

# Fragile Earth



Fragile Earth

December 2009

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## **Comes the Proposal for a Standing Committee on Population Concerns – Again**

*by Buck Lindsay*

Population Concerns were first addressed in Rotary at the 1998 Council on Legislation (COL) in New Delhi, where a Resolution for Rotary to address the population issue passed almost unanimously. The Board of RI then published a Population Statement, stating that population issues were important, and that Rotary clubs and districts should adopt projects that address the imbalance between population and resources. The Statement was approved by the Board 14-1. Since that time, we have been on a roller coaster ride with the top Rotary leadership, where population issues have sometimes been emphasized (Past RI President Frank Devlyn), and sometimes de-emphasized (Past RI President Richard King). There is a conservative element of Rotary leadership that is apprehensive of the population issue, and has campaigned relentlessly behind the scenes to keep it off the agenda. But such is the case with any system of governance – some issues are easy, and some are not.

So to assure the stability of population concerns in Rotary that the 1998 COL intended, another proposal – in the form of an Enactment (which change the rules of Rotary) was proposed at the 2004 COL, to have a Standing (permanent) Committee on Population Concerns. In the midst of some confusing floor play at that COL, the enactment was "referred to the RI Board, for action." In the next three years, no action occurred. So it was brought to the COL again in 2007. The Board, still desiring to limit of the number of standing committees of RI, spoke against the enactment. The Council voted against, by a margin of 22 voters among 525 – one of the closest of all of the 500+ votes held that year. Had the board taken a neutral position, had Frank Devlyn been there to speak for the Enactment, had I made a better movement for the adoption of the Enactment, I believe it would have passed. Also adding some negative weight to the issue that year was that RFPD, nerve central for the population issue in Rotary, had advocated aggressively for the passage of the Enactment.

For the 2010 COL, RFPD initially decided to lay-off the motion for a Standing Committee on Population Concerns. Give it a rest. Surprisingly, a club and district in Belgium has advanced the issue on their own. Our thoughts are that it would be nice if the Board would also lay-off their effort against the issue, and let the Council decide freely how it should be treated. Word just received is that the Board will again object to the Population Standing Committee Enactment. - *cont. on next pg.*

**FROM THE DESKS OF CHAIRMAN  
HARALD MARSCHNER  
AND VICE-CHAIRMAN REHKA SHETTY  
AND CEO ROBERT ZINSER**

Despite its huge implication on world development and environment, the population issue has been relatively quiet in public discussion in past years. An important German newspaper called this non-discussion a “*Forgotten Time Bomb*” in 2001. They wrote “*the world will experience a population catastrophe.*” In the last year, however, there is more news about the danger of population growth in developing countries. Public media suggests more clearly that population growth has a direct impact on the environment, water pollution, sustainability, agriculture, political systems and living together in peace. Fast growing populations are in most cases the real cause for these problems. If we can solve the population problem, the world will change towards a better future.

It seems RFPD is no longer the only alarmist. In September, the Financial Times stated: “*For too long, population control has been virtually absent from international political discourse. Leaders have been reluctant to raise the issue for several reasons. One is fear of the powerful religious lobbies opposed to contraception.*” We don’t want to control people, but we do want to teach and convince them that it is much better for every community if their daughters go to school, get vocational training and get married later. Then they will see clearly they have a better chance to feed, to clothe and to educate their children in an appropriate manner, if they have fewer children. Every couple in the world should have the chance to freely decide how many children they want to have.

We hope that the population issue will also become more important in Rotary. If more of us discern the fast growing populations in poor countries as the most important obstacle to a peaceful development, we will be able to convince more Clubs to undertake projects that address the population concern. Every Rotary project should address population development, as part of its main target. When Rotary Clubs implement borewells, organize literacy classes, deliver medical equipment or develop communities, they should also provide information about the advantages of smaller families and the better opportunities that smaller families have.

We want to encourage clubs in developing countries to organize projects and activities that address the empowerment of women, family planning and child spacing. RFPD will link these clubs with dedicated Rotary clubs from more developed countries, to work together in this important field. If clubs address the population problem, they respond to the source of the other problems, not to the consequence of them. As American statesman Benjamin Franklin said, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

Harald Marschner, Chairman  
Rekha Shetty, Vice-Chairman  
Robert Zinser, Chief Executive Officer

**Reducing Emissions/Investing in Family Planning:**

*Sept. 09* - A report written by Thomas Wire has been published by the Optimum Population Trust entitled: “Fewer Emitters, Lower Emission, Less Cost.” It presents a cost/benefit analysis of reducing future carbon emissions by investing in family planning. See this informative report at:

<http://www.optimumpopulation.org/reducingemissions.pdf>

**Comes the Proposal for a Standing Committee on Population Concerns – Again**

*(continued from front page)* Any time the Board presents itself for or against a COL issue, all those COL representatives who are not tuned-in to the issue (who are a majority), vote by default with the Board’s position. But not surprisingly, the Board does not always vote according to what is best for Rotary; sometimes it votes for what best accommodates its own procedures and processes.

The Board fears the cost of more Standing Committees, related to the travel and lodging for the committees to meet a few times a year. So, the Population Concerns Standing Committee can work as a skype (internet) committee - at no cost to Rotary. The Board also fears that if another standing committee is approved, there will be a rush of other groups seeking Standing Committees. Let the Council decide that. And by the way, if there is any issue as worthy as the Population issue to quality of life of the future of the world, give them a Standing Committee too. Since larger populations = poverty = human suffering at the largest scale, if Rotary is truly a humanitarian organization, it should squarely address the population issue and have a Standing Committee to seriously and consistently address it.

To validate the global importance of population concerns, the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) has been reconfirmed by the world community. Further, the UN in the Millennium Development Goals has set a target of universal access to reproductive health by 2015. It specifically refers to “Improve Maternal Health” with indicators on contraceptive prevalence rate; adolescent birth rate; antenatal care coverage; and unmet need for family planning.

To support the passage of this Enactment, there are two things you can do, now: 1) send a letter from your club in support of 10-213, giving your own words on why this is important, to the General Secretary of Rotary by February 25, 2010, and 2) call your district representative to the COL, and urge them to support 10-213.

## **Definitions of Population Control vs. Population Options**

The Rotarian Action Group for Population Growth and Sustainable Development (RFPD) has stood firmly against "Population Control." This is a position which we should all support. Let us define "Population Control," so that we all speak of the same language.

**"Population Control":** is when certain groups of people (often for religious reasons) refuse to allow the poor and undereducated members of our society to have neither the information, nor the means to reproductive health. To reduce the number of children they must bear, forces them to have families of such size that they must live near the starvation line, without access to safe water, the ability to educate their children or to otherwise live in a state above the most humble of animals.

Population control can also be practiced by a country that fears that it cannot provide for its citizens at the present rapid rate of population growth. It therefore limits parents to one (or two) child per couple, thereby reducing infant and maternal mortality.

RFPD members advocate "Population Options."

**"Population Options":** is when the entire universe is given access to reproductive health information. This will allow women and their husbands to choose when and how often they wish to have children, ensuring that each will be healthy. These options will provide mothers the ability to have safe child birthing, thereby reducing infant mortality. It will increase the likelihood of better nutrition, safe water, improved education and the possibility of economic self-sufficiency, and a future of hope.

*By: Dr. William P. Cadwallader, Jr.  
Past Rotary International Director  
Area Coordinator, North America  
and Eastern Russia*

## **SAHELI CENTERS MIGRATE TO BANGLADESH**

### **Rotary District -3280**

Two Saheli Centers have opened in Bangladesh, co-sponsored by Rotary districts 3280, 6560 (Indiana, USA) and TRF under MG 67252. With USD 16,000 were organized to improve the livelihoods of the poorest young women in the reverine low-lying areas, with the cooperation of a local NGO.

The primary objective is to assure education on Healthcare & Hygiene, Child Spacing & Family Planning, Computer & Sewing Training and Literacy & Numeracy, all to uplift the status in the family life. It assures generation of an income, to make the women self-sustaining members of the impoverished rural society.

The "Saheli Centers" started its training program in April 2009 with six computers and six sewing machines. Advocacy in family planning has already begun by training the 50 women (35 on computer and 15 on sewing). These women will eventually help 160 family members become proud partners of this RFPD initiative. The project aims to train 250 young women, consisting of 1,000 family members, at the first phase of this community program.

Members of the Bhairab Rotary club are managing the Centers and its activities. The club will ensure the programs are successful and that the training continues at the self-sustaining center. The local community is enthusiastically cooperating with these RFPD Saheli Centers, as they dream for a respectful future for their women being trained without any financial charges at those centers. This will bring employment, skill, better health & social economic development for this disadvantageous community. The community is grateful to RFPD for this thoughtful program.

Rtn. Anamul Haque Bhuiyan  
President, Rotary Club of Bhairab, RID 3280, MG 67252  
*Contact email: rcbhairab@gmail.com*



Computer Training



Sewing Machine Training

**The Population Reference Bureau (PRB) has published the 2009 World Population Data Sheet, along with a PowerPoint Presentation on World Population entitled:**

**"As World Population Approaches 7 Billion, the Youth Population Is More and More Concentrated in Africa and Asia."**

**See this important report and presentation at:  
<http://www.rifpd.org/Resources/index.shtml>**

## **New Country Chairs Appointed for RFPD**

**Dr. Frantz Compere (CC for Dominican Republic)** holds a Masters Degree from the University of Santo Domingo and has extensive experience in Computer Technology and Accounting. Additional University studies include: Italian, English and Spanish, University APEC 1997-2003; Human Relations and Attention to the Client, Pharmacy Assistant, Foundation Growth and Education Development, 1998; Suture and Intubation, School of Morphologic Sciences, UASD, 2001.

Dr. Compere is a medical consultant, emergency room doctor, and founding member and current president of the Dominican Society for Integral Support for Development and Health. Rtn. Compere is a national speaker on topics of Medicine, Education, Womens and Childrens Health, Reproductive Health, Family Planning, Family Violence and Improving Childrens Lives.

Frantz became a Rotarian in 1996 and is a member of the Rotary Club of Nagua, D4060. He worked on the Project for Surgery of Cataracts with the RC Nagua. At the moment he is the Director of the International Avenue. Dr. Compere has attended the Rotary Institute, Santo Domingo 2006; Rotary Institute, Tampico 2009; and 100th Rotary Convention, Birmingham 2009.

**Dr. Newton Osborne (CC for Panama)** is a member of the Rotary Club of Boquete and a Professor of Medicine at the University of Panama. He has extensive experience in gynecologic medicine and has been a Program Director at various schools including Howard University, Creighton University and the State University of New York.

Dr. Osborne is a senior editor for the Journal of Gynecologic Surgery and has served as a special editor for the editorial board of several medical and professional journals. We hope he will write for *Fragile Earth*. He has published five books, one fiction novel, and over 350 articles and abstracts in professional peer-review journals. Dr. Osborne has been a visiting professor on all continents, in most states in the USA, in most Caribbean nations, and in all countries between Canada and Argentina.

**Ruben Luna (CC for Venezuela)** is an attorney specializing in Administrative Law. He received his post-graduate degree from the University of Salamanca, Spain where he specialized in Administrative Law. Ruben is an External Consultant of the Venezuelan Fund for Social Investment (FONVIS) for the investment in the public sector. He is Regional Coordinator of the Program of Social Investment (PROINSOL) of the Inter-American Development Bank in the States of Lara and Yaracuy, Venezuela. He is a registered external consultant of the United Nations Development Program (UNPD) and he is an advisor of Projects for Social Investment in the Public and Private Sector. Rtn. Luna is professor and head of the department of Administrative Law I, II and III and tax law at the University Fermin Toro (UFT)-Barquisimeto. He is co-founder of the department of free "Human Rights" at UFT.

Rtn. Luna is a charter member of the Barquisimeto Nueva Segovia Rotary Club, founded October 1976. He was secretary of that club from 1976-78 and from 1988-89. He occupied all positions of the club, founded 11 other Rotary Clubs and was District Governor of his Rotary District, 1990-91. Ruben has served on the Extension Task force of Rotary International for South America, Central America, Mexico and Antillas 1992-93. He has served on the committee for World Community Service for many years and was chairman of six Matching Grants.

Of Ruben's many contributions and organizations which he has founded, none have been more important than the founding of the Foundation (FUNDAROSA) and being administrator for the Rotary Hospital for Barquisimeto. He is also the founder of the Foundation for the Endowment of the Rotary Hospital for Western Barquisimeto.

**Maria Aparecida de Moraes Gomes Pereira (Deputy CC for Brazil)** is a college graduate in the area of geography, 1986, specializing in remote sensory. She is fluent in German and was professionally trained in Munich, Germany in 1989, 1993 and 2005. She is a business consultant for a consulting firm Cassiano Rhein Felix. Maria has worked as a geographer for seventeen years at the Secretariat for the Environment, a project of Financial Cooperation with Germany. She is experienced in business and international projects of financial cooperation with the Federal Republic of Germany-Geschäftsberater.

Maria has been a Rotarian since 2003, and currently is a member of the Rotary Club of Sao Paulo, D4610. She is a Paul Harris Fellow, an advocate for vocational efforts that benefit the community and a tireless ambassador to build peace in the world through her Rotary work.

## From Butterflies to a Global Awareness: A Look at the Work of Paul Ehrlich

-by Buck Lindsay -

Paul Ehrlich is regarded as one of the first contemporary scientist to ring the fire bell on global over population and related unsustainable development. As a youngster, he became fascinated with butterflies, and at the age of nine was raising them in his home. As a young professor of biology at Stanford in the 50's, his work included studies and research on the co-evolution of the butterfly and its food source, the snapdragon. He observed that as the snapdragon evolved, it developed a poison to discourage the butterflies, only for the butterflies to soon develop a resistance to the poison. And the back-and-forth cycle of evolutionary one-upmanship continues with all co-dependant species. Ehrlich also taught courses on human evolution at Stanford, where he expressed that he saw an ever more crowded planet, a dwindling food supply, and an impoverished natural world. The classes were popular, and led to speaking engagements, and eventually to a night spot on the Jonny Carson show, where he appeared more than 20 times. He became a NBC news correspondent, and traveled the world developing his story, and became a media celebrity.

In April 1967, he was invited to address the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco. He did not know that the talk would be broadcasts on radio, but the speech and its re-broadcast were a hit. Soon thereafter, he received invitations to be interviewed on radio and television. Later, a publisher saw the Stanford professor on a daytime chat show talking about the population explosion, about the scourge of pesticides, about threats to the atmosphere, and about how agriculture was falling behind in its quest to provide sufficient food for all. He called Ehrlich to encourage him to write a book, and after a little nudging, *The Population Bomb* was published in mid-1968. This book was the first to bring the complex topic of global over population and its related negative effects on the well-being of humanity to popular media. He has since authored similarly impactful books including *The Population Explosion* (1990) and recently *The Dominant Animal: Human Evolution and the Environment* (2008).

In addition to becoming a rock star in the scientific community for his popular expose of where humanity was headed, he was challenge and ridiculed by economist, newsmen and peers. But Ehrlich's gruff façade evolved much like the snapdragon, and protected the integrity of his views as he continued to promote the dangers of global over population.

Lester Brown, founder of the Worldwatch Institute and now head of the Earth Policy Institute, writes, "What Ehrlich did in *The Population Bomb* was recognized earlier than most the threat of rapid population growth from an ecological point of view. It's still a huge problem, though it has essentially disappeared as an issue. Some say Paul was and is wrong about this," Brown says, "but most don't realize how tenuously we're still here. Our growing population is sustained by unsustainable trends – overfishing, pollution, soil erosion, dying coral reefs. Not one has been turned around. Could food shortages bring down civilization? That's what happened to the Sumerians, the Mayans, the Easter Islanders." When asked what he most hopes he's wrong about, Paul Ehrlich says, "I hope the future doesn't turn out to be as bleak as it looks from here. I want my grandchildren to have a good life."



## RFPD OFFICERS

Harald Marschner, *Chairman*

Rekha Shetty, *Vice-Chairman & Area Coor., India/Asia*

Robert Zinser, *Chief Executive Officer*

Buck Lindsay, *General Secretary*

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Salem Mashhour, *Treasurer & Area Coor., N. Africa*

Bill Cadwallader,  
*Area Coor., N. America & E. Russia*

Luis Serra,  
*Area Coordinator, Latin America*

Charles Bull, *Advisor*

— ● —  
Jennifer Hendrickson,  
*Executive Director, RFPD & Editor of **Fragile Earth***

We welcome your comments on **Fragile Earth**, address to Jennifer at rifpd@aol.com.

## “The Man Who Defused the Population Bomb”

- by Dr. William B. P. Cadwallader, Jr. -  
Past Rotary International Director

Area Coordinator, North America and Eastern Europe

There is only one man credited with saving the lives of billions of people. That man was Nobel Peace Prize recipient Dr. Norman Borlaug, Father of the Green Revolution. Dr. Borlaug died September 12, 2009 at the age of 95. He was working at Texas A & M, even though he was a proud graduate of the University of Minnesota (B.S., M.S., Ph.D.) and proud of his farm background in Iowa. One thing he felt that he had left to be done; Africa had not adopted his plan for agricultural self-sufficiency.

Dr. Borlaug started his work with plant breeding in Mexico in 1944, first to control the staple of the diet of western civilization from the plant disease ‘wheat rust’. He developed a new system of plant breeding called “shuttle breeding,” which allowed twice the speed of ordinary plant selection, and also to select plants that were able to be grown under a variety of environmental conditions. He controlled wheat rust, and developed a short stalk, high-producing strain of wheat.

During the 1950s, the rapidly growing population of Mexico changed from a wheat importing nation to a wheat exporter. During the 1950s and 1960s, the population explosion of Pakistan and India portended a tremendous famine. The wheat exported to India and Pakistan nearly doubled the yield of Mexican wheat from 1965 to 1970. Pakistan became self-sufficient in wheat production in 1968. Devastating starvation was averted.

From wheat, Dr. Borlaug turned his attention to rice. Using parallel plant breeding methods, short-statured high-yield rice was developed and later other crops.

Dr. Borlaug was supported by the Rockefeller Foundation. During the two years that I worked with my family in Mexico, (1965-67), it was my privilege to work with members of the Borlaug team in Chapingo, Mexico as we organized food production plots in San Luis Coyotzingo, State of Puebla.

In addition to promoting food production, Dr. Borlaug warned the world of what he called the “population monster,” and the need to work on food production and population constraints at the same time. The Rotarian Action Group for Population Growth and Sustainable Development awarded Dr. Borlaug a Paul Harris Fellow for his work in advocating population concerns in 2002.

Human hunger, which he so passionately worked to alleviate, still exists - especially in Sub-Saharan Africa. This should not be any surprise, since Sub-Saharan Africa is the place where the population growth rates are the highest.

Borlaug often said, “The greatest minds look beyond what is, to what could be.” He also said, “Those fighting for food production and family planning will have peace when they can join forces and work together.”

Dr. Borlaug tried to convince the Nobel Prize organizers to have a yearly prize for those individuals who made great accomplishments in food production. Since they declined, Borlaug started his own prize for The World Food Prize Foundation, which is presented every year for this recognition.

Dr. Norman Borlaug was presented the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1970.

- continued on next page

## JOIN RFPD!

To join RFPD, send US \$100 for Lifetime Membership or \$25 for Annual Membership along with name, address, phone, fax, Rotary Club and District to address below (if in North America):

**Buck Lindsay**  
email:lpbatlanta@aol.com  
-OR-

**North America & Eastern Russia:**  
**Bill Cadwallader**  
email:cadwalla@twcny.rr.com

For other regions, please send to:

**Africa Sub-sahara: Adedolapo Lufadeju**  
email:dolaluf@gmail.com

**Europe: Robert Zinser**  
email:robert.zinser@t-online.de

**India & Asia: Rekha Shetty**  
email:rekhashetty123@gmail.com

**North Africa (includes Middle East): Salem Mashhour**  
email:s.mashhour@tedata.net.eg

**Latin America: Luis Serra**  
email:luiserra@speedy.com  
serra\_ruibal@arnet.com.ar

*continued from page 6* - The Borlaug team provided us with seed, fertilizer and know how. The most important thing that I will remember of the advice of their Mexican extension agents was, "Bill, whatever you do, do not plant these plants yourself. Let the Mexican farmers plow the land with their own mules, and plant the seed with their own feet, and throw the fertilizer off to the side of the grain so it will not be burned. Otherwise, when you leave, the Mexicans will say, 'We cannot make those large plant yields. Only the North Americans can do that. We cannot do what they did. We must return to our old ways.'" As important as the seed, fertilizer and water was to the food production, it was the extension agents, what we could have as Rotary Volunteers, which convinced the farmers that they did have the power to make a difference. They could grow the food needed to fund their nation. The same can be done to teach families that they do not need to have a baby every year. Mothers and babies will be healthier if the babies are spaced. Husbands will not need to fear their wives dying during child birth, because they are too weak to give birth.

Food production and family planning are the two foundations upon which we can build a stable society, and world of peace. Thank you, Dr. Norman Borlaug.

### **NGO-Forum ICPD + 15**

Robert Zinser participated in 'Global Partners in Action: NGO Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Development', held in Berlin, Germany, from 2-4 September 2009. The Forum, hosted by the German government and UNFPA reminded that the best way to continue to forward the ICPD (International Conference on Population and Development 1994 in Cairo) agenda is through partnerships in which all contribute their diverse strengths. The 400 participants selected from 2000 applicants from all over the world were able to agree on the Berlin Call to Action and formed the basis for Strategic Options for NGOs. The Berlin Call to Action invigorates the commitment to the principles of ICPD, reaffirming the importance of sexual and reproductive health to development.

**Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak gets involved to address population growth in his country. The following article was published in Al Akhbar newspaper of Oct. 9, 2009:**

### **President Mubarak calls for intensification of interest in population growth because it is the issue of the future.**

President Hosni Mubarak confirmed during his visit to Fayoum governorate that the country has to concentrate its efforts on solving its population growth problem. It is the most serious challenge facing the improvement of Egypt today.

President Mubarak listened to Ahmed El Maghraby, Minister of Housing and Facilities, about the strategy to face the expected population increase by 2022, which is estimated to reach 21 million.

Mubarak called on all governors to intensify their interest and efforts in solving population growth problems and raising public awareness on the importance of family planning. "Over population diminishes our chances to grow as a country," he said.

Population growth places burdens on infrastructure, increases congestion, and leads to reduced employment opportunities for youth, and reduces quality of services.

## **RFPD LIFETIME MEMBERS**

### **Total Lifetime Members - 1,887**

Africa/Sub-Sahara - 20  
N. Africa/Egypt - 128  
Europe - 1,257 (Germany - 1,214)  
India/Asia- 43  
N. America - 415  
S. America - 10  
C. America - 14

### **New Lifetime Members**

(08/20/09 - 11/20/09)

#### **India**

Suresh Kumar Poddar

#### **Guatemala**

Moisés Cohen  
Carlos Kong G.  
Victor Gabriel Ortiz M.  
Tommy Rybar  
Alberto Sandoval  
Dr. Milton Solís

#### **United Kingdom**

Kundan Jain

#### **USA**

John Markley  
Barbara Pampalone

#### **Venezuela**

Ruben Luna

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**You can make your fully-tax deductible gift today.**

**See page 11 for donation form or contact RFPD:**

**Tel: (770) 407-5633**

**[www.rifpd.org/Join/Donate.shtml](http://www.rifpd.org/Join/Donate.shtml)**

**Population and Sustainable Development issues need your advocacy!**

# Rethinking “The Limits to Growth”

## Can Rotarians Stabilize World Population, and Save Our Civilization?

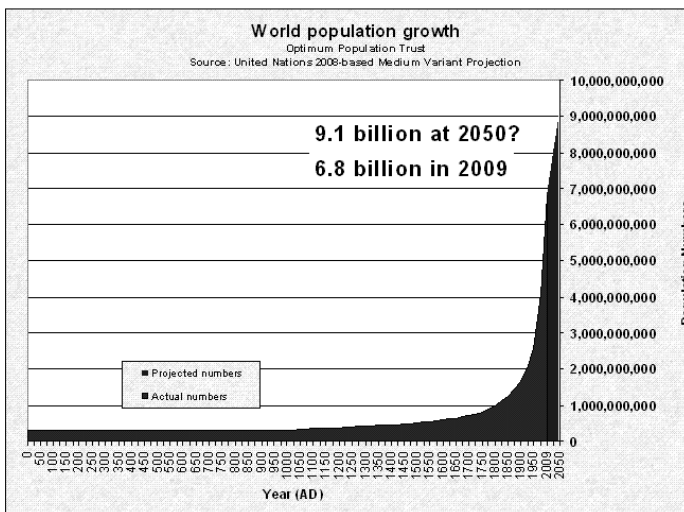
- by Dr. R. Heather Jaffan, Life Member RFPD -

“The Limits to Growth” was published in 1972 and sold 12 million copies in 27 languages. It stated that “if the world’s consumption patterns and population growth continued at the same high rates of the time, the earth’s resources would strike its limit within a century.” Thirty-seven years later, are we approaching this Scenario?

Today, the world in general is facing three challenging issues; population growth, declining world food production and diminishing world food security. Relatively, there is a link between population growth and the probability of increased conflict in particular regions of the world. This is particularly true when such additional aggravating factors, such as widening economic disparities, worsening environmental conditions and dwindling natural resources are also present in countries.

Population growth won’t affect all world regions in the same way. Nations will have to develop the means to adjust to a changing population, according to Dr. Markus Loewe of the German Development Institute.

The populations in all industrial countries (except the United States) have stopped growing. Rapid growth continues in nearly all the countries of Africa, the Middle East, and the Indian subcontinent.

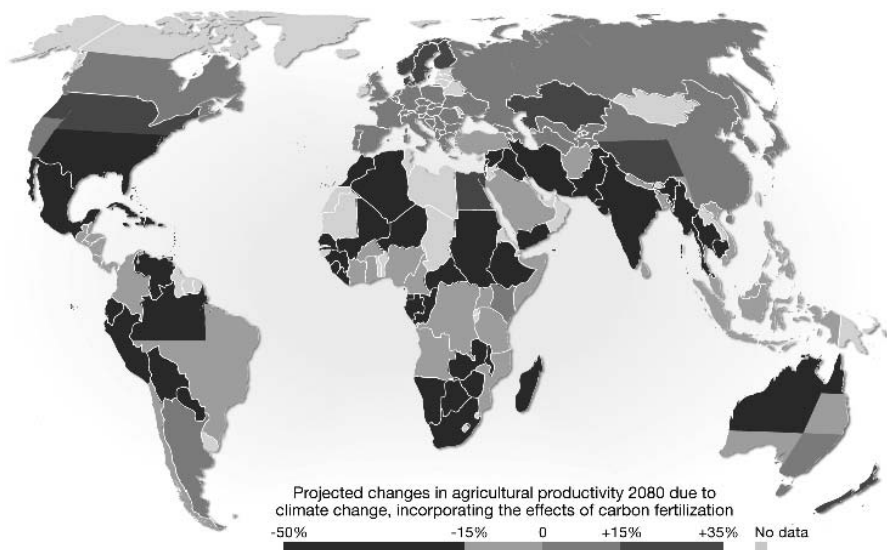


According to Dr. Lester Brown, 80 million people are added to world population each year, mainly in countries where natural support systems are already deteriorating in the face of excessive population pressure. This growth phenomenon is experienced in the countries least able to support population burgeoning. In these countries, the risk of state failure to cope with population demand is growing.

Population growth and the impact of climate change on agriculture are factors contributing to the need for a more sustainable approach to food production and a food plan. It is projected that Global food production must increase by 70% by 2050, in order to meet the demands of the ever-increasing world population. According to the United Nations’ Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) estimate, the World Population will reach 9.19 billion in four decades.

World framers are finding it difficult to increase food production. The pinnacle cause is falling water tables. Growing conversion of cropland to nonfarm uses, and extreme climate events, including crop-withering heat waves, droughts, and floods are prime reasons. Although, Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) is a promising technology to increase yield, its implications are limited by the magnitude of its risks.

As the stresses from these unresolved problems accumulate, weak Government will not be able to cope with these issues, and the ramifications are dire. The challenge is to assess the effects of mounting stresses on the global system. These stresses are perhaps most evident in their negative effect on food security. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, food security exists “when all people, at all times, have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.”



*‘Projected agriculture in 2080 due to climate change’, UNEP/GRID-Arendal Maps and Graphics Library, 2008. Retrieved April 20, 2009.*

- continued on next page

*Continued from page 8* - In recent years, there has been a growing concern over thresholds or tipping points in nature. Many non renewable resources are approaching their thresholds. For example, scientists worry about when the shrinking population of an endangered species will fall to a point from which it cannot recover. Marine biologists are concerned about the point where overfishing will trigger the collapse of a fishery.

We have the technology with earth's natural resources to eradicate poverty, to stabilize population, to restructure the world energy economy and to reduce climate changes. Our ability to transcend technology into an action plan will determine the future survival of our civilization.

The above-mentioned concerns should motivate Rotarians to collaborate with international organizations such as United Nations Development Program and Food and Agricultural Organization, as well as the world community, and the world leaders to bring about feasible technology that:

1. Restore our natural resources by being pro-active, and applying advanced technology to reverse the current cycles of trickle up/down management.
2. Replace poverty with economic growth.
  - a. Establish partnerships with the World Trade Organization to dismantle trade barriers and promote free trade.
  - b. Reverse the current "International Investors" trends.
3. Build bridges of alternative energies, to pave the road toward sustainable energy that halts climate changes.

I believe Rotarians can accomplish these things not only because Rotarians are pragmatic and understand world community needs, but because Rotarians have a proven ability to dedicate themselves to completion of such goals, to save our civilization.

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## **CALL FOR POPULATION PROJECTS**

RFPD finds International Sponsors for population-related Matching Grant projects. RFPD will promote your population project and will assist in finding a sponsoring Rotary Club to provide support. Matching Grant application forms can be downloaded at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org). Provide the correct and current signatures on the Matching Grant application. Please send your completed TRF MG Applications to: Jennifer Hendrickson, 344 West Pike Street, Lawrenceville, GA, 30046, fax to 770-822-9492, or email to [rifpd@aol.com](mailto:rifpd@aol.com). If you have submitted a project to RFPD and the signatures have expired, or your club no longer wants to do the project, please inform us. Each project is very important and we will treat it as such. See below for available RFPD projects.

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**RFPD Population Projects** (as of 11/20/09) Please check the RFPD website for the most current updates.

<b><u>RFPD#</u></b>	<b><u>Project</u></b>	<b><u>Club, Country/District</u></b>
P452	R.H. Educational Institution for Girls	Silk City Rajshahi, Bangladesh/D3280
P455	Girl-Child Education Project	Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, India/D3160
P462	Women Empowerment Village Project	Shimoga North, India/D3180
P463	Micro Credit for Women Empowerment	Shimoga North, India/D3180
P464	Mobile Computer Lab for Women & Girl Child	Shimoga North, India/D3250
P467	Family Planning & Maternal Health Training	Chipata, Zambia/D9210
P468	Maternal & Parental Health Education & Micro-Credit	Kaduna State, Nigeria/D9125
P471	Reproductive Health Training Program for 3 ANM's	Mt. Everest, Lalitpur, Nepal/D3290
P472	Instruments/Equipment for Reproductive Health/ANM's	Mt. Everest, Lalitpur, Kavre Banepa, Charumati Nepal/D3290
P473	Reproductive Health Training Program for 3 ANM's	Kathmandu, Mt. Everest, Lalitpur, Nepal/D3290
P475	Micro-Credit Program for Small Entrepreneur	Yogyakarta, Indonesia/D3400
P486	Musoya Women's Vocational Center	Bamako-Amitie, Mali/D9100
P487	Women's Skill Development & Microfinance	Karachi, Pakistan/D3270

*All projects have completed Matching Grant Applications. Grant cycle is July 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010.*

*For more information, contact: Jennifer Hendrickson, Executive Director, RFPD*

*Phone: 770-407-5633, Fax: 770-822-9492, Email: [rifpd@aol.com](mailto:rifpd@aol.com), Website: [www.rifpd.org](http://www.rifpd.org)*

## **Presentation of the RFPD supported MG Project to Reduce Maternal Mortality at the RI-UN DAY 2009**

Our RFPD Chief Executive Officer, PDG Robert Zinser, presented the MG project "A model to reduce maternal and fetal mortality and morbidity in 10 hospitals in Kano and Kaduna state, Nigeria" in the UN-building in New York City at the RI-UN day on November 7, 2009. In his speech which was well-received, Zinser mentioned that without the support of so many RFPD members and leaders this model project could not have been developed. He referred to the historical background of the model project with a preceding pilot project on family health including child spacing and the 3-H project replicating this successful pilot project. It was pointed out that the Nigerian maternal health project amounts to one Million Euro with additional two million Euro which Rotary Satellite projects and stakeholders contributed in cash or in-kind. Zinser called this first comprehensive approach to reduce maternal mortality a model for the 'Future Vision Plan' – following the Polio-Rotary Model. In international conferences the project is regarded as a model for contributing to MDG 5. Zinser explained that the project includes quality assurance and mentioned the importance of regularly collecting data, analysing and discussing them in review meetings in order to be able to continuously remove causes of maternal mortality. Since the beginning of 2008 maternal mortality has already substantially been reduced. More than 1,600 Rotarians, UN officials, and Rotary youth program participants attended the panel discussion. Rotary, whose relationship with the UN dates back to 1945, holds the highest consultative status offered to any nongovernmental organization by the Economic and Social Council, which oversees many UN agencies.

### **Our Maternal Mortality Project in Nigeria Excerpts of recent reports to UNFPA and WHO**

Two Rotary centres for fistula repair have been established: In Zaria General Hospital, Kaduna state, repair operations started in 2005. The newly built operating hospital building is completely equipped. We have also brought down a borehole and erected a 40,000 litre overhead water tank to ensure water supply for the hospital and improve hygienic conditions. A big generator guarantees the power during the time of surgery. Wudil General Hospital, Kano state, received complete equipment for the operation theatre and started repair operations in 2007. In cooperation with skilled fistula surgeons the project also sponsored repair operations in Murtala Mohammed Specialist Hospital in Kano. As of July 2009 a total of 1350 Women have been helped by the Rotary project. In total 10 doctors have been sponsored by Rotary to be trained.

For Rehabilitation of repaired Fistula patients in Kaduna State, a new centre was built in cooperation with FCEIS (Family Care Eduvision International Services) and sponsored by the Japanese Embassy. In this centre all repaired patients are rehabilitated medically and many of them also receive vocational training in different skills like sewing, knitting, and preparing meals with the wood saving stove "Save 80". In Kano State the same vocational training is offered. Now more than 150 Patients received vocational training in both centres. Some of the patients have been given a micro-credit to enable them to start a business, ensuring their sustainability.

As of January 2008 all the 10 hospitals participate in a continuous data collection on maternal and fetal mortality and morbidity monitored by the Chief midwife of the project. A maternal death form has been introduced to collect detailed information of all maternal deaths that occur in these hospitals. Of importance is the half yearly review, where staff from the participating hospital discuss the anonymous data analysis of each hospital using a bench marking approach. This approach motivates health care workers to critically review their obstetric services and improve the provision of maternal and fetal care. In nearly all participating hospitals, the maternal mortality has been reduced. For further information, visit [www.maternal-health.eu](http://www.maternal-health.eu).

## **RFPD workshop at the seaside town of Puri, Orissa November 7, 2009 R C of Puri, R I D 3260**

The program is one of a series organized by Rotarian Bijay Kumar Pati of the Puri Club. Over 150 Rotarians and Anns participated. A presentation was made on the scandal where hundreds of female fetuses were found outside an ultrasound, sex determination clinic. It led to stern government action against such tests. The preference of male children has led to a sex ratio of 770 girls for every 1000 boys.

Key government officials participated and Rotarian Bijay Pati agreed to start a membership drive for RFPD. The Saheli presentation on the 28 projects carried out in Bihar and Jharkand was made by PDG Sandeep Narang.

The program was summed up by the 5 point program to save children:

1. Pre-natal nutrition and health of mothers.
2. Training of birth attendants and families.
3. Neo-natal care and immunization.
4. Health and nutrition of children.
5. Poverty alleviation for mothers, such as micro-credit programs.



## **RFPD Leadership Report on Activity**

In September, a questionnaire was sent to Country Chairs, Zone Coordinators and Assistant Zone Coordinators from RFPD Chairman Harald Marschner. The responses have been encouraging, however, we still need further feedback and reporting from our RFPD leaders. If you have not submitted your report for your country or zone, please reply to rifpd@aol.com.

From the questionnaires gathered, RFPD leaders reported that they continue to increase membership and are delivering six to ten presentations per year. All stated that the quarterly newsletter "Fragile Earth" and the RFPD websites were helpful and informative. Many have established projects in their area or have sponsored population-based projects each year. They feel the principal challenges we face are to improve education, healthcare and the empowerment of women.

Some reports addressed the need for more work with Rotaractors. This is something that RFPD advocates and wishes to have our leaders do more often. It was stated that we should focus more efforts on the southern part of Africa. They need our assistance to build RFPD. If anyone is interested in joining this team, contact Niji Raji at adeniji1941@yahoo.com. Another particular area is the RIBI section (Great Britain). Himansu Basu is looking to recruit members and use a core group of volunteers to build RFPD in England and Ireland. If you are interested, contact him at HBasu@aol.com.

There is a complete list of our Country Chairs, Zone Coordinators and Assistant Zone Coordinators on our website. The pdf file can be downloaded at [http://www.rifpd.org/AboutUs/ChairsZones\\_List.shtml](http://www.rifpd.org/AboutUs/ChairsZones_List.shtml). Each of our leaders need your support and involvement. We encourage you to get further involved in the area/country you are most interested in - RFPD needs you!

**Hoda Rashwan wrote in *Masry El Youm*** - The Ministry of family and population will lead a media campaign in the coming days, with a budget of 256 million Egyptian pounds.

Dr. Ahmed Nazif led a meeting last week that unveiled the strategic plan of the family and population ministry as it pertains to slowing population growth. Dr. Moshira Khatab, Minister of family and population, added that the carrying out of the strategic plan depends on three aspects:

First, we must quickly prepare an effective media campaign to help all programs that will slow the birthrate. This media campaign should be based on religious, cultural and health subjects to help all society categories (students in university, students in school and poor people in Upper Egypt and in the countryside).

Second, we must intensify the role of rural leaders to enlighten people on the great importance of birth spacing.

Third, we must strengthen the role of the religious letters to people (by preparing courses for the imams and preachers in poor areas and Upper Egypt). We must clarify that family planning is in line with Islamic law (Sharia).

### **Rotarian Action Group for Population Growth & Sustainable Development (RFPD) Membership • Donor Advised Fund (DAF) Donation Form**

**Membership:** \_\_\_ Lifetime Member (\$100.00) \_\_\_ Member (\$25.00)

**Donor Advised Fund:** \_\_\_ (\$10,000.00) \_\_\_ (\$5,000.00) \_\_\_ (\$2,500.00) \_\_\_ (\$1,000.00) \_\_\_ (Other: \_\_\_\_\_)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Rotary Club & District: \_\_\_\_\_ Zone: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete and return with payment to: **Rotarian Action Group for Population Growth & Sustainable Development (RFPD), Attn: Jennifer Hendrickson, Executive Director, 344 W. Pike Street, Lawrenceville, GA 30046 OR Fax to: 770-822-9492.**

Payment (circle one): **Check** **MasterCard** **Visa** **AmEx** Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

*For membership, checks should be made payable to: The Rotarian Action Group for Population Growth & Sustainable Development or RFPD - for the DAF, checks should be payable to The Rotary Foundation.*

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## - RFPD COUNTRY CHAIRS -

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 Argentina, *Horacio Sansosti*  
 Australia, *Colin Suchting*  
 Austria, *Peter Neuner*  
 Bangladesh, *Emdad Ul Haq*  
 Belgium, *Hessel Danser*  
 Belize, *Marcelo Coyi*  
 Bermuda, *Augustine Hardart*  
 Bolivia, *Enrique Mendizábal Eyzaguirre*  
 Brazil, *Adelia Villas*  
 Cameroun, *Henri Tchakountio*  
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 Cook Islands, *John Fallon*  
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 Zambia, *Patrick Chisanga*  
 Zimbabwe, *Mercy Nyepudzayi Nyangulu*

*\*If you are interested in serving as CC for Japan, or interested in working with RFPD Country Chairs, email Jennifer at rifpd@aol.com.*

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**FRAGILE EARTH - DECEMBER 2009**

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