

4 FINANCING

The international community has over the past 19 years invested US\$ 5.3 billion in polio eradication, US\$ 695 million of this in 2006, a year in which the international donor community continued to make strong promises of financial support. In a statement to the 59th World Health Assembly in May 2006, EU member states re-affirmed their “full support” for polio eradication. G8 leaders, meeting in July 2006 at the G8 Summit in St Petersburg, pledged to continue support to polio eradication, following their 2005 commitment at Gleneagles to “continue or increase” their contributions to consign polio to the history books.

A broad public-private partnership that includes 44 donors of more than US\$ 1 million and 27 donors of more than US\$ 5 million, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative is, at the end of 2006, in its most precarious financial position ever. Unless additional funds are contributed quickly, the global programme will start to run out of money by mid-2007 and activities will have to be curtailed, putting at risk the 19-year eradication effort. The 2007-2008 global funding gap as of May 2007 stands at US\$ 540 million.

In 2006, governments of polio-affected countries, including Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Namibia, Nigeria and Pakistan provided domestic funding at unprecedented levels.

The international donor community is urged to translate its public statements of support into funding for countries to finish the job. The humanitarian and economic case for finishing eradication is sound. A new study from Harvard University demonstrates that over a 20 year period, controlling polio at high levels would cost more, in human suffering and dollars, than finishing eradication.

The world has an opportunity to come together to finish polio eradication once and for all and give a perpetual gift to children across the world. The alternative is unacceptable: hundreds of thousands of children would again be paralysed by this disease over the coming years, and billions of dollars would be spent on outbreak response activities, rehabilitation/treatment costs and associated loss of economic productivity. The international community has very few opportunities to do something that is unquestionably good for every child and every country in the world. We owe it to all future generations to succeed.

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■ AUSTRIA

Austria continued its support to polio eradication by committing US\$ 710,000 in 2006 for Ethiopia's polio eradication efforts, bringing its total contributions to US\$ 1.67 million.

■ AUSTRALIA

In 2006 Australia provided US\$ 804,000 – vaccine funding for polio outbreak response in Nepal, as well as global funding – bringing its total contributions to US\$ 16.3 million.

■ BILL AND MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation provided US\$ 39.8 million for Nigeria and surrounding countries, with the objective of minimizing spread of poliovirus along the Hajj pilgrimage route. This latest funding brings the Foundation's total commitments to US\$ 149.80 million.

■ CANADA

Taking steps towards fulfilling its G8 promise to “continue or increase” polio funding for 2006–08, Canada in 2006 provided US\$ 39 million in global funding, and earmarked an additional US\$ 4 million for 2006–07 activities in Afghanistan. These latest contributions bring Canada's total commitments to US\$ 181 million.

■ US CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC)

In addition to its role as a core technical spearheading partner, CDC provided funding for OPV, operational costs and programme support to UNICEF and WHO. It also continued to support the Investment Partnership for Polio, which sees CDC providing funding to allow countries to buy down to zero World Bank loans for OPV, in effect turning the loans into grants. US Congress in its fiscal year 2006 allocated US\$ 101.25 million

to CDC for polio eradication. CDC continued to support the international assignment of epidemiologists, virologists and technical officers to assist WHO, UNICEF and polio-endemic countries in implementing polio eradication activities.

■ CENTRAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND (CERF)

The CERF provided US\$ 830,000 to help Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo respond to polio outbreaks.

■ DENMARK

Denmark contributed US\$ 500,000 in 2006 to support Niger's polio eradication programme.

■ EUROPEAN COMMISSION (EC)

The EC in 2006 continued its support of the polio eradication efforts of 14 African countries and provided US\$ 7 million in new funding for Niger. The European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) supported the Democratic Republic of the Congo's (DRC's) polio outbreak response with US\$ 480,000.

■ FRANCE

France, which joined the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in 2004, provided US\$ 12.6 million in global funding in 2006, as it paid its final instalment on its three-year, US\$ 36 million pledge. It also provided technical staff to assist Chad and Niger in their polio eradication programmes.

■ GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR VACCINES AND IMMUNIZATION ALLIANCE (GAVI ALLIANCE) AND THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCE FACILITY FOR IMMUNIZATION (IFFIM)

The Executive Committee of the GAVI Fund at its September 2006 meeting approved US\$ 191.28 million for the creation, procurement and evaluation of

a polio vaccine stockpile as an investment case under the International Finance Facility for Immunisation (IFFIm). This investment will provide the up-front financing needed to establish a mOPV stockpile that GAVI Alliance-eligible countries can access (as needed) in the post-eradication era.

■ GERMANY

Germany committed an additional US\$ 37.2 million in multi-year OPV funding for India's polio eradication effort and signed a new US\$ 1.3 million global agreement for 2007–08. These latest contributions bring Germany's total contributions to US\$ 142 million.

■ ICELAND

Iceland followed its first-ever contribution to global polio eradication activities in 2005 with a second contribution of US\$ 50,000 in 2006.

■ IRELAND

Ireland signed a 2006–08 global pledge of US\$ 10.4 million, double its 2003–05 contribution to polio eradication, and bringing its total polio funding to US\$ 16.6 million.

■ JAPAN

Japan provided US\$ 13.4 million for OPV for SIAs in priority countries. Eighty per cent of this funding was earmarked for Ethiopia, India, Nigeria and Pakistan. Japan's 2006 contributions bring its total polio commitments to US\$ 312 million.

■ LUXEMBOURG

Luxembourg pledged US\$ 2.76 million for 2006–08, bringing its total polio contributions to US\$ 9.08 million. Luxembourg is the highest per capita government donor to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, having provided US\$ 19.14 for every man, woman and child in Luxembourg.

■ MONACO

Monaco continued its support for polio eradication by providing US\$ 78,000 for polio eradication activities in Niger.

■ NETHERLANDS

The Netherlands Ministry of Health committed US\$ 210,000 to support polio work at the Dutch National Institute of Public Health.

■ NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand contributed US\$ 300,000 for global polio eradication efforts through their partnership with local Rotary clubs in the country.

■ NORWAY

Norway signed a two-year pledge to provide US\$ 15.2 million in global funding for 2006–07, bringing its total polio contribution to US\$ 50 million.

■ SULTANATE OF OMAN

The Sultanate of Oman continued its support for global polio eradication efforts by contributing US\$ 100,000 in 2006, bringing its total contribution to US\$ 200,000.

■ ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Rotary International, a spearheading partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, is the largest private sector donor to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, and the second-largest contributor, after the Government of the United States. In 2006, Rotary International contributed US\$ 22.6 million to support polio eradication efforts in priority countries, bringing its total contributions to more than US\$ 616 million.

■ RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The Russian Federation, during its Presidency of the G8 in 2006, kept polio eradication on the G8 agenda during the Summit at St Petersburg and pledged US\$ 10 million in global funding for 2006–08, a 25% increase over its 2003–05 funding.

■ SPAIN

In 2006, Spain, through its Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional, continued its strong support by providing US\$ 1.25 million for global polio eradication activities, including funding to maintain and improve certification standard surveillance in Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, and Namibia.

TRIBUTE TO KOFI ANNAN

The former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan played a critical leadership role in the strong progress made in global polio eradication efforts over the past 10 years. When he assumed his office in 1997, polio was endemic in most of Africa, South-East Asia and the Eastern Mediterranean; even Europe had not been certified polio-free. By the end of his tenure in 2006, only four countries in the world reported indigenous wild poliovirus transmission, and only one of these – Nigeria – is in Africa.

The former Secretary-General personally raised the polio eradication in bilateral meetings with Heads of State of key polio-affected and donor countries and regularly included the subject in his speeches at major events. In 2006, Mr. Annan took some extraordinary actions to engage leaders of polio-endemic countries, writing to the Heads of State to express his concern and that of the international community at the increase in the number of reported polio cases. His message of alarm caught the attention of the Heads of State and helped mobilize efforts to improve the quality of polio immunization activities.

Noting that the program faced a critical funding gap for implementing activities in 2006, the Secretary-General also took the initiative to write to the Kings and Heads of Government of the Gulf Cooperation Council member states requesting that they partner in this global effort and provide financial resources. Contributions and pledges are now being received in response to his request. Mr. Annan also contacted the leaders of a number of G8 countries, urging them to fulfil their funding commitments for polio eradication.



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■ **UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)**

In 2006, spearheading partner UNICEF provided funding for polio eradication activities through several channels:

Regular Resources: UNICEF allocated regular resources of US\$ 12 million for polio activities in Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nigeria, Angola, Namibia and Sudan.

National Committees: UNICEF National Committees in Switzerland, Iceland, Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom together contributed US\$ 954,000 for polio eradication activities in priority countries.

UNICEF Country Offices: UNICEF offices in Angola, Bangladesh, DR Congo, India and Namibia locally reprogrammed US\$ 1.7 million in funding for polio eradication activities.

■ **UNITED KINGDOM'S DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DFID)**

DFID's US\$ 53.65 million in global and country-specific funding in 2006 brought its total polio contributions to more than US\$ 600 million. DFID

complemented its flexible global funding with support for Pakistan, India, Somalia, Indonesia and Myanmar, as it continued to take action on the pledge of G8 leaders at the 2005 G8 Summit at Gleneagles to "continue or increase" funding for 2006–08.

■ **UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION (UNF)**

In 2006, the UNF provided US\$ 3.34 million for surveillance in WHO's AFR and EMR regions, for OPV for Myanmar and operations costs for Nigeria, while also continuing its support to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative's resource mobilization efforts.

■ **USAID**

US Congress in its fiscal year 2006 allocated US\$ 32 million through USAID to support global polio eradication efforts. In addition, USAID's Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) provided US\$ 200,000 for polio eradication activities in south/central Somalia. USAID's total contributions to polio eradication are more than US\$ 322 million.

■ **WORLD BANK**

The World Bank provided a US\$ 6 million grant to Afghanistan for the purchase of OPV in 2006–07. Nigeria and Pakistan continued to benefit from the World Bank Investment Partnership for Polio, which sees the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Rotary International, CDC and UNF providing funding to allow countries to buy down to zero World Bank loans for OPV, in effect turning the loans into grants. This innovative financing mechanism has since 2003 facilitated the purchase of US\$ 165.5 million of OPV in Nigeria and Pakistan.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ACPE	Advisory Committee on Poliomyelitis Eradication
AFP	Acute flaccid paralysis
AFRO	WHO Regional Office for Africa
AMRO	WHO Regional Office for the Americas
CDC	US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
cVDPV	Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus
DFID	UK Department for International Development
EC	European Commission
EMRO	WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean
EURO	WHO Regional Office for Europe
EPI	Expanded Programme on Immunization
GAP III	WHO Global Action Plan to minimize poliovirus facility associated risk in the post-eradication/post-OPV era
GAVI Alliance	Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization
GCC	Global Commission for the Certification of the Eradication of Poliomyelitis
ICC	Interagency Coordinating Committee
IFFIm	International Financing Facility for Immunization
IPV	Inactivated polio vaccine
ITN	Insecticide-treated net
mOPV	Monovalent oral polio vaccine
NCC	National Certification Committee
NID	National Immunization Days
OIC	Organization of the Islamic Conference
OPV	Oral polio vaccine
RCC	Regional Certification Commission
RED	Reaching Every District
SEARO	WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia
SIA	Supplementary immunization activity
SNID	Sub-national Immunization Days
tOPV	Trivalent oral polio vaccine
UN	United Nations
UNF	United Nations Foundation
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAPP	Vaccine-associated paralytic polio
VDPV	Vaccine-derived poliovirus
WHA	World Health Assembly
WHO	World Health Organization
WPRO	WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific

Success will ensure
a gift in perpetuity
to children of future
generations.

Success is the
only option.



PHOTO © UNICEF/RAVI KUMAR GUPTA

A child is immunized in Bihar, India.

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POLIO

GLOBAL
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INITIATIVE