



### **End Polio Campaign**

Although polio has not been seen in Great Britain and Ireland for many years, it is vital that we continue our efforts to eliminate the disease worldwide in order that it can never return. Rotary clubs in Great Britain and Ireland have so far donated over £20 million (€24 million) to [End Polio Now](#).

Our efforts to eradicate polio have been described as one of the finest humanitarian projects the world has ever known and Rotary has even been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. The eradication of polio when completed will be one of the most significant achievements in public health since the eradication of smallpox

The purple crocus has become synonymous with Rotary's involvement with polio eradication, and symbolises the purple dye painted onto children's fingers to identify that they have been administered with a polio vaccination.

When Rotary first committed to tackling this huge humanitarian challenge, around 1,000 people every day were contracting poliovirus across the 125 endemic countries. Today, only Pakistan and Afghanistan are yet to be declared polio-free, which is why campaigns and activities such as crocus planting demonstrate the final push to eliminate the disease is well underway.