



February 2008

## **SUMMARY OF CLUB AND DISTRICT ACTIVITIES**

We are pleased to submit the following report on the activities and initiatives of Rotarians and Rotary clubs during the second quarter of this Rotary year.

### **Executive Summary**

A review of reports received from zones and districts over the past four years reveals an interesting trend. Increasingly Rotarians are searching for ways to have a bigger impact on water and sanitation programs in developing countries. While small projects will always represent the greatest number of projects, large projects are becoming increasingly significant in terms of their effect on countries' life and livelihood and in terms of the investment of financial and human resources.

This trend is seen in three programs recently drawn to our attention—and there are many others.

### ***Uganda Water Program***

The Rotary/Team Uganda is planning a Rotary-led effort to provide clean water to those in need throughout the entire country. It is intended to achieve two goals—to have a significant impact on the lives of millions of people and also to serve as a model/template for other countries.

The program will be divided into three phases. The first phase is planning the program, collecting data, defining the needs, establishing a baseline and submitting application for a grant of \$300,000 to fund the actual start-up. A major factor in this planning phase is to resolve issues such as:- getting the community to take ownership of the program, how to implement effective maintenance, who will do any repairs, who will test the water periodically, how will water charges be levied etc. Related issues include setting up effective governance, determining priorities for implementation—one district at a time—for example, how to address ethnic issues so that all groups feel they are being treated fairly.

### ***Madagascar***

A notable meeting took place between the President of the Republic and a team of Rotarians led by DG Christian Fuard. At that meeting the Rotary team received strong support from the President to lead a country-wide initiative to halve the number of people in the country without safe water by the year 2012. The President agreed to the appointment of PDG Jean Veloson Rasolondrainibe, a resident of Madagascar as the official liaison between the Office of the President and Rotary clubs in the country. This was confirmed in the following letter from DG Fuard to the President:



***Excellence,***

***Je me joins à la délégation rotarienne que vous avez aimablement accepté de recevoir en cette matinée, pour vous transmettre mes très sincères remerciements.***

***Au nom de tous les rotariens de Madagascar, nous vous félicitons d'avoir accueilli favorablement la proposition de partenariat proposée par Monsieur Ron Denham, Président de WASRAG, Water Sanitation Rotarian Action Group. Monsieur Wilfrid Wilkinson, Président de Rotary International a souhaité orienter la priorité de nos actions sur le thème de l'eau potable.***

***Afin d'intégrer rapidement le MAP et de pouvoir satisfaire le plus grand nombre de projet au niveau de chaque région où les clubs sont présents.***

***Nous acceptons, Monsieur le Président, votre proposition en désignant le Coordinateur National WASRAG auprès de la Présidence. Il s'agit de Monsieur Jean Veloson RASOLONDRAINIBE, Past District Governor Rotary International pour le District 9220.***

***Une dizaine de projets seront identifiés au cours des prochaines semaines. Ensuite, le Rotariens établiront un calendrier annuel de réalisation, afin de contribuer à l'approvisionnement en eau potable et l'amélioration des pratiques hygiénique et sanitaire de la population malgache d'ici 2012.***

***Au nom de tous les Rotariens, nous vous prions d'agréer, Excellence, l'assurance de notre très haute considération.***

***FUARD Christian***

***Gouverneur District 9220***

Prior to that meeting the team had met with the Minister of Energy and Mines who is responsible for water. This meeting provided good insights into the challenge going forward including the wide variation in need and availability of water and sanitation in the country. Then, following the meeting with the President the Rotary team met with local representatives of several NGOs operating in the country including the World Bank, US AID, PSI, African Development Bank, and UNICEF.

The next step is a feasibility study that will include an understanding of the needs, and the definition of the scope of the program. Funding will be sought initially from local clubs, sponsoring clubs, especially in France, and TRF. Subsequent phases will be funded from outside sources.

### ***Nakuru Community Development***

The Rotary Club of Nakuru (D-9200) launched a program to harvest rainwater at the household level. Eventually it is intended to bring safe water to over 1 million people in the watershed. The key to success in this program has been the ability to create and train about 20 Rotary Community Corps. Rotarians provide materials for the household systems and training in project management. The RCCs train local householders in construction methods and supervise the work. Each household makes a commitment to the project. They pay for trees they must plant. As each



household spends less time in fetching and carrying water they have time to start small businesses. The RCCs train the villagers in managing a business and help administer micro-lending programs to create a basis for economic growth.

Rotarians in other countries are seeing the virtue of thinking and acting “big”. They are coming together to form “country” or “regional” committees to coordinate water/sanitation initiatives in the area. They are recognizing the need to become more formal in their approach to regional development. They see water and sanitation as a means to community growth and, increasingly, are linking their projects to social and economic growth.

### **Conferences**

Several districts are planning water/sanitation conferences in the near future. One of the more noteworthy is the “Thirsting to Serve” conference hosted by Michigan D- 6290 with the help of D-6360, D-6380 and D-4060 (Dominican Republic).

Another international water conference is being held in Jakarta on February 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **International Year of Sanitation (IYS).**

Recognizing the potential importance to Rotarians of the IYS, WASRAG has held discussions with UNICEF on the best means of exploiting the synergy between our two organizations. Of especial interest to UNICEF is the “WASH” (Water, Sanitation & Hygiene) Program where they see Rotary clubs world-wide playing a major role. UNICEF is in the process of drafting an MOU defining how WASRAG and UNICEF can work together most effectively.

Against this general background we summarise below the reports received from several zones and districts on their water and sanitation projects.



---

### **Zone 3 - Z.C. Morihiko Narukawa**

D-2660 has a very active water program. 18 clubs are already involved in Thailand and Taiwan. Projects include water purification to eight public schools (with D-3330), building wells, storage facilities and distribution systems with clubs in Philippines and Indonesia (Bali).

### **Zone 4 - Z.C. Hiroshi Yamada**

Four districts report water projects in this zone:

- D-2670 focused on donating 200 tube wells to Bangladesh and dug wells in Cambodia. Within the district there is emphasis on cleaning rivers and planting trees.
- D-2700 presented toilets and pipes to schools in the Philippines. Locally they cleaned rivers.
- D-2720 in a joint project with RC of Chencum (Thailand) is implementing a water system for a primary school.
- D-2770 is cleaning rivers and planting trees as well as supporting wells in Benin.

### **Zone 5 - Z.C. Shekhar Mehta**

A major water/sanitation initiative has been fostered by the Rotary India Water Conservation Trust. Its purpose is to serve as a catalyst for those who want to create awareness that water is everyone's business, to spread information about water conservation and harvesting techniques, encourage community ownership of projects and develop a template that can be scaled up into larger programs. The Trust has conducted three seminars on water and sanitation.

Three community driven programs have been implemented:

- Churu - a 650 village project that will harvest rainfall and bring safe water to about 1 million people.
- The Mehsana project to bring water to over 300,000 people in another area of Rajasthan.
- The Sikwar/Alwar projects to build check dams to bring water to more than 50 villages in the region.

Many other projects are being considered and will be implemented shortly.

**Zone 6A - Z.C. Rehka Shetty**

In this zone the coordinator is encouraging every Rotary club to initiate a rainwater harvesting project.

**Zone 6B - Z.C. John Cheah Kam Loong**

This zone is organizing an international seminar on water management on February 16<sup>th</sup> in Jakarta. Learned speakers on water and the environment and representatives of the government will feature prominently.

**Zone 7A - Z.C. Peter D. Rostron**

Several water/sanitation projects are reported from this zone:

- D-9640 has provided water storage tanks to D-9210, and has done a water reticulation project to a school in Mangagay thereby enabling it to stay open.
- D-9460, RC of Mandurah City, jointly with D-3400, has implemented a project to bring fresh water to villages in the mountains of east Bali to benefit 2500 people.

**Zone 10 (Europe) - Z.C. Carles Garriga**

Several clubs in D-2210 are engaged in international water/sanitation projects:

- R.C. Barcelona Condal, in collaboration with the RC Barcelona Europe, RC Cerdanyola of Valleys, RC of Lyon Charbonnieres, RC of Adda Borromeo, the Carmelite RC of Camerun Yaoundé Collines and Mothers Misioneras Teresianas is excavating a well and installing a pump to bring safe water to a health centre to benefit 30,000 people in the Cameroons.
- The R.C. Bejar in collaboration with the RC Manaus industrial district and RC Palencia is supporting potable water treatment in 10 communities in the Madeira Amazon region at a cost of \$160,000 to benefit 1,800 families.
- Twelve Rotary clubs in Barcelona are implementing a distribution system to bring water to five points in the remote parts of west Cameroons.
- The R.C. of Vallodolid is engaged in a project to provide potable water for eight schools with the help of the local community to build tanks, sanitary reserves, batteries and septic wells in Portoviejo, Ecuador. This project will benefit 500 students.

- The R.C. of Vittoria is funding the construction of seven water systems in Turkana, Kenya (a region of tribal strife) with the aid of native manual labor. The club is supported by the R.C. Madrid Vela'zquez and Municipal Aguas of Vitoria (Amvisa). The total cost is \$224,000 and will benefit 200,000 people

**Zone 10 (West Africa) Z.C. - Marie-Irene Richmond Ahoua**

The R.C. of Abidjan-Riviéra (D-9100) repaired three wells for the village of Grand-Lahou (located 200 km from Abidjan) for a total cost of \$9,000 and repaired two wells in a smaller village, Songon, located 50 km from Abidjan, for a total cost of \$4500.

**Zone 10 (North Africa) Z.C. - Naima Smires Kettani**

The Ugandan Water Project is a pioneering concept. It is expected to be a model for addressing the overall water problem in many other countries.

The first (current) phase involves planning the project, collecting the necessary data, and submitting an application for a 3H Grant from RI for \$300,000 which would supply the funding for the actual start-up of producing wells.

The second phase of the project will kick in with the receipt of the 3H Grant. Assuming an average cost of \$5,000 per well, this will pay for approximately 60 wells. Working on getting these into production will provide the opportunity to test all of the plans and procedures, and to make the appropriate changes / improvements. This experience will then provide the basis of soliciting the significant remaining funding from charitable foundations and companies who are supporting programs to supply clean water

The third, and the longest, phase will be funded in most part by funds from outside of Rotary. This ambitious program would involve literally thousands of wells and require millions of dollars and many years to complete.

**Zone 11 - Z.C. Pierre A. Espinasse**

Eighteen districts in this zone report a wide range of projects and benefiting countries:

- D-1510, with support from many other districts is providing water to poverty stricken countries in Morocco, also building wells in Mali (R.C. of Bamako).
- D-1520 is drilling wells to provide water to a school in Camerouns.

- D-1640 has implemented an irrigation system and solar filtration for a centre for the handicapped in Tunisia, and water for a village in Mali.
- D-1660 reports 16 water/sanitation projects, mostly in Africa. They include wells in Mali, Morocco, Madagascar, and mini dams in Togo and Niger.
- D-1670 implemented a rainwater harvesting project at a school in Senegal and the planting of over 60,000 trees.
- D-1680 is doing two water projects in Benin and planting trees in Senegal to prevent desertification.
- D-1700 is building wells, installing showers and toilets and planting trees in Senegal.
- D-1720 is constructing an irrigation system for an education center in Benin.
- D-1730 is leading a diversity of water projects—wells, purification equipment, protected springs in Burkina Faso and Senegal.
- D-1750 is developing wells and a health centre in Mali.
- D-1760 is working in the Congo, Mauritania, Morocco and Togo to supply water to villages.
- D-1770 is also working on a variety of wells, tree planting and water purification system projects in Togo, Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger.
- D-1790 is building reservoirs for isolated villages in Madagascar.

#### **Zone 13 - Z.C. Robert Gekiere**

- D-1620 is engaged in rainwater harvesting in Sri Lanka.
- D-1980 is helping to supply safe water in Africa.
- D-2000 is supporting the implementation of SODIS® in Kibera in cooperation with the Swiss Federal Institute for Environmental Science and Technology.

**Zone 17 - Z.C. Iain R. Young/Zone 18 - Z.C. Himansu K. Basu**

Many clubs in Zones 17/18 regularly support and partner with WaterAid. This relationship has lasted over 25 years and has led to much recognition for Rotary. Joint projects have covered many applications including the boring of wells, and sanitation projects. Some of the specific initiatives at the club and district level include:

- Linking with WaterAid for a project in Tanzania to celebrate World Water Day.
- Purchasing and distributing LifeStraw (Brynmawr R.C.) for use in post-disaster conditions and for inclusion in Shelter Boxes, e.g. to Ethiopia and India following severe flooding, and Kenya, Zambia, Rwanda and Benin. They have also been delivered to an Orphanage and Hospital in Tabasco, Mexico, and a Search & Rescue team in Mohave, Arizona.
- Supplying Water Survival Boxes (Chelwood Bridge R.C.) containing water purification equipment sufficient for a family of four, for a four month provision of potable water.
- Life-Box (RC of Denton & Adenshaw) is an emergency box, containing clothing and humanitarian relief items for post disaster relief, including LifeStraws.
- ShelterBox (RC of Helston & Lizard) contains survival, shelter and humanitarian aid items including LifeStraws where appropriate.
- Aquabox (Wirksworth R.C.), containing water purification kits, is capable of producing up to 2200 litres of drinking water. They also contain humanitarian items. These boxes are supplied regularly through many NGOs, for the relief of poverty stricken areas, and the provision of clean drinking water, where no other source exists. To date these boxes have been supplied to 18 countries through 16 different Aid Agencies. Since the inception of the project in 1990, some 76,458 boxes, capable of producing a potential 384,026,500 litres of water, have been distributed.

**Zone 19B-Z.C. Silvio Paulo Prodohl**

This zone reports 29 water and sanitation projects, including:

- D-4890, D-4900 and D-4850 - supplying water filters.
- D-4910 - a conference for young people on water issues.
- D-4920 - a climate change conference.

- Many other districts have sent outlines of projects. They will be listed in subsequent reports when translations are ready.

**Zone 22 East - Z.C. Elizabeth M. (Bette) Miller**

Several districts report a number of water/sanitation projects, including:

- D-6330 clubs are sending 123 Aqua Boxes to World Vision; another club is supporting a well project in Brazil.
- D-6380 has a long record of water and sanitation related projects, including:
  - Cosponsored the *Thirsting to Serve* Water Conference in Grand Rapids in 2005, 2006 and 2007.
  - Clarkston R.C. working in Haiti, is writing a grant for \$100,000 to provide wells.
  - Birmingham R.C.:
    - In the Philippines, has initiated a \$25,000 MG to provide wells (2007).
    - In Nepal, (2005-6) has provided a toilet for a leper community (\$1,400).
  - Troy R.C.
    - In Nepal has installed 45 BioSand filters in schools (\$4,000) with site visits in 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007.
    - In Nepal adopted a village of 22 families with improved wells, BioSand filters and toilets. They are working to make a model village that can be replicated (2007) and are initiating a MG to continue this project (2008).
    - In the USA and Canada, sponsored BioSand filter training. Rotarians John and Eileen Heasley are certified by CAWST (and inventor Dr. David Manz) to conduct BioSand filter training. These workshops were held in 2005, 2006, 2007 and a session is scheduled for February 2008.
    - In Thailand is working to improve drinking water for a school. Initiated by the GSE team in February 2007 and is a club-to club project (\$600).
  - Mt Clemens R.C.
    - in Mali, has begun a BioSand Business (2006) and is now writing a \$25,000 MG to provide wells and BioSand filters with site visits in 2005, 2006 and 2007.



- 
- Sterling Heights R.C. in Dominican Republic have a \$10,000 pilot BioSand project.
  - Richmond R.C. and Ann Arbor Briarwood R.C. in Guatemala are beginning a BioSand filter and health-related equipment project.
  - Royal Oak R.C. is working in Honduras with Poor Water for the World to provide BioSand filters.
  - Bloomfield Hills R.C. conducted a fundraiser to support water projects in the district and raised \$3,000 (2006).
  - D-7040 is developing wells, filters and refurbishing a town’s water system in Ghana, and providing water tanks to public schools in El Salvador. Beneficiaries exceed 70,000.
  - D-7070 reports a variety of projects including:-rainwater harvesting in Thailand, filters in Cambodia, arsenic mitigation in West Bengal, BioSand filters in the Dominican Republic and wells in Burkina Faso.
  - D-7080 is leading a “Water for Humanity” program involving financial support from many clubs to supply Zenon filters to Ghana and Bolivia. To date almost \$900,000 has been raised.
  - D-7090 has focused on Haiti. With support from TRF they are building 14 more wells and three cisterns for rainwater harvesting. They also plan to build 300 latrines.

### **Zone 22 West - Z.C Del W. Paterson**

Six districts in this zone report water initiatives:

- D-5020 - under the leadership of the Olympia R.C. several clubs are building pipelines to bring water to villages in Malawi. Other clubs are drilling wells in Uganda, piping water to a village in Guatemala and digging wells in Zambia.
- D-5040 is focusing on a comprehensive community development program—water, sanitation and education, in Ethiopia.
- D-5060 includes Summerland R.C. which is the lead club for supporting the Nakuru rainwater harvesting and community development program. Another major activity is support for a dam in Amreli, India (D-3210). Other projects in this very active district include a check dam in northern India, toilets in Mexico, wells and latrines in Ethiopia, and a water pipeline in Chile. About 500,000 people will benefit from these activities.

- D-5360 is another Canadian district with a long reach internationally. Projects include wells in Tanzania and Ghana, safe water and sanitation in Indonesia, Uganda, Peru and India, water conservation and reforestation in the Dominican Republic, and water to a primary school in Burkina Faso, filters in Cambodia and Nicaragua. A total of about 36,000 people will benefit from these activities for a cost of \$400,000.
- D-5550 is supplying a water treatment facility to Eldoret, Kenya, a water system to Venezuela, and water storage for a school in Guatemala.
- D-5010 is supplying 6 boreholes and pumps to Tanzania

### **Zone 23 - Z.C. Arvind Phukan**

Another zone heavily oriented to a major program in Ethiopia.

- D-5020, working with World Vision is developing spring water, boreholes, latrines and a reservoir at a cost of over \$1 million in Addis Ababa to benefit 100,000 people. With the aid of TRF the R.C. of Kampala, Uganda, has been able to distribute anti-malarial nets.

### **Zone 26 - Z.C. Kim A. Holland**

This Zone Coordinator has a high profile and has used it effectively to promote Rotary programs. The *Plano Profile* featured an article on Global Safe Water which became an article on Rotary. Kim was also the featured speaker at a “Council for World Affairs” on the world’s endangered children.

A major achievement in D-5810 has been the completion of the “Livingstonia Water Project” to bring water to ten villages and 15,000 people in Malawi.

### **Zone 27 - Z.C. Holly Callen**

The West Bend Noon Rotary club (D-6270) is working with Engineers Without Borders on a major project in El Salvador. The goal is to contain the black and gray water that flows openly through the communities, to keep the waste water out of the local stream, and to direct that waste water to a natural treatment system located in the district of Nejapa.

An analysis of the health of the community indicates the waste water running in the streets is a major health hazard. During the rainy season, the waste water and rain water mix together creating a carpet of waste water that everyone in these communities must walk through. Diarrhia and death among the children are the result.



---

### **Zone 29 - Z.C. Jane A. Molloy**

- D-6040 (Parkville RC) is supporting, with the aid of a matching grant, the building of six wells in the Congo to bring safe water to 15,000 residents.
- D-6110 (Tulsa RC) has launched the “Own a Well Program” which permits many clubs to support water projects for a modest investment. The Rotary clubs of Claremore, Claremore Reveille, Owasso, Fayetteville, and Sand Springs are involved.
- Other clubs are supporting wells in Bolivia.
- D-5710 reports a variety of projects including a community rain garden at an elementary school in Topeka, cleaning the banks of the Missouri river, and supporting projects in India and Panama.

### **Zone 30 - Z.C. Jerry W. Fox**

- D-6580 reports that a high percentage of clubs are engaged in water projects, many working together in multi-club initiatives. Projects include building pipelines, installing a cistern and wells and a sanitary system, in Belize, Mexico, San Salvador, Myanmar, Brazil and Uganda.
- D-6560 is also deeply committed to water. Pedal pumps, piping, and wells in Haiti, Mexico, Bangladesh, Congo and Kenya.
- D-6690 has two major projects underway in Mexico.
- D-6800 is supporting Living Waters in Honduras to install wells, pumps and water systems.

### **Zone 32 - Z.C. Dennis J. Miskewicz**

- D-7250, jointly with D-7020 has established a clean water project in Haiti.
- D-7390 launched “A Drop in the Bucket” program to raise funds for water projects in Honduras. Ambitious though it is, the district hopes to raise up to half-million dollars.



- D-7210 has started a comprehensive water system for a clinic for AIDS patients in Thailand. Also a project to manufacture and deliver filters to Choluteca, Honduras. To date 2300 filters have been delivered of a goal of 2800. A similar project is under way in El Salvador.
- D-7260 is supporting safe water projects in Madagascar, Nigeria and Haiti.
- D-7490 plans a major project in Honduras, and a well and solar pump at an orphanage in Namibia.

### **Zone 33 - Z.C. Doris M. Greene**

- D-7550 in cooperation with several clubs in Ghana is working to eradicate Guinea Worm and Trachoma by the year 2010. The program includes repairing boreholes, digging shallow wells, supporting a water delivery system, drilling boreholes, supplying filters, and building latrines.

- o o o -

In summary, Rotarians are responding to the President's call and that of his predecessors to focus on water and to "Share Rotary". However much still remains to be done. Many clubs still are unable to identify and implement a water project—even with the assistance of other Rotary clubs in the district or after hearing requests from Rotarians in Africa, Asia and Latin America. We believe that the formation of the Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action group will provide the leverage and knowledge needed to address this humanitarian challenge more effectively.

Ron Denham, Chair  
Water & Sanitation Rotarian Action Group

**This report comes to you from WASRAG (the Water & Sanitation Rotarian Action Group). While under the general auspices of Rotary International, this group operates independently of RI and receives no funding from it. As is so often the case in Rotary, all the members of WASRAG are volunteers and we need funds to run the day-to-day operations of the group. If you are not already a member, please help us by logging on to [www.wasrag.org](http://www.wasrag.org), clicking on "Sign Up" and becoming either a Charter Member (\$100) or an Annual Member (\$25 per year).**