

26 January 2009

Excellency,

I would like to thank you for your personal commitment to polio eradication in Nigeria, and for the rapid action you took to establish a Task Force to respond to the concerns expressed at the World Health Assembly in May 2008 on the outbreak of polio in the northern part of the country.

Despite two emergency polio campaigns since May, the polio situation in Nigeria continues to be alarming. However, I am confident that this can be turned around quickly with your continued leadership, and with the involvement of the Executive Governors of the key States. I am aware that in Jigawa and Kebbi States, a strong commitment by the respective Executive Governors has rapidly reduced the proportion of children who have not been vaccinated.

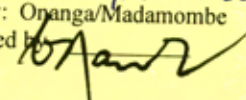
Your continued attention to polio eradication efforts in northern Nigeria is essential. I am informed that 80 per cent of the cases are restricted to just six States. Ensuring that all children are vaccinated in these States will therefore have a significant impact on the success of polio eradication efforts.

I would like to take this opportunity to call on you to consider organizing a meeting with the Executive Governors of all the high-risk northern States to highlight polio eradication as a national priority, and to secure their firm and public commitment to improving the quality of polio eradication activities in their States. The United Nations remains committed to assisting your Government in these efforts.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.


BAN Ki-moon

His Excellency
Mr. Umaru Yar'Adua
President and Commander-in-Chief of
the Armed Forces of the Federal
Republic of Nigeria
Abuja

President Yar'Adua
Drafted by: Rotary/Hadanombe
Read by: Onanga/Madamombe
Approved by: 
Date: