



Engage!

Rotary District 7620 Foundation Newsletter

Rotary



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Greetings!

District Rotary Foundation Chairman Claude Morissette has good news to share.

Welcome to our new Rotary Year 2014-15. I thank each and every one of our Rotarians in District 7620. When it comes to giving, you are the greatest in my book. For example, in July 2013, we were given a challenge to increase our Annual Program Fund per capita giving to \$200 over the next four years. Based on our membership total of 2,343, which is a net increase membership of 52 new members, you have responded.

Rotarians have gone from \$119.06 to \$137.15 per capita, a slightly more than a 15% increase. We made this a reality thanks to DGE Ken Solow, the AG Team, The Foundation Advocate Team, all Club Foundation Chairs, and most important of all, the Rotarians in District 7620 who have been and who continue to keep on giving from the bottom of their hearts.

Thank you, thank you and thank you!

There's more! At the same time, you were asked to not forget Polio Plus. You were asked by the Rotary Foundation to give an average of \$1,000 per Club. Your response to this challenge was a \$1,842.83 per Club giving or \$117,941. Adding \$10,000 from our Global Grant Funds, our District Rotarians gave \$127,941 compared to \$119,044 in 2012-2013, an increase of 7.5%.

Once again, Rotarians from District 7620 have not failed to the promises made to the children of the world to eradicate this deadly disease.

Thank you, thank you and thank you for a job well done. You have made me very proud to be your DRFC.

As some of you may know, I have entered the last year of my three-year term as your DRFC along with our Grant Committee Chair, PDG Andy Baum.



PDG Claude Morissette
7620 DRFC 2014-2015

I am delighted to announce that PDG Pat Kasuda from the Catonsville Club has accepted to serve as your next DRFC for 2015-18. I know that she and her team will be doing a great job and the District will be well served with Pat at the helm of our District Foundation. Congratulations to PDG Pat Kasuda.

I am looking forward to another great year of giving, dedication to make good in our community and in many parts of the world from all the great Rotarians from our District.

Claude Morissette
7620 DRFC 2014-2015

Congrats to our 7620 District Scholarship Winners!

Julia Doody—Potomac

*Noelle Chavez—
Carroll Creek*

Ian Doody—Olney

*Brian Goncalves—
Crofton*



**Please Give...
to Polio Plus**



Join leaders, celebrities, and supporters across the globe – all making history together in support of polio eradication.

DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

On March 29, District Scholarship Chair Tracey Heibel, assisted by Committee Members PDG Bill Fine, France Pruitt and Neil Fay, interviewed 16 excellent candidates for the four \$5,000 District Scholarships available for the 2014-15 Rotary Year. It was a long but rewarding day. Thank you to every Club that took the time to submit the candidates.

The four winners are:

Julia Doody submitted by the Potomac Rotary Club; Noelle Chavez, submitted by the Carroll Creek Rotary Club; Ian Doody, submitted by the Olney Rotary Club;

And Brian Goncalves, submitted by the Crofton Rotary Club.

Tracey dedicated an enormous number of hours to make this day a reality, so thanks go to her and her Committee for taking the time from their busy weekend to help these students with their education. Sadly, Tracey's three-year term ended June 30. She has done a great job helping with our Scholarship programs from the day she was asked to be the District Scholarship Chair. We owe her a debt of gratitude! Make sure you thank her next time you see her.

Congratulations to Dr. William Bowerman from the College Park Club and Cornelius Fay from the Carroll Creek Club who have graciously agreed to take on the position of District Scholarship Co-Chair for the next three years (2014-17) as of July 1. Thank you, Bill and Neil, for your dedication to this program.



THE JULY 23RD POLIO UPDATE

We continue to work to eradicate the polio virus in the world, and as the saying goes: **"WE ARE THIS CLOSE"**.

Those who attended the

RI Convention in Sydney know that at the convention Australia pledged \$100 million to the fight against this dread disease.

In addition, earlier this year, the Bill and

Melinda Gates Foundation announced it would match Rotary International contributions two to one, so for that every \$1 Rotary gives, it is matched at \$2, for a total of \$3.

World Health Organization Wild Polio Virus Weekly Update

Wild Poliovirus (WPV) cases week Ending 23 July 2014

Total cases	Year-to-date 2014	Year-to-date 2013	Total in 2013
Globally	128	140	416
- in endemic countries	112	59	160
- in non-endemic countries	16	81	256

Polio Headlines—23 July 2014

Polio vaccination campaigns reaching more than 25 million children multiple times in the Middle East since October have helped slow the outbreak: new report from UNICEF and WHO emphasises that the second phase of outbreak response focuses on reaching those children who continue to be missed.

In the Horn of Africa, further efforts are on to intensify the outbreak response, following confirmation of new cases from Somalia last week. These cases underscore the risk that ongoing low-level poliovirus transmission continues to pose to children across the region, and of the urgent need to fully stop the outbreak rapidly completely.

THE 10% SOLUTION FOR FOUNDATION GIVING, BY KEN SOLOW, DGE

HOW TO GIVE ONLINE

Clubs that step up to District 7620's strategic goal of \$200 per capita giving to the Annual Program Fund believe that our fellow Rotarians in the District are doing a great job of "doing good in the world," which is on the goals of The Rotary Foundation. Because of the SHARE Program, where 100% of our contributions return to the District in the form of cash, credits, or available matching dollars, our generosity in giving to the Rotary Foundation ends up helping to fund our local District grant projects as well as humanitarian projects that our clubs are implementing worldwide. You will find a story about one of these fantastic programs in this edition of *Engage*.

Our goal of \$200 per capita contributions is a simple statement that we have a lot more work to do to make our local communities better places, and, of course, a lot more work to do in our quest for world peace. Our contribution acknowledges that our collective efforts deserve to be funded.

But once a club decides to target the \$200 giving goal, how do they go about building contributions from our traditional \$100 per capita Sustaining Member goal set by Rotary International?

There are a variety of Foundation development strategies that are being successfully implemented by clubs that perennially meet the \$200 per cap level of club giving. Some of the ideas include: 1) Have a Foundation Minute at each meeting to raise Foundation awareness, 2) Use Paul Harris recognition points as matching programs to incentivize Foundation giving, 3) Include Foundation contributions on dues invoices, and 4) Encourage members to take advantage of Rotary Direct where the Foundation will charge your

credit card for the \$17 per month needed to reach the \$200 per year goal.

By far, the most important strategy for clubs that routinely meet their Foundation giving goals is to develop a robust Paul Harris Society (PHS) in their club. Paul Harris Society members give \$1,000 every year to the Rotary Foundation providing that they can meet the financial commitment. Clearly not everyone in your club is capable of making such a substantial financial commitment, although many are surprised that you can join the PHS by making monthly contributions of only \$85 per month. (NOTE: Did you know you can join the PHS by pledging to give \$1,000 per year even if you've just started your monthly, quarterly, or annual giving commitment?) If clubs want to easily meet and exceed the \$200 per cap giving goal, then they should target having 10% of their members join the PHS.

Why 10%? Because if 9 out of 10 members can't afford PHS status, and 1 out of 10 can, then the 10% of the club that makes the PHS commitment can fund 50% of the club's annual giving goal!

I know it sounds amazing but let's look at a table and do the math: PHS members not only have the satis-

Members	\$200 per Cap goal	10% PHS Members	PHS Giving	% of goal
20	\$4,000	2	\$2,000	50%
30	\$6,000	3	\$3,000	50%
40	\$8,000	4	\$4,000	50%
50	\$10,000	5	\$5,000	50%
100	\$20,000	10	\$10,000	50%

faction of giving to the best charity on the planet they also have the incredible satisfaction of taking the pressure off of their fellow

club members each year as the club strives to meet their annual Foundation giving goal. With 10% of members in the PHS, every other member of the club could, ON AVERAGE, give \$100 per cap and the club would far exceed the \$200 per cap goal. (NOTE: These are average giving goals. Most clubs will have members that either don't give or give some amount less than \$100 every year.)

Of course no Rotarian is required to give to the Rotary Foundation. Those who give hopefully do so because they believe in Rotary's goal of "doing good in the world" through the Foundation's six areas of focus, including peace and conflict resolution, disease prevention, maternal and child healthcare, fresh water, literacy programs, and economic development. And everyone recognizes that we can only give what we can afford, no matter what is in our hearts. But the clubs that identify that 10% of members who can afford to give \$85 per month to the Rotary Foundation and join the Paul Harris Society are the clubs that meet and exceed the \$200 per cap giving goal every year.

If you have questions about the Paul Harris Society, please contact Anna Mae

Kobbe, Paul Harris Society Chair and District Governor Nominee, at 443-280-0311, or you can email her,

amkobbe@aol.com, or contact Ken Solow, Annual Programs Fund Chair and District Governor Elect, at ksolow@pinnacleadvisory.com or call him at 410-952-9743.

It's really easy to get registered to give to the Rotary Foundation for either the Annual Fund and Share, PolioPlus Fund, or the Endowment Fund.

First, go online to: www.rotary.org/en/give Where you are asked to choose which of the above programs you wish to contribute to. Make your selection, and then click "continue".

Enter the dollar amount, and the frequency of your contribution, monthly, quarterly, or annually.

Did you know that you can join the Paul Harris Society immediately by simply giving \$85 per month?

You are then prompted to enter your payment information, and voila! You are finished! You don't have to think about it anymore. Payments are automatically deducted and get credited to the program you selected.

It can't get much easier than that, can it?



Through the generosity of people like you, our work has made a difference in the lives of millions around the world. Your gift to The Rotary Foundation allows us to improve communities by promoting peace, preventing disease, bolstering economic development, and providing clean water and sanitation.



William "Bill" Fine

7620 District Governor 2014-2015



Sandler Training
Finding Power In Reinforcement™

Sandler Training is a global training organization with over three decades of experience and proven results.

Sandler provides sales and management training and consulting services for small- to medium-sized businesses as well as corporate training for Fortune 1000 companies.

Sandler's sales training courses address all three areas necessary for success—attitude, behavior and technique.

- Challenge yourself, take control and acquire the skills you need to succeed in today's dynamic sales marketplace.

- Uncover the barriers to success and improve your effectiveness.

- Learn to develop a common language, as well as sales process, that allows for more precise communication.

- Build and maintain the strong, consultative client relationships so critical to your success.

- Learn how to sell yourself and your ideas and in turn develop a larger client base, through an emphasis on questioning skills and setting up-front contracts that will keep you more focused and increase productivity.

SANDLER TRAINING POLIO FUNDRAISER SET FOR OCTOBER 15

Brilliant Fundraiser is an Easy Way to Raise Money for Polio Plus!

Rotary District 7620 is partnering with Sandler Sales Training for a one day training seminar on October 15, 2014 to raise money in the fight to eradicate polio. This great training day is designed for Non-Rotarians as well as Rotarians in sales fields.

Sandler is donating 100% of their time and materials to this effort at no cost to support Rotary and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's fight to End Polio Now!

The event will be held at the Charlestown Retirement Center in Catonsville, MD. We have the use of their facility at no cost as well.

District Governor Bill Fine encourages us to recruit our business and corporate contacts to sign up for the event.

Why should they attend? The training is a full day of fast-paced thought-provoking session, which will result in increased sales, improved productivity, and business growth.

All proceeds will be donated to Rotary International's

efforts to eradicate polio.

Business owners and sales professionals from the Baltimore-Washington area are invited to participate in this valuable training and partner with Rotary and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to End Polio Now. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will match every dollar raised 2 to 1.

District Governor Bill Fine's goal for this project is to raise at least \$150,000.

Registration instructions can be found on page 6.

DISTRICT PROJECT GRANT FORUM RESULTS

On May 17, 2014, the District Project Grant Forum was held where nine Clubs presented their District Grant request to the Committee for the 2014-15 Rotary Year.

A total of \$25,400 of the \$45,875 available was awarded. There is \$20,475 remaining for any Clubs in the District that are eligible and have not yet received their full eligible amount.

How does your club get these funds?

Eligibility requirements are:

1. The Club has to be trained on a Memo of Understanding
2. Have no delinquent prior Grant report
3. Have given to the Annual Program Fund for the 2013-14 Rotary Year of at least \$50 per capita.

You can apply for up to the maximum of \$3,000 for a single Club or a maximum of \$4,500 for multiple Clubs per District Grant depending on their eligibility. We have received the Block Grant for the projects from the Rotary Foundation and as soon as a project is completed and report and receipts are received, the grant funds can be sent to the Club as reimbursement.

GLOBAL GRANTS AWARDED

The Global Grant Committee has been very busy this Rotary Year, with great news!

1) Two Global Scholarships were awarded for a total of \$30,000.

2) A sum of \$10,000 from the DDF went to Polio Plus.

3) Also \$10,000 from DDF went to the Peace Scholar Program.

4) More than a dozen clubs were awarded \$71,800 for seven Global Projects.

A grand total of \$121,800 was given this year in Global Grants. It was a record year for the District for the past five years. This was mainly due to the hard work of the Grant Committee and the unspent DDF from previous year.

Money that is not spent either on the District Block Grant or Global Grant Projects is never lost.

It carries forward to the following year.

In order to be able to keep giving at that level, we will need to raise the bar in Foundation giving. The challenge we have for the next three years is to make the \$200 per capita to the Annual Program Fund.

The result will be more Global Grant funds available for more and bigger projects.

The Battle to Eradicate Polio in Pakistan

Excerpts From Time Magazine Article, 07/29/2014

By Jeffrey Kluger

Political unrest in Pakistan has been a gift to the poliovirus, with 99 cases reported there so far this year. But Rotary International, which has already vaccinated 2 billion children in 122 countries, is hitting back hard.



A Pakistani health worker vaccinates a child in Islamabad, Anadolu Agency/Getty Images

Epidemiology can be all about geography—and that's especially true when it comes to polio. If you live in the U.S., where polio was eradicated in 1979, the specter of the disease has faded almost entirely, though pockets of infections can occur among the unvaccinated. In Pakistan, however, things are moving in precisely the opposite direction, and have been for a while now.

The folks at Rotary know what they're talking about. Since launching their polio eradication effort in 1985, they have been responsible for the vaccination of 2 billion children in 122 countries. Along with the World Health Organization, UNICEF, The Gates Foundation and others, they have helped slash the global infection rate from 350,000 cases per year in 1988 to 416 in 2013.....

Rotary has distributed hundreds of cell phones to midwives who circulate through communities, canvassing residents to find out who has received the vaccine and who has been overlooked. Information on the unvaccinated kids—the "missing children" in the fieldworkers argot—is entered into the phones and uploaded to a central spreadsheet, allowing later vaccinators to target their efforts more precisely.....

Full Article on Page 9



MORE THAN 20 CLUBS JOIN IN A GLOBAL GRANT PROJECT, BY LYDIA HOHMAN, INTERNATIONAL LANE CHAIR, ANNAPOLIS ROTARY CLUB

In 2013, the Rotary Club of Annapolis was given an opportunity to embark on an exciting new Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Global Grant that plans to benefit 6,600 villagers in Barlonyo and Aloi, Northern Uganda.

Global Grant 1417461 is led by Grant Leaders Martin Ogang of the Kampala Rotary Club in Uganda, and June Oliver of the Oakville/ Trafalgar Rotary Club in Canada, with strong advisory support from WASRAG and Uganda Rotary Water Plus, a new organization which has united all Ugandan Rotary Club Water and Sanitation Projects under one banner. (WASRAG stands for the Water and Sanitation Rotary Action Group.)

In just one year, Rotary Club of Annapolis, along with the Metro Bethesda and South Anne Arundel Rotary clubs, joined more than 20 Rotary clubs in three countries to raise the needed Club Contribution and District Matching Funds for this \$450,000 multi-year Grant.

The goals of the grant include improved access to safe and adequate water for both local schools and villagers, thus reducing the incidence of water borne illness; to increase access to hygiene facilities which aims to improve school completion rate

for female students; to create awareness of hygiene practices and behaviors; and to build local capacity to sustainably manage water and sanitation facilities. Bio slurry from the latrines will be used to improve soil fertility in the schools' and villages' agricultural areas.

We first learned of this large grant through a smaller project which our club funded in 2012, supplying hand-washing stations and medical supplies for the new Early Childhood Education Center built by Children of Hope Uganda in Barlonyo, near the site of a massacre of several hundred people by Joseph Kony's Lord's Resistance Army.

Through this smaller grant, and friendships developed during our recently completed Global Grant on Peacebuilding and Mediation Training in Uganda, we were introduced to grant author Martin Ogang at the 2013 RI conference in Lisbon. Soon afterwards, our club's International Lane and Board voted to join the project as an active partner with a \$5,000 contribution. Global Grant chair Phil Reynolds was offered the opportunity to review and help in formulation of the grant proposal. Members of our international lane presented at several clubs and invited

them to join as grant partners, and submitted the application to the District 7620. We were awarded \$2,500 in DDF funding.

As is their policy with large proposals, the Rotary Foundation recently sent a team of Water and Sanitation technical advisors to the project sites. Their report has been submitted to the RI Foundation, and the grant will be reviewed and hopefully approved by the Rotary Foundation Board of Trustees at their next meeting in October 2014. If all goes well, our club plans to visit the project sites in Barlonyo and Aloi once work is underway, and we will be happy to report on the grant's progress as it proceeds.

As an aside, several of us in our International Lane attended the Rotary International United Nations Day in New York in 2013, where we serendipitously met a representative from the Oakville/Trafalgar Rotary Club. We were able to increase our clubs' friendships and our desire to accomplish the goal of the Grant.

If your club has a grant project that you would like to publicize, please contact Mary Felter, editor, at rofelter@comcast.net and put Rotary in the subject line.

RI GOALS FOR THE NEW YEAR

FROM THE ROTARIAN MAGAZINE—JULY 2014

John Kenny, RI Foundation Trustee Chair, lists five Rotarian goals trustees have announced for 2014-2015



- 1) Seek the eradication of the poliovirus. We must finish the job.
- 2) Support Rotary's own charity, the Rotary Foundation, through our contributions.
- 3) Ensure the progress of the new grants program by participating in sustainable educational and humanitarian projects.
- 4) Foster good will and peace by promoting and publicizing the Rotary Peace Centers program.
- 5) Emphasis that the responsibility for the future of the Foundation is in all our hands so we can continue doing good in the world as we seek to *Light Up Rotary*.

John and June Kenny

2014 Rotary District 7620

Sandler Training® Polio Fundraiser



What If Each Club Sells Just 5 Tickets?

With The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Help, We Will Raise.....

\$150,000.00 for Polio Eradication



Sandler Training® - Wednesday, October 15th from 8-5 Charlestown-Erickson Conference Center - Catonsville, MD

- Sandler Training® is donating 100% of their time and materials to this effort at no cost to Support Rotary and The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's fight to end polio now!
*Training provided is valued at over \$3000**
- Erickson Living, Charlestown is donating the meeting space to us as well, totally free of charge!

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- Close Business Faster
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- Sales Professionals
- Attorneys
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- Financial Advisors
- Real Estate Agents
- Insurance Sales

Registration Info

Investment:

Until 08/31—\$199

9/1 to 9/15—\$249

After 9/15—\$349

Go To:

www.stephenjhall.sandler.com

Click on:

Sandler Training Polio Fundraiser

Questions:

Call Sandler Training
410-571-3783

Paper Registration:

See Page 7

EVERY Dollar is Matched with TWO from The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and goes to Rotary International's Efforts to Eradicate Polio - Let's Leverage this Great Opportunity!

William "Bill" Fine
Rotary 7620 District Governor 2014-2015
Rotary Clubs of Central MD and Washington, DC



District 7620 Office Address
4064 Lomar Drive, Mt. Airy, MD 21771
240-205-9861 rotary@district7620.org



Polio Fundraiser

Charlestown – Erickson Conference Center Catonsville, MD

Wednesday, October 15, 2014

Registration per Person:

\$199 until August 15
\$249 August 16 – September 15
\$349 September 16



•To register or donate by CHECK, please fill out the form below:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Company Name: _____

Rotary Club Name (if applicable): _____

Please make checks payable to **Rotary Polio Fund**.

Mail payment and form to: Rotary Polio Fund
c/o Sandler Training
2530 Riva Rd Suite 300
Annapolis, MD 21401

•To register or donate by CREDIT CARD or for more information, please visit www.stephenjhall.sandler.com and click the 'Polio Fundraiser' button.

***Grow Your Business and Help A Great Cause!
Thank You for Helping Eradicate Polio.***

World Health Organization Wild Polio Virus Weekly Update

Wild Poliovirus (WPV) cases week Ending 23 July 2014

Total cases	Year-to-date 2014	Year-to-date 2013	Total in 2013
Globally	128	140	416
- in endemic countries	112	59	160
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Polio Headlines—23 July 2014

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In the Horn of Africa, further efforts are on to intensify the outbreak response, following confirmation of new cases from Somalia last week. These cases underscore the risk that ongoing low-level poliovirus transmission continues to pose to children across the region, and of the urgent need to fully stop the outbreak rapidly completely.

Afghanistan: **No new wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) cases were reported in the past week.** The total number of WPV1 cases in 2014 remains eight. The most recent WPV1 case had onset of paralysis on 17 June, from Khost province (linked to virus in North Waziristan, Pakistan).

Nigeria: **No new cases of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) were reported in the past week.** The most recent case had onset of paralysis on 27 May in Kano state; Nigeria's total case count for 2014 is five.

Pakistan: **Five new WPV1 cases were reported in the past week,** three from Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA – two from North Waziristan and one from South Waziristan), one from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and one from Gadap, greater Karachi, Sindh. This brings the total number of WPV1 cases in the country to 99 for 2014. The case from South Waziristan is the most recent in the country, with onset of paralysis on 28 June.

Countries	Year-to-date 2014				Year-to-date 2013				Total in 2013	Date of most recent case
	WPV1	WPV3	W1W3	Total	WPV1	WPV3	W1W3	Total		
Pakistan	99			99	21			21	93	28-Jun-14
Nigeria	5			5	35			35	53	27-May-14
Afghanistan	8			8	3			3	14	17-Jun-14

From Time Magazine

The Battle to Eradicate Polio in Pakistan

[Jeffrey Kluger @jeffreykluger](#)

July 29, 2014

POLITICAL UNREST IN PAKISTAN HAS BEEN A GIFT TO THE POLIOVIRUS, WITH 99 CASES REPORTED THERE SO FAR THIS YEAR. BUT ROTARY INTERNATIONAL, WHICH HAS ALREADY VACCINATED 2 BILLION CHILDREN IN 122 COUNTRIES, IS HITTING BACK HARD.

Epidemiology can be all about geography—and that’s especially true when it comes to polio. If you live in the U.S., where polio was eradicated in 1979, the specter of the disease has faded almost entirely, though pockets of infections can occur among the unvaccinated. In Pakistan, however, things are moving in precisely the opposite direction, and have been for a while now.

One of only three countries in the world where polio remains endemic (the other two are Nigeria and Afghanistan), Pakistan had been close to joining the world’s polio-free nations, with only 58 infections in 2012. But thanks to bans on vaccinating—and deadly attacks on polio fieldworkers—by the Pakistani Taliban, the caseload rose to 93 in 2013. In 2014, the total [reached 99](#) by July 18—a figure all the more alarming compared to this point last year, when there had been just 21 cases.

“It’s a scary number,” says Aziz Memon, Pakistani chairman of Rotary International’s polio eradication campaign. “Children in North Waziristan have been trapped for three and a half years without a drop of polio vaccine, and that’s what’s causing this.”

The folks at Rotary know what they’re talking about. Since launching their polio eradication effort in 1985, they have been responsible for the vaccination of 2 billion children in 122 countries. Along with the World Health Organization, UNICEF, The Gates Foundation and others, they have helped slash the global infection rate from 350,000 cases per year in 1988 to 416 in 2013.

That’s indisputably good news, but polio is an exceedingly sneaky virus, with 200 symptom-free carriers for every one case of the disease. That fact, combined with the anti-vaccine forces in Pakistan, not to mention the porous borders caused by war and unrest in the overall region, has caused the disease to leak out from the three endemic countries, with stray cases turning up in Equatorial Guinea, Iraq, Cameroon, Syria, Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya. In a handful of other countries, the virus has been detected in sewage, but it has not led to any cases of the disease—yet.

It’s Pakistan though that’s considered ground zero, and Rotary has announced that it’s now deploying some very simple weapons in what has always been a village-to-village, door-to-door battle. To improve surveillance and tracking—a maddeningly difficult job in a country in which so many people live off the communications grid—Rotary has distributed hundreds of cell phones to midwives who circulate through communities, canvassing residents to find out who has received the vaccine and who has been overlooked. Information on the unvaccinated kids—the “missing children” in the fieldworkers argot—is entered into the phones and uploaded to a central spreadsheet, allowing later vaccinators to target their efforts more precisely.

“The midwives also track pregnant mothers,” says Memon. “And when their children are born they can continue to maintain complete health records, not just for polio but for other vaccines and basic health care as well.”

Rotary has also worked with The Coca-Cola Company to build what’s known as a reverse osmosis water plant—essentially a sophisticated filtration facility—in the town of Malin, within the city of Karachi. Polio is a disease spread almost entirely by human waste, and once it leeches into the water system it can spread nearly anywhere. The Malir plant, which was constructed near a school to give polio-age kids the first access to the newly filtered water, is a relatively modest one, with just 20,000 gal. (76,000 liters) of clean water on hand at any one moment, and cost only \$40,000 to build. But as a pilot project it represents a very good start. “We can’t build a massive plant like the government can,” says Memon. “This is a small plant for a small community.”

One thing, paradoxically, that’s working in the vaccinators’ favor is the increased number of displaced people in Pakistan. A recent push by the Pakistani military to flush the Taliban from its safe havens has broken the vaccination blockade, and already 350,000 children have received at least one dose of the polio vaccine. But 1.5 million refugees are scattered around the country. Rotary has dispatched field workers to refugee camps and transit points to identify the children and few adults who need the polio vaccine and administer it on the spot.

“The government did not have any idea about what the numbers of displaced people would be,” says Memon. In the refugee camps, he adds, there are at least 40,000 pregnant women, whose babies will have to be vaccinated shortly after birth.

The diabolical thing about polio—and indeed any disease science hopes to eradicate—is that even one case is too many. As long as any wild poliovirus is out there, everyone needs to be protected. It is only when the last scrap of virus has been found and snuffed, that the protective push can stop. That has happened once before in medical history—with smallpox. In the case of polio, it’s tantalizingly close to happening again.



A Pakistani health worker vaccinates a child in Islamabad

Anadolu Agency/Getty Images