



Dear polio eradication supporter,

This month, leaders from around the world gathered at the [Reaching the Last Mile Forum](#) in Abu Dhabi to pledge an exceptional US\$ 2.6 billion to help fund the 2019-2023 Polio Endgame Strategy. The generous funds raised will not only help overcome challenges to reach every last child with polio vaccines, but also strengthen vital infrastructure that supports other health needs today and in the future. The forum also provided an opportunity for GPEI leadership to reflect on recent milestones and discuss strategies to overcome the key remaining barriers to eradication.

2.6 billion reasons to celebrate



©BMGF Archive/Dominique Catton

Moderated by Dr Ujala Nayyar, a surveillance officer from Pakistan, the polio pledging moment at the RLM Forum featured support from all levels. Individuals, national governments and other donors all

came together to recommit to polio eradication. Major pledges included US\$ 160 million pledged by the host of the pledging moment His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, US\$ 1.08 billion pledged from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and US\$ 150 million raised by Rotarians which will further vaccine delivery and disease surveillance efforts. Check out the full list of donors and how the new pledges will help create a polio-free future. [\[More\]](#)

Delivering more than vaccines

Many communities in Nigeria have a critical need for clean water to improve overall health. This will also help prevent the spread of the poliovirus. In line with the new Endgame Strategy, the PolioPlus programme is responding by providing



© Rotary International

POLIO IN NUMBERS

Wild poliovirus in 2019 (2018)*

Global Total: 112 (29)

Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus in 2019 (2018)*

Global Total: 177 (102)

*Data as of 27 November 2019. Numbers in brackets represent data at this time in 2018.

Breakdown by country
[Polio this week](#)

POLIO IN THE NEWS

[The Wall Street Journal](#): Donors Pledge \$2.6 Billion for Polio Eradication

[Devex](#): Donors give polio eradication a \$2.6 billion boost during Abu Dhabi conference

[Reuters](#): Donors pledge \$2.6 billion for 'last mile' of polio eradication

[Weekly Epidemiological Record](#): Update on Vaccine-Derived Poliovirus, January 2018 – June 2019

potable water to vulnerable communities in areas at high risk of the disease. Read why ensuring access to this vital resource is critical to polio eradication. [\[More\]](#)

22 years and 200 000 vaccine carriers

Rotarian Aziz Memon is a good person to speak to for an insight into polio eradication efforts in Pakistan. The first incoming Rotary Foundation Trustee ever appointed from his country, he



Aziz Memon vaccinates a child during a vaccination campaign in Pakistan. ©Rotary International

has been pushing ahead against the poliovirus ever since a perspective-changing encounter more than two decades ago. He explains why we've made too much progress towards eradication to walk away before we finish the job. [\[More\]](#)

FUNDING UPDATE

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative would like to extend sincere thanks to all dedicated partners and donors who made pledges to eradicate polio at the Reaching the Last Mile Forum in Abu Dhabi. The full list of donors and pledges may be found [here](#).

Thank you to the Rotary Foundation Board of Trustees who approved new grants totalling US\$ 32.5 million to WHO at their October 2019 meeting to provide operational support in Afghanistan, Cameroon, Chad, DRC, Niger and Somalia; surveillance in the African Region; and to support the mOPV stockpile.

Picture of the Month



At the Reaching the Last Mile Forum in Abu Dhabi, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Bill Gates, Co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and donors and partners from around the world gathered to announce pledges totalling US\$ 2.6 billion to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative to help achieve and sustain a polio-free world. November 19, 2019. Louvre Abu Dhabi, UAE.

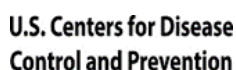
© Gates Archive/Christopher Pike



@WHO



@EndPolioNow



@CDCGlobal



@UNICEF



@GatesFoundation