



BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION GRANT TO THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has awarded The Rotary Foundation an additional US\$50 million grant for polio eradication.

The Gates Foundation awarded challenge grants to The Rotary Foundation in 2008 and 2009, totaling \$355 million, to help end polio. In response, Rotary committed to raising a total of \$200 million by 30 June 2012.

The new \$50 million grant from the Gates Foundation, which is not a challenge grant, is in recognition of Rotary's early achievement of the \$200 million milestone and of the need for continued funding support for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

What are the terms of the new grant?

The \$50 million Gates Foundation grant is not a challenge grant, so Rotary will not be required to raise matching funds. Funds from the grant will be distributed by The Rotary Foundation to the most critical polio-affected countries, primarily through grants to the World Health Organization and UNICEF in direct support of polio immunization activities.

How will the grant be used?

Rotary works with the other spearheading partners of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative to determine how funds can best be used to reach the goals of the program. This chart shows how funds have been distributed over the past several years and will apply in a similar way to the new Gates Foundation grant.



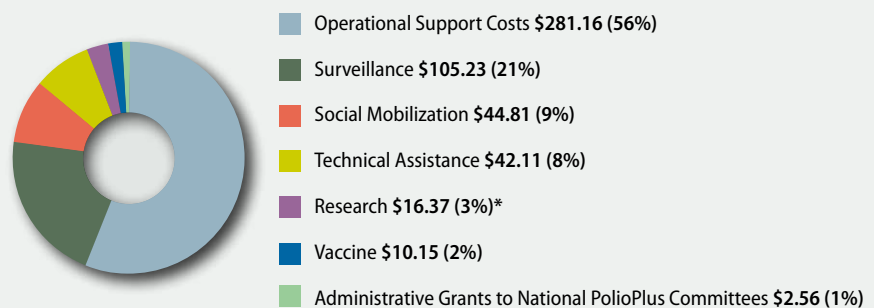
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Distribution of PolioPlus Grants 2002-11 (in US\$ millions)



* The terms of the Gates Challenge grant include a small component of funding for research. Rotary (PolioPlus) has not traditionally funded research.

What Your Contributions Do (in US\$):

- \$60 – 100 children immunized against polio
- \$100 – 200 posters promoting immunization
- \$250 – 500 aprons to identify health workers, volunteers, and vaccinators
- \$500 – 4,000 finger markers to identify children immunized
- \$1,000 – 700 vaccine carriers to keep vaccines cold

Rotary's Legacy

Once polio has been eradicated, the world will reap substantial financial, as well as humanitarian, dividends due to foregone polio treatment and rehabilitation costs. Depending on national decisions on the future use of polio vaccines, these savings could exceed US\$1 billion per year, savings that can be used to fund other public health priorities. A study published in November 2010 in the leading medical journal, *Vaccine*, estimates the economic benefits of the GPEI at between \$40-50 billion based on activities from 1988 to 2035.

Why is more funding for polio eradication needed?

Reaching the \$200 million milestone is a significant achievement by Rotary. However, the final goal remains the certification of the eradication of polio, which will require the allocation of additional resources. There remains a significant funding gap for future polio immunization activities. Donor nations must play a major role in meeting that gap and Rotarians will continue their advocacy efforts with these governments. It's also essential that Rotarians continue to support Rotary's Challenge until 30 June 2012.



Bill Gates, cochair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Rotarians make the "This Close" gesture on the steps of the U.S. Capitol on World Polio Day, 24 October. The "This Close" awareness campaign promotes Rotary's End Polio Now message.

"The eradication of polio is the responsibility of every government," says Robert S. Scott, chair of Rotary's International PolioPlus Committee, noting the unanimous decision of the World Health Assembly in 1988 to pursue that goal. "Rotarians in every country must continuously talk it up with their fellow Rotarians and, at every opportunity, with their political leaders, to ensure support, both financial and moral."

End Polio Now zone coordinators

In 2012-13, Rotarians experienced in Rotary's PolioPlus program will be appointed as End Polio Now zone coordinators to continue promoting awareness among Rotarians that PolioPlus is the No. 1 priority of Rotary International and its Foundation. They will serve as a resource for district leaders.