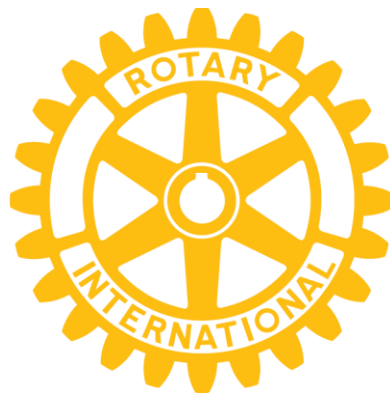


Rotary



Rotarian Action Groups
2015 Annual Report

Content

Introduction	1
RAGs at a Glance	1-2
Alzheimer's/Dementia Rotarian Action Group	3
Rotarian Action Group for Blindness Prevention	4
Global Network for Blood Donation, a Rotarian Action Group	5
Rotarian Action Group Against Child Slavery	6-7
Rotarian Action Group of Dental Volunteers	8
Rotarian Action Group for Diabetes	9
Disaster Network of Assistance Rotarian Action Group	10
Rotarian Action Group for Endangered Species.....	11
Rotarians for Family Health and AIDS Prevention	12-13
Food Plant Solutions Rotarian Action Group	14
Health Education and Wellness Rotarian Action Group	15-16
Rotarians for Hearing, A Rotarian Action Group	17-18
Rotarian Action Group for the Alleviation of Hunger and Malnutrition	19
Literacy Rotarian Action Group	20
Rotarians Eliminating Malaria, a Rotarian Action Group.....	21
Rotarian Action Group for Microfinance and Community Development.....	22-23
Rotarian Action Group for Multiple Sclerosis Awareness.....	24
Rotarian Action Group for Peace	25
Rotarian Action Group for Polio Survivors and Associates.....	26
Rotarian Action Group for Population & Development	27-28
Rotarian Action Group for Healthy Pregnancies/Healthy Children	29
Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group	30

Introduction

Rotarian Action Groups (RAGs) provide assistance and support to Rotary clubs and districts in planning and implementing community development and humanitarian service projects. They are organized by committed Rotarians, Rotarians' family members, and Rotary program participants and alumni who have expertise and a passion for a particular type of service.

Every year RAGs submit a report of activities and finances to Rotary International. These annual reports summarize the groups' membership statistics and highlight their humanitarian service activities. The following report provides an overview of the work RAGs are doing to advance the Object of Rotary worldwide.

Additional information about RAGs can be found online, www.rotary.org/actiongroups.

RAGs at a Glance

Since RAGs were first recognized by the RI Board of Directors in 2005, their popularity and impact have grown around the world. The following provides a broad look at membership, finances, and general highlights for RAGs in 2014-15.

Membership

In 2014-15, 22 RAGs reported a combined membership of 29,785 in more than 100 countries worldwide. Excluding the Rotarian Action Group for Population & Development, which reported the largest membership of any group at 20,000 members, the average size for each RAG is around 490 members.

Finances

Together these groups reported a combined income of US\$347,357 from membership dues, grants, and other charitable contributions. In 2014-15, 19 groups required members to pay either annual or lifetime membership dues. The average annual membership cost was US\$25 and average lifetime membership cost was US\$100. Many RAGs moved away from offering life time dues to five-year dues as they need ongoing financial support from their members. RAGs reported expenses of US\$ 424,709 for international humanitarian service projects and other activities. At year end, RAGs reported combined net assets of US\$374,709. The Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action group reported the highest revenue with US\$101,835 and Rotarians for Family Health & AIDS Prevention reported the highest expenditures with US\$170,145.

Highlights

New RAGs recognized in 2014-15

The RI Board of Directors recognized three new RAGs in January 2015 bringing the total number of RAGs to 22:

- **Disaster Network of Assistance Rotarian Action Group (DNA RAG)**, chaired by Barry Rassin of the Rotary Club of East Nassau, Bahamas.

- **Rotarian Action Group for Endangered Species (RAGES)**, chaired by John Glassford of the Rotary Club of Coolamon, Australia.
- **Rotarian Action Group for Healthy Pregnancies/Healthy Children (HPHC)**, chaired by Paul Knyff of the Rotary Club of Elsloo-Maaskant, Netherlands.

Board Decisions on the promotion of RAGs

At its June 2015 meeting in Brazil, the Rotary International Board adopted the following recommendations to improve Rotarians' awareness of and involvement in RAGs:

The Board requests the general secretary to

- include an informational article in *The Rotarian* and the regional magazines describing Rotarian Action Groups and how Rotarians can use them as a resource, and to regularly feature stories in *The Rotarian* and the regional magazines from individual Rotarian Action Groups on a semi-annual basis;
- promote Rotarian Action Groups as a resource for clubs and districts in all RI-produced training materials for club and district leaders, including PETS materials, GETS materials, and the Grant Management Manual.

The RAGs were very active at the 2015 RI Convention in São Paulo with many hosting booths, breakout sessions, and annual meetings for members in attendance. An annual meeting of all RAG chairs also took place at the 2015 Convention.

Summary of Annual Reports

Alzheimer's/Dementia Rotarian Action Group

Topic: providing information and support to Rotarians on dementia and Alzheimer's disease

Membership

In 2014-15, ADRAG reported 48 members in 15 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$25

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities

- **Dementia Friendly Communities** – ADRAG is working with Zone 32 clubs and districts, REPoD UK, governmental agencies, and local Rotary clubs to make it possible for people with Dementia to find their way around and be safe, to have access to facilities, and to be able to maintain their social networks to feel they belong.
- **Community Memory Café** – In partnership with the Rotary Club of Martha's Vineyard (MA, USA), ADRAG has developed a supportive community for people with Dementia. This café is a meeting place for people with Dementia to gather with their caretaker or relative. ADRAG hopes that this concept will become a district-wide initiative with 65 clubs in Southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island, USA.
- **Why is Alzheimer's a higher Risk for Women?** – This proposed research project is under the guidance of Dr. Rudy Tanzi, who will serve as the lead researcher on women's increased risk of developing Dementia. Through the support of a global grant totalling US \$375,000, ADRAG is working with clubs, districts, and the Cure Alzheimer's Fund on this initiative.

The ADRAG also exhibited at the 2015 Rotary International Convention in São Paulo.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Cure Alzheimer's Fund, Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust, McCusker Alzheimer's Research Foundation, Rotarians Easing Problems of Dementia

Informal Collaborations: REPoD UK

Contact Information

Chair: Dave Clifton, diclifton@comcast.net

Website: <http://adrag.org>

Social Media: [Facebook](#)

Rotarian Action Group for Blindness Prevention

Topic: prevention of blindness and the promotion of eye health and vision worldwide

Membership

In 2014-2015, RAG4BP reported 294 members in 43 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$50

Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$100/3 years

International Service Projects and Activities

- **Beldenga Eye Hospital and Funding for Eye Testing and Surgical Equipment** – Through a Rotary global grant, RAG4BP, the Rotary Club of Domkal Murshidabad (India), and the Rotary Club of Guioford (England) worked together to establish an eye hospital in Beldenga, in West Bengal, India, for the purpose of serving nearly 2 million residents of the region with free or low cost blindness prevention and various other vision and health services. The RAG4BP representatives helped identify the need for this hospital and have taken a leading role in writing of the global grant project application. The RAG has also secured a US\$2,000 grant from the Blindness Prevention DAF. These funds will provide financing for eye testing and surgical equipment for the Beldanga Eye Hospital.
- **Houghly Eye Hospital Cataract Surgeries** – Through the support of a Rotary global grant, US\$2,000 from the Blindness Prevention DAF has been granted to RAG4BP, the Rotary Club of Hooghly (India), and the Rotary Club of Baker, LA (USA) to help finance 2,500 IOL Cataract Surgeries for needy and under privileged patients in West Bengal, India. Young people of the community were trained to screen community members for cataracts. The RAG4BP member Binod Khaitan of the Rotary Club of Calcutta (India) shepherded this project from start to finish. He helped identify the need and international partners. The RAG also played a significant role while drafting the global grant application for this project.
- **Support for Albinism** – Through the support of a Rotary grant and in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Moshi Kilimanjari (Tanzania) and RC of Mirfiel W. Yorks (England), RAG4BP has been granted US\$2,000 from the Blindness Prevention DAF. Funds will be used to improve the way of life for people with Albinism in the Northern and Lake Zones of Tanzania. The RAG also helped find international partners, resources, and volunteers for this project. RAG Member PDG John Philip (England) assisted with putting together US\$ 107,600 funding for the project, which eventually received funds from 16 separate entities. Another RAG Member, Terry Morton (USA) played an important role by working on the writing of the global grant application.
- RAG4BP has access to new funds and plans to issue grants ranging from US\$2000 to US\$3000 per blindness prevention project.

The RAG4BP also exhibited at the 2015 Rotary International Convention in São Paulo.

Informal Collaborations: The American Academy of Ophthalmology, SEE International, ALCON, Bausch and Lomb

Contact Information

Executive Secretary: Harriet Schloer, in2dtp@gmail.com

Website: www.rag4bp.org

Social Media: [Facebook](#)

Rotarian Action Groups

2015 Annual Report

Global Network for Blood Donation, a Rotarian Action Group

Topic: blood donation projects

Membership

In 2014-15, GNBD reported 1,808 members in 89 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: None

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities

- **Cowboy and Indian Challenge (AKA Governor' Blood Drive)** – In partnership with the Association of Donor Recruitment Professionals and local Community Blood Centers. GNBD worked with districts in Zones 4, 5, 6, 21b, and 27, the Southwestern region of the USA, to host a blood drive for local blood banks by encouraged Rotarians and the general public to donate blood. The Association of Donor Recruitment Professionals partnered on this project.
- **Mon Sang pour les Autres** – GNBD conducted a countrywide blood drive in France that involved all districts in the country. The blood drives in Toulouse resulted in the largest collection of donors at one time in Europe. The campaign registered a total of 2883 blood donors
- **Governor's Challenge Blood and Vampire Ball** (awards banquet) – GNBD worked with clubs in District 6890 (USA) and One Blood Florida to encourage voluntary blood donations among Rotarians and the general public. Clubs with the highest level of participation received special recognition.

The GNBD also exhibited at the 2015 Rotary International Convention in São Paulo.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Association of Donor Recruitment Professionals

Informal Collaborations: One Blood Florida, l' Establishment Francais du Sang, the Association for Donor Recruitment Professionals

Contact Information

Chair: Cees Smit Sibinga, c.sibinga@planet.nl

Website: <http://ourblooddrive.org/>

Social Media: [Twitter](#)

Rotarian Action Group Against Child Slavery

Topic: raising awareness and supporting programs, campaigns and projects to address child slavery

Membership

In 2014-15, RACSRAG reported 134 members in 14 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$30

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities

- **Schools for Freedom** – In partnership with American, Australian, and English Rotary clubs, and Voices for Freedom, RACSRAG is working on a three year project to eliminate the root cause of villager's vulnerability to enslavement in India. During the first phase of the project, a school will be established to provide enslaved children with access to education. In subsequent years, the project will provide vocational training to women to help them generate an income and become independent. Through a comprehensive approach, all villagers are taught about their human rights and how to lead independent lives free of slavery. The project goals include providing a school with qualify education, additional teachers and resources, vocational training for women, and awareness of human rights for adults. The cost of the project is about US\$36,000 and RACSRAG plans to start as soon as all the funds are raised. US\$31,000 has been raised so far. Several fundraising initiatives are in the pipeline in the USA and Australia to fund the shortfall of US\$5,000.
- **Kalimpong Project** – In partnership with Rotary clubs in England, Scotland, the Czech Republic, and India, RACSRAG constructed a vocational training center (VTC) in East Bengal, India, to help women and children who were caught up in human trafficking rebuild their professional and personal lives. Through the support of a global grant, RACSRAG is started to implement this project in January 2015 but experienced considerable delays due to the Nepal earthquake. The project cost about US\$69,000, half of which is a Rotary Foundation global grant. The other half was contributed by 13 Rotary clubs, 3 Rotary districts, and 4 individual contributors. RACSRAG will move forward with the second phase of this project in the upcoming Rotary year, which is to build a shelter home on top of the VTC with an estimated cost of US\$72,000.
- **Maiti Nepal Earthquake Relief** – In March of 2015, a group of RACSRAG members visited several trafficking shelters in the Kathmandu area of Nepal to conduct an assessment and create a wish list of needs in order to further support their rehabilitation work. At "Maiti Nepal", a center which looks after and educates 450 child survivors of slavery, the group spent six days, participating in some of its activities, which included checking each vehicle leaving Nepal for India (with the help of local police) for possible victims of human trafficking. Due to the April/May Nepal earthquakes, the center's needs have changed significantly. Since 26 April, RACSRAG members, clubs from England and Australia, and other supporters have raised more than US\$54,000 to help Maiti Nepal cope with the devastation caused by the three successive earthquakes. Some of the funds were dispatched to Maiti Nepal in May to help with the immediate needs of the center, which also agreed to take in 200 orphaned children from the Kathmandu region. The rest of the funds were retained to initiate a global grant project to repair and renovate some of the damaged properties owned and operated by Maiti Nepal.

Notable Collaborations

Informal Collaborations: Anti-Slavery International (based in London, England), Free the Slaves (based in Washinton DC, USA), Maiti Nepal, Asha Nepal, Dawns Place, USA, Covenant House, Philadelphia, (and their anti-human trafficking outreach program), The Mekong Club, Oasis International, International Justice Mission Australia and the UK, Anti-Slavery Australia, RC Diocese of Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh, India , Nanav Sansadhan Evam Mahila Vikas Sansthan, Bihar, India, Polaris, Childreach International, Voices4Freedom, Sprowston High School (Norwich, England), Sacred Heart Convent (Swaffham, England).

Contact Information

Chair: Mark Little, mark.little@btinternet.com

Website: www.racsrag.org

Social Media: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)

Rotarian Action Group of Dental Volunteers

Topic: providing humanitarian dental service throughout the world

Membership

In 2014-15, RAGDV reported 458 members in 140 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: None

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities

- **Beautiful Teeth, Healthy Children: Dental Prophylaxis Project** – In partnership with District 2241, the Romanian government, and Romanian private and non-profit organizations, RAGDV implemented a country wide project aimed at improving the dental health of 20,000 children living in 23 cities in Romania by educating them about dental hygiene, providing free toothpastes, and encouraging healthy eating and tooth brushing through awards programs and contests. The project was implemented in 23 cities throughout Romania and involved 20,000 first grade students. The total project cost was €15,000. The project goals include the initiation of the national program of oral health education for children, the achievement of the national study of oral health, and decrease of cavities up to 50% at the children of 14 years old.
- **Spreading Smiles** – RAGDV worked with the Rotary Club of Aundh (India) and the Sai Shree Hospital Pune in Maharashtra to provide education on nutritional feeding management and financial support to 72 children from low-income families, who have cleft lips and palates. RAGDV and its partners will continue to help more children with this problem while also developing a comprehensive program which will bring all the services regarding cleft lip under one roof.
- **Kenya Smiles** – RAGDV worked with 71 Rotary clubs in Northern California (USA) and the Rotary Club of Karen-Nairobi (Kenya) on a comprehensive public health and dental care project in Nairobi. In addition to the sponsorship and participation of Rotarians in Districts 5160, 9200/9212, and 6150, RAGDV also worked with leading experts in the United States including UC Berkeley/UC San Francisco Joint Medical Program, UOP Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry, the California Dental Association, and more. The project's multiple goals include enhancing the skills of dental care professionals, distributing dental care supplies to children, providing nutrition education to mothers and health care providers, and sponsoring vocational training teams. As part of the project, a Vocational Training Team from the U.S. worked with dental care professionals in Kenya to enhance their skills and knowledge to help reduce gum disease in Kenya. Nutritional education seminars were also hosted to inform parents, health care providers, educators, and care givers on the relationship between healthy food and oral health and hygiene. Alongside the education campaign, dental care supplies were distributed to children.

Informal Collaborations: UC Berkeley/UC San Francisco Joint Medical Program, UOP Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry, the California Dental Association, Aseptico, Romanian Ministry of Health, Faculty of Stomatology within the Medicine and Pharmacy Universities from Arad, Cluj – Napoca and Timisoara, and Romanian Prophylaxis and Dental Education Society, Sai Shree Hospital, Maharashtra, India

Contact Information

Chair: Cos Ovidiu, cosovidiu@gmail.com

Website: www.ragdvd.com

Social Media: [Facebook](#)

Rotarian Action Groups

2015 Annual Report

Rotarian Action Group for Diabetes

Topic: providing service through a strong commitment to education, identification, and treatment of diabetes, especially among children in developing countries

Membership

In 2014-15, RAGD reported 205 members in 35 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$25

Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$100

International Service Projects and Activities

- **Vocational Training Exchange** – In collaboration with District 6940 (USA), District 2072 (Italy), and the Rotary Club of Tallahassee (USA), RAGD sponsored an exchange of doctors for training, education, and patient care primarily with juveniles with diabetes.
- **IDF Life for a Child** – RAGD partnered with the International Diabetes Federation to fundraise and support the provision of supplies and treatment to low income families with youth with diabetes. Over the past year, in partnership with the International Diabetes Federation and Helmsley Trust, RAGD continued to raise awareness about diabetes and support children with diabetes in approximately 52 countries in the developing world.
- **Training Programs for Poor Young Diabetes** – With the support of a global grant, the RAG for Diabetes worked with Rotary Districts 6940 (USA) and 2072 (Italy) and the International Diabetes Federation (IDF)'s Life for a Child program to provide training for young adults with diabetes at the rehabilitation and vocational training center in Jurain, Dhaka, Bangladesh. The project aimed to help young adults' transition from donated support to living as independent adults.

Notable Collaborations

Informal Collaborations: International Diabetes Federation, Helmsley Trust, IDF Life for a Child

Contact Information

Chair: C. Wayne Edwards, wayne@ragdiabetes.org

Website: www.ragdiabetes.org

Social Media: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)

Disaster Network of Assistance Rotarian Action Group

Topic: develop an interactive network to assist with disaster preparedness, communication, and recovery worldwide

Membership

In 2014-15, DNA RAG reported 63 members in 17 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$25, US\$100/5 years

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities

- **Nepal Earthquake Disaster Response and Recovery** – Partnering with The Rotary Foundation, District 3290 (India), and District 5030 (USA), DNA RAG identified a need for a DAF due to the magnitude of the earthquake in Nepal. Members are helping raise funds and working with DAFs to conduct ongoing assessments of needed resources and support. This project resulted in the establishment of NERI-DAF.
- **Development of Suggested Disaster Preparedness and Response Plans** – DNA RAG collaborated with representatives from Disaster Aid International and ShelterBox to develop a set of suggested disaster preparedness and response plans specifically targeted to identified needs of individual Rotarians, families, clubs, and districts.
- **Disaster Training Videos** – Disaster Aid International, ShelterBox, FEMA, the American Red Cross, ROAR, and DNA RAG are working together to develop a series of videos and PowerPoint presentations on disaster preparedness that can be used by clubs at their meetings, by districts at their assemblies, REDI and RI Conferences.

Notable Collaborations

Informal Collaborations: ROAR, Disaster Aid International, ShelterBox, Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group, International Fellowship of Doctors, Water Box, Food Plant Solutions Rotarian Action Group, Stop Hunger Now, FEMA, American Red Cross, International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians, International Fellowship of Scouting Rotarians, RAG for the Alleviation of Hunger and Malnutrition

Contact Information

Chair: Barry Rassin, barry@rassin.org

Website: www.dna-rag.com

Social Media: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#)

Rotarian Action Group for Endangered Species

Topic: to provide global awareness and focused action to preserve and protect endangered species

Membership

In 2014-15, RAGES reported 241 members in 24 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: None

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities

- **Elephant Community Outreach** – RAGES is working with the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust on community outreach programs in Kenya. Such programs have been vital in building sustainable relationships with the local communities bordering Kenya’s National Parks and wildlife protected areas. These programs strive to improve living conditions and educational standards, encouraging communities and the next generation to protect their wildlife and environment.

- **RISK Boxes** – In partnership with the Rotary Club of Kenton on Sea (South Africa), RAGES is developing Rhino International Survival Kits, or RISK Boxes. The RISK Boxes will contain equipment that will go to various projects engaged in the protection and survival of rhinos in areas of South Africa that are currently under attack by well-organized poaching gangs and syndicates. Three types of boxes are available:
 - Bronze Risk Box Level 1 USD \$500
 - Silver Risk Box Level 2 USD \$1,500
 - Gold Risk Box Level 3 USD \$5,000

- **Oloimugi Maasai Village** – In partnership with a local club and the Jane Goodall Institute, RAGES visited a Maasai Village north of Mount Kenya where there is a great need for youth and adult basic education and literacy. Roots & Shoots Kenya, the Oloimugi Maasai Village, RAGES and the Rotary Club of Nyeri (Kenya) have come together to create a model for a project that can be implemented throughout the Laikipia area where there is a major problem with elephant poaching and conflict between elephants and local villages.

Notable Collaborations

Informal Collaborations: The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, The Chipembere Rhino Foundation, Roots & Shoots Kenya, The Jane Goodall Institute

Contact Information

Chair: John James Glassford, john@glassford.com.au

Website: www.endangereddrag.org

Social Media: [Facebook](#)

Rotarians for Family Health and AIDS Prevention

Topic: helping clubs and districts plan and implement large scale disease prevention and treatment projects

Membership

In 2014-15, RFHA reported 916 members in 49 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: None

Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$100

International Service Projects and Activities

Rotary Family Health Days (RFHD), the signature program of Rotarians for Family Health and AIDS Prevention (RFHA) entered its fifth year. The program promotes healthy living and disease prevention by implementing a massive, annual campaign in several African countries that provides comprehensive, free health care services to tens of thousands of people in underprivileged communities.

One of the most current programs, offered in April 2014, leveraged 564 Rotary clubs (8,151 Rotarian volunteers) who served free health care to 343,622 people at 402 sites across the countries of Nigeria, Ghana, Uganda and South Africa. Offerings included lifesaving screenings for HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria (and provision of insecticide-treated mosquito nets), Diabetes, blood pressure and some cancers. Additionally, deworming and vitamin A supplements and lifelong immunizations for polio and measles were provided. The focus was to mobilize the entire family to come, and they do because of the broad range of services provided. The mothers bring their babies for immunizations, but then take advantage of the other offerings while there. The 2014 program is valued at \$18,872,596:

RFHA has created a unique public/private partnership wherein each partner has a specific, clear and distinct role. Data collection is a valued outcome of this program. RFHA has led the way in creating a data collection sheet in collaboration with the CDC and the South Africa Department of Health. That sheet was used by all countries in the April 2014 program.

The last RFHD program was offered in Ghana in October 2015, which provided free health care and education to nearly 40,000 Ghanaians. This program was carried out in collaboration with Rotary Zones 33 and 34, The Rotary Foundation, USAID, Ghana Health Service, and Ghanaian Rotarians and Rotaractors. Offerings included blood pressure checks, blood sugar monitoring, deworming, measles and polio vaccinations, Vitamin A supplementation, mosquito nests, and HIV/AIDS detection and counseling.

RFHA's international board of directors has a strategic plan with a vision of saving and improving 5 million lives by 2020. The mission is to save and improve the lives of children and families who lack access to preventive health care and education by taking health resources to places they have never been before.

RFHA continues the expansion of Rotary Family Health Days across Africa and a pilot of this program will be hosted in India in February of 2016.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation, Family Health International (FHI) 360, Office of Global AIDS Coordinator, South Africa Broadcasting Corporation/SABC

Informal Collaborations: South Africa Department of Health, USAID, Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Ministry of Health Uganda, Ministry of Health of Nigeria, Ogun State Ministry of Health, Lagos State Ministry of Health, Kaduna State Government, Society for Family Health, Olaniba Memorial Hospital, Nigeria, Coca-

Rotarian Action Groups

2015 Annual Report

Cola Nigeria, Institute of Human Virology (IHV) Nigeria, The Malaria Consortium, the SABC and Caxton in South Africa (media partners)

Contact Information

Chair: Joan Firkins, jfirkins@shaw.ca

CEO & Founder: Marion Bunch, marion@rffa.org

Website: www.rfha.org

Social Media: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)

Food Plant Solutions Rotarian Action Group

Topic: helping people, particularly in developing countries, learn about and grow the best local foods to match their nutritional needs as a sustainable solution for hunger and malnutrition

Membership

In 2014-15, Food Plant Solutions reported 419 members in 100+ countries.

Annual Membership Dues: None

Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$20

International Service Projects and Activities

- **Field Guides** – Food Plant Solutions’ focus has been to write country specific field guides upon request to help people learn about their local foods and sustainable ways of practicing agriculture. To ensure authenticity, the RAG works with local experts and Rotarians to develop these guidelines. In partnership with Learn Grow Services Inc., Food Plant Solutions developed and refined field guides for Solomon Islands, Swaziland, China, N. E. India, Kenya, Lesotha , Nepal , Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste, South India, Haiti, Bangladesh,• Sierra Leone, Cambodia , Guinea, Vietnam, Nigeria, Philippines, Uganda, Western Pacific Islands, Tanzania, North Korea, Mozambique, Indonesia, South Africa, and Northern Thailand.

In addition to field guides, Food Plant Solutions have produced handbooks and posters, all of which are available on their website free of charge.

- **Potentially Important Food Plants of Indonesia** – FPS has collaborated with Priscilla Hall Memorial Foundation to address malnutrition through the use of readily available and local food sources. A field guide, ‘Potentially Important Food Plants of Indonesia’ has been created with information on approximately 40 edible plants from all major food groups and all high in nutrients. The guide focuses on neglected and under-utilised species and the plants that will grow with minimal inputs such as chemicals and fertilizers, and details how and where to grow them, the nutritional value, what parts are edible, and how to use those parts and a photo to make identification easier.
- **Kitchen Gardening Pamphlets**
FPS created simple pamphlets for teachers, students, and communities about creating personal kitchen gardens, in collaboration with partnering Rotary clubs. The pamphlets are available in English, Mandarin, and Portuguese and are currently being translated into Tagalog and Cebano.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA), University of Tasmania – School of Land and Food, Food Plants International, District 9830

Informal Collaborations: Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), the World Vegetable Centre, Bioversity International, Crops for the Future, ECHO, Oxfam, Food Plants International, and the Priscilla Hall Memorial Foundation

Contact Information

Chair: Una M. Hobday, unahob@gmail.com

Website: <http://foodplantsolutions.org>

Social: [Facebook](#)

Rotarian Action Groups

2015 Annual Report

Health Education and Wellness Rotarian Action Group

Topic: improving world health thorough health promotion, education, and disease prevention

Membership

In 2014-15, HEWRAG reported 390 members in 36 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$30, US\$125/5 year

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

Health Education and Wellness Rotarian Action Group hosted a Breakout Session at the 2015 Rotary International Convention in São Paulo, Brazil. Titled “Successful and Effective Strategies and Resources for Health Education Projects and Community Health Fairs,” it was designed as an extended conversation with a moderator and four panel members.

International Service Projects and Activities

- **Myanmar Humanitarian and Medical Mission**—In partnership with medical and dental personnel from California and Hawaii, HEWRAG provided medical and dental diagnosis and treatment, water projects, school and education support, and donation of supplies for families and school children in Sitte, Mrauk Ooo, and Yangon areas in Myanmar. This program will be replicated in the Rotary year 2015-16.
- **Kenya Smiles** – HEWRAG is working with the Rotary Club of Karen- Nairobi (Kenya), Rotary Districts 5160 (USA), 9212 (Kenya), and 6150 (USA), the Kenya Dental Association, the University of Nairobi School of Dental Sciences, and Meru Dental Services to establish a sustainable dental preventive care program that promotes education, provides information, and builds awareness about oral health to help free children from preventable mouth pain and tooth decay.
- **Homer Kachemak Bay Health Fair** – The group worked with the Homer Hospital and local health organizations to hold the Annual Rotary Health Fair in Homer, Alaska (USA). Homer Kachemak Bay Rotary Club and South Peninsula Hospital co-sponsor this event with several of HEWRAG members volunteering and supporting the health fair. The event provides community members with blood draws and lab results, tests for diabetes, blood pressure tests, booths with health information, and many other health related activities. This health fair is what inspired the start of health fairs in Russia and led to the formation of this RAG.
- **Cervical Cancer Prevention for Nicaragua**—This program, developed by the Rotary Club of Woodland, California (USA) and the Rotary Club of Leon (Nicaragua) provides information and treatment to prevent cervical cancer for women in Nicaragua. A Rotary Global Grant was received and a VTT, medical, and health workers came together to implement the project. Another VTT will go to Nicaragua in January of 2016 to provide more education and treatment.
- HEWRAG plans to support the Rotary Club of Melkbos’ (South Africa) October 2015 South Africa Health Fair, hosted in Melkbosstrand, by providing toothbrushes and volunteer support.

Notable Collaborations

Informal Collaborations: Homer Hospital, South Peninsula Hospital, Kenya Dental Association, University of Nairobi School of Dental Sciences, Meru Dental Services

Contact Information

Co-Chairs: Jane Little & Sheila Hurst (rotaryjane@yahoo.com; sheilahurst@mac.com)

Website: <http://www.hewrag.org/>

Social: [My Rotary](#)

Rotarians for Hearing, A Rotarian Action Group

Topic: helping children and adults with hearing loss

Membership

In 2014-15, RfHRAG reported 66 members in 15 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$10

Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$100

International Service Projects and Activities

- **Sponsor a Child to Receive the Gift of Hearing** – In partnership with the Pleasant Valley Rotary Club in New York (USA) and Portland Rotary Club in Maine (USA), the RAG provided hearing aids for children in the Dominican Republic.
- **Gift of Hearing for 8 Children in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil** – Pleasant Valley (USA) Rotarians and RfHRAG Chair Ellen Haggerty, delivered 15 digital, high powered IHHAPP (International Humanitarian Hearing Aid Purchasing Program) hearing aids to children in need in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Eight children with hearing loss were chosen by local Audiometrist Rotarian Mr. Guede, who is affiliated with a local government clinic. The youngest recipient was three years old, and the oldest was 14 years old.
- **Recycled Sound** – In collaboration with Better Hearing Australia and the Rotary Clubs of Toorah and Melbourne (Australia), the RAG assisted with the collection of recycled hearing aids. These hearing aids were cleaned and checked by the RAG representatives before they were delivered to Better Hearing Australia who uses them to meet the needs of socially disadvantaged people, specifically refugees.
- **Audiology Project** – RfHRAG partnered with Peak Disability Service Provider to focus on capacity development in hearing health care with the help of a Victoria Australian who specializes in capacity development and aid program management. A trip was made to Timor Leste on 14-23 October 2015 to explore partnering with the Peak Disability NGO.
- **The Kimberley Earbus** – The Rotary Club of Karrinyup (Australia) partnered with The Ear Bus Foundation to treat children in their local community by providing services in an easily accessible location in Western Australia. Each child is monitored closely, and screening and treatment outcomes are measured and reported on monthly. All data is kept secure and parents are given feedback about their child's ear health so that they can make informed decisions about their child.
- **All Ears Cambodia Ear Bus** – The RAG collaborated with the Rotary Club of Freshwater Bay (Australia), the Rotary Club of Phnom Penh Metro (Australia), and the Groove Foundation to increase the capacity to provide communities in Cambodia with primary ear care, and to treat adults and children who have severe hearing loss. RfHRAG and the Rotary Club of Freshwater Bay have organized two Toyota buses that improved the means for accessing people in various parts of Cambodia. The Goodeve Foundation provided US\$39,000 plus medical equipment, and Rotary District 9455 (Australia) provided US\$16,500 to successfully deliver the two vehicles.
- **Shravana Ear Bus** – Previously, the Rotary Club of Jubilee Hills (India), the Rotary Club of Winslow (USA), and the Rotary Foundation worked with Shravana Children's Deafness Rehabilitation Center to put together a Matching Grant project for a total value of US\$35,000 in order to provide completely free service to children with hearing impairment in Hyderabad, India. RfHRAG provides a mobile van

that regularly tours villages in the Ranga Reddy District that tests infants within a month of birth. Children who are found to have hearing problems are invited to go to Shravana's city center, where they are fitted with hearing aids. (Matching Grants have since been phased out; information about current Foundation grants is available at www.rotary.org/grant)

- **Guatemala Infant and Child Hearing Loss Screening** – The Healing the Children Program in Guatemala identifies and treats children ages 3 and older with hearing loss. The Rotary Clubs of Pleasant Valley(New York, USA), Mill Creek(Washington, USA), and Guatemalan Rotary clubs are collaborating to develop a future Global Grant to provide for equipment and training of Guatemalan Audio Technicians to identify and treat infants and children through age three with hearing loss who could benefit from affordable hearing technology.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: The Starkey Hearing Foundation

Informal Collaborations: Good Samaritan Hospital, Better Hearing Australia, Peak Disability Service Provider, The Ear Bus Foundation, The Goodeve Foundation, The One2One Organisation, Shravana Children's Deafness Rehabilitation Centre, Healing the Children, Smiles That Listen Foundation

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Rotarian Action Group for the Alleviation of Hunger and Malnutrition

Topic: enhancing and sustaining local food security and providing nutritious food to the hungry

Membership

In 2014-15, H&M RAG reported 95 members in 18 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$20

Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$100

International Service Projects and Activities

- **Elk Run Community Farm** – Working with Rotary District 5030 (USA), South King County Food Coalition, City of Maple Valley, Corporation for National and Community Service, and AmeriCorps, H&M RAG established a partnership to create, develop, and operate a farm to grow fresh produce for distribution through local food banks. Rotarians have been involved since the beginning of the project to assist in the initial long-term property development, planning, community outreach, funding, and volunteer management. An AmeriCorps VISTA position is being partially funded by Rotary groups to focus on building community networks to support the development and eventual operation of the farm, including local schools, Interact, Rotaract and other service clubs. The estimated cost of the project is US\$150,000.
- **Better Together Hunger Conference** - In partnership with several NGOs, Rotary clubs of Central Indiana (USA), and local food banks, H&M RAG helped organize a two-day conference on “food security”. Rotarians, young leaders, and non-Rotarian community guests were invited to be part of the conversation. The conference brought together leaders and volunteers from all significant stakeholders from across central Indiana in order to focus resources and influence to lead by example and demonstrate we are “better together” when we serve our communities as one.
- **Stop Hunger Now: Rotary International Convention Repack** - The H&M RAG worked with several districts and clubs and Stop Hunger Now to coordinate a meal packaging event with 2015 RI Convention attendees in São Paulo, Brazil. 100,620 meals were packed by 750 convention-goers over three days. Meals packed were subsequently distributed by MESA Brasil to school feeding programs in vulnerable communities in São Paulo and nearby areas.

Notable Collaborations

Informal Collaborations: Convoy of Hope, ReThink!, Purdue University, PACE International, Elanco Corp, Rotary First Harvest, Alliance to End Hunger, Kroger Corp., South King County Food Coalition, City of Maple Valley, WA USA, Corporation for National and Community Service, AmeriCorps Stop Hunger Now, MESA Brasil

Contact Information

Chair: David Bobanick, david@firstharvest.org

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Social Media: [MyRotary](#), [Facebook](#)

Literacy Rotarian Action Group

Topic: alleviating illiteracy

Membership

In 2014-15, the Literacy Rotarian Action Group (LITRAG) reported 97 members in 21 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$25

Five Year Membership Dues: US\$100

International Service Projects and Activities

CLE English Literacy Training the Trainer – In partnership with Rotary clubs in Thailand and South Korea, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Education Service Area One and Two, and the Ministry of Education of Thailand, the RAG helped initiate a training program in Ayutthaya, Thailand. The program aims to eliminate literacy problems in English and Thai in Ayutthaya and other nearby provinces. The Concentrated Language Encounter (CLE) method was used during these trainings. Through this method, effective and revolutionary methods and techniques in teaching of literacy is taught to the key personnel such as teacher supervisors, in service teachers of English and Thai as well as school administrators. The trained teachers become part of the ongoing “train the trainer” program through which they have an opportunity to train other teachers and parents in the area.

Notable Collaborations

Informal Collaborations:

Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Education Service Area One and Two, Ministry of Education, Thailand

Contact Information

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Website: www.litrag.org

Rotarians Eliminating Malaria, a Rotarian Action Group

Topic: coordinating efforts to control malaria

Membership

In 2014-15, REMaRAG reported 176 members in 22 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: None

Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$100

International Service Projects and Activities

- **Rotarians Eliminating Malaria in Tanzania (REMIT)** – In partnership with Rotary District 9211 (Tanzania and Uganda), RIBI Districts, and the Local Ministry of Health, the RAG implemented Malaria intervention schemes in several villages in Tanzania. The intervention included Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs), diagnosis, residual house spraying, seminars, and tree planting. Additionally, the RAG has equipped a health center for Malaria treatment and early diagnosis in Babati in memory of a local Rotarian and long time supporter of REMIT who has died. The project cost about US\$14,250.

The RAG exhibited at the 2015 São Paulo Rotary Convention.

Notable Collaborations

Informal Collaborations: A-Z Net manufacturers Arusha, Tanzania, All Party Parliamentary Malaria Group (London), British Broadcasting Corporation, DFID (London), Independent Radio and Television, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, London School of Health & Tropical Medicine, Malaria No More, Ministry of Health in Tanzania, local hospitals, Nets for Life, Nets in South America – hammock type, Nothing But Nets, PermaNets (Tanzania), Sumitomo Chemical Olyset Nets (London & Tanzania), United Nations, World Health Organization

Contact Information

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Rotarian Action Group for Microfinance and Community Development

Topic: alleviate poverty through sustainable microfinance and community development

Membership

In 2014-15, Rotarian Action Group for Microfinance and Community Development (RAGM) reported 589 members in 49 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$25, US\$100/5 year

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities

- **Honduras Economic & Community Development (HECD) Program** – In partnership with District 4250 (Belize, Guatemala, Honduras), District 5360 (Canada), and other government and non-governmental organizations from Canada and Honduras, the RAG carried out microfinance and community development projects to alleviate extreme poverty in Honduras. The program has several phases and one of its objectives is to establish an infrastructure of Rotary clubs and districts, along with project implementers in Honduras, and re-use these relationships in subsequent projects in the program. Phase I of the program is focused entirely on microcredit, with funds going to Instituto para el Desarrollo Hondureño (IDH) for investments required to carry out business and funds for the loan pool. This phase was completed with part of the funds coming from the Rotary Foundation. Phase II included two water projects in the villages of Quebrada and Las Camelias, as well as a new Management Information System required by IDH to set the stage for their expansion into a more complete microfinance service also offering savings and insurance, as well as a start to the creation of a new branch. This phase was completed successfully with funding from Trade and Development Canada (DFATD), Opportunity International Canada (OIC) and a Rotary global grant. Phase III is now in the initial fundraising stages and is intended to grow the new Santa Barbara branch loan pool so it can become self-sufficient and sustainable. More than 70% of the loan recipients will be women with families for whom they are caring. The broader goal is to grow IDH to the point where they meet Honduran requirements to provide full microfinance services for their clients.

The first two phases of the project cost about US\$505,000 and the third phase is estimated to cost about US\$105,000.

- **Esmeraldas, Ecuador Microcredit Project** – RAGM worked with Rotary District 5150 (USA), the Rotary Club of Quito Occidente (Ecuador), and FUDECE (MFI) to provide 320 microcredit loans to very low income people in Rio Verde, Esmeraldas, Ecuador. Initial loans were given for a six month period and second loans for one year. In addition, a Rotary Training Center has been established to provide vocational training on business skills. Sewing machines and an oven for teaching baking skills were also provided as part of the project. Since February 2014, more than 250 loans have been awarded through this program, and all credit groups have been formed. The first year was successfully completed with a very high payback rate. The Rotary Training Center has now been operating for a year and a half. Classes have been held in business administration and management, marketing and client relations, cooperative management, sewing, plumbing, electrical and pastry making. In addition the Rotary Club of Quito Occidente has provided six eight hour classes for clients in business planning. This project cost about US\$183,000.

- **Colombia Microcredit Project** – RAGM is partnering with the Rotary Club of Leyva (Colombia), Rotary Club of South Oklahoma City (USA), and six other clubs in Rotary District 5720 (USA) to provide small loans and training for low income people in rural and urban regions of Leyva, Colombia.
- **RAGM Global Grant Committee Activities** – This committee helps with promoting the Rotary Foundation’s Global Grants model and assisting Rotary clubs and districts with new microcredit and economic development projects. Several new projects in the Economic and Community Development Area of Focus have received assistance from this committee in the past year. For example, the committee created and published resources on Global Grants and sustainability of microcredit projects, provided step-by-step guidelines on how to plan a microcredit project, and assisted Rotary clubs with locating international partners.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Canadian Rotarian Collaboration for International Development (CRCID)
Opportunity International Canada

Informal Collaborations: Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada (DFATD), Opportunity International Canada (OIC), and Instituto para el Desarrollo Hondureño (IDH), ECLOF (Swiss-based MFI), FUDECE (MFI).

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Rotarian Action Group for Multiple Sclerosis Awareness

Topic: improving the lives of People with MS (PwMS)

Membership

In 2014-54, Rotarian Action Group for Multiple Sclerosis Awareness (RAGMSA) reported 479 members in 23 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$20

Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$20

International Service Projects and Activities

- In partnership with the Rotary Club of London (U.K.), the Rotary Club of Westtown-Goshen (USA), and the Rotary Club of Gisborne (Australia), RAGMSA orchestrated a MS advocacy campaign through educational outreach and awareness building to support emerging MS Groups in Egypt, Lebanon, and Iraq. This included legally registering as a not-for profit organization, and develop materials to local needs so that access to MS information is widely available in print and online.

The RAG also exhibited at the Rotary International Convention in São Paulo and hosted a breakout session.

MS Research

- In partnership with Neuroscience Laboratory France, Melbourne University, and Howard Florey Institute, RAGMSA supported a Rotary global grant, which will provide funding for Dr. Laura Dumas' MS research.

Email Group

RAGMSA has an international email group through which its members shares MS Research progress and ideas on how to improve living with MS. The group celebrated World MS Day on 27 May 2015 and hosted its annual MS Global Dinner. With approximately AUD#\$3000 raised from the dinner and additional funds raised through a "Sausage Sizzles" event, RAGMSA has donated AUD\$6000 to MS research.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Multiple Sclerosis International Federation (MSIF) & National Multiple Sclerosis Society (NMSS), MS Research Australia (MSRA), Multiple Sclerosis Australia (MSA) and Australian Rotary Health (ARH), Melbourne University and Howard Florey Institute, Forey Institute Melbourne, Australia.

Informal Collaborations: the MS Society UK

Contact Information

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Rotarian Action Group for Peace

Topic: advancing world peace and preventing conflict

Membership

In 2014-15, the Rotarian Action Group for Peace (RAGFP) reported 1512 members in 48 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$30, US\$125/5 year

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities

- **Supporting and Promoting Rotary Peace Projects** - During the 2014-15 Rotary year, RAGFP supported and participated in organizing and implementing the Peace Conference of District 5100, as well as in numerous club sponsored peace events. RAGFP also participated and supported the São Paulo Peace Symposium and participated in breakout sessions. The Rotarian Action Group for Peace offers ongoing support for peace project planning, development and evaluation to Rotary clubs and districts worldwide, as well as offering assistance for global grants to interested Rotarians.
- **Memorandum of Understanding between the RAGFP and Portland State University** – The RAGFP and the Conflict Resolution Department of Portland State University have commenced cooperation on numerous peace related initiatives including joint peace related public events, training in conflict resolution and peace building skills, placing interns from the Conflict Resolution Department in Rotary related peace work and projects, and initiating joint peace projects at the local, national, and international levels.
- **Educational Resources in Peace and Conflict Resolution/Transformation** - RAGFP has assembled educational resources to help Rotary clubs and districts meet their peace education needs including curriculum assessment, film and video offerings, bibliographies, definitions and glossaries, training manuals, facilitated reading discussions, access to journals and periodicals, connection to appropriate online peace journalism, materials for Rotary Peace Fellow recruitment, and International Peace Day planning. RAGFP's website offers most of the materials gathered to help with individual club and district requests for assistance. The RAGFP has expanded and enriched its website, providing an array of peace resources for Rotarians and districts. These resources include: examples of Rotary peace projects; a map giving the geographical location and specialized descriptions of Rotary Peace Centers, Rotary Peace Fellows, and Rotary peace projects; peace organizations; universities with peace programs; RAGFP members, peace news and an electronic library of peace videos, articles, and books. In addition, the RAGFP created and disseminated a series of peace related webinars and a globally shared "Peace is..." video which highlighted Rotary peace efforts.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Conflict Resolution Program at Portland State University

Informal Collaborations: Beautiful Gate Handicapped Peoples Center, Peace Jam, Non-Violent Peaceforce, Cure Violence, Kennesaw State University

Contact Information

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Rotarian Action Groups

2015 Annual Report

Rotarian Action Group for Polio Survivors and Associates

Topic: improving the health and well-being of polio survivors

Membership

In 2014-15, PSA reported 380 members in 40 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: None

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities

- **Wheels of Hope** - PSA worked with the Rotary Club of Traverse City (USA), District 6290 (USA), and Beautiful Gate Handicapped Peoples Center to raise funds to build wheelchairs for polio survivors in and around Jos, Nigeria.
- **Survey of Rotarian Polio Survivors** – PSA administered a [survey](#) of all clubs across the world to know how many polio survivors are in their Rotary clubs.
- **Voices of Polio** – PSA, through its website, asks its members for their stories of how polio has defined their life (<http://rotarypoliosurvivors.wordpress.com/voices-of-polio-2/>)
- **Shipment of Crutches** – PSA assisted the Rotary Club of Portland Sunrise (USA) with a shipment of new crutches to Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in collaboration with the US Ambassador in Equatorial Guinea and CDC representatives. In addition to the crutches, extra “Peace Tips”, crutch tips constructed of heavy duty rubber with the peace sign on the bottom, were shipped. Six tricycle wheelchairs were purchased from a Nigeria wheelchair shop and are awaiting shipment to Malabo, EG. Funding for the purchase of all items and shipment of crutches was provided by the International Pilots Association, and fundraising for the wheelchair shipment is ongoing.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Wheels of Hope

Informal Collaborations: Beautiful Gate Handicapped Peoples Center, International Pilots Association,

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Rotarian Action Group for Population & Development

Topic: improving maternal and child health

Membership

In 2014-15, RFPD reported nearly 20,000 members in 75 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$25

Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$100

International Service Projects and Activities

- **Rotary Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Obstetric Quality Assurance (OQA) Program** – RFPD developed a comprehensive approach in the Maternal and Child Health area of focus aiming at a sustainable reduction of maternal and perinatal morbidity and mortality in Nigeria. The MCH OQA Program started with a pilot project in ten hospitals of Nigeria (2005-2010) and has been more than doubled to a total of 25 hospitals in five states – Kano, Kaduna, FCT Abuja, and Ondo (2012-2015) as well as Enugu (2013-2015). The overall goal of the program is the inclusion of the Rotary MCH OQA model into the states' health systems to reduce maternal and newborn mortality. The project goals include the scaling up of the pilot project (2005-2010) in the states of FCT Abuja, Ondo (2012-2015), Enugu State (2013-2015), and Nigeria. Secondly, it aims to reduce maternal and perinatal mortality and morbidity through introduction of quality assurance in obstetrics in 25 selected rural hospitals in the states of Kano, Kaduna, FCT Abuja, Ondo and Enugu. Additionally, RFPD aims to increase awareness for reproductive health and rights, including family planning. Content and project measures include, but are not limited to: awareness campaign (“Community Dialogues”) to inform the population about sexual and reproductive health and rights; the introduction of quality assurance in obstetrics in selected hospitals, improving the quality of structure, process and outcome; and the documentation of obstetric data in all selected hospitals, monthly collection of data and statistical analysis. The Ministries of Health of the five states committed themselves in a memorandum of understanding to continue the OQA program after the termination of the projects, to provide needed medical equipment to the public hospitals and to expand the OQA system to additional hospitals/obstetric departments in their states. It is planned to promote an additional geographic extension of the MCH OQA program in the southwest of Nigeria (Lagos, Oyo and Ogun states) and to support the integration of the Rotary model into the WHO Maternal Death Surveillance and Response (MDSR) program, which will be included in state and national health policies.

- **Postpartum and Post Miscarriage Family Planning in Pakistan** – This ongoing project aims to enhance contraceptive uptake from the baseline of 5.5% (2013) to 30% among women delivering in the hospital or undergoing management for incomplete miscarriage. The objectives of this global grant project are: (1) training student midwives and Skilled Birth Attendants (SBAs) at the Gizri Maternity Hospital (GMH) in family planning counseling and method provision, and proficiency in providing emergency obstetric care; and (2) provision of family planning (FP) services to at least 30 percent of women to provide [Postpartum Family Planning (PPFP)] or undergo management of incomplete miscarriage in the selected hospital. Direct beneficiaries of the project are about 3,500 women who seek care in the selected hospital with regard to antenatal care, deliver and miscarriage. In addition to these patients, the health personnel working in the hospital (15 doctors, 7 nurse midwives, 2 nursing assistants) as well as the student midwives (currently 31) undergoing training in the attached midwifery school also directly benefit from the project, since they will be trained in PPFP and comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (EmONC), thereby enabled to provide better health care services and gaining additional skills and knowledge.

- **Saheli Vocational Training Centers** – RFPD partnered with the Rotary Club of Tiruchengode (India) and the Rotary Club of Muncie Sunrise (USA) on a vocational education project which included training to become a clinical lab technician, training in use of computers and accounting knowledge and other secretarial duties as well as tailoring classes. Qualified and licensed teachers were employed for these classes. In addition, all students participated in Maternal and Child Health classes organized and staffed by various Rotary clubs in the communities where the centers are located. The volunteer instructors are doctors and other health professionals. These classes covered family planning, reproductive health, child spacing, prenatal and early childhood nutrition. 300 students were enrolled during this first year of operation. The equipment, facilities, and teachers are planned for 320 students to be trained each year. The cooperating local organizations are keeping records on the students, following their education at centers to determine the number of women/girls employed in the area of training, the number who are self employed in the area of their training, information regarding family health and use of education regarding nutrition and reproduction, and their family status - economic and physical health. During 2014-15, the following new Saheli centers were established in RI District 3250: Bokaro, Bhagalpur, Hazaribagh and Bihar Sharif. The centers are working with two more new disciplines – Sanitary Napkins Making and Biodegradable Bags Making.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Maternal Health Project Team in Nigeria, International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO), Society of Gynaecology and Obstetrics of Nigeria (SOGON), Catholic Institute for Development of Justice and Peace (CIDJAP), Enugu, Nigeria, German Else Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung, WHO/The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), Geneva, The Population Institute - Washington, D.C., USA, and the Population Media Center, Vermont, USA, The UN “Every woman, Every Child” Program, Ministries of Health in the states of Kano, Kaduna, FCT Abuja, Ondo, and Nigeria.

Informal Collaborations: ICA Foundation (Bayer Healthcare), BASF, Birthing Kit Foundation, Association for Mothers and Newborns (AMAN), Pakistan

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Rotarian Action Group for Healthy Pregnancies / Healthy Children

Topic: improving the health of parents-to-be during the period before pregnancy

Membership

In 2014-15, RAG HP/HC reported 53 members in 14 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$20, US\$100/5 years

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

This Rotarian Action Group was recognized in February 2015 and has been operational as of July 1 2015. RAG HP/HC exhibited in the House of Friendship at the RI Convention in São Paulo, applied for incorporation, and developed a website. The RAG began to recruit members during the 2014-15 Rotary year, and is in contact with Rotary clubs with regard to possible projects.

Contact Information

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Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group

Topic: providing safe water and sanitation to communities

Membership

In 2014-15, WASRAG reported 1656 members in 92 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$25, US\$100/5 year

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities

- **World Water Summit 7: WASH in Schools** – In partnership with more than 20 of the world’s leading WASH organizations, Wasrag hosted its 7th annual WASH conference in São Paulo, Brazil on 4 June 2015, the day before the RI Convention began. The conference focused on WASH in Schools and was attended by approximately 150 Wasrag members and other Rotarians around the world. Literacy Rotarian Action Group members also attended the conference, recognizing that collaboration with like-minded RAGs is essential for the success of Rotary’s humanitarian service in the future.
- **Hosted a three part WASH Webinar Series** – Partnering with Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation staff, a three part webinar series was hosted in October and November 2014. Inspired by the June 2014 World Water Summit in Sydney, Australia, the theme of this series was collaboration, and the three webinars explored how the Rotary family can work with governments, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector on Rotary WASH projects. 329 participants joined the live webinars and more than 150 viewed the recordings afterwards.
- **OneDrop Partnership** – Two years ago, Wasrag and the OneDrop Foundation agreed to a US\$10 million WASH program to improve life and livelihood for up to 200,000 people through sustainable, safe water, sanitation and hygiene. The program was to be implemented in the Bamako/Sikasso regions of Mali. Subsequently the goal was reduced to US\$8 million and, as a result of a contributions from WaterAid, the implementation partner, the funding from the Rotary sources has been reduced to US\$3 million. Learning from the USAID/Rotary collaboration, the Rotary team and its counterparts at OneDrop have been planning the program and dividing it into a series of projects which could be funded through Global Grants. The first such project will focus on Diallakorodii, a suburb of Bamako, with a population of 45,000 people and no access to safe water. This program could be a model for Rotary clubs and districts to help address access to clean water in other communities. It is large, complex and calls for much innovation. The scale will need commitment of many Rotarians and Rotary clubs, both in Mali and in developing countries.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Catholic Relief Services, Engineers Without Borders (USA), Desert Research Institute, Foundation for Partnerships in the Niger Delta (PIND), H2O for Life, Procter & Gamble, Purdue University, One Drop Foundation

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