

# Fragile Earth



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Fragile Earth

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Published by the **Rotarian Action Group for Population Growth & Sustainable Development (RFPD)**

*RFPD operates in accordance with Rotary International policy but is not an agency of, or controlled by Rotary International.*

## RFPD Activities at the 2010 Rotary International Annual Convention, Montreal, Canada

### RFPD Booth #2404:

Saturday, June 19 - Wednesday, June 23  
Palais des Congres de Montreal  
House of Friendship



### RFPD Breakout Session:

**"Successful Funding of World Community Service Projects with Funds from Other Sources"**

Monday, June 21 from 13:45 to 15:15 (Room TBA)

*This 90-minute workshop encourages clubs and districts to apply for grants from other sources, including governments and foundations. Club contributions & Matching Grants serve as seed money. Examples, concepts and application forms will be presented.*

### RFPD Cocktail Reception:

Monday, June 21 from 17:00-19:00 (Location TBA)

### RFPD Annual General Meeting:

Tuesday, June 22 from 13:30-15:30, Palais des Congres de Montreal, Room 521

### RFPD Breakout Session:

**"How to Make a World Community Service Project Sustainable"**

Wednesday, June 23 from 13:45-15:15 (Room TBA)

*Rotarians are challenged to implement sustainable projects. It will present how sustainability has to be the guideline when planning, conceiving, implementing and monitoring projects. Examples of sustainable projects and risks in the implementation of expensive, unsustainable projects will be demonstrated.*

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

**RFPD and the MDGs**

- by Robert Zinser -

RFPD, the oldest and largest Action Group in RI founded 15 years ago after a Rotary Peace Forum in Dakar, Senegal, provides expertise and special help to people in distress. RFPD works as part of the world's leading humanitarian organization, with specific activities that meet the needs of underprivileged people. The group includes thousands of Rotarians, working together and initiating hundreds of population projects. RFPD conducts its humanitarian work within the frame of RI regulations. In the next few years, TRF Future Vision Plan will influence our work for a better world even more. All six areas of focus - Peace and conflict prevention/resolution, Disease prevention and treatment, Water and sanitation, Maternal and child health, Basic education and literacy, Economic and community development - are addressed by our population projects. The focus on Maternal and Child Health, will have the strongest impact. This area correlates with the MDG #4 Child Mortality and #5 Maternal Health promoted by the UN in 2000. Without providing the basic needs for so many women and mothers, there will be no chance for a better world. Better educated and healthier mothers will have fewer babies that they can look after in a better way.

RFPD projects address the empowerment and education of women, better access to health care, especially for pregnant women and, information about family planning and child spacing. These crucial goals are all combined in our project "Maternal Health Care in Nigeria"; this project is a model for the world. The project ([www.maternal-health.eu](http://www.maternal-health.eu)) was developed and run by Rotarians in close contact with the government, traditional leaders, UN authorities and important NGOs. This 1 M Euro project is coming to a successful end and will be taken over by the two governments of Kaduna and Kano states. Beside the core project, many satellite projects have been initiated by Rotarians and other NGOs who contributed to our project. See the related story on page 5.

The Maternal Health project proves that it is possible to tackle essential obstacles in a special region. It can be done, but nobody can do it alone. We need the alliance of open-minded persons, officials and NGOs. Rotary has experienced and dedicated members, who are able to coordinate, to manage and to oversee such a holistic project, with a comprehensive approach. We want to thank everyone involved for carrying out population projects and we invite you, RFPD members and Rotarians, to make contributions for a better world. Please learn about these possibilities. RFPD offers you opportunities for Service above Self. Contact our headquarters at [jhendrickson@rifpd.org](mailto:jhendrickson@rifpd.org), see [www.rifpd.org](http://www.rifpd.org) or email your Area Coordinators (see page 6).

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



- Maternal Healthcare Project -

**Please update your files with these  
NEW email addresses:**

**Buck Lindsay, General Secretary**  
New email - [blindsay@rifpd.org](mailto:blindsay@rifpd.org)

**Jennifer Hendrickson, Exec. Director**  
New email - [jhendrickson@rifpd.org](mailto:jhendrickson@rifpd.org)

In 2010, the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will get even more attention, as the UN celebrates the 10th anniversary of the MDGs. The UN General Assembly will remind us that more has to be done to achieve the MDGs. "The MDGs are too big to fail," said UN-Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. He noted that the MDGs can be achieved if all players work together and do their part. Ban Ki-moon stated at the 2009 RI Convention, that "Health binds the Millennium Development Goals together. I count on your leadership. I count on your commitment. And I count on your support." NGOs play vital and unique roles in ensuring that the promise of the MDGs are met through a wide range of citizen actions and engagement. At the 2006 RI Convention, Jeffrey Sachs, advisor to the UN General Secretary, presented the MDGs and encouraged Rotarians to contribute to their achievement. Rotary International is promoting the MDGs, which are issues mentioned in the Future Vision Plan of The Rotary Foundation. RI Presidents drew the attention to the MDGs, as PRIP Bill Boyd did. At the annual RI-UN day, RI regularly distributes an updated paper entitled "Rotary and the Millennium Development Goals" which shows "Rotary responses" to the eight MDGs and their targets.

For years, RFPD has initiated and supported club projects contributing to the MDGs, especially to the MDG 5 - agreeably the most important MDG. Such projects in Nigeria and Nepal are mentioned by RI among the "Rotary responses" to MDG 5. RFPD has been contributing to the MDGs since they were published in 2000. In 2006, RFPD organized the UNFPA-RFPD conference "International Community Development" in New Jersey, with a presentation titled "Contribution of the Rotarian Action Group for Population & Development (RFPD) to all Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)."

*cont. on next page*

## **The Rotary Foundation:**

**Matching Grant maximum award increased to US\$ 200,000. For more information:**

<http://www.rifpd.org/articles/AwardIncrease.shtml>

**New grant management e-learning module:**

[http://www.rotary.org/en/Members/Training/Announcements/Pages/100215\\_announce\\_grantelearning.aspx](http://www.rotary.org/en/Members/Training/Announcements/Pages/100215_announce_grantelearning.aspx)

# Somebody save me – please!

- by Buck Lindsay -

Last week on a long business drive, the conversation between my travel associate and me turned to the global population issue. I described how I first got interested in the population issue, and how through RFPD, I have been able to generate a sense of actually doing something positive to confront the problem. After listening patiently, the associate finally asked me, “Why are you interested in doing this work?” My quick response to the question centered on how population has become a driving factor with the global economy, and my belief that we can’t ignore the conditions that the rest of the world lives in, and expect to have a stable, national economy ourselves. I also spoke of my belief of how population imbalance and national wealth disparity create social dynamics that lead to events like 9-11 and similar aggressions. These events are stimulated by the US being seen as the global bad guy. I’m sure that my rationale did not convince the associate, and the conversation drifted to other topics. My sense was that the associate was of the old school of thought called ‘isolationism,’ from years past – forget everyone else, close the borders, focus on internal values and let the rest of the world sink.

*cont. from page 2* - See [www.rifpd.org](http://www.rifpd.org) for more information. We contribute to the MDGs by emphasizing gender equality, the empowerment of women and using maternal health programs to combat maternal mortality and morbidity, including obstetric fistula and malaria. If the mothers are healthy, the children are less at risk to early childhood mortality. If parents have no more children than they can feed, clothe and educate, their children will be more apt to lift themselves from extreme poverty. RFPD has provided a holistic approach to international community development by promoting a variety of projects supporting World Community Service with Rotary Clubs and Districts. When this all-encompassing goal is pursued, the sustainability of the environment is more assured. The above-mentioned conference resolved that “RFPD activities contribute significantly and specifically to the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations, through its programs and projects.”

**Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary General, emphasized our issue when campaigning for the MDGs: “The Millennium Development Goals, particularly the eradication of poverty and hunger, cannot be achieved if questions of population and reproductive health are not squarely addressed. And that means stronger efforts to promote women’s rights, and greater investment in education and health, including reproductive health and family planning.”**

Later, I was perplexed by my failure again to communicate adequately how an issue I see so clearly gets so quickly discarded by others as liberal mush, and a waste of good money and time. There are so many reasons why concern about the population issue is correct, imperative and urgent, but they just can’t be rolled into a ball that is circular and easy to pass, which can be received by the other side (those who disagree with the premise). I return over and over to a simpler thought: being concerned about the global population issue is just the right thing to do. Maybe it is the Judio-Christian way of thinking I was raised with, but helping other people in need is a part of my psyche. God is good, and through his messengers we are asked to care for the poor and the meek. Think of the Good Samaritan. Other faiths, name them all, have the same belief. Maybe because of my technical training, I ask myself, where are those needs worst, and how can I be most effective in my work, and I turn my attention that way. It is not a nationalistic thing; it is a degree-of-need thing. And it is a - what work can I do that will have the most immediate and positive effect - thing. *continued on page 5*



## **Testing for Disease Incidence is Critical to Reducing Infant Mortality and Improving Maternal Health**

- by Dr. William P. Cadwallader, PRID & Dr. Luis Serra, PDG -

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The *Washington Post* reported on August 13, 2009 that Washington, D. C. high school students will be tested for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). The newspaper applauded the school district's decision to offer this voluntary program.

The statistic behind this testing program is that 3,000 students at eight high schools tested in a Washington D.C. District pilot project the previous year showed 13% of the students positive for an STD, usually gonorrhea or Chlamydia. Left untreated, these two curable diseases will lead to pelvic inflammatory disease, urinary tract infections or infertility. Even more important, students with STDs are five times more at risk for contracting HIV/AIDS, a virus infection that has no cure.

Rotarians in Venezuela, working with Rotarians in New York, are providing 6,000 students at five high schools in Barquisimeto with a voluntary program for testing of HIV, using a test from oral fluids that is 99.8% accurate. Both parents and students must sign legal documents giving permission for school and health authorities to do such tests. The testing program will extend over a five year period to gather enough statistics to indicate that the exponential rate of increase of HIV transmission now being experienced in the city can be reduced by such a testing program in a test community of 450,000 inhabitants.

Even though HIV/AIDS is caused by an incurable virus, there are four distinct advantages for the students to know their own HIV infection status.

1. Once diagnosed positive, students can receive antiretroviral drugs to allow them to live 20-30 years of productive life, as compared to 10-15 years of diseased life without therapy.
2. HIV infected students that are treated with antiretroviral drugs, which dramatically reduces the viral loads in their bodies, will not transmit the virus to others, even if they do not practice "safe sex".
3. Pregnant students found to be positive for HIV will be treated with antiretroviral drugs and be given a caesarian section at the time of the delivery of their babies thereby preventing mother to child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV. Treated mothers will live long enough to see their babies become adults, thereby preventing HIV/AIDS orphans. Early testing and treating for HIV is expected to significantly reduce the incidence of HIV, thereby preserving an entire generation of future leaders of our nations. This is especially important in countries where high incidences of HIV are found.
4. Early testing and treating for HIV is expected to significantly reduce the incidence of HIV thereby preserving an entire generation of future leaders of our nations. This is especially important in countries where high incidences of HIV are found.

Confirmatory testing for HIV using the standard Western Blot test, plus treatment with antiretroviral drugs, will be provided to students by the Venezuelan government, free of charge. As a part of the HIV testing and treatment program all students will be instructed to prevent adolescent pregnancies and STDs.

Depending on the location in Latin America, hospital statistics show that 40 to 60 percent of all baby deliveries are to girls less than 15 years of age. High levels of adolescent pregnancies cause girls to drop out of schools, which increases levels of illiteracy, and increases poverty due to pregnancies out of wedlock. Increased unemployment and increased crime also comes with high levels of unplanned adolescent pregnancies.

Testing high school students for HIV is expected to encourage adolescents to take responsibility for their own life choices by increased awareness of the dangers of HIV infection. The moment an individual gives a sample of their body fluids, whether it be saliva or blood, they relive every decision that they have made, or might be planning to make, and hopefully consider these decisions in terms of their future living with HIV/AIDS.

Testing for disease antigens is nothing new in reducing the transmission of disease. Since the late 1940s, nations around the world have tested school children with tuberculin (using "Patch Tests") to determine if they are infected with tuberculosis. Like testing for HIV, those tested positive with "rapid" tests (those tests giving results for HIV in 20 minutes) will have a confirmatory test done with a Western Blot test, children tested positive with the tuberculin tests all had chest x-rays to confirm the presence of tuberculosis. Children positive to the tuberculin tests would allow health officials to enter the home to find the source of the infections.

Unlike HIV which lives only in humans, the bacteria of tuberculosis lives in humans, chickens, goats, pigs and cattle. Tuberculosis can be transmitted from these animals to humans by eating infected meat or drinking infected milk. To reduce human levels of tuberculosis, the disease first needed to be controlled in livestock. One seldom hears of human infections of tuberculosis in the industrialize nations of the world today, because of such preventative tuberculin testing of school children. The same thing can be done to dramatically reduce the transmission of HIV, so that young people will have the promise of a long life and without the danger of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) of this dreaded disease of HIV/AIDS.

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***Somebody save me - please!***

*(continued from pg. 3)*

A few days ago, a friend sent an internet link that pushed me a little further in the direction I already lean. It may be too technical to describe in this article, so if you want, see <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-5512125026951860045&hl=en#docid=-2058273530743771382>. It is a video on new, scientifically-based angle about how, again, too many people are ruining the world. It profiles our collective chances of surviving past the next 90 years as depending on some important decisions that we will make in the next 20 years. It addresses the issue of Global Dimming, which is the measurably conclusive evidence that a lot less solar energy is hitting our earth's surface than in recent years, due to visible pollution particles emitted by us all burning fossil fuels. This chemical issue is to be distinguished from carbon dioxide, the invisible greenhouse gas that also comes from burning fossil fuels, and is the cause of Global Warming. Ironically, Global Dimming and Global Warning both come from the same source – burning fossil fuels. But they have different effects on our well-being: correct either one, and the other gets worse. So watch the video, and draw you own conclusions.

And what do we do with all this? We realize that it is not about us. We, the typical Rotarians (50-something, pretty well-off, influential) should think about the next generation – our kids and our grand children. Look beyond ourselves. This is the old saw, but it needs to be said again: if we don't do something about how what we are doing will affect the lives of those after us, their lives will be worse-off than ours, because of us. If this is not reason enough, go ahead, close the borders, focus internally, and pray for something spectacular to save us all.

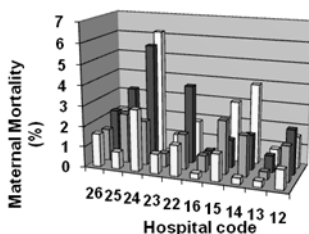
**Rotary Project Prevented 63 Maternal Deaths**

- by Robert Zinser and Wolfgang Kuenzel -

There are hidden gems in Rotary, like The Rotary Foundation (TRF) and Rotarian Action Groups (RAGs). Working with both of them during past years, we gained great experience: without TRF, our 1M Euro Maternal Health project with several satellite projects and contributions of stakeholders could not have been implemented. For such a large project, you need funds from other sources. Co-funders expect seed money from Rotary clubs, which clubs collect best by applying for a Matching Grant from TRF. Clubs are highly motivated to contribute cash when they realize that their cash contribution is multiplied with a factor of four or more by the co-funders. RAGs, like RFPD, support projects with experience, expertise and absolutely reliable contacts to the host country, as well as with the cash contribution of their members. Without RFPD, our Maternal Health project would not exist.

**Excerpt of our Project Report 2009:**

**Maternal mortality ratio (MMR) in 2008 and 2009**



The MMR is shown half yearly. In seven hospitals, a continued fall of maternal mortality can be observed. The hospital code represents the various hospitals and guarantees the confidentiality of the hospitals.

Another Rotary gem facilitated our project: Rotary's membership of leaders in different professions from different districts are linked by RAGs like RFPD. Our complementing experience and expertise - on the one hand in project management and on the other hand in gynecology and obstetrics - are linked together with the knowledge of other team members crucial to achieve a professional project. To reduce maternal mortality, a comprehensive approach is needed in cooperation with stakeholders, government and traditional rulers. This demands skills in project management. Many interventions have to be linked to quality assurance, which requires special expertise of a gynecologist/obstetric.

The result is a model with which we achieved a reduction of maternal mortality of 50% in two years in a most difficult target area - Kano and Kaduna states, Nigeria (see table).

The project will be sustainable as the state governments want to take it over before it ends on March 31, 2010. For the full hospital report, visit [www.maternal-health.eu](http://www.maternal-health.eu).

**Obstetrical Management in 2008 & 2009**

	<u>Deliveries</u>	<u>CS</u>	<u>MMR</u>
Jan - June 2008	6,878	494 (7.18%)	123 (1.79%)
July - Dec 2008	7,369	451 (6.12%)	120 (1.63%)
Jan - June 2009	7,695	457 (5.94%)	106 (1.38%)
July - Dec 2009	7,891	369 (4.68%)	74 (0.94%)
<b>Total 2008 &amp; 2009</b>	<b>23,833</b>	<b>1,771 (5.94%)</b>	<b>423 (1.42%)</b>

CS - Caesarean Section  
MMR - Maternal Motality Ratio

## RFPD OFFICERS

Harald Marschner, *Chairman*

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

Robert Zinser, *Chief Executive Officer*

Buck Lindsay, *General Secretary*

Adedolapo Lufadeju, *Public Relations Director & Area Coor., Sub-Sahara*

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 [jhendrickson@rifpd.org](mailto:jhendrickson@rifpd.org).

## 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: [blindsay@rifpd.org](mailto:blindsay@rifpd.org)  
-OR-

**North America & Eastern Russia:**  
**Bill Cadwallader**  
email: [cadwalla@twcnv.rr.com](mailto:cadwalla@twcnv.rr.com)

For other regions, please send to:

**Africa Sub-sahara: Adedolapo Lufadeju**  
email: [dolaluf@gmail.com](mailto:dolaluf@gmail.com)

**Europe: Robert Zinser**  
email: [robert.zinser@t-online.de](mailto:robert.zinser@t-online.de)

**India & Asia: Rekha Shetty**  
email: [rekhashetty123@gmail.com](mailto:rekhashetty123@gmail.com)

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

**Latin America: Luis Serra**  
email: [luissera@speedy.com](mailto:luissera@speedy.com)  
[serra\\_ruibal@arnet.com.ar](mailto:serra_ruibal@arnet.com.ar)

## SOUTH AFRICA AND THE NEED FOR SLOWING POPULATION GROWTH

South Africa is classified as a developing country, but in this country lives a juxtaposition of first world and third world constituents. The haves and the have nots.

It is from the first world group that most service organizations, including Rotary, are formed. They work tirelessly at many worthwhile projects, all of which are very commendable. The majority of these are for the benefit of the poor. Most are associated with orphans, AIDS victims, crèches, feeding schemes, schools and so on, all of which are never ending projects. As soon as one group of children has been helped, there is a never-ending line of others waiting for assistance. It would seem, therefore, that in order to make real progress in assisting the developing world members of our society, we should be paying some attention to the root cause of the problem – overpopulation. Our population is growing exponentially. Polygamy and promiscuity – especially amongst the young - are rife and unwanted pregnancies are the order of the day. AIDS is a major problem and some households are headed by children and some by grandmothers, owing to the deaths of the parents of the children. Back street abortions are blatantly advertised in most towns and cities, often with fatal consequences, resulting in yet more homeless children.

In South Africa, very little has been done from a Rotary perspective to address the population issue. We in the Rotary club of Westville, District 9270, hope to make inroads into this major problem. It will not affect on-going projects, but will be an additional form of outreach. We are investigating a new approach to address this very problem. It is perceived that the usual family planning methods of population concerns are not a total answer to the problem. It is felt that in this very much male-dominated society, research needs to be done into ways of making men, in particular, understand that a small family which can be fed, clothed and educated by the parents is a much more preferable to the society we have at present. It is a project of monumental proportions, but a start must be made sooner rather than later. Many great projects have had very small beginnings.

Dr. Alan Isdale, Rotary Club of Westville, D9270  
Email: [akisdale@mweb.co.za](mailto:akisdale@mweb.co.za)

### ***Adding It Up: The Costs and Benefits of Investing in Family Planning and Maternal and Newborn Health*** UNFPA, Guttmacher Institute (2009)

The goal of this report is to guide decision makers, at the global, regional and country levels, in making investments that would reap the greatest returns for individuals and societies. The report presents new analysis on the costs and benefits of investing in two key components of sexual and reproductive health care: family planning and maternal/newborn health services.

The key findings of the report are that maternal deaths in developing countries could be slashed by 70 per cent and newborn deaths cut nearly in half, if the world doubled investment in family planning and pregnancy-related care. And investments in family planning boost the overall effectiveness of every dollar spent on the provision of pregnancy-related and newborn health care. Simultaneously investing in both family planning and maternal/newborn services can achieve the same dramatic outcomes for \$1.5 billion less than investing in maternal/newborn health services alone.

To download PDF in English, <http://www.unfpa.org/public/publications/pid/4461>



## **RFPD ACADEMY IN GERMANY**

RFPD Germany and Rotaract Germany are organizing the 3rd "RFPD Academy" in March 2010 in Erfurt.

For more information visit:

[http://www.rotaract1950.de/page/rfpd\\_akademie2010](http://www.rotaract1950.de/page/rfpd_akademie2010)

## **Investigating the Population Increase in North and Center Towns of Upper Egypt**

According to recent Egyptian articles, Dr. Nazif, Egypt's Prime Minister said that the number of births in Egypt has doubled during 2008 and has now grown to two million per year. Because the number of births, Egypt's population was 40 million in 1979, and is now 80 million.

This came in a speech at the first conference on population planning in north and central upper Egypt. The event was attended by Dr. Moshira Khatab -the Minister for Family and Population, Dr. El Gabaly Minister of Health, Dr. Ezzat Abdalla Governor of Beni Suef, Brigadier General Nabil El Ezabi Governor of Assiut and Dr. Ahmed Diaa El Deen Governor of Minia.

Dr. Moshira Khatab, Minister of Family and Population, confirmed the intention and the importance of providing services to Egyptian families to slow the increase of population. She also noted that the ministry will pay attention to disadvantaged areas in Upper Egypt. The Ministry of Family and Population is also seeking to coordinate with the Ministry of Health to provide family planning and improve the services, to achieve the highest value in the shortest possible period. The Master plan of the Ministry of Health in agreement with the Ministry of Family and Population is to reach 300 thousand families with the family planning services.

President Mubarak has spoken about the seriousness of the problem of population growth in Egypt and has said that the population problem is blocking progress, and slowing sustainable development.

Moshira noted that a strong impact will occur during the immediate future, because several ministries will be in working on the population issue. She is optimistic with the great attention shown by President Mubarak.

### **Lester Brown's "Plan B 4.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization"**

Available for free download or order a hardcopy:  
<http://www.earthpolicy.org/index.php?/books/pb4>

*"[Brown's] ability to make a complicated subject accessible to the general reader is remarkable..."* —Katherine Salant, Washington Post

*"Dr. Lester Brown is one of the most important voices in the world, regarding the creation of a new conscience of humanity toward a sustainable society."*

—Jose Jaime Maussan

## **RFPD LIFETIME MEMBERS**

**Total Lifetime Members - 2,379**

Africa/Sub-Sahara - 21

N. Africa/Egypt - 128

Europe - 1,746 (Germany - 1,703)

India/Asia- 43

N. America - 417

S. America - 10

C. America - 14

**New Lifetime Members**

(11/20/09 - 2/20/10)

**West Africa**

Sunny Akuopha

**USA**

Dr. Henry G. Goble

Tin Tin Raschid

Cole Wilbur

### **Annual Appeal**

#### **Donors 2009:**

Sylvan Barnet

Alex Bauerle

Clarence Buurman

Dot Cada

James R. Carter

John Colwell

Gerald J. Coutant

Sally Crossley

Leonard Dalberg

William Davidson

Barrie Davis

Allan Dow

Becky Engel

Roger Ernst

Dr. Nancy Fleming

James Fogel

Phil Gardner

Richard Hall

Ernie Harris

J. Hulka

Lauren Jenkins

Walter Kohn

Cindy & Winford Lindsay

Manny Medeiros

Geeta Jyothi McGahey

Scott Parmenter

Joseph Pendry

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John Shirley

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Bruce Sunquist

Robert L. Tilly

Richard D. Thomas

John C. Upchurch

Lizette Weiss

R. Peyton Woodson, III

K. Charles Wright

Jack & Jill Campbell Fund at

The San Diego Foundation

## US Secretary of State Articulates New Direction

- by Buck Lindsay -

Hillary Clinton, Secretary of State for the current US administration, is a lightning rod for varying interests. She attracts both admiration and criticism, but is always clear about where she stands and what she wants to accomplish. She nearly became president of the United States, and might yet one day serve in that role. The criticism of her is probably mostly associated with the natural dissention that is part of the two-party system of US governance, and her outspoken style of leadership.

Clinton delivered a speech on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at the Center for Global Development, wherein she articulated the new foundation for US foreign development policy. In the speech, she answered the question: why does development in other countries matter to the American people and to our national security and prosperity. The answer was – the US can not hope to achieve security and prosperity for ourselves when one third of humankind live in conditions that offer them little chance of building better lives for themselves or their children. She suggested that:

### **If we want to:**

**Stop terrorism, violent extremism**  
**Build a stable global economy**  
**Have regional partners stop conflict**  
**Advance democracy and human rights**  
**Stop global pandemics**  
**Address climate change**  
**Address scarcer resources**

### **Then we must:**

**Address the millions of young people without jobs**  
**Open global markets to the disadvantaged**  
**Help them stabilize their own societies**  
**Reduce hunger and poverty, which undermine governance**  
**Encourage access to better healthcare**  
**Encourage access to greener energy,**  
**Encourage sustainable livelihoods**

She emphasized that our approaches must be tailored to the special conditions of each county. We must build our development programs on desired results, and rethink our strategies if we are fall short. We must share the results with the public. She outlines six key strategies for success:

- **Development based on partnership, not patronage** – through investment and with consultation, we break the cycle of dependence of developing countries to build their own institutions and their own capacities to deliver essential services. We want to put ourselves out of the aid business, when countries no longer need this kind of help.
- **Integrate development with defense and diplomacy** – we must leverage the expertise of our diplomats and military on behalf of development. The three D's must be mutually reinforcing. Development advances democracy and human rights worldwide. Poverty and failed governments contribute to instability.
- **Improve coordination of all development work** – governments must think and act globally. In the US, an array of programs overlap and contradict. With coordination, we can make the work we do more effective, efficient and enduring.
- **Concentrate the work in areas of convergence** – we should focus on health, agriculture, security, education, energy and local governance. Instead of helping a few people one project at a time ,we can help countries activate broad, sustainable change.
- **Increase our nation's investment in innovation** – new technologies have allowed billions of people to jump into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, after missing the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Blogs and social networking help keep governments transparent on the scourges of corruption and repression. We must share our technical advancements.
- **Focus more investment on those who grow the world's food, care for the world's sick and raise the world's children: women and girls** - women and girls are the world's greatest untapped resource. Education, micro-enterprise and gender equality are the keys to unleashing this power.

Clinton says the US is putting women and girls front and center in our development work. “We are designing programs with the needs of women in mind.” She called for Americans to not only give materially, but to give time and talent. “We must tap into the talents of the first global generation of Americans – our young professionals. They must volunteer, intern and work for NGO's. This is essential to creating a world in which people in more places can live up to their God-given potential – in a world that is more equitable, democratic, prosperous and peaceful.”

To read the full speeches “Development in the 21st Century” and “Remarks on the 15th Anniversary of the International Conference on Population & Development,” visit: <http://www.rifpd.org/articles/HillaryClinton.shtml>

# **RFPD in Latin America**

- by Dr. Luis Serra, Latin America Coordinator -

In Latin America, Rotarian members of RFPD are focused on education, strengthening the role of women, the prevention of infant and maternal mortality, adolescent pregnancies (15% of all pregnancies) and sexually transmitted diseases (including HIV/AIDS) as well as the diagnosis and treatment of these diseases.

In Rotary district 4380 (Venezuela), the Rotary Club of Barquisimeto Nueva Segovia is undertaking, by means of a Matching Grant with District 7170 in the USA, a comprehensive project that addresses all of these issues. We are educating adolescents in the schools and inviting the students to take the voluntary tests, with the permission of their parents, using the hospital of the Rotary Club of Barquisimeto Nueva Segovia. Students are referred to the state and federal government health services for the confirmatory tests and treatment, if the student is diagnosed positive for HIV.

By means of testing and education, adolescents will know to prevent undesirable pregnancies (those that present an increased risk to the mother and in which the baby is often of reduced weight). The project can also prevent contagious diseases. Furthermore, by means of early diagnosis, deaths from uterine cancer can be prevented. This will prolong the usefulness and quality of life of those who are unaware carriers of HIV. They will also learn at the same time how to prevent transmitting their disease to others.

HIV infected fathers and mothers can be treated for their disease and live long enough to see their children grow to be adults, thereby diminishing the number of HIV/AIDS orphans. Working with HIV infected pregnant adolescents, they can be treated to prevent the HIV transmission from mother to child, permitting the baby to be disease free. For more information contact Luis Serra at [luissera@speedy.com.ar](mailto:luissera@speedy.com.ar).

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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 2/20/2010) Please check the RFPD website for the most current updates.

<b>RFPD#</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Club, Country/District</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
P488	Population, Sustainable Development & Safe Water	North Alexandria, Egypt/D2450
P489	Population, Sustainable Development & Safe Water	South Alexandria, Egypt/D2450

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)

## **"A 5-POINT PROGRAM TO SAVE CHILDREN"**

- by Rekha Shetty -

Advancements in medicine and technology have made it possible for premature and seriously ill babies to live right through the risk period and eventually lead normal lives. But this is not the case in poor and underdeveloped nations. Babies die every day from malnutrition and disease found both in the nursing mother and the child itself. Sadly many, if not most of these diseases are preventable.

Children are an expression of humanity's need for immortality. Yet, over 38,000 children die everyday due to preventable causes. For industrialized nations, poverty, child mortality, poor maternal health, and rampant disease are issues of the past. Science, medicine, research and technology have allowed many countries to eliminate the serious issues that plague third world nations and developing countries.

Mothers are the primary health givers of children. The life of both is linked – first by the umbilical cord and later by the emotional closeness that helps a mother to do everything possible for the health and survival of her children.

Below is a 5-Point Program to reduce child mortality by saving mothers. To the right is a quick fact list of Maternal Health concerns.

**1) Provide pre-natal nutrition and health for mothers** - supplementing with vitamins and high nutrition foods, to ensure a healthy pregnancy is wise; it may be the only way to guarantee that nutrient needs are met, because even a well-balanced diet may not provide enough of them for a woman and her growing child.

**2) Train birth attendants (TBAs) and families** - Midwives and TBAs are caring for safe delivery in hospitals and for mothers and their babies during their home delivery. A skilled birth attendant for all women is obviously the ideal, in many developing countries. Training of TBAs is essential with the aim of improving: (i) management of normal delivery; (ii) timely detection and referral of women with obstetric complications; and (iii) linkages between TBAs and essential obstetric care services.

**3) Provide neo-natal care and immunization** - health risks to newborns are minimized by strong neonatal care. This includes immediate attention to breathing and warmth, hygienic cord and skin care, and early initiation of exclusive breastfeeding. The risk of death is highest in the first month of life. Immunizations protect against childhood and communicable diseases such as Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio, Measles and tuberculosis. Immunization is considered among the most cost-effective of health investments. Some vaccines require only one dose while others require more. Vaccines are very safe, and side effects are minor.

**4) Distribute health and nutrition information to families and children** - nutrition is a foundation for health and development. Better nutrition means stronger immune systems, less illness and better health. Healthy children learn better and are stronger, more productive, and well-equipped to break cycles of poverty and realize their full potential. Nutrition is critical for child health and survival.

**5) Create poverty alleviation programme for mothers like micro-credit** - a major reason why people cannot get out of poverty is because they do not have enough credit to invest in small enterprises. The poor do not have access to credit, simply because financial institutions consider them a risk. Micro credit banks, which cater towards the underprivileged, see the poor as credit-worthy.

- continued on next page

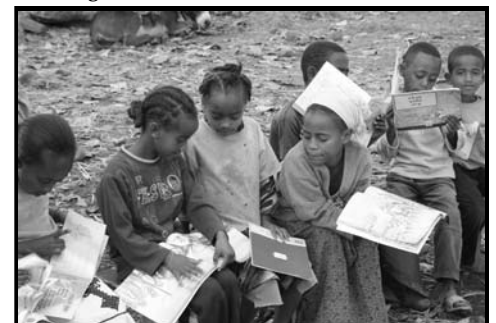
## **Rotaractors visit RFPD Project "Ethiopia Reads"**

Together with three other Rotaractors from Germany and San Fransisco, I visited the RFPD project "Ethiopia Reads" in Addis Ababa in February this year. The project is a joint effort of the NGO "Ethiopia Reads" and Rotary/Rotaract and aims to promote literacy skills throughout the country. This is done by equipping libraries with books, establishing new school-based libraries and bringing books to remote villages via "donkey libraries." Additional goals include promoting gender equality, reproductive health and child spacing via fiction books.



It was great to see this well-organized project have such a big impact on the lives of so many children and young adults. I especially liked the donkey library that we visited, because it became evident that these village children were longing for reading material and a chance to improve their education and to finally reach their goals in life. "Ethiopia Reads" supports them with their plans!

- by Talke Schroedter, Representative RFPD Rotaract Germany 2009/10, RAC Ludwigshafen-Frankenthal



*Pictures include the children receiving books and Rotaractors: Martin Schaffranek, Emily King, Suher Rasid, Kiddy Lakew and Talke Schroedter.*

Micro credit programs are effective in giving un-employed people employment. They help reduce the number of people living below the poverty line. Unemployment declines and working capacity increases as people get jobs, thus contributing to the overall economy of the country. Poverty alleviation programs, such as employment schemes, education and disease prevention awareness, "are needed to ensure that the poor make productive use of micro credits and ascend completely out of the poverty cycle.

There are many projects that Rotary Clubs can sponsor to alleviate poverty and maternal and child mortality. A few are mentioned below. For a full brochure, visit: <http://www.rifpd.org/Resources/index.shtml>.

**1) Provide Skilled Care:** Skilled attendant during labor and delivery can save newborn lives.

**2) Promote Postnatal Care:** Immediate breastfeeding, which helps mothers by stimulating the contractions of the uterus that protect against severe bleeding, also protects infants by providing nutrients and essential immunities from disease.

**3) Prevent and Treat Maternal Infections:** Immunizing women of reproductive age with the tetanus toxoid vaccine protects both women and newborns.

**4) The 'Saheli' Centers - successful projects in India**

The Centers seek to provide vocational guidance to women to enhance their ability to financially support their family, to impart vocational training to women and to create a volunteer force promoting child spacing and family planning. These trained women are called 'Sahelis'. At the same time, it educates the women on health, hygiene and the importance of family planning.

For additional information and full article details, visit: [www.rifpd.org](http://www.rifpd.org).

**REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY through your effort – the 5-point way!**

**Rotarian Action Group for Population Growth & Sustainable Development (RFPD)  
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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.*

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