

Rotary



Rotary Action Groups
2019 Annual Report

Content

Contents

Introduction	1
Action Groups at a Glance	1
Rotarian Action Group Addiction Prevention (RAG-AP).....	3
Alzheimer’s/Dementia Rotarian Action Group (ADRAG)	4
Rotarian Action Group for Blindness Prevention (RAG4BP).....	5
Global Network for Blood Donation, a Rotarian Action Group (GNBD).....	6
Rotarian Action Group for Clubfoot.....	7
Rotarian Action Group for Diabetes (RAGD)	8
Disaster Network of Assistance Rotarian Action Group (DNA-RAG).....	9
Rotarian Action Group for Endangered Species (RAGES)	10
Environmental Sustainability Rotarian Action Group (ESRAG).....	11
Rotarians for Family Health and AIDS Prevention (RFHA)	12
Rotarian Action Group for Family Safety (RAGFAMSAFE).....	13
Food Plant Solutions Rotarian Action Group (FPS)	14
Health Education and Wellness Rotarian Action Group (HEWRAG)	15
Rotarians for Hearing, A Rotarian Action Group (RfHRAG).....	16
Hepatitis Eradication Rotarian Action Group	17
Literacy Rotarian Action Group (LITRAG).....	18
Rotarians Eliminating Malaria, a Rotarian Action Group (REMaRAG).....	19
Rotarian Action Group on Mental Health Initiatives (RAGMHI)	20
Rotarian Action Group for Microfinance and Community Development (RAGM)	21
Rotarian Action Group for Multiple Sclerosis Awareness (RAGMSA).....	22
Rotarian Action Group for Polio Survivors and Associates (PSA).....	24
Rotarian Action Group for Population & Development (RFPD).....	25
Rotarian Action Group Against Slavery (RAGAS).....	26
Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group (WASRAG)	27

Introduction

Rotary Action Groups provide assistance and support to clubs and districts in planning and implementing community development and humanitarian service projects. They are organized by committed professionals with expertise in a particular field.

Every year Action Groups 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 Action Groups are doing to advance the Object of Rotary worldwide.

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

Action Groups at a Glance

Since Action Groups were first recognized by the RI Board of Directors in 2005, they have grown in impact and reach around the world. The following provides a broad look at membership, finances, and general highlights for RAGs in 2018-19.

Membership

In 2018 - 19, 25 groups reported a combined membership of 27,611 in more than 140 countries worldwide. Excluding the Rotarian Action Group for Population & Development, which reported the largest membership of any group at 13,500 members, the average size of each RAG is around 588 members. On average, each Action Group represents 40 countries with its membership. The Rotarian Action Group for Peace and Global Network for Blood Donation reported the highest geographical representation with 108 countries. The leading ten countries with the highest concentration of Action Group members reported in 2018-19 are USA, Canada, Australia, India, UK, Nigeria, Philippines, South Africa, Germany, Belgium, and Kenya.

Administration

Action Groups are independent, international, Rotary-affiliated entities. Each group oversees its own governance, membership, and activities in accordance with RI policies. Groups also independently elect their board of directors and executive officers based on the guidelines outlined in the Action Groups Standard bylaws. The average size of each Rotary Action Group's board is eleven members. Action Group boards represent five countries on average. The Microfinance and Community Development Rotary Action Group reported the largest board with 22 members in 2018-19. The Environment Sustainability Rotarian Action Group's board represents nine countries, which is the highest geographical representation among all Action Groups. 15 of the 25 Action Groups have a charitable entity status and six Action Groups have paid staff who manage their administrative work.

Service Impact

Rotary Action Groups supported 1642 projects in total in 2018-19. Among those: 977 were club projects, 215 were district projects, 196 were multi-district projects, and 254 were other Rotarian-led projects. Rotary Action Groups raised US\$890,000 in total, which was used solely for supporting club and district projects. 21 of 25 Action Groups reported supporting at least one TRF-funded global grant project in 2018-19. Those 21 Action Groups reported assisting with 83 TRF global grant projects in total.

Finances

Together these groups reported a combined income of US\$1,217,849 from membership dues, grants, and other charitable contributions. The combined income of Action Groups has grown by 8.7% in 2018-19. 20 groups required members to pay either annual or lifetime membership dues. The average annual membership cost was US\$28 and average lifetime membership cost was US\$73. Some Action Groups offer three-year or five-year membership options and rely on ongoing financial support from their members. Action Groups reported expenses of US\$1,016,502 in support of international humanitarian service projects and other activities. At year end, RAGs reported combined net assets of US\$735,989. The Disaster Network of Assistance RAG reported the highest revenue with US\$400,315 and highest expenditures with US\$384,392.

Action Groups Activity at the 2019 Hamburg Convention

The RAGs were very active at the 2019 RI Convention in Hamburg with many hosting booths, breakout sessions, and annual meetings for members in attendance. An annual meeting of all Action Group chairs also took place at the 2019 Convention as well as a “RAG Advancement Workshop”, which provided Action Groups a platform to exchange best practices and address the areas where they struggle the most such as leadership succession, membership growth, and visibility.

Summary of Annual Reports

Rotarian Action Group Addiction Prevention (RAG-AP)

Topic: assisting clubs and districts in the prevention of substance abuse and addiction

Membership

In 2018-19, RAGAP reported 514 members in 44 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$25

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

Other Membership Options: \$500 for a Rotary Club lifelong / \$1000 for a Rotary District lifelong

International Service Projects and Activities (*TRF Global Grant project)

Number of service projects supported: 53

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Identifying/finding international partners, helping design humanitarian service, helping understand and incorporate sustainability elements into project design, securing funding, advising on a TRF Global Grant Application, creating a plan for monitoring and evaluation, promoting an ongoing/completed project, subject matter speaker at a meeting or event.

- ***Life Skill Training Nepal** – RAG-AP partnered with Child Nepal to facilitate children/adolescents in making correct decisions for their lives and focusing on prevention of addiction from young age. They coordinated with the education and health sections of local governments, hospitals and health institutions, and universities for the selection of teachers, health personnel, professionals, and social workers.
- **Prevention Toolkit** – RAG-AP has been distributing toolkits with everything Rotarians might need to prevent addiction in their local communities. The toolkit has five video films on tobacco, alcohol, cannabis, opiates, and gaming and information on how to become an effective intermediary between youth organizations and professional addiction prevention centers.
- ***Training Addiction Treatment and Prevention** – RAG-AP is implementing a treatment and prevention program to address the issue of tobacco, alcohol, drug, gaming, and internet addiction among students. Additionally, the program will train school teachers on addiction prevention, promote disease prevention programs, educate communities, and enhance communities' health infrastructure.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: World Federation Against Drugs, International Order of Good Templars, Vienna NGO Committee, United Nations office for drugs and crime, WHO

Informal Collaborations: SNTD Womens University Mumbai

Contact Information

Chair: Kalyan Mohan Banerjee (India)

Email: banerjeekm@yahoo.co.in

Website: www.rag-ap.org

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

Rotary Action Groups

2019 Annual Report

Alzheimer's/Dementia Rotarian Action Group (ADRAG)

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

Membership

In 2018-19, ADRAG reported 35 members in 10 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$25

Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$100

International Service Projects and Activities (*TRF Global Grant project)

Number of service projects supported: 42

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Conducting a community assessment, Identifying/finding international partners, Securing funding, Creating a plan for monitoring and evaluation, Promoting an ongoing/completed project, Subject matter speaker at a meeting or event

- ***Why More Women have AD than Men** – Through the support of a TRF global grant totaling US \$375,000, ADRAG is working with clubs, districts, and the Cure Alzheimer's Fund to support a research project on why women are at a higher risk for Alzheimer's than men. In addition to contributing financial resources, ADRAG advises on different aspects of the project and works to secure international partners.
- **Alzheimer's Walk** – ADRAG partnered with the Alzheimer's Association and involved 72 Rotary clubs in a 10k walk for Alzheimer's in various locations to raise funds for research and increase awareness.
- **Re-Organizing ADRAG** – ADRAG conducted a reorg during the past year to be more effective, in order to expand and to fulfill their mission. They anticipated more awareness, an increase in memberships and projects. The group is currently working on initiatives to be more visible to clubs, districts, and zones.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Cure Alzheimer's Fund, CART, Repod, Music Mends Minds, The Alzheimer's Association

Informal Collaborations: Medical Folks - Media

Contact Information

Chair: Joseph P. Clancy

Email: joelclancy@aol.com

Website: <http://adrag.org>

Social Media: [Facebook](#)

Rotarian Action Group for Blindness Prevention (RAG4BP)

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

Membership

In 2018-19, RAG4BP reported 214 members in 44 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$50/ US\$100: 3 years

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities (*TRF Global Grant project)

Number of service projects supported: 46

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Conducting a community assessment, Identifying/finding international partners, Helping understand and incorporate sustainability elements into project design, Helping understand TRF's Area of Focus policy statements, Securing funding, Advising on a TRF Global Grant Application, Subject matter speaker at a meeting or event

- ***Rotary Eye Care Center** – The RAG4BP established a new Rotary Eye Care Center in the Karol Bagh District of New Delhi focusing on surgeries for preventable blindness. Eye camps are held to identify candidates for eye surgery (primarily cataracts) or advanced treatment of serious eye conditions. The RAG4BP is primarily responsible for the coordination of cooperation between Rotary Clubs and other blindness prevention organizations
- ***Rotary Eye Care Center at Karol Bagh New Delhi Update** – The RAG4BP has been providing OPD facilities like screening and treating patients for eye-related disorders. The hospital has provided 335 eye surgeries and dispensed 664 pairs of glasses up to August 2019. The Center has hosted many health-focused events included health education campaigns and medical trainings.
- ***Proposed Global Grant for Karol Bagh Eye Center Expansion** – The RAG4BP wants to expand Karol Bagh capacity by offering advanced Glaucoma surgeries with accompanying cataract treatment. The project envisages acquiring the latest technology of Trabectome for providing the latest available treatment.

Notable Collaborations

Informal Collaborations: The International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB)

Contact Information

Executive Secretary: Shehzad Ahmed (Pakistan)

Email: rotary@promark.com.pk

Website: www.rag4bp.org

Social Media: [Facebook](#)

Global Network for Blood Donation, a Rotarian Action Group (GNBD)

Topic: blood donation projects

Membership

In 2018-19, GNBD reported 2,163 members in 108 countries.

Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities

Number of service projects supported: 120

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Conducting a community assessment, Identifying/finding international partners, Helping design humanitarian service, Helping understand and incorporate sustainability elements into project design, Promoting an ongoing/completed project, Subject matter speaker at a meeting or event.

- **Governors' Challenge Blood Drive** – This project continues to result in on-going, life-saving blood donations, primarily in the US and India. GNBD has supported the challenge by promoting it at the International Convention in Hamburg and at various district events.
- **Cowboys and Indian Challenge (Governors' Challenge between Countries)** – In partnership with the Association of Donor Recruitment Professionals and Community Blood Centers, GNBD hosted blood drives for local blood banks and encouraged Rotarians and the general public to donate.
- **Mon Sang pour les Autres (My Blood for Others)** – GNBD conducted a countrywide blood drive in France and other francophone countries in what has become one of the largest blood collection events in all of Europe. The RAG coordinated the blood drive with the help of various Rotary clubs and provided blood donation education for its members.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Association for Donor Recruitment Professionals

Informal Collaborations: Global Blood Fund

Contact Information

Chair: Jean-Claude Brocart (France)

Email: jc.brocart@gmail.com

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

Social Media: [Twitter](#)

Rotarian Action Group for Clubfoot

Topic: treating clubfoot deformities

Membership

In 2018-19, RAG4Clubfoot reported 120 members in 6 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: \$25

Charter Membership Dues: \$100 for first year; \$25/year for renewal

International Service Projects and Activities (*TRF Global Grant project)

Number of service projects supported: 5

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Identifying/finding international partners, Helping design humanitarian service, Securing funding, Advising on a TRF Global Grant Application, Promoting an ongoing/completed project, Subject matter speaker at a meeting or event.

- **Ponseti Method Training for Treating Clubfoot in Mexico** – RAG4Clubfoot partnered with Ponseti International Association and the University of Iowa to provide training and Ponseti Method treatments in Mexico. The group assisted in linking the international and host sponsors.
- ***Ponseti Method Training for Treating Clubfoot in Bolivia** – RAG4Clubfoot partnered with PIA and the University of Iowa to provide training and mentorship to 24 providers.
- ***Clubfoot Ponseti Method Training Colombia**– RAG4Clubfoot partnered with PIA and the University of Iowa to provide training and mentorship to 32 doctors for the Ponseti Method of treating clubfoot.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Ponseti International Association (PIA)

Informal Collaborations: Dominican Republic, Argentina

Contact Information

Co-Chairs: John Ockenfels and Dennis Jordan(USA)

Emails: johnockenfels@hotmail.com; dennis.jordan@mortenson.com

Website: www.RAG4clubfoot.org

Social Media: [Facebook](#)

Rotarian Action Group for Diabetes (RAGD)

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

Membership

In 2018-19, RAGD reported 125 members in 24 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$25

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities

Number of service projects supported: 40

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Identifying/finding international partners, Helping design humanitarian service, Securing funding, Promoting an ongoing/completed project, Subject matter speaker at a meeting or event

- **EPiC Journey Against Diabetes** – RAGD Board Member Edwin A. Velarde cycled from London to Hamburg Rotary Convention. Along the way, he spoke to Rotary clubs to create awareness about the Global Diabetes Epidemic while promoting proper nutrition and regular physical activity.
- **World Diabetes Day** – The RAGD launched a social media campaign to raise awareness about the Global Diabetes Epidemic. Approximately 29,000 people were reached in 6 countries: US, UK, France, Belgium, Netherlands, & Germany.
- **RAGDiabetes Risk Test Campaign** – Ongoing project to promote individuals to assess the risk of diabetes so they can delay or prevent diabetes complications such as kidney failure, heart disease, stroke, blindness, and loss of limb.

Notable Collaborations

Informal Collaborations: Insulin for Life, Life for a Child, D-Foot International, Enchanted Kingdom, Dutch Diabetes Foundation, Calamba Medical Center

Contact Information

Chair: Edwin A. Velarde (USA)

Email: edwinvelarde@att.net

Website: www.rag-diabetes.org

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

Disaster Network of Assistance Rotarian Action Group (DNA-RAG)

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

Membership

In 2018-19, DNA RAG reported 91 members in 15 countries.

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

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities (*TRF Global Grant project)

Number of service projects supported: 45

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Conducting a community assessment, Identifying/finding international partners, Helping understand and incorporate sustainability elements into project design, Helping understand TRF's Area of Focus policy statements, Securing funding, Advising on a TRF Global Grant Application, Creating a plan for monitoring and evaluation, Promoting an ongoing/completed project, Subject matter speaker at a meeting or event

- **HANWASH** – DNA RAG is working towards the goal of providing access to potable water source to ALL homes in Haiti – have a source within 500 meters of every home in Haiti. Phases include mapping and surveying of communes in Haiti.
- **Various Disaster Recovery Projects** – Multiple disaster recovery projects in D7020 & D7030 with restoration of services and operation in multiple locations per appended report. DNA RAG had weekly meetings as an advisor, collected and distributed funds at the direction of the 7020/7030 Disaster committee.
- ***NERI DAF Committee** – The DNA RAG partnered with the government of Nepal to restore school and teach teachers new skills such as sanitation as part of the rebuilding process post-2015 earthquake.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: District 7020 Disaster Committee, Caribbean Partnership

Informal Collaborations: Disaster Aid USA, Disaster Aid Canada, Disaster Aid Australia, ShelterBox, WaterBox, Sawyer

Contact Information

Chair: Robert A. Stuart, Jr. (USA)

Email: rstuart@bhslaw.com

Website: www.dna-rag.com

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

Rotarian Action Group for Endangered Species (RAGES)

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

Membership

In 2018-19, RAGES reported 933 members in 71 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: None

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities

Number of service projects supported: 7

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Identifying/finding international partners, Helping understand TRF's Area of Focus policy statements, Securing funding, Advising on a TRF Global Grant Application, Promoting an ongoing/completed project, Subject matter speaker at a meeting or event

- **SAVE ME! Peace Project** – This project extends the benefit of saving bees to other pollinating species. Project goals are the preservation of all pollinators in Central America through greater participation of youth in conservation education. RAGES is organizing support and potential to TRF for a global grant.
- **MGCSC Veterinary Scholarship** – RAGES mission through this project is to bring awareness to the plight of gorillas and further gorilla conservation throughout the world. The scholarship program was established to provide postgraduate scholarships in veterinary medicine who will directly impact the survival of the critically endangered mountain and lowland gorillas and their habitat and other species.
- **Ape Action Africa** – Ape Action Africa is committed to ape conservation in Africa. They are protecting Cameroon's great apes through direction action, including rescuing orphaned gorillas, chimpanzees, and moneys, giving them a safe forest sanctuary home where they can live with their own kind. RAGES is supported in helping to develop a Global Grant application and encourage Rotarians to engage in the effort to save Great Apes

Contact Information

Chair: Thomas L. Tochterman (USA)

Email: tomtochterman@gmail.com

Website: www.endangeredrag.org

Social Media: [Facebook](#)

Environmental Sustainability Rotarian Action Group (ESRAG)

Topic: help clubs and districts plan, implement, and evaluate projects related to environmental sustainability, mitigation of climate disruption and awareness about climate change.

Membership

In 2018-19, ESRAG reported 280 members in 33 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$30 / US\$125: 5 years

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities (*TRF Global Grant project)

Number of service projects supported: 41

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Conducting a community assessment, Identifying/finding international partners, Helping design humanitarian service, Helping understand and incorporate sustainability elements into project design, Helping understand TRF's Area of Focus policy statements, Securing funding, Advising on a TRF Global Grant Application, Creating a plan for monitoring and evaluation, Promoting an ongoing/completed project, Subject matter speaker at a meeting or event

- **Rotarians for Bees** – the R4Bees project was set up in response to the Australian and worldwide threat to pollinators which are critical to the production of many foods. The vision of R4Bees is that Rotary is a catalyst for building a sustainable bee population in Australia with the long term purpose to enhance the survival of all pollinators and to ensure food sustainability in Australia.
- **A Handbook for Rotary Clubs** – ESRAG was approached by Rotary and the United Nations to produce a handbook that would be a pivotal point where 1.2 million Rotarians could come to find a starting place for projects with a focus on environment. The overarching goal is to realize the potential of environmental sustainability in all of Rotary's six areas of focus.
- ***Eco-Tourism Business for Rural Costa Rican Women** – This project was created to support economic and community development led by rural women in Costa Rica. The three components were to develop and teach workshops to give rural women the skills to launch and manage their own ecotourism businesses, to build aquaponics gardens, and refurbish a 77-year-old house to become their office and an eco-hotel where tour groups could stay.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: CONAFOR - MOU between ESRAG, RC Ameca and CONAFOR for tree planting in Jalisco Mexico

Informal Collaborations: United Nations Environment

Contact Information

Chair: Christopher F. Puttock (United States)

Email: christopher.puttock@gmail.com

Website: www.esrag.org

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

Rotarians for Family Health and AIDS Prevention (RFHA)

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

Membership

In 2018-19, RFHA reported 948 members in 25 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: None

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities (*TRF Global Grant project)

Number of service projects supported: 466

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Conducting a community assessment, Identifying/finding international partners, Helping design humanitarian service, Helping understand and incorporate sustainability elements into project design, Helping understand TRF's Area of Focus policy statements, Securing funding, Advising on a TRF Global Grant Application, Creating a plan for monitoring and evaluation, Promoting an ongoing/completed project, Subject matter speaker at a meeting or event

- ***Rotary Family Health Days Africa** – RFHA's signature program, Rotary Family Health Days Partnership Programme (RFHD), is designed to bring free, comprehensive, and holistic health care services to people in disadvantaged communities outside of normal government health care facilities. Among other services, each RFHD site offers HIV counselling and testing, immunizations, vitamin A drops, distribution of condoms, de-worming, and dental and eye services. Moreover, they can screen for tuberculosis, hepatitis, cervical and breast cancer, and diabetes.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Gilead Sciences Foundation, South Africa Broadcasting Corporation Foundation, Ministries of Health in South Africa, Nigeria, and Lesotho, National Lotteries Commission, Dis-Chem Foundation, Community Chest, The AIDS Healthcare foundation, Bwomans, Probono legal counsel in South Africa, Zimi Community Health Initiative

Informal Collaborations: Paprika Graphics and Communication, Primedia, Media24, YFM, CDC, USAID, Caxton Publications, Gift of the Givers, Abbott, Cape Community Newspapers, TB/HIV Care, 4 major Hepatic Hospitals in South Africa, Prime Core Ad-Concepts, Clinton Health Awareness

Contact Information

Chair: Sandra McKersey (New Zealand)

Email: sandra@peoplepotential.co.nz

Website: www.rfha.org

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

Rotarian Action Group for Family Safety (RAGFAMSAFE)

Topic: providing support and resources for victims of family violence

Membership

In 2018-19, RAGFAMSAFE reported 346 members in 46 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: None (The group offers a five year membership for AUD\$25)

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities

Number of service projects supported: 10

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Helping design humanitarian service, Securing funding, Subject matter speaker at a meeting or event

- **Champions of Change** – This project was launched in February 2019 to introduce the issues of gender equality within businesses and agencies so that there can be long term cultural change. RAGFAMSAFE hopes there will be change in attitudes to respect people as individuals and overcome stereotypes, leading to better behavior in workplaces.
- **Social Emotion Learning Program (SEL)** – A district grant was obtained to begin implementation of a Social Emotional Learning Program at the preschool level. The effective SEL program in schools and in communities will be the way forward in eliminating abusive behaviors of all kinds, including domestic violence and sexual assault. This program is one of a group of programs in education that is being evaluated to see if it can be offered more widely (in other countries where such programs do not yet exist).
- **Healing the Hurt** – RAGFAMSAFE organized training focused on treating sexual abuse perpetrated by clergy, professionals and those in fiduciary roles; using EMDR therapy with complex PTSD and dissociation; and adapting EMDR therapy for different clinical populations. Further trainings are planned for the current year.

Notable Collaborations

Informal Collaborations: www.economicsandpeace.org, mediatorsbeyondborders.org, Worcester University, UK, Trauma Aid Europe

Contact Information

Chair: Norman Taralrud-Bay (Australia)

Email: normanbay@optusnet.com.au

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

Food Plant Solutions Rotarian Action Group (FPS)

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 2018-19, Food Plant Solutions reported 534 members in 53 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: None

Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$20

International Service Projects and Activities (*TRF Global Grant project)

Number of service projects supported: 4

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Identifying/finding international partners, Helping understand and incorporate sustainability elements into project design, Securing funding, Creating a plan for monitoring and evaluation, Promoting an ongoing/completed project, Subject matter speaker at a meeting or event.

- **Fresh Food for Families** – The FPS developed a gardening workshop for the Ethiopian community in Tasmania to give them tools to grow, nurture, harvest, and prepare nutritious food in a new climate. There were four stations that participants rotated through: (1) how to make pots from newspaper, (2) the difference between types of soil, (3) techniques for planting various kinds of vegetables, and (4) how to read a pollination calendar. The Action Group was critical in publicizing the event and creating informational pamphlets for the participants.
- ***Alleviation of Malnutrition in PNG** – This is a social change project based on creating awareness and motivation about healthier, stronger and smarter babies who will transform the lives of their people through better nutrition, safe, clean drinking water, personal hygiene, sanitation and improved health. Information will be delivered through village workshops, supplementary seeds will be provided, and education of school children will be taught.
- **Nutrition 4 Education and Development** – N4ED is an Ethiopian nonprofit whose mission is to improve children's nutrition and ensure their full cognitive and physical development. The main activities of the organization focus on giving parents the knowledge, desire, self-confidence, home-gardening, saving and loan programs, business, life skill and technical training, and affordable child care services.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Bioversity International, School and Land and food at University of Tasmania, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research

Informal Collaborations: World Vision International

Contact Information

Chair: Una M. Hobday (Australia)

Email: unahob@gmail.com

Project Admin: Karalyn Hingston (Australia)

Email: info@foodplansolutions.org

Website: <http://foodplantsolutions.org>

Social Media: [Facebook](#)

Health Education and Wellness Rotarian Action Group (HEWRAG)

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

Membership

In 2018-19, HEWRAG reported 670 members in 45 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$30 / US\$125: 5 years

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities

Number of service projects supported: 41

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Identifying/finding international partners, Helping design humanitarian service, Helping understand and incorporate sustainability elements into project design, Securing funding, Advising on a TRF Global Grant Application, Creating a plan for monitoring and evaluation, Promoting an ongoing/completed project, Subject matter speaker at a meeting or event

- **Cervical Cancer Elimination** — This project was designed to prevent and eliminate cervical cancer. Conferences were held in Kenya and Ethiopia to share relevant information, to provide support and guidance regarding improving cervical cancer information and increasing the capability of clinics to examine and treat women for cervical cancer and pre-cervical cancer conditions.
- **Stop TB Now – Every Breath Counts** – In this project, HEWRAG provides support and educational information as well as form productive alliances with community participation to help eradicate TB. Their goal is the eradication of tuberculosis by 2030, which is the date set by the World Health Organization. The project will provide facts, figures, and what the challenges are associated with eliminating TB.
- **Autism Support Network (ASN)** — This project was designed to create more awareness of what Autism is and how people with Autism can be empowered to succeed in the world. HEWRAG is forming an Autism Support Network to bring Rotarians together whom are involved in or interested in becoming involved in efforts in their own and other communities.

Notable Collaborations

Informal Collaborations: American Cancer Society, World Health Organization, India National TB Control & Awareness Committee, International Union Against Tuberculosis & Lung Disease

Contact Information

Co-Chairs: Jane Little & Sheila Hurst (USA)

Email: rotaryjane@yahoo.com; sheilahurst@mac.com

Website: www.hewrag.org

Rotarians for Hearing, A Rotarian Action Group (RfHRAG)

Topic: helping children and adults with hearing loss

Membership

In 2018-19, RfHRAG reported 77 members in 11 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$10 / US\$25: 3 years

Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$100

International Service Projects and Activities (*TRF Global Grant project)

Number of service projects supported: 6

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Conducting a community assessment, Securing funding, Advising on a TRF Global Grant Application

- **Dagupan Hearing Loss Infant Screening and Management in Low Resource Areas**
– RfHRAG partnered with the Dagupan Health Center to train nurses and help implement the infant hearing loss screening and management project. The nurses will be trained to administer OAE and a Nurse/Doctor will administer an auditory brainstem response machine (ABR) when indicated. Babies with hearing loss will be able to get early hearing health care intervention and developmental delays will be negligible.
- ***Kumasi, Ghana Pediatric Hearing Loss** –The Kumasi Pediatric Hearing Loss Global Grant will provide early identification and treatment of hearing loss so children with hearing loss in Kumasi, Ghana can reach their potential at home, at school, in their community, and in the work force. The project was created to promote awareness and its importance, identification and treatment of hearing loss will be prioritized by the professional, general public and Public Health Care Workers in Kumasi.
- **Guatemalan Pediatric Hearing Loss Service and Audio Tech Training** – Nineteen audio techs over the years have been training to identify hearing loss, fit hearing aids and provide follow up support for families and children. Guatemalans all transitioned to performing all work of diagnostic hearing tests, programming and fitting of hearing aids and family training and education on the use and maintenance of the aids and speech and language stimulation.

Contact Information

Chair: Ellen Haggerty (USA)

Email: haggertyellen@yahoo.com

Website: www.ifrahl.org

Social Media: [Facebook](#)

Hepatitis Eradication Rotarian Action Group

Topic: works to eradicate Hepatitis C globally

Membership

In 2018-19, the Hepatitis Eradication RAG reported 360 members in 20 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: None

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities

Number of service projects supported: 80

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Conducting a community assessment, Identifying/finding international partners, Helping design humanitarian service, Helping understand and incorporate sustainability elements into project design, Helping understand TRF's Area of Focus policy statements, Securing funding, Advising on a TRF Global Grant Application, Promoting an ongoing/completed project, Subject matter speaker at a meeting or event, Other: Donation of Hepatitis tests funding for the campaigns

- **Hepatitis Zero Week - 2019** – The project is a transcontinental humanitarian screening and linkage of care project against Hepatitis B and C in about 50 countries of the world. Approximately 1 million Hepatitis tests were carried out in thousands of locations and 10 thousand people have been diagnosed and will now receive treatment. The HEPRAG idealized, organized, funded, distributed, coordinated and supervised the whole action.
- **Hepatitis Zero Week Americas** – The HEPRAG idealized, orientated, donated the tests, vests, etc. to the clubs and supervised the whole action of screening and linkage of care of Hepatitis B and C. The diagnosis of hundreds of people resulted and involvement of clubs and Rotarians increase of public image through media.
- **Hepatitis Zero Week Brazil** – The HEPRAG idealized, organized, funded, donated the test kits, vests and supervised the whole operation of screening and linkage of care for Hepatitis C in Brazil. The diagnosis of thousands of people of Hepatitis C who had been carrying the “Silent Killer” unaware can now receive the treatment and care

Contact Information

Chair: Humberto Silva (Brazil)

Email: humbertowcf@hotmail.com

Website: www.ragforhepatitiseradication.org

Literacy Rotarian Action Group (LITRAG)

Topic: reducing illiteracy

Membership

In 2018-19, LITRAG reported 195 members in 23 countries.

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

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities

Number of service projects supported: 16

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Conducting a community assessment, Identifying/finding international partners, Helping understand and incorporate sustainability elements into project design, Advising on a TRF Global Grant Application, Promoting an ongoing/completed project, Subject matter speaker at a meeting or event

- **Together We Read** – LITRAG partnered with Save The Children to launch Together We Read, a pilot project to assist identified districts in promoting and supporting early childhood education programs – through awareness, advocacy and partnerships. Plans are in process to facilitate conversations among district literacy chairs/committees to share ideas, problem solve, and reinforce best practices.
- **Community Awareness Literacy Contest** – LITRAG hosted a competition for members to highlight impact of local literacy projects. This was done to remind and encourage clubs to celebrate BEL during September, Rotary Literacy Month. There was active involvement of Rotarians in a variety of local awareness/advocacy efforts to promote literacy and the project is planned to be replicated the following year.
- **Activity Based Learning** – LITRAG entered into an MOU with Education Beyond Borders (EBB). After conducting a community assessment, the program will provide a facilitation model to enhance pedagogical skills. Additional training will be provided to develop a framework that enables local teacher leaders to create a continuous model of professional development.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Education Beyond Borders (EBB)

Informal Collaborations: Save The Children (US)

Contact Information

Chair: John Thorne (Australia)

Email: thorne.hobart@gmail.com

Website: www.litrag.org

Rotarians Against Malaria, Rotarian Action Group (RAM Global)

Topic: coordinating efforts to control malaria

Membership

In 2018-19, REMaRAG reported 314 members in 12 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$25

Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$100

International Service Projects and Activities (*TRF Global Grant project)

Number of service projects supported: 3

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Other: We are reorganizing and have no information if the previous RAG offered guidance during the 2018-2019 year

- ***Mosquitero Project Leone Rossi** – This Global Grant project will transport mosquiteros (bed-nets) to Venezuela, distribute them and pay for recipient education on the use and care of their nets. Statistics shows that the Rotary bed-nets can prevent up to 80% of new malaria infections. Villages are chosen on a basis of location in a malaria hotspot and support for the distribution by the local village chief.
- ***Malaria Elimination in Border Towns in Timor Leste** – RAM Global Action Group partnered with the National Malaria Program and Government of Timor Leste to contribute to a reduction in malaria cases by preventing the reintroduction of malaria in vulnerable populations in border areas in Timor Leste through supplying long lasting insecticidal nets, sprayer machines, and parts for indoor residual spraying. The project will increase community engagement in malaria elimination strategies through community education.
- **Public Education Campaign Supporting National Bednet Distribution Program in The Gambia** – This club-to-club project provided public education in support of Gambia's national LLITN distribution program through which nearly 1 million bednets reached rural households. Rotarians and Rotaractors were trained in communicating the elimination message to rural villages where they engaged local drama groups to explain the importance of use and proper care of bednets.

Notable Collaborations

Informal Collaborations: Vestergaard Company

Contact Information

Chair: PDG Ellen Blasi

Email: epblasi@yahoo.com

Website: ram-global.org

Rotarian Action Group on Mental Health Initiatives (RAGMHI)

Topic: advising Rotarians on mental health programs

Membership

In 2018-19, RAGMHI reported 60 members in 31 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$25

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities (*TRF Global Grant project)

Number of service projects supported: 5

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Identifying/finding international partners, Securing funding, Advising on a TRF Global Grant Application, Creating a plan for monitoring and evaluation

- ***Supreme Aim - Lithuania** – RAGMHI partnered with the Rotary Club of Howard West (US) to conduct trainings and form suicide prevention models. The Action Group provided advisement, coaching, and on-site assessments and psychological consultations to specialists to increase their knowledge about suicide prevention and how to work with a person with a risk of suicide.
- **Maanasi Global** – The RAGMHI hosted an all-day training where on-site advisement and in-person training of case workers were provided. It was an exploration of the Maanasi model of Rotarians working together, academic evaluations and teaching, and training of case workers, evaluation of children and adults who suffered from depression and anxiety, alcohol abuse, and cerebral malaria. The Action Group also will return to assess community survey and is working on solicitation of funds for a Global Grants
- **Peer Leadership & Depression Prevention - Nigeria** – RAGMHI set up a donation campaign to help fund this project including on-site training and facilitation. The purpose of this project is to increase knowledge, decrease negative attitude, and improve confidence in help-seeking. The sustainable elements include a referral protocol, experienced trainers, and normalized conversations around mental health and wellness.

Notable Collaborations

Informal Collaborations: Johns Hopkins, Adolescent Wellness, Rotaract Club of Kampala International University

Contact Information

Chair: Bonnie-Leigh Black (USA)

E-mail: bonblack@yahoo.com

Website: <http://ragonmentalhealth.org>

Rotarian Action Group for Microfinance and Community Development (RAGM)

Topic: alleviate poverty through sustainable microfinance and community development

Membership

In 2018-19, Rotarian Action Group for Microfinance and Community Development (RAGM) reported 752 members in 20 countries.

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

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities (*TRF Global Grant project)

Number of service projects supported: 8

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Conducting a community assessment, Identifying/finding international partners, Helping understand TRF's Area of Focus policy statements, Securing funding, Advising on a TRF Global Grant Application, Creating a plan for monitoring and evaluation, Promoting an ongoing/completed project, Subject matter speaker at a meeting or event

- **LaunchRALEIGH** – This project has grown into a community partnership that supports and develops entrepreneurs and small businesses in under-resourced communities in Southeast Raleigh, but providing 10 weeks of business training, access to business loans, mentors, and networking opportunities. RAGM leaders put together a Guidebook for Microfinance and Community Developments which blended the best principles from the Launch model and successful microfinance grants funded by TRF.
- ***Honduras Economic & Community Development (HECD) Program** – Founded in 2013, HECD was designed to provide microfinance loans to individuals, groups, and small businesses in Honduras. In phase five of ten, the project is currently providing loans and specific client training for a new microfinance branch in Puerto Cortes. The loans help Hondurans start or expand their businesses, which then create other employment opportunities within their communities. In the end, the increased income will provide for peoples' basic needs, reduce poverty, and improve the health, education, and the standard of living for many families.
- ***LaunchDETROIT** – This is a multi-pronged program that offers qualifying entrepreneurs a combination of free business training, microloans, assigned business mentors, and networking opportunities. RAGM has been actively engaged in the promotion and guidance of this project as it continues to expand into local suburban communities. Several of the earlier borrowers have completed their first loans and have returned for second- and third-time loans.

Notable Collaborations

Informal Collaborations: Opportunity International Canada, World Vision, Women's Economic Ventures

Contact Information

Chair: Nick Frankle

Email: nfrankle@earthlink.net

Website: www.ragm.org

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

Rotarian Action Group for Multiple Sclerosis Awareness (RAGMSA)

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

Membership

In 2018-19, R4AGMSA reported 479 members in 23 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: None

Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$20

International Service Projects and Activities (*TRF Global Grant project)

Number of service projects supported: 8

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Conducting a community assessment, Identifying/finding international partners, Helping understand and incorporate sustainability elements into project design, Helping understand TRF's Area of Focus policy statements, Securing funding, Advising on a TRF Global Grant Application, Creating a plan for monitoring and evaluation, Promoting an ongoing/completed project, Subject matter speaker at a meeting or event, Other

- **De Pre Scholarship** – The RAGMSA partnered with the Multiple Sclerosis International Federation (MSIF) to refer a select candidate from a developing country to send to state of the art scientific laboratory for training. Scholarship will add knowledge to the Multiple Sclerosis databank and potentially develop another MS investigator.
- **Jacob Taurins Memorial MS Research Scholarship** – In partnership with Australian Rotary Health and Florey Institute, RAGMSA is funding a scholarship for a researcher interested in working under the Progressive MS Research Alliance. RAGMSA has led fundraising events and formed the initial partnerships that made this scholarship possible. Assigned research topic outcome fits into progressive MS Collaborative Alliance program to help find a cure for MS.
- **Develop 2019 New RAGMSA Strategy** – RAGMSA will send emails to DGs offering opportunities to partner on MS projects and gain concurrence to collaborate with Rotary Clubs. This will contribute knowledge to the Progressive MS Alliance and advance in better treatments for MS. RAGMSA championed, developed partnerships and funding to implement the new strategy.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Australian Rotary Health, Funding Jacob Taurins Memorial Scholarship

Informal Collaborations: MSInternational Federation, MS Research Australia, Florey Institute, Melbourne University. USA National MS Society

Contact Information

Chair: Martin Taurins (Australia)

E-mail: taurins3@vegas.com.au

Website: <http://Rotary-ragmsa.org>

Rotarian Action Group for Peace (RAGFP)

Topic: advancing world peace and preventing conflict

Membership

In 2018-19, RAGFP reported 2478 members in 108 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$50 for Rotarians; US\$15 for Rotaractors; US\$15 for Peace Fellow or Rotary Alumni; US\$155/5 year for Rotarians; US\$50/5 year for Rotaractors

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities (*TRF Global Grant project)

Number of service projects supported: 155

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Conducting a community assessment, Identifying/finding international partners, Helping design humanitarian service, Helping understand and incorporate sustainability elements into project design, Helping understand TRF's Area of Focus policy statements, Securing funding, Advising on a TRF Global Grant Application, Creating a plan for monitoring and evaluation, Promoting an ongoing/completed project, Subject matter speaker at a meeting or event

- **RAGFP Positive Peace Workbook and Workshop** – An interactive workbook and workshop was created that allows readers and participants to conceptualize how Rotary projects can have sustainable and measurable impacts upon peace in their communities. They tell the stories of peace projects and educates all Rotarians how all of their Rotary service projects can have a focused and measurable peace component.
- **RAGFP Middle East Peace Education Trip** – An ongoing project to facilitate Rotarian peace action in conflict zones by promoting cooperation and mutual understanding. The purpose of the education mission is to learn about various aspects of conflict by respectfully listening and learning without judgment from engaged citizens and leaders on both sides to hear their perspectives on the current status and the future of the peace process.
- **RAGFP Peacebuilder Clubs** – RAGFP strategy is to create an intentional and sustainable focus in the club to advance the peace area of focus by taking peace action, conducting peace projects, education, engaging Rotary Peace Fellows, and being part of a global network within Rotary that is focused on peace as a mission. The Action Group offered guidance and resources to educate the clubs in the Peace Building and Conflict Prevention Area of Focus.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Mediators Beyond Borders; Memorandum of Understanding, Portland State University; Memorandum of Understanding, War Prevention Initiative; Memorandum of Understanding, Rotary Club of New York; Memorandum of Understanding

Informal Collaborations: Institute for Economics and Peace, Indus Peace Park Project, Peace Village, PeaceJam, Rotary Positive Peace Academy

Contact Information

Chair Alison Sutherland (Wales)

Email: ypalison@yahoo.co.uk

Executive Director: Reem Ghunaim (USA)

Email: reem@rotariansforpeace.org

Website: www.rotarianactiongroupforpeace.org

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

Rotary Action Groups

2019 Annual Report

Rotarian Action Group for Polio Survivors and Associates (PSA)

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

Membership

In 2018-19, PSA reported 542 members in 46 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: None

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities (*TRF Global Grant project)

Number of service projects supported: 3

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Conducting a community assessment, Identifying/finding international partners, Helping design humanitarian service, Securing funding, Advising on a TRF Global Grant Application, Subject matter speaker at a meeting or event

- **Wheels of Hope** – In partnership with the Rotary Club of Traverse City, USA and PSA, Wheels of Hope raises funds to purchase hand-crank tricycles made in Jos, Nigeria which are designed especially for polio survivors. PSA provides administrative and marketing support for this annual project.
- ***Handicapped Rehabilitation Center** – In partnership with the Kaduna Rotary Club, District 9125, and an osteopathic hospital, PSA completed plans to develop a comprehensive rehabilitation center in Nigeria. The center will provide therapy to polio survivors with the goal of increasing mobility and improving their standard of living. The RAG was instrumental in finding project partners, conducting initial site surveys, and gaining government approval for the center.
- **Voices of Polio Project** – The RAG collected and published stories of polio survivors in Rotary and determined how many polio survivors there are in Rotary.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Wheels of Hope, Post-Polio Health International, Crutches for Africa.

Contact Information

Chair: Gretchen Bren (USA)

Email: gretchen@brenonline.com

Website: www.Rotarypoliosurvivors.org

Rotarian Action Group for Population & Development (RFPD)

Topic: improving maternal and child health

Membership

In 2018-19, RFPD reported nearly 13,500 members in 75 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$25

Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$100

International Service Projects and Activities (*TRF Global Grant project)

Number of service projects supported: 21

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Identifying/finding international partners, Helping design humanitarian service, Helping understand and incorporate sustainability elements into project design, Helping understand TRF's Area of Focus policy statements, Securing funding, Advising on a TRF Global Grant Application, Creating a plan for monitoring and evaluation, Promoting an ongoing/completed project, Subject matter speaker at a meeting or event

- ***Family Planning Campaign in Nigeria** – The goal of this project is to improve the access to and quality of family planning services in Nigerian states by addressing underlying issues for the unmet need of family planning services. Central measures include the training of obstetricians, midwives and community health workers in professional family planning service provision and the introduction of a web-based tool for data collection and analysis, allowing for data to be analyzed and the pertinent medical authorities to develop tailored response measures.
- ***Postpartum and Post Miscarriage Family Planning in Pakistan** – the goal of this project is to increase access to voluntary contraception and improve the quality of emergency labor, pregnancy and newborn care in Pakistan. To increase access, women are provided with the opportunity to receive long-acting reversible contraceptives directly following delivery or miscarriage. Improvements in care quality are ensured through capacity building measures. Members of RFPD have been closely involved in advising, arranging funds, assisting in reports/presentation and the development of this intervention.
- ***Awaken Afghanistan** – This is an ongoing project that is set up to work with Rotary Clubs both state side and in Afghanistan to create Shalei Centers for Women, which will expand the current vocational/training/literacy/hygiene program and add computer classes and family planning workshops. It will also improve sanitation, help equip, and staff the Quala-e-Malakh School and Behsood Health Clinic.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: WHO/The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), Geneva; The Population Institute - Washington, D.C., USA; The International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO); The Ministries of Health in the states of Kano, Kaduna, FCT Abuja, & Ondo, Nigeria.

Contact Information

Chair: Ahmes Kamel Ghabrial (Egypt)

Email: ahmeslab@gmail.com

CEO: Robert Zinser (Germany)

Email: robert.zinser@t-online.de

Website: www.rifpd.org

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

Rotarian Action Group Against Slavery (RAGAS)

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

Membership

In 2018-19, RAGAS reported 342 members in 24 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$30; US\$75/5 year

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities

Number of service projects supported: 30

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Conducting a community assessment, Identifying/finding international partners, Helping understand and incorporate sustainability elements into project design, Helping understand TRF's Area of Focus policy statements, Securing funding, Advising on a TRF Global Grant Application, Promoting an ongoing/completed project, Subject matter speaker at a meeting or event

- **School4Freedom** – This landmark project was conducted over a three year period with the objective of freeing an entire village from generational debt bondage in Uttar Pradesh, India. The budgeted sum was raised to provide funds for facilities to start a school, a salary for 2 teachers for three years, lunches for the children, vocational and educational supplies, and the costs of frontline workers to organize and educate parents about their rights as Indian citizens, teach livelihood skills and how to access government services.
- **Rehabilitating Sex Slave Survivors in Mumbai** – RAGAS partnered with Norwich School and YouCanFreeUs to raise funds for a bus to transport survivors from safe houses to a training center whose main objectives are the rehabilitation of the survivors through education and vocational skills training and reintegration back into their own homes. RAGAS is now working to initiate a Global Grant project to build a new training center for the benefit of the women and girls.
- **Champassak, Laos** – RAGAS partnered with Tear Australia and World Concern to teach youth and community members in Laos about the risk of human trafficking, establishing positive community initiatives to support youth and families and strengthen community relationship, provide families with access to microcredit to support their small businesses, training village leadership to monitor safety and awareness of those children who are at risk, reduce the risk of sexually transmitted infections, and support small businesses to promote family income generation.

Notable Collaborations

Informal Collaborations: Freedom United, Hope for Justice, YouCanFreeUs, The Rights Lab, Nottingham University, The Mekong Club, Asha Nepal, Caritas Westminster, Voices4Freedom, International Justice Mission, Free the Slaves, Salvation Army, Tear Australia

Contact Information

Chair: David McCleary (USA)

Email: dmccleary@fms-inc.us

Website: www.ragas.online

Social Media: [Facebook](#)

Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group (WASRAG)

Topic: providing safe water and sanitation to communities

Membership

In 2018-19, WASRAG reported 1512 members in 85 countries.

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

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities

Number of service projects supported: 400

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Conducting a community assessment, Identifying/finding international partners, Helping design humanitarian service, Helping understand and incorporate sustainability elements into project design, Helping understand TRF's Area of Focus policy statements, Securing funding, Advising on a TRF Global Grant Application, Creating a plan for monitoring and evaluation, Promoting an ongoing/completed project, Subject matter speaker at a meeting or event, Other

- **WASRAG Professional Resources Team** – This is a reliable, Rotarian-based resource of expert support for WASH projects and programs. WASRAG is contacting members to confirm their commitment and ensure they have an updated CV and tabulating all information. The RAG is also instituting a tracking system to ensure that requests are documented and receive appropriate follow up. WASRAG continues to add new members to the team to broaden the range of their support.
- **World Water Summit 12** – This is the most significant event of WASRAG's year. The World Water Summits have broadened the understanding of the need for WASH projects and the absolute necessity for proper planning if the projects are to be sustainable. Rotarian are given tools to ensure their projects will successful and it is a wonderful opportunity for WASH enthusiasts to network with fellow Rotarians and share their experiences.
- **WASRAG Ambassador Program** – In partnership with WASH experts around the world, WASRAG launched the WASRAG Ambassador program. Appointed ambassadors are responsible for supporting and promoting WASH goals at the district level. Currently, there are 43 Ambassadors, representing 43 Rotary districts in 24 countries.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: BREW (Beers Rotarians Enjoy Worldwide)

Informal Collaborations: ESRAG (Environmental Sustainability Rotarian Action Group)

Contact Information

Chair: Michael F. Webb (England)

Email: webbco@binternet.com

Website: www.wasrag.org

Social Media: [Facebook](#)