

3. Health: Polio [43]

Commitment

"We urgently call for mobilization of financial support and will continue to work collectively and with bilateral and multilateral donors to close the funding gap for 2007-2008, and will continue to work with others towards securing the resources necessary to finish the program and declare our planet polio-free in the near future."

*Fight Against Infectious Disease*⁸⁵

Background

The commitment for the eradication of polio is an integral part of the G8's fight against infectious diseases. Polio is a communicable disease that plagues countries in the developing world. The objective of the G8 Polio Commitment is to garner financial aid from bilateral and multilateral donors to support logistics and resource allocation for anti-polio virus programs, specifically The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO), Rotary International, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Since its inception in 1988, the Initiative has been highly effective, eradicating 99% of polio cases worldwide. Current assessments project that four nations continue to suffer with the polio endemic (Nigeria, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan), and that there still exists an imminent risk of international spread through re-infection in twelve countries (Somalia, Yemen, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Kenya, Angola, Cameroon, Namibia, Niger, Nepal, and the Democratic Republic of Congo).⁸⁶ To sustain and improve upon these levels of polio eradication, adequate funding, participation and partnership between governments, civil society, and the private sector are deemed essential.

Currently, a funding gap of US\$100 million by March 2007 must urgently be filled in order to ensure that planned immunization activities throughout the rest of the year can proceed.⁸⁷ Much of this gap comes as a result of lower than expected contributions from public sector, NGO, and IGO donors for the 2006 and projected 2007 funding periods. The only G8 public sector donors that made any substantial year-end contributions to reduce the funding gap in 2006 between September and December included Japan (US\$3.57 million), Russia (US\$3 million), the United States (US\$90 million for 2007) and Canada (US\$1.72 million).⁸⁸ An additional funding GPEI gap of approximately US\$575 million for polio eradication activities in 2007-2008 must also be met.⁸⁹

Team Leader: James Meers

⁸⁵ Fight Against Infectious Disease, St. Petersburg Summit Documents, U of T G8 Information Centre, (Toronto), 16 July 2006. Date of Access: 7 October 2006. www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2006stpetersburg/infdis.html.

⁸⁶ Monthly Situation Report, Global Polio Eradication Initiative, (Geneva), 28 November 2006. Date of Access: 29 December 2006. www.polioeradication.org/content/general/PolioSitrepNovember2006ENG.pdf.

⁸⁷ Financial Resource Requirements for 2007-2009, Global Polio Eradication Initiative, (Geneva), 11 January 2008. Date of Access: 13 January 2006. www.polioeradication.org/fundingbackground.asp.

⁸⁸ New External Contributions Received, Global Polio Eradication Initiative, (Geneva), 1 January 2007. Date of Access: 13 January 2006. www.polioeradication.org/content/general/FRR_07Jan_NewContributions_sinceSept06.pdf.

⁸⁹ Financial Resource Requirements for 2007-2009, Global Polio Eradication Initiative, 11 January 2008. Date of Access: 13 January 2006. www.polioeradication.org/fundingbackground.asp.

Assessment

Interim Compliance Score			
	Lack of Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France		0	
Germany			+1
Italy	-1		
Japan		0	
Russia			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union		0	
Overall			+0.44

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its St. Petersburg commitment to fight polio. According to the GPEI Donor Contributions Report for 2007, Canada has pledged approximately USD42.52 million in 2006 making it the third largest public sector contributor, representing 14.5 percent of the USD293 million in total contributions from public sector.⁹⁰ According to the Report, Canada has also earmarked USD3.15 million in GPEI donations for the 2007 fiscal year.⁹¹

In addition, Canada has also supported other multilateral initiatives to fight polio. On 9 September 2006, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) announced that it will be allocating over one-third of its CAD1.39 billion budget in 2006-2007 for multilateral partners that specifically target the health sector, which include the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, the Canadian International Immunization Initiative, the World Health Organization, and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.⁹² In September 2006, CIDA assigned USD450 million in funding for the African Health Systems Initiative, an organization which works to strengthen health systems and human resources for health in Africa.⁹³ On 5 October 2006, Canada also announced that it would provide a bilateral contribution of USD5 million to vaccinate over seven million Afghani children against polio between October 2006 and December 2007.⁹⁴

Analyst: Haley Hatch

France: 0

France has not yet fully complied with its St. Petersburg commitment to fight polio. According to the 2007 GPEI Donor Report, France recorded a contribution of USD12.8 million making it the fifth largest donor representing approximately 4.4 percent of total financial GPEI contributions from public sector donors in 2006.⁹⁵ According to the Report, France has not arranged any new pledges for the 2007-

⁹⁰ Donor Contributions and Pledges to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative 1985-2008, Global Polio Eradication Initiative, (Geneva), 11 January 2007. Date of Access: 15 January 2007. www.polioeradication.org/content/general/FRR_07Jan_Hist_contribution.pdf.

⁹¹ Donor Contributions and Pledges to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative 1985-2008, Global Polio Eradication Initiative, (Geneva), 11 January 2007. Date of Access: 15 January 2007. www.polioeradication.org/content/general/FRR_07Jan_Hist_contribution.pdf.

⁹² Analysis of Program Activities, Canadian International Development Agency, (Ottawa), 9 September 2006. Date of Access: 16 November 2006. www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/rpp/0607/CIDA-ACDI/cida-acdi02_e.asp.

⁹³ Analysis of Program Activities, Canadian International Development Agency, (Ottawa), 9 September 2006. Date of Access: 16 November 2006. www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/rpp/0607/CIDA-ACDI/cidi-acdi02_e.asp.

⁹⁴ Helping Afghans Rebuild Their Lives: Canada Supports Community-based Development in Afghanistan, Canadian International Development Agency, (Ottawa), 11 October 2006. Date of Access: 16 November 2006. www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/CIDAWEB/acdicida.nsf/prnEn/MIC-1011111756-KXS.

⁹⁵ Donor Contributions and Pledges to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative 1985-2008, Global Polio Eradication Initiative, (Geneva), 11 January 2007. Date of Access: 15 January 2007. www.polioeradication.org/content/general/FRR_07Jan_Hist_contribution.pdf.

2008 funding period.⁹⁶ On 9 May 2006, the French government pledged USD2 billion for bilateral and multilateral polio eradication to be allocated during the period of 2007-2021, however, the budget will not come into effect until its parliamentary approval in 2007.⁹⁷ Although France has provided large financial GPEI contributions in 2006, until it registers a specific funding pledge for 2007, it receives a score of "0" for partial compliance with this commitment.

Analyst: Dana Lepshokova

Germany +1

Germany has fully complied with its St. Petersburg commitment to fight polio. The GPEI reports that Germany has registered significant funds for the 2006 funding period and has also arranged for large contributions covering the 2007-2008 period.⁹⁸ According to the 2007 GPEI Donor Report, Germany pledged a sum of USD13.61 million ranking it as the fourth largest public sector donor comprising approximately 4.6 percent of the total USD293 million public sector donations received in 2006.⁹⁹ Germany has also allocated USD13.74 million and USD13.06 million for the 2007 and 2008 GPEI funding periods, respectively.¹⁰⁰

Analyst: Christopher VanBerkum and Igor Churkin

Italy: - 1

To date, Italy has done little to comply with its St. Petersburg commitment to fight polio. According to the GPEI Donor Contribution Report issued on 11 January 2007, there exists no record of an arranged contribution from Italy for the 2006-2008 funding period despite commitments made at previous G8 Summits, most recently in St. Petersburg.¹⁰¹ Although Italy asserts it is actively participating in the financing of several multilateral and bilateral initiatives to fight polio,¹⁰² the lack of registered donations warrants a score of "-1", an indication of non-compliance.

Analyst: Christopher VanBerkum

Japan: 0

Japan has made an effort to honor its commitment for the eradication of polio, however deserves a mark of "0" for partial compliance with its commitment. The 2007 GPEI Donor Report recorded a USD12.47 million contribution from Japan for the 2006 fiscal year, comprising 4.3 percent of the total financial contributions allocated from public sector donors, and making it the sixth largest contributor.¹⁰³ However, the Report also indicates that Japan has yet to make any new pledges to close the funding gap for 2007 and beyond.¹⁰⁴

In 2006 Japan provided generous bilateral and multilateral funding to fight polio in Ethiopia, contributing USD2.5 million to the cause and USD16 million to UNICEF to combat childhood diseases,

⁹⁶ Donor Contributions and Pledges to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative 1985-2008, Global Polio Eradication Initiative, (Geneva), 11 January 2007. Date of Access: 15 January 2007.
www.polioeradication.org/content/general/FRR_07Jan_Hist_contribution.pdf.

⁹⁷ Projet De Loi De Finance Pour 2007: Aide Publique Au Developpement, Senat Francais, (Paris), 23 November 2006. Date of Access: 22 December 2006. www.senat.fr/rap/106-078-34/106-078-3475.html#fnref88.

⁹⁸ Donor Contributions and Pledges to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative 1985-2008, Global Polio Eradication Initiative, (Geneva), 12 October 2006. Date of Access: 24 November 2006.
www.polioeradication.org/content/general/HistContributionWebOctober06.pdf.

⁹⁹ Donor Contributions and Pledges to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative 1985-2008, Global Polio Eradication Initiative, (Geneva), 11 January 2007. Date of Access: 15 January 2007.
www.polioeradication.org/content/general/FRR_07Jan_Hist_contribution.pdf.

¹⁰⁰ Donor Contributions and Pledges to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative 1985-2008, Global Polio Eradication Initiative, (Geneva), 11 January 2007. Date of Access: 15 January 2007.
www.polioeradication.org/content/general/FRR_07Jan_Hist_contribution.pdf.

¹⁰¹ Donor Contributions and Pledges to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative 1985-2008, Global Polio Eradication Initiative, (Geneva), 11 January 2007. Date of Access: 15 January 2007.
www.polioeradication.org/content/general/FRR_07Jan_Hist_contribution.pdf.

¹⁰² Update on Africa, G8 Summit 2006 St. Petersburg, (St. Petersburg), 17 July 2006. Date of Access: 22 November 2006.
www.auswaertiges_amt.de/diplo/de/Aussenpolitik/GlobaleHerausforderungen/G8/G8_Downloads/6_Afrika.pdf.

¹⁰³ Donor Contributions and Pledges to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative 1985-2008, Global Polio Eradication Initiative, (Geneva), 11 January 2007. Date of Access: 15 January 2007.
www.polioeradication.org/content/general/FRR_07Jan_Hist_contribution.pdf.

¹⁰⁴ Donor Contributions and Pledges to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative 1985-2008, Global Polio Eradication Initiative, (Geneva), 11 January 2007. Date of Access: 15 January 2007.
www.polioeradication.org/content/general/FRR_07Jan_Hist_contribution.pdf.

which included polio, in Nigeria, Sudan and Ghana.¹⁰⁵ Although Japan has provided significant donations to bilateral and multilateral initiatives in 2006, until funds have been pledged to the GPEI for the 2007 fiscal year Japan cannot register full compliance.

Analyst: Haley Hatch

Russia: +1

Russia receives a score of “+1”, registering full compliance with its commitment made at the 2006 St. Petersburg Summit to eradicate polio. According to the GPEI Report issued on 11 January 2007, Russia made a pledge of USD3 million for 2006 and 2007, comprising approximately 1.0 percent of the USD293 million in contributions from public sector donors.¹⁰⁶ Russia has also allocated USD3 million in GPEI contributions for the 2008 fiscal year.¹⁰⁷ As host of the St. Petersburg G8 Summit, Russia selected the “Fight Against Infectious Diseases” as one of its central themes.¹⁰⁸ Russia’s political leadership and mandate to combat polio at the St. Petersburg Summit was lauded by the WHO.¹⁰⁹

Russia also effectively initiated efforts to build relationships with partners focused on eradicating polio. It recently sponsored an international conference focused on the G8’s initiatives to fight infectious diseases in Moscow on 8 December 2006. Delegates from the G8 and supporting organizations shared information about activities and strategies on how to make headway on the St. Petersburg commitments.¹¹⁰ The issue of infectious diseases was also raised in Moscow at the 7th meeting of the Africa Partnership Forum.¹¹¹

Analyst: Maria Kaloshkina and Dana Lepshokova

United Kingdom: + 1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its St. Petersburg commitment to work towards polio eradication. As of 11 January 2007, the GPEI has reported a pledge of USD53.65 million in UK contributions, making it the second largest donor with a financial composition of 18.3 percent of the USD293 million in contributions from public sector donors in 2006.¹¹² Additionally, the GPEI reports that the UK made an impressive contribution of USD37.60 million in donations for the 2007 funding period, comprising 23.5 percent of the current USD159.72 million in public sector donations for 2007.¹¹³ The GPEI Report also notes that the UK allocated an additional USD3.6 million in funding for the 2008 fiscal year.¹¹⁴ In addition to strong GPEI funding, on 7 November 2006, British Finance Minister, Gordon Brown, launched a special bond fund that will be used to vaccinate approximately 500 million children worldwide, against endemic diseases including polio, measles, diphtheria and

¹⁰⁵ Japan Donates \$16 million to Help Prevent Childhood Diseases in Four African Nations, UNICEF, (Geneva), 4 August 2006. Date of Access: 3 Jan. 2007. www.unicef.org/infobycountry/japan_35228.html.

¹⁰⁶ Donor Contributions and Pledges to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative 1985-2008, Global Polio Eradication Initiative, (Geneva), 11 January 2007. Date of Access: 15 January 2007. www.polioeradication.org/content/general/FRR_07Jan_Hist_contribution.pdf.

¹⁰⁷ Donor Contributions and Pledges to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative 1985-2008, Global Polio Eradication Initiative, (Geneva), 11 January 2007. Date of Access: 15 January 2007. www.polioeradication.org/content/general/FRR_07Jan_Hist_contribution.pdf.

¹⁰⁸ Speech by Chief Epidemiologist Gennady Onishchenko, (St. Petersburg), 24 July 2006. Date of Access: 23 December 2006. en.g8russia.ru/news/20060724/1257426.html.

¹⁰⁹ Global Immunization News, WHO, (Geneva), 26 July 2006. Date of Access: 20 December 2006. www.who.int/immunization/GIN_July2006.pdf.

¹¹⁰ Russia Urges G8 to Honor Commitments on Infectious Diseases, G8 Russia, (St. Petersburg), 8 December 2006. Date of Access: 27 December 2006. en.g8russia.ru/news/20061208/1272224.html.

¹¹¹ About the 7th Meeting of the Africa Partnership Forum. Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (Moscow), 27 November 2006. Date of Access: 29 December 2006. www.mid.ru/brp_4.nsf/sps/E7AF1CC8BF1C1A01C3257214004E4123.

¹¹² Donor Contributions and Pledges to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative 1985-2008, Global Polio Eradication Initiative, (Geneva), 11 January 2007. Date of Access: 15 January 2007. www.polioeradication.org/content/general/FRR_07Jan_Hist_contribution.pdf.

¹¹³ Donor Contributions and Pledges to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative 1985-2008, Global Polio Eradication Initiative, (Geneva), 11 January 2007. Date of Access: 15 January 2007. www.polioeradication.org/content/general/FRR_07Jan_Hist_contribution.pdf.

¹¹⁴ Donor Contributions and Pledges to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative 1985-2008, Global Polio Eradication Initiative, (Geneva), 11 January 2007. Date of Access: 15 January 2007. www.polioeradication.org/content/general/FRR_07Jan_Hist_contribution.pdf.

hepatitis.¹¹⁵ The fund will sell long-term bonds to international money markets to raise money for developing countries, with interest on these paid back using future aid funding.¹¹⁶

Analyst: Dipna Singh

United States: + 1

The United States registers full compliance with its commitment made at the 2006 St. Petersburg Summit to eradicate polio. According to the GPEI Donor Contributions Report published on 11 January 2007, the United States submitted a pledge of USD132.40 million in 2006, comprising approximately 45.0 percent of the USD293 million in donor contributions from public sector donors.¹¹⁷ In 2006, the United States was the largest GPEI contributor (contributions include those from the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention and USAID).¹¹⁸ The GPEI Report also notes that the United States earmarked USD90 million in GPEI donations for the 2007 fiscal year, comprising 56.3 percent of the current USD159.72 million in public sector donations.¹¹⁹ Furthermore, the United States annually sponsors an additional 500 million doses of oral polio vaccine (OPV), purchased through UNICEF, and supports National Immunization Days in priority countries, providing funding and technical expertise.¹²⁰ On 6 October 2006, the United States government announced that it would work to establish stronger links between U.S.-based private voluntary organizations and community-based organizations to achieve a higher efficiency in carrying vaccination campaigns in polio-affected areas, providing greater sensitivity to local communication and cultural differences in challenging and isolated communities.¹²¹

Recently, the U.S. mandated polio eradication as a major foreign focus-area. Speaking on 10 October 2006, U.S. Under-Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs, Paula Dobriansky, stated that the eradication of polio is "a key foreign policy objective and one of [the Bush administration's] highest international public health priorities."¹²²

Analyst: Dipna Singh

European Union: 0

The European Union has partially complied with its St. Petersburg commitment to work towards polio eradication.

As of 11 January 2007, the GPEI reports that the European Commission has registered a pledge of USD28.18 million for the 2006 fiscal year, comprising 7.0 percent of the funding allocated from IGO and NGO donors.¹²³ To date, the EU has failed to make an official statement on any new pledge of funds for 2007, nor has it attempted to address the current funding gap of US\$575 million.¹²⁴

The Commission provided an additional grant of USD70 million for polio eradication activities in 2005 through 2006 in 14 African countries. The European Commission Humanitarian Office also provided an

¹¹⁵ Britain Launches Immunization Fund, Agence France Presse, (London), 7 November 2006. Date of Access: 18 December 2006. preview.factiva.com/ur/default.aspx?ss=britain+polio+2006&fr=0.

¹¹⁶ Britain Launches Immunization Fund, Agence France Presse, (London), 7 November 2006. Date of Access: 18 December 2006. preview.factiva.com/ur/default.aspx?ss=britain+polio+2006&fr=0.

¹¹⁷ Donor Contributions and Pledges to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative 1985-2008, Global Polio Eradication Initiative, (Geneva), 11 January 2007. Date of Access: 15 January 2007. www.polioeradication.org/content/general/FRR_07Jan_Hist_contribution.pdf.

¹¹⁸ Foundation Month - Donors to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland, 26 November 2006. Date of Access: 17 December 2006. www.ribi.org/committees/reportdetails.asp?ribiCteeRepID=529&rsID=8.

¹¹⁹ Donor Contributions and Pledges to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative 1985-2008, Global Polio Eradication Initiative, (Geneva), 11 January 2007. Date of Access: 15 January 2007. www.polioeradication.org/content/general/FRR_07Jan_Hist_contribution.pdf.

¹²⁰ Global Polio Eradication Within Our Reach: The U.S. Role, US Department of State, (Washington), 6 October 2006. Date of Access: 4 November 2006. www.state.gov/r/pa/scp/2006/73732.htm.

¹²¹ Global Polio Eradication Within Our Reach: The U.S. Role, US Department of State, (Washington), 6 October 2006. Date of Access: 4 November 2006. www.state.gov/r/pa/scp/2006/73732.htm.

¹²² State's Dobriansky Urges Ongoing Commitment to Polio Eradication, The United States Mission to the European Union, (Washington), 10 October 2006. Date of Access: 15 December 2006. useu.usmission.gov/Article.asp?ID=4A9A00DD-9F85-4911-B87E-2173110E2B6B.

¹²³ Donor Contributions and Pledges to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative 1985-2008, Global Polio Eradication Initiative, (Geneva), 11 January 2007. Date of Access: 15 January 15, 2007. www.polioeradication.org/content/general/FRR_07Jan_Hist_contribution.pdf.

¹²⁴ Donor Contributions and Pledges to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative 1985-2008, Global Polio Eradication Initiative, (Geneva), 12 October 2006. Date of Access: 20 December 2006. www.polioeradication.org/content/general/HistContributionWebOctober06.pdf.

emergency grant of USD580,000 to support immunization efforts to combat the polio epidemic in Yemen.¹²⁵ Although the EU arranged healthy financial contributions in 2006 to the GPEI and through other bilateral and multilateral channels, until it registers new GPEI funding to reduce the funding gap in the 2007 fiscal year, it receives a score of “0” for partial compliance.

Analyst: James Meers

¹²⁵ Global Polio Eradication Initiative 2005 Annual Report, World Health Organization, (Geneva), February 2006. Date of Access: 15 December 2006. www.polioeradication.org/content/publications/AnnualReport2005_ENG.pdf.