

Rotary's Polio Eradication Fact Sheet

Bill and Melinda Gates Continue As Partners In Rotary's Battle To Eradicate Polio



The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has awarded The Rotary Foundation an additional US\$50 million grant for polio eradication.

The Gates Foundation had previously awarded challenge grants to The Rotary Foundation in 2008 and 2009, totaling \$355 million, to help end polio. In response, Rotary committed to raising a total of \$200 million by 30 June 2012.

The new \$50 million grant from the Gates Foundation, which is not a challenge grant, is in recognition of Rotary's early achievement of the \$200 million milestone and of the need for continued funding support for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

What are the terms of the new grant?

The \$50 million Gates Foundation grant is not a challenge grant, so Rotary will not be required to raise matching funds. Funds from the grant will be distributed by The Rotary Foundation to the most critical polio-affected countries, primarily through grants to the World Health Organization and UNICEF in direct support of polio immunization activities.

How will the grant be used?

Rotary works with the other spearheading partners of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative to determine how funds can best be used to reach the goals of the program.

This chart shows how funds have been distributed over the past several years and will apply in a similar way to the new Gates Foundation grant.

Why is more funding for polio eradication needed?

Reaching the \$200 million milestone is a significant achievement by Rotary. However, the final goal remains the certification of the eradication of polio, which will require the allocation of additional resources. There remains a significant funding gap for future polio immunization activities. Donor nations must play a major role in meeting that gap and Rotarians will continue their advocacy efforts with these governments.

It's also essential that Rotarians continue to support Rotary's Challenge until 30 June 2012. "The eradication of polio is the responsibility of every government," says Robert S. Scott, chair of Rotary's International PolioPlus Committee, noting the unanimous decision of the World Health Assembly in 1988 to pursue that goal. "Rotarians in every country must continuously talk it up with their fellow Rotarians and, at every opportunity, with their political leaders, to ensure support, both financial and moral."

The "This Close" awareness campaign promotes Rotary's End Polio Now message. www.rotary.org

"This Close" gesture on the steps of the U.S. Capitol on World Polio Day, 24 October. www.facebook.com/rotary

* The terms of the Gates Challenge grant include a small component of funding for research. Rotary (PolioPlus) has not traditionally funded research.