Angie Macias - Honduras

Hi, my name is Angie Macias, and my study focuses on Honduras and its history with the polio virus, the challenges of vaccination coverage, and efforts to prevent the disease. Polio is a contagious disease that can cause permanent paralysis, especially in children. Honduras has made significant progress in preventing polio through vaccination programs. The last reported case of wild poliovirus in Honduras was in 1989, and in 1994, the Americas were declared polio free. In 2024, Honduras celebrated 35 years without reported cases, demonstrating the importance of vaccination and international cooperation. However, challenges remain. Many families live in remote rural communities far from health centers. Poor roads, bad weather, and expensive transportation make it difficult for children to receive their vaccinations. Community outreach and mobile vaccination programs can help reach these underserved areas. Several organizations support these efforts. The Honduran Ministry of Health provides routine vaccinations and identifies children who are missing doses. The World Health Organization and the Pan American Health Organization provide technical guidance and monitor the disease. UNICEF supports vaccination campaigns, while Rotary International raises funds and advocates for polio prevention. Honduras's main priority is to reach children who have missed vaccinations, especially those living in isolated communities. Improving vaccine coverage and maintaining disease surveillance are essential to preventing polio from returning. Overall, Honduras demonstrates how government action, international cooperation, and community outreach can protect children and help maintain a polio free country. Thank you.