

把焦點鎖定小兒麻痺

今年8月，我很榮幸到巴基斯坦來凸顯扶輪的首要目標——根除小兒麻痺。

這也是個很棒的機會把焦點放在女性衛生工作人員，她們在保護兒童不受這項可以疫苗預防之疾病的荼毒上，扮演關鍵的角色。

這個月，在我們慶祝「世界小兒麻痺日」之際，也同時凸顯了我們持續30幾年領導第一個全球根除小兒麻痺運動的努力，以及我們成功建立有能力完成這項重大目標的夥伴關係。我們都知道這是人類有史以來目標最弘遠的全球衛生計畫之一，我們已經讓全球各地的小兒麻痺病例數減少超過99.9%。

巴基斯坦是全世界兩個仍有野生型小兒麻痺病毒在流行的國家之一（另一個是阿富汗）。我見證及參與了巴基斯坦的疫苗接種活動，在我離開不久後，一項重大的全國免疫活動就展開，對象是4,300萬名5歲以下的兒童。我看到現場扶輪成員的傑出工作。巴基斯坦超過60%的疫苗工作人員都是女性，她們在建立信賴感及說服母親讓子女服用疫苗方面，表現卓越。

親眼目睹這一切，我明白扶輪世界各地都存在著根除小兒麻痺的意志，我有信心我們有正確的策略。巴基斯坦的媒體也非常支持我們的行動，這發揮很大的作用。這個月，在柏林

的世界衛生高峰會中會有一個新的全球承諾活動，承諾挹注更多資源來資助這些時機迫切的根除行動。現在，就需要我們盡一己之力來達成今年的募款目標5,000萬美元，才能完整獲得蓋茲基金會所提供的2比1配合捐款。

在小兒麻痺方面，我們有充分的理由樂觀以對——可是也有一些令人震驚的新事件讓風險再度提高。過去幾個月，以色列、英國，及最近在紐約市一帶，都爆發出新的小兒麻痺疫情。這些報導令人心生畏懼，可是針對每個情況，因應方式都很明確——疫苗有效，如果小兒麻痺疫情擴散，我們必須確保高風險的人都有追加疫苗。

最重要的，我們必須現在就根除這個病毒。如果小兒麻痺存在某個地方，它便會傳播到各處。我在巴基斯坦的所見所聞讓我深信我們能夠且必須完成這項工作，可是只有我們持續致力推動一項有效的策略並以所有必要的資源來支持它，才能順利達標。

透過我們的投入、慷慨，及無比的決心，我們必將根除小兒麻痺（#EndPolio）。

珍妮佛·瓊斯 JENNIFER JONES

國際扶輪社長

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8月在巴基斯坦喀拉蚩的一處人家，瓊斯在餵食一名兒童服用小兒麻痺疫苗後與他互動。

Shining a spotlight on polio

In August, I was proud to visit Pakistan and highlight Rotary's top goal, eradicating polio. It was also a tremendous opportunity to spotlight female health workers who are playing a critical role in protecting children from this vaccine-preventable disease.

This month, as we celebrate World Polio Day, we are shining a spotlight on our more than 30-year effort to lead the first global polio eradication campaign and our success in forming partnerships capable of completing this massive goal. We all know that this is one of the most ambitious global health initiatives in history and that we've reduced polio cases by more than 99.9 percent worldwide.

Pakistan is one of only two countries in the world where wild poliovirus remains endemic. (The other is neighboring Afghanistan.) I was able to witness and take part in vaccination campaigns in Pakistan, and soon after I left, a monumental nationwide immunization campaign took place, focused on 43 million children under the age of 5. I saw the incredible work of Rotary members on the ground. More than 60 percent of vaccinators in Pakistan are women, and they are doing a remarkable job building trust and convincing mothers to vaccinate their children.

Seeing it all firsthand, I know that the will exists across the Rotary world to end polio, and I'm confident that we have the strategy. The Pakistani media

has been very supportive of our efforts as well, and this is making a difference. This month, a new global pledging moment at the World Health Summit in Berlin promises to pull together more resources to fund these time-sensitive eradication efforts. Now it is up to us to do our part and raise \$50 million this year to earn the full 2-to-1 match from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

There's great cause for optimism on the polio front — but also some staggering new events that have further raised the stakes. Over the past few months, new polio outbreaks have occurred in Israel, the United Kingdom and, most recently, in the New York City area. These stories are frightening, but in every case, the response is clear — vaccines work, and if polio is spreading, we need to make sure the most at-risk people have kept their vaccinations up to date.

Most importantly, we need to eradicate this virus now. If polio exists anywhere, it can spread everywhere. What I saw in Pakistan convinced me that we can and must finish the job, but it will only happen if we remain committed to a strategy that's working and back it with all necessary resources.

Through our commitment, generosity, and sheer determination, we will #EndPolio.

JENNIFER JONES

President, Rotary International



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Jones interacts with a child after giving him a polio vaccine in August at a home in Karachi, Pakistan.

Photography by James Rodriguez