



Issue 247 - February/March 2023

Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

The first Rotaract Club was chartered on March 13, 1968. Each year, the week containing March 13 is celebrated as World Rotaract Week. This week, and the month of the March, is an opportune time to inform members of the community about the amazing work that Rotaract Clubs do, and give them an opportunity to get involved.



Being a past Rotaractor, I have been closely connected with the Rotaract movement and have had the opportunity to guide and support the formation of a number of new Rotaract Clubs. I have always found Rotaract as an ideal platform for the development of young leaders. Not only does this help build their character and personality, but provides them with immense opportunities to discover their own skills and talents through conceiving new initiatives of service and also implementing these efficiently through innovative means.

With the elevation of Rotaract, members are now able to make bigger contributions to the Rotary world - whether it is by way of joining Rotary Clubs as members, as service partners, or by donating to The Rotary Foundation.

In order to help our organization grow further, each of us Rotarians should get involved with Rotaract, and promote it in the community and within our network, starting with our own family and friends. Both my sons are members of Rotaract Clubs in leadership roles.

Do write in to let us know on how you are promoting Rotaract in your community.

Rotary Regards,



Jeetendra Sharma
Editor-in-Chief
RGHF's Our Foundation Newsletter

Trustee Chair's Message

Living in Australia, you think a lot about water. When you travel to the nation's vast interior, the Outback, you can't help but wonder how such an arid climate has supported life for millennia. There, each sip of water feels precious.

Each sip seems to get more precious by the day as climate change continues to impact water supply everywhere. Where Juliet and I live, on the temperate coast not far from Melbourne, I remember times not long ago when water supplies were so low that severe usage restrictions were put into place. We now live on rainwater that falls onto our roof and is collected in a tank. In many parts of the world, people don't have that luxury.

Water is essential for life no matter where we live. Yet many of us take it for granted. Think of all the times today you turned on the tap. About 1 in 4 people in the world have quite a different experience when they do — if they have a tap at all. Today, 2 billion people lack access to safely managed drinking water, according to the United Nations. It is heartbreaking that each year, about 300,000 children under age 5 die from diarrheal diseases caused by poor sanitation, poor hygiene, or unsafe drinking water — all preventable circumstances.

This is where Rotary comes in. Through your support, The Rotary Foundation provides water and sanitation for countless communities around the globe. Foundation global grants have ranged from providing toilets and hygiene education for villages in the Philippines to building infrastructure for year-round access to safe, affordable drinking water in Brazil.

The water and sanitation problems that we face are too great for any of us to solve alone. But whether we work with global grant partner districts across the world or with large agencies such as USAID, we are making a difference.

When thinking of teaming up to provide safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene, remember that one of our greatest partners is right here within the family of Rotary: Rotaract.

Effective this Rotary year, Rotaract clubs may apply for global grants. I encourage Rotary and Rotaract clubs to work together on existing grants and for Rotary clubs to support grants sponsored by Rotaract clubs. Together, Rotary and Rotaract clubs are going to take the power of the Foundation to a new level.

The Rotary Foundation has more potential than ever to make a difference in the water and sanitation challenges we all face, thanks to your generous support.



Ian H.S. Riseley
Trustee Chair 2022-23

RI President Jennifer Jones insists Rotarians have to finish the job of eradicating Polio

By Dave King

Rotary International President, Jennifer Jones, is on a brief tour of London. Speaking at the House of Commons she said that Rotary had to deliver on its promise to the children of the world that it would help to eradicate polio.

Jennifer warned Rotarians against polio fatigue by insisting that the world has never been closer to winning the battle against the disease.

Speaking at an End Polio Now event at the House of Commons, the Canadian said she was mindful how Rotarians have heard over many years how close the world was the seizing victory.



Jennifer Jones and Aidan O'Leary at the House of Commons

“We get fatigued sometimes and people wonder when is it going to happen,” said Jennifer.

“But the reason for nights like tonight is to let you know that we are within reach and we have to have the confidence that we are going to do this and keep our promise to the children of the world.”

Speaking in one of the committee rooms at the Palace of Westminster, in front of an invited gathering of Rotarians, the RI President spoke movingly about her visit to Pakistan last year, watching vaccinators move from house to house in some of the most challenging slums in oppressive heat to carry out polio vaccinations of young children.

“I visited Karachi and Islamabad with one very simple purpose and that was to offer word of gratitude to these women, the vaccinators, who put themselves in harm’s way every day. These women told me they believe they are on the frontline of this war.

“I am enormously proud of the work these women are doing to ensure every child remains polio-free.”

Read more [here](#)

Source: rotarygbi.org

Polio Eradication Update

For The Week Ending 3/18/23

**Advocate, Donate & Educate to END POLIO NOW & FOREVER!
20,000,000 Children saved from the Paralysis of Polio since 1988**

Total paralysis cases	Year-to-date 2023	Total 2022	Total 2021	Total 2020	Total 2019
Globally	0	30	6	140	176
- in endemic countries:	0	22	5	140	176
- in post-endemic countries:	0	8	1	0	0

**Wild Polio cases reported in the past week:
Pakistan 0, Afghanistan 0**

2023 Wild Polio Cases – 0

Pakistan No new Wild Polio cases reported this week. Twenty Wild Polio cases reported in 2022. One Wild Polio Case reported in 2021. The most recent case had an onset of paralysis on 9/15/22. Pakistan reported 83 Wild Polio cases in 2020. **One WPV1 Sample and no cVDPV2 Positive Environmental Samples were reported this week in Pakistan.**

Afghanistan No new Wild Polio cases reported this week. Two Wild Polio Cases reported in 2022 . Four Wild Polio cases reported in 2021 The most recent case had an onset of paralysis on 8/29/22. Afghanistan reported 56 Wild Polio cases in 2020. **No WPV1 Samples and no cVDPV2 Positive Environmental Samples were reported this week in Afghanistan.**

2022 Wild Cases - Pakistan 20, Afghanistan 2, Mozambique 8
2022 Vaccine Derived Polio Cases – 826 in 25 Countries
2023 Vaccine Derived Cases – 13 in 7 Countries

Terry Ziegler, Polio Update Newsletter Editor, bigzlumber@aol.com

Why I ride to end polio



Gary Bren during a previous year's Ride to End Polio in El Tour de Tucson

For more than two decades, my wife and I have been committed to Rotary's effort to eradicate polio. The roots of my involvement go back to events before I was born. I have two older sisters, and after my second sister was born, my mom had two miscarriages. My parents really wanted a third child, so the doctors prescribed a drug that would help my mom carry a child full-term.

I was born with a few side effects from that drug. The first – a single abdominal kidney – was discovered at the time of my birth. The second, I didn't discover until years later. In the 1990s my wife and I were having trouble conceiving a child, and we found out the problem was related to the drug my mother had taken.

All this left me asking, "How do I do justice to the life I was given?" I started to find an answer after someone recruited me to join Rotary in 2000. Then my wife, Gretchen, joined Rotary in 2007, and a few months later attended a seminar about The Rotary Foundation. Someone gave a presentation on Rotary's work of vaccinating children against polio in Nigeria. It struck a chord, and she left convinced she needed to get involved.

Sixteen years later, she's been on 15 trips to Africa and south-central Asia, including nine trips to Nigeria and the only two Rotary National Immunization Day trips to Chad. These trips have deeply affected both of us, showing us the impact Rotary is having through the PolioPlus campaign. My involvement with polio eradication prior to 2020 consisted of supporting Gretchen and donating to PolioPlus.

Read more [here](#).

Source: *Rotary Voices*

Confidence in surveillance essential for certifying a polio-free world

Latest recommendations from independent global certification body



Elkoz Station (Wastewater station), Khartoum, Sudan.

Jan 10, 2021: environmental surveillance collectors pouring wastewater for testing

The Global Commission for the Certification of Poliomyelitis Eradication (GCC) met recently in Amman, Jordan, to review progress towards interrupting wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) transmission in polio-endemic Pakistan and Afghanistan, implementation of the Global Surveillance Action Plan, and to hear from the six regional certification commissions on current regional priorities and issues.

‘Deep-dive’ sessions on both endemic countries, focusing on epidemiology, virology, immunization coverage and surveillance, were valuable opportunities for the global body to be updated on current challenges being faced by Pakistan and Afghanistan country teams in achieving zero polio. The GCC commended the national programmes for their conduct of high-quality activities in the face of political instability, insecurity and other operational barriers, and concluded that 2023 presents a vital opportunity to finally stop transmission of WPV1.

On detection of poliovirus, the GCC noted the progress towards implementation of the GPEI Global Surveillance Action Plan (GPSAP) but raised concerns over shortcomings in surveillance performance, particularly the timeliness of detection and quality of environmental surveillance in some localities. The Commission reiterated the importance of environmental surveillance as a supplement to AFP surveillance, and while recognizing that its utility varies depending on ground realities, recommended that further analysis be conducted into ES system performance and for updates to be provided to the group on a biannual basis.

More broadly, the GCC stressed a need for greater confidence in surveillance systems worldwide, and particularly in the endemic countries, to detect transmission within areas and populations of greatest risk, such as those with substantial gaps in population immunity, high risk mobile groups and areas that have had silent transmission of poliovirus. The GCC called for greater granularity in GPEI reporting of progress in implementing the GPSAP and flagged a need for deeper understanding of all potential gaps, including region specific issues.

“It will be the quality of poliovirus surveillance that will allow the GCC to certify the eradication of WPV1 with the highest possible level of confidence,” said Professor David Salisbury, GCC Chair.

The GCC also recommended that immune-deficient vaccine-derived poliovirus (iVDPV) surveillance continue to be developed as an important aspect of the validation of the absence of VDPV.

Lastly, the GCC commended GPEI’s continued and intensive coordination and support of the endemic country programmes, to facilitate a smooth regional certification process when WPV1 is no longer detected and recommended that polio-free regions begin to prepare for global certification of WPV1, in line with the Eastern Mediterranean’s regional certification.

The full GCC report and recommendations will be made available in the coming weeks.

Tips for applying for a Programs of Scale grant

It's not too early to start working on your 2023 Programs of Scale concept note. Register for the webinar "Programs of Scale Competition: Insights and Tips for Applying" to understand our criteria for concept notes and to get help applying. The webinar will be offered twice on 26 April.

- [Register for the 08:00 Chicago time \(UTC-5\) session](#) in English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish
- or for the [16:00 Chicago time \(UTC-5\) session](#) in English, Japanese, Korean, and Mandarin.

[Learn more](#) about past winners or download the [Programs of Scale Handbook](#) and [Concept Note Template](#).

Source: *Rotary Leader* March 2023

Rotary Peace Fellowships



ROTARY PEACE FELLOWSHIPS

Full funding for a master's degree or post-graduate diploma in disciplines related to peace and development

  **APPLY NOW**

Rotary Peace Centers increase the capacity of dedicated peace and development leaders through academic training, relevant field experiences, and global networking opportunities. If you're a peacebuilding who wants to increase your impact, learn more about applying by 15 May for a fully funded master's degree or professional development certificate fellowship: <https://on.rotary.org/3J6sYLP>

Source: *Rotary Peace Centers on Facebook*

Our Foundation Newsletter



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