



THE 2019-20 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENTS-ELECT, MARK DANIEL MALONEY ANNOUNCES HIS PRESIDENTIAL THEME AT THE INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, USA.

National Polio Plus Committee: PDG Tunji Funsho - Chairman, PDG Yomi Adewunmi - Vice Chairman, PDG Charles Femi Lawani - Vice Chairman, PDG Kazeem Mustapha - Vice Chairman, PAG Yakubu Ndanusa - Vice Chairman, PDG Obafunso Ogunkeye - Secretary, PAG Remi Bello - Treasurer, PDG Joshua Hassan - PR Adviser, PDG Tolu Omatsola, PDG Ijeoma Okoro, PDG Alaba Akinsete - Representing CRODIGON, PDG Yinka Babalola - Special Representative, DG Wale Ogunbadejo, DG Nnoka Mbanefo, DG Ogiemudia Ikponmwosa, DG Emma Ude Akpeh

Chairman's Address

STILL ON A CLEAN SLATE-BUT THERE IS MORE WORK TO BE DONE

Welcome to the New Year 2019- a year of great promise. As we enter the year 2019 with great optimism to hit the three year mark without any cases of wild polio virus in Nigeria, we are rededicating ourselves to plugging all loopholes and surmounting every logistic challenge that could allow the virus make a comeback into Nigeria.

It is heartwarming to note the increase and improvement in the participation of Rotarians from all across Nigeria in the polio eradication programme in Nigeria. Their contributions have been highly commendable and noteworthy particularly in the areas of advocacy, social mobilization, field support and fundraising which remain the main areas of focus of our polio eradication efforts.

In 2017, we had the lowest recorded number of cases of the wild polio virus in human history but in 2018 that number rose to 31 cases (21 in Afghanistan and 10 in Pakistan). Also, in 2018 a number of outbreaks of vaccine derived polio were witnessed across the globe from Papua New Guinea to Nigeria and the DRC. Significantly, beyond the high number of cases witnessed globally with 33 of them in Nigeria alone, the cVDPV cases in 2018 included all the three serotypes of the polio virus. Although 85 percent of infants globally received at least 3 doses of the

polio vaccine in 2018, immunity gaps remain while crises and conflicts continue to pose a threat to the progress made in the fight against polio.

Although it is easy to be disheartened by the setbacks that occurred in the previous year, we must not forget that the overall trajectory of the cases of polio remains a downward one. We have been able to reduce the number of cases by 99.9 percent, saved millions of lives and there are at least 16 million people today who are able to walk or move about freely because of the tremendous work that we have done. We just have to maintain our intensity, identify our challenges and work hard to overcome them.

One of the challenges to the programme remains the huge cost required to maintain the offensive against polio. The programme currently has a substantial funding gap through to 2023 even with the new commitment of the Gates Foundation of the continuing 2:1 match and even if all expected sources of funding are realized. In spite of this, government support appears to be flagging and donors appear to be looking at other challenges.

The Nigeria programme has recently received a boost in funding from Rotary through UNICEF comprising:



Dr. Tunji Funsho

Chairman, Nigeria National PolioPlus Committee

US\$ 88,547 for technical assistance
US\$ 700,884 for social mobilisation
US\$ 4,942,929 for operational support.

This will go a long way in averting the projection of UNICEF that we could have as many as 200,000 cases of polio in just 10 years if current levels of effort and enthusiasm are not maintained. Complacency is therefore one luxury that we can all not afford, at least not at this time. Sometimes we face mountains of challenges that seem insurmountable but we have to remember that the mountains behind us were just as big and as difficult to climb. We must therefore stay focused, keep our eyes on the ball and believe that the end of polio in our world is surely now within our sights.

Like every creature threatened, with survival the wild polio virus will fight for its survival. It behoves us not to get choked at the cow's tail and persevere until no child is ever paralysed by the polio virus again.

FROM EDITOR'S DESK

STAY POSITIVE IN 2019

Looking at a graph of polio cases, when the number of cases is plotted against the year in which they occurred, it is easy to see that the fight against polio has not been quite as straightforward as many would have wished. Our victories have often been followed by setbacks; our highs have been often followed by lows. Still when you look at the graph, the overall trend has been a downward one, showing how over time, due to the tenacity of Rotary and our partners, we have been able to reduce this disease by 99.9 percent. 2018 was a really tough year. In terms of the number of Wild Polio Virus cases, we surpassed the previous year's total of 22 to end up at 31 (as at January 16, 2019). There were also 102 cases of vaccine derived polio in 2018 (as at January 16, 2019) with 33 of these occurring in Nigeria alone. However, when we compare to where we began, when Polio was a menace that affected nearly every society in the world, we have reasons to be hopeful that this scourge will soon come to an end. The

point I am trying to make is that our attitude to the fight against polio in the New Year should be one of positivity and of a hopeful focus. The darkest hour of the night is usually that before the golden streaks of a new dawn come streaming in. If we keep up our energies, this can be the year that we kick polio out for good. I refuse to dampen my enthusiasm that 2019 is the year that Africa will finally become polio-free. In the words of Catherine Pulsifer:

Happiness depends upon your outlook on life. Find the good in all situations

Attitude is just as important as ability. Keep your attitude positive

Passion find yours this year! Do what you love and you will never work
Positive thoughts make everything easier. Stay focused and stay positive

You are unique, with special gifts, use them. Never forget you have talent

New beginnings with a new year.

Enthusiasm a true secret of success.

Wishes may they turn into goals.

Years go by too quickly, enjoy them.- Wisdom from your elders, listen
Energy may you have lots of it. Take care of yourself

Appreciation of life, don't take it for granted. Live each day

Relax take the time to relax in this coming year. Keep a balance in your life

I therefore invite you to enjoy this edition of PolioStop with us as we look forward to a 2019 that is better in every way that the year that went before. Happy New Year.



ROTN. OLUGBENGA OLAIYIWOLE
Editor PolioStop

OUTBREAK RESPONSE AND IPDs CALENDAR FOR 2018 - 2019					
S/No	Month	Dates	Scope	Antigen	Status
2018 Polio SIA calendar					
1	December	8 th - 11 th	1 st OBR to Bauchi/KadunaCDPV2 in 16 states (Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, Zamfara, Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, FCT, Benue, Nasarawa, Niger and Plateau)	mOPV2	Pending
2019 Polio SIA calendar					
1	January	26 th - 29 th	2 nd OBR to Bauchi/KadunaCDPV2 in 16 states (Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, Zamfara, Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, FCT, Benue, Nasarawa, Niger and Plateau)	mOPV + bOPV	Pending
2	March	9 th - 12 th	SIPDs (Borno + 6 high risk states)	bOPV	Pending
3	March - April	30 th March - 2 nd April	SIPDs in 18 states (Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, Zamfara, Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, Yobe, FCT, Benue, Nasarawa, Niger and Plateau)	bOPV	Pending
4	April	27 th - 30 th	NIPDS	bOPV	Pending
5	May	25 th - 28 th	NIPDS	bOPV	Pending
6	September	21 st - 24 th	SIPDs (8 high risk states)	mOPV2	Done

LEGEND: NIPDS SIPDs OBR

NIGERIA POLIO UPDATE: JANUARY 2019

NIGERIA POLIO VIRUS STATISTICS

Nigeria has made a remarkable recovery after the resurgence of the wild polio virus (WPV) in 2016 as no WPV has been reported from any source in accessible areas of the country since September 2017. The Nigeria PEI programme has made tremendous progress in its innovative efforts to reach children in trapped populations in security compromised northeast geopolitical zone, especially Borno State.

However, the country is witnessing intense transmission of cVDPV2 since April 2018. As at 28 December 2018, 136 cVDPV2 in 12 states 29 LGAs and 8 ambiguous vaccine derived polio virus (aVDPV2) have been isolated. 41 of these have been isolated from environmental samples, 50 from healthy

children, 33 cases and isolates have been reported from 29 LGAs in seven States. Although the programme has conducted multiple monovalent oral polio vaccine (mOPV2) rounds in response, the outbreak has continued to spread within the country and has also been exported to Niger Republic.

The 36th ERC commended the National Programme for the tremendous progress made, especially in timely response to cVDPV2 outbreaks, reaching more inaccessible areas, improved surveillance quality, engagement of military to support SIAs and surveillance activities in inaccessible areas; integration of programme into broader PHC; setting up of frameworks to improve RI; high level advocacy and mobilization of

funds for both PEI and RI and conduct of two presidential task for meetings.

The engagement of traditional and religious leaders remains critical in resolving non-compliance as 54% of non-compliant cases in September OBR were resolved by traditional leaders. NPHCDA has sustained high level advocacy to governors, military chiefs and traditional leaders for increased access, oversight and timely release of counterpart funds. Engagement of religious leaders and institutions has been further strengthened with the reactivation of the partnership with Dawa'ah Coordination Council of Nigeria (DCCN) – a network of over 40 Islamic organizations

GLOBAL POLIO UPDATE, 2018

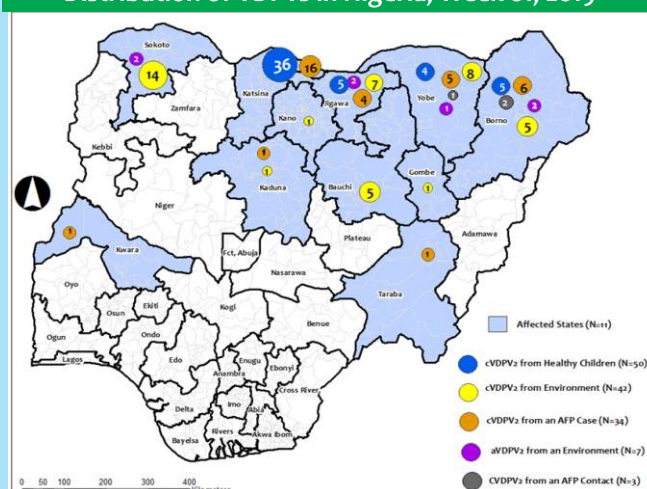
Total WPV global cases in 2018: 29 (compared with 22 in 2017)

- Afghanistan: 21 cases in 2018 (compared with 12)
- Pakistan: 8 cases in 2018 (compared with 8 in 2017)
- Nigeria: 0 case in 2018 (compared with 0 in 2017)

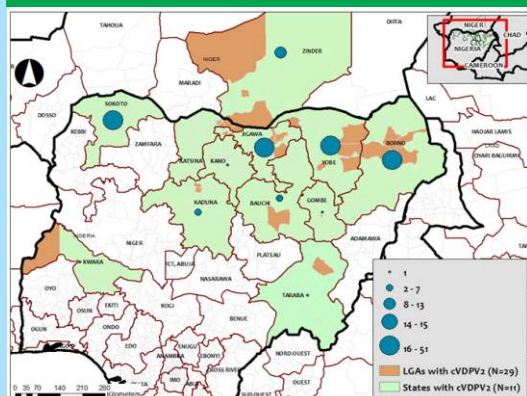
Total cVDPV global cases in 2018: 100 (compared with 86 in 2017)

- Syrian Arab Republic: 0 case in 2018 (compared with 74 in 2017)
- Democratic Republic of the Congo: 20 cases in 2018 (compared with 12 in 2017)
- Nigeria: 33 cases in 2018 (compared with 0 for the same period in 2017)
- Somalia: 12 cases (five type 2, six type 3 and one, coinfection of both type 2 and type 3) in 2018 (compared with 0 for the same period in 2017),
- Papua New Guinea (type 1): 26 cases in 2018 (compared with 0 for the same period in 2017),
- Niger: 9 cases in 2018 (compared with 0 for the same period in 0)

Distribution of VDPVs in Nigeria, Week 01, 2019



cVDPV2 Outbreak Status, Week 01, 2019



Niger Republic: 11 confirmed cVDPV2 - 7 from AFP Cases and 4 from contacts in Zinder Province of Niger Republic. These cases are genetically linked to Katsina and Jigawa circulating viruses

Most recent cVDPV2 case by State

- Jigawa State:** Most recent from Kazaure LGA, with date of onset on 13/10/18
Gombe State: from Baba Roba Valley site, Gombe LGA, collected on 09/04/2018
Sokoto State: Most recent collection from Tudun Wadan, Sokoto South LGA, on 21/11/2018.
Yobe State: Most recent collection from Hawsawa Asibiti, Potiskum LGA, on 20/11/2018
Borno State: Most recent collection from Blind Workshop Bridge in MMC, on 13/11/2018
Katsina State: Most recent from Baure LGA, with date of collection on 01/11/2018
Bauchi State: Most recent from Gwallaga Jummat Mosque Site, Bauchi LGA, with date of onset on 05/11/2018
Kaduna State: Most recent from ANGUWAR JABA BAKINKOGI, Sabon Gari LGA with date of onset on 04/10/2018
Taraba State: Most recent from Ardo Kola LGA, with date of onset 02/11/2018
Kano State: Most recent collection from Hassan Gwarzo Bridge in Tarauni LGA on 10/10/2018
Kwara State: Most recent from Baruten LGA, with date of onset 05/12/2018

State	AFP Case	AFP Contact with case	ES	Healthy Children	aVDPV2	Total	# of LGAs with cVDPV2
Jigawa	4		7	5	3	18	6
Katsina	16			36		52	4
Sokoto	5		14	2	16	37	2
Yobe	5	1	8	4	1	19	3
Borno	6	2	5	5	2	20	5
Gombe						1	1
Bauchi						5	1
Kaduna	1					2	2
Taraba						1	1
Kano						1	1
Kwara	1					1	1
Total	34	3	42	50	7	136	29



AMINU MUHAMMAD
NATIONAL PROGRAMME COORDINATOR

LESSONS LEARNED AND BEST PRACTICES FROM THE POLIO ERADICATION PROGRAMME IN NIGERIA



The Polio Eradication Programme in Nigeria is making positive strides towards interruption of wild poliovirus (WPV). The past two decades were marked with surges in WPV cases that saw Nigeria accounting for almost half of the global burden of WPV in 2005. During 2003-2013, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) faced a serious challenge with resurgence of polio virus originating from Nigeria in twenty-six previously polio-free countries in sub Saharan Africa and beyond.

WPV cases increased from 202 in 2002 to a peak of 1,122 in 2006 following suspension of immunization campaigns in northern Nigeria due to unfounded rumors of oral polio vaccine (OPV) safety. Through an aggressive effort, the suspension was lifted and the campaigns reinstated. Another surge in WPV cases was recorded in 2012 with 122 cases, up from 63 cases in 2011. In 2012, the Nigerian government launched the national polio eradication emergency plan (NPEEP) to intensify efforts to interrupt WPV transmission. A progressive decline in WPV1 cases was thereafter achieved from 122 in 2012 to 0 in 2015.

The strong leadership of the program by the Government of Nigeria at Federal and State level, the engagement of the traditional institutions, establishment of an Incident Management System through Emergency Operation Centres (EOC) to coordinate all efforts of government and partners at Federal level and in high risk states, and the localized innovative strategies to address the outbreak were some of the major contributing

factors to the progress registered. The program came close to marking two years without WPV1 in 2016. After twenty-three months without detection of WPV1, four cases were detected from areas that had not been accessible to the program for over three years due to insecurity in Borno state, north eastern Nigeria. Genetic sequencing of the viruses revealed the closest known link to a virus last detected in Borno in 2011, indicating prolonged undetected circulation for over four years.

While the resurgence of WPV1 in 2016 paused a major setback to the country and regional progress, it provided an opportunity for the program to stretch its innovative capacity to mount a response in a complex environment. The outbreak in Borno demonstrated the necessity of ensuring accessibility, particularly for surveillance to rule out any undetected presence of the virus. Innovative strategies for surveillance and vaccination, and strengthening of partnerships with non-traditional actors have been instrumental to the progress registered so far in the response to the 2016 outbreak. At the time of publishing this supplement in 2018, the country has marked just over two years without WPV1. However, an estimated 70,000 under-five children remain trapped in insecure areas of Borno state, and therefore the progress is acknowledged with caution. Nigeria still remains among the three WPV endemic countries globally, along with Afghanistan and Pakistan.

This supplement presents some of the innovations, lessons learned and best practices that the Nigerian government and its polio partners implemented during 2014-2016 towards interruption of WPV transmission. The programmatic interventions described here include innovative strategies such as directly observed vaccination (DOPV), addressing unmet needs of non-

compliant households, use of mobile hard-to-reach teams, focus on nomadic groups and engagement of security personnel to interrupt polio virus transmission in polio sanctuaries in northern Nigeria, along rivers of interest and security compromised areas respectively.

Ensuring sensitive and quality surveillance to detect any suspect viruses is a key aspect of the NPEEP. Initiatives to intensify surveillance at field level, evaluate the quality of documentation and profile of polio compatible cases have been implemented in Nigeria. Furthermore, innovations such as Auto-Visual AFP Detection and Reporting (AVADAR), and use of mobile technology for monitoring program performance have facilitated reporting in real-time for decision making and timely action. In line with the strategic focus of the Global Polio End Game Strategy and Plan, the switch from tOPV to bOPV was successfully implemented in April 2016 and some lessons from the field have been documented. In addition, laboratory containment activities, in conformity with the Global Action Plan III, were implemented.

We believe that these public health interventions, among other activities, have contributed to the progress registered for far in the polio eradication program in Nigeria and will further enable Nigeria achieve and sustain polio-free status. The ongoing effort to utilize the lessons learned and assets available to improve routine immunization, integrated disease surveillance and response, and primary health care will be maximized to ensure a smooth transition towards certification of polio eradication. It is our hope that these interventions and experiences will be of interest to public health and other stakeholders.

Dr. Fiona Braka
World Health Organisation Team
Leader, Nigeria

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND A POLIO FREE 2019 FROM OUR STATE POLIOPLUS REPRESENTATIVES



Rotarian Dr. Benjamin Adekunle Egunranti-Osun State

I am Rotarian Dr. Benjamin Adekunle Egunranti. I am the PolioPlus Representative for Osun State. I joined this foremost global service organization in the year 2013. It has been a very interesting and challenging experience so far. Our biggest challenge coming from an area of non-endemicity has been to keep stakeholders focused and to avoid complacency. Knowing where we used to be in the fight against polio when almost everyone had a friend, acquaintance or family member who had been struck by polio, it gives me great joy when I see the children we have immunized being polio-free and carrying out their daily activities unencumbered. I am particularly thrilled when we visit communities during immunization exercises and we are able to resolve cases of non compliance and avoid missing any child. That is why my greatest wish in 2019 is to see zero cases of polio globally and to see the total eradication of polio from our world. I am wishing all Rotarians and friends of Rotary everywhere in the world a peaceful and prosperous 2019



Rotarian Saidu Jibrin- Katsina State

I am Rotarian Saidu Jibrin. I am a Paul Harris Fellow and the PolioPlus State Representative for Katsina State. I am a member of the Rotary Club of Katsina Metropolis. I joined this great organization in the year 2000 and it has been really fulfilling and rewarding. My most memorable field experience in the fight against polio was during an outbreak response to Polio in Katsina State in the year 2012. At that time, Nigeria had the highest number of wild polio cases in the world and it seemed like we were not making progress. I am delighted at the progress that we have made in the fight against polio since that time such that we have had zero cases in three of the last 4 years and we are currently looking realistically at interrupting wild polio transmission and being certified polio-free. My wish is for Nigeria and Katsina State to remain polio-free throughout 2019 and be certified polio-free. I wish all Rotarians a successful and fantastic year in 2019



PAG Mohammed Dantata Ndus-Gombe State

I am Past Assistant Governor Mohammed Dantata Ndus. I am a Paul Harris Fellow and the Gombe State

PolioPlus Representative. I became a Rotarians in the 2000/2001 Rotary year. More than anything else, my desire is to see 2019 as the year that we all say our final goodbyes to polio and it can no longer cripple or kill children anywhere in the world. I have been involved in this fight against polio for quite some time and I am really happy at the progress that we have made collectively in reducing its scourge by 99.9 percent. Finishing this last .1 percent has been tough but I am an optimist and I am confident that 2019 will be the year that we push polio over the precipice and say goodbye to the deadly disease. My motivation has always been my love to see all the children in my community and the world at large live healthy and peaceful lives. I am proud of Rotary's contribution towards achieving this. I wish everyone and wonderful and polio-free year 2019. .



Rotarian Bukar Lawan Kashim-Borno State

I am Rotarian Bukar Lawan Kashim. I joined the wonderful Rotary family in the year 2017 because of my passion for helping humanity and I currently serve as the Borno State PolioPlus Representative. My great desire is to see Polio eradicated globally so that it stops to affect vulnerable children all across the world. That is what Rotary has promised and I strongly identify with it. I have been doing this through active social mobilization and community engagement both during immunization rounds and also between rounds. My most memorable experience in the field occurred when

we were in the process of monitoring and supervision as well as mobilizing the local community when the Boko Haram insurgents attacked the community. We were really fortunate to get out alive. This has not deterred me and I remain committed to see that the next generation of Borno State Children will not ever have to be paralyzed by Polio ever again. My hope is that 2019 will be a year of peace and the year that we are certified polio-free. Happy New Year!



PP Tongnaan Dada Bawa-Plateau State

I am Rotarian Tongnaan Dada Bawa. I became a member of Rotary International in the year 2005 and I have been privileged to serve this wonderful organization in various capacities, including as President of my Rotary Club. I am currently the PolioPlus Representative for Plateau State.

I have had so many memorable experiences in the field while playing my part to ensure a polio-free world but one that stands out happened in 2015 when a non compliant grandmother chased out a vaccination team from her family compound in Mangu thereby depriving her grandchild of the benefits of the life-saving OPV. When I was informed about it, I led the vaccination team to her house, greeted her and sat down with the family. I told them I would not leave until the four year old child was vaccinated. It took a lot of persuasion but the father of the child eventually came out his hiding place in the bathroom and gave his consent for the boy to be vaccinated. The family had earlier lied that he was away. We

thanked the family and also gave them a variety of pluses before leaving the home. To my greatest surprise, I found out that the father worked in the local health department.

Another memorable occasion and one that made me particularly happy was at the Emir of Kanam's palace where he supervised the exercise himself. He asked all children of vaccination age to be placed in a queue and administered the polio vaccine. He then gave them pluses and some money. The Emir, Alhaji Muhammadu Babangida really set a great example as a royal father and it really encouraged me to continue to create awareness in a bid to end polio in my dear country Nigeria.

I have a strong desire that this year, 2019 will be the one in which Nigeria will be delisted from the group of polio endemic countries. I also wish that as Rotarians will continue to work as a team with all members of communities to maintain a healthy environment, encourage parents to take their children for routine immunization and not to miss out of any polio vaccine. Together we will all Eradicate Polio in 2019 and be declared Polio Free. Happy New Year to everyone.



Rotarian Godson Izuchuwku Nwamuo- Kaduna State

I am Rotarian Godson Izuchukwu Nwamuo. I joined Rotary Club of Barnawa in the year 2007 and became a member of this wonderful global family. I am currently that Kaduna State PolioPlus Representative. I have been involved in the fight against Polio from the very first moment that I joined the Rotary family. At that time, our campaigns against poliomyelitis were really hit with many challenges such as a high

number of cases of non compliance. Polio field workers were also frequently threatened with all manner of weapons such as knives, chemicals and clubs. I am pleased to note that many of those non compliant people have joined us in the fight to eradicate polio and have become engaged in various roles including as Voluntary Community Mobilizer (VCMs). My personal goal for the year 2019 is to personally vaccinate 2019 children and ensure that Kaduna State remains polio-free. Happy New year to all members of the Rotary family.



Rotarian Rimamde Inbre- Taraba State

My name is Rotarian Rimamde Inbre. I joined Rotary International in the 2011-2012 Rotary year. I am committed to the goal of maintaining zero cases of polio in Taraba State. In today's world, one of the things we have to contend with is the impact of rumours, disinformation and misinformation on our vaccination campaigns. In one such instance, a local ethnic community was refusing polio vaccines due to the spread of a malicious rumour of it causing monkey pox. It posed a threat to our goal of polio eradication so myself and a team of Rotarians approached the community and were able to eventually persuade them that the rumours were false and the polio vaccine was completely safe. I am committed to contributing my time talent and treasure to this cause. I also participate in monitoring right from the Cold Store till the vaccines are distributed, till the field vaccinations and also at the evening review meetings. I wish that 2019 will be the year that polio is eradicated and that Nigeria remains polio-free so that our children never have to deal with scourge of the deadly poliovirus ever again. May we all have a polio-free 2019. Happy New Year.

BUILDING HEALTH SECURITY INTO HEALTH SYSTEMS: ONE LEGACY OF POLIO ERADICATION THAT MUST NOT BE LOST



In the past 30 years, polio has moved from being a widely occurring infectious disease to one now on the brink of complete eradication. It is too soon to celebrate the success of what will be only the second infectious disease to be eradicated in human beings, after smallpox. But already the plans for ending the massive polio eradication programme and the consequences for the future of global health programmes and actors are being intensely debated.

A recent high-level discussion at Chatham House, London focused on how the legacy of the polio eradication programme can strengthen health security and the drive towards universal health coverage (UHC). But to do so it will be vital for key elements and capacities to be integrated into health systems.

Before the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) was established in 1988, the wild poliovirus (WPV) was present in 125 countries, with approximately 1000 children being paralysed each day. In 2017, the world saw only 22 cases of polio caused by WPV, limited to just Afghanistan and Pakistan. However, the path towards eradication has not been straightforward. More than 99% of the reduction was achieved by 2000, but the last mile of eradication has proven to be the most difficult. As of late December, there have already been 29 confirmed WPV cases in 2018.

Initiated by the pioneering efforts of Rotary International in the 1980s, the unique GPEI partnership has, to date, expended more than US\$ 15 billion, much of it in low-income countries with weak health systems and low rates of routine immunization against a range of infectious diseases. It has achieved its progress through a focused campaign-based system of national and subnational supplementary immunization activities, training health workers—including women who are from the communities they serve and therefore known and trusted—to go door-to-door to find every child and

provide drops of oral polio vaccine (OPV). To maintain OPV integrity, cold chains were established, along with managerial systems to manage and map the programme nationally and locally. A cornerstone of the programme is the operation of high-quality surveillance systems and laboratory networks to identify, confirm, and report every suspected case and undertake environmental monitoring of sewerage samples for evidence of circulating poliovirus. Emergency Operations Centres serve as hubs year-round and during immunization days and, in areas of conflict, on days of tranquillity. In many countries, the strength of this polio programme infrastructure has been of benefit to other health activities, including routine delivery of other immunization services and nutritional supplements such as vitamin A, as well as aiding rapid and efficient responses to emergencies such as natural disasters and outbreaks of diseases like Ebola.

All these facets of the GPEI programme constitute an immensely valuable resource to strengthen countries' health systems and services. The polio assets can help build capacity for preventive approaches and primary healthcare services; and they are precisely the assets countries need to build and sustain resilience to health emergencies caused by infectious diseases, disasters, and disruptions.



To translate this potential into effect, it will be necessary to transition the polio assets presently operated and funded by the GPEI into country ownership and integrate them into health systems. And therein lies a great challenge. Countries will need the financial resources to increase their health spending and the political will to prioritise investment in health in the face of competing areas of national expenditure. The arguments in favour are clear. The necessary investments will:

Ensure that, once it has been eradicated,

resilience to the possible return of polio will be built and sustained. High levels of polio immunization globally will be necessary for the foreseeable future.

Greatly strengthen the health systems themselves, including the public health/health promotion and disease prevention components and the Sustainable Development Goal of UHC and leaving no-one behind.

Increase the health security of the country, including its effectiveness in dealing with disease outbreaks and health emergencies.

An additional dimension of the legacy of polio is the need to translate the lessons from the polio eradication programme and the unique partnership that has conducted it into learning that informs future health initiatives and the future approaches of global health actors. One lesson is that the very long “tail” of polio cases in the last two decades might have been avoided if eradication efforts had begun early in the most challenging places, alongside those where there were low-hanging fruit. Another is the need to anticipate the potential for encountering resistance to accepting a vaccine, for a range of reasons.

The latest report of the GPEI's Independent Monitoring Board warns that “A major breakthrough is needed. Finding the path to polio eradication will require creativity to find new solutions to intractable problems, bold action to revitalise leadership and teams, and most importantly, an unshakeable commitment to finish the job.” As the GPEI plans for the future, it has become increasingly clear that ‘finishing the job’ must mean not only certifying that the last case of polio in a human being has been seen, but that the assets of polio eradication and the knowledge gained are put to good use for the benefit of health everywhere. Stronger health security and accelerated movement towards UHC are the prizes to be won.

Stephen A. Matlin, senior fellow, Global Health Centre, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.

Judith Diment, coordinator, Advocacy Task Force on Polio Eradication Rotary International.

David L. Heymann, head and senior fellow, Centre on Global Health Security, Chatham House, London UK



DANGOTE CALLS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN DATA QUALITY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST POLIO IN NIGERIA

In his continuing effort to see that Nigeria is certified polio-free, the president, Dangote Group, Aliko Dangote, called for improved data quality in the process. Dangote made the call during an end-of-the-year annual review meeting through video conference between the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Aliko Dangote Foundation and the governments of six Northern States of Bauchi, Borno, Kaduna, Kano, Sokoto and Yobe that have been strengthening routine immunisation and polio eradication efforts. The six governors had signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen routine immunisation (RI) and polio eradication.

The MoU was extended recently from 2018 to 2022; to include revitalisation of primary healthcare in the respective states. The video conference took place between the co-chair, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Mr. Bill Gates, Aliko Dangote (represented by the managing director of ADF, Zouera Youssoufou); the state governors; the minister of Health; the executive secretary of the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency (NPHCDA), Dr. Faisal

Shuaib, other top officials and state executive secretaries; and representatives of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); the World Health Organisation, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Global Fund. During the bi-annual review, which spanned two days, the progress made by each of the six states in terms of RI and polio eradication was analysed and suggestions on improvement made. Yobe State, in particular, was singled out for praise for making the most remarkable improvement in its RI efforts since the MoU was signed. Dangote, who acknowledged the efforts of the state governments to eradicate polio, called for greater involvement of the traditional leaders in the RI process, and also advocated improved data quality from the governments and all relevant stakeholders. He also sought timely release of counterpart funds from the partner state governments to sustain the process, while the Aliko Dangote Foundation will release its obligation once the States have deposited their own funds. Gates, Dangote and the UNICEF commended the progress made by the Yobe State Government in the immunisation of children within the last six months. Gates, who spoke via video-link, said, "It is encouraging to see improved results on routine immunisation over the last four rounds. Yobe State has shown the greatest improvement among all the six participating states. I give you a

plus to that". He commended Governor Ibrahim Gaidam for his administration's efforts and commitment, and urged him to sustain the tempo. Nigeria is moving inexorably towards being certified polio-free, with the support of the Foundations, the responses from the six Northern states and the National Emergency Response initiated in January 2018 by the NPHCDA under the auspices of the Federal Ministry of Health.



According to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) latest report released on October 28, advocacy is needed from the top leadership of the GPEI and from donor governments to the highest level of the Nigerian government. The Nigerian government's leadership must allocate resources to the Polio Programme to finish the job. "Over the years, the government has been reducing its contribution to the Polio Programme. The contribution for 2018 has not yet been released, and, therefore, not committed for next year. In the current political environment in the lead-up to the elections, it is not clear that the budget will be acted upon until afterwards," the report added.

From the reporting of Olushola Bello for leadership.ng

2019-2020 RI PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES HIS PRESIDENTIAL THEME:



The Rotary International President-Elect Mark Daniel Maloney explained his vision for building a stronger Rotary, calling on leaders to expand connections to their communities and to embrace innovative membership models.

RI President-elect Mark Maloney announces the 2019-20 presidential theme, Rotary Connects the World, to incoming district governors in San Diego, California, USA.

Maloney, a member of the Rotary Club of Decatur, Alabama, USA, unveiled the 2019-20 presidential theme, Rotary Connects the World, to incoming district governors at Rotary's annual training event, the International Assembly, in San Diego, California, USA, on Monday.

"The first emphasis is to grow Rotary — to grow our service; to grow the impact of our projects; but, most importantly, to grow our membership so that we can achieve more," Maloney said.

Maloney believes that connection is at the heart of the Rotary experience.

"(Rotary) allows us to connect with each other, in deep and meaningful ways, across our differences," Maloney said. "It connects us to people we would never otherwise have met, who are more like us than we ever could have known. It connects us to our communities, to professional opportunities, and to the people who need our help."

The Rotary International President-Elect Mark Daniel Maloney explained his vision for building a

World, to incoming district governors in San Diego, California, USA.

Maloney, a member of the Rotary Club of Decatur, Alabama, USA, unveiled the 2019-20 presidential theme, Rotary Connects the World, to incoming district governors at Rotary's annual training event, the International Assembly, in San Diego, California, USA, on Monday.

"The first emphasis is to grow Rotary — to grow our service; to grow the impact of our projects; but, most importantly, to grow our membership so that we can achieve more," Maloney said.

Maloney believes that connection is at the heart of the Rotary experience.

"(Rotary) allows us to connect with each other, in deep and meaningful ways, across our differences," Maloney said. "It connects us to people we would never otherwise have met, who are more like us than we ever could have known. It connects us to our communities, to professional opportunities, and to the people who need our help."

Maloney also called on every Rotary and Rotaract club to identify segments of their community not represented in their club by creating a membership committee with diverse members.

"Through Rotary, we connect to the incredible diversity of humanity on a truly unique footing, forging deep and lasting ties in pursuit of a common goal," he added. "In this ever more divided world, Rotary connects us all."

Maloney urged leaders to offer alternative meeting experiences and service opportunities to make it easier for busy professionals and people with many family obligations to serve in leadership roles.

"We need to foster a culture where Rotary does not compete with the family, but rather complements it," Maloney said. "That means taking real, practical steps to change the existing culture: being realistic in our expectations, considerate in our scheduling, and welcoming of children at Rotary events on every level."

Maloney said many of the barriers that prevent people from serving as leaders in Rotary are based on expectations that are no longer relevant.

"It is time to adapt, to change our culture, and to

will be available in July.

In 2020, the United Nations will celebrate the 75th anniversary of its charter and its mission of promoting peace. Rotary was one of 42 organizations the United States invited to serve as consultants to its delegation at the 1945 San Francisco conference, which led to the UN's charter. For decades, Rotary has worked alongside the United Nations to address humanitarian issues around the world. Today, Rotary holds the highest consultative status that the UN offers to nongovernmental organizations.

"Rotary shares the United Nations' enduring commitment to a healthier, more peaceful, and more sustainable world," Maloney said. "And Rotary offers something no other organization can match: an existing infrastructure that allows people from all over the world to connect in a spirit of



service and peace and take meaningful action toward that goal."

- Source: Rotary International

Maloney also called on every Rotary and Rotaract club to identify segments of their community not represented in their club by creating a membership committee with diverse members.

"Through Rotary, we connect to the incredible diversity of humanity on a truly unique footing, forging deep and lasting ties in pursuit of a common goal," he added. "In this ever more divided world, Rotary connects us all."

Maloney urged leaders to offer alternative meeting experiences and service opportunities to make it easier for busy professionals and people with many family obligations to serve in leadership roles.

"We need to foster a culture where Rotary does not compete with the family, but rather complements it," Maloney said. "That means taking real, practical steps to change the existing culture: being realistic in our expectations, considerate in our scheduling, and welcoming of children at Rotary events on every level."

Maloney said many of the barriers that prevent people from serving as leaders in Rotary are based on expectations that are no longer relevant.

"It is time to adapt, to change our culture, and to convey the message that you can be a great district governor without visiting every club individually, and a great president without doing everything yourself."

Relationship with the United Nations



stronger Rotary, calling on leaders to expand connections to their communities and to embrace innovative membership models.

RI President-elect Mark Maloney announces the 2019-20 presidential theme, Rotary Connects the

conferences around the world, focusing on Rotary's relationship with the United Nations and the UN's sustainable development goals that many Rotary service projects support. More information



Commissioning of Bore holes at kurku and yandad communities of Katsina State



The Completed Solar Powered Borehole at Cross Kauwa, Borno State.



During the EOC Meeting in kaduna State



The National Programme Coordinator Presenting Tethescope and Spygomo to E.D. SPHCDA



Picture of IDPs At Teachers Village



NPC and Team at Teachers Village Clinic



Patients receiving treatment drugs from the Mobile Clinic Van



Group Picture with Clinic Staff after the Mobile Clinic Presentation exercise.



**ROTARY
CONNECTS
THE WORLD**