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End Polio Now Newsletter: February 2022

1 message

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End Polio Now

February 2022[Donate](#)

Wild polio case detected in Malawi

As an imported case from Pakistan, this detection of type 1 wild poliovirus in Malawi does not affect the WHO African region's wild polio-free certification status.

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) has confirmed a case of type 1 wild poliovirus (WPV1) in a child suffering from paralysis in Malawi. Analysis has shown the virus is genetically linked to WPV1 that had circulated in Pakistan's Sindh province.

Detection of WPV1 outside the world's two remaining endemic countries of Pakistan and

Afghanistan is a serious concern and underscores the importance of prioritizing polio immunization activities in countries such as Malawi to prevent future instances of importation.

While the news from Malawi is disappointing, the polio program has seen importations from endemic countries to regions that have been certified wild polio-free in the past, and has moved quickly to successfully stop transmission of the virus in these areas. Now is the time for all parties — Rotary members, communities, government leaders, and global partners — to recommit to ending all forms of polio for good. [Read Rotary's full statement.](#)

Progress in Pakistan shows that polio eradication remains achievable

Pakistan, one of the last two countries where polio is still endemic, has gone a full year without one report of a child being paralyzed by the wild poliovirus. This shows that a polio-free world is within reach. We recognize the commitment of Rotary members in Pakistan and around the world who have made this progress possible, and we continue to focus on the hard work we still need to do to deliver a polio-free future to all children everywhere.



Rotary members in Pakistan play a vital role in polio eradication by raising awareness and funds, advocating with government officials, and engaging community leaders. To date, Rotary has supported polio eradication in Pakistan by giving nearly US\$347 million in grants to fund vaccines, immunization campaigns, and surveillance efforts, and to hire health workers. We've also established medical camps and water filtration plants to bring broader health improvements to communities.

Even as we reflect on our encouraging progress in Pakistan, we also recognize that it is fragile. Surveillance efforts in Pakistan have continued to detect the wild poliovirus in samples from the environment, and challenges in reaching all children with vaccines persist. Rotary and our partners must redouble our efforts to stop polio transmission.

Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation release position statement on COVID-19 vaccination

As the first organization to envision a polio-free world through mass immunization of children, Rotary believes that vaccination is a humanitarian imperative.

Vaccines have proved to be one of the greatest advances of modern

medicine. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative estimates that the polio vaccine has saved more than 20 million children from paralysis. Vaccines are safe and effective, and they are responsible for eliminating or controlling many diseases, including smallpox, measles, rubella, and Ebola. And now they offer an opportunity to end the COVID-19 pandemic.



**Read the position
statement**

Promote the power of vaccines for World Immunization Week

With their decades of experience working to eradicate polio, Rotary members can play a key role in publicizing the power of vaccines. World Immunization Week, 24-30 April, gives Rotary and Rotaract clubs an opportunity to raise awareness of the part that vaccines play in saving lives — as well as of the critical need to continue supporting global polio vaccination for children and COVID-19 vaccines for all.



Because Rotary members and our partners have worked hard to counter vaccine hesitancy and reach all children with the polio vaccine, the world has seen a 99.9% reduction in polio cases since 1988. Our fight against polio is proof that vaccines work.

**Download the World
Immunization Week
Toolkit**

Support polio vaccines for children

Please consider contributing to Rotary's PolioPlus Fund. Your donation will be matched 2-to-1 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and will help us reach vulnerable children with the polio vaccine and other essential health services.

Donate today

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