

Rotary Action Groups 2022 Annual Report

2022 Rotary Action Groups Annual Report

# Content

## Contents

Introduction	1
Action Groups at a Glance	1
Rotary Action Group for Addiction Prevention (RAG-AP)	3
Alzheimer's/Dementia Rotary Action Group (ADRAG)	5
Basic Education and Literacy Rotary Action Group (BELRAG)	7
Blindness Prevention Rotary Action Group	9
Rotary Action Group for Blood Donation	
Rotary Action Group for Clubfoot (RAG4Clubfoot)	. 12
Rotary Action Group for Community Economic Development (RAGCED)	. 14
Rotary Action Group for Diabetes (RAGD)	16
Disaster Network of Assistance Rotary Action Group (DNA-RAG)	. 16
Rotary Action Group for Endangered Species (RAGES)	. 18
Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG)	. 19
Rotary Action Group for Family Health and AIDS Prevention (RFHA)	22
Rotary Action Group for Family Safety (RAGFAMSAFE)	25
Food Plant Solutions Rotary Action Group (FPS)	
Health Education and Wellness Rotary Action Group (HEWRAG)	28
Hearing Rotary Action Group	30
Rotary Action Group for Hepatitis Eradication	
Rotarians Against Malaria - Global Rotary Action Group (RAMGlobal)	
Rotary Action Group Menstrual Health and Hygiene (RAGMHH)	
Rotary Action Group on Mental Health Initiatives (RAGMHI)	
Rotary Action Group Against Multiple Sclerosis (RAGAMS)	
Rotary Action Group for Peace (RAGFP)	. 41
Polio Survivors Rotary Action Group	
Rotary Action Group for Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Migration	.44
Rotary Action Group for Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health (RMCH)	46
Rotary Action Group Against Slavery (RAGAS)	50
Water Sanitation & Hygiene Rotary Action Group (WASHRAG)	53

# Introduction

Rotary Action Groups are international, RI-recognized groups whose members have expertise and experience in a particular area of specialization. They use their knowledge, passion, and global network to help clubs and districts plan and implement impactful service projects. By bringing expertise, partners, funding resources and best practices to projects, they help clubs scale up smaller projects to larger, higher impact, more sustainable international initiatives.

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, <u>www.rotary.org/actiongroups</u>.

# **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 Action Groups' membership, finances, and support for club and district-led service projects in 2021-22.

# Membership

In 2021-22, 27 groups reported a combined membership of **36,030** in more than 150 countries worldwide. Excluding the Rotary Action Group for Reproductive, Maternal, and Child Health, which reported the largest membership of any group at 12,833 members, the average size of each RAG is around 928 members. On average, each Action Group represents 43 countries with its membership. The Rotary Action Group for Blood Donation and the Rotary Action Group for Peace reported the highest geographical representation with 139 and 126 countries, respectively. The leading eleven countries with the highest concentration of Action Group members reported in 2021-22 are USA, India, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, Nigeria, the Philippines, Brazil, Belgium, the Netherlands, and South Africa.

# Administration

Action Groups are independent, international 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. Currently, Action Groups engage 290 Rotarians, four Rotaractors, and one peace fellow in leadership roles. These leaders represent 37 countries. The average size of each Rotary Action Group's board is eleven members. The Rotary Action Group for Rotarians Against Malaria reported the largest board with 23 members in 2021-22.

# Service Impact

Rotary Action Groups supported 670 projects in total in 2021-22. Among those: 163 were club projects, 69 were district projects, and 47 were multi-district projects. Rotary Action Groups raised US\$425,955 in total, which was used solely for supporting club and district projects. 18 of 27 Action Groups reported supporting at least one TRF-funded global grant project in 2021-22. Those 18 Action Groups reported assisting with 79 TRF global grant projects in total.

Six Action Groups participated in Programs of Scale in 2021-22 by partnering, reviewing and/or providing feedback on proposals. The awardee was supported by the Rotary Action Group for Maternal and Child Health (RMCH).

### Finances

Together, Rotary Action Groups reported a combined income of US\$816,767 from membership dues, grants, and other charitable contributions. The combined income of Action Groups has decreased by 22.27% in the Rotary year 2021-22. 17 groups required members to pay either annual or lifetime membership dues. The average annual membership cost was US\$25 and average lifetime membership cost was US\$93. 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\$853,679 in support of international humanitarian service projects and other activities. At year end, Action Groups reported combined net assets of US\$1,063,732. The Disaster Network of Assistance RAG reported the highest revenue with US\$474,405 and the highest expenditures with US\$371,140.

# **Summary of Annual Reports**

# **Rotary Action Group for Addiction Prevention (RAG-AP)**

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

### Membership

In 2021-22, RAG-AP reported 768 members in 110 countries. Among those, 735 are Rotarians, five are Rotaractors, and 28 are non-Rotarians/non-Rotaractors. 23 Rotary clubs and 27 districts are also members of the group. The group's membership is concentrated in Belgium, Canada, India, Nigeria, and the USA. The group is administered by 13 Rotarian board members who are from Australia, Belgium, India, Uganda and the USA.

#### Annual Membership Dues: US\$30

**Lifetime Membership Dues:** US\$150 **Other Membership Dues:** \$500 for a Rotary club lifelong /\$1,000 for a Rotary district lifelong

#### **Projects and Activities**

The group supported 68 projects in 2021-22: three district projects and 65 club projects. Support from the action group included:

#### **Technical Support**

- The type of technical support the group provided includes community assessment, identifying international partners, project design, proposal writing, and incorporating sustainability into projects. The group also served as a cooperating organization on a global grant, monitored projects, and advised on data collection and usage.
- RAG-AP coached clubs and districts for three different global grants based on RAG-AP's toolkit. The kit guides
  clubs on starting a project committee to organize a need assessment study to define goals and target groups and
  setting up evaluation on process and outcome in order to be able to measure the social impact of the actions. More
  information about the toolkit can be found here.
- The group increased the number of its expert members who actively advise clubs/district on projects by attracting members from their professional prevention partners (who also became Rotary members).
- The group's expert members in Belgium, India, Spain, and Uganda monitored addiction-related projects in their countries in cooperation with RAG-AP's international partners and under coordination of the scientific committee overseeing measuring social impact.

#### Fundraising

• The group raised funds for projects from various resources, including the broader Rotary network, donors outside of Rotary, and external organizations/corporations.

#### **Training and Advocacy**

 RAG-AP presented at UNODC Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna in March and at the RI Convention in Houston where they organized a breakout session to demonstrate the toolkit and how to implement it. The group also presented at two annual conferences: the World Federation Against Drugs and the European Cities Against Drugs in Oslo.

#### Partnerships

- The group worked with professionals to develop a sponsor file for prospective financial support from multinationals.
- RAG-AP made many advances in governmental partnerships. The RAG-AP Indian Chapter made a cooperation
  agreement with the ministry of health for training health professionals. The USA Chapter was invited by White
  House staff to explain the SMART project and how it became data driven. The Belgian government hosted high
  level meetings at the occasion of the UNODC CND meetings in Vienna and the Belgian Embassy will host a
  meeting with RAG-AP and representatives of the African Union to set up cooperation for Africa.
- Dianova International and Movendi International partner with RAG-AP as cooperating organizations. RAG-AP and these two organizations facilitate each other's work at the local level by bringing Rotary clubs and local chapters of the NGOs together for actions in the field. In 2021-22, they facilitated a collaboration with Rotary clubs at the Baleares.

### Notable Collaborations

#### Formal Collaborations:

United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), World Federation Against Drugs, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), European Monitoring for Drugs and Drug Addition (EMCDDA), Dianova International, Movendi International

### **Contact Information**

Chair: Kalyan Mohan Banerjee (India) Email: banerjeekm@yahoo.com Website: www.rag-ap.org Twitter: @RAGAPrev Social Media: Facebook; LinkedIn; YouTube

# Alzheimer's/Dementia Rotary Action Group (ADRAG)

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

### Membership

In 2021-22, ADRAG reported 46 members in three countries. Among those, all are Rotarians. The group's membership is concentrated in India, the UK, and the USA. The group is administered by eight Rotarian board members who are from India, the UK, and the US.

#### Annual Membership Dues: US\$25

### **Projects and Activities**

The group supported 63 projects in 2021-22: 27 district projects and 36 club projects. Support from the action group included:

### Technical

- ADRAG, which is composed of expertise in all fields of patient care, care of caregivers, research, treatments, and best practices, provided guidance in how to begin, continue, and sustain the efforts of awareness and acceptance of Alzheimer's and dementia.
- The group's data collection consists of identifying and tracking Rotary clubs that received a program on the issues of Alzheimer's and dementia. This data tracks how many clubs developed and maintained their awareness efforts.

#### Fundraising

- In the 2021-22 Rotary year, ADRAG raised funds for projects from various resources such as Action Group members, the broader Rotary network, donors outside of Rotary, and external organization/corporations.
- ADRAG, five resource partners collectively raised over \$46 million dollars in the past twelve months for prevention, early detection, research, and supporting caregivers. The Cure Alzheimer's Fund (CAF) raised over US\$25M that went direct to Alzheimer's research for prevention, early detection, and treatment. The Alzheimer's Association raised over US\$20M to support families, loved ones, and caregivers and to support prevention research. Rotarians Easing Problems of Dementia (RePoD) continues to raise funds in the UK for AD research. Music Mends Minds raises funds to advance music as a proven therapy for Alzheimer's patients and caregivers.
- With the help of over 1,000 individual Rotarians and peers, Walk Teams were created through coordination with the National Alzheimer's Association to attract donors that committed funds per mile walked by an individual and the Teams.

### **Training and Advocacy**

- ADRAG India Chapter conducted two memory care camps, organized a poster competition for youth participants, a Walkathon for World Alzheimer's Day on 21September, and offered 16 seminars to Rotary clubs, college students and residential communities. The group also opened six additional ADRAG chapters in India.
- ADRAG worked with the Rotary Club of Milwaukee, USA, on an introductory program on Dementia Friendly Communities, a community support organization.
- CAF conducted their annual Alzheimer's and Dementia symposium. The CART Fund conducted subject-matter trainings and presentations to Rotary clubs and other organizations.

- The group is coordinating with a new group of concerned non-Rotarian citizens, who are volunteers and government employees, to develop and foster a program called "Dementia Friendly America." Many of these teams are run out of or supported by the local government agency of the Department of Social Services. This is a new addition to ADRAG's collaboration team.
- CAF, a resource partner of ADRAG, raises funds to solely conduct leading research to find the cure or prevention of Alzheimer's and dementia. CAF is able to dedicate 100% of all donated funds to AD research thanks to four philanthropic families that provide all operating funds for the organization. CAF raised US\$25 million in 2021-22.
- Music Mends Minds conducted over twelve training sessions on how to implement music groups in new regions.
- ADRAG also worked with Emory University and Harvard Medical this past year.

### Notable Collaborations

**Formal Collaborations:** Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust (CART), Alzheimer's Association, Cure Alzheimer's Fund (CAF), Music Mends Minds, Rotarians Easing Problems of Dementia (REPoD)

#### **Contact Information**

Chair: William Lawrence Shillito (USA) Email: <u>DG07-08@Rotary7670.org</u> Website: <u>http://adrag.org</u> Social Media: <u>Facebook</u>

# **Basic Education and Literacy Rotary Action Group (BELRAG)**

Topic: enhancing the capacities of communities to provide education and literacy to all.

### Membership

In 2021-22, BELRAG reported 244 members in 32 countries. Among those, 240 are Rotarians and four are Rotaractors. The group's membership is concentrated in Australia, Canada, the Philippines, the UK, and the USA. The group is administered by 15 board members who are from Canada, India, and the US.

#### Annual Membership Dues: US\$25

**Other Membership Dues:** US\$100 (5 years, individual); \$25 Cadre 2-year membership; \$25 Rotaract Club; \$50 Rotary Club (annual); \$100 Rotary District (annual)

### **Projects and Activities**

The group supported 30 projects in 2021-22: ten TRF-funded projects and 20 club projects. Support from the action group included:

#### Technical

- Supported clubs through community assessments, project design, proposal writing, and incorporating sustainability into
  projects. When contacted by Rotarians seeking to develop global grants, a coach is assigned to assist with designing the
  project (ensure key elements: community assessment, sustainability, etc.). The group reviews drafts and offers feedback
  before the grant is submitted.
- BELRAG responds to requests received through their website and frequently has follow-up conversations resulting from connections made when RAG members speak at clubs. Clubs often request guidance from BELRAG on how to get started on a grant. Clubs have an idea of what they want to do but do not always know how to get started on the project development process. BELRAG also creates connections between grant applicants and local and international partners.
- Utilizing the expertise its members offer, BELRAG advised Rotary members in best practices for basic education and literacy. BELRAG members also advised clubs in sound education practices and how to submit Programs of Scale grant applications.
- BELRAG advised on a project in Panama on data collection, monitoring, and evaluation. The group leaders meet bimonthly to advise the project developers on the process for completing the evaluations and are actively involved in helping to organize and use the data to make decisions to guide how the project will continue.

#### **Training and Advocacy**

- The group promoted community-based early childhood literacy with the help of a collaboration with Save the Children US. They also participated in a panel discussion for the mEducation Alliance to promote their programs.
- BELRAG often spoke at Rotary club, district, and zone events about the importance of literacy and how clubs and Rotary
  members can get involved locally and internationally. They also hosted booths at the RI Convention and at Zone
  Institutes.

#### Partnerships

 BELRAG's partnership with Education Beyond Boarders is a resource for providing quality professional development for teachers. The group continued their partnership with Save the Children, promoting involvement in early childhood education programs. BELRAG has been developing a partnership with Rotary India Literacy Mission as well.

### Notable Collaborations

**Rotary Action Groups** 2022 Annual Report Formal Collaborations: Rotary India Literacy Mission, Encyclopedia Britannica Informal Collaborations: Education Beyond Borders (EBB), Save The Children (US) Contact Information Chair: Carolyn F. Johnson (USA) Email: <u>cfj2@icloud.com</u> Website: <u>https://belrag.org/</u> Social Media: <u>Facebook; Instagram</u>

# **Rotary Action Group for Blindness Prevention**

*Topic:* preventing blindness and promoting eye health and vision worldwide

### Membership

In 2021-22, the Blindness Prevention Rotary Action group reported 187 members in 44 countries. Among those, 183 are Rotarians and four are Rotaractors. The group's membership is concentrated in Canada, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, and the US. The group is administered by nine Rotarian board members who are from Germany, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and the US.

#### Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$100 (every three years)

#### **Projects and Activities**

The group supported two projects in 2021-22 which were both TRF-funded global grant projects. Support from the action group included:

#### Technical

 The Blindness Prevention Action Group coached clubs and Rotarians on developing a TRF global grant application through conducting a community assessment, identifying an international partner, project design, proposal writing, and incorporating sustainability into project. Their latest global grant project seeks to replicate their Eye Care Center at Karol Bagh in New Delhi, funded jointly by TRF and the International Agency for Blindness Prevention. Action Group board members have cooperated on several TRF-funded projects for avoidable blindness.

#### Fundraising

- The Blindness Prevention Action Group raised funds from the broader Rotary network, donors outside of Rotary, and external organizations / corporations.
- The group worked with clubs in District 5000 and California on technical details of the global grant project called Cataract Surgeries for Blindness Prevention in Pakistan. The project will offer screenings to marginalized groups and make referrals for cataract surgery. The group leadership also helped raise funds for the project.

#### **Training and Advocacy**

• The Blindness Prevention Action Group worked with PDGs Chehab Elawar and Deepak Gupta on their monthly Project Fair to promote the Mission for Vision in Rural Sri Lanka global grant, as well as arrange funding.

#### Partnerships

- The Blindness Prevention Action Group has a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with multiple cooperating organizations including The International Agency for Preventable Blindness, Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital, and The International Eye Foundation cooperating organizations.
- The group also partnered with Mission for Visions in rural Sri Lanka on a Global Grant in 2021-22.

### Notable Collaborations

#### **Formal Collaborations:**

The International Agency for Preventable Blindness, Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital, The International Eye Foundation

#### **Contact Information**

**Rotary Action Groups** 2022 Annual Report Chair: Harriett Schloer (USA) Email: <u>in2dtp@gmail.com</u> Website: <u>www.rag4bp.org</u> Social Media: <u>Facebook</u>

# **Rotary Action Group for Blood Donation**

Topic: supporting blood donation projects

### Membership

In 2021-22, the Rotary Action Group for Blood Donation reported 4,763 Rotarian members in 139 countries. Three Rotary clubs and one district are also members of the group. The group's membership is concentrated in India, the Philippines, the Netherlands, Nigeria, and the US. The group is administered by 15 Rotarian board members who are from France, India, the Netherlands, Slovenia, and the USA.

#### Membership Dues: None

### **Projects and Activities**

The group supported 14 projects in 2021-22: one multi-district project, two district projects, and eleven club projects. Support from the action group included:

#### Technical

- Rotary Action Group for Blood Donation provided clubs and Rotarians assistance implementing projects. The group has many members who are professionals in the blood banking industry worldwide. They share their knowledge with developing blood programs around the recruitment, collection, and distribution of blood products.
- The group in 2021-22 focused on their two primary initiatives: the Governors' Challenge Blood Drives and My Blood for Others. These active campaigns have rallied members to promote voluntary blood donations and provided the group with data on collection efforts to be reported back to clubs and districts for publication.

#### **Training and Advocacy**

- The Blood Donation Action Group has developed a guide for Rotarian and Rotaractor sponsored blood drives which is available on their Facebook site. The group's Facebook page is a powerful tool utilized to promote awareness about worldwide blood collection efforts.
- The group took part in local and regional Rotary and public meetings.

### Partnerships

- Rotary Action Group for Blood Donation also strengthened a partnership with the Etablissement Francaise du Sang in France. Similarly, Rotary Action Group for Blood Donation, bolstered their partnership with the Association for Donor Recruitment Professionals through the collaborative promotion of blood drives.
- The group partners with Rotary districts to provide support and extend voluntary non-remunerated blood donation. They also partner with Rotary clubs on spreading and practicing the RAG BD objectives.
- The group supports and implements blood donation to ensure strengthening safe blood supply worldwide, which is also a strategic element of WHO's 2020-23 action plan.

### Notable Collaborations

Informal Collaborations: World Health Organization (WHO), Association for Donor Recruitment Professionals

### **Contact Information**

Chair: Cees Smit Sibinga (Netherlands) Email: c.sibinga@planet.nl Website: <u>http://ourblooddrive.org/</u> Social Media: <u>Facebook</u>

**Rotary Action Groups** 2022 Annual Report

# **Rotary Action Group for Clubfoot (RAG4Clubfoot)**

Topic: treating clubfoot deformities

### Membership

In 2021-22, RAG4Clubfoot reported 70 members in 11 countries. Among those, 70 are Rotarians and five are non-Rotarian/non-Rotaractors. The group's membership is concentrated in Bangladesh, France, India, Philippines, and the USA. The group is administered by 17 Rotarian board members who are from Colombia and the US.

#### Annual Membership Dues: US\$25

### **Projects and Activities**

The group supported seven projects in 2021-22: four TRF-funded projects and three other Rotarian-led projects. Support from the action group included:

#### Technical

- RAG4Clubfoot coached clubs and Rotarians on developing TRF global grant applications by providing community
  assessments, identifying an international partner, as well as assisting in proposal writing and project design. The
  group provides progress reports on projects to its board members on a regular basis.
- The group assisted Rotary members from the Saint Helena Rotary Club (USA) as they developed a global grant in partnership with Ecuadorian clubs. The RAG4Clubfoot members helped with data collection, proposal writing, and the community assessments to provide clubfoot treatment nationwide in Ecuador.

#### Fundraising

• RAG4Clubfoot raised funds from Action Group members and the broader Rotary network. They promoted membership and donation options to Rotary members through participation in conferences, Facebook, the action group website, and newsletters. The majority of funds received this past year were in honor of RAG4Clubfoot founder, Herb Wilson.

#### **Training and Advocacy**

- Several members of the group have been speakers at a variety of meetings about RAG4Clubfoot's Ponseti Method treatment and the realities of clubfoot for children around the world. The group presented at Rotary club meetings, the 2022 RI Convention House of Friendship, as well participated in "Salud para la paz" Mexico.
- The Ponseti International Association (PIA) at the University of Iowa (USA) has a formal partnership with the group which provides the technical expertise to train providers around the world in Ponseti Method training. RAG4Clubfoot facilitates partnerships with clubs, districts, and other funders for the trainings.

#### Partnerships

• Members of RAG4Clubfoot work with clubs and districts around the world to help facilitate partnerships for projects and work with the Ponseti International Association.

### Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Ponseti International Association (PIA) at the University of Iowa

Contact Information Chair: Tomeka Petersen (USA) Emails:tomeka\_petersen@yahoo.com Website: www.RAG4clubfoot.org Social Media: Facebook

# **Rotary Action Group for Community Economic Development (RAGCED)**

Topic: alleviating poverty through sustainable microfinance and community development

#### Membership

In 2021-22, RAGCED reported 950 members in 29 countries. Among those, 923 are Rotarians, one is a Rotaractor, and 26 are non-Rotarian/non-Rotaractors. The group's membership is concentrated in Canada, India, Nigeria, the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, and the USA. The group is administered by 19 board members who are from Canada, Costa Rica, France, India, and the USA. Among those, 18 are Rotarians and one is a Peace Fellow.

#### Annual Membership Dues: US\$25

#### **Projects and Activities**

The group supported 12 projects in 2021-22: five club projects, two district projects, one multi-district project, one TRFfunded project, and three other Rotarian led projects. Support from the action group included:

#### Technical

- RAGCED coached clubs on developing TRF global grant applications by supporting community assessments, securing funding, identifying international partners, guiding project design, advising on proposal writing, and incorporating sustainability into projects.
- RAGCED has advisors in all aspects of global grants including community assessment, recruiting Rotary partners, cooperating organizations, and incorporating sustainability. For example, Launch Detroit, a business education program for entrepreneurs, primarily women, in under-resourced communities in the Detroit metropolitan area by providing free business education, mentors, networking opportunities, and micro-loans. The current objective of the ten-year-old project is to expand their reach of support in the surrounding Detroit area.
   The group provided technical assistance to the Launch Detroit Program to support their transition from in-person to virtual meetings and classes. Two members of the group serve as mentors for the program. In 2021-22, the Launch Detroit Program expanded to Rotarians in the surrounding cities of Southgate and Riverview in Michigan, USA.
- They also helped the Rotary Club of Kisumu in Kenya (District 9212) and the Rotary Club of Umungasi-Aba in Nigeria (District 9142) discuss the requirements and components of developing a successful global grant application, as well as instruction on conducting a needs assessment and data collection.
- RAGCED maintains a Guidebook for Building Sustainable Microfinance Projects, available through its website. Advisors from RAGCED respond to requests for information regarding global grants from members and clubs. The guide includes information on meeting the requirements of a global grant and is available from the RAGCED website. A list of TRF global grant projects in the CED area of focus is posted on the RAG's website as a reference.
- The group has experienced project managers who have implemented sustainable community development projects and now provide input, reviews and recommendations for planning and implementing sustainable economic development projects in their communities.

#### Fundraising

• While RAGCED does not raise funds directly for club or district-led projects, it assists clubs with fundraising by introducing them to external fundraising platforms and potential external funding sources.

#### Training and Advocacy

 Stories about successful CED projects are solicited from Rotary members by sending them to stories@ragced.org. The stories are posted on the RAGCED website and on its Facebook page. Stories of successful projects are also included in the quarterly RAGCED newsletter. The group regularly posts information about projects in the planning stages as a means of publicizing projects that are looking for partnerships or investors. All presentations on

#### **Rotary Action Groups** 2022 Appual Report

2022 Annual Report

community economic development include examples of successful sustainable projects with focus on the beneficiaries to help others understand the community and personal impact of these projects.

- The RAGCED Guidebook for Sustainable Microfinance Projects describes the building blocks of a sustainable microfinance project. Best practices are posted on the RAGCED website and included in presentations made by RAGCED. RAGCED also shares recordings of presentations and instructional videos that provide guidance on creating successful, sustainable community economic development projects publicly on their YouTube channel.
- RAGCED Board Members hosted a booth at RI Convention featuring six projects: Solar ear, the Mwangaza Project, Launch Detroit, Sowing Seeds, the Greater Contribution, and the River Project. The Board conducted demonstrations, breakout sessions, discussions, and shared reproducible project strategies.
- The RAGCED Board President Margaret Williamson was part of a panel on the topic of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Rotary providing an economic development perspective at the Rotary District 6400 Conference.
- The group provided clubs with training manuals and a compilation of best practices to aid in the creation of community development projects.
- Several TRF Cadre members are also members of RAGCED. They conducted a breakout session at the Uniendo America Program in March 2022 to share about how TRF Cadre members assist clubs and districts in undertaking community economic development programs in their communities.

### Partnerships

- Microfinance Empowerment Foundation (MEF) entered into an agreement with MemberNova to license the use of the platform to RAGCED. RAGCED will recommend two of its members to serve on the MEF Board of Directions, under the condition that at no time can a majority of the MEF Board of Directors also serve on the RAGCED Board.
- RAGCED assists Rotary clubs with identifying and establishing partnerships with cooperating organizations that support their specific projects. These include educational resources, microfinance institutions, and community resources.

#### **Programs of Scale Participation**

RAGCED partnered, reviewed, and provided feedback on a Programs of Scale application called "EduFinance" (EduFin-LAC) is a sustainable solution for education in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Program is to be implemented in the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, and Honduras. The objective is to improve education quality and outcomes in 1,496 schools for 299,200 children across the five countries. RAGCED is also supporting the Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria Program of Scale awardee by promoting the competitive grants to their members, as well as partnering on, reviewing, and providing feedback on grant applications.

### Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations:

World Vision/Vision Fund, Grameen Foundation, Uniendo America Informal Collaborations: Global Brigades, Women in Coffee

### **Contact Information**

Chair: Margaret Williamson (USA) Email: margaretw@proliterarydetroit.org Website: <u>http://ragced.org/</u> Social Media: <u>Facebook</u>, <u>LinkedIn</u>

# **Rotary 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 2021-22, RAGD reported 120 Rotarians in 20 countries. The group's membership is concentrated in Belgium, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom and the USA. The group is administered by five board members who are from Belgium, Canada, the Philippines, the UK, and the US. Among those, five are Rotarians.

### Annual Membership Dues: US\$25

Other Membership Dues: US\$69 (3 years) / US\$100 (5 years)

### **Projects and Activities**

The group supported nine projects in 2021-22: one TRF funded project, two multi-district projects, one district project, two club projects, and three other projects. Support from the action group included:

#### Technical

- RAGD coached clubs and Rotarians on developing a TRF global grant application by providing a community assessment, guiding project design, and incorporating sustainability into a project.
- The Rotary Club of Pecham, Dulwich & Crystal Palace (UK) and the RAGD collaborated on planning a global grant in Nigeria. RAGD has participated in many meetings to inspire the project design and guided for community assessments to be performed in cooperation with local Rotary clubs.
- RAGD is currently working with Rotarians in Batangas Province of the Philippines, a small rural setting. Because the Philippines is considered one of the diabetes hotspots in Southeast Asia, the group gathered data through using type-2 diabetes risk assessment strategies which identified the needs of the communities. There was also the use of Finnish Diabetes Risk Assessment in the field of lower economic level regions to inform strategies of action.

### Training and Advocacy

- RAGD publicize their projects, initiatives, and activities twice-yearly in their newsletter.
- EPiC Journey Against Diabetes have proven to be successful in creating awareness of diabetes, its perils, and the Global Diabetes Epidemic. With this knowledge, RAGD has engaged Rotarians, Rotary clubs and districts in North America (Midwest US, Southern US, Ontario Canada), Asia, Northern Europe, and United Kingdom. The 2022 EPiC Journey against Diabetes was conducted by RAGD Chair Edwin Velarde, RAGD Secretary Robert Morris and others who cycled from Rotary World Headquarters in Evanston, IL to the Rotary Convention in Houston, Texas (USA). Along the way, the group made stops at several Rotary clubs to offer presentations to create awareness of the Global Diabetes Epidemic.
- RAGD created their Publicity Campaign for World Diabetes Day as its an annual project.
   RAGD Chair Edwin Velarde have been actively speaking about diabetes at Rotary club meetings, most recently in Conrad AR, St Louis, MO & Shreveport LA (USA). He was also a key-note speaker for a multi-district/multi-country World Diabetes Day Event in Sri Lanka.

### **Contact Information**

Chair: Edwin A. Velarde (USA) Email: edwinvelarde@att.net Website: www.rag-diabetes.org Social Media: Facebook

# **Disaster Network of Assistance Rotary Action Group (DNA-RAG)**

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

### Membership

In 2021-22, DNA-RAG reported 230 members in 37 countries. Among those, 220 are Rotarians and ten are Rotaractors. The group's membership is concentrated in Brazil, Canada, Great Britain, Nepal, and the USA. The group is administered by 15 board members who are from Australia, Jamaica, Scotland, Taiwan, and USA; all Directors are Rotarians.

#### Annual Membership Dues: US\$25 Other Membership Dues: US\$100 (5 years)

#### **Projects and Activities**

The group supported 18 projects in 2021-22: three multi-district projects and 15 club projects. Support from the action group included:

#### Technical

- DNA-RAG coached clubs and Rotarians on developing a TRF global grant application by providing a community assessment, securing funding, project design and incorporating sustainability into a project.
- The group provided technical assistance on many recovery projects in Zones 30 and 31 following Hurricane Ida, as well as in Haiti.
- DNA-RAG uses a proprietary project management application that tracks the impact of projects during and at the completion of the project. The group encourages cooperating districts to use this tool to follow progress of various recovery projects.

#### Fundraising

• DNA-RAG raised funds from its members, the broader Rotary network, donors outside of Rotary, and external organizations / corporations.

#### Training and Advocacy

- Guidelines and training manuals are posted on the group's website.
- To publicize the success of projects and initiatives, DNA-RAG uses Facebook and newsletters.
- DNA-RAG did webinars in Districts 7020, 7030, 7000, 6990, and 6930 on disaster preparedness. The group also hosted a training session with 31 districts in Brazil via Zoom. They are also working with those districts in Brazil to create a collaborative coordinated Disaster Strategy.
- The cooperating Local Disaster Committee(s) the DNA-RAG works with publish regular updates on project completion and the group post these on the DNA-RAG website to ensure that donors and other interested parties stay informed of project progress.

### **Contact Information**

Chair: Robert A. Stuart, Jr. (USA) Email: <u>rstuart@bhslaw.com</u> Website: <u>www.dna-rag.com</u> Social Media: <u>Facebook</u> Twitter: <u>@DNA-RAG</u>

**Rotary Action Groups** 2022 Annual Report

# **Rotary Action Group for Endangered Species (RAGES)**

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

### Membership

In 2021-22, RAGES reported 1,050 members in 70 countries; all members are Rotarians. 215 districts are also members of the group. The group's membership is concentrated in Australia, Canada, South Africa, the UK, and the USA. The group is administered by seven Rotarian board members who are from Canada, South Africa, and the USA.

#### Annual Membership Dues: None

#### **Projects and Activities**

The group supported four projects in 2021-22. One of the projects was funded by The Rotary Foundation. Support from the action group included:

#### Technical

• RAGES coached clubs and Rotarians on developing a TRF global grant application by providing advice for proposal writing. They aided with a Global Grant scholarship led by the Rotary Club of Edmonton Riverview by reviewing students' progress.

#### **Training and Advocacy**

- RAGES conducted presentations at numerous club meetings in several countries.
- RAGES co-sponsored a symposium with the Rotary Club of Carpinteria Morning, Guatemala on pollinators in Central America.

### **Contact Information**

Chair: Thomas L. Tochterman (USA) Email: tomtochterman@gmail.com Website: https://lakechelanrotary.org/rages/ Social Media: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter

# Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG)

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

### Membership

In 2021-22, ESRAG reported 2,022 members in 90 countries. Among those, 1,496 are Rotarians, 59 are Rotaractors, and 467 are non-Rotary members. The group's membership is concentrated in Australia, Canada, India, the UK, and the USA. The group is administered by 19 board members who are from Australia, Germany, Mexico, Turkey, and the USA. Among those, 18 are Rotarians and one is a Rotaractor.

#### Annual Membership Dues: US\$30

Other Membership Dues: Rotarian: Active grace membership

#### **Projects and Activities**

The group supported 81 projects in 2021-22: four TRF-funded projects, ten multi-district projects, ten district projects, 52 club projects, and five other projects. Support from the action group included:

#### Technical

- ESRAG coached clubs on developing TRF global grant applications by providing a community assessment, securing funding, identifying an international partner, guiding project design, and incorporating sustainability into a project.
- Under the direction of PRIP Shekhar Mehta, ESRAG developed four global grants in coordination with Rotary clubs from West Bengal, Mauritius, Tamil Nadu, and the Maldives. Coaching offered by ESRAG Board Member Chris Puttock comprised of an community assessment, project design and sustainability. ESRAG provided initial funds for these projects which were not covered by The Rotary Foundation.
- ESRAG has at least ten members of the TRF Cadre of Technical Advisers. In 2021-22 the group assisted in the development of a mangrove restoration global grant and a feral refrigerant capture pilot program.
- ESRAG, in partnership with the Rotary Club of Coimbarore in India, launched the mobile phone app iRotree in the Appstore and the Google Play Store which allows Rotary members worldwide to report on their environment-related projects in a simple but consistent manner. The app is available <u>here</u> through Appstore and <u>here</u> through Google Play Store.

#### Fundraising

 ESRAG raised funds from Action Group members, the broader Rotary network, donors outside of Rotary, and external organizations / corporations. They raised funds through environmental fundraisers and Giving Tuesday appeals.

#### **Training and Advocacy**

- ESRAG conducted many (at least 50) presentations in and around global grant projects. The purpose of these presentations is to make connections between clubs with projects and looking for collaborations. At least five clubs have connected with other clubs building their involvement into global grants in India and Africa.
- ESRAG publishes their successes through their monthly newsletters, on Facebook, on Instagram, and on their website. They utilize a Frame virtual environment to publicize projects for conferences.
- ESRAG conducted a major webinar every one to two months and held three to four biodiversity webinars per month. The group also conducted four breakout sessions at the 2022 RI Convention.

- ESRAG has been conducting several awareness campaigns. Past year's four campaigns were for: 1.The Effects of Climate Change, 2. International Criminal of Court Ecocide Rules, 3. Plastics Pollution, and 4. Watershed restoration.
- ESRAG hosted the World Environment Day Area of Focus Conference, which had ten presentations.
- ESRAG leaders gave presentations on (but not limited to) biodiversity, health effects of climate change, circular economy, plastics pollution, sustainable living, food systems and sustainable living at events, conferences, and meetings.

#### Partnerships

- ESRAG formed informal relationships with several organizations as well as MOUs with RCAT (Rotary Climate Action Team), USGS (United States Geological Survey), Tradewater Refrigerant Solutions, Redwood Materials, UN Environmental Program, and iRotree RC Coimbarore India, bringing their current MOUs to eight.
- The group partnered with Earth Gives Day for Giving Tuesday fundraising.
- With iRotree, Rotaract Club Coimbarore in India being a relatively new partner, it acts as an MOA for the transfer of funds in our pilot project, supporting the work of the Rotaract club, with members working on the collection of data in the iRotree project.
- ESRAG is partnered with Tradewater which is an organization which receives Feral Freon collected in the Refrigerants Pilot Project, and then incinerates them, destroying their CO2e. With Project Drawdown, this organization provides description tools for the recognition of potential activities in drawing down carbon dioxide from the Earth's atmosphere, thereby acting towards reducing the greenhouse effect and global warming.
- ESRAG partners with the University of Idaho and Idaho Barley Commission for sustainable farming.
- The group worked with Footprintapp.org to educate people on their personal carbon footprint and provide training programs that can be introduced into schools and other teaching settings. ESRAG also worked with Solvaten to provide solar safe water for developing world homes.

### Signature Initiatives

Lithium Battery Recycling Pilot Project– ESRAG Board member Clari Nolet is developing a lithium-ion battery collection project in collaboration with Redwood Materials, Inc and Rotary District 5170. Redwood is an American company headquartered in Carson City, Nevada that collects lithium-ion batteries, extracts the high value materials and reuses in the production of batteries that allow us to decarbonize the economy. Recycling rather than landfilling spent lithium-ion batteries protects the environment and supports a circular economy. Redwood Materials is creating a circular supply chain for lithium-ion batteries, making them more sustainable and driving down the cost for electric vehicles and clean energy products. With a budget of USD\$5,400 and 400 beneficiaries the project aims to decrease US reliance on mining precious metals, lower the costs of clean technologies and increase the sustainability of technological products.

**Refrigerants Reclamation Project** –Partnering with Rotary District 5170 and Tradewater Refrigerant Solutions, ESRAG is reducing the release of feral refrigerants thus reducing global greenhouse gas emissions. This project was established because Project Drawdown rated the effective management of refrigerants as the #4 issue to tackle to reach the point at which CO2 going into the atmosphere stabilizes. Reaching this point is critical if global warming is to decrease to 1.5 degrees Celsius or less. Therefore, ESRAG initiated a pilot program to demonstrate how Rotarians could be helpful in this work. The group coordinated with over 40 Rotary and Rotaract clubs across the United States to collect small cylinders and canisters of ozone-depleting and high global-warming potential Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). ESRAG connected with almost 60 clubs and districts that were close to known stockpiles of CFCs, this information was ascertained by Tradewater. Champions from 26 of those clubs attended ESRAG training. An educational video and educational materials were created. The group continues to connect commercial refrigerant holding parties with the project manager for destruction. The project

supports 2,600 beneficiaries and has collected 645 pounds of CFCs (2,775 tons of CO2e) which were then delivered to Tradewater to be incinerated.

### Notable Collaborations

**Formal Collaborations:** Tradewater Refrigerant Solutions, Redwood Materials, Project Drawdown, United States Geological Survey (USGS), iRotree RC Coimbarore India, Rotary Climate Action Team (RCAT) **Informal Collaborations:** Operation Pollination, End Plastic Soup, Solvaten, Footprintapp.org

#### **Contact Information**

Chair: Dr. Richard Joseph Randolph, III (USA) Email: rrandoplhiii@gmail.com Website: www.esrag.org Social Media: Facebook, Instagram Twitter: @GoESRAG

# **Rotary Action Group for Family Health and AIDS Prevention (RFHA)**

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

### Membership

In 2021-22, RFHA reported 5,471 members in 35 countries. Among those, 3,547 are Rotarians, 200 are Rotaractors, and 1,724 are non-Rotarian/non-Rotaractors. The group's membership is concentrated in Australia, the Netherlands, Nigeria, the UK, and the USA, The group is administered by 11 Rotarian board members who are fromCanada, India, Nigeria, South Africa, and the US.

#### Annual Membership Dues: None

### **Projects and Activities**

The group supported three projects in 2021-22: one TRF-funded project and two other Rotarian-led projects. Support from the action group included:

#### Technical

- RFHA is the convenor of the Rotary Family Health Days (RFHD) program and responsible for reporting, quality assurance, monitoring and evaluation, funding assistance, and partnership development. Through their partnerships in country, RFHA provides technical medical expertise to execute the Rotary Family Health Day sites by working with Ministries of Health, NGOs in the medical field, and other implementing partners.
- RFHA program managers aid in large-scale program management, partnership procurement and execution of the RFHD program.
- The action group has set up RFHA Program teams in countries of execution who provide ongoing progress reports and a final report at the completion of the program. The Steering Committee reports to a RFHA Director in each country. They manage the entire process of planning and implementing this program. Planning begins at least twelve months in advance, with multiple partner meetings and training of the local Rotarians from clubs surrounding each site location. Each site has a "Site Champion: who works with the local partner organizations and local government leaders. They plan the needs of the site, the location, and then the Rotary clubs build, manage, and work the site during the program rollout. Directors of each country report to RFHA, Inc. at the U.S. headquarters.
- The program development and standard operating procedures are proprietary to RFHA Inc. and include a
  sophisticated monitoring and evaluation system developed in collaboration with the CDC, Past RI Director Dr. Phil
  Silvers, and the South African Department of Health. RFHA's monitoring and evaluation tools are used as a critical
  benchmark for tracking the services delivered and the demographics of the beneficiaries. The two-prong monitoring
  and evaluation system also includes a 90-day impact study which is a survey that reports to the referrals provided
  and most importantly their link to care. Final tabulated results are given at the conclusion of the campaign and after
  the impact study.
- RFHA's monitoring and evaluation system includes on-site data collection form design and processes; data submission and aggregation tools; training methodologies, content, and delivery mechanisms; reporting templates; and impact study questionnaires. The system has evolved from paper-based capturing and simple decentralized unstructured Excel reporting, through to more structured and controlled multi-tiered decentralized Excel template reporting, and eventually to a centrally-controlled and monitored web-based Google Sheet system, which controls site-level data capturing and enables real-time automated aggregation and real-time monitoring of capturing progress at district and program level.
- RFHA developed in conjunction with PRID Dr. Phil Silvers and Emile Mouton our M and E Consultant a three-month impact consent form and follow-on questionnaire for beneficiaries attending the health days. The purpose is to provide feedback on link to care and the benefits of having attended a Rotary Family Health Day site. The consent

forms are collected at the Health Days and the assessment is conducted three months post the event either by trained Rotarians or implementing partners. A final report is submitted off these findings to all stakeholders.

### Fundraising

- RFHA raised funding over the past year from the broader Rotary network and external organizations / corporations. In South Africa, external funds were secured from CHDI for the launch site of Rotary Family Health Days.
- RFHA researches, approaches, and writes grants to secure external funding. The group also secures resource partners who often donate goods or services to support initiatives.

### **Training and Advocacy**

- In each country of operation, RFHA partners with local media houses to secure pro bono media exposure to not
  only advertise the public private partnership but to mobilize people to attend the sites. These platforms include
  television interviews and advertisements, radio advertisements and interviews, print media, on site standardized
  branding, social media (Instagram, twitter, Facebook). In addition all stakeholders augment media exposure through
  their own platforms.
- The South African Broadcasting Corporation Foundation, as the national broadcaster in South Africa through the SABC Foundation, has signed a third three-year MOU with RFHA to broadcast the Public Service Announcements (PSAs) across their various TV and radio platforms, as well as conduct interviews with key players in the rollout of the RFHDs. The SABC has a radio listenership of 13 million people per day and addresses all eleven official languages in South Africa. The RFHD's have a dedicated media team who focus on these relationships including development of social media platforms, websites, Rotary International media and more.
- Training is done with the community members on the facilitation of the RFHDs and relationships are established as informal community action boards to work with any NGO or available entity on future program implementation and integration at grass roots level through the leaders and influencers.
- Givefinder partnered with RFHA to build their digital fundraising platform, as well as strengthen their social media presence. They worked with the group to build their website and their marketing collateral.

### Partnerships

- RFHA Inc has applied for the funding of the Rotary Family Health Day Programs in Eswatini and potentially in Zimbabwe. External funding was approved by the AIDS Healthcare Foundation in Los Angeles for the program in Zambia this past year. The relationship with AHF is being nurtured by RFHA Inc since a meeting at the International AIDS Convention in Amsterdam in 2018. The goal is to extend funding into a partnership that cover smaller countries in the SADC region and beyond.
- Since inception, RFHA Inc has facilitated external partnerships with foundations, corporates, and resource partners in support of Rotary Family Health Days in each country.
- Both the Nigerian Ministry of Health and the South Africa Department of Health have partnered with RFHA and incountry Rotary leadership since inception of the program in each country: Nigeria since 2012 and South Africa since 2013. The national Ministry of Health office drives the message out to the local levels that their services will be provided for this program. The government and the RFHA Country Director work together to determine sites and service offerings. The Zambian Ministry of Health signed an MOU for the pilot RFHDs in that country with a request to hold them more frequently in that country.
- The South African National AIDS Council (SANAC) supports the Rotary Family Health Days in South Africa and supported RFHA in partnership for their attendance at the Rotary International Convention in Houston 2022.
- The AIDS Healthcare Foundation has supported several Rotary Family Health Days initiatives in Nigeria, Lesotho and now in Zambia. Not only do they fund the RFHD's, but they also lend expertise and provide all HIV/AIDS screenings, tests, and referral for care at RFHD sites in these countries, as well as tests for Tuberculosis.

• The Rotary Foundation supported the RFHD Nigeria program in 2021 together with the international partner Liberty Rotary Club from District 6040.

### Signature Initiatives

**Rotary Family Health Days Nigeria, South Africa, and Zambia** – Partnering with Districts 9110, 9125, 9140, 9142, 9400, 9120, and 6040 as well obtaining extra funding from other organizations, RFHA was able to successfully hold a Rotary Family Health Day program in Nigeria, South Africa, and Zambia. With a US\$195,000 budget over 170,00 (150,000 in Nigeria, 10,000 each in South Africa and Zambia) free health care services provided to 22,000 beneficiaries in Nigeria, South Africa, and Zambia. RFHA also aided with management, planning, fundraising, media support and implementation.

RFHA has been a convener of the Rotary Family Health Days program since inception in 2011. They initiate the program in each country, and they bring the partnership with the U.S. Mission (CDC and USAID) to each country to form and coordinate this public/private partnership. Support of this program was obtained at the U.S. Department of State through the PEPFAR agency. The CDC and USAID mobilize their implementing partners (hundreds of NGOs and CBOs are mobilized into action to donate their medical services at this health campaign). RFHA has board members and or program managers in each country that coordinate the work between the U.S. Mission and the in-country Ministries of Health. They oversee the development of the Family Health Days Steering Committee comprised of RFHA and Rotary leaders (who, in turn, mobilize all the country's Rotary clubs into action); and RFHA helps obtain the partnership of major media houses in each country.

Rotary Family Health Days were run during June 2022 in Nigeria at 120 sites in all four districts in Nigeria. Statistics and the three-month impact study are currently being compiled but it is estimated that over 50,000 beneficiaries were seen with over 300,000 services having been rendered (services were curtailed due to lack of funding). RFHA in South Africa soft-launched in District 9400 in October 2021 in partnership with the Minister of Health, SANAC, CDC, UN Representatives, Rotarians at Melusi Township in Pretorian, and the Community Health Days Initiative as a funding partner. The focus of this health day was centered on COVID 19 vaccine hesitancy and a particular focus on people living with disability. The South African Rotary Family Health Day saw a total of 6,000 beneficiaries. RFHA also held a pilot RFHD program in April 2022 at 15 sites in partnership with the Malaria Initiative and Polio team to facilitate treatment. This program was executed by a RFHA team under the guidance of PDG Lucie Kasanga. The local team is still compiling final statistics and the three-month impact study.

#### **Notable Collaborations**

**Formal Collaborations:** National Department of Heath South Africa (government sector), Ministry of Health Nigeria (government sector), The South African Broadcasting Corporation, AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Dischem Foundation, Rotary Foundation, Emile Mouton – M and E Consultant

Informal Collaborations: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, South Africa National AIDS Council

#### **Contact Information**

Chair: Ms. Hendreen Dean Rohrs (Canada) Email: dean@cbrplus.com CEO: Susan Paget (South Africa) Email: <u>spaget@rfha.org</u> Website: <u>www.rfha.org</u> Social Media: <u>Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Tik Tok</u> Twitter: @RFHAInc

# **Rotary Action Group for Family Safety (RAGFAMSAFE)**

Topic: providing support and resources for victims of family violence

### Membership

In 2021-22, RAGFAMSAFE reported 699 members in 56 countries. Among those, 475 are Rotarians, four are Rotaractors, and 220 are non-Rotarian/non-Rotaractors. The group's membership is concentrated in Australia, India, Nigeria, the Philippines, and USA. The group is administered by seven Rotarian board members who are from Australia, Canada, India, and the USA.

#### Other Membership Dues: US\$25 (5 years)

#### **Projects and Activities**

The group supported 25 projects in 2021-22: four TRF-funded projects, four multi-district projects, four district projects, 11 club projects, and two other projects. Support from the action group included:

### Signature Initiatives

**Healing the Hurt Training (incl. Trauma Recovery Network)** – Partnered with Rotary clubs and districts in Melbourne, Australia, the Australian Psychological Society, EMDR Association of Australia, Regional Health Networks, State Emergency Services, and Australian Bravery Association, the project aims to treat trauma in remote communities. Training up local resources in communities was an important aspect of the project so that they are better able to respond to new disasters and to treat the ongoing trauma in their community. With the help of club and district grants and collaboration with nine Rotary clubs, the Action Group has created and now manages a Trauma Recovery Network of experienced humanitarian-minded therapists. In addition, RAGFAMSAFE subsidizes training in disaster-related EMDR protocols to upskill public sector mental specialists so that they can respond to disasters with evidence-based appropriate therapies. With 40,000 beneficiaries and a budget of US\$122,500, the project is focused on treating the primary cause of most serious mental health problems to reduce the incidence of family violence, homelessness, substance abuse and crime resulting from PTSD. This project is still ongoing.

### Technical

- The Action Group is monitoring two signature projects with the help of specialist psychological reporting tools funded by the grants received. Novopsych and Psychology Outcomes have provided the tools and will manage the analysis.
- The group helped develop and publicize a project to treat the trauma of Ukrainian refugees who fled to Poland after the Russian invasion.
- RAGFAMSAFE's experienced professional trauma therapists continue to facilitate and provide required professional consultation and, in some cases, also provide training. The group has also sourced translators for their Safe Families materials to broaden language availability.

### Fundraising

• RAGFAMSAFE raised funds over the past year from the broader Rotary network and donors outside of Rotary.

#### Training and Advocacy

• RAGFAMSAFE spoke to several Rotary club meetings to publicize their signature initiatives, as well as virtual district meetings and online events of non-Rotary partners.

**Rotary Action Groups** 2022 Annual Report

- The group was a minor sponsor of the EMDRAA online conference in 2021 which was attended by global expert therapists and managed by one of the RAGFAMSAFE directors.
- The Action Group created a LinkedIn channel and a Facebook page for the Trauma Recovery Network as well as added videos to their YouTube channel.

### Partnerships

- A new partnership between the Action Group and Direct Relief arose from connections formed at the Ontario Peace Conference in 2020 and previously through the distribution of masks donated by Direct Relief for people in Australia affected with bushfire smoke and haze in 2019.
- RAGFAMSAFE started a partnership with the Australian Bravery Association to help heal the trauma of brave youth. The project is being started in the current year with club funding of A\$2,000 for each of the first two years.
- The Action Group has supplied speakers/trainers for the Australian Psychological Society (APS), who has
  publicized RAGFAMSAFE's Trauma Recovery Network to its members. One of APS's board members sits on the
  Managing Committee of the Network.

### Notable Collaborations

#### Formal Collaborations: Australian Bravery Association

**Informal Collaborations:** Australian Psychological Society, EMDR Association of Australia, ASEAN Youth Organization, Everywoman Treaty, MBBI, Peace Fellow Alumni, Australian Tennis Foundation, Fellowship of Educators

#### **Contact Information**

Chair: Norman Taralrud-Bay (Australia) Email: norman.tbay@gmail.com Website: <u>http://www.ragfamsafe.org</u>, <u>https://traumarecovery.network/</u> Social Media: <u>LinkedIn</u>

# Food Plant Solutions Rotary 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 2021-22, FPS reported 404 members in 71 countries. Among those, 402 are Rotarians and two are Rotaractors. The group's membership is concentrated in Australia, Brazil, India, the Philippines, and the USA. The group is administered by seven Rotarian board members who are from Australia and the Philippines.

#### Annual Membership Dues: US\$30(individual); US\$100 (club)

#### **Projects and Activities**

The group supported five projects in 2021-22: four club projects and one other project. Support from the action group included:

#### Technical

• FPS created over 22 educational publications in the past year to provide advice for families around the world on nutritionally sound food.

#### Fundraising

• FPS raised funds from the broader Rotary network. The group did this through presentations and awareness raising programs.

#### **Training and Advocacy**

- FPS was able to conduct awareness campaigns using video, radio, and news drops (both Rotary and non-Rotary based).
- FPS presented to approximately 21 individual Rotary clubs around the world. The group also spoke to 20 NGOs, government offices in the Pacific, at Rotary Conferences, Food Summits and ESRAG webinars.

#### **Partnerships**

- Rotary Club of Deloraine has helped FPS by providing funding to create Brief Guides for Solomon Islands. Over 3,000 of these were printed and given to the Kastom Gaden Association, a major NGO in Solomon Islands.
- FPS worked with N4ED, Nutrition 4 Education & Development non-profit, to create educational resources.
- They have also provided educational resources for the community of Kasese, Uganda.

### Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: N4ED Informal Collaborations: Custom Gaden Association, KASESE

#### **Contact Information**

Chair: Una M. Hobday (Australia) Email: <u>unahob@gmail.com</u> Website: <u>http://foodplantsolutions.org</u>

# Health Education and Wellness Rotary Action Group (HEWRAG)

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

### Membership

In 2021-22, HEWRAG reported 720 Rotarians in 37 countries. Among those, 715 are Rotarians and 5 are Rotaractors. One district is also a member of the group. The group's membership is concentrated in Canada, India, South Africa, Lebanon, and the USA. The group is administered by 11 Rotarian board members who are from Australia, Brazil, India, South Africa, and the USA.

#### Annual Membership Dues: None

#### **Projects and Activities**

The group supported 5 club projects in 2021-22. Support from the action group included:

#### Technical

- HEWRAG's communications and relationship-building for cervical cancer prevention programs started in 2018 when the group was contacted by Rotarian Dickson David Ntwiga from the Rotary Club of Meru, Kenya about how HEWRAG could help him with a cervical cancer prevention project. When HEWRAG leaders investigated the possibilities in Kenya, their purpose was to provide guidance about how to move forward with a multi-county cervical cancer prevention project. Even though the Meru project has not reached the funding stage today, a prevention project designed in Karen, Kenya was able to receive funding for TRF and started as a pilot by examining 730 women. HEWRAG, then, was contacted by Dr. Daniel Kimani from Thika, Kenya who is working on developing a cancer prevention program built around cervical cancer protection. HEWRAG's goal is to bring these three parties together so they can create a model program for administering HPV vaccines that is sustainable and replicable in 14 to 17 of Kenya's 47 counties.
- HEWRAG's autism delegation developed an app for parents of autistic children to use for communication in Spanish, which will be translated into English soon.

### **Training and Advocacy**

- HEWRAG delivered a presentation on cervical cancer programs at a district conference. They also presented in multiple zoom meetings on various subjects.
- The group published training manuals on various subjects such as cervical cancer, bacterial and viral infections, and autism on their website.

#### Partnerships

HEWRAG Board member Karl Diekman is a board member of the Cervical Action Canada Society (CACS), which
has been working toward hosting a series of conferences from 2013 until 2027. The purpose of these conferences
is to help member states of PAHO design and implement strategies outlined in the new WHO Cervical Cancer
Prevention Strategies. HEWRAG collaborates with both WHO and PAHO on their cervical cancer awareness
programs.

### Notable Collaborations Informal Collaborations: PAHO, WHO

Contact Information Co-Chairs: Josie Norfolk (South Africa) Email: josie@beachroad.co.za Website: www.hewrag.org Social Media: Facebook

## **Hearing Rotary Action Group**

Topic: helping children and adults with hearing loss

#### Membership

In 2021-22, Hearing Rotary Action Group reported 69 members in 11 countries. Among those, 68 are Rotarians and one is a Rotaractor. One district is also a member of the group. The group's membership is concentrated in Australia, Canada, Guatemala, Mexico, and the USA. The group is administered by five Rotarian board members who are from Australia, Guatemala, and the USA.

#### Annual Membership Dues: US\$10 Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$100 (US\$25 for three years)

#### **Projects and Activities**

The group supported seven projects in 2021-22: four TRF-funded projects, one district project and two club projects. Support from the action group included:

#### Technical

- Hearing RAG coached clubs and Rotarians on developing a TRF global grant application by providing a community assessment, securing funding, and incorporating sustainability into a project.
- Hearing RAG has done several TRF global grants and knowing the rules and processes, members of the Hearing RAG can help guide Rotary/Rotaract club and district officers in the process for more sustainable global grants.
- The RAG recruited new members from the Entheos Audiology Cooperative that donates its medical and audiology services, audiology screenings, diagnostic equipment and hearing aids to low resource countries. The Hearing RAG helped train these new members on the TRF sustainability requirements. Professional Audiologists (AuD), who are part of the Hearing RAG advise on equipment procurement, training, and implementation of the projects.

#### Fundraising

• Hearing RAG raised funds over the past year from the action group members and the broader Rotary network. The group's members worked with their Rotary clubs to raise necessary funds to implement hearing-related projects.

#### Training and Advocacy

 Hearing RAG Audiologists and those passionate about the importance of identifying and treating hearing loss spread the word about the importance of treatment and the options for treatment.

#### **Partnerships**

Vintage Foundation was created by Nigerian Rotarian Omotunde Balogun, an organization which donates hearing
aids to Nigerian children and adults with hearing loss who would not be able to afford them otherwise. Hearing RAG
collects used hearing aids from audiologists and distributes them to the Vintage Foundation.

#### Notable Collaborations

**Formal Collaborations:** International Humanitarian Hearing Aid Purchasing Program **Informal Collaborations:** Entheos Audiology Cooperative; Vintage Foundation

#### **Contact Information**

Chair: Ellen Haggerty (USA)

**Rotary Action Groups** 2022 Annual Report Email: haggertyellen@yahoo.com Website: www.ifrahl.org Social Media: Facebook

# **Rotary Action Group for Hepatitis Eradication**

Topic: works to eradicate Hepatitis C globally

### Membership

In 2021-22, the Rotary Action Group for Hepatitis Eradication reported 54 members in eight countries. Among those, 54 are Rotarians. The group's membership is concentrated in Benin, Brazil, Ivory Coast, Mali, and Nigeria. The group is administered by six Rotarian board members who are from Argentina, Brazil, Ivory Coast, Mali, and Nigeria.

#### Annual Membership Dues: None Lifetime Membership Dues: None

### **Projects and Activities**

The group supported six projects in 2021-22: two multi-district projects, two district projects, and two club projects. Support from the action group included:

#### Technical

- Rotary Action Group for Hepatitis Eradication coached clubs and Rotarians on developing TRF global grant applications by providing community assessments, securing funding, identifying an international partner, advising on project design and proposal writing, and incorporating sustainability into a project. They advised on the proposal and execution of a global grant of US\$46 million for a Hepatitis vaccination and testing program in Nigeria.
- The group advised a club and its partners on how to conduct testing, vaccinations, caring for the infected, and connecting them with care.

### Signature Initiatives

**Hepatitis Zero Brazil** – The WHO has set a goal of reducing deaths from Hepatitis by 90 percent by 2030. All the 194 member countries have signed the commitment to that endeavour. The Brazilian government has trusted Rotary clubs to do the work. Partnered with the Ministry of Health in Brazil, the Rotary Action Group for Hepatitis Eradication work to increase awareness of Hepatitis C. The group organized partnerships between the Ministries of Health and the Rotary clubs in 340 Brazilian cities to carry out rapid tests for Hepatitis B and C and provided immediate care to those who tested positive as it was covered by the Brazilian government. With 60,000,000 beneficiaries and a budget of US\$1,000,000,000, the group expects to test 60 million people and diagnose 120,000 to help save about 40,000 lives.

**Corona Zero -** Partnered with 35 districts and the Brazilian Government, the Rotary Action Group for Hepatitis Eradication conducted PCR tests for Covid-19 at 1,200 nursing care homes. The group was a mentor, organizer, initial funder, and facilitator between the health authorities and local Rotary clubs. With 50,000 beneficiaries and a budget of US\$200,000, the project was able to detect 2,500 infected elderly residents and connect them to care.

**Hepatitis Vaccination in Nigeria** – The Rotary Action Group for Hepatitis Eradication partnered with the Nigerian Ministry of Health to vaccinate 20,000 Nigerian people against Hepatitis A and B in Lagos and Abudja. With 20,000 beneficiaries and a budget of US\$20,000, the project will stop the spread of Hepatitis B from the 20 million affected in Nigeria and reduce the amount of liver cancer cases as a result of Hepatitis.

### Partnerships

 RAGHE is helping the WHO and several of its member states (through the Ministries of Health) to develop detection and treatment campaigns against Hepatitis B and C, so that the 2030 Elimination Plan can be achieved.

### Notable Collaborations

**Formal Collaborations:** Brazil Ministry of Health **Informal Collaborations:** Nigeria Ministry of Health, Gilead Laboratory, Pharco

#### **Contact Information**

Chair: Aliou Abdoulaye MAIGA (Mali) Email: <u>aliouabdoulayemaiga@gmail.com</u> Website: <u>www.ragforhepatitiseradication.com</u>

# **Rotarians Against Malaria - Global Rotary Action Group (RAMGlobal)**

Topic: coordinating efforts to control malaria

### Membership

In 2021-22, RAMGlobal reported 746 members in 21 countries. Among those, 597 are Rotarians, 76 are Rotaractors, and 73 are non-Rotarian/non-Rotaractors. 10 Rotary clubs are also members of the group. The group's membership is concentrated in Australia, India, Tanzania, Uganda, and the US. The group is administered by 22 Rotarians and one Rotaractor board members who are from Australia, Germany, Tanzania, the US, and Venezuela.

#### Annual Membership Dues: None

#### **Projects and Activities**

The group supported 24 projects in 2021-22: two TRF-funded projects, eight multi-district projects, four district projects, eight club projects, and two other projects. Support from the action group included:

#### Technical

- RAMGlobal coached clubs and Rotarians on developing TRF global grant applications by providing community assessment support, securing funding, identifying an international partner, advising on project design and proposal writing, and incorporating sustainability into a project.
- Global grant participation is largest and most diverse by RAM-Australia which has grants in each of its five
  associated countries. RAM-Australia works to prove key innovations and methods to slow/stop/certify zero Malaria.
  RAM-PNG runs the PNG National Program funded mostly by the Global Fund Aids TB & Malaria. Grant partners
  together develop protocols needed to show how to take Malaria to zero and how to address critical issues such as
  Cross-order malaria (Timor Leste-West Timor). Malaria Partners International (MPI) supported the Federal Way
  Rotary Club to seek and win the Program of Scale to train and equip CHW's in Zambia. MPI supports multiple
  global grants in Zambia and the new one in Uganda led by Okla City Club.
- The group monitored projects in Zambia, Timor Leste and West Timor, Tanzania, West Africa, Columbia, and Uganda.

#### Fundraising

- RAM Global raised funds over the past year from action group members, the broader Rotary network, donors
  outside of Rotary, and external organizations/corporations.
- The group continues to partner with Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria and with Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS) to fight malaria in Oceania and Australia in their five -year campaign which began in 2020 to raise US\$12 million to fund efforts in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and Vanuatu.
- RAMGlobal worked with World Vision and the Bill and Melina Gates Foundation on a Ugandan grant of which contributions are matched.

#### **Training and Advocacy**

- RAMGlobal compiles a list of successful grants for a library that will be incorporated into their website. The group has several awareness campaigns where the footage / reports about them can be found here.
- The group ran several virtual meetings to train many individuals and to connect Rotaractors. The Tanzania Rotaractor-Led Small Grant trains up Rotaractors in advance of their being able to apply for global grants. RAM-Global's partner MPI also has many of the related trainings on their YouTube Channel and website.
- RAM-Global educated communities on how to install preventions to malaria and how to connect with industry.

**Rotary Action Groups** 2022 Annual Report

- RAM-Global members and board gave many presentations to Rotary members as well as to partner organizations AMP and MPI.
- The group participated in the reception of the 2022 RI Convention and hosted a booth to discuss their current projects.

# Partnerships

- MPI has joint board members with RAM-Global. MPI does massive work in focus countries of Zambia and Uganda, especially, for which RAM-Global helps to raise funds and awareness across Rotary and beyond. With a grant of US\$75,000, RAM-Global Chair and MPI worked with The Alliance for Malaria Prevention (AMP) to do a mass education on Covid prevention for 30+ countries in 2021-22. RAM-Global leaders introduced MPI to the many partners of AMP, such as CDC-PMI, the Global Fund for Aids, TB and Malaria, Roll Back Malaria (AMP is formally under WHO's RBM Initiative), The UN Foundation, many manufacturers and many other groups. MPI develops local in country Networks like RAM-Australia and the other groups RAM-Australia via RAWCS set up an MOU with The Global Fund for Aids, TB and Malaria to raise US\$15,000,000, which RAM-Global Members helped individually and in capacity as board members to facilitate and donate to.
- MPI served as advisors for the training of community health workers on the Copperbelt Malaria Elimination Phase 2 project in Zambia.
- German Treated Mosquito net manufacturer BASF sold RAM-Global grants treated nets at highly discounted prices. RAMGlobal helped with the delivery of these and similar goods, from finding, buying, and getting delivery to getting through ports, to storage, and organizing country committees in Zambia, Uganda, West Africa.

# **Programs of Scale Participation**

RAMGlobal is currently supporting the Partners for a Malaria Free Zambia Program of Scale awardee. The group raised money for multiple Zambian grants, raised awareness and promoted the program at many events.

# Notable Collaborations

**Informal Collaborations:** The Alliance for Malaria Prevention (AMP), Malaria Partners International, UN Foundation, RAM-Australia (organized under Rotarians Australia World Community Service (RAWCS))

# **Contact Information**

Chair: Drake H. Zimmerman (USA) Email: info@RAM-Global.org Website: <u>ram-global.org</u> Social Media: Facebook; Instagram; LinkedIn

# **Rotary Action Group Menstrual Health and Hygiene (RAGMHH)**

Topic: enhance dignity to women and girls to break cycle of dependence; reduce menstrual waste and period poverty

# Membership

In 2021-22, RAGMHH reported 50 Rotarian members in four countries. The group's membership is concentrated in Argentina, India, Spain, and the UK. The group is administered by five Rotarian board members who are from Argentina, India, Spain, and the UK.

# Annual Membership Dues: None

# **Projects and Activities**

The group supported seven Rotarian-led projects in 2021-22. Support from the action group included:

#### **Training and Advocacy**

- The group hosted monthly zoom meetings in English and Spanish on the topic of menstrual health and hygiene (MHH) and other woman related topics. They also held "MHH Forums" where members could showcase MHH projects to share about their experience and give advice.
- RAGMHH also presented at club meetings, district conferences, and Rotaract events about their projects and goals. These presentations were offered in English, Spanish, and German and held online for accessibility. The group also celebrated International Menstrual Health Day by hosting a seminar.

# **Contact Information**

Chair: Denise Klischan E-mail: rotary@deniseklischan.com Website: <u>https://www.ragmhh.org/</u> Social Media: <u>Facebook</u>

# **Rotary Action Group on Mental Health Initiatives (RAGMHI)**

Topic: advising Rotarians on mental health programs

# Membership

In 2021-22, RAGMHI reported 195 members in 26 countries Among those, 190 are Rotarians, two are Rotaractors, and three are non-Rotarian/non-Rotaractors. The group's membership is concentrated in Canada, Nigeria, Philippines, United Kingdom, and the United States. The group is administered by seven Rotarian board members who are from India, Nigeria, the UK, and the US.

**Annual Membership Dues:** US\$25 (Individual); US\$50 (Chapter with 10 members); US\$100 (Chapter with 35 members); US\$170 (Chapter with 60 members); US\$270 (Chapter with 99 members)

# **Projects and Activities**

The group supported 67 projects in 2021-22: 10 TRF-funded projects, 20 district projects, 30 club projects, and five other Rotarian-led projects. Support from the action group included:

#### Technical

- RAGMHI coached clubs and Rotarians on developing TRF global grant applications by providing community
  assessments, securing funding, identifying an international partner, advising on project design and proposal writing,
  and incorporating sustainability into a project. RAGMHI members served as advisors on replication of previously
  funded successful projects.
- The group advised the Wellness in a Box initiative on the collection of outcome data with their Outcomes Calculator tool.

#### **Training and Advocacy**

- The group conducted an awareness campaign called "Don't Bottle It Up" promoted by hundreds of Rotarians in dozens of countries. They also hosted district events and panel discussions about mental health issues.
- Several RAGMHI members periodically presented on core topics. Director Larry Kubiak presented at every club in the district he governed on mental health during COVID.

# Signature Initiatives

**Project Maanasi** — Partnered with several organizations on a TRF global grant project to provide mental health screenings in Kenya. With 2,500 beneficiaries and a US\$40,000 annual budget, the project aims to find treatment and/or prevention for MS.

**Wellness in a Box** — RAGMHI partnered with the Tirpude College of Social Work to implement a depression awareness curriculum for students and a protocol for referral. The project also provides training for teachers in school counseling resulting in a diploma. With 2,500 beneficiaries and a US\$35,000 annual budget, the project aims to normalize conversations on emotional wellness, raise awareness of mental health needs, and improve access to mental health services.

**The Lever** — RAGMHI partnered with Boston Children's Hospital, the NCH Healthcare System, and the Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida to increase capacity for behavioral healthcare. With 30,000 beneficiaries and a US\$5,000 annual budget, the project aims to diagnose and treat 3,000 youth, ages 6-18, for symptoms of anxiety, depression, ADHD or Disruptive Behavior disorder each year by increasing the capacity for direct treatment, as opposed to referring them to an outside specialist.

# **Programs of Scale Participation**

RAGMHI partnered on a Programs of Scale grant application under District 6960 for the 'The Lever' project. The project is located in three sites: USA, India, and Nigeria. The project aims to increase the capacity for behavioral health care within the pediatric population.

Contact Information Chair: Bob Anthony (USA) E-mail: rwa1645@gmail.com Website: http://ragonmentalhealth.org Social Media: Facebook; WhatsApp

# **Rotary Action Group Against Multiple Sclerosis (RAGAMS)**

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

# Membership

In 2021-22, RAGAMS reported 479 members in 23 countries. Among those, 429 are Rotarians, one is a Rotaractor, and 49 are non-Rotarian/non-Rotaractors. Eight Rotary clubs, one Rotaract club, and eight districts are also members of the group. The group's membership is concentrated in Australia, India, New Zealand, UK, and USA. The group is administered by eight Rotarian board members who are from Australia, India, New Zealand, UK, and USA.

#### Annual Membership Dues: None Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$20

# **Projects and Activities**

The group supported three projects in 2021-22: one district project, one club project, and one other project.

# Signature Initiatives

Jacob Taurins Memorial MS Research Scholarship – Partnered with Gosborne, Essendon North, Keilor East, and District 9800, the Australian Rotary Health Florey Institute, and Melbourne University, the RAGAMS serves as the champion for the Jacob Taurins Memorial MS Research Scholarship which is focused on progressive multiple sclerosis. With 2,500,000 beneficiaries and a US\$15,000 annual budget, the project aims to find treatment and/or prevention for MS. The work of the recipient of the scholarship, Dr. Vivien Li, has proven to be an incredible asset to the fight against MS.

#### Training and Advocacy

- RAGAMS presented at the District 9800 Conference and participated in the RI Convention Virtual Booth Houston. The group also promotes their projects through their newsletters and social media.
- The group participated in MSIF Connections Activities to raise awareness for their projects.
- RAGAMS India organized a World MS Day program with 31 clubs, the district governor, and other district officials in attendance. RAGAMS India and MSSI Bangalore held a fashion show and presented mementoes to MS doctors, rehabilitation specialists, persons with MS and caregivers, who have greatly supported in bringing awareness for MS in the community. The program helped spread the word on MS and connect those affected, professionals and policy makers to voice the differences they could make and support each other. The program had an attendance to more than 200 people along with press and media.

#### Partnerships

RAGAMS partnered with Multiple Sclerosis International Federation (MSIF) in linking the National MS Societies
around the world. In 2021-22 RAGAMS participated in MSIF's Connections Activities. The federation seeks to work
in a worldwide partnership with Member Societies and the Scientific community to eliminate MS. RAGAMS also
partners with MS Australia, a national not-for-profit organization centering on research and advocacy for people
living with MS. RAGAMS volunteers and participates in fundraisers.

#### Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Australian Rotary Health

**Informal Collaborations:** Multiple Sclerosis International Federation, MS Australia, Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health Melbourne University, MS Views and News, Australian MS Longitudinal Study (AMSLS), Monash University

# **Contact Information**

Chair: Martin Taurins (Australia) E-mail: <u>taurins3@vegas.com.au</u> Website: <u>http://Rotary-ragmsa.org</u> Social Media: <u>Facebook</u>

# **Rotary Action Group for Peace (RAGFP)**

Topic: advancing world peace and preventing conflict

## Membership

In 2021-22, RAGFP reported 1,350 members in 126 countries. Among those, 1,100 are Rotarians, 150 are Rotaractors, and 100 are non-Rotarian/non-Rotaractors. 264 Rotary clubs and 12 Rotaract clubs are also members of the group. The group's membership is concentrated in Canada, Hong Kong, India, UK and USA. The group is administered by eleven Rotarian board members who are from Colombia, Costa Rica, Hong Kong, UK, and USA.

### Annual Membership Dues: US\$20

Other Membership Dues: Rotaractor/Interactor: US\$5 (1 year) / Peace Fellow: US\$25 (1 year)

# **Projects and Activities**

The group supported 44 projects in 2021-22: 15 TRF-funded projects, two multi-district projects, ten district projects, 15 club projects, and two other Rotarian-led projects. Support from the action group included:

#### **Technical Support**

- RAGFP coached clubs and Rotarians on developing TRF global grant applications by providing community
  assessments, securing funding, identifying international partners, helping with project design, advising on proposal
  writing, and incorporating sustainability into projects.
- Despite the challenges exacerbated by the Covid pandemic, the Action Group was still able to support many global grants. The conflict in Ukraine also greatly impacted the activities and projects funded by clubs and districts. The group assisted in the formation of these projects in Ukraine and neighboring countries.
- The Peace Education and Action for Impact programme between World Beyond War and the RAGFP successfully piloted its first program in 2021-22. The project took 120 youth from 12 countries with two Rotarian Mentors and one Country Coordinator from each team. Plans are underway to repeat this programme with a further ten teams from ten countries. The RAGFP are assisting with the writing up of a Global Grant in order to take the program forward for another two years.

#### Fundraising

RAGFP raised funds over the past year from the action group members and the broader Rotary network. Members
of the group hosted a virtual classical concert fundraiser in support of Peace Through the Art of Music. US\$13,500
was raised for the work of Rtn. Karim Wasfi in Iraq with the Peace Through Music Foundation. The proceeds will go
toward the formation of community youth orchestras, acquiring rehearsal venues, repair of instruments, and the
purchase of music.

#### **Training and Advocacy**

World Beyond War has devised a special education program entitled Peace Education and Action for Impact. This
takes ten youth from ten countries, with a country coordinator, and two Rotarian mentors. It is a six-week online
course with eight weeks of the identification of an issue, research, planning for addressing the issue. The Rotarian
mentors assist in all of this. Further training is planned for participants, country coordinators, and the Rotarian
mentors. The youth (ages 18-35) are sponsored by Rotary clubs and members of World Beyond War to cover
program costs. A workshop was given on how to set up a Peacebuilder Club, a district peace committee, and how
to begin with peace projects. This was carried out by Alison Sutherland with assistance from other participants in
the Wednesday Peacebuilding Chat group.

 Rotarian Tom Carlisi for three years has provided virtual trainings to Rotarians and Rotaractors on non-violent communication. RAGFP promotes this training and posts the trainings to increase availability. A RAGFP Board Director is also a facilitator for the project.

## Partnerships

- The Intercountry Committee Executive Council MOU promotes the growth of Peacebuilder clubs and fosters more collaboration with ICCs and RAGFP on peace related projects.
- The MOU with Portland State University provides RAGFP with access to Portland State University students as interns and Portland Professors as experts.
- Discussions are progressing with NewGen Peacebuilders, MBBI, IEP and the Peace Corps for future formal partnerships.

# Notable Collaborations

**Formal Collaborations:** Portland State University, Intecountry Committee Executive Council, Peace Through the Art of Music Foundation, Carlisi Associates, World Beyond War

# **Contact Information**

Chair: Barbara Gaughen-Muller (USA) Email: <u>bgaughenmu@aol.com</u> Website: <u>https://rotaryactiongroupforpeace.org/</u> Social Media: Facebook; My Rotary; LinkedIn; Twitter; Instagram

# Polio Survivors Rotary Action Group (PS-RAG)

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

# Membership

In 2021-22, the Polio Survivors Rotary Action Group reported 80 members in 25 countries. Among those, 62 are Rotarians, 2 are Rotaractors, and 16 are non-Rotarian/non-Rotaractors. 75 Rotary clubs and 73 districts are also members of the group. The group's membership is concentrated in Great Britain, Nigeria, India, the Philippines, and USA. The group is administered by nine Rotarian board members who are from Canada and USA.

#### Annual Membership Dues: US\$25

#### **Projects and Activities**

The group supported one project in 2020-2021: one TRF-funded project. Support from the action group included:

#### **Technical Support**

• The Rotary Action Group for Polio Survivors is monitoring and participating in a global grant with Wheels of Hope for wheelchairs being made in Nigeria

#### **Training and Advocacy**

- The group has continued to update a publication about what Rotarians need to know about Polio Eradication and Polio Survivor Support.
- Polio Survivors are the best advocates for demonstrating and explaining why immunization and supporting Rotary's eradication of polio is important to everyone. Polio Survivors are able to explain better what happens to people what Post-Polio Syndrome is.
- CEO Ann Lee Hussey served as a keynote or guest speaker at many events on PS-RAG's behalf.

#### **Partnerships**

• Wheels of Hope continues to be a strong supporter of PS-RAG.

# Notable Collaborations

Informal Collaborations: Wheels of Hope, Crutches for Africa, Post-Polio Health

#### **Contact Information**

Chair: Gretchen Bren (USA) Email: gretchen@brenonline.com CEO: Ann Lee Hussey (USA) Email: annlee001@yahoo.com Website: www.Rotarypoliosurvivors.org Social Media: Facebook

# Rotary Action Group for Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Migration

**Topic:** support Rotary clubs and districts, and other organizations, in the design, implementation, and evaluation of projects related to refugees, forced displacement, and migration.

## Membership

In 2021-22, the Rotary Action Group for Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Migration reported 216 members in 25 countries. Among those, 180 are Rotarians, 16 are Rotaractors, and 20 are non-Rotarians/non-Rotaractors. The group is administered by eight board members who are from Switzerland, Uganda, and USA. Among those, seven are Rotarians and one is a Rotaractor.

#### Annual Membership Dues: None

#### **Projects and Activities**

This group supported eight projects in 2021-22: four club projects and four TRF-funded projects. Support from the action group included:

#### Technical

- Helped prepare several global grants for Uganda, in particular for the Navikale refugee settlements. The group also collected detailed data on the projects in Nakivale and is preparing a report with case studies.
- Published a report in the summer of 2021 with case studies on empowering girls and women through education.
- Collected detailed data on the project for Venezuelan refugees in Colombia to demonstrate cost effectiveness to inform an additional TRF grant in Central America.
- Addressed requests for advice on global grants and how to help Ukrainian and Afghan refugees in the United States. The group members provided general advice and oriented people to the right resources. They also published a list of reputable non-profit working in this area.

#### Fundraising

 Raised funds over the past year from the Action Group members, the broader Rotary network, and donors outside of Rotary. They raised funds for a project to provide food assistance for Venezuelan refugees travelling to Colombia. They also raised funds for several projects in Uganda through a board member's nonprofit.

#### Training and Advocacy

- Launched a quarterly newsletter "The Migration & Development Bulletin" to promote their initiatives and projects.
- Organized a webinar series on a range of topics. The group members also participated in a range of other events (Rotary or non-Rotary) to share their expertise.
- Promoted its offerings to the Houston Convention attendees through a booth in the House of Friendship. Group members also hosted a breakout session to highlight the activities to help refugees and displaced people.

#### **Partnerships**

- Connected Handwash for Haiti with a contact at the World Bank for a potential partnership.
- Recruited UNICEF and Alight employees and a professor from Georgetown University as advisors to the Action Group's board.

#### Notable Collaborations

#### Informal Collaborations: United four Change

Contact Information Chair: Quentin Wodon (USA) Email: rotarianeconomist@gmail.com Website: https://www.ragforrefugees.org/

# Rotary Action Group for Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health (RMCH)

Topic: improving maternal and child health

# Membership

In 2021-22, RMCH reported nearly 12,833 members in twelve countries. Among those, 11,654 are Rotarians, 174 are Rotaractors, and 1,005 are non-Rotarian/non-Rotaractors. 396 Rotary clubs and four Rotaract clubs are also members of the group. The group's membership is concentrated in Germany, India, Korea, Nigeria, and USA. The group is administered by 15 Rotarian board members who are from Austria, Germany, India, UK, and USA.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$25 Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$100 Other Membership Dues: Germany: US\$200 (lifetime), but US\$100 if the club is a member

# **Projects and Activities**

The group supported 29 projects in 2021-22: six TRF-funded projects, two multi-district project, five district projects, 14 club projects, and two other Rotarian-led projects. Support from the action group included:

# Technical

- RMCH coached clubs and Rotarians on developing TRF global grant applications by providing support with
  community assessments, securing funding, identifying international partners, helping with project design, advising
  on proposal writing, and incorporating sustainability into projects. The group also carried out follow-up evaluations
  to quantify impact. Several members of the RMCH Board are also TRF Cadre members, who the group calls upon
  to discuss project ideas with clubs seeking support. The group cooperates with many projects around the world, on
  some of which they lead and others on which they serve as a cooperating organization. The group has reduced
  their number of workstreams from five to three to increase efforts and efficiency.
- A recent example of project monitoring is exemplified by Martina Möllers and RMCH colleagues from the Rotary Club of Frankenthal, Germany who have been working as advisors for Obstetric Quality Assurance in Rwanda. The high fertility rate and maternal-child mortality rate/ratio in Rwanda has offered the team the opportunity to collaborate with the Ministry of Health leadership and with all the other key players such as the RBC (Rwandan Biometrical Centre), FIGO representatives, the pediatric association, midwife association and other experts in IT and quality management to create a scale up proposal, M&E, E- tools, training and workshop details.
  - Their tool, the Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR) database, has now become the mandatory reporting tool across all 36 states and the Federal Capitol Territory (FCT Abuja) of Nigeria. The tool, along with national and state level surveys in Nigeria and India, provides a good picture of trends and levels of critical indicators for maternal and child health.
- The group also launched the Technical Expert Networking Alliance (TENA) for MCH. TENA is a common platform for engaging technical expertise for enhancing RMCH support for Rotary Programs by clubs and districts in creating high impact programs in reproductive, maternal, and child health in LMIC.

# Fundraising

RMCH raised funds over the past year from donors outside of Rotary and from external organizations / corporations. The RMCH has raised funds from The BMZ (German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development) and the German Bank for International Cooperation for their work in Nigeria. They have raised funds for the Big Pink from Rotary districts and from the Apollo Hospital system in India. Rather than route the funds through the Action Group, all funds and in-kind contributions go directly to the local implementation partners. This not only ensures that the funds are available locally, but also creates cooperative links and longer-term sustainability. The work of CALMED and TENA remains under a global grant with in-kind support from the Government of India.

# **Training and Advocacy**

- RMCH medical training teams adapt material from global sources such as WHO, JHPIEGO, FIGO and others, and they share these materials in most trainings. RMCH's ensures that the evidence-based materials created by global partners are available to leaders, providers, and the local community.
- The RMCH CALMED team and the RMCH Nigeria team have been working on health care training, and the project Big Pink has focused on the education of Rotary women on how to preserve and protect their health.
- The Population Media Center in Nigeria produces and distributes made for television material and soap operas about changing social norms and opportunities for improving both choice and the quality of health care.
- RMCH hosts several webinars a year as RMCH. RMCH Board members regularly attended WHO STAGE (Strategic Technical Advisory Group of Experts) meetings throughout 2022. The RMCH project CALMED received recognition at the joint WHO Rotary meeting in Geneva in February 2021. Members also participated in annual meetings with WHO and Rotary, with the International Federation of Ob-Gyns (FIGO), national professional associations such as SOGON and Midwife Associations, and other meetings related to their areas of focus.
- Under the guidance of President Shekar Mehta, the Action Group prioritized empowering girls, especially through education. The group partnered with the RAG for Refugees, Forced Displacement and Migration and the Basic Literacy & Education RAG to publicize a report on Empowering Women and Girls through Education.
- The group participated in RI Convention Houston 2022 and Rotary GBI Volunteer Expo 2022. They provided technical information, support, and advice through their two booths and three breakout sessions. The group also recruited new members to the TENA (Technical Expert Networking Alliance).

# Partnerships

- In every country where RMCH works with a focus on scaling up, the group has long term relationships with government ministries, usually the state and national Ministries of Health. RMCH may also seek cooperation with social security systems in the future as another mechanism for gaining universal health coverage and insights into the role of health insurance in achieving long term program goals.
- The RMCH Germany Chapter has received funding from BMZ, Germany for supporting maternal health work in Nigeria. RMCH cooperates with a range of private donors for leveraged support in areas such as supplies (e.g. contraceptives), communication, and advocacy. In India, the group cooperates with the Apollo Hospital network to support health and well-being maintenance. Members of the Big Pink effort for women's wellness receive discounts for basic health maintenance services from the hospitals if they show their Big Pink card.
- The group also leverages a partnership with Population Council which offers them additional expertise in reproductive and maternal health, and particularly new contraceptive technologies.
- Partnerships with Ob-Gyn Societies and midwifery societies (ICM) both in Nigeria and around the world allow RMCH to gain cooperation as well as access to the best practices and gain insights into how to best scale up successful intervention.
- In partnership with the World Bank, the Action Group prioritized girl's education and empowerment. A highlight of this collaboration the publication of the report *Empowering Women and Girls through Education* in partnership with the RAG for Refugees, Forced Displacement and Migration, and the Basic Education and Literacy RAG.

# Signature Initiatives

# National Maternal Health and Family Planning Campaign in Nigeria:

RMCH leads this signature program in partnership with governmental and non-governmental agencies in Nigeria and around the globe such as the Federal Ministry of Health and State Ministries of Health of Nigeria, Planned Parenthood of Nigeria (PPFN), Society of Gynecology & Obstetrics of Nigeria (SOGON), UNFPA, Population Council (PC), and Population Media Center. The goal of the program is to improve the access to and quality of family planning and maternal health services. Recently, the Federal Ministry of Health in Nigeria gave a mandate through collaborative efforts with RAG-RMCH

to support reduction of maternal and perinatal morbidity and mortality through a long-standing commitment to improving the health of its population. This includes family planning, capacity building of health workers and Maternal and Perinatal Deaths Surveillance and Response (MPDSR); as well as community dialogues to improve access to quality essential maternal and newborn health services and medicines. The RMCH National Coordinator PDG Emmanuel Adedolapo Lufadeju leads the management of the project in the host country. Prof. Lufadeju is also responsible for budgeting and spending on the ground, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting. The RMCH German section oversees all project activities including planning, budgeting, accountability, and reporting by following a standardized process for implementation and controlling expenditures.

With the assistance of the Federal Ministry of Health and State Ministries of Health of Nigeria, 10 facilities were selected in each of the 37 states. These 370 facilities were provided with emergency supplies of medical equipment and emergency supplies of contraceptive commodities. Each of the 10 selected state's Commissioners of Health and facility representatives oversaw the handover of the equipment. A total of 111 postpartum uterus training kits were donated to the 37 states for training purposes and can be requested wherever they are required within the state. RMCH also hosted hundreds of community dialogues around maternal and child health to reach a high number of women and men of reproductive age to inform and educate them about related topics such as neo- and postnatal care as well as family planning opportunities.

The MPCDSR (maternal, perinatal and child death surveillance and response) bill, which was strongly supported and pushed by Rotary- RMCH, has passed the parliament and is now about to be signed by the Nigerian President, although various states have already adopted the bill. The bill obliges the states to use the NOQA databank which has been initiated and programmed by and through Rotary-RMCH efforts. 74 trainings for doctors in analyzing the results from the web- based databank have been conducted. This will strengthen the awareness and knowledge about maternal and child health among the doctors and enable them to adjust their treatments accordingly. Through adopting the "training of trainers"-strategy, 74 trainings for doctors and nurses in Obstetric Quality Assurance and Family Planning have been conducted. The already trained "state master trainers" then provide the state stepdown training to the 1483 participants. Another 37 trainings for Medical Record Officers and nurses in Family Planning stock management have been conducted. In addition to this, 774 local government area Monitoring and Evaluation Officers were trained in community MPCDSR. This community MPCDSR training is a vital prerequisite for the effective functioning of ward and community MPCDSR where most MCH complications occur. RMCH and the FMoH have finalized the transition to domestication of the MPCDSR e-platform through the ICT department and the Federal IT agency Galaxy Backbone increasing the accessibility of the tool.

With 46,000,000 beneficiaries and a budget of US\$2,260,000, this project, was completed in September 2022, led to a 18% increase in national modern Contraceptive Prevalence Rate, a reduction in unmet need for modern contraceptives by 22%, and a 40% increase in modern contraceptives. RMCH continues to ensure that the law on the mandatory use of MPDSR and OQA databases is approved by the National Assembly and implemented by the FMOH, State Ministries of Health, and private sector stakeholders.

**The Big Pink Program:** Partnered with Rotary districts in Chennai, Bhubaneshwar, Indore, Bangalore, Mumbai, this project focuses on empowering women and girls through health. This program launched in 2020- 2021 in five Rotary districts of India with participation of Rotary leaders from districts in the USA, Asia, and Africa. The program promotes listening to the needs of one's body, mind and soul and then honoring them through active health promotion, seeking care, and supporting others' needs in the community. PDG Rekha Shetty from the RMCH Board has been able to expand this program in Malaysia and Sri Lanka with plans to expand to sub-Saharan Africa as well. With 10,000 beneficiaries, this locally funded project remains ongoing in India. The project has also been replicated in Sri Lanka and Malaysia, and soon will expanded into selected countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

RMCH also partners with PMNCH (Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health) to promote youth empowerment and leadership through dialogues under the Big Pink Program.

# Structured Vocational Training in MCH and TENA Technical Advisory Support:

This project took place in partnership with Rotary districts in India, Japan, and England, GLOWM (Global Library of Women's Medicine), MAF (Medical Aid Films), Laerdal Corporation, International Rotary Fellowship of Healthcare Professionals, NEIGRIHMS (Northeast Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences), and the National Health Mission (Government of Meghalaya). The project aims to lower maternal perinatal deaths through structured trainings delivered by vocational training teams (VTT) to healthcare professionals (doctors, nurses, and midwives). Trainings include high fidelity simulators, videos, distance learning and e-learning and role playing. The project aims to improve the health seeking behavior in the communities through awareness training supported Health Care Assistants known as ASHAs (Accredited Social Health Activists). The group's accomplishments this year included:

1. Expanding the Vocational Training Team-based program CALMED (Collaborative Action in Lowering of Maternity Encountered Deaths) to help upskill and build the capacity of health providers in Northern India, through trainings for healthcare professionals (doctors, midwives, nurses, and paramedical staff), and enhanced health-seeking behavior of the communities.

2. Supporting the creation of a distance learning VTT program, including an e-learning platform, peer-to-peer support and training, simulation training and a digital mentoring network.

3. Expanding their digital technology reach with the apps Glowm (safer motherhood) and Referral Management System (RMS) instituted in Northeast India, as well as Maternity Emergency Response Network (MERN) for mothers requiring emergency treatment.

4. Serving as a technical advisory resource for clubs and districts. A cadre of skilled and experienced healthcare professionals (doctors, nurses, advocates) equipped with relevant training materials, modern high-fidelity simulators, and training films are now available for expert advice on quality of care throughout the project cycle on relevant MCH projects in underserved countries. RMCH also connects project advisors to their partners GLOWM, MASF, CADRE and International Rotary Fellowship of Healthcare Professionals (IRFHP) for ongoing technical guidance.

This project is led by Dr. Himansu Basu with support from Dr. Koki Agarwal and Dr. Kuhu Maitra. This ongoing project supports 1,860,000 beneficiaries with a budget of US\$83,000.

#### **Programs of Scale Participation**

The objective of the RMCH's proposal, "Sustainable Improvement of Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health in Nigeria", was to enhance reproductive and maternal health and family planning systems in Nigeria. While building capacity and accountability, RMCH wants to increase the demand for professional maternal health and family planning services and increasing the supply of quality maternal health and family planning services. The goals of this project align with RMCH's goal of making a difference at scale in support of the Sustainable Development goals SDG 3 ("ensure healthy lives and well-being for those of all ages") and 5 ("achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls"). RMCH initiatives require interventions at scale to make a difference in public health indicators, and the wellbeing of communities and countries.

# Notable Collaborations

**Formal Collaborations:** Apollo Hospitals, Population Council, Population Media Center, SOGON in Nigeria (society associated with FIGO), International Planned Parenthood Federation Affiliates (IPPF)

# **Contact Information**

Chair: John Townsend (USA) Email: jtownsend1948@gmail.com CEO: Robert Zinser (Germany) Email: robert.zinser@t-online.de Website: rotaryrmch.org; rotary-rmch.de Social Media: My Rotary, Twitter, Facebook , Instagram, LinkedIn Rotary Action Groups 2022 Annual Report

# **Rotary Action Group Against Slavery (RAGAS)**

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

# Membership

In 2021-22, RAGAS reported 772 members in 39 countries. Among those, 725 are Rotarians, twelve are Rotaractors, and 35 are non-Rotarian/non-Rotaractors. 402 Rotary clubs and 81 districts are also members of the group. The group's membership is concentrated in Australia, Canada, Thailand, UK, and USA. The group is administered by 15 Rotarian board members who are from Asia, Australia, South America, UK, and USA.

# Annual Membership Dues: US\$30 Other Membership Dues: US\$75 (5 years) / Rotaract: US\$15 / Club Membership: US\$1 (per member)

# **Projects and Activities**

The group supported 119 projects in 2021-22: eight multi-district projects, 21 district projects, 72 club projects, and 18 other projects. Support from the action group included:

#### Technical

- RAGAS coached clubs and Rotarians on developing a TRF global grant application by providing a community
  assessment, securing funding, identifying an international partner, helping with project design, advising on proposal
  writing, and incorporating sustainability into a project. RAGAS has a TRF Cadre member on their board (Debbie
  Hodge) who advises clubs/districts on all aspects of global grants.
- The group advised over 35 clubs and multiple districts with the help of their members who serve in expert capacity
  while connecting key organizations to clubs and Rotary members for help in implementing their projects. The group
  also served as a subject-matter expert in "modern slavery" for Rotary members who reached out to the group with
  inquiries.
- RAGAS created a best practices/toolkit on education/prevention. The Toolkit for lawyers can be used for pro bono work to represent survivors of human trafficking. It's online and free to Rotary members.

#### Fundraising

RAGAS has raised funds over the past year from Action Group members, the broader Rotary network, donors
outside of Rotary, and external organizations / corporations. The group was able to raise funds, specifically, through
increased membership, virtual seminars, social media promotions, and district conferences. RAGAS also raised
funds through Freedom Fighter IPA beer which they were able to get Delta Airlines to carry on their planes.

#### **Training and Advocacy**

- The group publicizes the successes of their projects or initiatives through Rotary's communication channels, the group's social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube), Zoom webinars, TV stories, CNN Freedom Project, newspaper articles, and club / district / zone newsletters. RAGAS's own newsletter has over 2,800 subscribers. Having over 500 stories with over 1 million impressions, RAGAS was the <u>featured story</u> on CNN on Freedom Day.
- RAGAS helped with over 250 training sessions which were in-person and virtual in six continents and presented at three peace conferences in Latin America. RAGAS board presented virtually and live to over 300 conferences, districts, clubs, schools, governments, law enforcement, and corporations such as AbbVie Inc., Accenture plc, BNP Paribas S.A., Chevron Corporation, Cushman & Wakefield plc, Goldman Sachs, Jones Day, JPMorgan Chase & Co., PayPal, Wells Fargo & Company, Jones Day, Delta, Coke Cola, UPS, etc.

## Partnerships

- RAGAS partners with The Knoble, a non-profit global network of experts with a passion for preventing financial crime that harms the vulnerable. The group works with them on collecting data on how financial institutes are used to facilitate human trafficking. RAGAS also partnered with Jones Day to work on The Global Compendium Human Trafficking Laws project, which seeks to create the first single standardized summaries of human trafficking and modern slavery laws of each country and all U.S. states and territories.
- The group worked with government ministries to improve legislation, to receive grant funding for their partners.

# Signature Initiatives

**Community Awareness & Prevention Education (CAPE)** – Partnered with seven Rotary districts (6900, 6910, 6920, 9800, 4975, 6000, 7950), 3StrandsGlobal,A21, Missing Link, Chab Dai, and Rescuing Hope. RAGAS's Community Awareness & Prevention Education (CAPE) is program used by RAGAS to help clubs and districts around the world develop education projects to prevent human trafficking and modern-day slavery.

With 10,000 beneficiaries and a budget of US\$10,000, this ongoing project will provide education on human trafficking prevention. RAGAS will create and distribute a brief RFP for human trafficking/modern slavery prevention education projects to all Rotary districts in 2021-22. The grants were utilized to beta test the CAPE plan so the board could adjust it as needed. The Grant Review Committee reviewed and selected grants which represented clubs, districts, and countries around the globe in order to collect a broader dataset. The grants are to be completed on or before 31 March 2023 so data may be tabulated and presented at the annual meeting in June 2023. Top ten districts will be matched up with US\$1,000 by RAGAS to fund their prevention education project. All participating districts will receive a free one-year trial RAGAS membership for all Rotarians in each participating district. This will provide access to the online Toolbox to create and execute a CAPE project. These districts will also receive mentoring by a designated RAGAS Coordinator or Ambassador to consult on their project and provide support on how to collaborate with partner stakeholders including local schools, local government, NGO's, and other community members. All participating districts will adopt the provided draft resolution at a district level as well as encourage the RI Board to officially take a stand against Human Trafficking. They will also commit to appointing a "Human Trafficking Liaison" at the district and club level who will help coordinate efforts throughout the grant period and ideally beyond.

**Global Compendium—Human Trafficking Laws** – Leveraging partnerships among four districts (6900, 4400, 5950, 5280), 12 clubs, Jones Day, Accenture plc, BNP Paribas S.A., Chevron Corporation, Cushman & Wakefield plc, Goldman Sachs, Jones Day, JPMorgan Chase & Co., PayPal, and Wells Fargo & Company, this project is implemented in 129 countries and in all 50 States in USA. While diverse collections of human trafficking laws on specialized issues or for jurisdictions, The Global Compendium—Human Trafficking Laws project seeks to create a global compendium that would make available the first single standardized summaries of human trafficking and modern slavery laws of each country and all U.S. states and territories. The law firm of Jones Day helped produce this collective law with the intended users being governments, legislators, NGOs, companies, victims, victim advocates, academics, attorneys, and others. The initial installment of the compendium not only summarizes laws and identifies resources but also provides that information in a standardized format. This standardization should facilitate use of compendium information and permit users to easily compare the laws of different countries on the same topic. Given that summarizing each country's human trafficking laws is a substantial undertaking and will take time especially as laws change time to time, it was decided to release portions of the Compendium in installments. In the future, additional country chapters will be added and existing chapters will be updated.

Prevention / Education Projects Focusing on Child Rights and Child Protection in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria–A21's Primary Prevention Program (PPP) is aimed at helping to raise awareness and protect young children from becoming victims. It also helps stop exploitation that results from sexual exploitation, labor trafficking, and online cyber exploitation in three states in Australia (Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria). The PPP is a three-session program contextualized for the Australian Primary School Standards, that aims to teach children ages six to twelve about how they can protect themselves and others through play-based activities. The content focuses on value and child rights, safe and unsafe migration, and human trafficking. The aim of this part of the project is to support the development, promotion and distribution of the newly developed program and its accompanying resources to educators across Australia and provide training on the program.

RAGAS members Robyn and Tony Stokes and Malcolm Baird collaborated with A21 to facilitate the development of the project, applied for and obtained the Rotary Foundation district grant, assisted with promotion and recruiting participants for, attended the Melbourne training, and proposed to host the Melbourne event. With 1,800 beneficiaries and a budget of US\$4,800, this completed project has already led to many outcomes. Promotional flyers and training materials were developed, 45 facilitators were trained, and a new version of the PPP was made available online for free distribution where accompanying resources were also created to go with the PPP.

# **Contact Information**

Chair: Robert P. Deering Jr. (USA) Email: <u>bobdeering5180@gmail.com</u> Website: <u>www.ragas.online</u> Social Media: <u>Facebook; YouTube; Instagram; Linked-In</u> Twitter: @ActionRagas

# Water Sanitation & Hygiene Rotary Action Group (WASHRAG)

Topic: providing safe water and sanitation to communities

# Membership

In 2021-22, WASHRAG reported 1,437 members in 89 countries. Among those, 1,428 are Rotarians, two are Rotaractors, and seven are non-Rotarian/non-Rotaractors. The group's membership is concentrated in Australia, I Canada, India, Nigeria, and USA. The group is administered by 11 Rotarian board members who are from India, Kenya, Luxembourg, Uganda, and USA

#### Annual Membership Dues: US\$25 Other Membership Dues: Charter Membership: US\$100 (5 years)

# **Projects and Activities**

The group helped design eight projects that received funding from The Rotary foundation. Support from the action group included:

#### Technical

- WASHARG coached clubs and Rotarians on developing TRF global grant applications by providing community
  assessments, securing funding, identifying international partners, working on project design, advising on proposal
  writing, and incorporating sustainability into projects. In 2021-22 WASHRAG assisted with about 120 requests, 35
  of which were requests to assist in global grants applications. The increase in WASH project proposals led to the
  creation of their US\$25,000 competitive grant award to one WASH project, of which the winner will be announced
  soon.
- Before submitting global grant application to TRF, clubs are asked to submit their completed application to WASHRAG for review. Once the suggestions are considered for the final application, WASHRAG will contribute US\$2,000 towards the project. These funds are donated directly to TRF and earmarked to the specific project once the project has been approved by TRF. In 2021-22, WASHRAG supported eight grants through this funding.
- Several leaders and members of WASH-RAG have played key roles in HANWASH (The Haiti National Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Initiative) from the early stages, from sitting on the Board of Directors to being members of its management team, as well as providing day-to-day volunteer support to operations.

#### Fundraising

• Through membership dues and registration fees and sponsorships for their World Water Summit 14, WASHRAG donated US\$50,000 to projects this year, US\$25,000 to a project underway in Haiti and US\$25,000 to the competitive award.

#### **Training and Advocacy**

- WASHRAG hosted their annual World Water Summit 14 this past year. The event was held in a hybrid capacity with a full day of presentations and breakout sessions administered by WASH professionals and advocates, as well as some Rotary staff, with a focus on WASH and Polio.
- Approximately 70 Ambassadors are spreading the WASH mission around the world. Ambassadors are encouraged to
  speak to clubs within their districts and make them aware of the many ways in which WASHRAG can support their
  WASH projects. Chair Emeritus Ron Denham spoke at the Presidential Conference held in Brasilia earlier in 2022
  focused on the need for WASH and WASH in Health Care Facilities. WASHRAG promotes proposed projects on their
  website and in their monthly newsletter to increase visibility and to promote collaboration with clubs and members, as
  well as other partners.

#### Partnerships

- BREW (Beers Rotarians Enjoy Worldwide) donated US\$6,000 which was used to fund US\$2,000 payments from the WASHRAG Fund when the action group reviews Global Grants.
- UNESCO IHE Delft, the largest international graduate water education facility, graduates provide expertise on WASH projects and volunteer with WASH-RAG team members.
- The Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG) sponsored joint webinars with WASHRAG.

## Notable Collaborations

**Formal Collaborations:** BREW (Beers Rotarians Enjoy Worldwide), ESFI (Eau Sans Frontieres Internationale) **Informal Collaborations:** ESRAG (Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group), Wasser ohne Grenzen, UNESCO - IHE Delft

#### **Contact Information**

Chair: Dr. K. Neil Van Dine Email: <u>neilrotarywash@gmail.com</u> Website: <u>wash-rag.org</u> Social Media: Facebook; Twitter; Linked-In; Instagram