

POLIO STOP

Quarterly Newsletter of the Nigeria National PolioPlus Committee

Contribute Participate Change

DECEMBER 2023



END POLIO NOW

National PolioPlus Committee: PDG Joshua Hassan - Chairman, PDG Yomi Adewunmi - Vice Chairman, PDG Andy Uwejeyan -Vice Chairman, PDG Kazeem Mustapha -Vice Chairman, PAG Yakubu Ndanusa -Vice Chairman, PDG Obafunso Ogunkeye - Secretary, PDG Remi Bello - Treasurer, PDG Tolu Omatsola-Member, PDG Ijeoma Okoro- Member, PRIVP Yinka Babalola -Adviser, PDG Tunji Funsho-Adviser, PDG Femi Lawani- Adviser, PAG Yusuf Alli - PR Adviser





Celebrating the Season of Hope: Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

May this Christmas fill your homes with the warmth of laughter, the joy of shared moments, and the comfort of being surrounded by those you hold dear. In the midst of festivities, let's also take a moment to remember the resilience of the communities we serve and the hope we instill through our collective efforts.

As we usher in the New Year, let it be a symbol of new possibilities and continued progress. Your advocacy is not just a cause; it's a catalyst for change. In the year ahead, we anticipate breakthroughs, advancements, and a step closer to achieving our shared dream of a polio-free world. Together, we will turn the page on a new chapter in our journey.

At this time of reflection and celebration, we express our deepest gratitude for your steadfast commitment to our cause. Whether you've been an advocate, a donor, or a supporter of spreading awareness, your role is indispensable. Your contributions have fueled our momentum, and we look forward to navigating the challenges and victories that the coming year will undoubtedly bring.

May the holiday season bring you moments of joy and peace, surrounded by the love of family and friends. As we step into the New Year, may it be filled with abundant opportunities, personal growth, and collective success in our shared mission.

Thank you for being an integral part of our advocacy family. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and here's to the promise of a healthier, polio-free world.

To our Esteemed Advocates and Supporters,
As we approach the close of another year, we find ourselves reflecting on the incredible journey we've undertaken together in the fight against polio. This festive season, we extend our warmest wishes to you, our cherished advocates, for a Merry Christmas filled with joy, and a Happy New Year brimming with hope and positivity.

As we gather with our loved ones to celebrate the spirit of Christmas, it's an opportune time to reflect on the progress we've collectively made in the mission to eradicate polio. Your unwavering commitment, advocacy efforts, and generous support have been the driving forces behind every milestone achieved. From raising awareness to funding critical research, your dedication has illuminated the path toward a polio-free world.

Christmas is a season of giving, and you, our advocates, have given us the invaluable gift of unity. In a world facing myriad challenges, your solidarity in the face of polio has been a beacon of hope. Together, we've stood strong, transcending borders and differences, working toward a common goal—a world where no child has to suffer the debilitating effects of polio.



We must fight misinformation to achieve our goals in 2024

It has been said that the idle mind is the devil's workshop. What then is an idle mind with a mobile communications device and cheap internet data?

The answer to this question can be found in the repeated setbacks being suffered by our programme due to misinformation being passed around social media about vaccination by faceless, malicious and unscrupulous persons especially in the past few months. These folks have targeted known fault lines in our populace at a time of huge political and ethnic tensions to disseminate conjectures and outright falsehood under the guise of "warnings." These "warnings" have led to panic and mass hysteria which have, in the past few months, led to some of the most significant numbers of cases of vaccine rejection and noncompliance that we have seen in our programme in recent times. An idle mind with a mobile communications device and cheap internet can be a devastating weapon against our polio eradication efforts, if we let them.

To older persons who have been involved in the struggle to achieve the elimination of wild polio from Nigeria, the recent events must give a feeling of de ja vu. It must feel like we have been here before and that is because we actually have.

They will recall the impact video and audio messages of a certain "Professor of Pharmacy" had on our programme between 2010 and 2015 when outright falsehood attributed to a single person led to block rejections of the polio vaccine in many parts of our country. These same lies have been revised, rewritten and rebooted. They are now being sent via

Whatsapp messages tilted towards creating suspicion and disaffection leading to vaccine hesitancy and rejection. Already we have recorded threats and actual cases of violence against innocent members of vaccination teams. In one of the southwest states a threat was even made against the only healthcare center in a community due to these lies showing us that lies by faceless, nameless individuals can quickly escalate with terrible consequences.

We succeeded in addressing the lies in 2010-2015 through a series of focused interventions such as compound meetings, community dialogues, Majigi film shows, enlistment of influential persons, community leaders, traditional and religious leaders to carry our message to the communities. We engaged the communities and they responded to us.

We need to do the same or more to address these current lies because they are already hampering our efforts to carry out successful immunization campaigns in many parts of the country.

This must be the focus for us going into 2024. Our interventions in the past iteration of these packaged antivaccination misinformation ultimately led us to the achievement of a wild poliovirus-free Nigeria. The same level of commitment and focus will lead us to the achievement of the interruption of the circulating variant polioviruses as well.

We have promised the children of the world a polio-free world.

May the year 2024 be the year we finally deliver on that promise.

Wishing everyone happy holidays and wonderful celebrations with friends and family.



NIGERIA POLIO UPDATE PROGRESS SO FAR IN 2023

59 cVPPV2 isolates were obtained from environmental samples, with most recent date of sample collection on 04 Oct 2023 from Birnin Kebbi of Kebbi State.

Outbreak Response in 2023

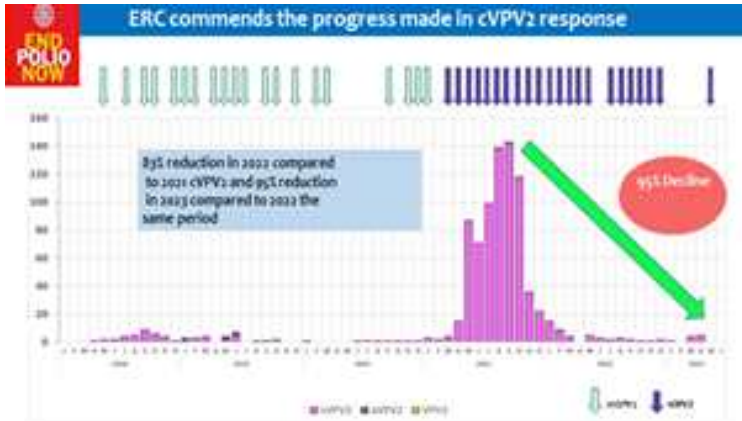
In 2022 and 2023, Nigeria conducted several cVPPV2 outbreak responses using nOPV2 in larger scopes. These responses were planned in close collaboration with the states to ensure better level of preparations and higher quality of the responses in order to run ahead of the cVPPV2 virus transmission. In these responses, the program utilized interventions aimed at improving the uptake of polio vaccines especially in underserved and security compromised communities.

Outbreak responses have been conducted across the country since March 2021. All 36 states and the FCT have completed at least four rounds of outbreak responses (OBR). 3 states have completed 11 outbreak responses using the nOPV2. 1 state has conducted 10 nOPV2 outbreak responses and 9 states have completed have completed 8 outbreak response activities with using the nOPV2. Additionally, 12 States have implemented 7 nOPV2 outbreak responses, 1 State has implemented 6 nOPV2 outbreak responses and 9 States have implemented a total of 5 nOPV2 outbreak responses.

Lagos State completed nOPV2 outbreak response from 07 – 10 October 2023.

Borno State completed a campaign using the nOPV2 cobines with fractional doses of the inactivated polio vaccine (fIPV) from 30 September – 14 October 23 while Kano completed nOPV2 campaign from 21 – 24 October 2023.

Amb. Aminu Muhammad NPC



Nigeria has remained free from indigenous wild polio virus (WPV) for over 84 months (Last WPV case was found in Borno State in 2016) and the Africa region has been certified free of indigenous wild polio virus by the African Regional Certification Commission (ARCC) since August 2020.

In 2021, Nigeria recorded the largest circulating variant polio virus type 2 (cVPPV2) outbreaks -1028 isolates. The programme has robustly deployed nOPV2 to respond to these unprecedented cVPPV2 outbreaks from 2021 to date

Nigeria in 2023 cVPPV2 breakdown:
152 cVPPV2 isolates from 46 LGAs across 12 states of which 55 were cVPPV2 from AFP in with the most recent date of onset on 06 Oct 2023 from a case in Aleiro LGA of Kebbi State.

38 cVPPV2 isolates were from contacts, with most recent date of sample collection on 10 Oct 2023 Gwandu LGA of Kebbi State.

Rotary Club of Port Harcourt Airfield's Triumph in the World Polio Day "Champion of Change Contest"

The Rotary Club of Port Harcourt Airfield has emerged victorious in the World Polio Contest, showcasing an exemplary commitment to eradicating polio and uplifting the lives of polio survivors. This success is attributed to a series of impactful events, with a particular focus on the inspiring story of Ms. Blessing Ajuzor, a 33-year-old polio survivor.

The journey to victory began with a heartfelt visit to Ms. Blessing Ajuzor, a resilient polio survivor who had taken the path of entrepreneurship by running a small restaurant in Onne, Eleme Local Government Area of Rivers State. The club departed from its longstanding tradition of supplying wheelchairs to empower polio survivors.



In a bid to Create Hope and address the genuine needs of survivors, the Rotary Club of Port Harcourt Airfield went above and beyond. Through discussions with Ms. Blessing Ajuzor, it was revealed that she required a supplementary power supply and financial support to boost her business. As part of the World Polio Day Celebration, the club granted her wishes by donating a Generating Set, providing a grant to enhance her business, and repainting her shop to make it more appealing to customers. This act exemplifies the club's commitment to ensuring that those already affected by polio are not left behind on the journey to eradication.



The importance of celebrating World Polio Day within the Rotary community cannot be overstated. The Rotary Club of Port Harcourt Airfield organized a dynamic fundraising event named "PUFF PUFF FIESTA TO KEEP POLIO AT ZERO!" as part of the World Polio Day activities. This event not only raised funds for polio eradication but also added an element of joy and unity

among the members. Members were treated to various flavors of Nigeria's renowned snack, PUFF PUFF, while contributing to the mission to END POLIO NOW.



Moreover, the celebration served as an occasion to recognize and appreciate outstanding members who have consistently supported the club's efforts in the fight against polio since its charter in 2014. The Club's President Rotarian Kelechi Ekezie took the opportunity to express gratitude for their unwavering dedication and contributions.



Underscoring their commitment to the cause, members of the Rotary Club of Port Harcourt Airfield engaged in a symbolic act of walking to create awareness for the urgent need to END POLIO NOW. This physical demonstration of solidarity emphasized the club's determination to raise awareness and rally support for the eradication of polio



The Rotary Club of Port Harcourt Airfield's triumph in the World Polio Contest is a testament to its multifaceted approach to tackling the challenges posed by polio. Through impactful initiatives, heartfelt interventions like Ms. Blessing Ajuzor's transformation, and dynamic fundraising events, the club has not only raised funds but also made a lasting impact on the lives of polio survivors. The celebration of World Polio Day within the Rotary community serves as a crucial reminder of the ongoing global efforts to eradicate polio and the importance of collective action in achieving this shared goal. The Rotary Club of Port Harcourt Airfield stands as a shining example of dedication and compassion in the pursuit of a polio-free world.

By Olamide Adekoya

Insecurity hindering immunisation in Northern Nigeria – Sultan of Sokoto



The Sultan of Sokoto, His Eminence Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar, has identified insecurity as one of the factors hindering northern children from having access to immunization services.

The Sultan who recently chaired a strategic meeting with traditional leaders and development partners to chart a way forward in immunization, organised by the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) in collaboration with the Sultan Foundation for Peace and Development.

In attendance were representatives of UNICEF and the WHO, the Kaduna State Deputy Governor, Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe and other stakeholders.

He emphasized the traditional institution's commitment to ensuring that communities benefit from routine immunisation.

According to him, the meeting was to discuss with traditional leaders ways to reach out to totally inaccessible and displaced communities of Kaduna, Niger, and Katsina states to ensure every child in the north is immunised.

He explained, "We do not lack support from our people, what we lack is implementation and that is why the north is lagging behind in immunisation."

Alhaji Sama'ila Muhammad Mere, the Emir of Argungu, who is the chairman of the Northern Traditional Leaders Committee on Primary Health Care, stressed the need to convene the meeting arose from the situation report received by the first quarter NTLC review meeting from Zamfara.

According to him, in his report to the meeting, the Zamfara State NTLC representative stated that the devastating security situation in the state has made access to many communities and children difficult or

impossible, creating a risk of the outbreak of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases, especially the mutated vaccine-derived polio virus.

He stated that Zamfara currently has the highest burden of the disease in the country, and the strain of the virus from the state has been found in 28 states in Nigeria and 29 countries across Africa, saying that following detailed discussions of the report from Zamfara, it was noted that similar security situations also exist in Sokoto, Kebbi, Katsina, Kaduna and Niger states.

He noted the meeting would take situation reports and mitigation suggestions from 48 districts of 34 LGAs from Kaduna, Niger, and Katsina states and urged the district heads to speak sincerely about the situation in their areas of administration and suggest how best they think the government and development partners can work with them to ensure that every child and mother is reached with a vaccine and desired medical support.

Faisal Shuaib, the Executive Director of NPHCDA, hailed the traditional rulers for their invaluable support in the eradication of circulating variant polio virus (cVDPV2) from their communities.

He believed that their influence has the power to shape the destiny of communities and asked for their partnership in securing a healthier and brighter future for northern children to be immunised.

He stressed that the battle against cVDPV2 requires a united front – a bond between traditional, religious and local leaders, health workers, parents, and every citizen who dreams of a polio-free future.

WHO Country Representative to Nigeria, Dr Walter Kazadi Mulombo, in his remarks, announced that Nigeria recorded 51 polio cases between January and August 13, 2023, from 15 LGAs, as reported by the WHO.

Out of the cases, he explained that 47 (92%) were concentrated in the North West region, adding that the circulating variant poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) had decreased by 63% compared to 2022.

He stated that the cases were largely concentrated in states facing security challenges, specifically in Kaduna state, with 19 LGAs with 111 wards that had insecure settlements, posing a risk to progress.

- Amos Tauna for dailypost.ng



Unity Crucial To Eradicating Polio In Nigeria- Tomori

He emphasised that eradicating polio transcends health; it's also an economic and social imperative. Polio's long-lasting effects can hinder both individual and community development, limiting the potential of those affected for life. By eradicating polio, Nigeria can pave the way for a healthier and more prosperous future for its citizens.

As part of the World Polio Day celebration, a Nigerian virologist and chairman of the board of Biovaccines Nigeria Limited (BVNL), Prof. Oyewale Tomori has emphasised the need for Nigerians to unite in the mission to eradicate polio.

In an interview with journalists in Abuja, Professor Tomori shared his thoughts on the 2023 World Polio Day, a day dedicated to raising awareness and resources in the fight against poliomyelitis, commonly known as polio, a disease that can cause paralysis and disability.

Polio is caused by polioviruses, and while there is no known cure for the disease, effective vaccines are available to prevent it.

Thanks to vaccination campaigns, polio has been eliminated in various parts of the world. However, Afghanistan and Pakistan continue to grapple with the transmission of wild polioviruses, and sub-Saharan Africa faces challenges due to the circulation of vaccine-derived polioviruses, primarily stemming from inadequate immunisation coverage.

Tomori stressed that ensuring every child receives the necessary polio vaccine drops is crucial to making a significant impact in eradicating this debilitating disease. He underlined the importance of unity and collaboration among all Nigerians, whether they are parents, community leaders, healthcare workers, or ordinary citizens, in this mission.

Addressing concerns and misconceptions surrounding the polio vaccine, Tomori assured Nigerians that the vaccine is safe and effective, having undergone rigorous testing and approval processes. He urged people to trust scientific evidence and not be swayed by misinformation.

While Nigeria was declared to have interrupted the transmission of wild poliovirus in 2020, the circulation of the Variant Polio Virus 2 (cVPV2) strain continues. In 2020, Nigeria reported eight cases of cVPV2 from children diagnosed with Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP), and in 2021, the number rose to 480. However, improved immunisation campaigns led to a significant drop, with 46 cases in 2022 and 43 reported cases so far this year.

Experts stress the importance of maintaining momentum to completely end the threat of polio to children. To strengthen the fight against cVPV2, the coordinator for the Polio Eradication Programme from the WHO Regional Office for Africa, Dr. Jamal Ahmed noted that there is still work to be done, particularly in Nigeria's northwest zone, which has persistently experienced breakthrough transmission of cVPV2 cases despite multiple rounds of novel Oral Polio vaccine type 2 (nOPV2).

Nkechi Isaac for sciencenigeria.com



Saddling up for a polio free world



Rotary Club of Ibadan Ring-Road marks the 2023 World Polio Day with a significant project – placing a polio donation box at Ibadan Airport Alakia, contributing to the global effort to eradicate polio



Rotarian Olopeju Agunbiade, our remarkable fashionista, gracefully setting a trend of 'End Polio Now' style and awareness.



Rotarians in Calabar, Cross River, marches to Commemorate World Polio Day



Furry Ambassador Barry at the Mega Polio Walk in Osogbo

POLIO DAY



Some Rotarians posed with a polio survivor and his baby in Kano



All Rotary clubs in Osun state Spreading the spirit of WorldPolioDay in Osogbo



Polio rally by Abuja Rotarians



Asaba's Rotarians took to the streets en masse



R.C. Maitama, Abuja celebrating WPD

National Celebration of the 2023 World Polio Day

Rotary International District 9125, in collaboration with the Nigeria National PolioPlus Committee, orchestrated a grand celebration for World Polio Day in Kano, showcasing both the competitive spirit and community unity that exists in support of polio eradication. In attendance were District Governors of the Rotary International Districts in Nigeria DG Sagab Ahmed of District 9125, DG Akah Emah of District 9142, the Chairman of the Nigeria National PolioPlus Committee (NNPPC) PDG Joshua Hassan, Vice Chairmen and other executive committee members of the NNPPC, PDG Yomi Adewumi, PDG Andy Uwajeren, PDG Kazeem Mustapha, PAG Yakubu Ndanusa, PDG Remi Bello, PDG Tolu Omatsola, PDG Ijeoma Okoro (Trustee Elect) and distinguished Rotarians in Kano.

The core of the celebration centered around a symbolic immunization campaign at the Unguwa Uku Primary Health Centre in Tarauni Local Government Area. District Governor Sagab Sani Ahmed and his team led the Nigeria National PolioPlus Committee members and other Rotarians to immunize over 100 children, highlighting the importance of vaccination in preventing the disease. This compassionate act emphasized the impact achievable through unity. Choosing a local health center for the event allowed direct engagement with the community. This demonstrates that we are not just a global organization but also a local force for good, fostering hope and well-being in the communities we serve.



The celebration also featured an exhilarating Parasoccer tournament with four spirited teams: Team Yellow, Team Green, Team Red, and Team Orange.

District Governor Sagab Ahmed inaugurated the games, infusing the event with excitement. The final match witnessed an intense competition, with Team Yellow emerging victorious over Team Orange with a resounding score of 4-1. Team Green secured the third spot, while Team Red exhibited remarkable sportsmanship.



To recognize the outstanding players, cash gifts were awarded, adding an extra layer of motivation. Mr. Aminu Ahmed from the Kano Polio Victims Trust Association delivered a heartfelt gratitude speech, underlining the significance of the event in the lives of the polio survivors.

Rotarian Lateef Adepoju, the local organizer, not only added a personal touch to the celebration by sharing his birthday with the players but also generously contributed his birthday cake to the winning team. This event showcased the community's commitment to raising awareness about polio while fostering camaraderie and support.

On World Polio Day, 24th October 2023, Kano united for a monumental 10-kilometer walk, symbolizing the collective stride towards a polio-free world. The walk commenced at the Emir's palace, where a representative of the Emir, Dr. Bashir Dankadi, delivered a powerful message on the crucial importance of polio vaccination.



The event garnered widespread support, with students of FAAN Staff Secondary School Everbest International School, Army Day School, and Nigeria Tulip School, demonstrating their dedication to a polio-free world by actively participating in the walk. The parade included polio survivors and polio-branded horses, creating a poignant visual representation of the community's solidarity in the fight against polio.



In a heartwarming display of generosity, over 150 wheelchairs were donated to polio survivors, offering them enhanced mobility and renewed hope. Dr. Abubakar Yakun, representing the Kano State Governor, reiterated the shared commitment to the cause in a compelling speech

This symbolic walk epitomized unity and progress, emphasizing that together, the community is one step closer to eradicating polio. The events in Kano showcased not only the resilience of the community but also the unwavering dedication to creating a polio-free world. The celebration serves as a beacon of hope, encouraging continued efforts and collaboration in the global fight against polio.

By Olamide Adekoya.



District Governor Ifeyinwa Rita Ejezie at the Seminar

The Nigeria National PolioPlus Committee of Rotary International recently organized a Polio Seminar to update the knowledge of Rotarians on current efforts in the polio eradication initiative and to help them become more effective in supporting the polio eradication effort going forward. The seminar took place on 23 August 2023 at the Rotary Center in Ikeja under the auspices of the Nigeria National PolioPlus Committee and the 2023 PolioPlus Committee of Rotary District 9110.

Rotarians from all over the district began arriving the venue of the seminar and registering from 9 a.m. in the morning and after the registration exchanged pleasantries and had their introductions.

The Seminar was called to order by the District Governor Rotarian Ifeyinwa Ejezie after which the business of the day commenced with her delivering her welcome remarks.

The District PolioPlus Chair Rotarian Raf Abanum also gave a brief remark to welcome everyone and to set the day's agenda as well as set the ground rules that would guide the event.



Dr Memuna Esan represented the WHO State Coordinator at the Seminar

Rotary Holds Polio Seminar in Lagos

The first presentation was made by Dr. Memuna Esan who represented the Lagos State Coordinator of the WHO. Her presentation focused on the current state of polio eradication efforts globally, the progress made in recent years and the current challenges that are plaguing the polio eradication efforts.

The second presentation for the day was done by Rotarian Gbenga Olayiwole who spoke on the importance of volunteering in the polio eradication initiative. The highlight of his presentation was about Volunteer Community Mobilizers (VCM) played in helping Nigeria become wild polio virus free. He called them game changers because they helped to create a database of susceptible children which was then tracked to ensure that no child was missed. Significantly, he mentioned that the VCM project in Nigeria was also sponsored by funds from the Rotary Foundation's Polio Fund and he encouraged Rotarians to contribute to this fund.

The Vice Chairman (Southwest) of the Nigeria National PolioPlus Committee (NNPPC) PDG Abayomi Adewunmi which focused on sustaining the progress made in keeping Nigeria polio-free and the role of Rotarians in it. He highlighted Rotary's extensive efforts in polio eradication globally but especially in Nigeria in the areas of advocacy, awareness creation, demand creation for polio vaccine uptake, volunteering and fundraising. He encouraged Rotarians not to get tired and to ensure that the job of polio eradication is completed.

The State Immunization Officer for Lagos State, Ms Kemi Oshodi also made a presentation which focused on helping Rotarians become more effective in terms of the supportive supervision of polio immunization activities particularly during supplemental immunization campaigns. She explained what they need to know and do in the pre-implementation, implementation and post-implementation phases of polio immunization campaigns so as to be more impactful and effective in the field.

The Seminar also featured a panel session which had the Vice Chair of the Nigeria National PolioPlus Committee, PDG Abayomi Adewunmi, the past District PolioPlus Chair for Rotary's District 9110 Rotarian Ademola Olutusin, the Adviser of the District PolioPlus Committee PAG Lanre Kassim, the Lagos State Representative Rotarian Jide Ogunjimi and the representative of the President of the Rotary Club of Omole Golden as panelists. The session was moderated by Rotarian Omoye Evbota and it focused on innovative approaches that could help Rotarians in their fundraising efforts for the Rotary Foundation's Polio Fund.

There was an engaging question and answer session which allowed participants to ask questions and seek clarifications on what had been discussed and other areas relating to polio eradication in Nigeria and the world. The final session of the Seminar featured Rotarian Gbenga Olayiwole of the NNPPC training Rotarians on how to install and use the ODK application for reporting their activities in the field. He mentioned that it was important that Rotarians reported their activities whenever they were in the field as not doing so would be akin to someone who winks in the dark.

The Chairman of the District 9110 PolioPlus Committee Raf Abanum delivered the closing remarks, expressing gratitude to all attendees, emphasizing the significance of Rotary's commitment to the cause, and inviting Rotarians to join hands in the fight against polio.



**Award presentation to PDG Abayomi Adewunmi
Vice Chairman NNPPC at the Seminar**

The Polio Seminar was well attended and received a positive response from attendees, with Rotarians expressing their renewed commitment to the cause. Few attendees pledged their support for upcoming fundraising initiatives, and the event succeeded in fostering a greater sense of community and shared purpose within the district.

The District PolioPlus Committee with the support of the NNPPC will continue to organize awareness campaigns, fundraising activities, and vaccination drives to contribute to the global effort to eradicate polio.

-Meg Ricketts



Cross Section of Rotarians at the Seminar in Awka

We will sustain fight, keep Polio at Zero in Communities says Rotary District 9142

While enumerating some factors and challenges militating against the eradication of the virus, she expressed dismay at the difficulty encountered by health workers in reaching out to every child for vaccination ranging from religious beliefs to conflicts and insecurity among others.

The Rotary International District 9142 has said that it will continue to fight against Polio to bring it to a zero level in communities across the world having made incredible progress in the fight despite daunting challenges.

In their separate paper presentations, PDG Andy Uwajeyan, and Mr Hillary Ozor lauded the coordination and cooperation between governments, UN Agencies, WHO, Civil Society organizations, health workers and Rotarians in working tirelessly towards supporting the global effort to end polio.

Stakeholders and resource persons stated this during the PolioPlus Seminar 2023 held at the ASUU Secretariat, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka where they converged on to brainstorm on ways of surmounting the daunting challenges faced in the total eradication of polio virus from the face of the earth.

Earlier in a remark, the District Governor, Rotary District 9142, Rotarian Akan Emah emphasized the need for Nigeria to maintain the zero percent level of polio since the attainment and certification as a polio free country two years ago.

The stakeholders agreed that Rotary had recorded remarkable progress in the reduction of polio cases by ninety-nine percent of over thirty-five years.

The field Coordinator of Polio Plus in Southern Nigeria, Rotarian Gbenga Olayiwole in a lecture noted that although the World Health Organization has declared that five of the WHO's six regions representing more than 90 percent of the world's population, are now free of the disease, there was need to maintain zero percent reoccurrence.



Rotarians walking for Polio Eradication in Awka

He, however, regretted that polio virus is still endemic in some countries like Afghanistan and Pakistan, both in the WHO's Eastern Mediterranean region.

Rotarian Olayiwole further emphasised that the event was necessitated by the need to remind Rotarians of their duties and responsibilities to ensure that polio is completely eradicated from the face of the Earth

On the essence of funding for vaccination, the Vice Chancellor Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka, Professor Charles Esimone enjoined members to give freely to Rotary assuring them of transparency and accountability in the judicious use of their resources.



NNPPC Vice Chair PDG Andy Uwejejan at the event

The Chairperson Organizing committee for the 2023 District 9142 Polio Seminar, Rotarian Olachi Emegakor who is also former Assistant Governor of Rotary International, the event was being organized yearly to celebrate the milestone achieved in polio eradication as well as ensuring that there was no reoccurrence of the virus in most communities.

In an interview, one of the Participants and member representing Njikoka II Constituency in the Anambra State House of Assembly, Mr Jude Akpua harped on cleanliness and sanitation as ways of preventing the spread of the virus, noting that the legislative arm was enacting quality laws which are in tandem with the Soludo Agenda in maintaining a clean, green environment.

For Mrs Nnenne Okwuchukwu, the adverse effects of not administering polio vaccine on children, Rotary remains unrelenting in it's funding until polio is kicked out worldwide.

The PolioPlus activities in Awka includes Advocacy Visits, Road walk by the participants which was led by the wife of Anambra State Dr. Nonye Soludo and the symbolic Immunization of children by the District Governor, Rtn Akan Emah.



Presentation of award to PDG Omotunde Lawson by PDG Joshua Hassan for Major Gift donor to PolioPlus Fund



PDG Tunji Funsho and a group of Rotarians conducted an essential advocacy visit to the Baale of Itedo, Lekki Lagos.



The newest Polio Ambassador, Seyi Awolowo (in back End Polio Now T-shirt)



Condolence visit to the family of late Mrs Tina Itohen Egwenoneh , who died during the November 2023 IPDs in Edo state



PDG Andy Uwejean presenting Rotary's condolence letter to Mr. Egwenoneh



Advocacy visit to the Palace of His Royal Majesty Oba Dr. PDG Adedapo Tejuosho, Osile Oke Ona Egba in Abeokuta, Ogun state by DG Ifeyinwa Ejezie



The Rotary Club of VGC, Eti-Osa East, D9110, was actively involved in supporting the community through the provision of pluses and supervision of immunization exercise.

POLIO STOP

*Merry
Christmas*

We wish you a **season** filled with joy,
love, and delightful moments!
May this season be merry and bright!

*and
Happy Year*

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

Email: rotarypolioplusnigeria@gmail.com, www.polioplus.org.ng

All correspondence to the NNPPC Chairman, PDG Joshua Hassan, Tel, 08099912878 Email: rotarypolioplusnigeria@gmail.com