QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NIGERIA NATIONAL POLIOPLUS COMMITTEE



POLIOSTOP

SEPTEMBER 2021

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CHAIRMAN'S REMARK

CIRCULATING VACCINE DERIVED POLIO VIRUS (cVDPV2)- A new menace

In recent weeks there has been a lot of reportage in the press of polio outbreaks in the country, some of them with frightening headlines that suggest that the wild polio virus is back.

While the vaccine derived virus is still a menace that paralyses children, it must be distinguished from the wild polio virus which remains at zero in Nigeria.

The vaccine derived polio virus is a product of a few factors which lead to the mutation of the attenuated polio virus in the oral polio vaccine to a virulent form which causes paralysis. The factors include unsanitary environments leading to contaminated food and water and suboptimal immunisation of children. This allows the virus to survive and be transmitted through unimmunised children in populations with sub optimal immunization levels several times during which time it takes the opportunity to mutate. Without these frequent passages through these susceptible hosts the virus which cannot live long outside the human body will perish.

Now having mutated, the virus requires certain conditions to fester and create an outbreak as is occurring now. The first of this is a large cohort of children who have not been immunised. In our case this is partly because of low routine

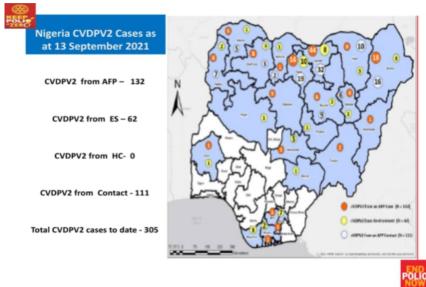
immunisation levels across the country, the COVID-19 pandemic which led to halting of both routine immunisation and mass campaigns and the seeding of the virus into the environment by the use of mOPV2 earlier this year. The trivalent oral polio vaccine which contained the type two attenuated virus was discontinued in 2016 leaving a large cohort of children with no opportunity to develop immunity to the type 2 virus either casually from the environment or through vaccination.



PDG DR TUNJI FUNSHO Chairman NNPPC

Now that we have these outbreaks, the Nigeria polio programme has been doing a lot to stem it but there are gaps in the many outbreak responses numbering six so far this year. As I write this piece an outbreak response is ongoing. The challenge is the quality of the campaigns and their timeliness. Outbreak responses should be swift, of high quality and repeated in a timely manner.

Efforts are being made to engage the state Governors to appreciate the urgency of the challenge and to provide adequate resources for the timely execution of quality campaigns which will ensure we terminate the Outbreak currently affecting 22 states in both the northern and southern parts of the country. We have successfully kicked out the wild poliovirus from Africa but our work is not done until we end all types of polio virus paralysing our children. We are on course but we must keep our eyes on the ball.









WE NEED TO VACCINATE MORE

Rtn 'Gbenga Olayiwole - Editor

One thing I have found really interesting, is how the poliovirus and coronavirus, from different families with dissimilar modes of transmission, have so much in common in terms of their epidemiology and ways to stop them.

One of these is through vaccination. We have been blessed with highly effective vaccines which have brought us to the verge of a poliofree world. Indeed, there is renewed hope that the world will soon be free of the wild poliovirus. Afghanistan, in spite of the political turmoil and Pakistan have recorded just one case each of poliovirus infection this year, much less than the numbers they recorded at the same period in recent years. And though we have had a huge increase in the number of new cases of circulating vaccine derived polioviruses across the globe, we also now have a highly effective new vaccine, the nOPV which promises to reduce drastically the ability of the attenuated virus in the oral polio vaccine to mutate and cause infection in unvaccinated children across the world.

People often ask, why do we have vaccine derived polioviruses? The answer is really simple, it is because we are not vaccinating enough people. The concept of herd immunity is one that you must have heard being used a lot in recent times, particularly since the start of the coronavirus pandemic. It means that if we are able to immunize sufficient numbers of people and make them not susceptible to a disease, we can protect the remaining unimmunized people because the disease will not be able to find sufficient numbers to attack and thrive. We can achieve this through effective vaccination. So, ideally, we can keep the poliovirus and the coronavirus out of the population if we can vaccinate people in sufficient numbers that creates a "wall" between these viruses and the population. The sad reality is that we have not vaccinated enough people against these viruses and that is why they continue to be a problem. This is majorly due to the determination of some folks to create fear and doubt by sharing misinformation and spreading unfounded and unsubstantiated rumours about the dangers of vaccination or ineffectiveness of vaccines. That has caused vaccine hesitancy and outright vaccine refusal among a large portion of the population.We have therefore not been able to vaccinate people quickly enough and in sufficient numbers to achieve herd immunity before the virus mutates into less agreeable variants such as the Delta variant that is currently devastating the world.

The surge in new coronavirus cases both locally and internationally complements a surge in new cases of circulating vaccine derived Poliovirus cases It is apparent that the pandemic has further adversely affected our ability to carry out routine immunization and house to house campaigns which has resulted in these new cases. It has also become apparent that we need to improve our vaccination efforts, against both the Coronavirus and the poliovirus.

There is simply no more effective way to protect our people than through vaccination. It is therefore our duty as Rotarians and friends of Rotary to work and to improve vaccination rates for the Coronavirus and for polio. That is the only way we are going to deliver on our promise of creating a polio-free world.





AMINU MUHAMMAD NATIONAL PROGRAMME COORDINATOR

Africa has made good progress in its efforts to eradicate Polio. This is evidenced by the non-detection of WPV1 since August 2016; this progress has been largely attributed to the implementation of innovative strategies aimed at improving the quality of Supplemental Immunization Activities (SIA) and boosting population immunity.

However, since 2017, several geneticallydistinct cVDPV2 outbreaks continue to be reported across the WHO Africa region. In total, 21 countries are affected by ongoing cVDPV2, and outbreak response activities continue to be implemented in Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan and Togo.

Vaccines save millions of lives each year. In August 2020, Africa crossed a historic milestone when it was certified as free of wild polio. Vaccination drives, reaching up to 220 million African children multiple times every year, were integral to achieving this historic milestone.

Surmounting the Remaining Challenges and Crossing the Finish Line.

In 2020, the polio eradication program adjusted to address the COVID-19 pandemic sweeping across the globe, with polio vaccination activities postponed as part of measures to curb the pandemic's spread. There are 94 cases reported in so far as at 19 August 2021. There were eight cases reported in 2020.

Globally, the total number of WPV1 cases in 2021 remains 2 (compared with 97 for the same period in 2020). The total number of WPV1 cases in 2020 remains 140.

The number of circulating vaccine-derived Polio-virus (cVDPV) cases in 2021 is 235 (compared with 278 for the same period in 2020). The total number of cVDPV cases in 2020 is 1105.

Today, the fight continues against all forms of poliovirus. A rare vaccine-derived version of the polio-virus is affecting African countries with low immunization coverage, particularly among remote communities and those experiencing migration or conflict. Renewed efforts are underway to rid Africa of all remaining vaccine-derived polio-viruses.



Field Report Kaduna State



Background Information:

Kaduna state is located in the northwest zone of Nigeria with 23 LGAs. It has 255 wards across 3 geographical zones namely northern, southern and central areas. The state has a total population of 9,176,219, with under-5 populations of 2,563,489 and under-1 population of 1,630,590 According to NBS projected population of 2016. The last case of WPV in Kaduna state was found in 2012 till date no case. While the last case of CVDPV in Kaduna was found in Zaria and Sabon Gari LGAs in August 2018.

| Total Population | 9,176,219 (projected 2006) |
|--|---|
| No of LGAs | 23 (2 VVHR, 8 VHR, 5 HR, 8MR) |
| No of Wards | 255 |
| No of Emirates | 3 |
| No of Chiefdoms | 29 |
| No. of Surveillance Focal Sites | 296 (72-HP, 106-MP, 118-LP) |
| Under 15 (AFP Surveillance) TP | 4,367,880 |
| Under 5 (OPV) TP | 1,835,243 |
| Under 1 (RI) TP | 367,048 |
| Total No. of HFs / HFs Offering RI | 1,628 / 1,191 (includes 62 Private HFs offering RI) |
| No of H2H Teams | 3,716 |
| No of Transit Teams | 1,626 |
| No of PHCs | 1,128 (1,083 Functional) |
| No of Secondary HFs | 31 |
| No of Tertiary HFs | 3 |
| HFs offering DOTS | 165 |
| PHCs Offering Reproductive Services | ANC (886), Delivery (760), Family Planning (294), PMTCT (194) |

Polio case update

Between 2010 and 2018, 14 cases of wild polio were found in Kaduna State. 3 were found in Birnin Gwari, 1 in Chikun, 3 in Ikara, 1 in Kubau, 1 in Makarfi, and 4 in Zaria. In the same period, one positive environmental sample for wild poliovirus was found in Zaria. In the same period, 11 circulating vaccine derived poliovirus (cVDPV) cases were found in Kaduna State as follows: 1 in Ikara, 2 in Kubau, 2 in makarfi and 1 in Zaria. At the same time 10 cVDPV positive samples were collected in the following places: 1 in Igabi, 1 in Sabon Gari and 8 in Zaria. There were also 14 compatible samples found in the state during this period with 1 being found in Birnin Gwari, 2 in Giwa, 1 in Kachia, 1 in Kaduna North, 4 in Kaduna South, 1 in Sabon Gari and 2 in Sanga.

Polio Supplemental Immunization Activities

Nigeria recently introduced the novel oral polio vaccine [nOPV2] into the health system of the country. It has already been used for cVDPV2 outbreak response conducted in over sixteen states and the FCT. Kaduna state will be using it to respond to the recent outbreak of cVDPV2 isolated in two LGAs (Lere and Ikara), The State has also instituted the monitoring of Adverse Events of Special Interest (AESI) which is ongoing in all LGAs in the state.

Rotary International has been providing technical support for the state in the areas of micro planning, trainings, demand creation, including the provision of pluses for immunization campaigns, engagement of local authorities as well as monitoring and supervision including data quality assessment and community engagement



FC Grace Sadiku supporting immunization activities in a market in Kaduna State.

Rotary's support also helps to ensure transparency and accountability at all levels while guaranteeing that quality feedback is provided to the state health management team and other partners.



FC Grace Sadiku supervising DOPV in Chikun LGA of Kaduna State



Nigeria has benefited from Rotary's Support-President Muhammadu Buhari



President Muhammadu Buhari with the Rotary International President and his spouse at the State House Abuja

President Muhammadu Buhari recently met with the Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta at the State House in Abuja. At the meeting the President said the Federal Government will continue to draw from the expertise, partnership and consistency learnt from the eradication of Polio in the country to strengthen the health sector. He thanked Rotary for various interventions in the health sector, particularly putting in \$268 million in the fight against Polio.

"Nigeria has benefitted from your kind support, most particularly in the fight against Polio, with a total sum of \$268 million provided by Rotary International. For this, I say thank you.

"In addition to support provided by Rotary International in Polio Eradication, I am also well apprised of your other health interventions focused at improving maternal, newborn and child health, infrastructural renewal of health facilities, data management to improve evidence-based decision making, and the area of improving quality of care for patients," he said.

The President noted that the support Nigeria had received from multilateral and bilateral partners, including Rotary International for Sustainable Development Goals and Universal Health Coverage had been invaluable.



Rotary leaders at the State House during the visit of the Rotary International President.

Rotary International equally presented an award to President Buhari.

"I also heartily welcome and receive the award you have given in recognition of the efforts of the administration, in collaboration with our partners, leading to the certification of Nigeria, and the entire continent as being polio-free," he responded.

The President welcomed Rotary's offer of partnership with Nigeria in effective Coronavirus vaccine management and service delivery.

In his remarks, the Minister of Health, Dr Osagie Ehanire, commended Rotary International for supporting health care programmes and improving facilities in the country.

Earlier, the Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta said the historic achievement of eradicating Polio in Nigeria was made possible by the leadership of President Buhari, while highlighting the President's foresight and diligence in taming spread of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Mr President, thank you profusely for ensuring that Nigeria became polio free. It has been possible only because of your leadership," he said. The Rotary International President also said the Covid-19 threw up economic and educational challenges, assuring that the organization would continue to support Nigeria in education, including surrogate teaching, and environmental issues.

Rotary International is a global service organization with 1.2 million members in 200 countries with special focus for the year 2021 on empowering girls by ensuring better health, hygiene and nutrition.





RTN ADEMOLA OLUTUSIN Chairman District PolioPlus Committee District 9110

On August 25, 2020, Nigeria and the African continent received what was unquestionably cheering news amidst the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic when the country and the continent were officially declared polio-free.

Nigeria didn't just arrive at its new polio-free state. It was the byproduct of rigorous, contentious, strategic planning and stakeholder engagement that led to all-yearround efforts in routine and supplementary immunisation activities to ensure that no child was left behind from being vaccinated.

Between 2000 and 2016, there were over 6000 reported cases of paralytic polio in Nigeria but the aggressive vaccination of children under the age of five with the oral polio vaccine made the country successful in its efforts. This was a daunting task which required enormous financial and human resources from Rotary and her partners and this should be celebrated and commended.

Although the battle has been won in Nigeria and Africa, the war on polio is still raging in places like Afghanistan and Pakistan, where

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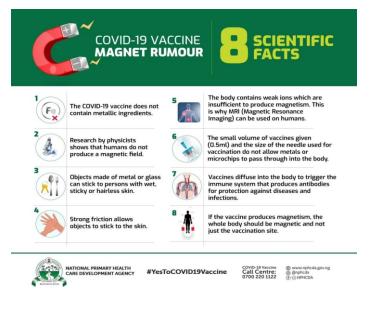
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From the DPPC Rotary District 9110

social conditions, such as insecurity and poverty are making it difficult to have an integrative approach to polio vaccination.

Thus, to complete the campaign to eradicate Polio Virus in our world, the Rotary District 9110 is joining the campaign to raise a minimum Contribution of \$10 per member in addition to a minimum club contribution of \$2,000 per club to Polio Plus Fund. It is believed the fund will be used to build structures, including networks of community volunteers to join the war on polio in the remaining countries.

For District 9110, we desire to make gains from the avoidable virus that has paralysed quite a number of citizens through the first ever Rotary Paralympics to be held at the In-Door Sports Complex of Teslim Balogun Stadium, Surulere. By this, we intend to show support to the plight of Polio Warriors who have survived the scourge of the virus and are living to tell the stories. And let them know we are together in this fight for a zero-polio campaign.



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ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT VISIT TO NIGERIA

COURTESY VISIT TO PRESIDENT MUHAMMADU BUHARI



RI President Shekha Mehta & Spouse Rashi with Rotary delegates at the Presidential Villa, Abuja.



Dr Osagie Ehanire, Hon. Minister of Health (in black cap) having a discussion with the Rotary delegates





Round table meeting with the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria



RI President Shekha presents Nigeria Polio Free Leadership Award to President Muhammadu Buhari. On the left is Dr Osagie Ehanire, Hon. Minister of Health



President Muhammadu Buhari admiring the Award Shield.



IMMUNISATION EXERCISE IN FCT ABUJA



RI President Shekhar Mehta immunising at Area 2 Family Health Centre, FCT Abuja



Press Interview



Dr Tunji Funsho (right) and a polio survivor during the immunisation exercise at the Family Health Centre



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Rotarians and some staff of the Family Health Centre, Abujat Row(L) PRIVP Yinka Babalola, PDG Ijeoma Okoro, RI President Shekhar Mehta and some staff of the Family Health Centre, Abuja

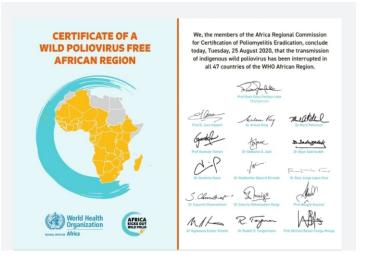


Abuja Rotarians during at the immunisation facility



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African Countries Agree to end all forms of Polio



Last year the WHO Africa region was certified free of the wild poliovirus to much adulation and jubilation. In spite of this, the African continent as well as other regions where the wild polio has not been recorded for a long time have been reporting outbreaks of vaccine derived polio(cVDPV) in communities where there have been suboptimal levels of polio vaccination.

The oral polio vaccine is made of a poliovirus strain which has been attenuated or weakened to lose its ability to cause sickness and paralysis but in communities where there are suboptimal levels of vaccination and not enough children have been vaccinated, it is possible that after a period of time this vaccine strain which has been circulating changes again to behave more like the naturally occurring virus and hence able to cause disease and paralysis.

In the last 3 years 23 countries in the Africa region have had outbreaks of the circulating vaccine derived poliovirus accounting for more than half of the number of global cases. Part of the reason for this has been the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic which caused massive disruptions to both routine immunization and vaccination campaigns. In a recent meeting to discuss these and other

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challenges to polio eradication, Governments from the WHO Africa Region have pledged their commitment to ending all remaining forms of polio. They also presented a scorecard to track progress made towards the complete eradication of polio in all its forms. They discussed how they will start to implement the recently developed Global Polio Eradication Initiative 2022-2026 Strategy which was presented in June in order to stop the transmission of cVDPVs.



Dr. Osagie Ehanire. Nigeria's Honourable Minister for Health

They resolved to advance the speed and quality of outbreak responses with rapid deployment of technical staff in sufficient numbers to outbreak locations. They also resolved to improve polio vaccine uptake through the integration of polio campaigns to target unvaccinated children and also to broaden the rollout of the novel oral polio vaccine type 2 (nOPV2) which is a new tool that could address the challenge posed by outbreaks of the most common type of vaccine derived poliovirus, the cVDPV2. At the moment, only 6 African countries have started deploying this vaccine. Almost 40 million children have been vaccinated without any major adverse incident or concerns. The plan is to make this vaccine more widely available and deploy it in more African countries rapidly.





Director of WHO Africa Region Dr. Matshidiso Moeti

Ministers from these African countries have also committed themselves to a regular review of progress through the scorecard which is designed to track the timely implementation of high-quality polio outbreak response, introduce the novel oral polio vaccine type 2 (nOPV2) for broader use and ensure the transition of the legacy polio assets into their national health systems in a strategic phased approach.

In her speech at the meeting, the WHO Regional Director for Africa Dr. Matshidiso Moeti said "Our success in ending the wild poliovirus in the Africa region shows what is possible when we work together with urgency." Since July 2020, around 100 million African children have been vaccinated against polio. While the success of the programme has been threatened by the global COVID-19 pandemic, she argued that it is possible to overcome the final hurdles but the technical ability, experience and know-how already on the continent must be backed by the commitment of sufficient resources to reach children in all communities with suboptimal vaccination levels.



Dr. Tunji Funsho Chair of Rotary's Nigeria National PolioPlus Committee

Dr. Tunji Funsho, Chair of Rotary International's Nigeria National PolioPlus Committee who represented the service organization responsible for spearheading and providing initial funding for the global polio eradication effort, called for increased political and financial by the Governments and development partners to not only stop outbreaks swiftly but to also rapidly scale up vaccination coverage in order to give children lasting protection against this preventable disease.

The meeting also discussed how to transition the legacy polio infrastructure to support immunization and disease surveillance in the countries' health systems. The polio programme has been deployed in the past to deal with emerging threats and address health emergencies such as Ebola and Lassa fever in the region. Technical staff from the polio programme are also currently helping countries in the Africa region with COVID-19 surveillance, contract tracing and community engagement.





PAG YAKUBU NDANUSA VICE CHAIRMAN

Our fight to eradicate polio from the world has been faced with a lot of resistance to vaccination based on misinformation which stems from religious and ideological beliefs and suspicions about the purpose of the vaccine, especially in regards to perceived efforts to reduce or limit the growth of certain populations. In more than two decades that I have been involved in the polio eradication efforts. especially in my various roles ranging from countless field engagements across all the geopolitical zones and beyond to my service in various capacities within Rotary's polio programme, including stints as State Representative, Zonal Coordinator, District PolioPlus chair and now as Vice Chairman of the National PolioPlus Committee it is this fight against wrong perceptions and misinformation that I have found most challenging. It has provoked deep suspicion, violent reactions, sabotage and noncompliance making it perhaps the factor with the largest negative effect on the efforts to kick polio out of Africa and the world. In spite of this, our story is one of overcoming obstructions to the performance of our duties, rejecting the prospects of failure, staying resilient, refusing to abort our mission and summoning the relentless spirit of the Rotary philanthropic machine to embark on meaningful interventions and provide lasting solutions to communities across the country and the world. And this, in spite of the losses we have suffered in terms of lives and programme assets, is what has brought us to the point where we can celebrate a wild poliovirus-free Africa and be so close to the dream of a polio-free world.

In collaboration with our partners in the Polio Eradication Initiative including the WHO, UNICEF, the Gates Foundation, USCDC, the Dangote Foundation and Sir Emeka Offor Foundation, we have engaged in multiple streams of advocacy to different stakeholders in the society and adopted innovative approaches and interventions which

COVID-19- Using the legacy of Polio Eradication to fight misinformation and vaccine resistance

culminated in the declaration of Nigeria as poliofree and the certification of the WHO Africa region as wild poliovirus-free in August 2020.

Ironically, as Africa was being certified wild poliovirus-free, the coronavirus pandemic was making its terrible entry and beginning to cause devastation across the globe.

Again, as we had with the polio eradication efforts, a tiny anti-vaccination minority has stood against efforts to rid the world of this terrible pandemic by springing up conspiracy theories designed to create panic and diminish confidence in efforts to deal decisively with the pandemic. Even efforts to deliver palliatives to people under lockdown were also subject to sabotage although it must be mentioned that Rotary's efforts in that regard were a huge success in different parts of the country especially in the northern parts of Nigeria. Other awareness, sensitization and advocacy efforts by Rotary members in respect of the COVID-19 pandemic have also been highly successful. This is perhaps due to our experiences leading the global polio eradication efforts and in adding "pluses" to this effort.

We have been very fortunate that predictions and projections of devastation on a major scale with terrible loss of human life in our country have not played out but we cannot afford to take things for granted. We have marshalled the resources and infrastructure of our fight against polio to tackle this pandemic but there is more to be gained from understanding, emulating and deploying the legacy of our polio eradication efforts in addressing new challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic as they arise. Polio eradication has given us the technical abilities, capacities for responsible and accountable resource mobilization and deployment as well as world class programme management systems in all parts of the world. We are overcoming polio and we will also overcome the challenge of this global corona virus pandemic

For me, this is the most satisfying part of the polio eradication story- the legacy of success against the odds and overcoming seemingly insurmountable challenges.



The Honourable Minister for Health Inaugurates the Southwest Traditional Leaders Committee on Primary Health Care Delivery



The Honourable Minister for Health and the ED NPHCDA with the Ooni of Ife and other Traditional Rulers at the event

In a bid to promote the healthcare of her citizens, the Federal Government of Nigeria through the Federal Ministry of Health and the National Primary Health Care Development agency recently inaugurated the Southwest Traditional Leaders Committee on Primary Healthcare Delivery. This event took place at the Palace of the Ooni of Ife in Osun State. In his address at the event, the Honourable Minister for Health Dr. Osagie Ehanire expressed his appreciation for the commitment of the royal fathers to the development of the health sector and the improvement of the health of their people. He cited the existence of a similar committee in the northern part of the country and expressed the desire of the Federal Government to extend this to all parts of the country.

He also expressed the Federal Government's commitment to human capital development through its support for the health sector in the country. He also

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used the opportunity offered by the event to announce that the Federal Government would locate one model primary health care center in one ward across the states, the location of which will be determined by the royal fathers through the newly inaugurated committee. He thereafter declared the committee inaugurated. According to him, "Model primary health centres shall be professionally designed with staff quarters, solar power, borehole, perimeter fencing and tricycle ambulance. This will be a model for each state to see what we want the primary health care to be like."



The Honourable Minister being presented with a gift by the Ooni at the event.

The Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), Dr. Faisal Shuaib said that the Traditional Leaders Committee will be expected to work across all the states in the southwest to deliver continuous and intensive support in the areas of role modelling, community advocacy, mobilisation, sensitisation, resource mobilisation and monitoring for primary health care interventions such as vaccination campaigns on COVID-19, polio, measles, yellow fever and more for routine immunisation, maternal newborn, and childhood nutrition.

In His address at the event, the Country Representative of UNICEF Mr. Peter Hawkins who was represented at the event by Dr. Muhammed Okorie commended the Federal Government for the initiative and called for the fulfilment of all the rights of the Nigerian Child. The Country Representative of the WHO, Dr. Walter Kazadi Mulombo stated that Nigeria stands at the cusp of history and expressed his desire to fulfill the charge he was given by President Muhammadu Buhari upon his resumption of duties in Nigeria to build on the successes of the polio eradication programme in Nigeria. He thereafter recommitted the WHO and development partners to continue to vigorously support healthcare and health security in Nigeria



Rtn Olayiwole delivering a goodwill message at the event on behalf of Rotary

The Southwest Field Coordinator of Rotary International Rtn Gbenga Olayiwole thanked the Royal Fathers for honouring the invitation to attend the event and thanked the Federal Government and the NPHCDA for the giant strides being made in healthcare delivery. He cited Rotary's leadership role in the polio eradication initiative and the achievement of a poliofree Africa and promised that Rotary will continue to support the Federal Government in efforts to improve the health of the people

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Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi, the Ooni of Ife who is also Chairman of this Traditional Leaders Committee said the traditional rulers had been challenged to play major roles in the delivery of health for the people and that they will deliver. He promised that they will reach all stakeholders in the interest of the people. He thereafter presented the Honourable Minister and development partners with gifts of art works from Ile-Ife the spiritual and historical source of the Yoruba people of Nigeria. Other royal fathers at the event include the Olubadan of Ibadan, the Ewi of Ado-Ekiti, the Ajero of Ijero and the representative of the Deji of Akure and other traditional leaders from states across the southwest



PHOTO NEWS



Dr Tunji Funsho (in blue attire) welcoming RI President to the Polio House



RI President Shekhar Mehta signing visitors register at the Polio House



From Right - DG Remi Bello, Rashi Mehta, RI President Shekhar Mehta and Dr Tunji Funsho



RI President Shekhar Mehta



RI President Shekhar Mehta & spouse Rashi with some NNPPC Executive members



RI President Shekhar Mehta & Spouse Rashi with some Rotary Leaders in Lagos



RI President Shekhar Mehta and spouse Rashi in polio attire



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RI President Shekhar Mehta and spouse Rashi

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