



ROTARY'S INVOLVEMENT

Rotary International's Involvement

- 1979 - Rotary International (RI) and the government of the Philippines join forces to immunize all children in the Philippines.
- 1985 - RI launches Polio Plus.
- 1986 - RI sets fundraising goal of \$120 million.
- 1988 - Rotarians raise \$247 million. The World Health Organisation (WHO), with the support of 166 governments, resolves to eradicate polio. A partnership (Global Polio Eradication Initiative) is established between Rotary International, the World Health Organisation, United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), the United States Centre's for Disease Control (CDC) and the Governments of the world.
- Since 1988 - 2 billion children have been immunized, five million have been spared from disability, 250,000 deaths have been averted. It is estimated that when polio is finally eradicated the savings worldwide could be as high as \$1.5 billion per annum.
- 2003 - A further fundraising campaign successfully raised in excess of the target of \$80 million.
- 2007 - RI and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation jointly pledged \$200 million for polio eradication.
- 2008 - Rotarians have now contributed \$700 million, a figure that will increase to more than \$850 million once polio is eradicated. Yet, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative faces a global funding gap of \$ 490 million for 2008-09, of which \$ 135 million is needed in 2008. The governments of the world, particularly the G8, must continue to make significant contributions.



In addition to raising funds:

- Rotary members in non-endemic countries personally volunteer their time to support the immunization programme in the endemic countries.
- Rotary members in endemic countries are at the centre of “social mobilisation” in their communities. They seek to ensure that the message gets to the people who are cut off from the mainstream by conflict, geography or poverty and that the children living in these communities are immunized.
- Rotary members in endemic countries volunteer to help with the immunization events by delivering vaccine in the cold chain, recruiting volunteers, transporting health workers and volunteers and administering the vaccine.
- Rotary members in endemic countries organise and support meetings of religious and community leaders to ensure that the whole community is involved in the programme.

Tremendous efforts are undertaken during national immunization days: in February 2006, 170 million children were immunized in one day in India.