

INTERNATIONAL POLIOPLUS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MIKE MCGOVERN DISPLAYING THE POLIOSTOP NEWSLETTER

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 Kola Sodipo, DG Elvis Chukwu, DG Adeyemi Oladokun, DG Dan Ajawara



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Chairman's Address ROTARY INTERNATIONAL IS LEVERAGING ON THE POLIO ERADICATION INITIATIVE TO MEET CRITICAL NEEDS IN NORTH EASTERN COMMUNITIES

Tick Tock! Tick Tock! The expected magic time when Nigeria will be certified as a nonendemic country for polio is getting closer. The seriousness of our commitment and the tenacity of all partners not to leave any stone unturned in order for us to cross the

finish line means that the possibility of a surprise resurgence, remains very remote. Part of this commitment is that we are also making interventions, which may not be really be very visible or appreciated by the majority but which are so impactful and continue to save a significant number of lives and ameliorate the suffering of vulnerable persons.

A good example of this type of Intervention is the Rotary International Mobile Clinics project. The activities of insurgents in the northeastern parts of Nigeria have decimated health facilities and denied many people access to basic healthcare. In many cases, the destruction has been deliberate and the devastation total to the extent that entire structures have been pulled down and left as mere rubbles. This is what necessitated the intervention of Rotary International, through the NNPPC, in providing mobile clinics which have been helping to provide basic health care in some of these places.

The mobile clinics were presented to the Borno State Government officials by the Rotary International President; Barry Rassin

in November 2018 during his visit to District 9125 Nigeria.

The first usage was however made earlier this year, precisely on 19th of January, when Drugs and other consumables were loaded into one of the vans and put to use as a clinic at

the Teachers' village camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Maiduguri. The mobile unit was received by the enthusiastic health workers at the camp who assisted the mobile team to organize the first set of beneficiaries in an experience that led to

extension of necessary medical services to more than 168 patients within a few hours. One could not but wonder on the possible fate of those displaced persons if such an alternative clinic has not been provided to fill the gap created.



l n а gesture f 0 appreciat ion and in pursuit of Rotary Internatio nal's demand f o r commitm ent in the Memoran

dum of Understanding with the State, our effort has been complemented by the Borno state government with the provision of additional 5 units of similar Mobile Health posts to be redeployed in various Senatorial Districts in Borno State.

The final approved deployments are as follows: One unit is to support I.D.P camps and cover Maiduguri Municipal and Jere local Councils. Another one will be seconded to Borno North to provide access to healthcare in Ngazai and Monguno local Governments. The remaining two will be assisting in provision of care in Southern Borno towns of Biu and Shani Local Council areas.

At the end of our journey to eradicate Polio, Rotary's contribution will not be limited to



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remember our esteemed organization for identifying and providing for other needs which are too costly for the deserving communities if ignored. Kudos to the Nigeria National Polio Plus Committee (NNPPC) Chairman and team for coordinating the cooperation with different entities especially the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) and the Borno State Government and her implementing agency, the Borno State Primary Healthcare Development Agency. Rotary International is blessed with very committed distinguished citizens whose passion for service is simply astounding.

One would probably never be able to accurately or fully qualify the contribution of PRIP Raja Saboo for his highly valuable intervention and brokerage of a deal with TATA India, the automobile company that has the franchise of the brand we procured. His personal recognisance made Rotary to pay the same amount for each chassis despite much higher exchange rate when the project was ready for implementation. This is a rare lesson for us the younger folks is to nurture our integrity and adherence to ethics to earn such respect in our later years. We thank him and our other senior Rotarians most sincerely.

There are countless other areas of intervention which address so many unmet needs in so many high risk areas. Rotary presents a unique opportunity and provides a huge template for us to serve and lend a hand to such communities. I therefore make this clarion call to all our clubs and to all of us as Rotarians. We have to remember that conscience is an open wound which only the truth can heal. How will our conscience judge us when the fight is done and polio is finally eradicated? It is not too late for you to also contribute something significant towards achieving our corporate goal of bequeathing a polio-free world to the coming generation.

It is better later than never.



PDG KAZEEM MUSTAPHA Vice Chair, Abuja

FROM EDITOR'S DESK

THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO BETTER

I was recently part of two rounds of outbreak response to a vaccine derived poliovirus case. Due to the nature of the cases and the urgency required to conduct these rounds meant that officials from the state governments involved and partner agencies had to come up with an immediate plan of action and scurry to their assigned locations to begin implementation. It was just a matter of days between the first notice of the OBR and the first planning meeting. Time was short and resources were scarce. It took a huge effort to get the outbreak response off the ground. The first round was characterized by so many problems and inadequacies that keeping morale high was a struggle. Still, we were able to get a relatively good coverage within the circumstances but many of the participants, particularly those of us from the partner agencies were seriously dissatisfied. We knew that there were many areas of our operations that required fine tuning and retuning.

One key area that we felt we

needed to improve was in the area of training. We retooled the training methodology, class sizes, improved supervision and introduced a pretest. The results were amazing particularly for the housemarking and the knowledge of the Vaccine Vial Monitor (VVM). Closer supervision of the processes also led to improved team performance and the eventual coverage from the last evening review meeting was a lot higher than what we had in the first round. That got me thinking.

A lot has been said for the fact that there were 11 more cases of wild polio in the world last year than in the previous year, representing a fifty percent increase in incidence. A lot has also been said and written for the increase in the numbers and types of vaccine derived polioviruses that were isolated last year. Rather than letting this affect our morale negatively, we should rather see it as an opportunity to get we will do better. better. I firmly believe that if we prepare ourselves properly and retool our strategies, we are quite capable of significantly reducing the incidence of polio in 2019 and consequently

making 2019 the last year that any case of Polio is seen anywhere in our world.

Giving our all and committing our best is what we have committed to do in Rotary and I want to appeal to every Rotarian and friend of Rotary to see 2019 as an opportunity to do everything better. We need to get sold out to the idea that everything can be better and must be better in 2019 right from our planning to our implementation and from our activities to the quality of our pluses. That determination to do better and be better is very clearly seen in this edition of PolioStop. I invite you to enjoy it and prepare yourself to support every polio eradication effort within your space this year 2019. I fully agree that 2018 was a low point in our struggle against polio but the good thing about low points is that the only option that remains is to go up. In this year,

EOC 2019 OUTBREAK RESPONSE, IPDs, AND EVENTSCALENDAR						
S/No	Month	Dates	Scope/Event	Antigen	Status	
1	January	26 th - 29 th	^{at} OBR to Kwara cVDPV2 and 2 nd OBR to Bauchi/Kaduna cVDPV2 in 18 states (Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, Zamfara, Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, FCT, Benue, Nasarawa, Niger, Plateau, Kwara & Oyo)		Done	
2	February	9 th - 12 th	2 nd OBR to Kwara cVDPV2_two states (Kwara and Oyo)	mOPV2	Done	
3	March	16 th - 19 th	SIPDs (Borno, Yobe, Adamawa, Taraba, Gombe, Bauchi and Katsina)	bopv	Pending	
4	April	1 st - 12 th	SIPDs in 11 High Risk States - Borno, Jigawa, Katsina, Yobe, Bauchi, Kaduna, Adamawa, Kano, Sokoto, Kwara, Zamfara (RI Intensification in selected LGAs)	bOPV (Combination of fIPV + bOPV + RI (<1 ' and <2 that have not completed vaccination in selected LGAs)	LGAs for R intensificat	
5	April	16 th -17 th	87 th ERC	NA	Pending	
6	April	19 th – 22nd	Easter Holidays	NA	Pending	
5	April	27 th -30 th	NIPDS	bOPV	Pending	
6	May	1 st May	Workers' Day Holiday	NA		
7	May	25 th - 28 th	NIPDS	bOPV	Pending	
8	June	5 th	Eid El Fitr Holiday	NA	Pending	
9	Sept	21 st -24 th	SIPDs (6 high risk states)	bOPV	Pending	
LEGEND:		NIPDs	SIPDs OBR SIPDS/OBR Public	t Holidays Ev	ents	



OLAYIWOLE Editor PolioStop

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NIGERIA POLIO UPDATE: FEBRUARY 2019 Stopping Polio in Nigeria

Nigeria is one of only three countries in the world with ongoing wild poliovirus transmission, alongside Afghanistan and Pakistan. Following the detection of wild poliovirus in northern Nigeria in 2016 for the first time in two years, Nigeria and neighboring countries in the Lake Chad Basin (Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad and Niger) have held multiple vaccination campaigns to raise population immunity and prevent the spread of the virus. Activities in the area continue to focus on reaching every child with vaccines, especially in identifying and vaccinating missed children and closing immunity gaps in populations that have previously been inaccessible. Countries are also working to increase surveillance efforts. A range of innovative strategies are being used to reach children in high-risk areas, including opportunistic campaigns that are run whenever security permits, market vaccination, crossborder points and outreach to nomads. The country is also affected by circulating vaccinederived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) outbreaks.

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative is focused on strengthening surveillance to find and respond to the virus, wherever it emerges, and closing immunity gaps to protect the population and stop the virus from circulating. The programme is also committed to advocating for sustained political commitment and ensuring necessary financial resources and technical support for polio eradication at all levels.

Global Polio-Virus statistics as at 21 February 2019

WPV CASES GLOBAL	CVDPV2 CASES GLOBAL		
2018-2019	2018-2019		
New wild poliovirus	New cVDPV cases		
cases reported this	reported this week: 0		
week: 3	Total number of cVDPV		
Total number of wild	cases (all types) in		
poliovirus cases in 2019:	2019: 0		
6	Total number of cVDPV		
Total number of wild	cases (all types) in		
poliovirus cases in 2018:	2018: 104		
33			



Nigeria

No cases of circulating vaccinederived poliovirus type 2 were reported this week. The total number of cVDPV2 cases in 2018 remains 34. The most recent cVDPV2 case was reported from Baruten LGA in Kwara state, with onset of paralysis on 5 December 2018.

Afghanistan

One wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) case was reported in the past week from Ghorak district in Kandahar province. The onset of paralysis was on 12 January 2019. This the second WPV1 case reported in 2019 so far. The total number of WPV1 cases for 2018 remains 21.

Pakistan

Two cases of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) were reported this week: one in Hangu district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and one in Lahore district in Punjab province. The onset of paralysis for both cases was on 20 January 2019. The total number of WPV1 cases this year is four. The total number of WPV1 cases in 2018 remains 12.

Major highlights, as at February 08, 2019



AMINU MUHAMMAD NATIONAL PROGRAMME COORDINATOR

AKEREDOLU CHARGES HEALTH WORKERS, THE MEDIA AND COMMUNITY LEADERS ON POLIO ERADICATION



The Governor of Ondo State, His Excellency Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu has said that the era of data falsification by health workers in polio eradication and routine immunisation in the State is gone for good. He made this known in Akure during the State Task Force meeting on polio eradication and routine immunisation.

He explained that the honest attitude of rebranded primary healthcare workers towards routine immunisation services across the 18 local government areas had begun to yield fruits. "As you all know, the benchmark used in assessing our vaccination effort is the third dose of Pentavalent vaccine (Penta-3) and the records have it that the states real Penta-3 coverage for January-December 2018 is 79 percent. "This is the true picture of our recent records and renewed attitude. "It is my belief that should we continue to eschew the temptation of data falsification, we shall steadily advance from this coverage figure till every vulnerable child is immunised in Ondo state. I commend our primary healthcare workers for this genuine data," he said.

At the same meeting, he charged improve the working condition of community leaders to preach the health workers to boost their gospel of immunization in morale towards delivery of Churches, mosques and the immunization and other services. community at large so as to help He said: "As a responsible and government in its efforts towards responsive government that has total eradication of polio. recently employed hundreds of Akeredolu said the primary health workers for the secondary healthcare can only be effective facilities managed by the State when the trio of government, Hospitals' Management Board, health workers and the HMB, despite lean resources, we community at large work hand in shall continue to improve the hand at all times. The governor working condition of our health commended all those who have workers to boost their morale been involved in the onerous towards delivery of immunisation duty of combating polio virus in and other services."He also the state. He said: "As a expressed the hope that other traditional ruler, how much of the stakeholders would play their gospel of immunisation do you own part in improving health tell your community members workers performance. during important community events and other avenues? Are "Remember that primary our town criers at village levels healthcare is one that can only be still up and doing about effective when the trio of community sensitisation? At the government, health workers and level of the 203 wards across the community members work 18 LGAs, are the Ward togetheratall times. Development Committee, WDC, members still committed to their "This sense of patriotism needs communal tasks? "Do churches to be rekindled at this time to and mosques still talk about prevent any incidence of polio immunisation during and after virus and other vaccineservice to orientate their preventable diseases in our dear congregation and dispel state," he said. immunisation myths? The Governor also charged the media. He hailed the team led by the to take part in the sensitization Commissioner for Health, Dr. roles of polio as their corporate Wahab Adegbenro for sustaining Social responsibility by airing the tempo on Polio eradication in jingles on immunization on radio the state.

and television stations. "Is the media ready to give more free In his presentation, Mr Opeyemi administration will continue to certified polio-free by July 2019.

slots, as part of their Corporate Ekun, representing World Health Social Responsibility, for our Organisation (WHO), said there immunisation jingles to air on had been no confirmed case of radio and television stations? Wild Polio Virus in Nigeria since Governor Akeredolu said his 2016, hence the nation would be

GATES FOUNDATION BOOSTS POLIO ERADICATION IN NIGERIA WITH \$75M



represented jointly by the Ministers of Budget and National Planning, Finance, and Health, recently announced a new innovative financing agreement with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation aimed at strengthening both routine immunisation (RI) and broader primary healthcare (PHC) services. Under the agreement, Nigeria will receive incentive financing of up to \$75 million over five years from the Gates Foundation as the government meets existing commitments to increase domestic funding of its RI programme. The incentive financing will be directly invested in Nigeria's Basic Healthcare Provision Fund (BHCPF), and used in strengthening RI financing and other PHC services for the poorest. Coming at a time when the nation's revenue generation is constrained, the deal will direct new funds to Nigeria's broader health sector even as more domestic resources are dedicated to critical childhood vaccines specifically-creating a win-win opportunity for essential PHC services to grow in tandem, a statement that was issued by spokesman of the Finance Minister said. "Childhood immunisation is one of the most effective and costeffective health interventions, and I

The federal government can think of few better long-term investments in Nigeria's human capital and future prosperity," said Senator Udoma Udo Udoma, Honourable Minister of Budget and National Planning. In April of last year, the federal government-through the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency-finalised its Nigeria Strategy for Immunisation and PHC System Strengthening, 2018-2028 (NSIPSS), which outlined plans to spend US\$1.95 billion on immunisation services over ten vears via the national budget and some World Bank loan financing. In June, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, committed to supporting the NSIPSS with extended donor financing as domestic resources scale up. During this extended transition window, international donors via Gavi will provide Nigeria with US\$1 billion, on top of the US\$1.95bn domestic commitment. Together these funds will cover procurement of vaccines-the lion's share of the costs-as well as operational costs for routine and supplementary immunisation activities, and PHC system support.

> From the reporting of Kola Adeyemo for leadership.ng

WAR AGAINST POLIO: NOMADIC **GROUP LEADS CAMPAIGN IN KANO**



An amalgamation of nomadic groups in Kano State have formed a platform. Nomadic Jauros for Health, to fight against polio in the State and protect its borders from recurrence of polio epidemic. The Chairman of the group, Alhaji Idris Adamu, unveiled the group on recently at a town hall meeting organised by the state Ministry of Health. He said that although many of the members had been involved in mobilisation for the exercise for long, the group was recently formed as part of their social responsibility.

"We identified our individual roles in fighting the virus and saw the need to unite against it to strengthen the awareness campaign," he said.

Adamu, however, said the group seeks the support of the Ministry and all stakeholders in polio awareness campaign, in order to be fully on board. "Our union will provide information about new nomadic groups coming into the state from other states and countries in order to ensure full immunization for their children," he said.

"We believe that if the new groups are fully immunized, there would be no fear of recurrence of the virus and even if they move to other places, those places will be safe too," Adamu explained.

Officials of UNICEF Polio Communications at the event also promised to work with the group and give them the support to keep Kano State free of Polio.

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FUNDING FOR POLIO FIGHT DOWN 50% TO \$153M AS WHO **AWAITS NIGERIA REPORT TO DECLARE AFRICA DISEASE FREE**



They however, observed that Africa has made some progress in curbing diseases such as polio, which is now on the brink of eradication.

Moeti informed the teleconference participants that the last case of wild poliovirus in Africa was reported in August 2016 in Nigeria's north-eastern state of Borno. "If no new cases of wild poliovirus are detected in Nigeria by August 2019, Africa will attain the wild poliovirus eradication goal," said Moeti.

Global funds for the fight against By that token Africa would have polio have dropped by more than attained the wild poliovirus 50 percent in the three years to eradication goal, said Moeti. 2019. Between 2016 and 2019, the Global Polio Eradication A media telebriefing by the WHO Initiative budget more than regional office for Africa was held halved, from \$322 million to \$153 following a global immunization million.

90 percent of all funding for Brazzaville, Congo. disease surveillance in sub-Saharan Africa, including 16 The immunization experts were polio-funded laboratories that gathered to assess current and process clinical and future immunization needs in environmental samples for acute Africa, as well as review the flaccid paralysis surveillance (used for detecting poliomyelitis) and other vaccine-preventable African states. The experts diseases, such as yellow fever observed that RIC in Africa has and measles," said Matshidiso Moeti, World Health Organisation (WHO) regional director for Africa.

But the WHO said it will now wait report from Nigeria, noting that if telebriefing included Helen Rees, no new cases of the wild polio virus are detected, then it would declare Africa polio free.

experts biannual Regional Immunization Technical Advisory "This initiative provides more than Group (RITAG) meeting in

> performance index of routine immunization coverage (RIC) by stagnated at 72 percent, thereby exposing populations to vaccinepreventable diseases and The WHO media telebriefing outbreaks.

up to August this year for polio The health experts media the RITAG chair, and Matshidiso Moeti, WHO regional director for Africa. They briefed some selected journalists across Africa.

They however emphasized the need for greater government ownership of disease surveillance programmes, to ensure that the progress made in curbing vaccine-preventable diseases is not reversed. "The fact that most sub-Saharan African countries continue to rely on external funding for immunization financing is a strong indicator of the work that remains to be done," Richard Mihigo, programme manager for Immunization and Vaccine Development at the WHO Regional Office for Africa, said. "Governments have a central role to play to fill upcoming funding gaps, and ensure immunization programmes remain strong and vigilant."

noted that at least 27 African countries have been observed to have "weak routine immunization coverage," which evidently portends danger in sustaining the progress so far made.

Ben Equzozie businessamlive.com

9 FEBRUARY 2019

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To Succeed by 2023" - Extraordinary Joint Statement to Polio Eradicators



In an extraordinary joint statement by the Chairs of the main independent, advisory and oversight committees of the GPEI, the Chairs urge everyone involved in polio eradication to ensure polio will finally be assigned to the history books by 2023. The authors are the chairs of the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on immunization (SAGE), the Independent Monitoring Board, the Emergency Committee of the International Health Regulations (IHR) Regarding International Spread of Poliovirus and the Global Commission for the Certification of the Eradication of Poliomyelitis (GCC).

The Endgame Plan through 2018 has brought the world to the brink of being polio-free. A new Strategic Plan 2019-2023 aims to build on the lessons learned since 2013.

The joint statement urges everyone involved in the effort to find ways to excel in their roles. If this happens, the statement continues, success will follow. But otherwise, come 2023, the world will find itself exactly where it is

t o d a y : tantalizingly close. But in an eradication effort, tantalizingly close is not good enough.

The statement therefore issues an impassioned plea to everyone to dedicate themselves to one clear objective: to reach that very last child with polio vaccine. By excelling in our roles. It means stepping up the level of performance even further. It means using the proven tools of eradication and building blocks that have been established in parts of the world that have been free of polio for years.

The Chairs remind us that as a global community, we have stood where we stand today once before, with smallpox. And we achieved the eradication of smallpox. And the world is a much better place without smallpox.

So, let us make the world again a better place. Together. Let us eradicate polio.



NNPPC TREASURER IS D9110 GOVERNOR FOR 2021/22

> Oyo State, Nigeria on 15th September, 1957. Remi is a Chartered Accountant - Fellow, Fellow Member of the Chartered Institute of Taxation and member Institute of Directors (IOD). He is an Alumnus of Lagos Business School (CEP10), he has attended several courses both at home and abroad, a Ph.d student of Accounting at the prestigious University of Lagos.

> Bello was born in Ibadan,

¹Remi Bello is a National Vice President of Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA) a past President and past Chairman of Council – Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), Past Chairman – Trade Promotion Board, Organizing Body of the famous annual Lagos International Trade Fair and past Honorary Treasurer of the Chamber. He is a past Vice Chairman(Africa Region) and Council Member of World Chamber Federation and a speaker at the Federation's Qartar 2013 and Torino congress in 2015.

Rotarian Bello was appointed as one of the 25-man Presidential Advisory Council of the Nigeria Industrial Revolution Plan of the Federal Government of Nigeria in 2014. He is also a member of Institute of Directors.

Remi is a Past President of the Jericho Businessmen Club.

Remi was invited and joined Rotary Club of Ikeja South in the year 2001. He served as President of the club in the 2007-08 Rotary year. He was the District 9110 Treasurer between in the 2008-2009 Rotary year. He has also served in other capacities in Rotary. He was the District Chairman, Vocation Service Committee and Chairman District Conference Committee (2018-2019). Remi is a member of Rotary Action Group for Peace (RAGFP). He has been a generous host of the house inward Group Study Exchange (GSE) on friendship exchange to District 9110 on two different occasions. Remi is a Major Donor of the Rotary Foundation, he has attended several Rotary International Convention, West Africa Project Fair, Rotary Institute Zone 20A.

Remi is the Nigeria National Polioplus Committee's Treasurer, the committee saddled with supervision of Rotary International's first priority global Project – the eradication of poliomyelitis. He is an advocate and a veteran of several polio immunization campaigns in Nigeria.

Ismaila Remi Bello is a philanthropist. He personally funded the purchase of two plots of land and donated the same to Temidire Community in Ifo Local Government area of Ogun State through the Rotary Club of Ikeja South. As President of the Rotary Club of Ikeja South in year 2007, he used the opportunity of his 50th birth day to raise funds which were deployed to build a public primary school on the land. The school was handed over to the Ogun State Government and remains one of the public primary schools being run by Ogun State Government with about 600 pupils as at 2018. Rtn. 'Remi Bello is happily married and blessed with children and Grand-children.

PUBLIC HEALTH LEADERSHIP STEPS UP SUPPORT FOR POLIO ERADICATION



WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus opened the Organization's Executive Board (EB) with a report from his first visit of the year, to the polio endemic countries of Afghanistan and Pakistan: "This year I have taken over as chair of the Polio Oversight Board. That's why my first trip of the New Year was to Afghanistan and Pakistan. These are the two countries that are the last frontiers of wild poliovirus. We are so close to ridding humanity of this disease, and I am personally committed to ensuring that we do. I was really impressed by the commitment of the governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan."

The Executive Board, comprised of 34 Member States' designated experts in the field of health, convened in Geneva to discuss a wideranging agenda on the most pressing and urgent health concerns of our times, including the urgency to rev up efforts in this last mile of polio eradication efforts. The EB was encouraged by the progress achieved through the Endgame Strategic Plan 2013-2018, which has led the world to the brink of polio eradication and laid the groundwork for the new strategy - the Global Polio Eradication Initiative Strategic Plan 2019-2023. The new strategy will aim to sharpen the tools and tactics that led to the global progress in bringing down the case load from 350 000 annual wild polio virus cases in 1988 to only 33 cases in 2018. Success in the coming years will hinge on harnessing renewed financial and political support to fully implement the plan at all levels, with our one clear goal in sight: reach every last child with the polio vaccine to end this disease once and for all.

In a time of many global challenges and priorities, the coming year will require more than ever a singular commitment from the governments and partners as we near zero. On the sidelines of the EB, the DG held a stakeholder consultation to ensure that the 2019-2023 Strategic Plan reflects a transparent and inclusive stakeholder participation. Given that polio eradication effort continues to be a global priority, one of the salient features of the consultation was a renewed commitment to transparent long-term budgets for eradication efforts, including key postcertification costs such as stockpiles and inactivated polio vaccine to help protect more than 430 million children from polio each year.

"In a time of many global challenges and priorities, the coming year will require more than ever a singular commitment from the governments and partners as we near zero."

Polio resources for over three decades have helped reduce the number of endemic countries from 135 down to only 3 (Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Nigeria), eradicate polio from some of the most challenging areas in the world, and continue to enable countries around the world in advancing other national health goals.

With the continued commitment of all donors and partners, 2019 may very well become the decisive year when we finally stop wild polio virus transmission in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

PHOTO NEWS

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Mrs. Oyebanji, Principal Ebute Elefun Secondary School, Lagos reading her remarks during the commissioning



Tour of Ebute Elefun Junior Secondary School, Lagos led by the Principal Mrs Oyebanji



Ebute Elefun Secondary School students and Rotarians during the borehole commissioning



From right - Rotn. Dimeji Ajayi; DG Kola Sodipo and Dr Tunji Funsho during the commissioning of the borehole



DG Kola Sodipo (in black suit) commissioning the Rotary solar borehole at Ebute Elefun Secondary School, Lagos



From left - PRIP John Germ; PDG Ijeoma Okoro and PDG Robert L. Hall, Vice Chair, End Polio Now Countdown to History Campaign



NNPPC Chair, Dr Tunji Funsho presenting gift to Dr Peter Lasuba Lugala Officer In Charge WHO Country Office, Nigeria



From right - Dr Richard Banda; Dr Peter Lasuba Clement Lugala; Dr Tunji Funsho and Amb. Aminu Muhammad

PHOTO NEWS



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Group photograph of Ososa Chiefs and Rotary team during the borehole commissioning



Vice Chair Yomi Adewunmi commissioning the Rotary borehole in Ososa, Ogun State. From left Rotarian Lanre Kasim, PAG Remi Bello & The Traditional Leader



Support to 2 fixed posts in Sango ward of Saki West LGA for demand creation.



The Traditional Leader, Ososa Community of Ogun state during the borehole commissioning. To his right PAG Remi Bello and to his Left PDG Yomi Adewunmi



Rotary borehole in Ososa Ogun State



Rotary team during the February SIPDs in Kaduna. From left PDG Joshua Hassan, Rotarian Grace Sadiku, PAG Haruna Usman & Rotarian Godwin Izuchukwu



Rotarians on the fore front in Saki Oyo state, during the February Outbreak Response. (Led by PDG Obafunso Ogunkeye in Yellow Cap)



Monitoring of the vaccination team by Kaduna Rotarians. Led by PDG Joshua Hassan (in Blue Polo)



IPP Rukwinya Joshua Hassan club Polio Chair, Rotary Club of Yola monitoring polio Immunisatiion in Luggere ward in Yola North Adamawa State.

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END POLIO NOW ZONE COORDINATORS

PolioStop is published by the NNPPC 8, Ladoke Akintola Street, Ikeja GRA, Lagos. E-mail: endpolio@polioplusng.org, www.polioplusng.org All correspondence to the NNPPC Chairman, PDG Tunji Funsho, Tel: 0817 200 0246, Email: rotarypolioplusnigeria@gmail.com