



The polio eradication initiative in the Americas

Joint Rotary-PAHO webinar

Tuesday, 23 April 2024 | 2:00pm - 3:00pm EST



DD's call to action

Thank you to all the panelists for those excellent presentations! It is always a pleasure to learn more about each other's Organizations and see what we each bring to the mission of polio eradication and disease elimination in the Americas.

At the same time, it is sobering to hear that the Americas still remain at risk for polio reintroduction because of the decline in vaccination before and especially during the pandemic. All our hard-won battles may reopen because of these gaps.

This is the time when we must build upon our partnerships and approach this challenge together – each organization contributing its expertise and strengths to our common mission.

Therefore, I call on all PAHO Country Offices to renew and strengthen their collaboration with the Rotary Governors and volunteers – and seek new ways to support the polio eradication initiative led by the governments of our Region.

PAHO and Rotary will contribute to the wider mission of integrating polio services with other health programs, along with strengthening social and community engagement around immunization

activities. By using tools, expertise and other resources developed for polio efforts, countries can deliver important health interventions alongside polio vaccines – from measles vaccines and other essential immunizations to birth registration, counselling on breastfeeding, hand washing education and more. This also means incorporating polio vaccines into other planned health interventions where possible, delivering more services with fewer resources.

After this session, I am sure our strong partnership will continue to grow at all levels, especially in our countries. These collaborations will take many forms, but all will share the ultimate common goal of helping our families and communities achieve a long, healthy life without interruptions from diseases that are preventable through the marvelous intervention called vaccines.

This collaboration is an opportunity to engage now and protect our common future. A future where polio eradication is reality.

Thank you.