



POLIOSTOP

JUNE 2022

Contribute Participate Change



National PolioPlus Committee: Dr Tunji Funsho – Chairman, Dr Kazeem Mustapha – Vice Chairman, PDG Femi Lawani – Vice Chairman, PDG Yomi Adewunmi – Vice Chairman, PAG Yakubu Ndanusa – Vice Chairman, PDG Obafunso Ogunkeye – Secretary, DG Remi Bello – Treasurer, PDG Ijeoma Okoro – Member, PDG Ikponmwosa Ogiemudia – Member, Rotr. Fathia Adekeye – Member, PRIVP Yinka Babalola – Adviser, PRIP Jon. B. Majiyagbe – Patron

**END
POLIO
NOW**



CHAIRMAN'S REMARK

Now we are having a change of leadership at the NNPPC with effect 1st July 2022 which is the beginning of our new Rotary year. Our new Chairman is Past District Governor Joshua Hassan who has been with the polio eradication initiative since its inception by Rotary in 1985. He is a retired Director of Engineering at NTA and has traversed the nooks and crannies of this country observing, supervising and immunising children.

Every beginning will have an end and every end is a new beginning. So life is a cycle of continuous movement just like the cosmos in which we exist.

I have been privileged and blessed to have led a team of dedicated Rotarians in the Nigeria National PolioPlus Committee (NNPPC) and indeed Rotarians across the country who have volunteered their precious time away from their means of livelihood to keep our promise of a Polio free Nigeria. Working in collaboration with our GPEI partners, the WHO, UNICEF, CDC, BMGF and Gavi with the assistance of the Dangote foundation and the Sir Emeka Offor Foundation, the Federal Government of Nigeria on whose shoulders fall the responsibility of providing health for its populace through the Federal Ministry of Health and the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), we have played a major and lead role in ensuring the elimination of wild poliovirus in Nigeria.

I have had the privilege of leading our committee since April 2013 and seeing Nigeria to its polio free status in August 2020 after not having had a case of wild polio since 2016. Now we have to keep Nigeria free from all forms of polio including the circulating variant polio which has preoccupied our attention in the last two years.

I am confident that under his leadership we will keep the polio virus at bay and reach our end goal; total eradication of polio from the world.

Please bid welcome to my friend PDG Joshua Hassan as he takes over the mantle of leadership of NNPPC and extend to him the assistance and collaboration you extended to me and my committee for almost a decade now.





FROM EDITOR'S DESK

The Spirit of Excellence

Rtn 'Gbenga Olayiwole

We are thankful for the successful conclusion of two rounds of synchronized outbreak response to the mutant poliovirus strain circulating in our communities. Participation by Rotarians from across every part of the country was huge during these two rounds in spite of the competing priorities that many of us had to face. It was satisfying to note that we as Rotarians are still committed to the effort to keep polio out of Nigeria and eradicate it from our world. Every single Rotarian who joined us in the field deserves some accolades and a big pat on the back. We have done excellently but we can and we will still do more. As they say, the reward for hard work is more work.

Talking about excellence, one of us, the incoming President of the Rotary Club of Ikoyi Metro, Rtn Kunle Adeyanju, recently concluded his London- Lagos Charity Ride which he embarked upon to, among other things, raise funds and awareness for polio eradication. His arrival at the Rotary Center in Ikeja on May 29 2022 was met with celebration and unbridled jubilation by hundreds of Rotarians and friends of Rotary who had gathered to give him a befitting welcome. There was singing, there was dancing and in one case of a very emotional Rotarian, even some crying. It was such a joy to receive him after 40 days in extreme and sometimes very perilous conditions. One of our Rotarians from Cote D'Ivoire Rtn Eba Zenab even travelled all the way to Nigeria to be part of the historic occasion. There were media teams from across the world at Rotary Center and Polio House on that day. Even Bill Gates could not help but express his admiration for the excellent achievement of our brave adventurer who is

also known as LION HEART. For me it shows that we can achieve anything if we put our minds to it. There will be difficulties and setbacks in the manner of those that Kunle Adeyanju faced but with determination, focus and an excellent spirit, there is nothing we cannot achieve. That is why I am confident that we will soon overcome the current challenges in our effort to eradicate polio. If we all work together we will soon achieve it because at Rotary we have the spirit of excellence.

One man who has come to symbolize excellence for me is the NNPPC Chairman Dr Tunji Funsho. I have been blessed to have met and interacted with him in my career. He is a principled, brilliant, innovative and charismatic leader with an excellent spirit. He is a believer in doing everything very well or not at all. If it cannot be done well, then perhaps it should not be done at all. That's the spirit of excellence. He took a flagging programme and completely reimaged it, turning it into a relentless polio-fighting machine. Knowing him professionally and personally is one of the blessings of my life. Sadly, no good thing lasts forever and he is beginning a larger and more impactful position in Rotary's global fight against polio. Personally, I do not know how I will cope but I am motivated to show him that he left enough in me to make me continue in the excellent spirit that he has modelled. At PolioStop we wish him good health and success in his new role. We hope to continue to drink from his well of wisdom for many years to come. Thanks for everything you have done for our programme sir. You have left a mark in the sands of time.



Malawi hosts the 29th Africa Regional Certification Commission (ARCC) for Poliomyelitis Eradication meeting - Nigeria Applauded over Achievement



Malawi hosted the 29th Africa Regional Certification Commission (ARCC) for Poliomyelitis Eradication meeting. The ARCC meeting was held at the Bingu International Conference Centre in Lilongwe. The meeting was officially opened on 7 June 2022 by the Malawian Deputy Minister of Health, Honorable Enock Phale, and the ARCC Chairperson Professor Rose Leke.

Malawi was selected to host the ARCC meeting as it is considered a polio-affected country after the country declared an outbreak of wild poliomyelitis on 17 February 2022 following confirmation of the wild poliovirus type 1. This was the first case of wild poliovirus in Malawi since 1992, and the first in Africa since the region was certified free of indigenous wild poliovirus in 2020.

The ARCC meeting in Lilongwe also reviewed the annual certification update reports of six countries including Malawi, Ethiopia, Central African Republic (CAR), Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Nigeria and Senegal. These reports allow the ARCC and its secretariat to monitor the level of progress towards polio eradication for countries and the African Region in general.

The Malawian Deputy Minister of Health, Honorable Enock Phale applauded the commission, the World Health Organization (WHO) and Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) partners for the continued financial and technical support in the fight against polio.

"As a country we are implementing different strategies to address the current wild poliovirus outbreak. However, we are looking forward to additional ARCC recommendations to guide on how we can move forward as a country to ensure that we address and stop wild poliovirus circulation and prevent future outbreaks."

The WHO Representative in Malawi Dr Neema Rusibamayila Kimambo said the ARCC meeting is critical as it provides a platform for countries to share experiences as the commission provides guidance that inform country policies and actions towards polio eradication.

"The discussions during this meeting provided an opportunity for the country and the region to strengthen global polio eradication activities, the Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP), Environmental Surveillance, and immunization systems," said Dr Neema Kimambo, WHO Representative in Malawi.

ARCC Chairperson Professor Rose Leke said the WPV1 outbreak in Malawi was a shock to ARCC especially in achieving

the global polio eradication milestones. "The ARCC proposed to hold the meeting in Malawi to learn about the response activities going on in the country to stop the wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) transmission and to advocate for continued strong political commitment. It is necessary for the country to have very highly sensitive surveillance, high quality vaccination response activities and strengthen routine immunization to ensure that no child is left behind."

Furthermore, the emergence of vaccine preventable disease outbreaks in most countries including Circulating Vaccine Derived Polioviruses (cVDPV) is also concerning for ARCC. "ARCC remains vigilant and continues to monitor and advocate for high quality interventions to be made in countries to bridge the immunity and surveillance gaps and stop the cVDPV," said Professor Leke.

ARCC is an independent body established in 1998 by the Regional Director of WHO to oversee the certification process and certified the African region free from the indigenous wild poliovirus. ARCC is currently evaluating reliability of data in documentation submitted by National Certification Committees to ensure that countries are adhering to the criteria set for the global certification of WPV. ARCC meets twice a year to review progress made in the annual certification updates of selected countries on polio eradication activities of the entire 47 member's state of the WHO African region. The Lilongwe meeting is the first face to face meeting since the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nigeria received commendation on the progress made so far presenting the result of the OBRs implementation in the country despite series of challenges as presented during the meeting by Prof Zubair Iliyas Chairman of the Committee together with Dr U S Adamu NEOC Incident Manager and his Deputy Dr Ngozi Nwosu and also Dr Samuel Bawa from WHO Nigeria

So far there is no breakthrough state as at week 20. All 36 states and FCT have completed at least three nOPV2 OBR rounds. 4 states have completed 6 nOPV2 OBR rounds, 14 states have completed 5 nOPV2 OBR rounds and 19 states have completed 4 nOPV2 OBR rounds. Integrated RI intensification with IPV/bOPV has been conducted from 11 – 16 Jun 2022 in 13 watch-list states.

-Veronica Mukhuna Communications Officer WHO.



Dr. Tunji Funsho Rotary's Nigeria Polio Chair Transitioning to Regional and Global Responsibilities

the Minister of State for Health and the Inter-Agency Coordination Committee for Polio Eradication. He has also worked closely with the Sir Emeka Ofor Foundation, the Dangote Foundation, the Traditional Leaders Council and the Federation of Muslim Women's Association of Nigeria

Dr. Tunji Funsho, a key Rotary leader who was instrumental in steering Nigeria to its status as a country free of the wild polio virus will be transitioning to regional and international polio eradication responsibilities for Rotary on 1 July 2022.

As the chair of Rotary's Nigeria National PolioPlus Committee since 2013, PDG Funsho has led PolioPlus efforts in the country, building upon the work of his predecessors.

He has worked alongside Rotarians to raise awareness about the importance of polio immunization, encouraged governments and public figures to support polio eradication, and served as a vocal leader and advocate for Rotary and its fight to end polio. He has worked closely with the Global Polio Eradication Initiative partner organizations: the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Gavi-the Vaccine Alliance.

As a member of Nigeria's Presidential Task Force on Polio, he has coordinated immunizations and advocacy campaigns with

In 2020, Time Magazine recognized Tunji declaring him as one of the 100 most influential persons in the world. This followed the World Health Organization certifying Nigeria and the WHO AFRO region as free of the wild polio virus. Tunji is a past member of the Rotary Club of Kano and is currently a member of the Rotary Club of Lekki Phase 1. As he passes on the responsibilities of the Nigerian National PolioPlus Committee to another Rotarian in July, he will continue as a member of the Rotary International PolioPlus Committee with a particular focus leading the review of Rotary's annual global grants of US\$150 million to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

He will also serve as the Rotary polio representative to meetings of the World Health Organization AFRO region, and he will continue as a special adviser to the Nigerian National PolioPlus Committee.

Mike McGovern, Rotary International PolioPlus Committee Chair, said "Tunji is a great friend to many, a fine humanitarian and has had historic success in leading Rotarian efforts to eradicate polio in Nigeria. His enlarged role with grants and representing Rotary at WHO AFRO will contribute greatly to the final push to global polio eradication."

The work of Polio Eradication must not stop



PDG OBAFUNSO OGUNKYE
Secretary NNPPC

As we draw closer to the end of another Rotary year, we need to be reminded of how important our work in polio eradication is. We will recall how at the beginning of our efforts to eradicate this disease, over a thousand contracted polio every year which led to many of those people being paralyzed for life or killed. Polio is now on the verge of eradication having successfully eliminated wild polio transmission in all countries of the world except Pakistan and Afghanistan. In the year 2021, it is most pleasing that Pakistan recorded the lowest total number of new cases in recent memory! This landmark together with the achievement of regional elimination of wild poliovirus transmission in the African region rekindles hope that we might be on the home stretch of our tortuous, dangerous and expensive battle against this insidious disease.

We are constantly being reminded that the poliovirus, being an insidious disease could easily make a comeback if we let down our guards. Indeed we had been warned by UNICEF that if our efforts against the virus were not sustained we could have as many as 200,000 polio cases per annum in 10 years. The recent re-emergence, of wild poliovirus in Malawi and Mozambique, is a stark reminder that our work will never be done until it is “fully done”. Polio anywhere in the world is a threat to an unimmunised child in any community in the world regardless of where they might be. In

Nigeria, we have been fighting against circulating mutant strains of the virus, and have also been to be on the lookout and taking necessary preventive action against the importation of the wild poliovirus into the country.

This renewed onslaught by this insidious disease is coming at a very inopportune moment with waning commitment from stakeholders amidst a litany of competing priorities. Resources are much reduced and the global economy is struggling to recover from the effects of the pandemic that has affected many lives and livelihoods. Immunity gaps are widening and the workforce within our healthcare system is fatigued and is being progressively demotivated. We cannot afford to have any form of dropping of the ball at this stage and in any circumstances. As we draw close to the end of another Rotary year, we cannot afford to rest on our oars. We must continue to drive the polio eradication effort through a renewed commitment to fundraising, social mobilization, advocacy and volunteerism. Our leadership in these areas must never be called to question.

Incidentally, the Nigeria National PolioPlus Committee (NNPPC) will also be going through a leadership transition from the beginning of the new Rotary year. PDG Dr Abdulrahman Tunji Funsho has been appointed to serve Rotary in a higher position of responsibility and will be replaced by PDG Joshua Hassan as Chairman of the NNPPC. Let us as Rotarians and friends of Rotary continue to support the polio eradication efforts being championed by the NNPPC as we have always done and continue to give our very best.

Our collaborative work does not stop at the end of the Rotary year. What we have at stake is very high. The lives and well-being of our children are at stake. We have made a promise that must be fulfilled expeditiously which is that this will be the last generation that will live in a world where polio exists.

Truly a Lion heart



Lion Heart Returns to a rapturous welcome at the Rotary Center in Ikeja

On April 19 2022, Kunle Adeyanju, a Rotarian and incoming club President of the Rotary Club of Ikoyi Metro left London to begin a journey which would take him into France, Spain, Gibraltar and into Africa, he probably had an idea of the enormity of the task that lay before him. Indeed he had spent months preparing for it, checking out maps and making route plans. He researched accommodations, hospitals and security situations and knew from the beginning that it would be one hell of a journey.



Lionheart at the start of his journey in London

What he would not have counted on was the amount of publicity his trip would generate across the world, the number of new followers he would gain- his Twitter followers increased from just 3 in April to almost 100,000 at the end of May, and the number of people who would be waiting to receive and celebrate him at the Rotary Center in Ikeja at the triumphant end of his perilous ride in the cause polio eradication and the welfare of the women and children of Africa.



Adeyanju at Gibraltar before crossing into Africa

In spite of many challenges, he persevered on his trusted metal steed appropriately named "Eagle." He faced sandstorm, the peaks of the Atlas Mountains and the deep valleys beneath them, the extreme heat of the Sahara and also the loss of a wheel in escaping a traffic accident. He faced threats from wild life and poor infrastructure in some parts and was even robbed of hundreds of Euros in one of the less hospitable places he visited but he spoke glowingly about the continent of Africa and the wonderful people he met along the way. Everywhere he went, he met people who took pictures with him and held up the "End Polio Now" banner that he carried along with him. In Cote D'Ivoire local Rotarians helped to raise thousands of dollars for his cause and everywhere he went the Rotary family came out to support, encourage and even show him hospitality. Adeyanju spoke of his gratitude to Rotarians, friends of Rotary and bikers in the countries he visited and the wonderful promise that a United Africa holds. He came home victorious on May 29 to the rapturous and raucous reception of Rotarians from all across Lagos and Ogun States who had were at the Rotary Center to welcome him. Even global tech icons like the Microsoft founder and philanthropist Bill Gates acknowledged the feat he had performed with a tweet that simply exclaimed "Incredible!" Tech guru and boss of one of the most widely used tech platforms in the world thanked him for sharing his journey with the world. When he was interviewed, Kunle Adeyanju spoke of his fatigue after riding for 13,000 kilometres spanning 13 countries often sleeping for just 3 or 4 hours every night but he also beamed with great pride at having achieved his aim of creating awareness and helping to raise valuable funds for polio eradication.



A triumphant Lion heart at the reception held in his honour by Rotary District 9110 and the Nigeria national PolioPlus Committee in Ikeja

When asked about his inspiration, Adeyanju spoke of the memory of a friend who was affected by polio while he was growing up. He wondered why polio still exists even though there are effective vaccines against it and technology that facilitates the delivery of those vaccines to those that need it. His goal is to make his own little contribution to helping Rotarians fulfil their promise of delivering a polio-free world to the next generation.

-Olugbenga Olayiwole for PolioStop

DISCON 2022 ABEOKUTA - PRESENTATION OF POLIO AWARDS



Rotary International President Representative , IPDG Rosetti Nabbumba Nayenga decorating PDG Deinde Shoga with Rotary Bequeth pin.



Regional Polio Award - (L-R) Dr Tunji Funsho, Rotaractor Patrick Onyedimma (represented by the DRR), Rotn Nike Abdul-Azeez, DG Remi Bello FCA, IPDG Rosetti Nannumba, Rotn Ayo Adeyemi, Rotn Annie Esiennette and PRIVP Yinka Babalola.



Presentation of an Icon Frame to Dr Tunji Funsho at the Discon



Polio Panel at Discon 2022 (R-L) IDG Omotunde Lawson, DG Remi Bello FCA, Dr Tunji Funsho, PDG Jousha Hassan, PDG Ijeoma Okoro, PDG Yomi Adewumi and Rotarian Nike Abdul-Azeez



Appreciative message to NNPPC outgoing Chairman Dr Tunji Funsho by DG Remi Bello FCA



L-R Rotary International President Representative, IPDG Rosetti Nabbumba Nayenga, Dr Tunji Funsho and DG Remi Bello FCA



Rotary International President Representative, IPDG Rosetti Nabbumba Nayenga of Rotary District 9211 arrayed with a Polio jacket.

ARRIVAL & RECEPTION FOR ROTN. KUNLE ADEYANJU



Senior Special Adviser to the Governor of Lagos State on Foreign Relations Mr. Jermaine Sanwo-Olu shaking hands with Rotarian Kunle Adeyanju



(L-R) Dr Tunji Funsho, DG 9110 Spouse Mrs Adenike Bello, Rtn Kunle Adeyanju and DG Remi Bello FCA



Presentation of Polio T-Shirt to Rotarian Eba Zenab



(L-R) DRR Rotr Ayodeji Sobowale, DG Remi Bello FCA, Rotarian Kunle Adeyanju and Dr Tunji Funsho.



Rotarian Kunle Adeyanju signing the visitors book at the Polio House.



NNPPC Chairman Dr Tunji Funsho welcoming Rotarian Kunle Adeyanju



Dr Tunji Funsho arraying Rotarian Kunle Adeyanju with the END POLIO NOW jacket.



Unveiling of London to Lagos billboard by Rotarian Kunle Adeyanju

Rotary International to raise \$85m for polio eradication in 2022

To complement its effort at polio eradication, the Rotary International says it will raise \$85 million globally in 2022.

Rotary International President, Shekhar Mehta, disclosed this recently at the Rotary District 9125 13th Conference in Abuja. The event with the theme: "Change making: the gains, the task ahead" had in attendance Rotary Clubs from 23 states of the federation and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

The Rotary International President who was represented by Joe Otin from the Rotary Club of Nairobi East in Kenya said Rotary is in existence to serve and make communities a better place.

In a speech at the conference he said, "we come together to help children access education, to help mothers access proper health care when they're giving birth. But also we're able to do very much larger things when we come together as a global organization, such as the eradication of polio, and we're very close to eradicating polio worldwide."

"As you know, many years ago, Nigeria was taken off the endemic list of polio when the work of people like Dr Tunji Funso and other Rotarians in Nigeria played a significant part in kicking polio out of Africa' he continued."

"We've been able to reduce polio to take the polio cases down to just about three cases in this calendar year (additional cases have since been reported in Pakistan and Mozambique). And so Rotary knows and we know that we cannot sit back and wait for polio to go away and that we continually need to continue putting more effort."

"So Rotary continues to do that. But also, this year, we intend to raise at least \$85 million globally, to be able to put into this polio eradication, this Polio Eradication Initiative."



Rotary's Special Gift

Also at the conference, the Minister of State for Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Dr. Ramatu Tijjani Aliyu, identified eradication of polio in Nigeria as Rotary's gift to the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

She noted that Rotary has been working to eradicate polio for over 35 years, trying to get rid of the disease from the surface of the earth.

Represented by Executive Director, FCT Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Agency (RUWASSA), Dr. Mohammed Ali Dan-Hassan, the minister said the FCT Administration acknowledges and appreciates the positive interventions by Rotary Clubs and RI District 9125, across Nigerian communities and cities.

She also commended the efforts and sacrifices of Rotarians, who serve tirelessly and passionately to change lives, adding that "we need a Rotary that ensures positive impacts in our communities."

"Rotary causes serve to compliment Government's programmes and services in trying to reach out to the vulnerable in the society. Eradication of Polio in Nigeria is Rotary's gift to the Federal Republic of Nigeria."

"Today, I join thousands of Rotarians in District 9125 to serve the people. When all Rotarians serve, together we serve to change lives and make the world a better place."

Source: blueprint.ng



Mozambique Reports the First Wild Poliovirus Case in the Country Since 1992

'The detection of another case of wild polio virus in Africa is greatly concerning, even if it's unsurprising given the recent outbreak in Malawi,' said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, the World Health Organization Regional Director for Africa, in a press statement. 'However, it shows how dangerous this virus is and how quickly it can spread.'

The last case of wild polio virus in Africa was identified in Borno State in the northeast of Nigeria in 2016. There were only five cases globally in 2021 and Africa has been considered free from the wild poliovirus since August 2020.

For a continent to be certified polio-free, it must have had no wild polio cases for three consecutive years.

According to Dr Moeti, 'No country is immune to imported cases of polio. 'As long as wild polio exists anywhere in the world all countries remain at risk of importation of the virus.' This in essence reiterates what the Chairman of the Nigeria National PolioPlus Committee Dr. Tunji Funsho has always said that 'polio anywhere in the world is polio everywhere because polio is always just a bus ride, a train ride or a flight away.'

Olugbenga Olayiwole for PolioStop

Africa celebrated her polio-free certification two years ago but since then it has been battling with outbreaks of the circulating poliovirus variant type 2 with more than 20 countries being affected by the outbreaks. Now, there is an additional problem wild poliovirus has been detected again on the continent. Mozambique just became the second country to report a case of the wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) within its shores. This is the first time the country will be reporting such since 1992. Malawi had earlier on reported the first case in Africa since August 2016 in a child at the outskirts of Lilongwe. The case which was discovered late last year was reported in February 2022.

The case in Mozambique was reported to have been found in a child in Tete province in the northeast of the country. Genomic sequencing of the virus shows it to be linked to a strain that was found to be circulating in the Sindh province of Pakistan in 2019. This means that, like the previous case discovered in Malawi, this was also an imported case rather than an endemic case which means that Africa's polio-free certification is not affected by this discovery. Pakistan and Afghanistan remain the only two countries in the world still endemic to the wild poliovirus.



Nigeria builds surge capacity to tackle circulating variant poliovirus in Nigeria



In response to the upsurge of the circulating variant poliovirus type 2 (cVPVD2) transmission in Nigeria, the World Health Organization (WHO) has absorbed and strengthened the capacity of 2400 public health officers to mitigate the transmission of the virus in the country.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of Capacity Building Workshop for cVPVD2 Outbreak Response Surge Staff, WHO Nigeria, in Abuja, the WHO Country Representative (WR), Dr Walter Kazadi Mulombo, said the training is to strengthen the capabilities of health workers in the country to respond to the surge in the cVPV2 outbreaks.

Dr Mulombo said there is a need to develop a mitigation plan to tackle the cVPVD2 transmission in Nigeria within the shortest possible time.

He said in line with the internal grading of the cVPV2 emergency, the WHO Nigeria office has re-established the Polio Response as a vertical intervention at all levels. There is a need to orient/ reorient the WHO surge capacity staff and improve their technical capacity on Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) guidelines and tools for optimal impact on addressing the outbreak and reducing the risk of Wild Polio Virus (WPV1) importation, he said.

Although Nigeria and the African region were certified as wild polio-free in August 2020, sustaining the feat is threatened by the high burden of cases of the cVPV2, which has resulted in a setback to polio eradication efforts.

As of December 2021, Nigeria had recorded 1028 confirmed cVPV2 from different sources across 31 states, accounting for over 70% of the cases in the African region. Furthermore, Malawi and Mozambique this year notified cases of WPV1 raising great concerns of international importation.

So far, surveillance indicates are above pre-certification levels with the quality of polio vaccination campaigns improving amidst several challenges and gaps, including over 200 million doses of the novel oral polio vaccine type 2 (nOPV2) administered.

Buttressing the importance of the training, WHO Africa Regional Polio Eradication Programme (PEP) Representative, Dr Ndoutabe Modjirom, said the

workshop would build the capacity of the frontline workers to ensure that they will handle all the severe outbreaks.

The expected outcome of this training is to strengthen the capacity of frontline workers because we need to have the campaigns of the best quality if we want to stop the circulation of cVPVD2. High quality campaigns will in no measure reduce the risk of international/ cross border spread of the polio virus, hence, easier to handle the situation in other countries, he said.

In his good will message, the Director-General, Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Dr Ifedayo Adetifa, represented by Chinenye Emelife, said the orientation of the surge staff came at a better time due to the recent cVPVD2 cases affecting some states in the country.

Dr Emelife said considering that the country is in the process of polio transition due to the ramping up of GPEI funding, transferring assets and capacities is critical and necessary to ensure the polio gains and also strengthening of public health surveillance system.

Meanwhile, the Incident Manager, National Polio Emergency Operation Centre (NPEOC), Usman Adamu appreciated polio response staff for ensuring Nigeria is certified WPV free. He noted that the battle is not yet over and the key to eradicating all forms of poliovirus in the country and Africa is for 'no child to be left behind'

Training rapid response teams

The 5- day workshop was conducted in two batches. The first batch, conducted on (22 to 25 April 2022) had participants from the 17 southern states in Nigeria, while participants for the second batch (23 to 27 May) was drawn from across the northeast and nor central states. The group contains individuals with the collective public health experience to contribute to local efforts to fight the virus, spearheading work in contact tracing and engagement with the community. At the opening ceremony of the second training, the WR represented by Deputy WR, Dr Alexander

Chimbaru emphasized the importance of quality outbreak response and surveillance for Polio and other vaccine preventable diseases, considering the cVPV2 outbreak in the country. Following the Regional Directors' advocacy, GPEI prioritized ten non-endemic countries in Africa to sustain the gains made. Consequently, the WHO country office commenced re-engagement of Polio Staff in a phased manner in September 2021.

To date, 2400 polio surge staff are on the ground from the ward, Local Government Area, state and national levels and are to be sustained for 2022/23 with the support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and GPEI partners.

Source: WHO

From RI District 9141

In the Rotary year 2021-2022 the Rotary Clubs in District 9141 under the direction of our able District Governor Andy Uwejean and under my leadership as the District PolioPlus Committee Chair, undertook many activities in support of Rotary's effort to eradicate polio from our world and gift the next generation a world that is free of polio.

We held our hybrid polio seminar on the 20th of October 2021 at Benizia Hotel, Asaba, Delta State. The Seminar which was sponsored by the Nigeria National Polio Plus Committee (NNPPC), was held in order to educate Rotarians on how far Nigeria has gone in keeping Polio at zero and Rotary International's role in ensuring that Polio is finally eradicated from the World.

Some activities which took place at the event include:

- An update on the Progress achieved so far in the Polio Eradication Initiative in Nigeria and the Role of Rotary International in achieving this. This was delivered by the End Polio Now Zonal Coordinator PDG Ikponmwosa.
- Dr. U.S. Adamu, the Incident Manager of the Polio National Emergency Operations Center gave an update on the Nigeria Polio Status.
- Mr Raji of UNICEF Nigeria delivered a presentation on the Role of Volunteers in Mobilizing and Communication to improve Oral Polio Vaccine. He also trained participants on the use of ODK for field supervision.
- Mrs. Aishatu Kareem who stood in for Ms. Eunice Damisa, Director Communication, NPHCDA, spoke on Planning Advocacy, Monitoring and Supervision of SIA/OBR.
- Key messages on the Polio certification of Nigeria were taken by the District 9141 Polio Committee chair, PAG Dan Harrison who represented Ambassador Aminu Muhammed



Dan Harrison
District Chairman
Rotary International District 9141

the National Programmes Coordinator of the NNPPC.

- The District trainer PDG Charles Onianwa took the participants through Joint clubs planning and implantation of club polio projects.

At the end of the seminar, over 150 participants who participated both physically and virtually were issued certificates.

Also, we undertook various innovative activities during the celebration of the 2021 World Polio Day which made it unique and mind blowing as part of our commitment to keep polio at zero level in Nigeria and eradicate it completely in the world. The District Governor, Andy Uwejean encouraged Rotarians, "To keep up the fight against polio as the ending is always tougher than the beginning of any project"

Recently, Rotarians from our district participated in the polio outbreak response carried out in 17 southern states in Nigeria. Rotarians came out massively in their adopted Health Centres to support the administration of the polio vaccine during the OBR in their States. Reports from the various States during this exercise were heart-warming. We shall continue to fight till we get rid of this new wave of mutant polio variant and keep polio at zero in Nigeria.

Some of the other activities carried out in the district are detailed below:



On 30 May 2022, Benin Metropolitan, Erected "keep polio @ zero" signpost to create awareness on the need of continuous immunization.



On 23 October 2021, RC of Port Harcourt North, carried out a 2 day polio project; an immunisation exercise at Rumukurushi Model Health Centre, (b) A gala night to raise money for polio funds.



On 24 October 2021, RC of Ox-Bow Lake, Yenagoa, had a Novelty match to Celebrate World Polio Day, between Rotarians/Rotaractors and Yenagoa All Star.



On 30 November 2021, RC of Sapele Gateway, installed and commissioned an End Polio /COVID-19 bill board to sensitize the public. These are just a few of the many wonderful activities and projects carried out in support of Polio Eradication in our district during this highly impactful Rotary year.

I wish to use this opportunity to thank all Rotarians in District 9141 who came out to perform this humanitarian duty and our district leaders for demonstrating exemplary leadership qualities. I equally appreciate all our State and Club Coordinators for a job well done.

- Dan Harrison
District Chair, Polio-Plus Committee, RI District 9141

MAY 2022 POLIO IMMUNISATION, ABEOKUTA



South West Field Coordinator Rotarian Gbenga Olayiwole with pluses for the outbreak responses.



Rotary International President Representative, IPDG Rosetti Nabbumba Nayenga of Rotary District 9211 vaccinating a two-month-old baby at Kugba health clinic, Abeokuta South Local Government.



Marking the baby's finger by Rotary International President Representative, IPDG Rosetti Nabbumba Nayenga.



PRIVP Yinka Babalola asking the polio team the five key questions of polio immunization.



Rotary International President Representative, IPDG Rosetti Nabbumba Nayenga presenting the plus.



Group photograph of the Rotary team with the Local Immunisation Officer in Abeokuta Ogun state



Supervision of May 2022 campaign in Abeokuta Ogun state led by Rotary International President Representative, IPDG Rosetti Nabbumba Nayenga



Rotary International President Representative, IPDG Rosetti Nabbumba Nayenga dressing a vaccinator with the END POLIO NOW apron.



SOME NNPPC MEMBERS AT THE LAST MEETING FOR THE ROTARY YEAR

PolioStop is published by the NNPPC 8, Ladoke Akintola Street, Ikeja GRA, Lagos.

✉ :rotarypolioplusnigeria@gmail.com, 🌐 www.polioplusng.org

All correspondence to the NNPPC Chairman, PDG Tunji Funsho, ☎ : 0817 200 0246,

✉ :rotarypolioplusnigeria@gmail.com