

Rotary



Rotarian Action Groups
2018 Annual Report

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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, they have grown in popularity and impact around the world. The following provides a broad look at membership, finances, and general highlights for RAGs in 2017-18.

Membership

In 2017-18, 27 RAGs reported a combined membership of 24,969 in more than 100 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 for each RAG is around 459 members.

Finances

Together these groups reported a combined income of US\$1,120,732 from membership dues, grants, and other charitable contributions. The combined income of RAGs has grown by 13.7% in 2017-18. 23 groups required members to pay either annual or lifetime membership dues. The average annual membership cost was US\$26 and average lifetime membership cost was US\$80. Some RAGs offer three-year five-year membership options and rely on ongoing financial support from their members. RAGs reported expenses of US\$1,019,941 in support of international humanitarian service projects and other activities. At year end, RAGs reported combined net assets of US\$663,410. The Disaster Network of Assistance RAG reported the highest revenue with US\$543,010 and highest expenditures with US\$353,421.

RAGs Activity at the 2018 Toronto Convention

The RAGs were very active at the 2018 RI Convention in Toronto 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 2018 Convention as well as a "RAG Advancement Workshop", which provided RAGs a platform to exchange best practices and address the areas that 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 2017-18, RAGAP reported 302 members in 34 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$25

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

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

Number of service projects supported: 62

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Identifying international partners, securing funding, advising on a TRF Global Grant Application, promoting an ongoing/completed project, and subject matter speaker at a meeting or event.

- **Addiction Prevention Webinar** – RAG-AP partnered with Edventi, a social services organization, to create a webinar on addiction prevention. It is designed for Rotary clubs, club committees, or individual Rotarians who want to know more about the RAG or would like advice on preventing substance abuse. The webinar will be promoted on their website, in their newsletters, and in a breakout session at the 2019 Rotary International Convention in Hamburg.
- **Prevention Toolkit** – The RAG 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. Along with other things, the program will train school teachers on addiction prevention, promote disease prevention programs, educate communities, and enhance communities' health infrastructure. The RAG has been coordinating the Global Grant, advising the content of the program, and supporting clubs and districts in trying to find community partners.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: World Federation Against Drugs, Vienna NGO Committee, Mentor Foundation, & European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Addictions

Contact Information

Chair: Yvan De Baerdemaecker (Belgium)

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Rotarian Action Groups

2018 Annual Report

Alzheimer's/Dementia Rotarian Action Group (ADRAG)

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

Membership

In 2017-18, ADRAG reported 70 members in 8 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: 28

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Conducting a community assessment, identifying international partners, securing funding, advising on a TRF Global Grant Application, promoting an ongoing/completed project, and subject matter speaker at a meeting or event.

- ***Why Is Alzheimer's a Higher Risk for Women than Men** – Through the support of a 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.
- **Memory Café** – Since July of 2016, ADRAG has run a Memory Café to provide a supportive environment for people suffering from Dementia to come together with their caretakers and relatives. Each meeting has about 25 participants and consists of conversation, refreshments, music, movies, and other entertainment.
- **Dementia Friendly Communities** – ADRAG has been partnering with clubs, districts, and various non-profit agencies to create safe communities for people with Dementia to access facilities and maintain social relationships. Since these have been so successful in the past, the RAG hopes to spend the next year expanding the project to Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Cure Alzheimer's Fund, CART, & Music Mends Minds

Informal Collaborations: REPoD UK

Contact Information

Chair: Bill Shillito (USA)

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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 2017-2018, RAG4BP reported 222 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: 52

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Identifying international partners, incorporating sustainability components, securing funding, advising on a TRF Global Grant Application, and creating a plan for monitoring and evaluation.

- ***Rotary Eye Hospital** – The RAG4BP partnered with the International Agency for Preventable Blindness (IAPB) to create an eye hospital in New Delhi. In an attempt to reduce the number of people in the New Delhi area that suffer from cataract-induced blindness, the hospital's goal is to have all cataract surgeries performed free of charge or at a heavily subsidized rate. They anticipate being able to meet with 10,000 patients in the first year and perform a minimum of 100 cataract surgeries. The RAG4BP facilitated the partnership between Rotary clubs and IAPB that made the creation of the hospital possible and continues to oversee the program operations.
- **“Seeing Eye to Eye” Conference** – RAG4BP worked with Districts 3310 and 3300 to organize the 7th annual “Seeing Eye to Eye” conference to disseminate information, support, and various other services to prevent blindness throughout Asia, and this year's theme was "Blindness Prevention in ASEAN - Rotary's Response." Throughout the weekend, speakers were brought in from Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines to talk about blindness prevention. Members of the RAG4BP organized the conference and were a large part of its execution.
- ***Eye Check Camps and Transportation for Cataract Surgeries** – For the next two years, the RAG4BP will provide a fully-loaded, custom built van for performing free eye checks to people in the New Delhi area. Patients who require cataract surgery will be transported to the Rotary Eye Hospital and then brought back to their homes free of charge. In total, the camp is expected to assist over 15,000 patients. Members of the RAG4BP were responsible for facilitating partnerships with the Schroff Foundation and the Schroff Center and have raised over US\$100,000 for the project thus far.

Contact Information

Executive Secretary: Shehzad Ahmed (Pakistan)

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Social Media: [Facebook](#)

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

Topic: blood donation projects

Membership

In 2017-18, GNBD reported 2,156 members in 108 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: None

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities

Number of service projects supported: 120

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Promoting an ongoing/completed project.

- **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 Toronto 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

Informal Collaborations: Association for Donor Recruitment Professionals

Contact Information

Chair: Daniel K. Long, Sr. (USA)

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

Social Media: [Twitter](#)

Rotarian Action Group for Clubfoot

Topic: treating clubfoot deformities

Membership

In 2017-18, RAG4Clubfoot reported 96 members in 5 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: 4

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Conducting a community assessment, identifying international partners, incorporating sustainability components, securing funding, advising on a TRF Global Grant application, creating a plan for monitoring and evaluation, promoting an ongoing/completed project, and requesting subject matter speakers for a meeting/event.

- ***Ponseti Method Training for Treating Clubfoot in Brazil** – RAG4Clubfoot partnered with Ponseti International Associations in the US and Brazil to train 65 Brazilian Orthopedic Surgeons in the Ponseti Method for treating clubfoot deformities. They also provide basic level trainings for local Rotarians, clinical staff, and parents of children with clubfoot. The RAG helped find international partners for the project, provided guidance and technical expertise on trainings, assisted with the Global Grant application process, and helped put together a monitoring and evaluation plan.
- ***Ponseti Method Training for Treating Clubfoot in Bolivia** – This project will teach the Ponseti Method to three in-country trainers, six orthopedic surgeons, and 15 other specialists in an attempt to provide every Bolivian baby born with clubfoot with the most economical and effective treatment available. The RAG helped identify international partners to financially support the project.
- **Clubfoot Ponseti Method VTT Grant – Mexico** – RAG4Clubfoot is proposing a VTT training program for orthopedic surgeons who, upon completion of the comprehensive training, will be fully qualified to correct clubfoot deformities using the Ponseti Method. They will then establish clubfoot treatment clinics within their healthcare facilities. In addition, newly trained providers will be prepared to raise awareness about clubfoot and its treatment among clinical staff, parents of children with clubfoot, and other advocates who are in a position to assist with community mobilization. This project will be implemented in collaboration with the Ponseti International Association (PIA) and its in-country PIA-affiliated providers. The RAG helped identify international partners and found three districts to use their district designated funds (DDF) to support the project.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Ponseti International Association (PIA)

Contact Information

Co-Chairs: John Ockenfels and Jill Olsen (USA)

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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 2017-18, RAGD reported 125 members in 37 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: 14

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Conducting a community assessment, identifying international partners, advising on a TRF Global Grant application, and requesting subject matter speakers for a meeting/event.

- **Epic Journey for Diabetes** – Epic Journey was a bicycle ride to raise awareness of the causes and debilitating effects of diabetes. The cyclists began at the Rotary International Headquarters in Evanston, Illinois and rode all the way to Toronto, Canada, stopping in major cities along the way. Throughout the journey, multiple Rotary clubs held rallies for the cyclists, and the journey was publicized at the RI Convention.
- **Diabetes Risk Test** – The RAGD created and distributed diabetes risk tests to all of its members and multiple district governors to put in their newsletters. The test can quickly assess whether a person is at risk for diabetes and includes recommendations for preventing the disease's onset.
- ***Prevention of Type 2 Diabetes in Children** – In partnership with Rotary clubs in the Chicagoland area, the RAGD created an educational and interactive summer camp to reduce the prevalence of childhood Type 2 Diabetes.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Insulin for Life & Life for a Child

Contact Information

Chair: Barry McKeown (USA)

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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 2017-18, DNA RAG reported 68 members in 19 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: 37

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Securing funding, advising on a TRF Global Grant Application, creating a plan for monitoring and evaluation, promoting an ongoing/completed project, and subject matter speaker at a meeting or event.

- ***School Rebuilding in Nepal** – DNA RAG worked to fully furnish schools in Nepal by constructing toilet blocks, cisterns, and computer labs, among other things. The RAG drafted the project's Global Grant application and continues to provide funds for school improvement in the area.
- **Disaster Relief & Recovery Committee in D7020/7030** – This was a series of 25 projects that included rebuilding schools, sanitizing local water sources, and training teachers and health workers in communities that were affected by hurricanes in the last year. In addition to submitting the funding proposals, the DNA RAG worked with local communities to ensure that the projects were successfully implemented.
- **Hurricane Maria Recovery Assistance** – The DNA RAG sent funds to D7000 to assist in disaster recovery efforts after Hurricane Maria.

Contact Information

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

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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 2017-18, RAGES reported 838 members in 61 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: None

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities

Number of service projects supported: 3

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Requesting subject matter speakers for a meeting/event.

- **Save our Rhino** – Save our Rhino – RAGES’ flagship rhino project – began in 2012 following the tragic poaching at Kariega Game Reserve in Eastern Cape, South Africa. This year, they partnered with the Chipembere Rhino Foundation to put tracking collars on five rhinos.
- **Black Mamba Anti-Poaching Unit** – RAGES continued its partnership with Rhino Mercy to create an anti-poaching unit in Chelan, Washington. Together they worked to protect endangered species, demonstrate the value of women in conservation, and show the economic benefits that can come from natural resources.
- **Borneo Pygmy Elephants** – In collaboration with the Rotary Club of Huff City, New Zealand and the Sabah Wildlife Department, RAGES worked to preserve wild life and specifically Pygmy elephants in the Borneo area. Workshops were run in schools and communities on how to respect and protect local species, and the RAG specifically provided leadership, mentoring, and support throughout the project.

Contact Information

Chair: Thomas L. Tocherman (USA)

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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 2017-18, ESRAG reported 288 members in 36 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$30

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities

Number of service projects supported: 3

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Identifying international partners, incorporating sustainability components, securing funding, creating a plan for monitoring and evaluation, promoting an ongoing/completed project, and subject matter speaker at a meeting or event.

- **Presidential Conference on Environmental Sustainability and Peace** – Members of ESRAG served on the planning committee for the first Rotary International Presidential Environmental and Peace Conference. The RAG specifically helped shape the conference themes, recruit speakers, develop breakout sessions, and secure funding. The conference included collaborative breakout sessions and keynote speeches by people such as Ian Riseley, David Suzuki, and Jonathan Patz. In total, over 800 people were in attendance. There was even a budget surplus of \$10,000 which will be donated to peace and environmental sustainability projects in Haiti.
- **Support for Ian Riseley's 1.2 Million Tree Planting Challenge** – ESRAG provided significant support to Rotary International President Ian Riseley's 1.2 Million Tree Planting challenge. Among other things, the RAG publicized local and international tree planting programs, created a database to track the total number of trees planted throughout the year, and sent Certificates of Appreciation to districts and clubs that were making tree planting a priority in their communities. Over 59,238 planted trees have been reported to ESRAG so far!
- **Cleaning the Rivers of the World** – In partnership with the Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group, ESRAG developed Cleaning the Rivers of the World. The project's goal is to reduce the use of single-use plastic bags and clean up rivers polluted by plastic and other debris.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Rotary International Conference on Sustainability & Peace Planning Committee

Contact Information

Chair: Peter L. Moralee (England)

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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 2017-18, RFHA reported 837 members in 49 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$25

Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$100; family lifetime membership for US\$150

International Service Projects and Activities

Number of service projects supported: 468

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Conducting a community assessment, identifying international partners, incorporating sustainability components, securing funding, advising on a TRF Global Grant application, creating a plan for monitoring and evaluation, and promoting an ongoing/completed project.

- ***Rotary Family Health Days Africa** – The 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. In just the 2017-18 year, the project reached over 236,336 people in Nigeria, Togo, Benin, Ghana, Cote D'Ivoire, and South Africa. 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.

RFHA was instrumental in securing partnerships with the CDC, USAID, and each countries' Minister of Health; obtaining grants from the private sector; assisting with TRF Global Grant process; and partnering with major media houses and in-country NGOs. RFHA also developed two systems to measure the project's impact and sustainability: (1) a data collection system and (2) a 90-day Impact Analysis system. Together, these two systems track the total number of people reached per region, the number of people that tested positive to an illness, and how such individuals were forwarded to follow-on care.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: South African Broadcasting Corporation, Gilead Sciences Foundation, & Gift of the Givers

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

Contact Information

Chair: Len Lanzi (USA)

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Website: www.rfha.org

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

Rotarian Action Group for Family Safety (RAGFS)

Topic: providing support and resources for victims of family violence

Membership

In 2017-18, RAGFS reported 290 members in 32 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$20

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities

Number of service projects supported: 11

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Advising on a TRF Global Grant Application, promoting an ongoing/completed project, and subject matter speaker at a meeting or event.

- **Healing the Hurt** – RAGFS partnered with the Rotary Club of Melbourne, Australia to train high level social workers in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing Therapy. These treatments have been effective in helping victims cope with trauma in a refugee setting and the RAG is hoping to replicate the benefits for victims of family violence. They will promote the project to clubs – and later professional associations – which will be instrumental in engaging with their local communities, providing a training venue, and funding the expenses of the program (typically less than US\$5,000). Using these therapies in a family violence context will provide treatment to many people who are currently facing these issues on their own and break the cycle of family violence for individuals who would otherwise risk becoming perpetrators or serial survivors/victims.
- **Family Violence Awareness** – Members of the Rotary Club of Sebastopol and Sebastopol Sunrise, USA, formed a joint committee to spread awareness of family violence in their Rotary districts. The committee addressed a majority of local clubs during 2017-18 and presented at the District Conference. It also created a list of organizations that might be suitable partners for clubs wanting to run their own projects and distributed literature on programs that exist to help victims of family violence. The RAG was critical in initiating the committee and in gaining approval to present at district activities.
- **Violence Free Families Family Violence Exchange Ambassador**– For the past three years, District 9800, Australia and 6840, USA exchanged family violence experts to share knowledge and spread information on family violence across borders. These ambassadors visited a number of clubs over a two-week period and spoke at one other's District Conference. They then report on their trip to a Rotary audience upon their return. The RAG was involved in the selection of the candidates, facilitating club and other vocational visits, and interviewing the candidates after they returned. The interviews and transcripts are published on the RAG's website and sent out via their mailing list.

Contact Information

Chair: Norman Taralrud-Bay (Australia)

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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 2017-18, Food Plant Solutions reported 530 members in 53 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: None

Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$20

International Service Projects and Activities

Number of service projects supported: 1

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Requests for a subject matter speaker at a meeting/event.

- **Fresh Food for Families** – The FPS developed a gardening workshop for Nepalese immigrants 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 RAG was critical in publicizing the event and creating informational pamphlets for the participants.
- **Educate a Child International** – The FPS partnered with Educate a Child International to empower women and children to become self-sustaining. Throughout the year, the RAG wrote five publications on how local plants can be used to fight hunger and curb disease in communities.
- **Africa Youth for Peace and Development** – Partnering with Africa Youth for Peace and Development, the FPS distributed pamphlets to students in Sierra Leone on how to identify local plants that have high nutrient contents. The ultimate goal of the project was to reduce childhood malnutrition in Africa.

Notable Collaborations

Informal Collaborations: Priscilla Hall Memorial Foundation, Teacher in a Box, Southern Africa Development Outreach, ECHO Asia Northern Impact Centre, Partners in Community Transformation, Korean Friendship Network, Ganglia, Smiling Faces of Uganda, Golden Zebra Enterprise, & Women's Centre of Excellence

Contact Information

Chair: Una M. Hobday (Australia)

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Project Admin: Karalyn Hingston (Australia)

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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 2017-18, HEWRAG reported 501 members in 43 countries.

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

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities (*TRF Global Grant)

Number of service projects supported: 29

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Conducting a community assessment, identifying international partners, incorporating sustainability components, creating a plan for monitoring and evaluation, promoting an ongoing/completed project, and subject matter speaker at a meeting or event.

- ***China Medical/Dental Mission** — This year, HEWRAG incorporated The Leprosy Project into their medical and dental project in China. Together, they have been providing nutrition, community development, and health care opportunities to a largely forgotten population. There is also a large public education campaign incorporated into the project in an effort to end the discrimination suffered by people with leprosy and their families.
- **Oral Health and Nutrition and Cervical Cancer Prevention** – In this ongoing project, HEWRAG partnered with the American Cancer Society and other Rotary clubs and districts to teach local Rotarians in Zambia how to present programs in oral health and nutrition. This year it was expanded to include cervical cancer with the goal of developing an environment where men and women can be screened, tested, and treated for cervical cancer and vaccinated for HPV. HEWRAG provided volunteers and administrative support throughout the project's implementation.
- **Cervical Cancer Prevention** — This project was designed to create interest, awareness, and detection of cervical cancer by facilitating connections, exploring ideas, and setting up screening opportunities with multiple countries around the globe. HEWRAG maintains a steady flow of communication among its members to provide opportunities and information on cervical cancer prevention. Thus far, they have presented at the District 5160 Conference, the Presidential Peacebuilding Conference, and at the HEWRAG booth at the RI convention in Toronto.

Contact Information

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

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Website: www.hewrag.org

Rotarians for Hearing, A Rotarian Action Group (RfHRAG)

Topic: helping children and adults with hearing loss

Membership

In 2017-18, RfHRAG reported 73 members in 12 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$10

Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$100

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

Number of service projects supported: 8

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Identifying international partners, securing funding, advising on a TRF Global Grant Application, and subject matter speaker at a meeting or event.

- ***Guatemala Hearing Loss Infant Screening and Management in Low Resources Global Grant** – In partnership with Fundação Sonrisas que Escuchan (Smiles that Listen), Healing the Children, and multiple Rotary clubs and districts, RfHRAG is attempting to identify hearing loss in infants from low-income families, provide appropriate hearing aids, and increase awareness about pediatric hearing loss among families and caregivers. Infants with hearing loss as young as one month old can be given hearing aids so that they can imitate sounds and learn to listen and speak the way normal-hearing infants do. The participating infants will have follow-up care during and after the Global Grant with Fundação Sonrisas que Escuchan.
- ***Pediatric Hearing Loss Screening and Treatment** –RfHRAG is developing a clinical outreach platform in peri-urban Kumasi, Ghana to more effectively screen children with hearing loss. It is estimated that the number of children with hearing loss is frequently under reported in this areas as a result of inadequate funding. By offering free screening for both pre- and post-lingual children, the RAG hopes to detect hearing loss early to prevent its progression as children get older. The RAG was crucial in securing the funding and partnerships that made this project possible.
- **MORE HEAR MORE Global Grant Supplement** –The MORE HEAR MORE Global Grant was used to screen 1700 children for hearing loss in five orphanages in Quito, Ecuador. In addition to identifying children with disabling hearing loss, the grant money was used to treat ear infections, impacted ear wax, and perform middle ear surgeries. There was also a focus on educating doctors, parents, teachers, and other caregivers on how to best meet the needs of these children. RfHRAG is working with an international hearing aid purchasing program to provide affordable hearing aid battery supplies for children who could benefit from them.

Contact Information

Chair: Ellen Haggerty (USA)

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Website: www.ifrahl.org

Social Media: [Facebook](#)

Hepatitis Eradication Rotarian Action Group

Topic: works to eradicate Hepatitis C globally

Membership

In 2017-18, the Hepatitis Eradication RAG reported 60 members in 12 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: None

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

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

Number of service projects supported: 6

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Identifying international partners, creating a plan for monitoring and evaluation, and promoting an ongoing/completed project.

- **Sao Thome and Principe Eradication Project** – The RAG is working to make Sao Thome the first country in the world entirely eradicated of hepatitis C. In partnership with the Sao Thome Ministry of Health, each of the island's 208,000 citizens will be tested for hepatitis B and C. Those who test positive will be offered treatment. For hepatitis C, this should lead to a cure, and for hepatitis B (for which there is no known cure) the treatment should greatly improve the patient's standard of living. The RAG will be responsible for sourcing the test kits and training the Sao Thome Ministry of Health nurses.
- **Hepatitis Testing Across Africa** – It is estimated that there are seventy million people living with hepatitis in Africa, many of whom do not know they have the disease. The goal of this project is to test people in all 54 African countries by July of 2019. Testing will take place in areas of large public movement like buses and train stations and will only take a few minutes. The RAG provides the testing kits and trains local nurses on how to administer them. The hope is that by testing people on such a large scale it will be possible to cure those infected and prevent the spread of the disease.
- **Hepatitis Testing Across the American Continent** – Every day, 3600 people die from hepatitis-related liver disease, liver failure, and liver cancer. The RAG hopes to lower this number through early detection and prevention efforts. Similar to the project above, the RAG would like to conduct hepatitis tests in all 35 countries on the American continent. Tests will be administered through a simple finger prick test that only takes 3-5 minutes, and those who test positive will then be referred to appropriate treatment centers.

Contact Information

Chair: Humberto Silva (Brazil)

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Website: www.ragforhepatitiseradication.org

Literacy Rotarian Action Group (LITRAG)

Topic: reducing illiteracy

Membership

In 2017-18, LITRAG reported 159 members in 20 countries.

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

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

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

Number of service projects supported: 4

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Identifying international partners, securing funding, and subject matter speaker at a meeting or event.

- **A Global Voice for Literacy** – The RAG is working with a Rotary Peace Scholar to support Syrian refugee children living with autism. Throughout the year, they worked to train local teachers on how to administer special education programs and foster a nurturing learning environment for all students. For the project, the RAG communicated with sponsoring organizations, promoted the project among their members, and intends to submit a Global Grant application in the coming months.

Contact Information

Chair: John Thorne (Australia)

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Website: www.litrag.org

Rotarians Eliminating Malaria, a Rotarian Action Group (REMaRAG)

Topic: coordinating efforts to control malaria

Membership

In 2017-18, REMaRAG reported 189 members in 23 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: None

Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$100

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

Number of service projects supported: 20

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Conducting a community assessment, identifying international partners, incorporating sustainability components, advising on a TRF Global Grant Application, creating a plan for monitoring and evaluation, and subject matter speaker at a meeting or event.

- **REMIT Health Hunger and Humanity** – In partnership with Rotary District 9211, Tanzania and Uganda, Rotaractors, Municipal Directors, and Rotary Community Corps, the RAG distributed mosquito nets and mosquito repellent to communities in Northern Tanzania. The project served nearly 350,000 beneficiaries, and the budget totaled US\$90,900. There was a specific focus on using the educational aspects developed last year to expand the ITN distribution efforts. The RAG supported the project through funds, advising, and monitoring.
- ***REMIT Saving Lives in lower Kilimanjaro Region** – In partnership with the Rotary Club of Moshi (District 9211), the Rotary Club of Saltash (District 1275), and Pan Africa Vector, Kilimanjaro, a local organization, the RAG supported a Global Grant project to initiate training in malaria pre-elimination. The training is designed to detect malaria in its early stages as well as arbovirus infections such as Zika, Chikungunya, and Dengue. The RAG's specific contributions to the project were providing the initial project funding, liaising with all stake holders, and overseeing PR and publicity.
- **Imperial School of Excellence** – The REMaRAG recently joined an organization that brings together researchers, NGOs, and Rotarians who are leaders in malaria research. Through this forum they can ensure that their members stay up to date on malaria outbreaks and can more easily coordinate future projects with Rotary clubs around the world.

Contact Information

Chair: Ian Priestley (England)

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Website: www.remarag.org

Rotarian Action Group on Mental Health Initiatives (RAGMHI)

Topic: advising Rotarians on mental health programs

Membership

In 2017-18, RAGMHI reported 60 members in 18 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$25

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities

Number of service projects supported: 5

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Securing funding, advising on a TRF Global Grant Application, promoting an ongoing/completed project, and subject matter speaker at a meeting or event.

- ***Suicide Prevention in Lithuania** – In partnership with Rotary Districts 1462, 1826, 2290, 2305 and local municipalities, the RAG supported a program that aims to reduce suicide rates in Lithuania which is as high as 9.4% in some areas. The program entails (1) the development of a local community-based suicide prevention model, and (2) the implementation of that model in frontline institutions like police headquarters, hospitals, and social care facilities. RAGMHI's Vice Chair Geetha Jayaram and two other RAG officers who are certified in Suicide Prevention Training provided consultation on the program.
- **Defeat Depression Workshop** – The RAGMHI hosted a two-hour workshop on depression prevention at the Chanda Devi Saraf School in Nagpur, India. The director of the RAG, Rita Aggarwal, spoke about the signs and symptoms of depression and about the stigmas often associated with mental health diseases. At the end of the workshop, she gave tips on how to identify and talk with friends who might be suffering from depression. In total, over 350 students and teachers participated in the event.
- **Tirpude College of Social Work** – In collaboration with the Tirpude College of Social Work, the RAGMHI hosted a workshop in Nagpur, India called "Suicide among Youth: Reasons and Remedies." The event included presentations on empowering the mind through emotional intelligence and panel discussions on suicide prevention. The RAG was pivotal in the organization and implementation of the event, and in total over 200 students and lecturers attended the workshop.

Contact Information

Chair: Bonnie-Leigh Black (USA)

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Website: <http://ragonmentalhealth.org>

Rotarian Action Group for Microfinance and Community Development (RAGM)

Topic: alleviate poverty through sustainable microfinance and community development

Membership

In 2017-18, Rotarian Action Group for Microfinance and Community Development (RAGM) reported 731 members in 50 countries.

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

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

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

Number of service projects supported: 16

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Conducting a community assessment, identifying international partners, securing funding, creating a plan for monitoring and evaluation, promoting an ongoing/completed project, and subject matter speaker at a meeting or event.

- ***District 5240 Microfinance** – In 2012, the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise, California, USA, attained the first Rotary Foundation microfinance grant awarded for a developed country. The grant had a value of US\$240,276 and was used to support low-income Hispanic women living in the Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties by enabling them to open and/or increase the stability of their small businesses and giving them a sustainable means of increasing their standard of living. During the Rotary year 2017-18, efforts have been made to initiate a Spanish language business training curriculum and have it available to microfinance clients who are Spanish-speaking beneficiaries. As of 31 December 2017, US\$306,757 were provided in loans, which supported 27 businesses and is showing a repayment rate of 97%. For the community, the impact has shown a US\$3,681,000 per year increase in revenues. RAGM members created the project and served as the project lead. The RAG also recruited and supported other Rotarians in the district who served as mentors and trainers.
- ***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. RAGM created the HECD Program idea, which was then taken up by Rotary District 5360.
- ***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.

During the Rotary year 2017-18, LaunchDETROIT also developed a group-lending program called LaunchGLOBAL. The new program includes free small business training through Wayne State University, microloans of \$1,000-\$2,500, business mentoring, and networking opportunities.

Notable Collaborations

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Formal Collaborations: Opportunity International Canada

Contact Information

Chair: Lawrence S. Wright (USA)

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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 2017-18, 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: Identifying international partners, securing funding, advising on a TRF Global Grant Application, creating a plan for monitoring and evaluation, and subject matter speaker at a meeting or event.

- **MS Awareness** – The RAGMSA has been working to increase awareness of MS through their convention booths and by attending various conferences throughout North America. The RAG is also hoping to form a team for the annual MS fundraiser, MuckFest MS, with members of Rotary District 7450.
- **Jacob Taurins Memorial MS Research Scholarship** – In partnership with Gisborne/Keilor East/Essendon North District 9800, ARH, Melbourne University/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.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Australian Rotary Health

Contact Information

Chair: Martin Taurins (Australia)

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

Rotarian Action Group for Peace (RAGFP)

Topic: advancing world peace and preventing conflict

Membership

In 2017-18, RAGFP reported 578 members in 74 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$30 for Rotarians; US\$15 for Rotaractors; US\$125/5 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: 125

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Conducting a community assessment, identifying international partners, incorporating sustainability components, securing funding, advising on a TRF Global Grant application, creating a plan for monitoring and evaluation, promoting an ongoing/completed project, and subject matter speaker at a meeting or event.

- **Promoting Peace Alongside Palestinian Community Leaders** – In January of 2018, the RAGFP Executive Director Reem Ghunaim conducted a “peace tour” throughout Palestine. Ghunaim met with legislators, educators, women leaders, students, human rights advocates, and even a pop star and presented on Rotary’s peace vision including the strategic partnership with the Institute for Economics and Peace, the Global Peace Index, and the Positive Pillars of Positive Peace. The RAG was pivotal in organizing, funding, and promoting the tour.
- **The RI Presidential Peacebuilding Conference on Environmental Sustainability and Peace** – The RAGFP helped organize the Presidential Peacebuilding Conference on Environmental Sustainability and Peace held in Vancouver, Canada this past February. The conference featured business, civic, and scientific leaders who encouraged Rotarians to make environmental responsibility a vital component of all peacebuilding efforts. Over 800 Rotarians were in attendance. The RAG was a part of the planning committee, created the program’s “Peace Is” video, distributed brochures, and promoted the event through various social media sites. This conference was one of six, and the RAG is excited to continue raising awareness on the intersection of environmental sustainability and peace.
- **Cyprus Peace Education Initiative** – The Cyprus Peace Education Initiative was created to facilitate peaceful relationships between the Greek and Turkish citizens of Cyprus. It is an ongoing effort that brings together educators from both communities to reflect on the current state of education, identify obstacles to peace, and design peace-building workshops for students. The RAG is in the process of applying for a Global Grant to organize a conference between Greek and Turkish Cypriots that would build on their work thus far. In addition to initiating the project, the RAGFP promoted the project, raised funds, and produced training materials in collaboration with Portland State University.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: War Prevention Initiative

Contact Information

Chair Garbis Der-Yeghian (USA)

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Executive Director: Reem Ghunaim (USA)

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Website: www.rotarianactiongroupforpeace.org

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

Rotarian Action Group for Polio Survivors and Associates (PSA)

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

Membership

In 2017-18, PSA reported 525 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: 11

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Conducting a community assessment, identifying international partners, incorporating sustainability components, securing funding, advising on a TRF Global Grant application, and 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.
- ***Handicap 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.
- **Wheel Chair Distribution** – Members of PSA distributed 100 wheelchairs to polio survivors in Yola, Nigeria. Throughout the distribution effort, the RAG was able to spread awareness of the difficulties facing polio survivors around the world.

Notable Collaborations

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

Contact Information

Chair: Gretchen Bren (USA)

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Website: www.Rotarypoliosurvivors.com

Rotarian Action Group for Population & Development (RFPD)

Topic: improving maternal and child health

Membership

In 2017-18, 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 international partners, incorporating sustainability components, securing funding, advising on a TRF Global Grant application, promoting an ongoing/completed project, and subject matter speaker at a meeting or event.

- ***Rotary Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Obstetric Quality Assurance (OQA) Program** –RFPD has been working for more than 20 years to promote a sustainable reduction in maternal and perinatal morbidity and mortality in Nigeria. The comprehensive approach to Obstetric Quality Assurance (OQA) developed to this end was first implemented in a pilot project in ten hospitals of Nigeria (2005-2010) and, after initial success, subsequently expanded to 25 hospitals in five states – Kano, Kaduna, FCT Abuja, Ondo (2012-2015) and Enugu (2013-2015). By providing assistance and consultation in the application of this approach to OQA, and in achieving compliance with Nigerian Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response-Guidelines (MPDSR), a significant contribution has been made to strengthening the Nigerian health system and improving maternal and child health in the country. Since 2010, the rate of maternal mortality was reduced by an average of 37% in participating hospitals. The contraceptive use rate has also been increased by an average of 10% in participating states during the same time period.

Over the 2017-18 Rotary year, the innovative web-platform for OQA was expanded to include a total of 65 hospitals and three additional states—Anambra, Ebonyi and Osun. State ministries of health were assisted in converting to a system of digital data collection, allowing for a systematic analysis of obstetric data and the formulation of evidence-based response measures. Hundreds of doctors, nurses, midwives and Medical Record Officers received further training in web-based data collection, family planning service provision and stock management. And lastly, 17,000 sanitary birth kits, 15,000 long-lasting insecticidal mosquito nets (LLINs) and 1,500 LNG-IUS contraceptive devices were distributed. Throughout the project, the RFPD assisted in project planning and implementation by answering district partners' inquiries and assisting with Global Grant applications.

- ***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; (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; (3) provision of quality emergency care to women (during pregnancy and labor) and newborn babies; and (4) supply necessary hospital supplies, training and office equipment. Direct beneficiaries of the project are about 3,500 women who seek antenatal care. In addition to these patients, the health personnel working in the hospital (9 doctors and one health supervisor) as well as 23 health workers underwent training at the GMH in providing FP services and antenatal care. The RAG initiated, co-funded, and supported the project using their 20 years of

experience and helped draft Global Grant applications. The RFPD seeks to expand the project into Ethiopia and other countries throughout the upcoming year.

- ***Awaken Afghanistan** – This project seeks to work with Rotary clubs in both the US and Afghanistan to establish more Saheli Centers for Women, expanding RFPD’s current vocational training/literacy/hygiene program and adding computer classes and family planning workshops. In addition, the program will improve sanitation by adding new latrines and handwashing facilities at the Quala-e-Malakh School and Behsood Health Clinic. Finally, it will help equip and staff the clinic's new Maternal and Child Care Unit. RFPD has initiated, co-funded, and supported this project based on the established and currently operating Saheli centers in India (24) and Nigeria (1). The project has been carried out through a partnership with Rotary Districts 6960 and 2430 and AWAKEN (Afghan Women and Kids Education and Necessities).

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: Ingar G.F. Brueggemann (Germany)

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CEO: Robert Zinser (Germany)

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Website: www.rifpd.org

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

Rotarian Action Group for Healthy Pregnancies Healthy Children (RAGHPHC)

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

Membership

In 2017-18, RAGHPHC reported 467 members in 57 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$25

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

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, identifying international partners, incorporating sustainability components, creating a plan for monitoring and evaluation, and subject matter speaker at a meeting or event.

- ***Reproductive health education program at secondary schools and hospitals** – In partnership with the Rotary Club of Paramaribo Residence, Suriname and the Rotary Club of Leiden, The Netherlands, the RAGPC created a project to provide health and pregnancy education for women and students in Paramaribo, Suriname. The RAG initiated the project and provided professional guidance throughout the program.
- **A preventive child health care clinic by Skype** – The RAG worked with the Rotary Club of Lahore-Sharqi, Pakistan to establish a preventive child health care clinic in the Medicare Trust Hospital in Lahore. The RAG chair brought preventive workers and pediatricians together using its Rotarian and vocational network.
- **Starting folic acid weeks before conception instead of in early pregnancy** – In partnership with the Rotary Club of Leiden, The Netherlands, the Dutch drugstore chain Kruidvat, and health insurance company Zilveren Kruis, the RAG worked to create awareness of the benefits of taking extra folic acid during pregnancy. The project advocated for the use of folic acid at least four weeks before conception to prevent neural tube defects and cleft lips. RAGPC members initiated the project and facilitated the partnerships with drugstores.

Contact Information

Secretary: Cor van Otterloo (Netherlands)

Email: secretary@raghphc.org

Website: www.raghphc.org

Rotarian Action Group Against Slavery (RAGAS)

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

Membership

In 2017-18, RAGAS reported 315 members in 25 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$28; US\$68/5 year

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

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

Number of service projects supported: 18

Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts: Identifying international partners, incorporating sustainability components, securing funding, advising on a TRF Global Grant Application, creating a plan for monitoring and evaluation, promoting an ongoing/completed project, and subject matter speaker at a meeting.

- **Human Trafficking in Central Iowa: How you can be part of the solution?** – In collaboration with the Rotary Club of Ames, Iowa in the U.S. and Rotary District 6000, RAGAS has been working to raise public awareness of modern slavery and empower citizens in Iowa to end human trafficking in the state. The RAG distributed anti-human trafficking educational materials, DVDs, and public bus signs throughout central Iowa. The level of public concern and interest in learning about labor and sex trafficking exceeded expectations. Over 4,500 people attended Rotary club and district-funded lectures and public awareness events throughout this past year. In addition, the RAG hosted a sex trafficking awareness meeting for hotel managers to teach them how to recognize and report suspected trafficking. Their efforts resulted in two major anti-trafficking bills being passed in the state legislature.
- ***The Grace Centre: A Place of Hope for Those Who Have None** – RAGAS has been working with civic leaders in Livingstone, Zambia to create the Grace Centre. The Centre is designed to protect women from the dangers of prostitution by providing a haven of support and training. In addition to classes in tailoring, computer work, and food preparation, girls also have the opportunity to enroll in secondary education courses. The goal is that after completing the program, the young women will be self-sufficient and highly qualified to work in local customs offices, tourist offices, and other establishments around Livingstone. The RAG is in the process of applying for a Global Grant for the project and has been encouraging Rotary clubs in the area to get more involved.
- **Group Family Units and Education Support in Nepal** – Asha Nepal is an NGO in Kathmandu, Nepal that offers a wide range of community support programs and residential services for those at risk of human trafficking, abuse, or re-entry into slavery. Every young woman and child in Asha's care is enrolled in a full time education program to prepare them to be independent and self-sustaining. For the past three years, RAGAS has provided Asha with moral, promotional, and procedural advice and has run several successful anti-slavery projects in the area.

Contact Information

Chair: Mark Little (England)

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Website: www.ragas.online

Social Media: [Facebook](#)

Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group (WASRAG)

Topic: providing safe water and sanitation to communities

Membership

In 2017-18, WASRAG reported 1510 members in 78 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$25

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 international partners, incorporating sustainability components, securing funding, advising on a TRF Global Grant application, creating a plan for monitoring, promoting an ongoing/completed project, and subject matter speaker at a meeting or event.

- **The WASRAG Fund** – WASRAG is using a DAF (Donor Advised Funds) to pilot a new program to assist Rotary clubs that want to start new WASH projects in their areas. The Fund was created to encourage clubs to allow WASRAG to review global grant applications before they are submitted to the Rotary Foundation. By reviewing the proposals, the RAG can point out any issues in the planning stages that might impact the sustainability of the project and improve the overall efficiency of the Global Grant process. WASRAG contributes US\$500 towards the project if a club incorporates its recommendations into the application. WASRAG's Professional Resources Team evaluates the Global Grant applications and the RAG actively fund-raises to be able to offer this service to more clubs.
- **2018 World Water Day Competition** – On 22 March, 2018, WASRAG conducted its first ever World Water Day Competition. Clubs were encouraged to improve the quality of water in their communities by cleaning up debris, preventing erosion, building awareness of the importance of water, and encouraging farmers to use eco-friendly chemicals, among other things. Over 29 Clubs participated and two of them received \$500 prizes: one for the most imaginative project and one for the project with the most impact. The goal of the competition was to show the critical role that clean water plays in the life and livelihood of people everywhere.
- **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)

Contact Information

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Rotarian Action Groups

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