

Rotary



Rotary Action Groups
2023 Annual Report

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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, www.rotary.org/actiongroups.

Action Groups at a Glance

Since Action Groups were first recognized by the RI Board of Directors in 2005, they have grown in impact and reach around the world. The following provides a broad look at Action Groups' membership, finances, and support for club and district-led service projects in 2022-23.

Membership

In 2022-23, 25 groups reported a combined membership of 37,622 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 12,875 members, the average size of each RAG is around 1,031 members. A reported 31,990 Action Group members were Rotarians, 619 were Rotaractors, and 5,013 were non-members. Action Groups also offer membership to Rotary and Rotaract clubs as well as districts. In 2023, Action Groups reported a combined 3,313 Rotary clubs, 71 Rotaract clubs, and 1,072 districts as members. Multiple clubs and districts are members of more than one Action Group.

On average, each Action Group represents 40 countries with its membership. The Rotary Action Group for Peace and the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Rotary Action Group reported the highest geographical representation with 150 and 87 countries, respectively. The leading ten countries with the highest concentration of Action Group members reported in 2022-23 are USA, India, Canada, Australia, United Kingdom, Nigeria, the Philippines, Germany, Brazil, and Sri Lanka.

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 253 Rotarians, three Rotaractors, and four others in leadership roles. These leaders represent 41 countries. The average size of each Rotary Action Group's board is ten members. The Rotary Action Group for Environmental Sustainability reported the largest board with 19 members in 2022-23.

Service Impact

Rotary Action Groups supported 1,244 projects in total in 2022-23. Among those: 604 were club projects, 192 were district projects, and 283 were multi-district projects. Rotary Action Groups raised US \$1,123,326 in total, which was used solely for supporting club and district projects. 16 of 25 Action Groups reported supporting at least one TRF-funded global grant project in 2022-23. Those 16 Action Groups reported assisting with 85 TRF global grant projects in total.

Six Action Groups participated in Programs of Scale in 2022-23 by partnering, reviewing and/or providing feedback on proposals. Four additional Action Groups supported this grant type by promoting it to their network.

Finances

Together, Rotary Action Groups reported a combined income of US \$951,408 from membership dues, grants, and other charitable contributions. The combined income of Action Groups has increased by 16.48% in the Rotary year 2022-23. 16 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 \$74. Some Action Groups offer three-year or five-year membership options and rely on ongoing financial support from their members. Action Groups reported expenses of US \$1,123,326 in support of international humanitarian service projects and other activities. At year end, Action Groups reported combined net assets of US \$2,983,564. The Family Health & AIDS Prevention RAG reported the highest revenue with US \$884,996 and the highest expenditures with US \$706,506.

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 2022-23, RAG-AP reported 788 members in 58 countries. Among those, 706 are Rotarians, six are Rotaractors, and 76 are non-Rotarians/non-Rotaractors. 27 Rotary clubs and 24 districts are also members of the group. The group's membership is concentrated in Belgium, the USA, India, Canada, and Nigeria. The group is administered by 13 Rotarian board members who are from Belgium, India, the USA, Australia, and Uganda.

Annual Membership Dues: US \$30

Lifetime Membership Dues: US \$150

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

Projects and Activities

The group supported 75 projects in 2022-23: three TRF funded global grants, seven 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 three global grants, 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.
- 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 donors outside of Rotary and external organizations/corporations. The group also expanded reach through their newly developed sponsor file for global, regional, national, and local level fundraising.

Training and Advocacy

- RAG-AP presented at UNODC Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna in March and at the RI Convention in Melbourne 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.

- RAG-AP also hosted a booth at a district assembly, a booth at the 2023 International Convention 2023, and at the 2023 District Forum- Adelaide to raise awareness and distribute informational resources.
- The group hosted several webinars to promote the toolkit for measuring impact and promote the Youth Prevention Influencers initiatives.

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.

Signature Initiatives

Youth Prevention Influencers Kenya – In partnership with the Rotary Club of Maldegem, multiple clubs in Kenya, the World Federation Against Drugs, Carlton Hall Foundation, Department of Prevention Kenya, RAG-AP seeks to train youth to be prevention professionals who develop addiction prevention actions and events in their communities. This ongoing project aims to train 20 individuals with a project budget of USD\$35,000 to reach a community of five hundred.

Youth Prevention Influencers Maldegem/Belgium – In partnership with the Rotary Club of Maldegem, District 2130, Flemish Center For Expertise On Alcohol And Other Addictions RAG-AP seeks to expand the Youth Prevention Influencers Kenya initiative to Maldegem/Belgium. This ongoing project aims to train ten individuals with a project budget of US \$8,000 to reach a community of five hundred.

Youth Prevention Influencers – The RAG-AP Europe Chapter is partnered with World Federation Against Drugs, Carlton Hall Foundation, Hogent Prevention Research Unit to expand the Youth Prevention Influencers initiative in Sweden and Belgium. This ongoing project seeks to train 200 trainers and implement an evaluation tool to permanently monitor success with a budget of US \$60,000.

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, Carlton Hall Foundation, EU Small Erasmus projects

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Alzheimer's/Dementia Rotary Action Group (ADRAG)

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

Membership

In 2022-23, ADRAG reported 53 members in seven countries. Among those, all are Rotarians. 36 Rotary clubs and 27 districts are also members. The group's membership is concentrated in the USA, India, the UK, Sri Lanka, and Australia. The group is administered by seven Rotarian board members who are from India, the UK, and the US. The board is made up of five men and two women.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$25

Projects and Activities

The group supported 90 projects in 2022-23: 28 district projects and 57 club projects. Support from the action group included:

Technical Support

- 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.
- ADRAG also reviews technical materials and presentations for accuracy and best reach for clubs and districts.

Fundraising

- In the 2022-23 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 and their five resource partners collectively raised record level donations for cutting-edge research, to support caregivers and their patients. Music Mends Minds raises funds to advance music as a proven therapy for Alzheimer's patients and caregivers.
- With the help of over 1,500 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. In 2022-23 there was a fifty percent increase in participation which raised over USD\$500,000 in team pledges.

Training and Advocacy

- ADRAG worked with six Rotaract clubs across Africa to raise awareness about Alzheimer's and dementia in their communities.
- 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 provided resources through conference calls, Zoom meetings, and monthly newsletter updates. They also presented at club district and nationwide events.
- ADRAG also expanded their reach with the newly formed group of ADRAG in Sri Lanka.

Partnerships

- 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.
- Coins for Alzheimer’s Research Trust, cooperating organization, a founding organization for ADRAG.
- Alzheimer’s Association of America, cooperating organization, provides a 24-hour hotline for cause related questions, as well as resources and contracts in addition to the Rotary world’s support.
- Music Mends Minds conducts training sessions on how to implement music groups in new regions.
- ADRAG also worked with Rotarians Easing Problems of Dementia (REPoD) who prepare communities through education on dementia-related care.

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)

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Basic Education and Literacy Rotary Action Group (BELRAG)

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

Membership

In 2022-23, BELRAG reported 207 members in 32 countries. Among those, 204 are Rotarians and three are Rotaractors. Four Rotary clubs and 3 districts are also members. The group's membership is concentrated in Australia, Canada, India, the UK, and the USA. The group is administered by 15 board members who are from Canada, India, and the US, UK, Uganda. The board is made up of four men and eleven women.

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 32 projects in 2022-23: twelve TRF-funded projects, one district project, and 19 club projects. Support from the action group included:

Technical Support

- 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 bi-monthly 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 Education 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.
- The group spoke at the 2023 International Convention on the ABC's of effective basic education and literacy programs. They also participated in district and zone trainings to demonstrate initiatives.
- In 2022-23 BELRAG was involved with the Programs of Scale applicant "Digital Interactive Classrooms in Panama" that aimed to improve the teaching and learning process through the incorporation of technology.

Partnerships

- BELRAG's partnership with Education Beyond Borders 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. Save the Children (USA) provided funding for 14 grants totaling USD\$150,000, most of which were awarded to Rotary clubs, to promote early childhood literacy and family learning programs. STC also provided 15 USD\$2,000 summer reading grants to encourage and reinforce reading during school breaks.
- BELRAG has been developing a partnership with Rotary India Literacy Mission as well.
- The group held trainings in rural communities in collaboration with Save the Children. They are working on outreach to Spanish speaking Rotary clubs and expanding partnerships with additional organizations to support Spanish speaking communities with basic education and literacy training materials.
- In 2022-23, BELRAG formed a partnership with Free Reading.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Rotary India Literacy Mission, Encyclopedia Britannica

Informal Collaborations: Education Beyond Borders (EBB), Save The Children (US)

Contact Information

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Rotary Action Group for Blindness Prevention

Topic: preventing blindness and promoting eye health and vision worldwide

Membership

In 2022-23, the Blindness Prevention Rotary Action group reported 172 members in 5 countries. Among those, 167 are Rotarians and five are Rotaractors. The group's membership is concentrated in the USA, Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, and Germany. The group is administered by seven Rotarian board members who are from Germany, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and the US. The board is made up of five men and two women.

Membership Dues: None

Projects and Activities

The group supported three projects in 2022-23 which were all multidistrict projects. Support from the action group included:

Technical Support

- 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 2022-23.
- Mian Fazal Rehman Hospital (Pakistan), Anwara-Haneda /eye Hospital, Avoidable Blindness Foundation

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations:

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

Contact Information

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Rotary Action Group for Blood and Organ Donation (RAG-BOD)

Topic: supporting blood and organ donation projects

Membership

In 2022-23, the Rotary Action Group for Blood and Organ Donation reported 1,560 Rotarian members in 25 countries. One Rotary club is also a member of the group. The group's membership is concentrated in India, the UK, the Netherlands, Slovenia, and the US. The group is administered by five Rotarian board members who are from the Netherlands, India, and the USA. The board is made up of four men and one woman.

Membership Dues: None

Projects and Activities

The group supported 14 projects in 2022-23: one multi-district project, two district projects, and eleven club projects. Support from the action group included:

Technical Support

- Rotary Action Group for Blood and Organ Donation provided clubs and Rotary members 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.

Training and Advocacy

- The Blood Donation Action Group and Organ 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. In addition to their Facebook page, the group communicates with its members quarterly through their newsletter.
- The group took part in local and regional Rotary and public meetings.

Partnerships

- 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 supported and implemented blood donation to ensure strengthening safe blood supply worldwide, which is also a strategic element of WHO's 2020-23 action plan.
- The group also worked in collaboration with the Gift of Life Adventure Foundation to further support for tissue and organ donation among the Rotary community.

Notable Collaborations

Informal Collaborations: World Health Organization (WHO), Association for Donor Recruitment Professionals, International Federation of Blood Donor Organizations, Red Cross

Contact Information

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Rotary Action Group for Clubfoot (RAG4Clubfoot)

Topic: treating clubfoot deformities

Membership

In 2022-23, RAG4Clubfoot reported 103 members in 15 countries. Among those, 84 are Rotarians and 18 are non-Rotarian/non-Rotaractors. The group's membership is concentrated in the USA, Colombia, Ecuador, Bangladesh, and the Philippines. The group is administered by 14 Rotarian board members who are from Colombia, Germany, Ecuador, and the US. The board is made up of eleven men and three women.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$25

Projects and Activities

The group supported four projects in 2022-23: three TRF-funded projects and one other Rotarian-led project. Support from the action group included:

Technical Support

- 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.
- Two RAG4Clubfoot members were involved in the all the steps developing the “Rotary Helps Walking” global grant in Colombia. The RAG4Clubfoot members helped with data collection, proposal writing, and the community assessments to provide clubfoot treatment—specifically braces—in Latin America.
- RAG4Clubfoot approved funding requests by Clubfoot Society of Kenya to purchase a sewing machine, toolbox, and a bandsaw to sew boots for adults living with clubfoot.

Fundraising

- RAG4Clubfoot raised funds from the broader Rotary network. They promoted donation options to Rotary members through participation in conferences, Facebook, the action group website, and newsletters.

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. This past year the group provided a breakout session at the World Polio Day 2022 and Beyond summit in Geneva. The group also presented at five district, one multidistrict, and four club events.
- 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.
- RAG4Clubfoot participated in House of Friendship during the Northeast PETS in 2023 and operated a booth at the RI Convention in Melbourne.
- RAG4Clubfoot received and shared information about initiatives and programs in Bangladesh, India, Kenya and Tanzania involving local Rotary members. The group was also featured in the Rotary Magazine April 2023 issue and Rotary Service in Action blog highlighting their efforts in clubfoot treatment.

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

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Rotary Action Group for Community Economic Development (RAGCED)

Topic: alleviating poverty through sustainable microfinance and community development

Membership

In 2022-23, RAGCED reported 1,244 members in 29 countries. Among those, 1,215 are Rotarians, two are Rotaractors, and 27 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 13 Rotarian board members who are from Costa Rica, the Philippines, India, Zimbabwe, and the USA. Among those, ten are men and three are women.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$25

Other Membership Dues: US \$100 (5 year)

Projects and Activities

The group supported 12 projects in 2022-23: six club projects, four district projects, one multi-district project, two TRF-funded projects, and four other Rotarian led projects. Support from the action group included:

Technical Support

- 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. In 2022-23, the Launch Detroit Program expanded to Rotary members in the surrounding cities of Southgate and Riverview in Michigan, USA. Launch Detroit has currently aided 97 entrepreneurs to start or expand their business. The Rotary Club of Detroit is now serving as a RAGCED partner to assist with finalizing grants and raising funds for international CED projects.
- They also the Rotary Club of Umungasi-Aba in Nigeria (District 9142) prepare a global grant application to educate and create business opportunities for women entrepreneurs. The group also conducted virtual meetings and webinars to address questions and provide best practices.
- 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 Instagram. 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 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 and on Facebook.
- RAGCED Board Members hosted a booth at RI Convention featuring six projects: The Board conducted demonstrations, breakout sessions, discussions, and shared reproducible project strategies.
- The group provided clubs with training manuals and a compilation of best practices to aid in the creation of community development projects. The group also held webinars for districts 9110, 9125, 9131, 9142, and 3190 on how to collect and use data for successful community assessments.
- Several TRF Cadre members are also members of RAGCED. They conducted a breakout session at the International Convention in Melbourne that focused on economic recovery after the pandemic titled “Rebuilding Local Economies.” For the first time, RAGCED hosted a "Project Fair" in the House of Friendship where Rotary members discussed their community economic development projects, networked, and exchanged ideas.
- In 2022-23 RAGCED hosted their first series of webinars on “Building Local Communities” with the Rotary Club of Brasilia International. The webinars were conducted bimonthly to provide education and resources on planning, funding, and implementing sustainable economic development projects.

Partnerships

- Microfinance Empowerment Foundation (MEF) entered into an agreement with MemberNova to license the use of the platform to RAGCED. RAGCED members are in discussion about a cooperating organization-formal MOU with World Vision/Vision Fund that will support microfinance projects. There are also meetings underway with Grameen to maintain access to their educational materials and microfinance institutions.
- 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.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations:

Microfinance Empowerment Foundation

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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 2022-23, 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 male board members who are from Belgium, the Philippines, the UK, and the US.

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 2022-23: one TRF funded project, one multi-district project, two district projects, and four club projects. Support from the action group included:

Technical Support

- RAGD coached clubs and Rotary members on developing a TRF global grant application by providing a community assessment, guiding project design, and incorporating sustainability into a project. The group is currently advising a Rotary club in London on a global grant project in Nigeria.
- 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 continuing to work with Rotary members 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. The database once prepared will be used to analyze the needs of the communities and in turn inform future strategies to address diabetes patients.

Training and Advocacy

- RAGD publicize their projects, initiatives, and activities twice-yearly in their newsletter.
- RAGD created their Publicity Campaign for World Diabetes Day as its annual project.
. RAGD Chair Marcel Zuckerman hosts awareness campaigns with clubs in Belgium and is preparing a multi-country seminar to widen reach. RAGD Secretary Robert Morris also hosted a booth at a zone institute to raise awareness about diabetes.

Partnerships

- RAGD is currently working on fostering a relationship with a pharmaceutical company who manufactures insulin to create a linked awareness and accessibility campaign.

Signature Initiative: In partnership with Global Diabetes Epidemic, as well as clubs in Illinois, Michigan, and Indiana, RAGD seeks to raise awareness of diabetes to promote disease prevention. The initiative assisted 900 individuals with a project budget of USD\$1,000. The project was based off of previous campaigns in the USA and Europe to increase community awareness of the disease and the personal effects and medical savings benefits of prevention. This initiative is an extension of the groups RAG Diabetes Awareness Project.

Contact Information

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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 2022-23, DNA-RAG reported 233 members in 40 countries. Among those, 222 are Rotarians and eleven are Rotaractors. The group's membership is concentrated in Brazil, Canada, the Philippines, Nepal, and the USA. The group is administered by 15 board members who are from Kuala Lumpur, Nepal, Scotland, Taiwan, and USA; all Directors are Rotarians. The board is made up of thirteen men and two women.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$25

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

Projects and Activities

The group supported 27 projects in 2022-23: three district projects, three multi-district projects and 21 club projects. Support from the action group included:

Technical Support

- DNA-RAG coached clubs and Rotary members 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, and donors outside of Rotary through appeals on their website and guest appearances at clubs.

Training and Advocacy

- Guidelines, training manuals, and webinar recordings are posted on the group's website.
- To publicize the success of projects and initiatives, DNA-RAG uses Facebook and newsletters.
- DNA-RAG regularly conduct webinars and district training sessions on disaster preparedness training and long-term recovery.
- DNA-RAG hosted a two-hour online workshop for district governors in Zones 30 & 31, as well as two two-hour webinars for district governors, district disaster chairs, district governors-elect and others in Zone 30-31.
- 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.
- DNA-RAG also participated in ShelterBox's IC23 breakout session.

Partnerships

- DNA-RAG collaborates with ShelterBox in areas impacted by disaster.
- DNA-RAG collaborates with Disaster Aid affiliates around the world when disasters strike. DNA-RAG collaborates with Team Rubicon to facilitate global grant applications for long term recovery efforts.

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Contact Information

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

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Website: www.dna-rag.com

Social Media: [Facebook](#)

Twitter: [@DNA-RAG](#)

Rotary Action Group for Endangered Species (RAGES)

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

Membership

In 2022-23, RAGES reported 1,115 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 nine Rotarian board members who are from Canada, South Africa, India, and the USA. The board is made up of six men and three women.

Annual Membership Dues: None

Projects and Activities

The group supported eight projects in 2022-23: two club projects and six other Rotarian-led projects. Support from the action group included:

Technical Support

- RAGES coached clubs and Rotary members on developing a TRF global grant application by providing advice for proposal writing.
- This group monitors eight ongoing projects including orangutan, pigmy elephant, African rhino, great ape pollinator preservation, as well as antipoaching and environmental education.

Training and Advocacy

- RAGES conducted presentations at numerous club and district meetings in several countries.

Contact Information

Chair: Dr. Christopher Francis Puttock (USA)

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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 2022-23, ESRAG reported 1,527 members in 79 countries. Among those, 1,478 are Rotarians and 49 are Rotaractors. 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, Italy, Sweden, Turkey, and the USA. Among those, 18 are Rotarians and one is a Rotaractor.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$30

Other Membership Dues: Rotarian: US \$125 (five years), Rotaract: US\$15 (one year)

Projects and Activities

The group supported 386 projects in 2022-23: seven TRF-funded projects, 250 multi-district projects, 62 district projects, 60 club projects, and seven other projects. Support from the action group included:

Technical Support

- 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. In 2023, ESRAG also conducted two workshops on global grants.
- ESRAG, in partnership with the Rotary Club of Coimbarore in India, continues to support 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 [here](#) through Appstore and [here](#) through Google Play Store.
- The group assisted districts and clubs in creating environmental committees to promote environmental area of focus projects within their Rotary community.

Fundraising

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

Training and Advocacy

- ESRAG conducted many (at least 48) presentations in and around global grant projects. The purpose of these presentations is to make connections between clubs with projects and looking for collaborations. The group also hosted over 200 additional presentations for regional chapter meetings and taskforce seminars.
- 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.
- The group also promotes the EnviroClub Awards that recognize clubs for their efforts in environmental sustainability.
- ESRAG conducted webinars on specific themes such as the ESRAG Plastic Solutions "Plastic Cafes" and taskforce meetings. The group also conducted the Environment Action Summit at the 2023 RI Convention that showcased eight projects. The group demonstrated the iRotree app at the following Zone Institute conferences: Zones 9,9A,10 and Zones 4,5,6,7.

- The group conducted training sessions for club presidents on the “Become Climate Friendly” signature initiative at Zone Institute Conference in Basel, Switzerland. ESRAG also demonstrated the Club Carbon calculators at the District 9810 Conference.
- ESRAG hosted the World Environment Day Area of Focus Conference partnered with RCM.ESRAG also hosted Simposio Latinoamericano de Medioambiente in México (hybrid) led by ESRAG Rotaractors. Presentations included topics such as green law, green entrepreneurship, climate change financial mitigation strategies, IRECs, and carbon credits, green building and green cities, and citizen participation in climate solutions.
- 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 continued informal relationships with several organizations as well as MOUs with Redwood Materials, UN Environmental Program, and iRotree RC Coimbarore India.
- 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 their pilot project, supporting the work of the Rotaract club, with members working on the collection of data in the iRotree project. The app also has built-in reminders to access project sustainability and reports at the club, district, and zone level.
- The ESRAG Europe Chapter developed online estimators and an Excel calculator to assist clubs to determine the annual carbon emissions from club activities and projects. ESRAG also developed resources to assist clubs to use this data to minimize their carbon usage and offset any residual emissions, more information can be found on the ESRAG website [here](#).
- 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 Solar Habitat project installs solar units to the roofs of low-income Habitat for Humanity homes.
- ESRAG partners with Solar Safe Water to provide people in need access to safe and hot water—and prevent greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions—in off grid areas in the Tharaka-Nithi province in Kenya. The Solvatten heater is an award-winning Swedish innovation that disinfects water by using only solar energy. The water produced can be used for drinking, cooking and hygiene purposes. So far, Rotary clubs and districts around the world have donated 357 Solvatten heaters in the Tharaka-Nithi project. CATIE offers broad research, capacities, and experience that help ESRAG support Rotary Clubs and districts to develop and implement impactful projects that protect the environment.

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\$6,000 and 510 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. In 2023, ESRAG completed, tested, and went live with a new website <https://lithionrecycle.com/>, enabling a complete turnkey, downloadable project

package to enable the expansion and scalability of the project. The group will hold 17 events across California, Texas, and other areas in the United States by the end of the year to collect materials and raise awareness of clubs in those areas. ESRAG aims to grow engagement with clubs and partnerships with local environmental groups to increase reach in the coming year.

Become Climate Friendly— In partnership with districts 9810, 9800, 9940, 1842 and 1900, ESRAG aims to make all Rotary clubs sustainable through a zero emissions objective. This project is a partnership between ESRAG Oceania and ESRAG Europe. In the past three years ESRAG Oceania developed a detailed calculator and an online estimator to identify the carbon footprint of meetings, events and projects as a first step to reducing and offsetting emissions. These tools have now been expanded for use in Europe. ESRAG Europe’s “Become Climate Friendly” initiative engages Rotary, Rotaract, and Interact clubs in a collective effort to combat climate change. They offer a user-friendly and accessible online software solution to enable clubs to calculate their CO2 footprints, and technical expertise in reducing and offsetting their CO2 emissions. The calculator currently supports Europe & North America but support in Africa is in the works. The Europe team has a commitment from over 90 clubs to commence the program. The two teams now are working together to expand the program to more clubs and deliver training to clubs and districts with a project budget of USD\$10,000.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Solar Safe Water, Tradewater Refrigerant Solutions, Redwood Materials, Project Drawdown, United Nations Environment Program, iRotree RC Coimbarore India, The Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)

Informal Collaborations: Habitat for Humanity,

Contact Information

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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 2022-23, RFHA reported 7,600 members in 60 countries. Among those, 6,000 are Rotarians and 1,600 are non-Rotarian/non-Rotaractors. The group's membership is concentrated in Australia, South Africa, India, the UK, and the USA. The group is administered by a board of 13 who are from Canada, India, United Kingdom, South Africa, and the US. Among those, 18 are Rotarians and one is a non-Rotary member. The board is made up of eight men and five women.

Annual Membership Dues: None

Projects and Activities

The group supported 123 projects in 2022-23: 120 club projects, two district projects, and one TRF-funded project. Support from the action group included:

Technical Support

- 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 donors outside of Rotary and external organizations / corporations.
- RFHA received a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to support the expansion of RFHD to six new countries and two additional countries next year. The group was also selected for an additional grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to support the integration of a gender intentional initiative into RFHA programs. The USD\$3 million will augment polio surveillance, vaccinations, advocacy and messaging into RFHA's integrated health delivery platform for communicable and non-communicable diseases.
- 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.
- RFHD in South Africa conducted an awareness campaign on health and people living with disabilities, as well as child and maternal health and farmworkers as it relates to HIV.
- RFHA CEO and board members presented at district conferences, institutes and RI Convention on the work that RFHA does through RFHD's monitoring and evaluation system and the public private partnership model.

Partnerships

- Since inception, RFHA Inc has facilitated external partnerships with foundations, corporates, and resource partners in support of Rotary Family Health Days in each country.
- RFHA has MOUs and Letters of Intent with each country of operation including the Ministries of Health of: Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa, Malawi, and Nigeria. Each agreement outlines the services that should be provided and the resources that will be donated from the government.
- The AIDS Healthcare Foundation has supported several Rotary Family Health Days initiatives in Nigeria, Lesotho and 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.
- Market Access Africa (MAA) is a Geneva based entity that consults to private sector on creating market access in Africa. RFHA works with MAA and pharmaceutical driven entities in Africa to secure medical supplies.
- RFHA partners with GCHI to consult on private sector social impact initiatives.

Signature Initiatives

Rotary Family Health Days Nigeria, South Africa, and Zambia – Partnering with Districts 9110, 9125, 9140, 9142, 9400, 9120, and 6040 as well as 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\$3,000,000 budget over 200,000 free health care services provided to 282,051 beneficiaries. 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.

In the past year, RFHA has expanded into six new countries: Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Tanzania, Malawi and the Democratic Republic of Congo with additional emphasis on the existing countries Nigeria, Ghana, South Africa, and Uganda. RFHA continues to work on securing additional funding and partners to reignite the RFHD's in countries that ran the program pre-pandemic. Additionally, RFHA has created best practice tools to ensure quality assurance of the program by developing standardized training manuals on the set up of a Rotary Family Health Day, Communications and Branding Guidelines, training manuals on their monitoring and evaluation system, reporting templates and financial protocols for use in each country of operation.

RFHA Inc has steadily and deliberately worked on strengthening their public private partnership model. A large component of this work has taken place in developing our strategic partnerships around diversified funding models within the private sector. RFHA was pleased to receive a Grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in support of their integrated health program to include the six countries mentioned above with an additional two to follow in year 2. In addition, they have worked with a number of multinational corporations on a partnership model for diversified funding and hope to see the pilot of this work roll out in Malawi in early 2024.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, The Ministries of Health of Zimbabwe, Zambia, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa, Malawi, Nigeria (government sector), , AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Dischem Foundation, Rotary Foundation, Market Access Africa, GCHI

Contact Information

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Rotary Action Groups

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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 2022-23, FPS reported 428 members in 40 countries. Among those, 424 are Rotarians and four are Rotaractors. The group's membership is concentrated in Australia, Canada, India, the Philippines, and the USA. The group is administered by six Rotarian board members and one non-Rotary member who are from Australia and India. The board is made up of four men and three women.

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

Projects and Activities

The group supported nine projects in 2022-23: six club projects, two district projects, and one multi-district project. Support from the action group included:

Technical Support

- FPS assists clubs in TRF global grant applications by providing a community assessment, guiding project design, and incorporating sustainability into a project. For example, FPS assisted the Rotary Club of Addis Ababa Central Mella in the application of their global grant for nutrition education, development of their community assessment and facilitated connections with Cadre members in the area. FPS provides educational materials on their website, including a list of over 36,000 indigenous plants in countries around the world.

Training and Advocacy

- FPS was able to conduct awareness campaigns using video, radio, and news drops (both Rotary and non-Rotary based). In 2022-23 FPS Chair Una M. Hobday appeared on radio program in Tasmania and Victoria, Australia to share educational content.
- FPS presented to approximately 18 individual Rotary clubs around the world. The group also spoke to 8 NGOs, government offices in the Pacific, at Rotary Conferences, a food Summit in Uganda and ESRAG webinars.

Partnerships

- FPS worked with NGOs in Burundi, Benin, Indonesia, Vietnam, Congo, Zambia, Solomon Islands, Myanmar, and Australia to create and share educational resources. FPS partnered with Eastern and Southern Small Scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF) in Burundi to develop school gardens to address the nutrition gap in children. They also collaborated to provide their guardians education on nutrition utilizing local food plants.
- FPS partnered with Dr. Ketah Solvester of Brisbane Edible Gardening to develop an experimental food forest of hundreds of species of edible plants in Brisbane, Australia to maximize nutrition. The group also hosted school and community education workshops utilizing the community edible plant nursery.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Eastern And Southern Small Scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF) In Burundi, NGO Harapan project Indonesia, AOG World relief Vietnam, Center de Recherche pour la gestion de Biodiversité, Bethany Children's Trust, Kastom Gaden Association Solomon islands, SST Tourism Myanmar, Brisbane Edible Gardening

Informal Collaborations: Alliance For Food Sovereignty In Africa

Contact Information

Chair: Una M. Hobday (Australia)

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Health Education and Wellness Rotary Action Group (HEWRAG)

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

Membership

In 2022-23, HEWRAG reported 865 Rotary members in 46 countries. Among those, 855 are Rotarians and ten are Rotaractors. One district is also a member of the group. The group's membership is concentrated in the Philippines, India, South Africa, Lebanon, and the USA. The group is administered by 11 Rotarian board members who are from Australia, Lebanon, India, South Africa, and the USA.

Annual Membership Dues: None

Projects and Activities

The group supported 28 projects in 2022-23: 20 club projects, two district projects, one multi-district project, and five TRF-funded projects. Support from the action group included:

Technical Support

- HEWRAG assisted in the application for the United to End Cervical Cancer in Egypt Programs of Scale submission, initiated by the Rotary Club of El Tahrir, and received the third annual recipient award. The group's Technical Officer Karl David Diekman worked with the club to provide feedback on their application. The program seeks to reduce the number of cases of cervical cancer in Egypt through greater awareness of the disease and improvement of women's access to preventive care.
- 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.

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, as part of the District 2542 Medical & Wellness Chapter, hosted a full day medical conference for medical personnel and patients at St Joseph's University in Beirut. The recording is now available on their website.
- HEWRAG published a guide on cervical cancer to their website and shared it with their members. The guide serves as a reference for clubs interested in carrying out projects related to cervical cancer prevention as a public health measure that should be utilized in conjunction with local health officials and in accordance to local regulations and policies.

Contact Information Chair: Josie Norfolk (South Africa)

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Social Media: [Facebook](#)

Hearing Rotary Action Group

Topic: helping children and adults with hearing loss

Membership

In 2022-23, Hearing Rotary Action Group reported 139 members in 16 countries. Among those, 92 are Rotarians and 47 are non-Rotary members. 15 Rotary clubs are also members of the group. The group's membership is concentrated in Australia, India, Brazil, the Philippines, and the USA. The group is administered by five Rotarian board members who are from India, Guatemala, and the USA. The board is made up of three men and two women.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$10

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

Projects and Activities

The group supported seven projects in 2022-23: four TRF-funded projects, one district project and two club projects. Support from the action group included:

Technical Support

- 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.

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.

Signature Initiatives

Guatemala Hearing Infant Screening and Treatment Global Grants- In partnership with the Pleasant Valley Rotary Club and the organization Sonrisas que Escuchan, Hearing RAG has provided increased hearing screenings to infants in Guatemala City, Antigua and the Petén in Guatemala to 20,000 recipients with a project budget of USD\$ 271,240. The group has helped 107 recipients through their screening efforts. The project is supported by two completed TRF funded global grants and one ongoing grant.

Hearing the Call in Petén Global Grant- In collaboration with the Rotary Club of Guatemala del Este and the organization Sonrisas que Escuchan, Hearing RAG created hearing health services in Petén, Guatemala. The ongoing program has helped 180 individuals receive hearing care so far with a project budget of USD\$139,000.

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Nigeria Recycled Hearing Aids- Hearing RAG works with the Rotary Club of Abuje Mehri and the Vintage Foundation to collect used hearing aids and redistribute them to children and adults in Nigeria. Hearing RAG collects the used hearing aids from audiologists and forwards them to the Vintage Foundation who fits and redistributes the devices. This ongoing program has assisted 100 individuals in hearing care.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Fundación Sonrisas que Escuchan

Informal Collaborations: Entheos Audiology Cooperative; Vintage Foundation

Contact Information

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Social Media: [Facebook](#)

Rotary Action Group for Hepatitis Eradication

Topic: works to eradicate Hepatitis C globally

Membership

In 2022-23, the Rotary Action Group for Hepatitis Eradication reported 147 Rotarian members in 13 countries. The group's membership is concentrated in Brazil, Portugal, and Mali. The group is administered by seven Rotarian board members who are from Brazil, Portugal, Mali, and Nigeria. The board is made up of five men and two women.

Annual Membership Dues: None

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

Projects and Activities

The group supported 30 club projects in 2022-23. Support from the action group included:

Technical Support

- 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.

Training and Advocacy

- Rotary Action Group for Hepatitis Eradication presents to clubs throughout Brazil to raise awareness and promote connection between Rotary clubs and local health departments.
- The group also conducts awareness campaigns at the Rotary Institute in Brazil and district conferences in the area.

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 endeavor. 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.

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 Abuja. 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 because 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

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Contact Information

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

Rotarians Against Malaria - Global Rotary Action Group (RAMGlobal)

Topic: coordinating efforts to control malaria

Membership

In 2022-23, RAMGlobal reported 1,254 members in 50 countries. Among those, 993 are Rotarians, 99 are Rotaractors, and 162 are non-Rotarian/non-Rotaractors. Ten Rotary clubs are also members of the group. The group's membership is concentrated in Australia, India, Tanzania, Nepal, and the US. The group is administered by 16 Rotarians and one Rotaractor board members who are from Australia, Germany, Tanzania, the US, and the Gambia. The board is made up of thirteen men and four women.

Annual Membership Dues: None

Projects and Activities

The group supported 30 projects in 2022-23: two TRF-funded projects, eight multi-district projects, five district projects, nine club projects, and nine other projects. Support from the action group included:

Technical Support

- 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).
- The group expanded their project reach in Kenya advising District 1860 on the training of community health workers in cooperation with the German government.
- The group monitored projects in Zambia, Timor Leste and West Timor, Tanzania, West Africa, Columbia, Kenya, 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.

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 members and board gave many presentations to Rotary members as well as to partner organizations Alliance for Malaria Prevention (AMP) and Global Malaria Congress. The group hosted a major awareness campaign in India and Nepal focused on district international service chairs and other leaders to increase awareness of malaria through multiple presentations. The group also held several global webinars on malaria.
- The group hosted a booth at the 2023 ASTMH Annual Meeting to showcase their data collection to over 3000 scientists.

- RAM-Global also co-sponsored the Global Malaria Congress in Melbourne, which had over 250 attendants. The group also hosted a booth at the 2023 RI Convention.

Partnerships

- Malaria Partners International (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. 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. MPI also served as grant advisors in Gambia and Liberia to expand the surveillance work led by PATH, a health equity advising organization.
- In 2022-23, RAM-Global continued to partner with AMP, which coordinates the distribution of over 250 million nets a year.
- RAM-Global helped facilitate a global grant in Uganda which received matches from World Vision and the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation in early 2023.
- 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 West Africa, Finish the Fight, RAM-Australia (organized under Rotarians Australia World Community Service (RAWCS)), Illinois Prairie Community Foundation.

Contact Information

Chair: Drake H. Zimmerman (USA)

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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 2022-23, RAGMHH reported 53 Rotarian members in ten countries. The group's membership is concentrated in India, Nigeria, the US, Uganda, and the UK. The group is administered by five Rotarian board members who are from Argentina, India, Spain, and the UK. The group's board is made up of five women.

Annual Membership Dues: None

Projects and Activities

The group supported 53 projects in 2022-23: 22 club projects, six district projects, and 25 other Rotarian-led projects. Support from the action group included:

Training and Advocacy

- RAGMHH Medical Director Dr Meenakshi Bharath created educational presentations and informational material for distribution to members.
- 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 maintains several WhatsApp groups to share information with members and provide a space for members to exchange ideas and receive assistance.
- 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 participated in the 2022-23 German Rotaractor's social action "MenstruAction" through informative presentations. The group also celebrated International Menstrual Health Day by hosting a seminar.
- RAGMHH gained eight regional directors in 2022-23 who represent the group in their respective countries and offer advocacy in their local language through the lens of the local cultural and religious background.

Contact Information

Chair: Sharmila Nagarajan

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Website: <https://www.ragmhh.org/>

Social Media: [Facebook](#)

Rotary Action Group on Mental Health Initiatives (RAGMHI)

Topic: advising Rotary members on mental health programs

Membership

In 2022-23, RAGMHI reported 190 Rotarian members in 26 countries. 100 Rotary clubs, two Rotaract clubs, and 50 districts are also members of this group. 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. The group's board is made up of four men and three women.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$25 (Individual)

Projects and Activities

The group supported 67 projects in 2022-23: 10 TRF-funded projects, 20 district projects, two multi-district projects, 30 club projects, and five other Rotarian-led projects. Support from the action group included:

Technical Support

- RAG-MHI 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. The group also hosted a breakout session at International Convention.
- Several RAG-MHI members periodically presented on core topics. Director Larry Kubiak presented at every club in the district he governed on mental health during COVID.

Partnerships

- The group facilitated the partnership of psychiatrists from the Boston Children's Hospital with pediatricians in Florida to create a series of awareness workshops.
- RAG-MHI also partnered with the Department of Health in Maui to facilitate recovery efforts in collaboration with the nine Rotary clubs on the island.

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. The ongoing project seeks to help 2,500 people receive screenings and professional referrals.

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.

Notable Collaborations

Informal Collaborations: National Alliance on Mental Illness, Mental Health American, Foundation for Suicide Prevention

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

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Rotary Action Group Against Multiple Sclerosis (RAGAMS)

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

Membership

In 2022-23, 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. The board is made up of five men and three women.

Annual Membership Dues: None

Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$20

Projects and Activities

The group supported three projects in 2022-23: one district project, one club project, and one other project.

Training and Advocacy

- RAGAMS participated in the 2023 RI Convention by hosting a booth in the House of Friendship.
- The group participated in MSIF Connections Activities, such as MS awareness month in May, to raise awareness for their projects.
- The group participated in a conference session on "Government Schemes & Benefits of UDID" in India in collaboration with the Department of Empowerment for the Disabled & Senior Citizens.
- RAGAMS India organized a World MS Day program with 31 clubs, the district governor, and other district officials in attendance. RAGAMS India and MSSSI 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.
- The group also promotes their projects through their newsletters and social media.

Partnerships

- RAGAMS partnered with Multiple Sclerosis International Federation (MSIF) in linking the National MS Societies around the world. In 2022-23 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.
- Multiple Sclerosis Society of India (MSSI) and Bosch 2023 celebrated World MS Day campaign theme MS Connections in Bangalore.

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

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through the development of dendritic cell therapy. The work of the recipient of the scholarship, Dr. Vivien Li, has proven to be an incredible asset to the fight against MS.

Multiple Sclerosis Awareness and Support – In collaboration with District 3192 and Multiple Sclerosis Society India (MSSI), RAGAMS is raising awareness among Rotary members, governmental agencies, and the greater public about Multiple Sclerosis. The group aims to improve the quality of life of patients through financial and emotional support. This ongoing project aims to reach 203,000 individuals in Bangalore with a project budget of USD\$5,000.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health Melbourne University, Multiple Sclerosis Society India (MSSI)

Informal Collaborations: Multiple Sclerosis International Federation, MS Australia

Contact Information

Chair: Martin Taurins (Australia)

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Social Media: [Facebook](#)

Rotary Action Group for Peace (RAGFP)

Topic: advancing world peace and preventing conflict

Membership

In 2022-23, 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. The group's board is comprised of six women and five men.

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 2022-23: 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. For example, in 2022-23 RAGFP collaborated with the District 6690 Peace Chair to advise on a TRF global grant to teach youth non-violent communications.

Fundraising

- RAGFP raised funds over the past year from the action group members and the broader Rotary network. The group also hosted workshops at the International Peace Conference in collaboration with Peace Fellows to share resources about funding.
-

Training and Advocacy

- 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.
- The group led multiple workshops on DEI and peace language.

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.
- Discussions are progressing with NewGen Peacebuilders, IEP and the Peace Corps for future formal partnerships.

Signature Initiative

Global Peace Builders— In collaboration with Rotary districts, Mediators Beyond Borders International, and Intercountry Committees, RAGFP created a collaborative platform for global peace builder clubs to share projects, funding and

education relating to peace. This ongoing initiative seeks to encourage the creation of more peace builder clubs and RAGFP chapters.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Intecountry Committee Executive Council, Mediators Beyond Borders International, World Beyond War

Contact Information

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Website: <https://rotaryactiongroupforpeace.org/>

Social Media: [Facebook](#); [My Rotary](#); [LinkedIn](#); [Twitter](#); [Instagram](#)

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 2022-23, the Rotary Action Group for Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Migration reported 236 members in 42 countries. Among those, 175 are Rotarians, 7 are Rotaractors, and 54 are non-Rotarians/non-Rotaractors from the US, Uganda, Canada, Mexico, India. The group is administered by nine Rotarian board members who are from Canada, Australia, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, and USA. The board is made up of five men and for women.

Annual Membership Dues: None

Projects and Activities

This group supported 25 projects in 2022-23: ten club projects, five TRF-funded projects, and ten other Rotarian-led projects. Support from the action group included:

Technical Support

- 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. The group manages two TRF-funded projects to improve sanitation through latrine and clean water projects and the addition of the Food Security Enhancement Project. This project aims to support the education for 321 refugees on permaculture, followed by distribution of tools, seeds and fertilizers.
- Advised clubs and districts on application for grants pertaining to the crisis in Ukraine. The group supported clubs in the application for a Ukrainian Disaster Response Grant to support the development of emergency feeding sites serving hot meals to the displaced people in the region. Other grant examples include the purchase of kitchen appliances for additional feeding sites and a playground for an internally displaced family shelter.
- 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.

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 for Change

Contact Information

Chair: Quentin Wodon (USA)

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

Topic: improving maternal and child health

Membership

In 2022-23, RMCH reported nearly 12,875 members in 22 countries. Among those, 11,654 are Rotarians, 223 are Rotaractors, and 998 are non-Rotarian/non-Rotaractors. 396 Rotary clubs, eight Rotaract clubs, and 15 districts 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 Australia, Germany, Nigeria, UK, and USA. The group's board is comprised of nine men and seven women.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$25 (individual); US\$100 (club)

Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$100

Other Membership Dues: Germany: US\$200 (lifetime)

Projects and Activities

The group supported 20 projects in 2022-23: six TRF-funded projects, two multi-district project, five district projects, five club projects, and two other Rotarian-led projects. Support from the action group included:

Technical Support

- 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.
- 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 supports the continuation of the Technical Expert Networking Alliance (TENA) for MCH. TENA is a common platform for engaging technical expertise for enhancing RMCH support for club and district-led projects by creating high impact programs in reproductive, maternal, and child health in LMIC.

Fundraising

- RMCH raised funds over the past year from action group members, donors outside of Rotary, and from external organizations / corporations. 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

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- 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.
- RMCH hosts several webinars a year as RMCH. RMCH Board members regularly attended WHO STAGE (Strategic Technical Advisory Group of Experts) meetings throughout 2022-23.

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.
- 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.

Signature Initiatives

Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria:

RMCH leads this signature program in partnership with Rotary districts in Germany and Nigeria, and in partnership with the federal and state ministries of health, as well as two professional medical associations, the Society of Gynecology & Obstetrics of Nigeria (SOGON), the National Midwifery Association as well 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. This initiative seeks to train health workers, especially at the community level, create improved human resource management in the health sector, ensure increased availability of critical medical equipment and medicine, establish and improve a referral mechanism, while enhancing an appropriate data provision on reproductive, maternal and child health for improved policy and evaluation.

In December 2022, the initiative began with 49 health facilities and their personnel, with potential scale-up to additional local government areas (LGAs). Additionally, the program will initiate a Social Behavioral Change Campaign, as well as provide enhanced access for the target group to health facilities and services at the community level. After eight months of implementation, RMCH has observed the following results: 220 health workers have been successfully trained on Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care, resulting in first changes of health workers attitudes; 68 Community dialogues were conducted, which sensitized a total of 6,456 people, resulting in an increase of inflow of patients/clients into the health facilities, in turn increasing the utilization of RMCH services across the states; 143 health workers have been trained on Respectful Maternity Care; 3,538 Community outreaches were conducted and Nasarawa State has extended the process to other LGAs not included in the program's initial intervention area. The first workshop in Nasarawa State attracted over 30 community leaders (traditional leaders, religious leaders, social group leaders, youth leaders), partners at the national and state level, Rotary member representatives and other national government partners.

With 1,200,000 beneficiaries and a budget of US\$2,000,000, this ongoing project began implementation in December 2022 with the purpose to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality rates by 25% in seven selected Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Gombe, Ekiti, and Nasarawa states as well as the FCT Abuja. RMCH members in Germany and Nigeria manage the program planning and implementation, as well as the evaluation and technical/financial oversight and reporting to Rotary International, the Government of Nigeria, partners and potential donors. The RMCH German team also provides oversight on budgetary and accounting issues.

The Big Pink Program: Partnered with Rotary Club of Madras Temple City, Rotary Club of Gold Coast, Rotaract Club of Gold Coast, WHO, PMNCH, and the Apollo Foundation 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 RMCH RAG, represented by Board Director PDG Dr. Rekha Shetty, partnered with the Apollo SHINE Foundation in India to launch the first Big Pink Youth Dialogue on October 11, 2022, to celebrate the International Day of the Girl with a focus on reproductive health and empowerment. Approximately 150 participants from seven countries and regions in the global south joined the webinar. Presenters included Rotarians, Rotaract members, advocates, physical and mental health practitioners, as well as girls and their teachers. The panelists also included the WHO/Partnership for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (PMNCH). Panelists talked about the need for young people to be able to ask for advice from trusted adults and physicians and especially the need for supportive parents, and teachers, and for societal reforms. The importance of developing youth leadership skills was emphasized and exemplified by young advocates and students who spoke of the empowerment of girls in their various countries. The need for proper washroom facilities and sustainable menstrual products was raised during these discussions, which informed subsequent conversations about potential collaboration between the RMCH RAG and the Menstrual Health & Hygiene RAG. This first Big Pink Youth Dialogue provided a strong model for future such dialogues to follow.

Building on the example of the India-based webinar, the second Big Pink Youth Dialogue was led by Board Director PDG Andy Rajapakse from Australia who invited Rotaract members from Australia to organize the event for the Oceania region in Rotary Zone 8 home to 44 million people and 16 countries. This virtual conference focused on raising awareness and facilitating a conversation about women's reproductive health and well-being, with the goal of creating a safe space for building connections, fostering discussions, holding space for ideas and creating a vibrant community of young changemakers. The event was led by young Rotaract Leaders Jacqueline Wark and Joe Martinovic and eight other young leaders from the Northern Gold Coast Rotaract Club in District 9640 in Australia. Over 150 people registered for the webinar from more than 32 countries. Dr. Venkatraman Chandra-Mouli, the globally recognized leader in Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRHR) based at the World Health Organization (WHO), was a guest speaker, sharing powerful insights and experiences related to gender-based violence. Attendees also heard from the 1.8 Billion Young People for Change WHO campaign and Wateraid.

Each participating girl was asked to share the insights and materials with at least five of their friends and classmates to increase impact within their communities. This ongoing initiative is currently implemented in 16 countries in Asia and Africa with a project budget of USD\$10,000 and over 150 beneficiaries.

Structured Vocational Training in MCH and TENA Technical Advisory Support:

This project took place in partnership with District 1120, Rotary Club of Gravesham, Rotary Club of Meghalaya, 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). It continued support for the distance learning by Vocational Training Teams (VTT) through e-learning, simulation training and a digital mentoring network. Through the development of TENA, this VTT effort was expanded to Rwanda, where efforts were made to scale-up Obstetric Quality Assurance efforts nationally. The group's accomplishments this year included:

1. Strategic collaboration with respected professional bodies including FIGO, funding agencies – USAID, UKAID, JHPIEGO and other related Action Groups.
2. Expanded subject matter expertise beyond BEmONC, namely the addition of a new tool kit (training manuals, videos, digital apps) from the India Liaison Group of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

(RCOG). They are also exploring opportunities through joint action in other areas such as malaria and other neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), Family Planning including LARCs, Newborn Care including Kangaroo Mother Care, and Cervical Cancer Prevention including HPV Vaccination.

3. Expanded country collaboration to include Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya in addition to their traditional partners in India, Nigeria and Pakistan.

The Project aims to improve the health seeking behavior in the communities in Meghalaya, in Sikim in northern India through awareness training supported by Health Care Assistants known as ASHAs. In these areas, the project expanded the Vocational Training Team-based program, CALMED, to help upskill and build the capacity of health providers through training of health care professionals and enhanced health-seeking behavior of the communities. The Rotary Club Frankenthal in Germany leads this effort both in an advisory and in management role by assisting with budgeting, strategy planning and realization of needs assessments. The program is tracking the reduction in maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,00 live births in 2023 compared to 259 in 2020.

Programs of Scale Participation

The objective of the RMCH-led Programs of Scale Awardee “Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria” is 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.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Apollo Hospitals, Population Council, India, Australia, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria and Pakistan Ministries of Health

Informal Collaborations: WHO, UNFPA and UNICEF

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Rotary Action Group Against Slavery (RAGAS)

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

Membership

In 2022-23, RAGAS reported 813 members in 39 countries. Among those, 799 are Rotarians, seven are Rotaractors, and seven are non-Rotarian/non-Rotaractors. The group's membership is concentrated in Australia, Canada, Thailand, UK, and USA. The group is administered by 12 Rotarian board members who are from Argentina, Australia, Thailand, UK, and USA. The board is made up of six men and six women.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$35

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

Projects and Activities

The group supported 107 projects in 2022-23: two TRF funded projects, six multi-district projects, 24 district projects, and 75 club projects.. Support from the action group included:

Technical Support

- RAGAS coached clubs and Rotary members 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's TRF Cadre liaison Debbie Hodge advises clubs/districts on all aspects of global grants and attends RAGAS' quarterly meeting with seven cause-based clubs.
- The group advised over 75 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. The group is also advising on a developing a TRF global grant proposal with a Peace Fellow in Bolivia.
- 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.

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 4,200 subscribers.
- RAGAS helped with over 300 training sessions for clubs, districts conferences, and zone events.. RAGAS conducted a full day seminar for Zones 26/27 on human trafficking and modern-day slavery which included educators and local and federal government workers. During the seminar the group presented a prior global grant project and hosted a survivor who shared their story.

Partnerships

- The group is developing an MOU with A21 to continue their partnership on the prevention and education projects focusing on child rights and child protection in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria and aims to institute a youth program for Interact clubs.
- The group worked with government ministries to improve legislation, to receive grant funding for their partners.

Signature Initiatives

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Community Awareness & Prevention Education (CAPE) – RAGAS’s Community Awareness & Prevention Education (CAPE) is a program used by RAGAS to help clubs and districts around the world develop education projects to prevent human trafficking and modern-day slavery. RAGAS partnered with eight Rotary districts (3291, 5710, 6110, 6150, 6170, 6790, 7950, 9800,), ESRAG, Cambodia Rural Students Trust, Chab Dai, Missing Link Foundation, Students Against Child Trafficking, and Partners Against Child Trafficking on CAPE program in 2022-23.

With 10,000 beneficiaries and a budget of US\$60,000, this ongoing project will provide education on human trafficking prevention. 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 awarded on 30 June 2023 included: solar panel installation in Nepal to sustain education for girls, establishing educational forums in Arkansas, USA in partnership with local government, female university outreach to rural communities in Cambodia to empower girls, raising public awareness of forced organ harvesting in Kansas, USA, film screenings and discussion groups on awareness education in Kokata, India, and an online peer-to-peer prevention education program for Interact and Rotaract participants. . 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 also received mentoring by a designated RAGAS Coordinator or Ambassador that consulted on their project and provided support on how to collaborate with partner stakeholders including local schools, local government, NGOs, and other community members.

Global Compendium—Human Trafficking Laws – Leveraging partnerships among multiple clubs and districts, 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 created a global compendium containing the first single standardized summaries of human trafficking and modern-day slavery laws of each country and all U.S. states and territories and forged through over 10,000 pro-bono legal hours. 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 contains about 90 separate pdfs of the human trafficking laws in various countries / states / territories. The information in 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.

Canadian Initiative to Make the Country Free of Human Trafficking—In partnership with Rotary districts in Canada and various local organizations, RAGAS is sponsoring this initiative to make Canada the first country free of human trafficking. The group is bringing together Rotary clubs across Canada to develop project combatting human trafficking. With a budget of USD\$1,000, the project will benefit over 40,000 individuals.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations:

Jones Day

Informal Collaborations:

3Strands Global Foundation, A21, Hope for Justice, International Justice Mission, The Mekong Club, Motel Six, UPS

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Water Sanitation & Hygiene Rotary Action Group (WASHRAG)

Topic: providing safe water and sanitation to communities

Membership

In 2022-23, WASHRAG reported 1,353 members in 87 countries. Among those, 1,332 are Rotarians, 12 are Rotaractors, and nine are non-Rotarian/non-Rotaractors. The group's membership is concentrated in Australia, Canada, India, Nigeria, and USA. The group is administered by 11 Rotarian board members who are from India, Kenya, Haiti, Uganda, Kenya, and USA. The board is made up of seven men and four women.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$25

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

Projects and Activities

The group supported 33 projects in 2022-23: seven TRF funded projects, one multi-district projects, five district projects, and 20 club projects. Support from the action group included:

Technical Support

- WASHRAG 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.
- 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 2022-23, WASHRAG supported six 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 15, WASHRAG raised US\$57,500 in sponsorships for projects.

Training and Advocacy

- WASHRAG hosted their annual World Water Summit 15 this past year.
- WASH in Healthcare Facilities is a significant WASH initiative that focus on installing medical facilities like operating rooms and maternal birthing centers in developing countries. This awareness campaign is led by WASH-RAG members Pat Merryweather-Arges and Ron Denham who led communications and the WASH-RAG ambassador network around the initiative.
- Approximately 80 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. The group held a four-part series of webinars for WASH-RAG Ambassadors on the WASH in Healthcare Facilities initiative.
- 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) supported the US\$2,000 subsidy from the WASHRAG Fund when the action group reviews Global Grants.
- The Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG) sponsored joint webinars with WASHRAG.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations:

BREW (Beers Rotarians Enjoy Worldwide),

Informal Collaborations:

ESRAG (Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group), Wasser ohne Grenzen

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