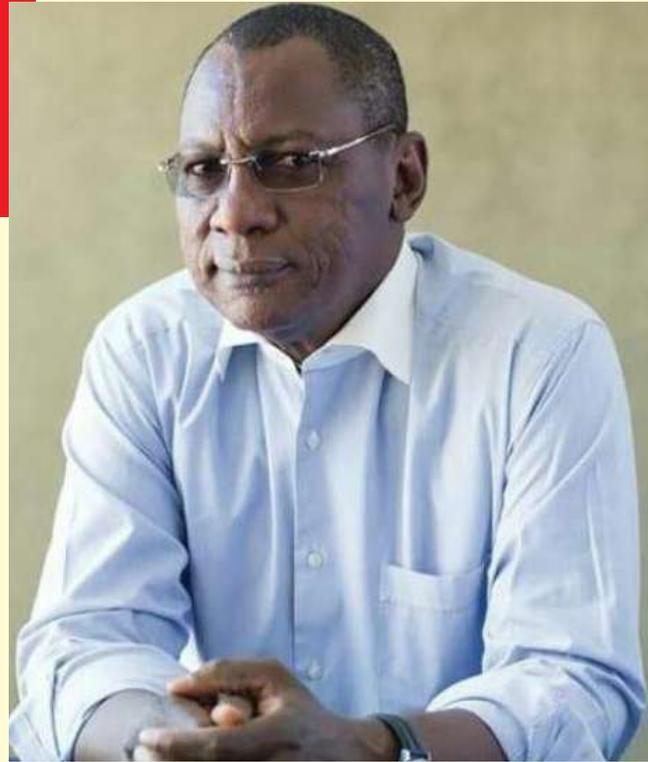


[www.polioplus.org](http://www.polioplus.org)

**FROM LEFT --- RI PRESIDENT ELECT, BARRY RASSIN;  
WHO DIRECTOR GENERAL, DR. TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS ;  
RI PRESIDENT, IAN HS RISELEY AND  
RI PRESIDENT-NOMINEE, MARK MALONEY.**

# CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS ANOTHER POLIO ERADICATION CONVENTION



Another inspirational Rotary International convention has come and gone. Happening in Toronto this time, it was very memorable in a lot of ways; meeting old friends and making new ones, learning new things, gaining new ideas and having fun whilst at it. However, one thread that ran through most of the sessions is Rotary's determination along with its partners to eradicate polio. Last year's convention focused mostly on fund raising to fill a funding gap of \$1.5 billion in our programme through 2021. We were very successful with that, raising pledges totaling \$1.2 billion. Indeed, of that amount about \$0.5 billion is already in the bag!

At this year's convention however, the focus was on keeping our eyes on the ball until no child in the world is paralysed by polio. It is quite natural in a very long distance race for fatigue to start setting in. So we needed to encourage ourselves on the need to muster all available resources at our disposal to get to the finish line.

The President of Rotary International Ian Risely left us in no doubt about Rotary's resolve to get the job done. He reiterated the commitment of Rotary to see the end of Polio transmission in the world until the certification of a polio free world. He was followed shortly after by the Director General of WHO Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus who reiterated the commitment of WHO to stay the course and provide all the necessary technical support in order to eradicate polio in the shortest possible time. By his presence in the last two consecutive conventions of Rotary

International the WHO Director General has shown his respect and admiration for our organisation and his commitment to our partnership. With such unflinching support, it is safe to say that the days of polio posing a risk of paralysis to any child are surely numbered.

In their speeches, the Incoming President of Rotary International Barry Rassin and Incoming Chair of the Trustees of the Rotary Foundation Ron Burton who will take office on 1st July 2018, further stressed Rotary's commitment to see our efforts at Polio eradication to its desired conclusion. The icing on the cake was a surprise appearance on stage and the very end of the third plenary session by the Canadian Prime Minister The Hon. Justin Trudeau who assured Rotarians that Canada will sustain its support for Polio eradication till the very end.

The Canadian government has always been a strong supporter and advocate for Polio eradication. Only in the last month, Canada provided a further Can\$100

million to the polio eradication programme which is well appreciated and highly commendable.

Let us all therefore redouble our efforts in the knowledge that though fatigue is setting in on all sides, we have invested too much in this endeavour to tire or give up now. We have come such a long way but there is still quite a bit to do. Let's get the job done.



(Left- PDG Tolu Omatsola, PDG Ijeoma Okoro, RIDE Yinka Babalola, IPCC Chair, Michael McGovern, Dr Tunji Funsho and DG Emma Ude Akpeh at the Polio Breakfast Session)

FROM EDITOR'S DESK

# SCARS AND THE LESSONS WE LEARN FROM THEM

A local proverb compares wounds to orifices and concludes that they are different. The moral of that proverb is to avoid wounds and learn from the scars of the previous ones. Orifices won't cause pain unless there is some associated pathology but while wounds may not be as deep, they are usually associated with events that evoke pain. Bleeding stops and wounds should close up and heal over time. Orifices on the other hand should never close. Closing up and healing leaves scars which wounds have but orifices don't. Those scars remain as a reminder of an unpleasant event and help us to modify behavior to avoid a recurrence of such unpleasant events. Most people have one or two of such scar tissues which tell some interesting stories.

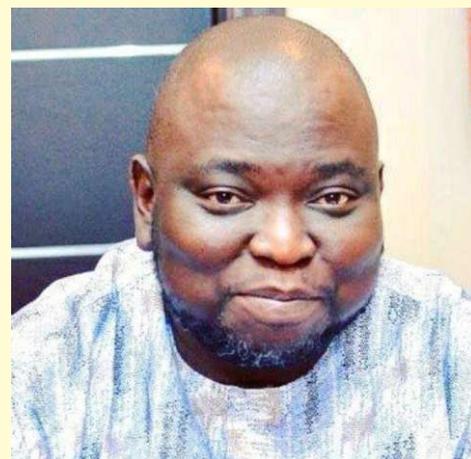
I was left-handed as a little boy. That was culturally abhorrent so my Grandma would try to correct me and make me use my right hand when performing tasks or handing over items to people because in our culture, it is considered disrespectful to hand over items to people, particularly those older than one, with the left hand. It wasn't

pleasant so before doing anything that involved my hands, I would quickly try to figure out which was my right hand and which was my left. It was awkward. Many times I would fail and get a reprimand on how disrespectful I had been. Then I accidentally found a solution that worked and helped me to tell my right from my left, even till this day.

The operational word here is "accident" because that is what it was. Being a really playful and troublesome kid, I would roam around the entire village gathering cowries and bottle caps. I was always climbing, jumping and running which is what I was doing one day when I fell, got my hand caught and cut by a rusting metal drum in someone's nondescript backyard. It left a transverse gash across the top of my thumb. Grandma later told me that thumb belonged to my left hand. From that day, I would run my fingers across my thumbs to see which one had a scar and hence determine which part of my body was the left side. I adapted to an unpleasant event and learned from it.

The Polio Eradication Initiative also suffers unpleasant events and setbacks such as when a child gets paralyzed by polio or when we fail to meet our immunization coverage targets. Like scars, these sometimes stay with us for a really long time and serve as reminders of unpleasant events but we learn from them. We gather data and relevant information, we examine them and adapt. That is why we have been very successful in reducing the global burden of polio and in making sure that we have not had a case of WPV for 22 months. It is the lessons we will continue to learn that will help us remain at zero in Nigeria and get to zero in the rest of the world. It is therefore important when setbacks occur, as they will, that we bring them to the open and learn the hard lessons that need to be learned, adapt to them and make the program better in order to get us to a polio-free world.

Revised 2018 SIAs Calendar					
Month	Dates	Scope	Target	Population	Antigen
June -July	30 <sup>th</sup> June - 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	NIPDs	18,166,240		bOPV
August-Sept	1 <sup>st</sup> Aug -30 <sup>th</sup> Sept	HH based Micro plan with Enumeration of <1yr, <5yrs & <15yrs	Zamfara, Katsina & Jigawa		
October	10 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> October	36 <sup>th</sup> ERC			
October	20 <sup>th</sup> - 23 <sup>th</sup> October	SIPDs (18 HR States)	31,715,796		bOPV
December	8 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> December	SIPDs (Borno + 7 HR States)	7,482,305		bOPV



**Rotn Olugbenga Olayiwole**  
Editor Poliostop

# NIGERIA POLIO UPDATE: JUNE 2018

## 7 STATES TO BENEFIT FROM THE FIRST AND SECOND PHASES OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL'S SAFE DRINKING WATER PROJECT THROUGH THE NIGERIA NATIONAL POLIOPLUS COMMITTEE

Clean water, sanitation, and hygiene education are basic necessities for a healthy environment and a productive life. When people have access to clean water and sanitation, children stay healthier and attend school more regularly and mothers can spend less time carrying water and more time helping their families. While very few people die of thirst, the number of people that die from preventable waterborne diseases decreases.

Rotary International through the NNPPC, in collaboration with States and LGAs has begun these projects in 7 high risk States in the first and second phases. These states include Kano, Kaduna, Katsina, Sokoto, Borno, Taraba and Zamfara states. Some of these motorized solar and handpump borehole projects have been completed and include those at Madinatu IDP and Maisandari Community in Borno state, Jalingo in Taraba state and a Primary school in Kaduna state all of which will soon be handed over to the beneficiaries



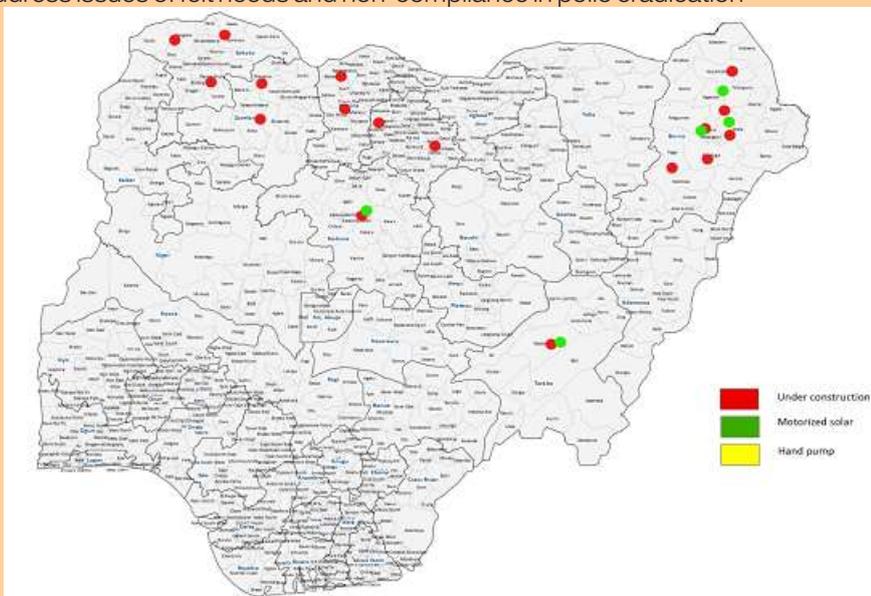
Ongoing phase 2 in water projects allocated in Konduga and Kukawa LGAs of Borno States as well as in Kano, Sokoto, Katsina and Zamfara States.



The most successful and sustainable Rotary service tends to fall within one of the following six areas:

- Water and sanitation
- Disease prevention {Polio Eradication } and treatment
- Maternal and child health
- Basic education and literacy
- Economic and community development
- Peace and conflict prevention/resolution

Rotary International through the Nigeria National PolioPlus Committee (NNPPC), in partnership with state teams, the EOC and local Rotary Clubs will continue to support LGAs and communities to provide safe drinking water to Families so as to address issues of felt needs and non-compliance in polio eradication



Rotary International through the NNPPC in providing safe drinking water in several locations across Nigeria



**AMINU MUHAMMAD**  
NATIONAL PROGRAMME COORDINATOR

## THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND GAVI PLEDGE N972BN TO TACKLE POLIO AND OTHER DISEASES



The Federal Government and GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, have pledged \$2.7bn (N972bn) to immunization and the revitalization of the Primary Health Care system from 2018 to 2028. The Minister of Health, Prof. Isaac Adewole, said this at a press conference in Abuja recently. Prof. Adewole said that while GAVI would provide \$1.03bn, the Federal Government would make \$1.9bn available for the 10-year project.

The minister described the project as the “largest single investment of any kind in the health sector in the history of the Primary Health Care system in Nigeria and heralds a new path to improving the health of Nigerians.

Professor Adewole noted that with this approval by GAVI, Nigeria stands to save the lives of

additional 1,539,651 children under the age of one by 2028 by driving immunization rates up to 85 per cent in all the states and improving the supply chain while rebuilding financial credibility and trust, transforming the organizational structure of Primary Health Care in Nigeria, consolidating gains in polio eradication and revitalizing the Primary Health Care System.

The minister said the move would complement government's efforts to revitalize the PHC system through the provision of the minimum package of care using the Basic Health Care Provision Fund, all geared towards strengthening the Primary Health Care system in Nigeria.

“The Primary Health Care system

caters for over 70 per cent of the population who are in most need of health. 10,000 Primary Health Care centres will benefit from this where each Primary Health Care center is fully equipped to provide the basic minimum package of care,” the Minister said.

He said the investment was a direct testament of the renewed commitment of the President Muhammadu Buhari's administration in enshrining accountability and transparency in all government dealings, especially with donor agencies.

Adewole said, “This investment, worth over \$2.7bn of which GAVI has committed \$1.03bn while the Federal Government's counterpart contribution is in excess of \$1.9bn, will enable Nigeria to provide vaccines for its children over the next 10 years (2018-2028).

From the reporting of Eniola Akinkuotu for [punchng.com](http://punchng.com)

## NIGERIA AND AFRICA ON TRACK TO ERADICATING POLIOMYELITIS SAYS MINISTER OF HEALTH



Nigeria's Minister for Health, Prof Isaac Folorunso Adewole.

Nigeria's Minister of Health, Professor Isaac Adewole recently assured the African Regional Commission for Certification for Poliomyelitis Eradication (ARCC) meeting in Abuja, Nigeria (18 – 22 June 2018) that Nigeria and indeed Africa, is on the right track to end the scourge of the crippling disease.

“Our decision to host this meeting today is anchored on our resolve to liberate Nigeria and indeed Africa from the scourge of poliomyelitis. It is my conviction that this meeting will provide workable strategies that will enable us decimate poliomyelitis in the region”, he said.

In May 2012, the World Health Assembly (WHA) declared polio eradication as a global public health emergency. To put an end to the crippling disease, the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) established the Polio Eradication and Endgame Strategic Plan (PEESP) 2013–2018.

The ARCC is an independent body established in 1998 by the WHO Regional Director for Africa to oversee the certification process in Africa. The only body to certify that the Africa region is free of polio,

ARCC meets biannually to review certification documentation and updates from countries in the region.

The Chair of the ARCC, Professor Rose Leke agreed with the Minister's optimism as she said, “A remarkable progress has been made toward interruption of the transmission of wild polio virus (WPV) in the Africa region. The latest WPV case in the region was the type1 virus reported from Borno in 2016. We applaud the efforts and commitment of the Nigerian Government, which has resulted in no wild poliovirus for more than 22 months

Professor Leke however warned that despite progress achieved, “We need to remain more vigilant to avoid missing any transmission or importation of polioviruses especially in security compromised areas

The World Health Organization Country Representative who presented a goodwill message on behalf of partners thanked the Nigeria government for accepting to host the meeting, facilitating administrative and logistics arrangements to ensure a successful and meaningful meeting.

The primary requirements for certifying the region as free of poliovirus include the absence of wild polio WPV for a minimum of 3 consecutive years in all countries of the region and presence of high quality certification standard acute flaccid paralysis surveillance in all countries for the last three years. Other considerations are immunization coverage for oral polio vaccine (above 90%), a robust national polio outbreak preparedness and response plan and a functional National Polio Certification Committee.

Source: [www.afro.who.int](http://www.afro.who.int)

## Renowned Nigerian Islamic Scholar Tasks Parents To Embrace Vaccination For Children Against Polio



A renowned Islamic Scholar, Sheikh Dahiru Usman Bauchi has said that the fight Against Polio virus cannot be won in Nigeria until parents and caregivers give all the needed support.

Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi who made the assertion during a Ramadan Breakfast at his residence, said the support should be in the area of allowing their children of 0-5 years to be immunized while the care givers should be fully committed to doing the needful.

The Islamic Scholar promised to support polio activities and routine immunization so as to achieve success in the fight against polio and other children killer diseases

He appealed to Nigerians to always report outbreak of any disease to the appropriate authorities with a view to attaining good health care for Nigerians.

Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi also appealed to Nigerians to live in peace with one another and to support the government with prayers for the overall development of the country.

The Islamic Scholar lauded efforts of Government, NGOs and other stakeholders in ensuring better health for Nigerians.

From the reporting of Austin Emmanuel for [africaprimernews.com](http://africaprimernews.com)

## GAVI BOARD FUNDS INACTIVATED POLIOVIRUS VACCINE UNTIL 2020



In the fight against the virus, two important tools are used to help prevent polio – two safe, effective vaccines. Only through full funding of these vaccines can worldwide immunity be achieved, and the virus eradicated.

Redoubling commitment towards this goal, Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance, approved core funding for the inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV) for 2019 and 2020, to continue work to end polio, and protect every child.

Announcing this support, Gavi Board Chair Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said, “Polio will remain a threat until every child is protected against this crippling disease. That is why the vaccination of every child is the corner stone of the polio eradication effort. Introducing IPV to all countries to interrupt polio transmission and maintain zero cases represents an unprecedented push, and Gavi is proud to be part of it.

Since 2013, the Gavi Board has supported IPV in all 70 Gavi-supported countries, through a dedicated funding stream

financed by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) budget. Responding to continued wild poliovirus circulation in 2018, this most recent Gavi support represents an additional contribution, which will help ensure that the programme can continue its valuable work to protect every child worldwide.

The Gavi Board also approved an exceptional extension of support for Nigeria up to 2028, to help reach over 4.3 million under-immunized children in the country, who remain at risk of vaccine-preventable diseases including polio.

Michel Zaffran, Director of the Polio Eradication Programme at the World Health Organization, extended his thanks to the Gavi Board for their generous contribution, saying, “GPEI and Gavi are committing to work closer together than ever before, and take one more step towards the immunization of all children, to deliver and to sustain a polio-free world.

## POLIO HAS NOT RETURNED TO VENEZUELA, WHO SAYS



A child in Venezuela who was reported to have a common symptom of polio does not have the viral disease, World Health Organization said Friday.

When the child, who is almost 3 years old, near the Orinoco delta in Delta Amacuro state of Venezuela showed symptoms of Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) on April 29, it was of great concern. Acute flaccid paralysis is a sudden onset of weakness or loss of the ability to move any part of the body in a child younger than 15. More than 100,000 cases are identified and investigated every year as part of polio surveillance, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

There has not been a case of polio in Venezuela in 29 years, but this area, one of the nation's poorest, is known to have low vaccination rates.

Stool samples were obtained from the child, and the Sabin type 3 poliovirus was isolated for testing. In a statement, the WHO noted that finding the virus in a stool sample is not unexpected among people who have been vaccinated.

"Final laboratory analysis received has confirmed that the AFP symptoms are not associated with wild or vaccine-derived poliovirus," the statement said.

Acute Flaccid Paralysis can be caused by "a number of conditions or infections," including polio. Doctors are still trying to determine the cause of this child's paralysis.

"The most important point is that the child should be provided with appropriate care and support," the WHO said. "While wild and vaccine-derived polio have both been ruled out as the cause of this child's symptoms, this area of Venezuela is experiencing vaccination coverage gaps. It is critical that countries maintain high immunity to polio in all communities, and strong disease surveillance, to minimize the risk and consequences of any eventual poliovirus reintroduction or reemergence."

Poliovirus has been eradicated in all but three countries: Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria. This highly infectious viral disease spreads from person to person through contaminated food and water. It causes permanent paralysis in some patients as a result of the virus invading the brain and spinal cord. There is no treatment or cure, and it can be fatal.

Adapted from the reporting of Debra Goldschmidt for cnn.com

## WORLD LEADERS REAFFIRM COMMITMENT TO POLIO ERADICATION AT G7 SUMMIT



provided significant political and financial support for the global polio programme, and have repeatedly expressed commitment to polio eradication. Most recently, leaders' statements at the 2016 G7 Summit and at a 2017 Group of 7 Health Ministers meeting included commitments to polio eradication. G7 leadership on the issue was expanded to the G20 in 2017. Polio was mentioned at both the 'G20 leaders summit and the first-ever 'G20 Health Ministers meeting, which recognized the historic opportunity that exists to end polio for good and the important role played by polio-funded assets in achieving broader health goals.

The communique also emphasized the need to advance gender equality and women's empowerment. The polio programme recognizes women's critical contributions to eradication and is constantly working to recruit more women to work as frontline workers in polio endemic countries. In Afghanistan, the polio programme accounts for one of the largest female workforces in the country. On a global level, the GPEI is working to analyze sex-disaggregated data to track progress towards eradication, echoing the communique in affirming women and girls as powerful agents of change.

The 2018 G20 Buenos Aires summit in November is next on the world stage, providing an additional opportunity for governments to focus on the importance of global health, and commit to fulfilling and maintaining the promise of a polio-free future.

World leaders gathered in Charlevoix, Canada in June 2018 to discuss the most critical issues facing the planet today, including their reaffirmed commitment to a polio-free world.

The final communique of the 44th G7 summit on 8-9 June 2018 highlighted global health as part of the foundation for investing in growth that works for all: "To support growth and equal participation that benefits everyone, and ensure our citizens lead healthy and productive lives, we commit to supporting strong, sustainable health systems that promote access to quality and affordable healthcare." As part of this commitment, the communique refers to the important tasks of achieving the goal of polio eradication and ensuring a smooth post-eradication transition as key global priorities. World leaders stated: "We reconfirm our resolve to work with partners to eradicate polio and effectively manage the post-polio transition.

The communique also stressed the importance of preparing for health emergencies and strengthening the implementation of the International Health Regulations. As emphasized in the 13th General Programme of Work of the World Health Organization,

which was approved by the World Health Assembly in May 2018, the GPEI has "helped to strengthen health systems, and these wider gains must be maintained as the polio programme is being ramped down." The programme has extensive experience in disease surveillance and quality laboratory networks, outbreak response, disease prevention through vaccination, and inter-country collaboration all necessary components of emergency preparedness. As planning continues for the post-eradication era, it remains a priority that the infrastructure, data and tools built up over the past 30 years be transitioned effectively to support resilient health systems and public health infrastructure in the future. Canada, the host of this year's G7, continued in the footprints of its predecessors and maintained attention on health – as the country has throughout its G7 presidencies. Canada has been a longtime supporter of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative and plays an active role in keeping polio on the global agenda. In 2002, then-Prime Minister Jean Chrétien gathered his counterparts from the G8 in Kananaskis, Canada to pledge to provide sufficient resources for polio elimination in Africa – the first time polio was included in the communique. Since then, G7 countries have

# REPUBLIC OF KOREA BECOMES FIRST DONOR TO SUPPORT POLIO OUTBREAK RESPONSE IN HORN OF AFRICA



A girl receives two drops of the oral polio vaccine during an immunization campaign in Somalia. © UNICEF

donors, partners, and countless health workers around the world. Contributions from donors like Korea allow the GPEI to vaccinate and protect more than 450 million children against polio each year.

This additional funding follows a US\$ 4 million commitment from the Republic of Korea announced at the Global Polio Pledging Event around the Rotary International Convention in June 2017. This contribution was matched by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, doubling its impact to US\$ 8 million.

“The Global Disease Eradication Fund is an incredibly innovative financing mechanism, and the funds raised will support UNICEF’s efforts to protect every last child from polio,” said Akhillyer, UNICEF Director of Polio Eradication. “We remain grateful to the Republic of Korea for their continued commitment to halting polio outbreaks and driving progress to eradicating polio once and for all.

“The unique support of the Republic of Korea has been crucial for the remarkable progress we have made in polio eradication, especially in responding to outbreaks,” said Dr Michel Zaffran, Director of the Polio Eradication Programme at the World Health Organization. “These additional funds come at a critical time as we support the outbreak response in the Horn of Africa region by scaling up surveillance to ensure no virus goes undetected.

The Republic of Korea has been a long time supporter of the GPEI, contributing to outbreak response efforts in Syria, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Lake Chad region, with a broad range of activities including delivering polio vaccines, intensifying surveillance, and convincing caregivers to vaccinate their children through community engagement.

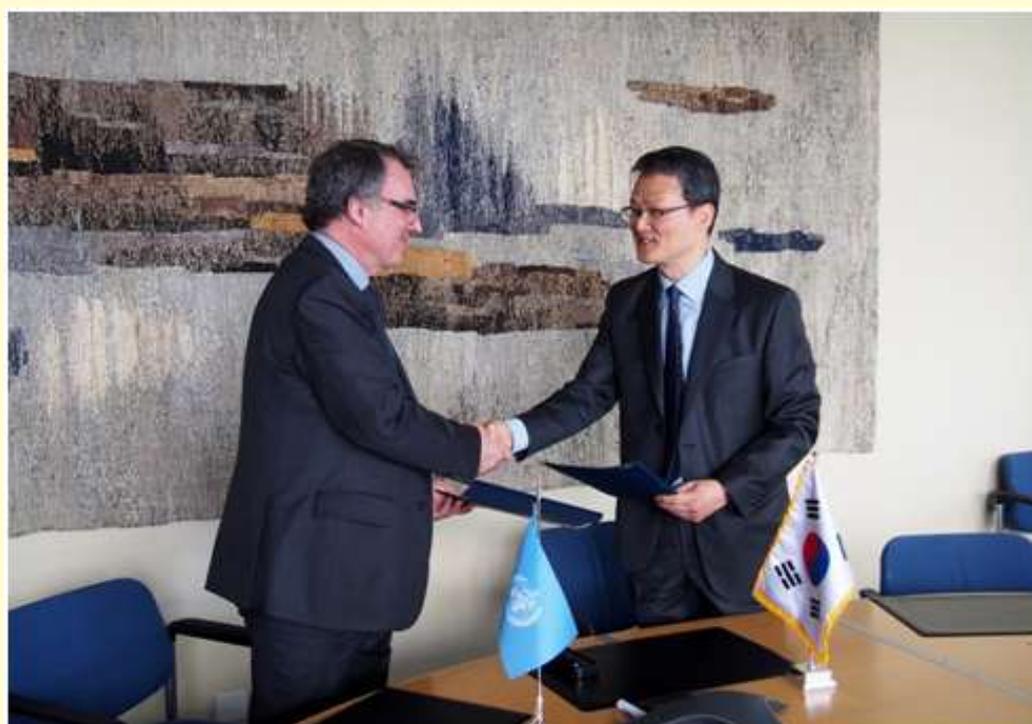
Generous support from donors like the Republic of Korea remains essential to stopping outbreaks, ending this paralyzing disease and ultimately achieving a polio-free world.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea announced an additional US\$ 2 million to fund polio outbreak response and surveillance activities in the Horn of Africa. This commitment makes Korea the first country to support outbreak response efforts in the region, critical to protecting global progress toward ending polio.

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) welcomed the contribution, with \$1.5 million for UNICEF and \$0.5 million for WHO. This funding was raised through an innovative financing mechanism called the Global Disease Eradication Fund, through which KRW ₩1,000 was collected from each international passenger flying out of Korean airports by the Government of Korea. Thanks to this Fund, every passenger flying from Korea directly supports global efforts to stop polio, an infectious disease that can lead to paralysis or even death, and can travel long distances undetected.

When the GPEI first began in 1988, polio paralysed more than 350,000 children each year in over 125 countries in the world. Today, there have only been eight cases to date in 2018, and polio is closer than ever to becoming the second human disease to ever be eradicated.

This progress is made possible through the ongoing support of



Dr Ranieri Guerra, Assistant Director-General for Strategic Initiatives at WHO, thanks Mr Lee Jang-Keun, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea, for his country’s generous contribution at a grant signing ceremony in Geneva. © WHO/S. Ramo



Some beneficiaries of Rotary megaphones in AMAC



Group photograph of AMAC, Town Announcers with their megaphones, donated by Rotary International



Vice Chair Dr Kazeem Mustapha presenting Megaphone to the AMAC Director



Training of 230 Town Announcers in Abuja Municipal Area Council by Rotary International



From left PDG Akabom Enebong, Dr Tunji Funsho and DG Emma Akpoh at the RI Convention



PDG Niji Raji (right) and Dr Tunji Funsho at the Convention



Nigerian Delegation and Partners at the African Regional Certification Committee Meeting



Group photograph of all members of ARCC and country delegations



Group photograph of all members of ARCC and country delegations (2)



Cross section of participants at the ARCC Meeting



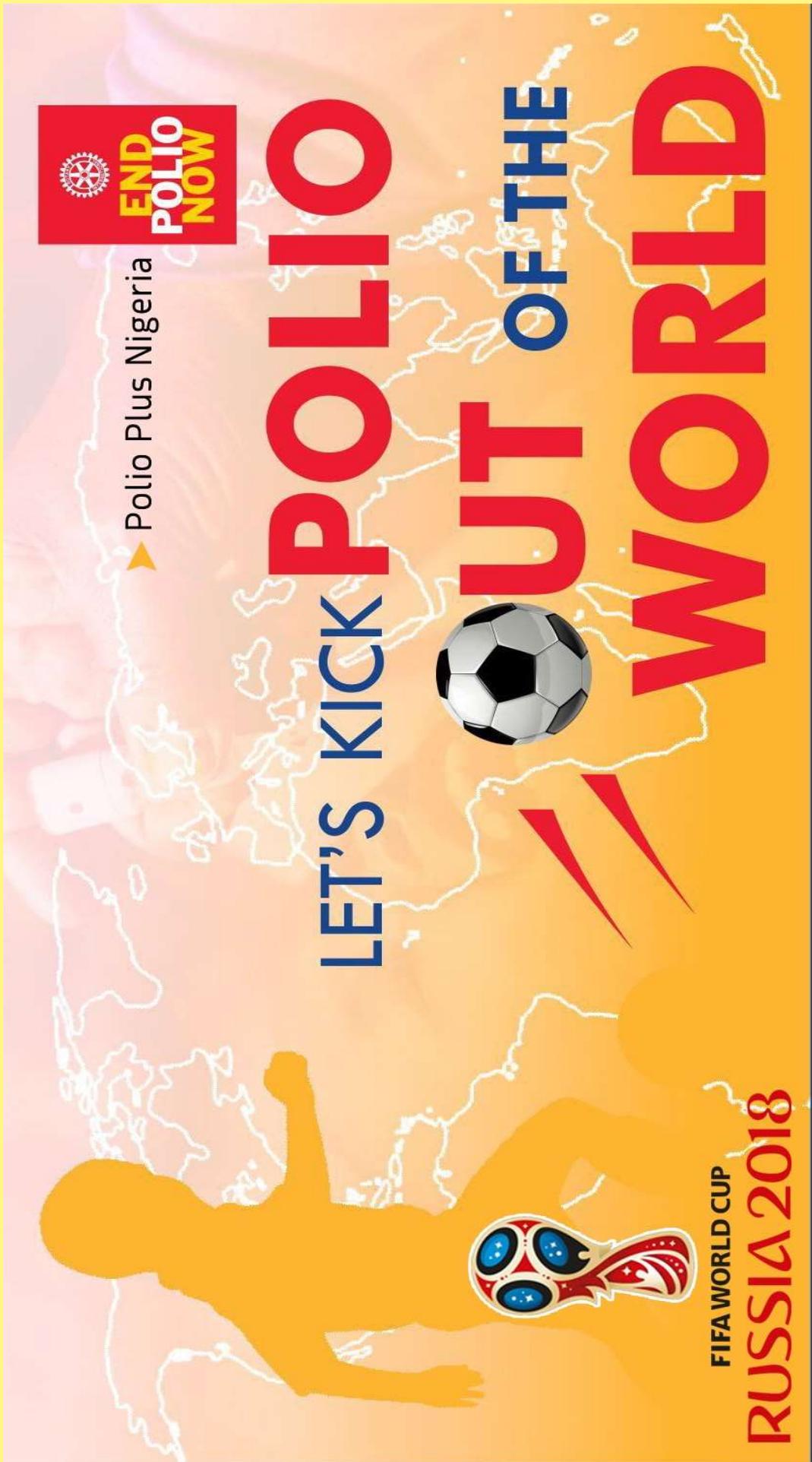
Chair Lady, Africa Regional Certification Committee, Prof. Rose Leke with Minister of Health, Prof. Isaac Adewole and NPHCDA Executive Director, after the official opening of ARCC meeting in Abuja



Dr Tunji Funsho and Anne Lee Hussey, during the RI Convention in Toronto



Dr Tunji Funsho during his presentation at the RI Convention



 **END POLIO NOW**

▶ Polio Plus Nigeria

**LET'S KICK POLIO OUT OF THE WORLD**

**FIFA WORLD CUP RUSSIA 2018**