

Rotary International Report to the IMB May 2013

Rotary is working to implement its expanded advocacy efforts with significant resources and activity directed at increasing Rotarian engagement in Pakistan and Nigeria. Rotarians also continue with targeted advocacy in key donor markets to secure the support and financial resources needed for full implementation of the *Polio Eradication and Endgame Strategic Plan 2013-2018*.

A global advocacy firm was engaged in November 2012 to help with these efforts and to advise Rotary on advocacy strategies to secure further commitments and/or operationalize commitments made related to the Global Vaccine Summit.

Advocacy training materials and toolkits were developed for Rotarians to customize for use in their local communities.

Polio Endemic Country Engagement

Pakistan

There are more than 3,000 Rotary club members in Pakistan undertaking a variety of activities to support polio eradication at the community level. For example:

Reaching transit /migrant populations with the following activities:

- The establishment of two mobile clinics at the entry and exit check posts connecting Karachi to other parts of Sindh. These clinics are staffed around the clock, and are supervised by WHO. On average, some 8,000 – 10,000 children are targeted on a daily basis.
- The placement of a permanent vaccination transit post at Chaman in Balochistan, 47 kilometers away from the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, and two additional transit posts in Punjab, at the Kamoki/GT Road in Gujranwala, which connects Punjab to KP. Three additional transit posts are under consideration for Karachi and one for Turbat in Balochistan.
- In collaboration with the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Shahnaz Wazir Ali, established polio immunization booth at Karachi airport with plans to open at other airports when approval received.

Providing broader health interventions for at-risk populations:

- Health Camps have been held in polio high risk districts, including Charsadda, Mardan, Battagram and Peshawar in KP; Dadu, Sanghar and Karachi in Sindh, Lahore and Gujranwala in Punjab; and Killa Abdullah and Quetta in Balochistan. On average 1,000 – 1,500 people benefit from the camps.
- Rotary has inaugurated six Polio Resource Centers, working with local NGOs in high risk areas. There are four centers in Balochistan, one in KP and one in Karachi, Sindh. The aim of the centers is to strengthen routine immunization in newborns and infants, create awareness about polio and build confidence in the surrounding community.
- Throughout Karachi, nine permanent immunization posts have been established in community centers, hospitals, and clinics and health centers, to encourage routine immunization in children, and increase coverage of missed children during campaigns.

Engaging in advocacy efforts:

- The Rotary Polio Resource Center in Killa Abdullah organized a workshop for nearly 50 local community leaders, tribal elders, social activists, after which leaders agreed to advocate for polio immunization. Rotary is now working to replicate this activity in other Pashtun communities. In addition, community meetings are organized weekly at the Resource Centers in Sindh and Balochistan.
- In March 2013, an End Polio Now Summit was organized by Rotary's National PolioPlus Committee in Islamabad, which addressed special strategies for high risk districts, staggered approaches for optimal coverage, improved security measures by local government, and campaign security assessment. The summit was attended by Polio Focal Person Begum Shahnaz Wazir Ali, EPI officials, Provincial Health Secretaries, Federal Inter-Provincial Coordinator Fareedullah Khan, Senator Dr. Rubina Khalid, and Rotary representatives.

Nigeria

There are more than 6,000 Rotary club members in Nigeria undertaking a variety of activities to support polio eradication at the community level. For example:

- Rotary members in Nigeria are traveling from the south to help monitor immunization campaigns in the north in support of the National Emergency Action Plan.
- In December, a team of Indian Rotarian doctors and volunteers traveled to Abuja to conduct about 400 polio-corrective surgeries on children. The polio-corrective surgeries also allowed Rotarian doctors to reach out to Nigerian parents and persuade them to allow their children to be vaccinated. Another mission is currently being planned for summer 2013.

Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair Wilfrid Wilkinson traveled to Nigeria in March 2013 for the following advocacy and fund raising activities:

- Met with the Emir of Kano to offer Rotary's condolences for the killings of health workers earlier in the year.
- Visited the Emergency Operating Center in Abuja
- Met with the minister for health, the minister for petroleum resources and President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan to encourage continued support for polio eradication in Nigeria.

Resource Mobilization and Advocacy Training

Rotary leadership met in August 2012 to develop a plan to leverage the broader membership in an intensified effort to raise awareness and encourage the international community to commit the resources needed to achieve polio eradication. A plan was developed and a range of meetings and events have been organized since then:

- Rotarians in Canada raised C\$2.27 million through *Pennies and More for Polio*. These funds were matched by CIDA and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation: the combined three-way effort totaled more than \$6 million for the GPEI.
- There was a joint op-ed between Rotary and Minister Fantino, as well as significant outreach to MPs, both at Rotary clubs and through one-on-one meetings between Rotarians and targeted MPs.
- In the US, Rotary and UNF co-sponsored a briefing on 14 March of legislative assistants to introduce them to the new Eradication and Endgame strategic plan.
- Rotary will host its annual reception to honor Congressional Champions of polio eradication on 8 May.

- In the UK, Rotarians have engaged in a letter writing campaign to their MPs, and introduced an Early Day Motion in the House of Parliament. On 23 February, Rotary's anniversary, there was a letter presented by Rotarian bicyclists at #10 Downing, urging the UK government to continue its strong support for polio eradication.
- The leaders of all three main political parties in the UK pledged their support to Rotary's End Polio Now campaign. The Prime Minister, the Rt Hon David Cameron MP, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP, and Leader of HM Opposition, the Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP, were all invited by Nigel Evans MP, Member of Parliament for the Ribble Valley and Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, himself a Rotarian, to lend their voices to the campaign.
- Rotary, accompanied by WHO, met with members of the relevant EU Commissions on 24-25 April as well as the desk officers for the polio endemic countries, the permanent representatives of the current and incoming EU Presidency (Ireland and Lithuania respectively) and Members of European Parliament. One objective of this outreach is to join the EU's Global Health Forum for the purpose of raising the profile of polio eradication within the EU.
- In Ireland, Rotary wrote to the Taoiseach (Prime Minister), to urge Ireland to provide a multi-year commitment of EUD1 million annually and to promote support of global polio eradication in their capacity as current EU President.

Communications

Rotary's communications activities to support political commitment and resource mobilization are reflected in the updated partnership report of the 10 transformations.

Summary

As the GPEI continues to build on its recent programmatic successes, Rotarians are aware of the critical role they play as a global network of volunteers in helping to raise awareness and funds, and continuing to advocate among governments and in the broader public to generate support for the program. We look forward to reporting on the continued expansion of these efforts for the next IMB meeting.