

□ How your school can help... **END POLIO NOW**

Poliomyelitis (polio) is a highly infectious disease caused by a virus. There is no cure.

Polio can only be prevented through immunisation, which has been successful in eradicating the disease in all but four countries - Afghanistan, India, Pakistan and Nigeria - in the last 25 years.

Polio mainly affects children under five years of age, but a vaccine almost always protects a child for life – that is why most of you have already been vaccinated. The cost of immunisation is very little – 50p can immunise a child against polio for life.

Please give some thought in your school about how you can each raise £1, and talk to your teachers – perhaps a non-uniform day or a sponsored activity. Whatever you give, children in Afghanistan, India, Pakistan or Nigeria will benefit from your generosity, and you will help them to lead a life free from the crippling effects of polio.

Rotary works with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) towards the eradication of polio. In 1985 Rotary started its PolioPlus programme since when more than 2 billion children have been given oral polio vaccine. Every £1 you give will support the PolioPlus Programme.



How Rotary saved Jasmin's life...



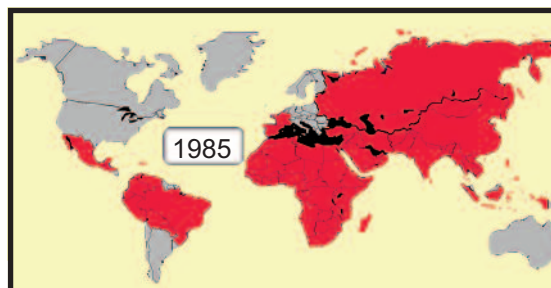
Rotary International has mobilised a huge volunteer army including thousands of volunteers at local level who provide support at clinics or in other polio eradication activities. More than one million Rotarians worldwide have contributed toward the success of the polio eradication programme. Thanks to their efforts, Jasmin has been vaccinated and will be free from the debilitating effects of polio for the rest of her life.

Polio Facts & Figures

Area	Number of new cases in 2008
Afghanistan	26
India	509
Pakistan	756
Nigeria	101
Non-endemic countries	99
TOTAL WORLD-WIDE	1,491

(New cases in 2008 from data as at November 18, 2009 / World Health Organisation)

For the latest on the number of polio cases, progress reports on polio-endemic countries and other information, go to www.polioeradication.org



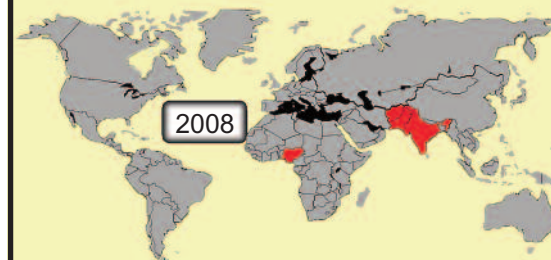
The story so far...

The maps above and below show how successful immunisation against polio has been.

Since Rotary began its PolioPlus Programme, the number of countries where polio is endemic has declined from more than 125 in 1985 to just four in 2008.

The number of new polio cases has reduced by more than 99% since 1985 from 1,000 a day to just 1,491 in the whole of 2008.

But polio is still only an air flight away from the United Kingdom and Ireland. We must continue the eradication campaign to safeguard the children



Help Rotary to rid the world of polio

Every £1 you give saves five young lives

If you will give just £1 to support immunisation against polio the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will give another £1.78 – this will make your donation worth £2.78. The vaccine to immunise one child costs just 50p so your donation will save more than five lives.



To learn more about the Rotary Polio Eradication Campaign, or how to join Rotary International, contact your local club or e-mail contact@ribi.org:

www.RIBI.org
www.rotary.org/endpolio