

Rotary Support for Polio Eradication Activities in Pakistan and Afghanistan

1. The Pakistan National PolioPlus Committee (PNPPC) of Rotary International works closely with the Federal and Provincial Governments of Pakistan and polio partners to improve coverage of missed children, strengthen Routine Immunization at the grassroots-level and advocates for polio eradication across the country.

Rotary has contributed more than USD 2.5 billion globally since the GPEI was formed. Rotary has approved grants of USD 35 million for polio partners for the period January-June 2022 for Pakistan and USD 10.4 million for Afghanistan.

2. Rotary Polio Resource Centers

PNPPC established 15 Resource Centers across Pakistan. These centers are the pivotal points in providing polio eradication services through social mobilization and confidence building in the community. The Social Mobilizers are from different segments of civil society: religion, education, business, and political groups of the respective areas. They intervene by providing basic health care services through the center, mobile health camps and get access to communities in the areas to increase coverage of missed children and refusals during and after NIDs & SNIDs. Focus group discussions bring Behavioral Change and acceptance of the polio vaccine.

3. Team Support Centers (TSC)

PNPPC established 15 Team Support Centers in the Super High Risk areas of Gadar, Landhi, Baldia and Malir Towns at the request of the Sindh Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to provide space for training the local CHWs during polio campaigns.

4. Permanent Immunization Centers (PICs)

Twenty three PICs have been established in remote and far flung areas of the country.

5. Permanent Transit Posts (PTPs)

The PNPPC has established 51 Permanent Transit Posts (PTPs) and 65 Polio Kiosks to target missed children and transient population at highways, airports and railway stations. Five PTPs were recently installed in AJK to cover children travelling in the hill regions.

6. Solar Water Filtration Plants

PNPPC installed 42 Solar Water Filtration plants. 27 plants were installed in partnership with Coca-Cola Pakistan. In addition, 4 Reverse Osmosis Filtration plants were installed where water quality was poor.

7. Health Camps

Rotary Clubs across Pakistan hold health camps to cater to the poor and deprived communities. Health camps are an important intervention and advocacy strategy.

8. Cold Chain Support

The PNPPC procured 19 Ice Lined Refrigerators (ILRs) to strengthen cold chain management in Karachi and parts of interior Sindh. Five solar powered refrigerators were supplied to Sujawal (Sindh) and five to high-risk cities in Balochistan at the request of their respective Governments.

9. Vaccine Carriers

The PNPPC has provided so far 200,000 vaccine carriers for polio workers in Pakistan and 5000 vaccine carriers to Afghanistan.

10. Routine Immunization booklets and manuals are printed for distribution by PNPPC in Urdu and English.

11. Cross Border PTPs

Cross Border shelters to facilitate Pakistan/Afghanistan meetings at the border of Chaman and Kandahar were established in 2016. Refurbished containers were made to use as training facilities for Killa Abdullah and Gulistan in Balochistan. Rotary supplied 500 shoes for Lady Health Vaccinators visiting cold and remote regions in Balochistan.

12. Ulema workshops

The PNPPC conducted workshops for Religious Leaders at UC level to involve them in the polio program. These workshops are being conducted upon request of respective provincial and district governments.