The global health community has the knowledge and tools to extinguish polio. When it will deliver on that promise depends largely on funding for everything from reaching children with vaccines to battling misinformation. The last mile of the journey, as campaigners point out, is the toughest. • In April, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative launched an appeal for \$4.8 billion to fund its 2022-26 strategy for speeding up outbreak response times, making vaccination campaigns more effective, and gaining access to hard-to-reach areas. Germany is co-hosting a pledging event for the GPEI strategy at the World Health Summit in Berlin in October. • A fundraising partnership between Rotary and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation generates up to \$150 million each year to contribute to the effort. Here is a look at how that money is used:

RAISING AWARENESS

Health workers are combating vaccine hesitancy and misinformation, which worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic. One strategy has been to partner with religious leaders and local officials who can build trust in their communities.

GETTING VACCINES TO CHILDREN

The GPEI aims to vaccinate up to 370 million children annually through the end of 2026. Reaching them is difficult. Frontline vaccine workers must cover difficult terrain, sometimes risking their lives in areas of conflict such as Afghanistan and Yemen.

VACCINE

Though there is plenty of traditional oral polio vaccine and no overall vaccine shortage, there are demand pressures for the new nOPV2 formula, produced by a single company, Bio Farma of Indonesia. Efforts are underway to expand production to a second manufacturer.

HOW THE MONEY IS SPENT

2021-22 spending, in millions

\$52.7

\$17.8

\$10.9

DETECTING DISEASE

Quick and accurate detection of polio is key to a rapid and high-quality response. That involves testing samples from children with acute flaccid paralysis as well as conducting environmental surveillance by testing sewage for the presence of poliovirus. Nearly 150 labs in 92 countries analyze hundreds of thousands of samples every year. The GPEI's latest global polio surveillance action plan calls for expanding environmental monitoring in high-risk areas through the identification of new sites, skilled workforce training, and improved data collection.

RESEARCH

In addition to the more genetically stable novel oral polio vaccine type 2 (nOPV2), researchers are developing similarly modified vaccines for types 1 and 3 of the poliovirus to use in response to outbreaks. Research is also underway on methods of producing the inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) without using live virus, which would eliminate the need to have facilities around the world continue to store live poliovirus. Even after eradication, IPV would still need to be used in routine immunizations for at least 10 years, according to the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization.

\$1.3

EXPERTS

Epidemiologists and technical experts at the local, national, and international levels help guide polio eradication activities.