



End Polio Now



July 2022

Dear District PolioPlus Subcommittee Chair 2022-23

First, I hope you have a nice Summer with time to relax with family and friends

A new Rotary year started at 1st of July, and I want to say a special welcome to those of you who are new in the job as District PolioPlus Subcommittee Chair. Welcome on board!

Rotary International President Jennifer Jones wants us to do some extra for the fight against Polio. It is time to do some extra as we still see polio virus spread around the world and places where poliovirus is not expected. For all of us it is time to **take action to End Polio Now**.

Below you see an update on cases of polio due to **wild polio virus** from Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) which is cooperation Rotary has with WHO, Unicef, Gavi, CDC and Melinda and Bill Gates Foundation:

<i>Cases of Polio due to wild polio virus</i>				
Country	2020	2021	2021 (1.1.-24.7.)	2022 (1.1.-24.7.)
Pakistan	84	1	1	12
Afghanistan	56	4	1	1
Malawi		1		
Mozambique				1
Total	140	6	2	14

As you see the number decreased dramatically from 2020 to 2021 but unfortunately, we now see a raise in the numbers of children being paralyzed by wild poliovirus.

Beside cases due to wild polio virus there are cases due to so called **circulating vaccine-derived polio virus (cVDPV)**. To understand this phenomenon, look at https://youtu.be/mg_XFQ2zib4

There is a total global cVDPV cases in 2022 till date of 181 cases (compared with 153 for the same period in 2021). The total global cVDPV cases in 2021 was 698.

You may be asked: **Why do we still need to support polio eradication?**

This week's story about polio being found in New York is an opportunity to address this question. First, let's see what's up in New York:

- The victim was a teenager **never been vaccinated**
- The victim lives in an area with **VERY low vaccination rates**.
- The polio virus strain involved here is **NOT wild polio**.
- The source of this **vaccine derived polio is from outside the U.S.**



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Until wild polio is totally eradicated, we run the risk of vaccine derived polio cases in areas of low vaccination rates who are still using a weakened virus in the oral vaccine since it is the most economical vaccine method in many parts of the world. And as it happens in New York it can happen in your country. Virus is where people are and people are everywhere.

So, why do we still need to fight the total defeat of polio?

- Rotary International and our partners immunize approximately 460 million children annually.
- We monitor polio-sustaining areas and conditions in about 200 countries.
- Our team ensures outbreaks are identified and contained as quickly as possible.

Above you have a 30 second elevator speech to help us in our greatest mission.

As **District PolioPlus Subcommittee Chair** you are a very important part of the success of Polio Eradication. I encourage you together with your District Governor and District Rotary Foundation Chair to **set goals for your district's donation for this year** – both how much you expect the clubs to donate and how much of your District DDF, you will donate to PolioPlus Fund. Your District Governor and District Foundation Chair have been asked to donate at least 20% of this year DDF.

I will ask you to take contact to all clubs in your district and encourage the club to be part of End Polio Now. **Monday 24th of October is World Polio Day** and it is a great opportunity for the club to run an event with fundraising for End Polio Now. Every dollar counts and remember to post the event on social media.

Please let me know if you have any questions and I will help you to find the answers.

Thank you for your continued support in ending this disease in our lifetime. It will not be possible without your help.

Yours in Rotary,
Anette Løwert

Sent in cc to DGEs and DRFCs