

**Polio Eradication after
Rotary became Involved**

 John White – September 3, 2025

A Recap of Polio in the United States

1894 – First documented outbreak (Vermont)
 1916 – Major outbreak in NYC kills 2,000
 1937/1938 – FDR and March of Dimes
 1952 – Epidemic peaks; 58K cases with 3K deaths
 1955 – Salk vaccine is “safe, effective, and potent”
 1960 – Sabin vaccine approved
 1979 – US declared polio-free

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1979 – RI joins the fight with a multi-year project to immunize six million children in the Philippines

 1985 – RI launches PolioPlus. The “Plus” indicates additional health services and humanitarian aid:

- Clean water and sanitation
- Other medical and humanitarian aid
- Support for polio survivors
- Building a health infrastructure

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1988 – The Global Polio Eradication Initiative formed

 It’s a partnership of

- National governments
- Rotary International
- The World Health Organization (WHO)
- U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)
- UNICEF



 At the time, still 1,000 cases per day in 125 countries

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1994 – The Americas are certified polio-free
 2000 – WHO Western Pacific Region is polio-free
 2002 – WHO European Region is polio-free
 2014 – WHO SE Asia Region (including India) is polio-free
 2020 – WHO African Region is polio-free, leaving only Afghanistan and Pakistan

Where are we in 2025?


Rotary and the Gates Foundation extend their commitment, providing up to \$450 million
 Polio cases down 99.9% since 350,000 in 1988
 20 million instances of paralysis and deaths prevented
 Only Afghanistan (5 cases so far) and Pakistan (8) remain endemic
 Our speaker on October 22 will talk about vaccines
 World Polio Day is on October 24

What help?

Polio cases down 99.9% since 200,000 in 1988
 25 million newborns at greatest risk today prevented?
 Only Afghanistan (2 million at risk) and Pakistan (8)
 remain endemic!
 Our speaker on October 22 will talk about vaccines
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1. Visit endpolionow.org to learn more
2. Share your connection with polio and its eradication
3. Participate in our "Pennies for Polio" campaign starting September 24
4. Donate to PolioPlus this fall, earn points toward PHF and get 2 for 1 match

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