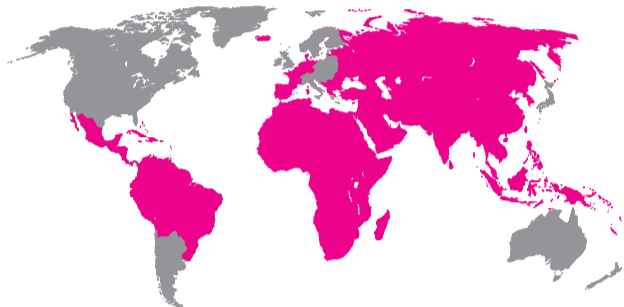


# POLIO FACT SHEET

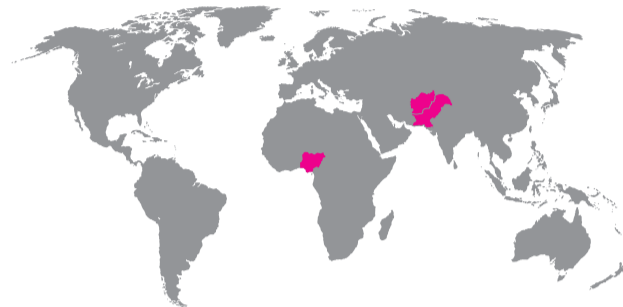
## The Basics

### What is Polio?

Polio is a crippling and potentially fatal infectious disease which Rotary has been working hard to eradicate globally since 1985.



In 1985, when Rotary began its pledge, there were 125 polio endemic countries.



In 2018, there are now just three, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria.



Rotary has helped immunise over 2.5 billion children globally since 1985.

2.5 billion



Polio mainly affects children under the age of 5.



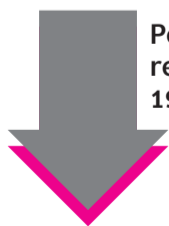
It costs just 20p to protect a child with a life changing oral polio vaccine.



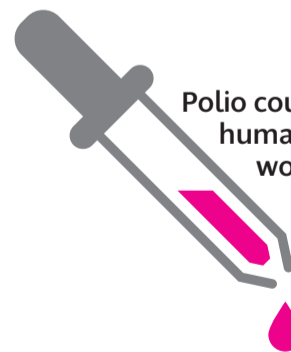
**BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation**

Every £1 raised will be matched by an additional £2 from The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Reduced by **99.9%**



Polio cases across the world have reduced by 99.9% from 350,000 cases in 1988 to just 22 in 2017.



Polio could be just the second human disease to be eradicated worldwide in history.

### The Future

We are closer than we have ever been to eradicating polio, but the job must be finished. Although many countries are no longer polio-endemic, they are still at risk of the disease returning, making continued immunisation programmes vitally important. Failure to eradicate polio could result in as many as 200,000 new cases worldwide every year within a decade. That's why Rotarians, governments, nongovernmental organisations and the public are working together to raise the additional \$1.5 billion needed to eradicate polio for good. Together we can beat polio.

#### Find out more

For information on **Purple4Polio** visit: [rotarygbi.org](http://rotarygbi.org)  
or The Global Polio Eradication Initiative visit: [polioeradication.org](http://polioeradication.org)

Rotary  
Great Britain & Ireland

