



The case for finishing polio eradication

A fresh approach for the final phase

In January 2007, PolioPlus entered a new era by adopting tailored approaches to reach the last children, in each of the last 4 endemic countries, with new eradication tools.

This move, from the 'one-size-fits-all' eradication strategy, is the single biggest development since PolioPlus was launched in 1985.

Polio can be eradicated

- *Impact* – polio cases worldwide have fallen by 99% since PolioPlus was started in 1985.
- *Polio Surveillance* – since 2004, new surveillance standards and laboratory processes have ensured that every country can detect every circulating poliovirus more rapidly than ever.
- *Outbreak Control* – every re-infected country has already stopped its outbreak or is on the verge of doing so; since 2006, new international response guidelines stop outbreaks faster than ever.
- *Finishing Eradication* – the poorest, most war-torn and most crowded countries on earth have stopped polio; new generation 'monovalent' polio vaccines provide even more potent tools for the last 4 endemic countries which, in December 2006, adopted new and tailored approaches:
 - **India:** monthly polio campaigns will target the very young children who sustain polio;
 - **Nigeria:** new Immunization Plus Days will target the very high risk states where polio continues to circulate;
 - **Afghanistan & Pakistan:** synchronized campaigns will target the populations moving across borders and living in insecure areas where poliovirus survives.

Polio should be eradicated

- *A humanitarian legacy:* already, 5 million children are walking who would have been paralyzed and more than 1.5 million lives have been saved. Switching to a 'control' strategy, instead of finishing eradication, would condemn 10 million children to polio over the next 40 years alone.
- *A financial responsibility:* once polio is eradicated, the developing world can save over US\$1 billion each year. Polio eradication will also help secure the future earning potential of children and reduce the massive costs of polio that are now borne by the poorest families and communities.

***The case for finishing PolioPlus is compelling.
The opportunity to finish PolioPlus is unprecedented.
Rotary's PolioPlus legacy will last in perpetuity.***

Polio Eradication IS realistic