

# Fragile Earth



PUBLISHED BY THE ROTARIAN ACTION GROUP FOR POPULATION GROWTH & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (RFPD)

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## 7 billion— A Loud Wake Up Call?

by Harald Marschner, Chairman

Recently, our planet's population peaked at 7 billion and the population rally will go on! At a somewhat slower pace, but fast enough to threaten many countries. I would like to ask you, does this call reach the ears of all the responsible people? The population issue, including family planning, maternal health and the empowerment of women, is the most important key in solving the problem and in slowing down the population increase. Please read Buck Lindsay's articles on this topic!

The population increase is nowadays in the focus of many countries, organizations and the world community, but we need more concrete projects and campaigns. Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation have made a big step forward by including family planning in the focus of "Maternal and Child Health"! Recent research tells us that more than 200 million women would like to plan the number of their children or to space the time between the deliveries. If all these women had access to family planning, 55 million unintended pregnancies could be avoided, 22 million abortions wouldn't take place, 140,000 mothers could stay alive, 1.4 million babies wouldn't die shortly after their births and the population increase would slow down by two thirds to approximately 27 million per year! And millions of mothers could stay healthier; they would have more time to look after their other children, who in turn would have better

chances for a better life! The women are the keys for a better world, as a UN speaker stated:

**"Save the women of the world, so that the women can save the world!"**

In a recent decision, the RI Trustees encouraged Rotarian Action Groups (RAGs) amongst others to "serve as members of their respective areas of focus stakeholder groups" or to "act as resources to clubs and districts planning a project within their respective areas of focus". In addition to Maternal Health, RFPD projects very often include substantial contributions to the Areas of Focus of Disease Prevention, Literacy, and Community Development. Water projects also contribute to the empowerment of women because women spend up to six hours per day collecting water. And many regions will be more peaceful, if fewer hopeless young people are involved in conflicts!

RFPD can and will be a very good tool for Rotary clubs, not only in the focus of Maternal Health, but in many areas concerning the population.

### FRAGILE EARTH

OCTOBER 2011-

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## From 6 Billion to 7 Billion

by Buck Lindsay. A summary presentation of key points presented in the comprehensive report by this title, published this October 15, 2011 by The Population Institute, a Washington DC population advocacy group.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) predicts that the **7 billionth person** was born on October 31, 2011. This event will have an impact on all of us!

Since 1999, the world population has grown from 6 billion to 7 billion. For the fourth time in the past half century 1 billion people will be added to the planet in 14 years or less. What does this mean for human well-being and the fate of the planet? Unless a greater sense of urgency is brought to gender equality, family planning and reproductive health and rights, the world will reach the 8 billion mark almost before we know it, and many of the advances that we have made in reducing severe poverty and eradicating hunger could be reversed, perhaps dramatically so.

### 1999

Oil prices were at near record lows

We were united in fighting global warming

World food prices were at record lows

Hunger was on the run

Metal and mineral prices were depressed

### 2011

Oil output has peaked, high prices here to stay

Global resolve on curbing greenhouse gas gone

Food prices at record highs

Hunger has staged a come back

Commodity prices at or near record peaks

1. **Hunger:** Nearly 1 billion people in the world suffer from hunger, 25% of whom are children. To just maintain this level, we will need to double food production by mid-century. Climate change will restrict crop yields. Agricultural development assistance has fallen 40% since the mid-80's.

2. **Poverty rates stalled by High Food prices:** There has been progress in reducing global poverty, but mostly in China and East Asia (79% to 18%), while in Africa poverty increased from 11% to 27%. The surge in food prices from 2010-2011 has pushed 44 million more into poverty.

3. **Urban slums:** In 1990 there were 657 million urban slum dwellers; today 828million. 62% of the urban population of Africa lives in slums, far exceeding infrastructure capacity. Number of people living in African cities will triple in next 40 years.

4. **Water Scarcity:** Water withdrawals have tripled in the last 50 years. Western Asia and northern Africa already are exceeding sustainable water use limits. 70% of our water use goes to irrigating 18% of our farmlands, which produces 40% of our food supply. India and China will lose 30-50% grain yield by 2050.

5. **Sanitation for the poor still lacking:** 2.5 billion in the developing world missing improved sanitation.

6. **Competition for Arable land:** agricultural land increased only 5% since 1970, mostly from rain forests. Land in sub-Saharan Africa the size of France leased or sold to developed countries. Biofuels compete for land use, reducing food production.

7. **Desertification and topsoil loss:** a rainstorm washes away 1 mm of topsoil, which nature takes 20 years to replace. 135 million may lose their land by 2020 to soil degradation, half of that in sub-Saharan Africa. The US loses soil 10 times faster and China and India 40 times faster than natural replenishment.

8. **Oil spike in 2008** (\$140/ barrel) contributed to the Great Recession and threatens global economic activity. Rising energy costs continue to drive up the cost of producing food.

9. **Deforestation** has slowed, but not in South America and Africa. It is driven by our appetite for lumber, food, cooking oils and liquid fuels. In a half century, Haiti and Ethiopia have been deforested.

10. **The world is warming.** 2001-2010 was the warmest decade since 1880 when recording began. 2010 tied 2005 and 1998 as the hottest years on record. Africa's rise has been the sharpest.

11. **Severe weather is on the increase.** A warming planet increases drought and flooding. The 2010 heat wave in Russia cost it 40% of its grain harvest.

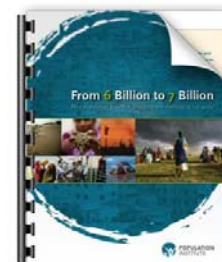
12. **Ocean ecosystems in peril.** 90% of all large fish populations have disappeared over the past decade. Consumer demand is simple too great. In another generation, overfishing may destroy coral reefs and mangroves.

13. **Biodiversity still being lost.** 40% of the global economy and 80% of the needs of the poor are supported by biodiversity. 43% of all amphibian species and 40% of bird species are in decline.

14. **Failing States.** Wars, natural catastrophes, high food prices and corruption are destroying the ability of poor countries to meet the basic needs of their citizens. Rapid population growth makes it more difficult to reduce mortality rates, hunger and severe poverty. Of the 20 failing states, half have fertility rates over 5.0.

**Family planning and reproductive health programs constitute a win-win proposition for women, their families, their communities and the world at large. As population crosses the 7 billion mark, let us not despair. Let us renew our commitments to family planning, the advancement of women and the creation of a more sustainable world.**

Thanks to Bob Walker from the Population Institute for putting together a comprehensive piece on this important occasion. To download the full report, go to <http://goo.gl/4iEPS>



## RFPD Appoints North American Area Coordinator



RFPD is pleased to announce the appointment of Judy Prather as the Area Coordinator for North America. Judy will work as a team with her husband George to fulfill this role.

Judy has been a member of Whittier Sunrise Rotary Club since 1991, serving as Club President (1996-97), and District Governor for District 5320 (1999-00). She was a speaker at the RI Convention in Barcelona, Spain, 2003. She was the Representative to the International Legislative Council for District 5320, 2004, along with many other roles over the years. She has participated in every RFPD meeting from the very beginning, and has been a Zone Coordinator for RFPD since 2004.

Judy is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist with a PhD from the California School of Professional Psychology, 1976. Her husband George has a PhD in Political Science from the University of California, 1978.

Judy has served in many public service roles. She has worked as a Senior Community Outreach Specialist, involved in the Elder Abuse Prevention Program, 2000-01. She has served as the Executive Director at the Klein Center for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, 1987-90. She has also participated in the training of parents, students and schools for drug prevention, as well as taught PhD level courses at several colleges. Judy has received many awards and recognition as a humanitarian and leader in her community. Currently, Judy works in a private practice as a psychotherapist working with individuals and families. George and Judy have served as foster parents for more than 10 children, adopting two as their own.

She is very enthusiastic to serve as RFPD's North American Area Coordinator. We welcome Judy to the RFPD Board and her new role.

## The Rotary Maternal Health Project – UN Commitment

The Rotary Maternal Health Project in Northern Nigeria, initiated by RFPD, has been included in the list of UN Commitments-2011. This makes RFPD one of about 200 organizations, including 50 governments, which committed to promote and implement the UN Global Strategy on Women's and Children's Health. Rotary International has offered its new Area of Focus 'Maternal and Child Health' to the UN. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon invited all organizations that made a commitment to a special event on September 20, 2011, in which PDG Robert Zinser, CEO of RFPD, participated.

In its commitment, RFPD is offering its model to reduce maternal and newborn mortality that was developed within the pilot project (2005-2010) to all Rotary clubs and districts. The methodology of this comprehensive approach including quality assurance in obstetrics is published in our new project website [www.maternal-health.org](http://www.maternal-health.org). One thousand women globally are dying each day during pregnancy, shortly before, after or while giving birth. Governments, foundations, companies and other organizations have pledged 40 billion US dollars over the next five years to remedy this situation. This also is a benefit for the world economy, as such a high number of maternal and child deaths slow the economic growth globally, reducing productivity by 15 billion US dollars. Concerted and integrated health care for mother and child has a considerable multiplier effect on all UN Millennium Development Goals. It is cost-effective, reduces poverty and builds strong and peaceful communities.

## RI board invigorates Action Groups

*by Robert Zinser*

The board of directors of Rotary International (RI) again decided to strengthen the Rotarian Action Groups (RAGs) in its September meeting (26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>). For example, it has been decided that family members of Rotarians can also become members of RFPD (and other RAGs). Moreover, it is now up to the RAGs to determine the amount of their membership dues and they can ask for donations – also electronically via their websites – for club/district projects supported by them. In addition to that, from now on RI will publish the contact details of three officers per RAG in their publications, its website and the Official Directory to facilitate access to the RAGs for clubs and districts. Further, District Governors and Club Presidents are asked to make use of the experience and expertise of RAGs and collaborate with them. RI decided to refrain from contacting all incoming Governors via circular, asking them whether they would approve RAGs contacting the clubs in their districts. Instead, RAGs will contact the relevant District Governor and ask for permission to contact the clubs; without permission they are not allowed to approach clubs.

RI has already asked the Governors and incoming Governors in its circulars of November 2010 and January 2011 to collaborate with the RAGs in implementing the RI Strategic Plan including the Future Vision Areas of Focus. The RI/TRF staff and the RAGs are complementing each other in their expertise and are jointly seeking professional projects that attract funds from other sources. This way, co-funded large-scale projects can be developed – Rotary 'signature projects' – that are best suited to enhance Rotary's public image, thereby strengthening clubs and increasing humanitarian service.

## Welcome to New RFPD Country Chairs



John Sekaggya, Uganda

**John E. Sekaggya** is a senior Rotarian in Uganda, District 9200 having been in Rotary for over thirty years in Zambia and Uganda. He belongs to the Rotary Club of Masaka.

He holds a Bachelors Degree in Economics from Makerere University, Uganda and a Diploma of the British Institute of Bankers, UK.

He is now a retired banker with work experience in the UK, Zambia and Uganda in top managerial positions.

He currently owns a business management firm, often offering pro-bono consultancy to persons who cannot afford fees demanded by high profile firms.

In Rotary, he is a Past President in two clubs in Uganda. He is a Past Assistant Governor 2005-06. He has been a District Attendance Chair (2010-11). Currently he is serving as District Rotarians at Work Chair 2011-12.

He is ardently involved in his Club's projects and a consultant in its micro credit programs. He is a keen volunteer.

He is a member of various school and civil society managing boards.

Thanks to **Carol Abeja** for serving as the Country Chair for Uganda since 2006.

**Bruno Glaus** was born on May 27, 1949. Bruno is married to his wife Marlies and has one daughter and two grandchildren.

Bruno obtained a degree in law and later Doctor of Law. He is currently practicing law and has had different university teaching positions, mainly concerning business law, media law and art law. He has had positions in Board of Directors in different companies in the Pharma/Publishing Industry.

Bruno is serving as Chairman of the Pizolbahnen AG and Kunstvereins Oberer Zurichsee (Art Association).

Bruno was the President of his club, RC Glarus in 1997 and in 2004 of RC Linthenebene. He was DG 2010-2011 for District 2000.

Bruno's hobbies include Hunting, Art and Modern Music.

Thanks to **Ajay Bathnagar** for serving as County Chair for Switzerland since 2010.

**Frank Baffoe** was born in the former British colony of Gold Coast, on February 03, 1935. The colony was the first sub-Saharan African country to attain political independence on March 6, 1957 and took on the national name Ghana.

Frank is married to Emelia and together they have eight children and eight grandchildren.

Frank studied Economics, Sociology and Political Economy in Germany. He has travelled widely and has lived in different countries, lecturing and researching in universities in Europe, USA, Eastern and Southern Africa.

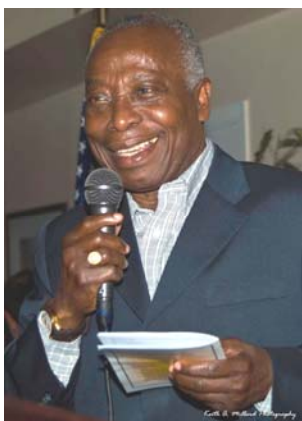
Frank left academia in January 1985 to become an entrepreneur. He is currently Chairman and Chief Executive of his five family companies: Baffoe & Associates Consulting, B & A Informatics, B & A Properties, Protrade Financial Services and Total Solar Solutions.

Frank has been a Rotarian since 1983. He is a five Sapphire Paul Harris Fellow and Rotary Benefactor. He has been the President of the two Rotary Clubs in Lesotho and he **passionately** enjoys Rotary. He served as DG for District 9320 in 2010-11. Rotary is a way of life to Frank and to him, Rotary gives individuals opportunities to be of service to humankind, irrespective of race, creed, gender, vocation and social standing.

We look forward to working with John, Bruno and Frank and welcome them to RFPD.



Bruno Glaus, Switzerland



Frank Baffoe, Lesotho

To find a complete list of County Chairs go to:  
[www.rifpd.org](http://www.rifpd.org) and click on About Us

## Hello 7 Billion. How do you do?

On or about October 31, 2011, the global human population will pass the **7 Billion** mark.

by Buck Lindsay

**Date: 1945 / Population 2.4 Billion.** My birth year.

**Date: 1980 / Population 4.4 Billion.** According to the WWF (World Wildlife Fund), earth passes over the threshold from sustainability to un-sustainability. We are consuming resources faster than we or nature can replace them, and we therefore are using resources that in reality belong to future generations. This phenomenon has accelerated since then.

**Date: 1991 / Population: 5.3 Billion.** In an idle moment perusing shelves at the local library, I pulled off a book by Paul Ehrlich titled, *The Population Explosion*. Within a few minutes of flipping pages, I was profoundly caught by the case statement: too many people in the world using their resources un-sustainably was leading to greater human suffering, and the picture would worsen in the near future. If any single sentence should be of importance to Rotary, one of the world's leading humanitarian organizations, this set of thoughts held the key to what Rotary ought to be addressing. So as an incoming district governor, I had found my cause for the following year. I established a Population Committee at the district level, and opened the dialogue as I addressed each of the clubs in my district that year. Surprisingly, there was resistance. The concern was: population was a controversial issue, and would be divisive to Rotary. There were religious and cultural overtones, best left out of Rotary. One PDG even suggested I was promoting a pro-abortion agenda. So I asked a senior Rotary staff member what I could do to better open this dialogue at the RI level, and got three suggestions: organize a Rotary Peace Conference, establish a Population Fellowship and seek to pass legislation at the Rotary Council to give legitimacy to population issues.

**Date: 1995. Population: 5.7 Billion.** Rotary Peace Conference in Dakar, Senegal on Population – over 300 Rotarians from around the world, but mostly Africa, debated the topic, and resolved unanimously that RI ought to address the global population issue.

**Date: 1996 / Population: 5.75 Billion.** Rotary Fellowship on Population & Development established.

**Date: 1998 / Population: 5.9 Billion.** At the Rotary Council on Legislation in New Delhi, a Resolution was passed almost unanimously that Rotary should include population concerns in its suite of humanitarian programs. The following year, the Rotary Board adopted a population position statement: Rotary clubs and districts are encouraged to engage in projects that directly address the population issue. But in the years following, little attention was given to population issues by Rotary, with some RI presidents choosing to ignore the topic altogether. So three subsequent attempts we made at the Council to establish a Standing Committee on Population Concerns, envisioned to be a method of preventing population concerns from being ignored by presidential choice. But the proposed action failed three times, basically on the strength of the RI Board of Directors' recommendation to reject, based on a fear that if such a committee were approved, every other cause imaginable would want their committee. During the second of those three efforts, the action actually came within 22 votes out of 525 of passing.

**Date: 2010/Population: 6.9 billion.** The Rotary Foundation (TRF) announces the funding of of contraceptives in the Future Vision Plan.

**Date: 2011/Population 6.95 billion.** RI endorses family planning in "Rotary's Areas of Focus" brochure. Meeting this need could reduce the number of maternal deaths by nearly 30 %".

These two important steps of Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation are in line with the Millenium Development Goal No.5 and the UN Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health followed by governments, foundations and NGOs.

**Date: October 31, 2011 / Population: 7 Billion.** Congratulations world. We have added 4.6 billion to the 2.4 billion people that existed in 1945 in the 66 years since then. And by 2050 we will probably add another 2.3 billion, totaling 9.3 billion. If fertility rates do not continue to fall as fast as projected, we could reach 9.3 billion as early as 2036, according to the UN.

### ***Nafis Sadik Award for Courage*** presented to Dawn Sinclair Shapiro– Thanks to Andrea Luehmann and the Rotary Club of Chicago

On July 25, 2011 at the Film Screening of "The Edge of Joy", Dawn's latest documentary about the trials of birth in Northern Nigeria,



Dawn was presented with the *Nafis Sadik Award for Courage*, from Andrea Luehmann, RFPD Lifetime Member and past President of her club, The Rotary Club of Chicago, 2010-2011. Andrea presented Dawn with the award on behalf of RFPD.

Contact RFPD for the link to the film. Email [larnold@rifpd.org](mailto:larnold@rifpd.org)

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**Judy Prather**

*Area Coordinator, North America*

## Congratulations to Nobel Peace Prize Winners

*By Harry Blassar, former CC- Finland*

It was a great choice that three women will receive the Nobel Peace Prize. The rights of the women are so much left behind in many countries, making improvement in those countries so much more difficult.

The three chosen for the Nobel Prize, have done so much, and showed such an example for the world. People all over the globe are admire their achievements. Why is it in some countries, men are treated better than women, women have fewer rights and men should have more prerogatives in comparison with the women. There are cases in which women are treated in disgusting ways, both psychologically and physically, or taken advantage of because of her lesser physical strength, or even outright raped, which is still taking place in many places.

Mahatma Gandhi understood very well the important role of women, as he said: "When you educate a man, you educate a person; when you educate a woman, you educate the whole family."

It is as President Barack Obama said recently, "It is very wrong that there are countries in which half of the population is discriminated against and even treated badly".

In fact, it is incomprehensible. In civilized countries men are polite and considerate towards the women. But there are some countries where women are treated poorly. Men who are guilty of that, although they may even have stipulated laws which give them the right to act in such manners towards women, should not be regarded as decent members of the society. Societies which allow such treatment of women are not progress or civilized, and have not developed to the level which ought to prevail as we have reached the Third Millennium.

Sincere congratulations to the three ladies: Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, women's rights activist, Leymah Gbowee, also of Liberia, and Tawakkul Karman of Yemen, the first Arab woman to win the prize.

They have all worked for peace and justice in their respective countries. Their objectives of improving the status of the women are extremely important. Their work has brought significant results. The circumstances in which they have worked were most difficult. They demonstrated courage and confidence in your activities which many people cannot even imagine that they could themselves have succeeded.

The Nobel Peace Award of 2011 could not have been decided in a more appreciated way than choosing these three women for their efforts, courage and resolution.



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To learn more about current RFPD projects available for your Rotary Club, please visit:

[www.rifpd.org/projects](http://www.rifpd.org/projects)

Is your Rotary Club interested in implementing a population-related project?

TRF Matching Grant applications can be downloaded at:

[www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en\\_pdf/141en.pdf](http://www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_pdf/141en.pdf)

## Population Reference Bureau presents the 2011 World Population Data Sheet

The *2011 World Population Data Sheet* provides up-to-date demographic, health, and environment data for all the countries and major regions of the world. It shows just how stark the contrasts are between rich and poor countries, as illustrated by the table with data from Italy and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Even though the DRC and Italy have almost the same population size today, the DRC is projected to more than double its population from 68 million today to 149 million by 2050. Italy's population will grow very slowly, from 61 million to 62 million, over that same time. The cause of these enormous differences is lifetime births per woman and the portion of the population in their childbearing years.

### Key Demographic Indicators, 2011

	Dem. Rep. Congo	Italy
Population mid-2011	68 million	61 million
Population 2050 (projected)	149 million	62 million
Percent of population below age 15	46%	14%
Percent of population ages 65+	3%	20%
Lifetime births per woman	6.1	1.4
Annual births	3,050,000	560,000
Annual deaths	1,140,000	590,000
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	111	3.7
Annual infant deaths	340,000	2,000
Gross national income per capita, 2009	\$300	\$31,870

To download the **2011 Population Data Sheet**, go to: [http://www.prb.org/pdf11/2011population-data-sheet\\_eng.pdf](http://www.prb.org/pdf11/2011population-data-sheet_eng.pdf)

*Information provided from Population Reference Bureau*

**Please continue to support our operations and renew your Annual Membership Today! Complete the form below and return to RFPD, Attn: Lori Arnold, 344 W. Pike St, Lawrenceville, Ga 30046**

#### RFPD Membership & Donor Advised Fund (DAF) Donation Form

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**USA, Judy Prather** (Area Coordinator)  
Charlie Rogers (Asst. Area Coord.)  
**Zone 21**, Conrad Heede  
**Zone 25**, Phil Sperl  
**Zone 26**, Judy Prather  
**Zone 28**, George Partlo  
**Zone 29**, Meena Patel  
**Zone 31**, Henry Crawford  
**Zone 32**, Tam Mustapha  
**Zone 33**, Bill Rogister  
**Zone 34**, Charlie Rogers  
**Venezuela**, Ruben Luna  
**West Africa**, Oumou Seydou Tall  
**Zimbabwe**, Mercy Nyangulu