

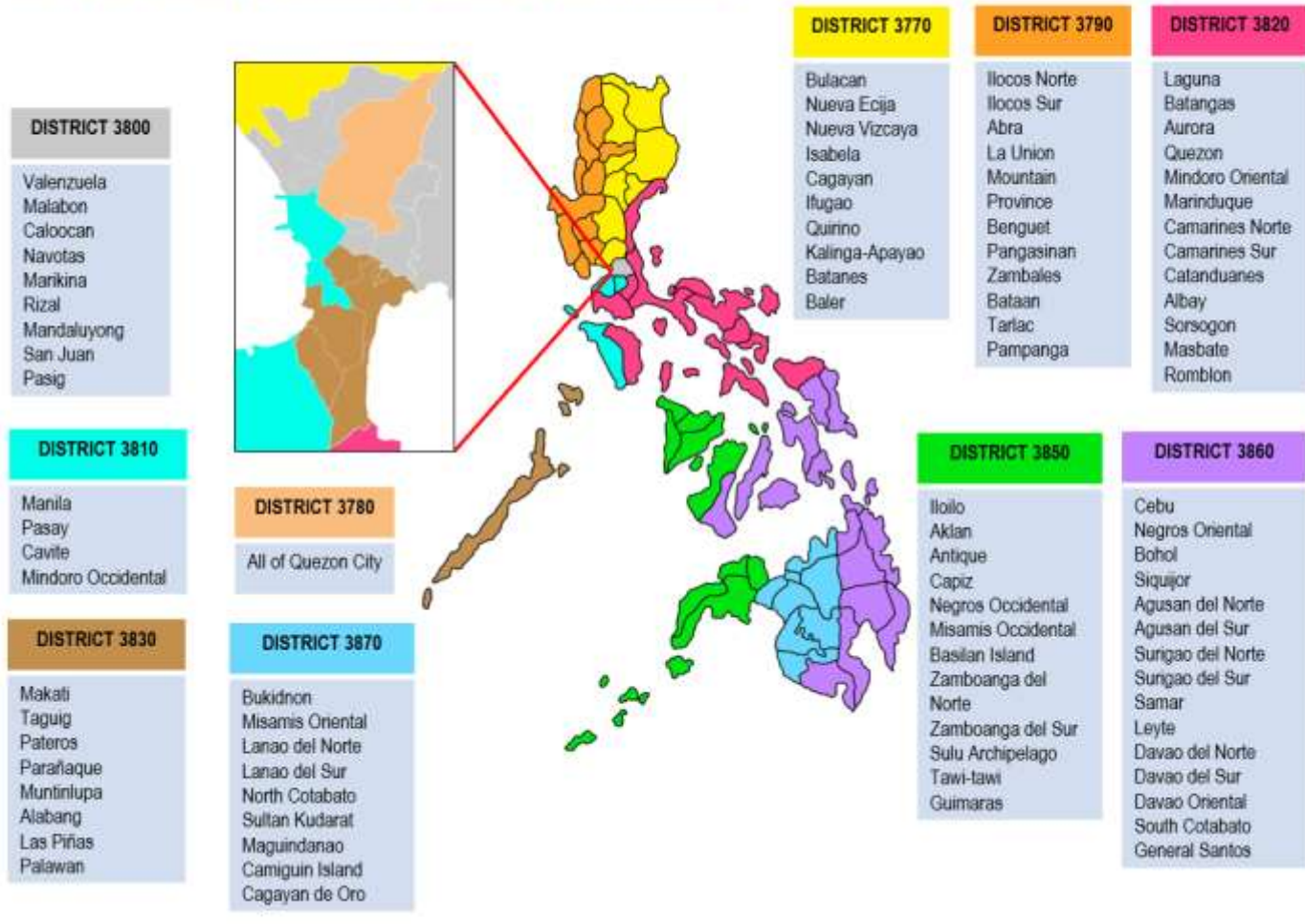


The Philippine Polio Eradication Story
Presented at the 2019 Manila Rotary Institute
By PDG Oscar “Oskie” C. de Venecia

Past Rotary International District Governor, District 3830, 1988-1989
Chairman, National PolioPlus Immunization Committee, 1992–2004
“End Polio Now” R.I. Coordinator for Zone 7A (Philippines and Indonesia),
July 2015-June 2018

Fellow Rotarians and friends,
Earlier, you heard from Past R.I. Director Rafael Hechanova how Rotary's global campaign for polio eradication began right here in the Philippines...how with the first dose of oral polio vaccine administered by then RI President James Bomar to a Filipino child in Makati City on September 29, 1979, Rotary planted the seeds of hope for the total eradication of polio from the face of the earth.

Map of Rotary Districts in the Philippines



Now, let me tell you how the Philippines successfully eradicated wild polio and was certified as polio-free by the World Health Organization together with all countries under its Western Pacific Regional jurisdiction.



James L. Bomar Jr., then RI president, put the first drops of vaccine into a child's mouth.



**AGREEMENT BETWEEN PHILIPPINE MINISTRY OF HEALTH
AND
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FUNDING FOR VACCINES**

Rotary International, an Illinois not for profit corporation ("Rotary"), through its Health, Hunger and Humanity Program, agrees to assist the Philippine Ministry of Health (the "Ministry of Health") in its expanded immunization program. Rotary agrees to provide funds for the purchase and supply of polio vaccines over a five-year period, in accordance with the following schedule of funds needed to provide three doses of vaccine for approximately 5,300,000 children:

YEAR	FUNDS
1	\$ 212,000
2	183,000
3	123,500
4	136,500
5	47,000
	<u>\$ 502,000</u>

The Ministry of Health agrees to pay all expenses of administering the vaccine including transportation of vaccines from Manila to the distribution points, and sundry expenses.

"HOLD HARMLESS" AGREEMENT

Rotary International expressly disclaims any guarantee or warranty of any kind, express or implied, with respect to the quality, fitness or merchantability of vaccines, purchased or donated, supplied to the Ministry of Health or any other party who might become the ultimate beneficiary of Rotary's contribution through the Philippine Ministry of Health or any other party who might become the ultimate beneficiary of Rotary's contribution through the Philippine Ministry of Health and The Ministry of Health shall indemnify and hold Rotary International, its officers, directors, agents, representatives, employees, and member clubs and Rotarians and THE ROTARY FOUNDATION, its officers, agents, representatives and employees harmless from and against all liability, loss, cost or expense, including without limitation reasonable attorney's fees and costs of litigation, which any party indemnified hereunder may sustain, by reason of any injury or harm to any party resulting directly or indirectly, from the vaccines or the immunizations to be provided hereunder.

REIMBURSEMENT FOR VACCINES

The Ministry of Health will show the order for polio vaccines through the World Health Organization, and Rotary will reimburse such costs, in accordance with and to the extent of the costs provided in the schedule hereinbefore mentioned upon presentation of itemized receipts or invoices representing such costs. Such costs will include all freight costs for Manila, but not those distribution costs within the Philippines. In the event that Rotary provides some vaccines through donations from acceptable pharmaceutical firms, Rotary provides some vaccines through donations from acceptable pharmaceutical firms, its financial commitment under the above-mentioned schedule may at Rotary's option be decreased proportionately.

AGREEMENTS

The Ministry of Health will provide Rotary with a semi-annual report on the number of infants immunized. The Ministry of Health agrees to provide Rotary with a comparative report on the annual recorded incidence of polio in the Philippines in the age brackets covered by this cooperative program. At the end of the project, the Ministry of Health will provide to Rotary an evaluation report of the program. The Ministry of Health will ensure that all vaccines provided by Rotary will be provided free of cost to the recipients, and that none of the vaccines will be made available to any person or firm for commercial use. The Ministry of Health agrees that Rotarians and Rotary clubs be encouraged and authorized to participate in appropriate stages of this program in accordance with provisions of the Ministry of Health.

TERMINATION

Rotary reserves the right to terminate the immunization program hereunder in the event the Ministry of Health fails to perform or satisfy any of its responsibilities hereunder.

LIAISON

For the purpose of communication between the parties hereto, each shall appoint a liaison person, and shall promptly notify the other in the event of any change in such appointment.

It is intended that Rotary will commence this program in or about October, 1979.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have executed this instrument this 29th day of September, 1979.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

BY: *James R. Bonawitje*

WITNESSES:

Antonio Santos

PHILIPPINE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

BY: *Donna*

Spencer

The 1979 agreement between Rotary International and the Philippine Ministry of Health for a joint multi-year effort to immunize children against polio.



The funds from the Rotary's 3H Grant with total amount of \$702, 000 was to immunize 6 Million children against polio over a period of 5 years. The pilot immunization program was held in Mabalacat and Angeles City, Pampanga with PDG Ruben Henson, developing immunization plan which became a program for polio inoculations, including a procedural manual that later was used throughout the Philippines for Polio inoculations.

The U.N. launched the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) and invited Rotary to become a partner, together with WHO, UNICEF, CDC, and participating governments. Other organizations such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation would later join to make the EPI a shining example for private-public partnerships in the fight against diseases in the late 20th century and into the 21st century.

Also in 1986, R.I. created the National PolioPlus Immunization Committee in the Philippines. It was headed by PDG Antonio Tambunting together with PDG Mariano Ilano. Both laid the foundations of PolioPlus in the Philippines through fundraising and information campaigns nationwide.

In 1988, Rotarians worldwide raised US\$247 million for PolioPlus, more than double their fundraising goal of \$120 million. The World Health Assembly passed a resolution to eradicate polio, setting up the launch of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI). At that time more than 125 countries were polio-endemic.

In 1992, in preparation for the National Immunization Days (NIDs) and to ensure the successful implementation of the Polio eradication strategy, the Department of Health, as the lead agency, organized working committees and one of them was the N.I.D. Social Mobilization and Information, Education and Communication Committee to work closely with DOH, donors, Rotary districts and clubs to meet the N.I.D needs. The DOH assigned this Committee to Rotary, with yours truly as chairman.

In 1993, the Philippines initiated its First National Immunization Day. That was the start of the many more years that the National PolioPlus Committee, travelled nationwide to oversee the immunization coverage by health workers, Rotarians and volunteers.

Philippine Rotarians assisted the DOH and the major EPI partners to support the operations and social mobilization activities, as well as the transportation, staffing, refrigeration, supplies for health workers, surveillance, and spreading the word through radio, posters, and public announcements, to be sure parents are aware of the campaign and the benefits of immunization and to help health workers get children vaccinated during the N.I.D.

Every year, health workers and volunteers, assisted by Rotarians, worked hard to reach children for immunization in their areas, sometimes heroically. There was an incident of 2 Filipina nurse volunteers carrying polio vaccines who drowned while crossing a river to reach a remote barrio. When the bodies were recovered, they were holding on to the box containing the OPV.

Our teams were even able to penetrate risky areas and get the support and cooperation of communist and Muslim insurgents after we persuaded them of the urgent need for their children to be vaccinated. The government and rebels agreed on “Ceasefire for the Children” during N.I.D.

Among the innovations used to make sure that children in all households are covered during the N.I.D. were:

- (1) the use of indelible ink on the index finger of a child upon immunization,
- (2) the paint marking of houses of children already immunized and
- (3) the on-time reporting of immunization results.

The Philippine's fight against polio ended successfully in 1996, when no polio cases were recorded. However, no single country can be certified as polio-free. It has to be a whole W.H.O. Region that is certified as polio-free after all its countries sustain:

- (1) at least three years of zero confirmed cases due to indigenous wild poliovirus;
- (2) excellent laboratory-based surveillance for poliovirus;
- (3) demonstrated capacity to detect, report, and respond to imported cases of poliomyelitis; and
- (4) assurance of safe containment of polioviruses in laboratories

In 1997, the last case of wild polio occurred in the Western Pacific Region. She is a 15-month-old girl living near Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

And so finally, on October 29, 2000, after the prescribed 3-year period of non-occurrence, the Western Pacific Region was finally certified polio-free by the W.H.O. Western Pacific Region during a conference in Kyoto, Japan. PRIP Mat Caparas, PDG Mariano Ilano and yours truly went to witness that historical event.

Five years ago, on October 6, 2014, the Philippines launched the Interactive Polio Vaccine (IPV) at Paranaque City, Metro Manila. The second was replicated in Guimbal, Iloilo. The third was launched in Dumaguete City.

IPV launch in Paranaque – October 6, 2014



IPV Launch in Guimbal, Iloilo – October 24, 2014



Fellow Rotarians, it is unfortunate, and we are saddened, that after 19 years since the Western Pacific Region was certified polio-free, polio is in our midst again. On September 1, the Department of Health (DOH) came out with news that there is an outbreak of 8 cases of vaccine derived polio virus in Mindanao and Metro Manila.

The samples taken from the children were sent to the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine and then to Japan's National Institute of Infectious Diseases and they all came out positive for vaccine derived polio virus.

That is why in the Philippines, Rotary renewed its vigilance and collaboration with the Department of Health and other partner organizations. This was sealed with the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement last September 20, 2019 with the DOH lead by Secretary Francisco Duque III and the District Governors of the 10 Philippine Rotary Districts.



Signing of Memorandum of Agreement between the department of Health and the Ten Rotary Districts for Polio Eradication.





Signing of Memorandum of Agreement between the department of Health and the Ten Rotary Districts for Polio Eradication.



Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of Health and Ten Rotary Districts

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

This agreement is entered into and executed by and between:

The **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH)**, a government agency created and existing under the laws of the Republic of the Philippines, with principal office at San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila, Philippines represented by **HONORABLE FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MD, MSc**, in his capacity as the Secretary of Health, herein referred to as the **"FIRST PARTY"**;

-and-

The **TEN PHILIPPINE ROTARY DISTRICTS**, an organization organized and existing under the laws of the Philippines, with principal office address at Rotary Center Bldg. Don A. Roces cor Mother Ignacia Brgy, Paligsatan, Quezon City, duly represented by Rotary International Director Rafael Garcia, End-Polio Now Zone Coordinator Mary Anne Solomon and the respective District Governors as the **"SECOND PARTY"**

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 10152, otherwise known as the "Mandatory Infants and Children Health Immunization Act of 2011" requires that all children under five years old be given immunization against vaccine-preventable diseases;

WHEREAS, the State recognizes its mandate to provide equitable and accessible quality healthcare for all Filipinos, which includes healthcare programs such as immunization that help protect adults and children against diseases like polio;

WHEREAS, from January to December 2018, only seventy two percent (72%) of the target population in the National Capital Region were immunized with oral polio vaccine;

WHEREAS, on 17 August 2019, the Department of Health issued a statement saying that the Philippines is currently at a high risk for transmission of polio virus because of low vaccination coverage, poor early surveillance, and substandard sanitation practices;

WHEREAS, in response to the low vaccination coverage, the Department of Health will conduct heightened polio awareness and vaccination campaign from 1 - 14 October 2019;

WHEREAS, the **DOH** and the **TEN PHILIPPINE ROTARY DISTRICTS** recognize the importance of collaboration and partnership in order to achieve the objectives of the heightened polio awareness and vaccination campaign;

NOW THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the foregoing premises, the parties hereby agree as follows:

1. Responsibilities of the FIRST PARTY. - The FIRST PARTY shall:

- 1.1. Be the overall lead agency in implementing the oral polio vaccination including development of guidelines and provision of vaccines;
- 1.2. Designate a focal person who will oversee the entire program implementation;
- 1.3. Provide necessary support to ensure participation of all concerned DOH units and personnel in all relevant meetings and activities with regard to the implementation of the immunization program;

- 1.4. Involve the **SECOND PARTY** in the planning, coordination, and timely implementation of the program;
- 1.5. Organize avenues for the conduct of program monitoring and evaluation.

2. Responsibilities of the SECOND PARTY. - The SECOND PARTY shall:

- 2.1. Participate in the planning, coordination and provide full support to the **FIRST PARTY** in the implementation of the polio vaccination campaign;
- 2.2. Designate a focal person who shall coordinate with the **FIRST PARTY** concerning the implementation of the polio vaccination campaign;
- 2.3. Provide necessary support to ensure participation of its concerned personnel in all relevant meetings and activities with regard to the implementation of the vaccination program;
- 2.4. Administer assistance to the **FIRST PARTY** in the implementation of the polio vaccination by way of:
 - 2.4.1. Community mobilization;
 - 2.4.2. Information dissemination;
 - 2.4.3. Manpower augmentation; and
 - 2.4.4. Provision of meals and snacks.

3. **Use of Name and Logo** - Either party may not use the logo or name of the other for any purpose unless with the express consent in writing of the party concerned.

4. **Effectivity and Duration** - This agreement shall take effect upon the signing by authorized representatives of the respective parties, and shall continue to be valid and binding until 31 December 2019 or automatically terminated secondary to the conclusion of the polio immunization campaign, whichever comes first.

5. **Amendment, Modification, Adoption or Deletion** - Any amendment, modification, addition or deletion of any provision of this agreement shall be agreed upon by both parties in writing.

6. **Settlement of Disputes** - The parties shall exert effort to settle amicably any dispute arising out of or in connection with the agreement or its interpretation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, all parties have signed their Memorandum of Agreement on _____ at _____

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
By:

Francisco T. Duque III
FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MD, MSc
Secretary of Health

MARIA ROSARIO S. VERGEIRE, MPH, CESO IV
Assistant Secretary of Health - Public Health Services Team

TEN PHILIPPINE ROTARY DISTRICTS
By:

Rafael Garcia
RAFAEL GARCIA
Rotary International Director

Mary Anne A. Solomon
MARY ANNE A. SOLOMO
End-Polio Now Coordinator, Zone 7

Mary Anne A. Solomon
MARY ANNE A. SOLOMON
End-Polio Now Coordinator, Zone 7

Rafael Garcia
RAFAEL GARCIA
Rotary International Director

Francisco T. Duque III
FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MD, MSc
Secretary of Health

MARIA ROSARIO S. VERGEIRE, MPH, CESO IV
Assistant Secretary of Health - Public Health Services Team

The Department of Health and Rotary are determined to make sure that no child shall be missed during the ‘Sabayang Patak Kontra Polio’ or the door-to-door vaccination. Just 5 days ago, on November 25, mass immunization was implemented in Metro Manila and Mindanao.

Now that 99 percent of the world's population lives in regions certified polio-free, the goal of eradication is **closer than ever**. But as long as polio exists anywhere, it's a threat to children everywhere.



Continued vigilance is needed to protect these gains and ensure that polio does not return. Immunization and surveillance activities must continue to rapidly detect a potential re-introduction or re-emergence of the virus.

Soon, Rotary hopes to achieve the eradication of the second human disease to be removed from the face of the earth and fulfill its dream of a polio-free world for all our children. It would be Rotary's invaluable gift to mankind.

Thank you.