



SAD NEWS FROM PAKISTAN

JANUARY 31 was a black day for the polio eradication campaign, with the death of two polio workers in Pakistan.

The workers were killed close to the border and the tragedy underlines the tough conditions that exist in the corridors between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Rotarians in the area responded immediately, offering assistance to the families of the two victims.

Rotary International past Vice-President Mike McGovern (Chair, International *PolioPlus* Committee) reacted immediately and advised that he will lead a delegation of senior Rotary leaders to meet with Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan and the chief of the Pakistani Army in Islamabad.

"We will emphasise the need for

their full cooperation and support to ensure our community-based vaccinators are safe – and also underline the importance of ongoing vaccinations in the fight to end Polio," Mike said.

New oral polio vaccine ready to go

But Mike's statement was not all bad news.

He reported that the new oral polio vaccine, under development for 10 years thanks to funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, is ready to go!

"We are awaiting final approval, but manufacturing is already underway, with 100 million doses expected to be ready on July 1 – and a further 100 million by year end," Mike said.

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The other polio news highlight came from Rotary's major partner Bill Gates.

He announced that the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will



TRUSTEE'S MESSAGE

Increasing impact

Ni hao, Rotarians!

I like to quote Confucius at many Rotary events, because his ideas are so much like ours. Confucius would have been a great Rotarian. Take this Confucius quote, for example: "The failure to cultivate virtue, the failure to examine and analyse what I have learned, the inability to move toward righteousness after being shown the way, the inability to correct my faults – these are the causes of my grief."

If you turn the saying around to positive language, it sounds exactly like the first goal of the new Rotary Action Plan. When we talk about Rotary increasing our impact, we mean investing in relationships, making decisions grounded in evidence, mobilising our resources to create solutions that last, and always learning from our experiences.

The Rotary Foundation already does this so well, and will continue to be the best possible investment in a better world as the Action Plan is put into effect. Our global grants respond to real community needs. That's because we approve them only after a rigorous community assessment. Then the projects are tailored to the information uncovered during the assessment.

Now, your Foundation is making a difference on a broader scale than ever through our programs of scale grants. These are competitive grants, designed to respond to a need that a community has identified. Programs of scale will benefit a large number of people in a significant geographic area. They will be sustainable, evidence-based interventions with measurable outcomes and impact. Each grant will support, for three to five years, activities that align with one or more of Rotary's areas of focus.

Programs of scale build on our experience in the eradication of polio, and we must never forget that we still have important work to do to eliminate this disease. When I visited Pakistan in November, I was overjoyed to see so many young Rotary leaders working hard for *End Polio Now*.

Wonderful things are happening with our global grants, and the Rotary Action Plan will help us do more than ever. Let us continue to cultivate virtue, examine and analyse what we learn, move toward righteousness based on our new knowledge, and keep improving everything we do.

Gary Huang
Foundation Trustee Chair



continue matching donations to Rotary's *PolioPlus* program two to one, up to US\$50 million for the next three years.

Goals for the year

The 2020 TRF training seminar was held in Adelaide, SA, in February and all senior Foundation leaders were requested to encourage clubs in their respective districts to focus on donating any surplus District Designated Funds (DDF) to the *End Polio Now* campaign.

Rotary International leaders are aware of the difficult conditions for fund raising in Australia in the wake of the drought and ongoing bushfires, and will be grateful for efforts by clubs and districts to meet basic goals:

- One off contribution of \$1500 per club;
- Allocation of 20 per cent of available DDF to take advantage of the Gates multiplier and the offer of a one-dollar match for every dollar from the World Fund;
- Ongoing search for major donors from Rotary and the corporate world;
- Focus on public awareness by wearing Rotary shirts and caps and flying *End Polio Now* banners.

Polio case numbers

On January 31, Polio numbers for 2019 were 168 wild polio virus cases (139 in Pakistan and 29 in Afghanistan) and 302 cases of vaccine-derived cases in a variety of countries.

To that date, in 2020, there has been four cases of wild polio virus in Pakistan.

PDG Bob Aitken AM
RI End Polio Now Coordinator,
Zone 8, 2019-20 •