

RI PRESIDENT D. K. LEE HAS CHALLENGED ROTARIANS WORLDWIDE
TO HELP REDUCE CHILDHOOD MORTALITY.

THINGS *YOU* CAN DO



**2008-09 Health and Hunger Resource
Group & the Rotarian Action Groups**

In every zone, in every district, more Rotarians are needed to help us reach our goal of saving children, because in every community there are children who need our help. Child mortality is highest in developing countries. But there is not a single Rotary district where local club projects cannot save lives. Every day, in every part of the world, children die for the lack of a seatbelt or a smoke detector. Children die because they have nowhere safe to play. Children die because their parents cannot afford health care. Children die not because nobody can help them but because too often, nobody does. But you and I, here in this room, are Rotarians, and helping is what we do best.

And so it is our job to open our eyes to these needs, in our own communities and in communities far away. Our job is to work together, one club with another, to do what is needed. Our job is to Make Dreams Real. We will turn those dreams of a safe and happy childhood — a childhood that becomes a long and healthy life — into a reality because all of the world's children are our children. And our job is a simple one. It is saving lives with our hearts and our minds and our souls. And if, in 2008-09, every one of us does this job well, at the end of our year we will all have achieved something wonderful.

THE HEALTH AND HUNGER RESOURCE GROUP OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

INTRODUCTION

Supported by Rotary International, the Health and Hunger, Literacy, and Water Resource Groups were established to help support Rotary's annual service emphases and connect Rotary clubs and districts with the information and resources they need to address these issues in their communities. In the 2008-09 Rotary year, resource groups are also responsible for making the RI president and the directors aware of what clubs and districts are doing to reduce child mortality – a special emphasis of RI President D. K. Lee.

The 2008-09 Health and Hunger Resource Group is comprised of experienced Rotarian coordinators appointed by RI President D. K. Lee and hundreds of District Coordinators appointed by their respective district governors to support the goal of reducing child mortality and to ***Make Dreams Real***. Additional information about the Health and Hunger Resource Group may be found on the RI website, www.rotary.org, including contact information for your district's zone coordinator.

The Health and Hunger Resource Group supports and encourages Rotary club and district efforts to improve health and nutrition in their communities, paying special attention to issues that primarily affect children and their mothers. The resource group encourages clubs to conduct projects that improve nutrition, reduce vulnerability to preventable or treatable diseases, and increase access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. By carrying out these types of projects, clubs and districts will go a long way toward achieving 2008-09 RI President D.K. Lee's goal of reducing child mortality.

It is important that each club keep their district and zone coordinators informed regarding the actions of their club on health and hunger projects.

The Health and Hunger Resource Group, Water and Sanitation Resource Group and Literacy Resource Group work collaboratively to promote the goal of reducing childhood mortality.

ROTARIAN ACTION GROUPS

Rotarian Action Groups are voluntary associations of committed Rotarians, Rotarian spouses, and Rotaractors united around a common humanitarian service issue. Through their worldwide networks of volunteers, Rotarian Action Groups conduct international service projects that advance the Object of Rotary.

Any Rotarian interested in the work of a Rotarian Action Group is invited to visit their website, use their references and other materials, and consider becoming a member. While Rotarian Action Groups are formally recognized by Rotary International, the recognition of a Rotarian Action Group by Rotary International in no way implies legal, financial or other obligation or responsibility on the part of RI, or any district or club. A Rotarian Action Group may not act on behalf of Rotary International, or represent or imply that it has authority to act on behalf of Rotary International. Rotarian Action Groups are not agencies of, or controlled by, Rotary International.

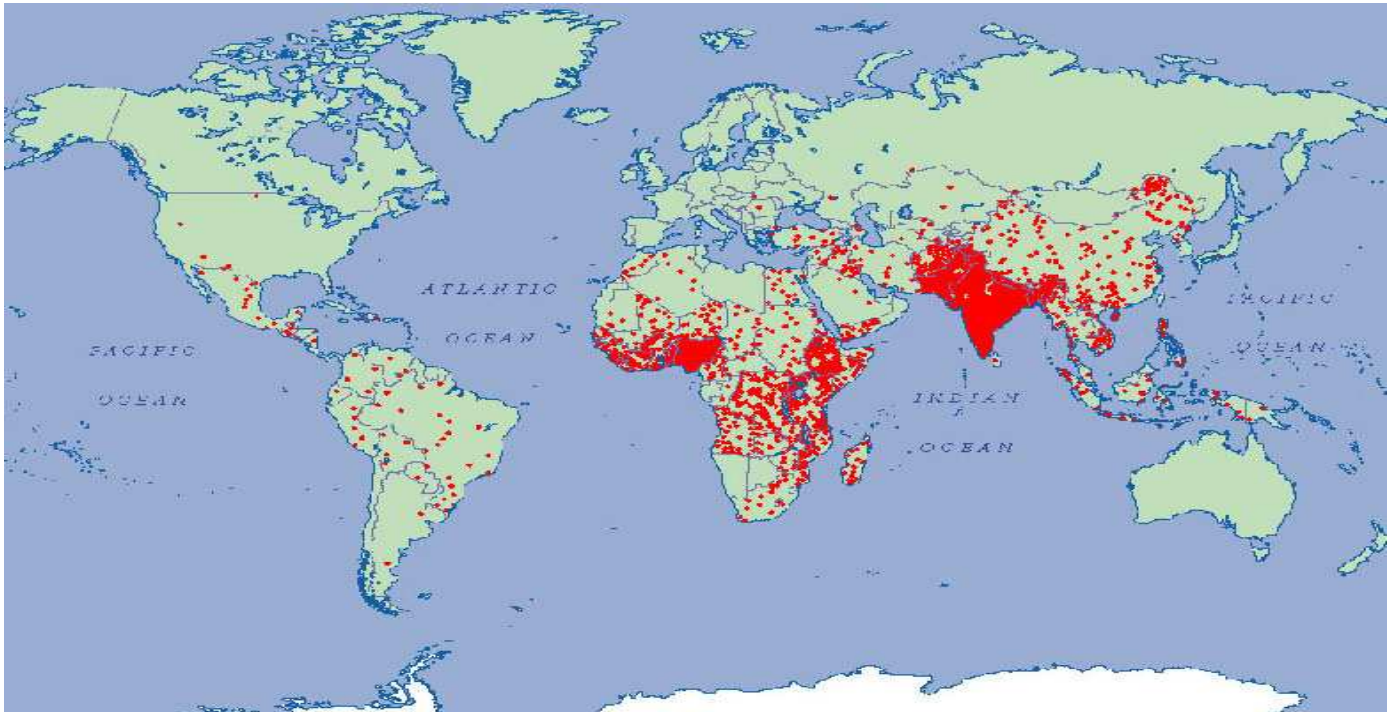
THE HEALTH AND HUNGER RESOURCE GROUP OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

DON'T REINVENT THE WHEEL

Through this document the Health and Hunger Resource Group seeks to introduce the goals, projects and resources of the Rotarian Action Groups as we work together to reduce childhood mortality.

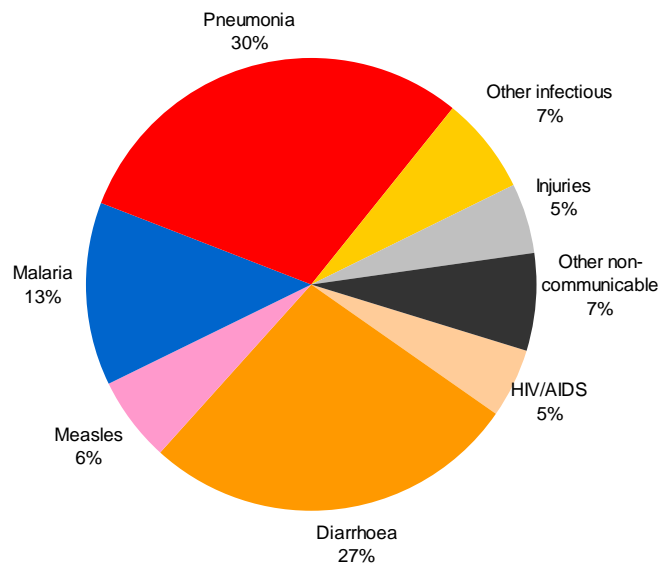
The Rotarian Action Groups provided the descriptions of their activities. They welcome your participation; feel free to contact them.

WHERE DO CHILDHOOD DEATHS OCCUR?



THE MOST COMMON CAUSES OF CHILDHOOD DEATH

Graphics provided by Rotarian Action Group for Population Growth & Sustainable Development, Source WHO



THE HEALTH AND HUNGER RESOURCE GROUP OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

SOME SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

Health and hunger is one of the three major service emphases of RI President D. K. Lee. As part of these emphases, RI President Lee is asking Rotarians to help reduce the number of children who die before reaching their fifth birthdays. Sadly, 30,000 children under the age of five die each day from easily preventable causes. While this subject is not new to Rotary clubs, it can be given extra emphasis when seeking projects and guest speakers and surely reflects our theme to ***Make Dreams Real.***

Child mortality is a complex issue that lacks a single solution. However, a number of international development organizations including UNICEFⁱ, the World Health Organizationⁱⁱ, and Save the Childrenⁱⁱⁱ have suggested the following strategies for reducing child mortality.

- **Invest in inexpensive solutions** – Most child deaths could be prevented by solutions that cost as little as US\$ 1.00 per child.^{iv} These include immunizations, breastfeeding, oral rehydration therapy, antibiotics, trained birth attendants, nutritional supplements, and insecticide treated mosquito nets.
- **Educate women and girls** – Educated women and girls are a crucial component to reducing child mortality. As a whole, women and girls who are educated are healthier and better equipped to understand and address the health risks mothers and children face.
- **Train health care providers** – Many communities lack access to trained health care providers who can provide life saving care for children and mothers.
- **Strengthen health systems** – Health systems, particularly in local communities, should be strengthened and expanded to provide technical health interventions to children, mothers, and their families.
- **Promote partnership** – Partnership at local, regional, and national levels enhances the ability of the world community to reduce child mortality by increasing the effectiveness of interventions, minimizing costs, improving accountability, and avoiding the duplication of efforts.
- **Involve governments** – Increasing government support for proven solutions that save the lives of mothers, children and newborns has been an essential part of reducing child mortality rates in countries worldwide.

To address other major health and hunger issues Rotary clubs might:

- Promote giving blood in your club and your community.
- Invite speakers to present programs about aspects of health and hunger at a club meeting.
- Organize a community project in health, such as a health fair, perhaps in conjunction with your local library or chamber of commerce.
- Volunteer to serve at a soup kitchen, individually or as a Rotary club.
- Develop a project to improve health in the workplace, a prison, or an organization in your community where a need exists.
- Conduct a project in which every new mother at a local hospital receives a package of information regarding good health and nutrition.

THE HEALTH AND HUNGER RESOURCE GROUP OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

- Promote a contest, whereby children write, draw, paint, or use some other type of materials, to present their rendering of health and hunger needs.
- Become involved in an international health or hunger project either hands on, shipping supplies or by providing grant support, i.e. AIDS, World Food Programme, PolioPlus, Operate Heart Surgery, and HungerPlus.
- Prepare an exhibit of your club's health and hunger projects and display it at your district conference.
- Any other activities you can create or that need support from Rotary.

Participate in these or other health and hunger projects to help reduce childhood mortality and the Health and Hunger Resource Group will recognize your efforts with a certificate. Contact your health and hunger district coordinator for more information about the Health and Hunger Resource Group Awards. This certificate may be presented to an individual Rotarian, club, district, or a friend.

ⁱ *UNICEF: Reduce Child Mortality*. UNICEF, www.unicef.org/mdg/childmortality.html, 7 August 2007.

ⁱⁱ *Fact Sheet on Maternal, Newborn & Child Health*. The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health, World Health Organization, 2007, www.who.int/pmnch/media/press_materials/fs/factsheet20070403.pdf.

ⁱⁱⁱ *State of the World's Mothers*. p. 7, Save the Children, May 2007, www.savethechildren.org/publications/mothers/2007/SOWM-2007-final.pdf, 7 August 2007.

^{iv} *Fact Sheet on Maternal, Newborn & Child Health*. The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health, World Health Organization, 2007, www.who.int/pmnch/media/press_materials/fs/factsheet20070403.pdf.

GLOBAL NETWORK FOR BLOOD DONATION A ROTARIAN ACTION GROUP

ONE HOUR OF YOUR TIME CAN SAVE A CHILD'S LIFE

What can be more terrible than the helplessness of a sick child and the despair of the youngster's parents? Who but someone with a heart of stone would not want to reach out with sympathy, encouragement, and the promise of help?

The agonizing reality is that 30,000 children die before reaching their fifth birthday each day. Developing countries suffer the most from these losses

Preventable conditions like anemia are among the most dangerous for children under the age of five. This debilitating condition is the most common disorder in hospital patients and six in ten youngsters under three are anemic. Severely anemic children often die and mortality rate can be 30 percent.

BUT WE CAN HELP, DRAMATICALLY

In countries where famine, civil disorder, and poverty stalk the lives of so many, people are more likely to suffer from anemia. Under these conditions people are more susceptible to diseases, particularly malaria – one of the major causes of anemia. While dramatic advances are being made in reducing the risk of malaria, the treatment of anemia lags far behind. If anemic children are to be rescued from death by an otherwise treatable disease, they need prompt access to safe blood transfusions.

In the developed world, transfusions for children present different challenges. While diseases whose successful treatment depends on a strong community blood supply are less common in the developed world, some diseases persist and require a significant amount of blood to treat. Often hospital blood supplies are pushed to their limits by these diseases.

Leukemia, for example, is one of the most common forms of childhood cancer. Although progress has been made in the treatment of Leukemia using powerful drugs and bone marrow transplants, neither of these remedies are possible without a fully stocked blood bank and the sophisticated derivatives that are prepared from volunteer blood donations.

A youngster with leukemia may need the support of as many as 100 blood donors. Physicians know that communities are exceptional when they can promise the consistent dedication of enough blood donors to ensure the success of childhood cancer treatment programs.

Rotarians are models for just that consistency and dedication. Worldwide, Rotarians have made transfusion possible, they have given hope and strength to the vulnerable, they *Make Dreams Real* – right in their own communities.

Rotarians roll up their sleeves and supply more than 1% of the world's blood supply. Rotary clubs in over 60% of districts work with their local blood banks to help assure supply. Quietly, we've helped save millions of lives – and the need continues.

What can you do? Donate blood at your community blood center. Take a friend. Donate on a regular schedule. Volunteer to help. Engage your club members. Your hour can save a child's life.

To help at home, call your community blood center.

Tell them Rotary sent you.



www.ourblooddrive.org

GLOBAL NETWORK FOR BLOOD DONATION A ROTARIAN ACTION GROUP

BLOOD DONATION FACTS

65% of transfused blood in developing countries goes to pediatric / obstetric care. The World Health Organization estimates:

- 25% of maternal deaths are attributed to a lack of blood for transfusion
- 15% of child mortality in Africa may be due to lack of adequate supply of safe blood for transfusion.
- 5-10 % of HIV/AIDS infections in Africa occur from unsafe blood transfusions.

THINGS YOU CAN DO

- Donate Blood regularly. Take a friend. Call your community blood center for an appointment.
- Volunteer to help your community blood center. Use your influence. Help your community blood center access schools, workplaces, or places of worship.
- Organize a Blood Drive (also called a Blood Donation Camp in some areas)
- Challenge other Rotary Clubs and organizations to participate. See the Blood Drive Handbook at www.ourblooddrive.org to help you plan your approach.
- Start a Club 25 program in your community. A growing number of countries have formed Club 25 or Pledge 25 programs for young voluntary blood donors who make a commitment or 'pledge' to donate blood regularly and to maintain positive, healthy lifestyles. Contact Diane DeConing, deconing75@hotmail.com, for more information.
- Celebrate World Blood Donor Day www.wbdd.org, on 14 June at your Rotary club meeting. Acknowledge those who donate regularly.
- Help redeploy equipment from your community blood center or hospital. Most "prior generation" equipment is the stuff of dreams in the developing world. The Global Network for Blood Donation (GNBD) works with MediSend, www.MediSend.org, to refurbish specific blood bank, laboratory and hospital equipment, train biomedical equipment technicians from developing countries, and deploy appropriate groupings of equipment. Rotary clubs from the United States work with their local blood centers and hospitals to get the equipment to MediSend in Dallas, Texas. Note: only specific items for which parts and supplies are available on a long-term basis are suitable candidates. Contact George Elking, GJElking@aol.com, MediSend's Liaison for Rotary clubs in the United States for more information.
- Encourage your local blood center to develop a "sister" relation with another blood center in a foreign county



GLOBAL NETWORK FOR BLOOD DONATION

A ROTARIAN ACTION GROUP

LINKS

AABB Transfusion Medicine –
www.aabb.org

America's Blood Centers –
www.americasblood.org

American Red Cross — www.redcross.org

International Federation of Red Cross and
Red Crescent Societies –
www.ifrc.org/what/health

Safe Blood For Africa –
www.safebloodforafrica.org

World Health Organization – www.who.org

The International Federation of Blood
Donor Organizations – www.fiods.org

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information please contact the Global Network for Blood Donation.

The GNBD website, www.ourblooddrive.org, has a host of articles, guidebooks, and links to individuals and organizations who support blood donation and transfusion medicine. Rotarians with specific expertise have offered their help advising others. Contact, info@ourblooddrive.org, for additional information

To join the Global Network for Blood Donation send the following information to info@ourblooddrive.org.

- First name
- Badge name (nickname)
- Last name
- Rotary Club / Rotaract Club
- Spouse or Friend (for non-Rotary affiliated)
- District
- Full Address including country, e-mail, telephone

There is no fee or other obligation.



ROTARIAN ACTION GROUP FOR POPULATION GROWTH & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ROTARY CLUB PROJECTS TO REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

The following is an excerpt from a presentation by the Rotarian Action Group for Population Growth and Sustainable Development at the 2008 RI Convention and was offered to clubs and districts to assist them in implementing relevant projects.

42 countries account for 90% of preventable child deaths worldwide. Most can be prevented with low cost interventions like:

- Breastfeeding (1,301,000 deaths prevented),
- Insecticide treated nets (691,000 deaths prevented),
- Oral rehydration therapy (1,477,000 deaths prevented).

Child deaths can be prevented by interventions that are available today and are feasible for implementation in low-income countries where they could reach large numbers of people. The challenge is to transfer what we already know into action.

The Rotarian Action Group for Population Growth & Sustainable Development (RFPD) has experience with projects that reduce child mortality.

PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR ROTARY CLUBS & DISTRICTS TO REDUCE CHILD & MATERNAL MORTALITY

Jointly Issued by RFPD and The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, www.PMNCH.org, which cooperates closely with the World Health Organization, these examples offer clubs and districts project ideas to reduce child mortality.

- Implement a large project **to distribute insecticide treated mosquito bed nets**. This project requires a large commitment to provide people with the nets they need to protect themselves from malaria. By combining the efforts of many clubs and districts a large quantity of bed nets can be donated by the producer at a lower price.
- A **Prevention of Transmission of Aids from mother to Child (PMTCT)** project provides education, information, and awareness with the help of local leaders and the media. Provide HIV testing and counseling to pregnant women. Offer treatment with anti-retroviral drugs to reduce the viral load and to extend the life expectancy of the HIV infected patient.

For more information contact PDG Robert Zinser, robert.zinser@t-online.de, District 1860, Project Coordinator of the Project Save mothers and children in Northern Nigeria.



www.rifpd.org
www.maternalhealthcare.eu

ADDITIONAL PROJECT IDEAS

Improving Childbirth Facilities

Goal: To increase the technology and medical equipment used to perform check-ups and techniques used during pregnancy and childbirth including emergency obstetric and newborn care.

Action: Donate medical equipment to local hospitals.

Project Summary: Work with the Ministries of Health to increase the number of hospitals that have medical equipment and up-to-date technology to provide the best care at hospital birthing centers.

Intra-partum, Intra-natal, & Post-natal care

Goal: To ensure a safe delivery for both mother and baby.

Action: Provide medical care and information to pregnant women.

Project Summary: Rotarians and others in the Rotary family, particularly those in the medical profession, offer advice to pregnant women. They promote and support both the physical and the mental health of expectant mothers, and help to prepare them for labor, lactation and motherhood. Inter-partum fetal monitors can be donated to rural hospitals and clinics, for use in early detection of possible abnormalities that may endanger the life of the baby, and to ensure the delivery of the mature, healthy baby.

Project includes programs to:

- 1) Monitor and record the vital signs of pregnant mothers and fetuses, i.e. blood pressure, pulse, respiration;

- 2) Disseminate information on umbilical cord hygiene to prevent infections, by donation of sterilized materials to maternity clinics;
- 3) Conduct training and provide information on observance of aseptic techniques during labor to prevent infection to the mother and the infant; and
- 4) Provide labor couches and beds to maternity wards and clinics.

Training Skilled Birth Attendants

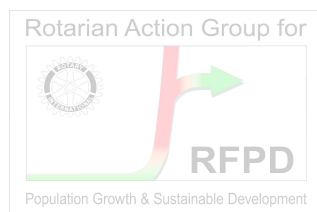
Goal: To increase the number of skilled maternal healthcare workers.

Action: Hold training sessions for staff, including existing Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs).

Project Summary: The number of healthy births and deliveries are significantly increased with the help of skilled birth attendants. However, over half of mothers in developing countries give birth without the assistance of a skilled birth attendant. The project trains health staff, including existing birth attendants to provide the care in absence of doctors, nurses and midwives, realizing their limitations, and stressing proper referral procedures, and counseling.

Exclusive Breastfeeding Campaign

Goal: To increase the number of women who practice exclusive breastfeeding and maintain healthier babies.



ROTARIAN ACTION GROUP FOR POPULATION GROWTH & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Action: Create a public awareness campaign that informs women on the importance of exclusive breastfeeding. Hold training sessions, print posters, create handbills, radio and television advertisements.

Project Summary: Evidence indicates that exclusive breastfeeding, when the baby is breast fed for the first six month of life, improves the ability of a baby to fight infections.

Responsible Parenting Campaign & Training

Goal: To educate men and women on Responsible Parenthood.

To teach couples about the advantages of birth spacing and prevent neglect, malnutrition, and diseases among children.

Action: Hold training sessions on the methods and practice of child spacing. Create a public awareness campaign to be delivered through radio ads, radio-serials and other media that teaches and provides examples of responsible parenthood.

Project Summary: Child spacing saves the lives of children and mothers by helping women space births, so that a new child is born after the previous child is weaned and has attained a level of independence. At this time the mother is replenished and able to undergo another pregnancy. Child spacing is achieved by Sexual and Reproductive Health Education, together with access to child spacing methods, for women of child bearing age. Conducting an effective public awareness campaign to educate and inform women and men on the need for both parents to be involved in the welfare of their child.

Child spacing projects also help parents offer protection to their children, such as shelter, food, and protection against

violence and disease by helping them engage in productive ventures.

Education of Adolescents: Zero Adolescent Pregnancy (ZAP) Program

Goal: To reduce the number of adolescent pregnancies.

Action: Hold training sessions on reproductive health and premarital counseling for adolescents. Create a media campaign that addresses the risk and protective factors that can be used to prevent pregnancy. Educate teens on the benefit of abstinence and contraception through training sessions.

Project Summary: Adolescent pregnancy can be reduced by addressing risk and protective factors, educating and cultivating youth toward healthy behaviors and positive choices. Often maternal and infant mortality is caused by early marriage and lack of information about reproductive health. Work with local NGOs to design and implement location specific solutions. Involve local schools. Train volunteer counselors in each community (peer counselors are very effective).

Mobile Clinics

Goal: To provide pregnant women with obstetric care, especially in rural areas where they cannot get to a hospital for check-ups and/or if complications arise during birth.

Action: To provide mobile care to pregnant woman for regular check-ups and delivery.

Project Summary:

- 1) Purchase mobile rural health van;
- 2) Staff van with a doctor, nurse, immunization facilities, basic drugs including child birth care and child spacing information;



www.rifpd.org

www.maternalhealthcare.eu

ROTARIAN ACTION GROUP FOR POPULATION GROWTH & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- 3) Maintain vehicle and supply of medicines;
- 4) Create a pool of taxi operators with cell phones and fixed charges
- 5) Organize health camps for young women, pregnant mothers and children. Fathers should be involved.

Family Health Care: Classes, Support & Counseling for Men & Women

Goal: To educate the family on preventable diseases, a major cause of newborn and child mortality, and to meet the emotional needs of the family by providing information on parenthood, child welfare, and personal and environmental hygiene.

Action: Hold training and counseling sessions on infectious diseases, maternal health and child welfare. Show families how they can prevent this and what effects they can have on a pregnant woman, newborn and family.

Project Summary: Family healthcare focuses on the health of a mother and her

children. Women and children are particularly susceptible to preventable diseases, such as, diphtheria, whooping cough, measles, polio, and malaria. Health education is provided through parenting classes, preparatory classes for mothers, and classes on environmental hygiene.

Literacy, Micro-Credit & Vocational Training

Goal: Providing these programs will decrease the number of children a woman will have and will create choices for a healthy family.

Action: Create a micro-credit program and hold vocational training and literacy classes.

Project Summary: Create a micro-credit program, vocational training, and literacy classes for women. This will create additional income for the family and will provide better health care for mothers and their children.

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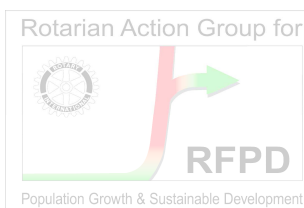
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www.rifpd.org
www.maternalhealthcare.eu

AIDS & CHILD MORTALITY

Why would an entire class of eight year old students say their biggest fear was death?

Current estimates suggest that there are now 15.2 million children who have lost one or both parents to AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. They survive with grandmothers, or in child headed households, often without food and clean water. In the worst situations, children live alone, banding together and hiding outside villages, avoiding detection and assistance because they fear sexual predators, child labor abuse, and the stigma of AIDS.

Rotarians For Fighting Aids (RFFA) knows that we no longer have the luxury of one child at a time solutions. AIDS requires – indeed it demands – that we all think BIG but also think DIFFERENTLY. Nearly 40 million people in the world today are infected with HIV. The center of this epidemic remains in sub-Saharan Africa, home to 63% of all infected persons. Of the nearly 40 million persons infected world-wide, 2.3 million (about 6%) are children less than 15 years of age. Nearly 91% of these children live in sub-Saharan Africa.

AIDS is different because it is essentially fatal. Yes, there are antiretroviral drugs available that can make living with AIDS a fairly normal kind of living. But only a very small percentage of the approximately 40 million infected persons are on these drugs. For all those who are not, AIDS is definitely a death sentence

Of the 4.3 million new infections worldwide during 2006, more than half a million occurred among persons less than 15 years of age. These children are infected during birth because their infected mothers didn't have access to the highly effective drugs that can virtually eliminate mother-to-child transmission. Or, they were infected when breastfeeding because their mothers didn't have alternative food sources and were forced to choose between infecting their child or watching them starve to death. They were infected because of sexual intercourse, often between a young girl and an older man with the misguided belief that having sex with a virgin, particularly a very young virgin, would prevent or cure the HIV infection.

In 2006 alone, the estimated number of deaths from AIDS was nearly 3 million. Nearly three-quarters of these deaths occurred in sub-Saharan Africa and 380,000 occurred among persons less than 15 years of age. As compelling as these statistics seem, they reduce a great human tragedy to mere numbers and serve as a screen behind which we want to hide, shielded from the reality and indifferent to appeals for help.

BUT WE CAN HELP, DRAMATICALLY

In countries where HIV/AIDS impacts families, healthcare, education, and entire communities' socio-economic security and political stability, Rotarians are mobilizing resources at the grassroots level to develop and support sustainable solutions. These Rotarian led efforts focus on prevention and help provide education, testing, counseling, nutritional and medical intervention, hospice care, female empowerment, male circumcision, and abstinence. Sadly, there is no shot to prevent HIV infections, so Rotarians are focusing on nourishing, sheltering, caring for and educating some of the world's most vulnerable orphans. Rotarians bring hope and a future to the world's children and help *Make Dreams Real* at home and around the globe.



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Join Rotarians For Fighting AIDS, www.rffa.org, and help mobilize Rotarians worldwide to combat the AIDS pandemic. Educate yourself, your family, and your Club members.
- Use your influence. Establish an HIV/AIDS education program in your local schools. Be sure youth in your community understand the information they receive about HIV/AIDS and the impact HIV/AIDS has on young lives. Learn more about AIDS education programs, www.rotarydistrict6900.org.
- Challenge other Rotary clubs and organizations in your region to support HIV/AIDS education in their local schools.
- Provide psychological, social, and nutritional support to orphans and vulnerable children in seven African countries through RFFA's Kidz Clubs.
- Adopt an orphan child in Africa through RFFA's Orphan Rescue program. Your contribution will provide food, clothing, medical care (when needed) and education for one child for a year. Recently, some Rotary clubs have combined Orphan Rescue efforts with Kidz Clubs to offer a broader base of support for an entire African community. For more information please contact, seplatt@cs.com.
- Purchase an Orphan Rescue Kit (O.R.K.), www.theork.com, or it's components as part of an orphan rescue project.
- Celebrate World AIDS Day on December 1 at your Rotary club meeting by inviting a knowledgeable local speaker, recognizing a member's contributions to the fight against AIDS, or conducting a service activity to address HIV/AIDS issues.
- Review Project Match, www.rffa.org/match, for up-to-date information on HIV and AIDS projects around the world.

LINKS

Rotarians For Fighting AIDS	www.rffa.org
Rotary District 6900	www.rotarydistrict6900.org
Orphan Rescue Kit (O.R.K.)	www.theork.com
World Health Organization	www.who.org
HopeWorldwide	www.hope.org

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

RFFA can help you with your project. Our Web site, www.rffa.org, offers articles, guidebooks, and links to individuals and organizations who share our common concern and support to fight this dreadful disease. Rotarians with specific expertise have offered their help advising others. For more information contact, seplatt@cs.com.

Also, we work with major public and private partners to address AIDS today. Our partners include Hope WorldWide, The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation, Emory University School of Public



ROTARIANS FOR FIGHTING AIDS

Health, the United States Government's PEPFAR Fund, and the Canadian Government (CIDA). Our efforts are further supported by individual Rotarians and Clubs around the world.



www.rffa.org

ROTARIAN ACTION GROUP FOR THE ALLEVIATION OF HUNGER & MALNUTRITION

HUNGER ISSUES ARE NOT NEW TO ROTARIANS

Rotarians have been feeding the hungry for a very long time because we know that in order to break the cycle of poverty, we must first make minds and bodies strong. The need for our humanitarian work is great:

- Every day more than 850 million people in the world go to bed hungry.
- 400 million of them are children.
- Malnutrition contributes to the deaths of over 3.5 million children under the age of 5 every year.

The Rotarian Action Group for the Alleviation of Hunger and Malnutrition provides Rotarians with an international network of individuals working to alleviate hunger and malnutrition. Members of the action group share their experiences, projects, successes, challenges, and needs with one another to create a pool of information on hunger, build better partnerships, and strengthen our efforts to fight hunger. Through the combined expertise of our members, the action group seeks to create self-reliant families and communities and alleviate hunger.

To achieve these goals the action group provides short term food supplies to communities in need while working to develop the infrastructure needed to enable communities to become self-reliant in either developing or being able to purchase their necessary nutritional needs. The action group works with other groups and organizations to enhance the impact and effectiveness of our projects.

The prospect of alleviating hunger and malnutrition worldwide is staggering but the impact of this Rotarian Action Group will grow as we increase the number of projects and programs supported by our members, volunteers, and partner organizations from all over the world.

Visit our Web site, www.alleviatehunger.org, to learn more.

TEN THINGS YOU CAN DO TO STOP HUNGER

Get the facts. What is hunger and food security all about?

Why have food prices been increasing rapidly and what effect is this having on the poor and the malnourished? Learn how people in all regions of the world suffer and what they need in order to have a society where everyone has enough nutritious food to eat, now and in the future.

Look in your own community. Is there hunger and food insecurity in your own community?

Hunger and malnutrition exist in almost every region of the world. Learn about food security in your community and how it affects your friends and neighbors.

Think globally, act locally. Is there anything you can do at home?

Volunteer at a food pantry or food kitchen. If there isn't one in your community, start one.



ROTARIAN ACTION GROUP FOR THE ALLEVIATION OF HUNGER & MALNUTRITION

Get others involved. What can you do to raise awareness about hunger and malnutrition?

Talk to your friends, families, and neighbors about the problem. Tell your Rotary Club. Make it a group concern, a living issue in your own community.

Put yourself in hunger's place. Do you know what it is like to go hungry?

Experiment with what it's like to go without food. Help set up a day in your club or community where you fast for a meal, several meals, or a whole day. Talk about what it feels like to be deprived of food.

Use model programs. Are there any programs to address hunger and malnutrition in your community?

Often it is possible to find successful hunger and malnutrition programs that already exist in your community. Learn about these programs and ask what you can do to help expand them in your own community.

Become an advocate for food aid in countries where food crises exist, school lunch programs, and education assistance to the malnourished.

Contact your political representatives. Let them know you support adequate funding for programs which alleviate hunger and malnutrition globally.

Check where your money is going. Do the things you buy help reduce hunger?

Find out where the money goes for the products you buy and use your money wisely. Support businesses with programs to help reduce poverty and hunger.

Be green. Are you environmentally responsible?

Break away from a throw-away lifestyle, which can add to conditions that cause food insecurity in other regions of the world.

Dare to Care: Be There.

Open your heart and wallet. Unless we have the courage to act, the chronic hunger and malnutrition will continue around the world.

Explore our Web site, www.alleviatehunger.org.



ROTARIANS ELIMINATING MALARIA A ROTARIAN ACTION GROUP

PREVENT MALARIA

The most effective and cost efficient way to prevent malaria is to provide Long Lasting Insecticide Treated Nets (LLTNs). A key component to malaria prevention, LLTNs can lower malaria rates by as much as 80%.

Malaria is a terrible disease that:

- Affects the poorest of the poor the hardest.
- Causes a 5-30% loss of income for people in malaria prone regions.
- Fills 80% of the hospital beds in malaria endemic regions.
- Affects children under five and pregnant women

Everyone benefits from Malaria control – especially the poor.

OUR GOAL

The goal of Rotarians Eliminating Malaria a Rotarian Action group (REMaRAG) is to provide an LLTN for every child under five and pregnant women in malaria endemic countries.

The cost of for each LLTN is only US\$ 5.00 – a small price to pay to save a life.

OUR PURPOSE

The purpose of the REMaRAG is to acquaint Rotarians, Rotaractors, and spouses interested in the malaria problem with one another and to promote and increase control of malaria. In addition, REMaRAG promotes fellowship, understanding, and acquaintance of Rotarians and Rotaractors worldwide with other individuals, groups, governments, and institutions involved in the elimination of malaria. Finally, REMaRAG seeks to enhance the effectiveness of models for delivering aid to survival efforts.

History

REMaRAG builds on the relationships, reputation, and infrastructure created for the PolioPlus campaigns being used to deliver vaccinations worldwide.

Goals

The ultimate goal is to eliminate malaria from the face of the earth. The intermediate goal is to reduce malaria morbidity and mortality in each country quickly and efficiently through provision of goods, education, and other interventions that lower malaria rates and set the stage for the rapid dissemination of the eventual malaria vaccine.

Objectives

- To develop and promote worldwide cooperation on malaria control
- To connect people interested in malaria control with appropriate projects
- To develop projects for Rotarians and others to contribute to with actions and money
- To enhance the impact of partnerships and groups
- To promote international understanding and peace



ROTARIANS ELIMINATING MALARIA A ROTARIAN ACTION GROUP

Main Activities

- To connect REMaRAG members to partners, partnerships and projects working on malaria control
- To develop financial, logistical, and other forms of support for malaria control projects
- To create malaria control projects for Rotarians and others to participate in
- Develop the concept of 'Adopting a Village' to control Malaria
- Activities to be organized by clubs and districts in different countries, whenever possible, all within the scope of Rotarian friendship and service.

Country Committees

Country committees consist of Rotarians involved in malaria control in a specific country or region.

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ROTARY POLIO SURVIVORS & ASSOCIATES A ROTARIAN ACTION GROUP

OUR PASSION

Rotary Polio Survivors & Associates (PSA) brings a personal passion and different perspective to the issue of infant and child mortality. Until the production of a safe vaccine, polio killed children without regard to the degree of social development. The advent of the polio vaccine led to the ability to eliminate this scourge. The PSA Action Group is largely made up of people who have had a personal encounter with polio, either themselves, a family member, or a friend. Because of this personal interest it is only natural that PSA is dedicated to the Rotary's continued efforts to eradicate polio.

It is also this near death or disability encounter that PSA understands the difference between being alive and living. Being alive means the ability to breathe, ingest food and water. Living means participating in the life around you. It means being able to make a contribution to your family and community life. It is for this reason that PSA members are working to establish Community Based Rehabilitation Clinics in areas of recent or continuing incidents of polio. Proper rehabilitation and mentoring can enable a person to participate in the life of the living and to make a contribution to the society in which he or she lives. We believe this is an important distinction from just being alive. With proper rehabilitation, education and vocational training polio survivors marry and can properly care for a family of their own, contributing to the health and welfare of children who might otherwise not receive such benefits. Polio survivors of today are often shunned, hidden by their families, do not attend school and often, at an early age, are turned out onto the streets to beg. Our work for Community Based Rehabilitation Clinics will provide healthier bodies and minds for these youth.

Our motto is *Eradication to Rehabilitation*. We must remember that when we speak of the number of polio cases reported we are not just talking numbers. We are speaking of real children, needlessly crippled for life. Children who have contracted polio during the past 25 years have done so through no fault of their own. We have a moral obligation to see that these children are rehabilitated, educated and mainstreamed into their communities.

Polio can strike at any age but the largest incidence is with young children.

Today, polio strikes mainly children under the age of two. It is the ever increasing birthrate in the last of the polio endemic regions that is our greatest challenge to polio eradication. Routine immunizations are low in these areas, the majority of births occur at home, and the births are not always properly recorded. All of these contribute to the highly vulnerable portion of the child population that is missed during immunization campaigns. Polio survivors in the remaining endemic regions can and have become convincing vocal advocates for the eradication program.

Our personal experience with polio gives us added enthusiasm and commitment to improving the health of all communities. The polio virus must be ingested in order to find a host. This means that programs to provide clean water and improved sanitation are paramount to continuing to keep the world polio free. PSA members can make a contribution to these programs.



ROTARY POLIO SURVIVORS & ASSOCIATES A ROTARIAN ACTION GROUP

A basic tenet of Rotarian Action Groups is to seek alliances with non-Rotarians, corporations and institutions that are already active in their fields. We have a strong association with an international organization, Post-Polio Health International and are in the process of building an association with the World Health Organization and Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute.

With the World Health Organization we can work to establish Community Based Rehabilitation Centers. Post-Polio Health International offers an international network of polio support groups, many of whose members can help at the community level because they live there and know and understand what will work. The Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute brings a lifetime of experience in physical and mental rehabilitation, which is vital to the success of a living, functioning, and contributing person.

Our work also involves increasing the awareness of Post-Polio Syndrome to Rotarians and their communities. An increased public awareness can increase the awareness of the medical community, especially in developing countries. Once a person contracts polio, polio lives with them forever.

Improved health is the basis for everything PSA hopes to accomplish. We are new to the scene and thus amenable to joining forces with almost any kind of project that is designed to improve the health of the people of any community. We welcome any opportunity to cooperate and work with Health and Hunger programs wherever they might be. We currently have projects looking for the assistance of Rotary clubs and districts willing to be a part of Matching Grants from The Rotary Foundation. We look for projects that will be sustainable in the areas where they are carried out.

THINGS YOU CAN DO

- Follow the advice given at the 2008 RI Convention by Dr. Julie Gerberding of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) when she spoke of the 1,313 polio cases reported globally for the year 2007. Her advice was to turn 1,313 into something positive. She asked those who could to contribute US\$ 1,313 to the eradication initiative. “If you can’t contribute money, then contribute 1,313 minutes of your time to volunteer in the effort to eradicate polio. If you don’t have time, give 1,313 words to motivate others and help inspire the commitment we need to get this job done.”
- Motivate your Rotary club to contribute US\$ 1,313 or US\$ 13,130 to PolioPlus each year for 3 years.
- Focus your Rotary projects for water, sanitation, health, and literacy in the remaining polio endemic regions to aid a faster cooperative response with those communities while at the same time contributing to the future of a permanently polio free world.
- Identify polio survivors in your own communities, seek out local Post-Polio Support Groups and see if there is a way your Rotary club could assist.
- Start a Post-Polio Support Group if none exists in your community.



ROTARY POLIO SURVIVORS & ASSOCIATES A ROTARIAN ACTION GROUP

- Invite a polio survivor to share their story as a speaker at your Rotary club. This always generates increased giving to PolioPlus and increases Rotarians awareness of Post-Polio Syndrome
- Join the Polio Survivors and Associates Rotary Action Group. You do not have to be a polio survivor to join and help.

If your heart aches for the child left crawling on the ground due to the crippling effects of polio contact us for ways in which you can help provide corrective surgeries, rehabilitation, and address mobility issues through personal contributions or matching grant opportunities.

LINKS

Polio Survivors & Associates Rotary Action Group	www.rotarypoliosurvivors.com
Post-Polio Health International	www.post-polio.org
Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation	www.rooseveltrehab.org
World Health Organization	www.who.int



ROTARIAN ACTION GROUP OF DENTAL VOLUNTEERS

Dental Volunteers

Over the past years, I have met countless Rotarians involved in providing humanitarian dental services and they are constantly seeking to network. Through our Rotarian Action Group we post our dental experiences, seek and offer dental equipment, find opportunities to serve, seek volunteers to specific projects, and make contacts for Fellowship.

I have never forgotten the young mother who held up her little four or five year old daughter outside the dental clinic's louvered windows where we were working in Jamaica. They had arrived late.

The mother's words still echo in my mind,

Doctor, won't you please see my little girl.... we have walked all night to get here.

Indeed that first experience in Jamaica changed my life from being a member of a Rotary club to becoming a Rotarian.

The call to serve echoes in the hearts of all who give unselfishly to Rotary.

There is much need in our world and we need you. Join us and help us see another's culture through your eyes, as you report your service in volunteering of your time and talents.

Dr. Monty Audenart
Rotary International Director.
Founding Chairman, RAGDV

This Rotarian Action Group is open to all Rotarians who have an interest in providing humanitarian dental services in our world.

THE SILENT EPIDEMIC

- Childhood dental and oral diseases are often called the "silent epidemic."
- When these problems are not caught early and treated, they can develop into more severe problems and cause unnecessary suffering.
- It's vitally important that all children see a dentist at an early age. Those children that see a dentist on a regular basis are the ones who take better care of their teeth and gums and don't have significant problems.
- Establish good oral health habits early. When a child is 12 months old, you can begin using toothpaste when brushing their teeth. However, only use a pea-sized portion on the brush and press it into the bristles so your child won't eat it.
- When the gaps between your child's teeth close, it's important to start flossing.
- Be a good teacher and serve as a good role model by practicing good oral health care habits yourself.
- Check children's mouth for any signs of gum disease, including bleeding gums, swollen and bright red gums, gums that are receding away from the teeth and bad breath.



ROTARIAN ACTION GROUP OF DENTAL VOLUNTEERS

- Make sure children consume a balanced diet. Studies have shown insufficient levels of calcium and vitamin C may make children more susceptible to dental and periodontal disease.
- Educate all children regarding the health risks of using tobacco products. Smoking is the number one preventable risk factor for periodontal disease.

DIRECTORS:

Dr. Monty Audenart, Rotary International Director, Founding Chairman, RAGDV

Dr. Kim Schilling, President, tthferry@yahoo.com



DISASTER RELIEF ROTARIAN ACTION GROUP

DISASTER!

When a natural or other disaster occurs, Rotarians want to work with other Rotarians to help. Rotarians want to be immediately and intimately involved and to take action.

Where do we begin?

During the 20th century, over 231 million people died from man-made and natural disasters. Of these, roughly 140 million deaths were caused by war and the remainder were caused by conditions (disasters) caused directly by the wars themselves, including mass starvations, genocides, and other deliberate acts.

The statistics are staggering:

- On average, 20 to 30 armed conflicts are going on in the world at any given time.
- In the last 15 years alone, 3.6 million people have died as the result of civil wars and ethnic violence, more than 45 percent of them children.
- 45% of those deaths were children.

Rotary International President D. K. Lee has challenged Rotarians around the world to help reduce childhood mortality.

OUR PURPOSE

The purpose of the Disaster Relief Rotarian Action Group (DRRAG) is to provide opportunities for Rotarians to respond to disasters. Operationally, DRRAG will provide a worldwide structure for Rotarians to participate effectively in disaster response and recovery that will provide both a timely emergency response to victim needs and long-term help in furthering and assisting recovery.

MAKING COMMUNITIES WHOLE

Lee Malany, DRRAG CEO wrote: “DRRAG’s focus is holistic; we don’t want to just assist in the emergency but to also stay the course and help ‘bring the impacted community back to whole again.’ We will attain this rebuilding goal through the power of Rotary and our ethic of *Service above Self*.”

DRRAG will engage Rotary clubs as lead responders to natural and other disasters and encourage Rotarians worldwide to assist in times of need. We can scale to meet the need, whether that need is human, intellectual, financial, material or service. Other Rotarian Action Groups, fellowships, and grant programs can be coordinated through the DRRAG infrastructure to assure cohesion of action, efficiency of resources, coverage of need, and service effectiveness.

Also, DRRAG will yield a confidence in donors. Rotary projects are directed, conducted and overseen by Rotarians, even when we work with implementing partners. DRRAG will account for where and how funds are spent and efforts are being utilized. Rotary accounting and reporting standards will be a part of every project and available to all Rotarians through the DRRAG Web site, www.drrag.org. All Rotarians are answerable to The Four-Way Test and the Rotarian community as a whole.



DISASTER RELIEF ROTARIAN ACTION GROUP

LINKS

DRRAG Web site www.drrag.org
DRRAG Disaster Alerts <http://rghf.org/drrag/>
DRRAG Blog <http://drragmaster.igloocommunities.com/>

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ROTARIANS FOR MINE ACTION A ROTARIAN ACTION GROUP

OUR PURPOSE

Rotarians for Mine Action (RFMA) is a Rotarian Action Group dedicated to building fellowship and awareness amongst Rotarians, Rotaractors, and their spouses, who are interested and involved in efforts to rid the world of landmines. In addition, RFMA assists those who have been injured by landmines.

RFMA was formed after meetings of concerned Rotarians the 2002 Rotary International Convention in Barcelona, the Seattle Landmines Conference in October 2002, and the 2003 Rotary International Convention in Brisbane. While the RFMA Fellowship operates in accordance with the policies of Rotary International, it is neither an agent of nor is it controlled by Rotary International.

RFMA's goals include:

- Promotion of action and cooperation between Rotarians, Rotaractors, and their spouses interested in the issue of landmines and increasing their awareness and knowledge of landmine related issues
- Encouraging Rotarians, Rotaractors, their spouses, and clubs to support projects to:
 - Promote landmine risk education in countries afflicted with landmines and other unexploded ordinances;
 - Support the removal and decommissioning of landmines;
 - Provide survivor assistance to landmine victims and their families; and
 - Support the rebuilding of sustainable community development in landmine cleared communities.

WORK WITH RFMA TO REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY



You can help reduce child mortality by joining RFMA and getting involved in our efforts to rid the world of landmines.

To reduce the threat of landmines, RFMA organizes Mine Risk Education (MRE) programs in mine contaminated countries. These programs can dramatically reduce child deaths and injuries even before the minefields have been cleared. MRE programs are frequently aimed at children and youth and have been credited with significant decreases in mine injuries and fatalities over the past five years.

RFMA also raises money to help clear minefields. Contributing to these funds reduces the likelihood children will be killed or injured by these terrible weapons. Ten years since the Ottawa Treaty halted most of the production, use, and transfer of landmines, the supply and use of landmines has become a finite problem. We are working towards our vision of a world free of anti-personnel mines and believe that this can be achieved in our lifetime.

ROTARIANS FOR MINE ACTION A ROTARIAN ACTION GROUP

Regrettably, many children continue to be injured by landmines. RFMA helps victims of landmines recover their health, mental and emotional wellbeing. Our programs provide training, prosthetics, and counseling to help victims become active and productive members of society again.

Our work is not done, however, after a minefield has been cleared. RFMA works to rebuild sustainable communities even after the visible signs of conflict have been removed. Providing this stability helps children live healthier, more peaceful lives – free from the violence of war.



HEALTH FAIRS PREVENT DISEASE

Health fairs are locally sponsored events focusing on health promotion and disease prevention. While health care is needed worldwide, health fairs are designed around the specific needs of the people they serve.

These fairs not only provide communities with important information about health, they also provide a great social and fun experience for young and old.

Health fairs have been conducted all over the world including in the U.S., Russia, Mexico, Fiji, Philippines, and Mongolia.

Health Fairs can provide:

Eye and vision care

Infant care and childhood health

Emergency techniques

Blood pressure and blood tests

Dental health

Reproductive health

Healthy living for teens

Early cancer detection

Parenting techniques

Wellness clinics

Pet therapy

Smoking, drug, and alcohol cessation programs

Rotarians can organize and volunteer for a health fair in partnership with health care professionals and government agencies.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Contact World Health Fairs – A Rotarian Action Group, www.worldhealthfairs.org, about starting a health fair in your town or city.

LINKS

KidsHealth – www.kidshealth.org – KidsHealth provides doctor approved health information about children from before birth through adolescence.

MedLinePlus – www.medlineplus.gov – MedlinePlus brings together authoritative information from NLM, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and other government agencies and health-related organizations, including extensive information about drugs, an illustrated medical encyclopedia, interactive patient tutorials, and latest health news.

CAPHIS Parenting and Kids – www.caphis.mlanet.org/consumer/parenting.html – CAPHIS provides health information about children and covers developmental stages, diseases and conditions, and parenting, plus many other child related issues.



ROTARIANS FOR HEARING REGENERATION A ROTARIAN ACTION GROUP

A GLOBAL CHALLENGE

A recent study of infant hearing loss tests detected a correlation between hearing loss and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). In tests, children who died of SIDS all had a pattern of hearing loss. Even in a developed country like the United States, 3,600 children die each year of SIDS and this number increases in other countries.

Considered in the context of the world's developing nations, where unsanitary conditions are more prevalent and conditions like hunger and malnutrition are more prevalent, the problem of childhood hearing loss multiplies.

Children who are born deaf or with hearing loss are often left without access to an education and are unable to obtain work. Many of these people, young and old, spend their lives digging in the garbage dumps for their livelihood or begging on the streets.

WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

While beneficial for many, hearing aids can be expensive making the unattainable to many, even people living in the most developed countries in the world. Obviously, a permanent cure for hearing loss would be much better. This may be possible today and scientists around the world are working hard to achieve the goal, however, even the most optimistic researcher will tell you that with current funding and interest, the cure is perhaps 50 years away.

Rotarians for Hearing Regeneration is currently working with the Deafness Research Foundation to help bring hearing loss research to the attention of governments, foundations, and some corporations.

Our efforts to raise awareness include a DVD, *Hope for Hearing Loss*, helps raise awareness about the issue of hearing loss. We have also visited more than 45 Rotary clubs in District 5020 and other districts to give presentations on hearing loss.

THINGS YOU CAN DO

- Get you and your family members tested for hearing loss and make sure your children and grandchildren know how to protect their hearing.
- Create a hearing testing program at a local high school with the help of an audiologist. If there is a local Interact club, get them involved.
- Raise funds for hearing loss research for your nearest research center.
- Contact Rotarians for Hearing Regeneration for more ideas.
- Join Rotarians for Hearing Regeneration. Contact Gene Pankey, Chairman, for more details gwpankey@comcast.net.



ROTARIANS FOR HEARING REGENERATION A ROTARIAN ACTION GROUP

LINKS

Deafness Research Foundation – www.drf.org

The American Hearing Loss Association – www.shhh.org

Oberotter Foundation for information regarding Oral Deaf Education for Children –
www.oraldeafed.org

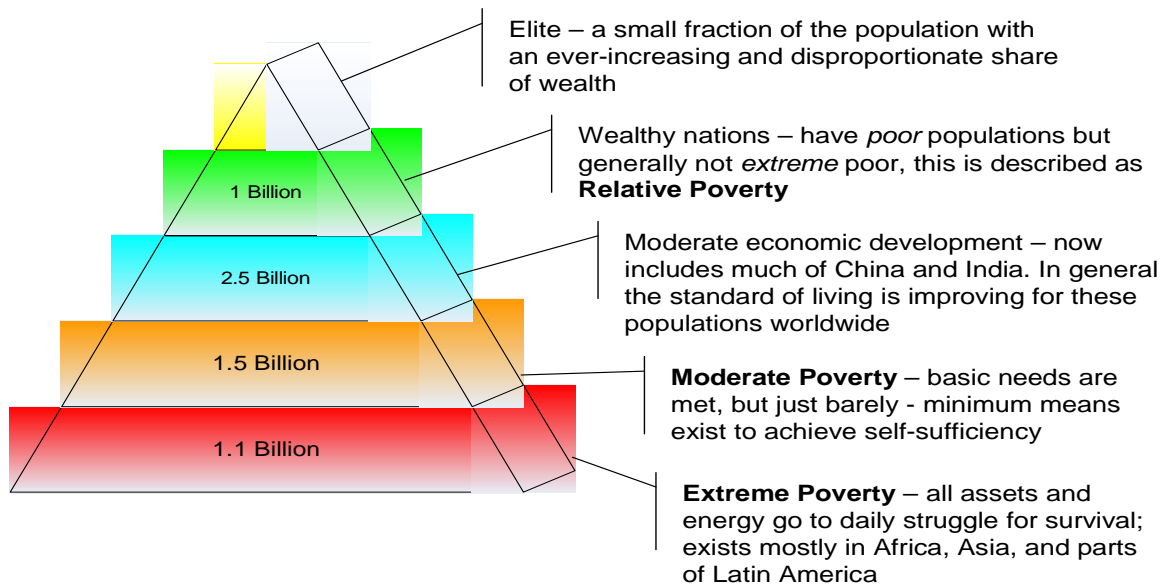
American Tinnitus Association – www.ata.org

Virginia Merrill Bloedel Hearing Research Center (University of Washington) –
www.depts.washington.edu/hearing



ROTARIAN ACTION GROUP FOR MICROCREDIT

GLOBAL POVERTY



CHILD MORTALITY & POVERTY

Extreme poverty means that families:

- Can't afford adequate health care for pre-natal, birthing, and post pregnancy needs.
- May go hungry causing malnutrition for mothers and their children.
- Do not have access to clean drinking water, which leads to dysentery and other diseases.
- May not have adequate clothing.
- Can't afford mosquito-nets to protect themselves and their children from malaria.
- May not have access to proper sanitation facilities.

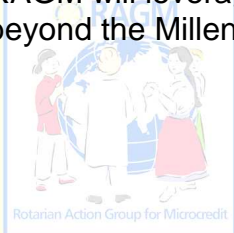
Microcredit programs that provide small loans to very poor people for self-employment and income generation projects can help families escape extreme poverty.

OUR PURPOSE

The Rotarian Action Group for Microcredit (RAGM) is a voluntary association of Rotarians dedicated to ending poverty through microcredit. We create dynamic and global partnership between Rotarians and others to enhance the impact of Rotarian microcredit projects and programs.

We do this to empower people and the poor lift themselves out of poverty, promoting self esteem and social responsibility in their lives, families, and communities.

RAGM will leverage the experience of Rotarians and press beyond the Millennium Development Goals to eliminate poverty and reduce child mortality. Our



ROTARIAN ACTION GROUP FOR MICROCREDIT

energy is directed towards the 1.1 billion poor living on less than one dollar per day and we take an integrated economic development approach to improving health, reducing hunger, and lowering the infant mortality rate.

BECOME AN ADVOCATE FOR MICROCREDIT

Do you regularly read articles on ending poverty through microcredit and microfinance projects? Join the Rotarian Action Group for Microcredit (RAGM) to learn more about microcredit funding models, access resources, and find educational training materials for your microcredit projects.



www.ragm.org

ROTARIAN ACTION GROUP FOR BLINDNESS PREVENTION

OUR PURPOSE

While the goals of the Rotarian Action Group for Blindness Prevention do not specifically focus on childhood blindness and while childhood blindness may not directly lead to mortality, it surely presents an overwhelming challenge, especially among the poor.

The mission of the Rotarian Action Group for Blindness Prevention is to

- Bring together, in fellowship and service, those Rotarians who have an active interest in the prevention of blindness and the promotion of eye health and vision worldwide
- Provide both a platform and a forum to discuss ideas and develop appropriate cooperative programs to further our shared goals
- Promote international understanding and peace through our common purpose and efforts.

OUR ACTIVITIES

Around the world, Rotarian Action Group for Blindness Prevention strives to prevent blindness and to restore sight through a variety of clinics and various types of treatment. When it comes to children, the primary focus is on prevention and early diagnosis.

Major projects include:

- In Africa, children and adults are screened and provided with the necessary medication to prevent River Blindness.
- Also in Africa, where Trachoma is rampant, water projects, coupled with eye clinics providing examinations and medication are helping to eliminate this disease, which primarily affects children and eventually leads to blindness.
- Throughout all of Asia, statewide screening clinics are held in schools where children who are diagnosed with refractive error are provided with glasses at no charge. Others with strabismus (crossed eyes) are referred for surgical correction and those with more severe conditions are referred for in depth diagnosis.

These project are frequently coupled with other projects to improve the overall quality of life in a community. Water and sanitation projects are of particular interest because water is frequently the source of diseases that cause blindness. Providing clean water to a community prevents diseases of the eye such as Trachoma and River Blindness.

Blindness contributes to child mortality. Prevention and treatment of blindness can help improve childhood survival rates.



ROTARIAN ACTION GROUP FOR MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AWARENESS

OUR PURPOSE

The Rotarian Action Group for Multiple Sclerosis Awareness seeks to increase Rotary's involvement in finding a cure for Multiple Sclerosis (MS). To do this we support Rotarian involvement in projects that benefit people with MS.

Currently, we have members in 23 different countries. Many of these members work with MS Societies in 32 countries to help find a cure for MS. To read more about MS and help us find a cure, visit our Web site, www.rotary-rfmsa.org.

HELP CURE MS

While MS is not directly linked to child mortality, it is affecting more and more young people including children as young as 20 months old.

Sadly, after reaching the point in the progression of their disease where they require care 24 hours a day for 7 days a week, many people with MS feel that their only choice is to enter an aged care nursing facility. In this way they can receive the care they need without being a burden on their family. That is, if they live in a community that has nursing facilities for the aged. In societies where nursing care facilities are not available, people with MS are often kept by supportive families locked up in small rooms as the family's secret shame or left to fend for themselves on the streets.

However, there is hope. Members of the Rotarian Action Group for Multiple Sclerosis Awareness are working with MS Societies around the world to support MS awareness and research. To help find a cure for MS:

- Make contact your MS Society and identify a project.
- Hold fundraising events with your local MS Society. Clubs all over the world have hosted Swim meets, Bike rides, Fun walks, Fashion Parades, and other events to raise money for MS research.
- Start a district MS Awareness Community Services Committee to guide efforts to address MS in your district. Contact District 9800, taurins2@vegas.com.au, to learn more about their MS Awareness Community Services Committee and receive the minutes of this committee so you can gain a closer insight to its work.
- Support scholarships and grants for MS research, trials, studies, and equipment.
- Assist young people with MS in nursing homes.



WATER AND SANITATION ROTARIAN ACTION GROUP

A GLOBAL NEED

In the words of former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, “Access to safe water is a fundamental human need and, therefore, a basic human right. Contaminated water jeopardizes both the physical and social health of all people. It is an affront to human dignity.”

The facts are bleak.

- 1.2 billion people lack access to safe water;
- 2.4 billion do not have adequate sanitation;
- Some 400 million people in India and some 40 million in rural Ethiopia lack access to safe water;
- 47% of the population in sub-Saharan Africa, 28% in Asia, and 18% in Latin America are in desperate need of safe water.

The impact on children is almost unimaginable to people who have not had first-hand experience in these countries. Some 80% of illness in the developing world comes from waterborne, water related disease. As many as 8,000 people die every day from waterborne diarrheal disease – the majority of them children.

Confronted by these grim facts, the United Nations acknowledged the challenge the Millennium Development Goals, calling on the world to, “. . . reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe water and sanitation,” by 2015.

Humanitarians around the world are working to meet this goal. The United Nations, government agencies, NGOs, foundations, corporations, and Rotary are committing millions of dollars to help. Even with the best will in the world, there are major gaps between intention and execution – usually because they don’t have partners “on the ground” who can help realize their vision.

Rotarians are uniquely qualified to bridge this gap because they are already integrated into their communities, understand their local cultures, and are sensitive to community values. They are attuned to political considerations and can pinpoint emerging problems. Many successful Rotary projects have demonstrated this very special relationship, including:

- Rainwater harvesting in India, South Africa, and Kenya
- Slow-sand filters in Haiti and Cambodia
- Wells in Guatemala, Malawi, and Zambia
- Irrigation and agricultural development in India
- Pipelines in Madagascar and Sarawak
- Water-based community development in Ethiopia
- Public toilets in Nairobi
- Hand washing in Uganda

Most meaningful water and sanitation programs take 3-5 years to be successful and sustainable. And, most funding organizations seek maximum leverage by sponsoring larger projects. This does not fit well with the annual turnover of Rotary club officers and their changing perspectives and priorities.



WATER AND SANITATION ROTARIAN ACTION GROUP

WASRAG was launched to meet this challenge. Together we are expanding projects, ensuring they are sustainable, and ultimately helping more people improve their life and livelihood. WASRAG provides the continuity, consistency and credibility that are essential to any successful project.

THINGS YOU CAN DO

WASRAG's goal is to have at least one member in every club in the Rotary world. This spokesperson will liaise with WASRAG and ensure their club has access to current resources.

In addition, WASRAG maintains a Web site, www.wasrag.org, which provides current information about Rotary club and district water and sanitation projects worldwide. Share these project ideas with your club to create an understanding and awareness of the need for safe water and sanitation and the wide variety of projects being done to address this important issue. Something as simple as a jerry can full of water at your regular club meeting gives members an opportunity to see just how heavy it really is – and that children, usually girls, are carrying these burdens every day.

Liaise with other clubs who are already doing projects. Organize a District Water and Sanitation Conference with other clubs in your District. WASRAG can provide a set of posters, brochures, and a DVD titled *Rotary, the Water Story*, to facilitate discussions and get you started.

How can the Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group help you with your project?

Visit our Web site, www.wasrag.org, to join WASRAG and learn more about the support WASRAG offers, including information about:

- Rotary clubs seeking partners for water and sanitation projects;
- Opportunities to work with NGOs interested in working with Rotarians;
- Funding sources for water and sanitation projects;
- Best practices and lessons learned;
- How to coordinate with clubs who may be doing similar work in the host country;
- Choosing the most appropriate technologies for your project;
- And much more!



ProjectLINK

A NEW RESOURCE FROM ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

WHAT IS PROJECTLINK?

ProjectLINK is an on-line, searchable database which lists Rotary club and district community service projects in need of funding, volunteers, donated goods, and/or partners for a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant, and completed projects that can be used as examples of best practices. Rotarians can search for projects by country, project type, requirements, project status (completed or in need of assistance) or key word. ProjectLINK is available via the RI Web site and is updated monthly.

HOW CAN MY CLUB REGISTER A PROJECT ON PROJECTLINK?

A Rotary club with a community service project that needs assistance may register it with the ProjectLINK by either filling out a *WCS Project Data Form (784)* or a Rotary Volunteers International *Volunteer Site Data Form (285)* and sending it to RI World Headquarters or the international office in the club's area.

- Clubs may have up to five projects registered on ProjectLINK at any one time.
- A project is registered on ProjectLINK for two years.
- The sponsoring club may replace the project with another before the two years have passed or withdraw it for any other reason, such as project completion.
- Clubs may list requests for project funding, a Matching Grant partner, volunteers, and donated goods.

A Rotary club with a successfully completed or ongoing community service project that is no longer seeking assistance may register it with the ProjectLINK by filling out a *Community Projects Database Project Submission Form* and sending it to RI World Headquarters or the international office in the club's area. There is no limit to the number of successfully completed or ongoing projects a club may register in ProjectLINK.

HOW DOES A CLUB SUPPORT A PROJECT LISTED ON PROJECTLINK?

Clubs looking for community service projects to support may select those that interest them from ProjectLINK. Then, they can write directly to the project contacts for more information.

When sending a contribution make checks payable to Rotary International and specify the WCS project number (W0####) on the check. Please print or type clearly.

- For US\$ contributions, send the WCS Remittance Form and your donation to Rotary International, 14255 Collections Center Drive, Chicago, IL 60693.
- Donors of Canadian dollars should send the WCS Remittance Form with checks to Rotary International Box B9330, P.O. Box 9100, Postal Station F, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 3A5.



WWW.ROTARY.ORG/PROJECTLINK

A NEW RESOURCE FROM ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

- Donors from outside the U.S. and Canada are encouraged to make their contributions through the appropriate international office or fiscal agent.

RI RESOURCES FOR PROJECTLINK

World Community Service Project Data Form (784-EN)

www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_pdf/784en.pdf

World Community Service Remittance Form

www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_pdf/wcs_remittance.pdf

Rotary Volunteers International Volunteer Site Data Form (285-EN)

www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_pdf/285en.pdf

Community Projects Database Project Submission Form

www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_pdf/comm_proj_form.pdf

QUESTIONS ABOUT PROJECTLINK?

RI Programs Division

Rotary International

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Evanston, Illinois 60201-3698 USA

Tel. (847) 866-3000

Fax: (847) 866-6116

E-mail: programs@rotary.org

www.rotary.org

Please note:

Inclusion of a project in ProjectLINK does not indicate endorsement of a project by Rotary International. Descriptions and listings of projects are the responsibility of the sponsor club or district and are not verified by Rotary International. Listing in ProjectLINK does not ensure, nor represent a petition for, funding through The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Inclusion in this document does not indicate endorsement of a project by, or link to, a third-party by either Rotary International or by a Rotarian Action Group. Descriptions and listings of projects and links to third-parties are not verified by Rotary International.

ROTATIAN ACTION GROUPS

www.rotary.org/en/ServiceAndFellowship/Fellowship/GlobalNetworkingGroups

Global Network for Blood Donation	www.ourblooddrive.org
Population Growth and Sustainable Development	www.rifpd.org
Rotarians for Fighting Aids	www.rffa.org
Alleviation of Hunger & Malnutrition	www.alleviatehunger.org
Rotarians Eliminating Malaria	www.remarag.org
Polio Survivors and Associates	www.rotarypoliosurvivors.com
Dental Volunteers	www.ragdvs.org
Disaster Relief	www.drrag.org
Rotarians for Mine Action	www.rfma.org
World Health Fairs	www.worldhealthfairs.org
Hearing Regeneration	www.hearingregeneration.org
Microcredit	www.ragm.org
Blindness Prevention	www.rag4bp.org
Multiple Sclerosis Awareness	www.rotary-rfmsa.org
Water and Sanitation	www.wasrag.org

RI & TRF PROGRAM WEB SITES

Health and Hunger Resource Group Web page

www.rotary.org/en/AboutUs/RotaryLeadership/RIPresident/Pages/HealthandHunger.aspx

PolioPlus

www.rotary.org/foundation/polioplus

District Simplified Grants, Matching Grants, Health Hunger and Humanity 3-H Grants
Volunteer Service Grants

www.rotary.org/en/ServiceAndFellowship/FundAProject

ProjectLINK

www.rotary.org/projectlink

Communities in Action: A Guide to Effective Projects (605A-EN)

www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_pdf/605a_en.pdf

A Menu of Service Opportunities (605B-EN)

www.rotary.org/newsroom/downloadcenter/pdfs/605b_en.pdf



www.rotary.org

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

World Health Day	www.who.int/worldhealthday
Heifer International	www.heifer.org
Hunger Web	www.nutrition.tufts.edu/academic

UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS

World Health Organization	www.who.int
UNAIDS	www.unaids.org
Food & Agriculture Organization	www.fao.org
World Food Program	www.wfp.org

TO REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	www.cdc.org
International Red Cross	www.ifrc.org
Family Health International	www.fhi.org
Global Health Council	www.globalhealth.org
Salvation Army	www.salvationarmy.org
UNICEF	www.unicef.org
The Global Fund	www.theglobalfund.org
Shelterbox	www.shelterbox.org
Gift of Life	www.giftoflifeinternational.org

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The State of the World's Children 2008	www.unicef.org/sowc08
UNICEF Program for Young Child Survival & Development	www.unicef.org/childsurvival
WHO Partnership for Maternal, Newborn, & Child Health	www.who.int/pmnhc
UNICEF Child Mortality Statistics	www.childinfo.org
UNFPA Safe Motherhood Program	www.unfpa.org/safemotherhood
Eldis Children & Young People Resource Guide	www.eldis.org/children



POLIO ERADICATION

POLIOPLUS & ROTARY'S US\$100 MILLION CHALLENGE



After the introduction of polio vaccines by Jonas Salk and Albert Sabin and a steadfast immunization effort, these outbreaks became part of history in most of the world. Yet many still live under the threat of polio, which is why Rotary and its global partners are committed to reaching every child with the vaccine and ending this disease worldwide.

Major gains have been made in the global fight against polio:

- In the 1980s, 1,000 children were infected by the disease every day in 125 countries.
- Today, polio cases have declined by 99 percent, with fewer than two thousand cases reported in 2006.
- Two billion children have been immunized, five million have been spared disability, and over 250,000 deaths from polio have been prevented.

After 20 years of hard work, Rotary and its partners are on the brink of eradicating this tenacious disease, but a strong push is needed now to root it out once and for all. It is a window of opportunity of historic proportions.

Your contribution will help Rotary match a \$100 million challenge grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The resulting \$200 million will directly support immunization campaigns in developing countries, where polio continues to infect and paralyze children, robbing them of their futures and compounding the hardships faced by their families.

As long as polio threatens even one child anywhere in the world, children everywhere remain at risk. The stakes are that high. By donating now, you can help Rotary achieve a polio-free world.



www.rotary.org/endpolio