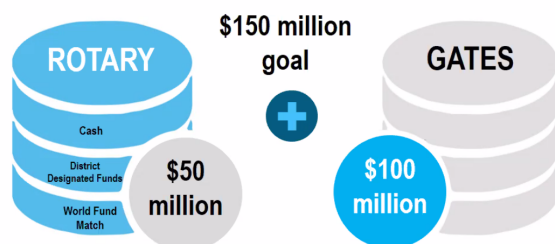
[4 Polio Weekly Case Count](#)

This newsletter will be published quarterly. The data on the website will be updated monthly. Don't lose the link to the website!

The summary is:

- 1 Polio cases are now very low
- 2 The number of cases is not a reliable indicator of the prevalence of the disease. Measurement of environmental samples gives a much better indication.
- 3 Our efforts to eradicate the disease are dependent on raising funds to do what is needed.
- 4 Rotary and its partners are succeeding.

## POLIOPLUS FUNDRAISING GOAL



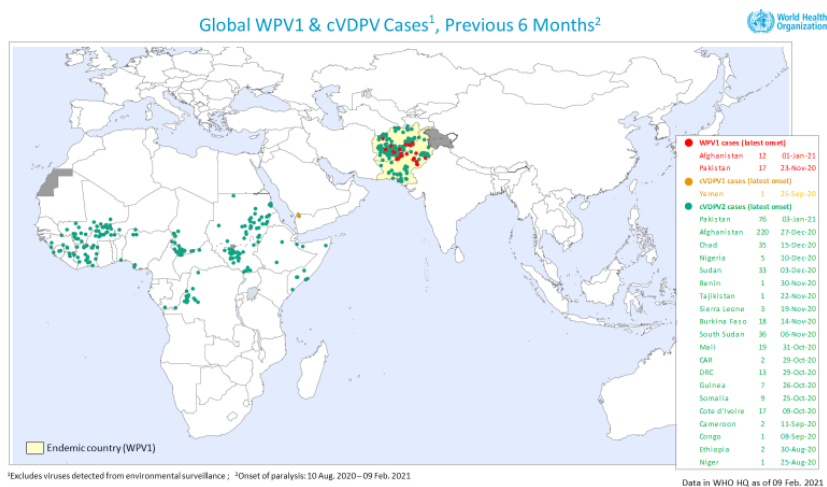
The PolioPlus fundraising goal was just achieved in 2019-20 and we need your help to achieve this year. Rotary needs to raise \$50M to benefit from the maximum Bill & Melinda Gates contribution of \$100M. No one district can achieve this, but as a Rotary team it can be done. Every Rotarian has a part to play. Please review your district DDF contribution now! Please consider giving all new DDF to a cause e.g. PolioPlus. Don't leave it in the bank!

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Rotary’s campaign to eradicate wild poliovirus which began in 1979 when 6 million children in the Philippines were given oral polio vaccine has reached a critical point where the finishing line is within reach as long as Rotarians, clubs and districts maintain their commitment. Rotary is the beating heart of the campaign and its invaluable contribution over the past 42 years cannot just be measured in terms of dollars or volunteer hours, but as the prime mover in inspiring the involvement of WHO, Unicef, national governments and above all, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The number of children with acute flaccid paralysis caused by wild poliovirus type 1 in the Afghanistan/Pakistan epidemiological region appears to be falling, with 106 cases in the last year, but only 25 in the last 6 months. However, transmission persists in the core reservoirs of infection in Southern Afghanistan, and in Karachi and the region around Quetta in Pakistan – a region which is close to the border with Southern Afghanistan. The results of genomic sequencing confirm that cross border spread is a significant problem despite government efforts to vaccinate everyone passing through the main official transit points between the two countries. Traditional tribal migration routes between the two countries go back centuries and crossing points are often in remote areas. Sporadic cases are also being seen in hitherto polio free regions such as North Sindh and South Punjab in Pakistan and the Western and Northern regions in Afghanistan, and the number of positive environmental isolates continues to rise.

Since the switch from trivalent to bivalent oral vaccine in 2016 the number of cases caused by circulating vaccine derived virus has significantly exceeded those caused by wild poliovirus. The majority have been caused by poliovirus type 2, which is the serotype with the least number of nucleotide changes needed to revert to neurovirulence. The problem is not confined to Afghanistan and Pakistan where there have been 412 cases in the last 12 months, but also to many countries in sub-Saharan Africa where routine polio vaccination of infants falls well below optimum levels. There is also good evidence that strains of vaccine derived poliovirus have been exported from the countries where they have arisen. The introduction of a new oral type 2 monovalent vaccine which has been genetically modified to prevent reversion should contain this problem as it is rolled out over the next few months.



The COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on polio eradication at many levels, and has served to heighten the risk of polio transmission and exportation of wild poliovirus and vaccine derived virus across international borders. At the same time the value of polio-funded staff and assets has had a positive effect in containing the pandemic in more than 50 countries where they are active, at an

estimated value of \$104 million. In view of the overriding imperative to end the COVID-19 pandemic, the Polio Oversight Board has committed to the polio program’s continued support for the next phase of COVID-19 response and vaccine introduction and delivery.

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## Region 20 Report

As of 31 January 2021 six districts have made a transfer from DDF to PolioPlus, three of them equalling or exceeding the Rotary Foundation Trustees recommended goal of 20% of new DDF. The total amount so far that districts have made in grants to the eradication campaign is \$64,558, which with 100% matching from the World Fund and 2:1 matching by the Gates Foundation, equals \$387,348. Two districts have also made significant donations from district funds which with smaller donations from other districts brings the total from district funds to \$6,409. Club donations, which include donations via RFUK from individual Rotarians and bequests, total \$189,941. Cash donations from district funds and club donations only attract 2:1 matching from the Gates Foundation, so the total for this Rotary year in cash donations is \$589,050 bringing the overall total to just under \$1 million.



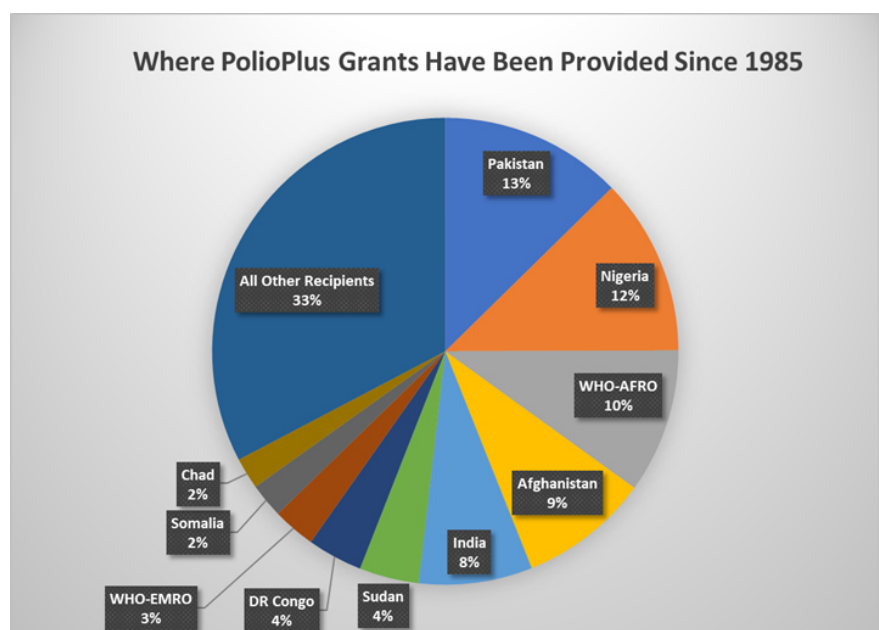
The COVID-19 pandemic has inevitably had a significant effect on the ability of clubs to raise money for polio through fundraising events and the total for cash donations is well down on last year. As it is unlikely to increase significantly over the rest of the Rotary year and certainly won't be anywhere near the goal of £55 per Rotarian, transfers from DDF are even more important than they were in previous years.

## Region 21 Report

My update takes place on or around 14 February which is the earliest date that information in the RI database can be considered stable for the previous month. This report covers progress to date. Two districts have made substantial contributions of DDF to PolioPlus, and one of those exceeded the Rotary goal significantly. Cash donations from districts amounted to \$2555.77 and club donations amounted to \$175,749.13. These donations will have been routed through RFUK and gift aid (25%) will have been included when the UK rules allow it.



Keith mentions that at present DDF donations are matched 100% from the World Fund and 2:1 from the Gates Foundation. The 100% World Fund match applies only up to 30 June. From 1 July the match will reduce to 50%. Cash donations only attract the 2:1 match from the Gates Foundation so there is no change here. The total for Region 21 including the matching grants is just over \$650,000.



Want to know where grants are given? See the diagram above.