

Water Resource Group



Newsletter

Edition 1
October 2009



RI President John Kenny's Water Resource Group

Water is essential to human life, yet many people take it for granted. Today, 1.1 billion people – nearly 20 percent of the world's population – lack access to safe, clean drinking water, and 2.6 billion live without basic sanitation facilities. Contaminated water and inadequate sanitation exacerbate the spread of preventable waterborne illnesses, resulting in the deaths of about 6,000 people every day, the majority of whom are children. Moreover, these problems are leading contributors to worldwide poverty and social instability.



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Consider these facts:

- More than 5,000 children around the world die every day from diarrheal diseases caused by unsafe water and a lack of sanitation facilities.
- More than 125 million children under age five live in households without access to a clean water source, and more than 280 million lack adequate sanitation facilities.
- Women and children in developing countries often spend as many as six hours each day traveling to retrieve water for their families, a task that adversely affects their health and prevents them from pursuing an education.

The Water Resource Group has been appointed to support Rotary's efforts to address this important global issue. Besides providing information to Rotary clubs and districts, it urges every Rotarian to become aware of water-related issues and participate in a water or sanitation project. The group also works to identify, facilitate, and develop guidelines for major Rotary water and sanitation efforts around the world.

WASRAG Mandate

To provide information, support and encouragement to Rotarians, Rotary Clubs and districts to take active roles in projects/programs to develop safe water and sanitation as a means of promoting health and alleviating hunger.

WASRAG Mission Statement

Rotarians working to improve Life and Livelihood through the provision of Safe Water and Sanitation



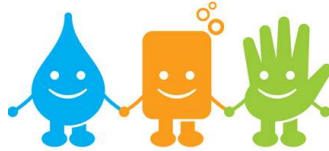
Clean water...basic to life
Rotary's working on it

Rotary.
Humanity in motion.



www.rotary.org

Rotary Clubs are urged to participate in this Global Handwashing Day with our UNICEF partners



Global Handwashing Day October 15

Initiated in 2008 by the Global Public-Private Partnership for Handwashing with Soap, Global Handwashing Day is endorsed by a wide array of governments, international institutions, civil society organizations, NGOs, private companies and individuals around the globe.

The driving theme for Global Handwashing Day is children and schools, and the main objectives of this global celebration are:

- Foster and support a global and local culture of handwashing with soap.
- Shine a spotlight on the state of handwashing in each country.
- Raise awareness about the benefits of handwashing with soap.

Although people around the world wash their hands with water, very few wash their hands with soap at the critical occasions. More handwashing with soap means lower rates of infectious disease: Clean Hands Save Lives!



A hand-washing station at a UNICEF-supported school in Lobaye Province, Central African Republic.

UNICEF - Handwashing Programme a Priority

Improving access to safe water and sanitation facilities leads to healthier families and communities. However, when people are also motivated to practice good hygiene – especially hand-washing with soap – health benefits are significantly increased.

Because the evidence on the importance of hand-washing with soap is clear, UNICEF has made it a programme priority.

Handwashing with soap can mean more school days for children

Diarrhea is responsible for children missing hundreds of millions of school days every year. By having children integrate the habit of handwashing with soap in their daily routines, school absenteeism could be reduced substantially. A recent study suggests that handwashing with soap at critical times could help reduce school absenteeism by around 42%. For this to happen, children must have access to soap in schools. Unfortunately, this is not always the case. UNICEF and IRC conducted research in 2006 by in six developing countries that showed low rates of soap availability in schools.

Tippy Taps

A design for simple, economical, and effective handwashing stations



5 Facts Everyone Should Know about Handwashing with Soap

Washing hands with water alone is not enough!

Handwashing with soap can prevent diseases that kill millions of children every year. The critical moments for handwashing with soap are after using the toilet or cleaning a child and before handling food.

Handwashing with soap is the single most cost-effective health intervention.

Social marketing approaches that center on the potential handwasher and his or her specific motivations are more effective than traditional disease-focused approaches

The cost-effectiveness of handwashing

Handwashing with soap is the single most cost-effective intervention and it reduces disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) related to diarrheal diseases by a significant margin.

Target specific groups

Mothers and other caregivers of children under five

The first priority in a behaviour change program is to focus on targeting those population groups whose practices have the greatest influence on child health: mothers, caregivers, older siblings and grandmothers

School-age children

School and pre-school programs could help establish lifelong healthy habits.

**These materials can help us in our Rotary mission.
Celebrate this day.**

“How to construct and maintain a Tippy Tap“ [tippy-tap.pdf](#)

Visit <http://www.globalhandwashingday.org> for useful resources in **planning your Handwashing campaign**

The Handwashing Handbook: A Guide for Developing a Hygiene Promotion Program to Increase Handwashing with Soap can be downloaded from http://www.globalhandwashingday.org/Global_Handwashing_Day_2nd_Edition.pdf

Sample Materials for Use in Schools - The Scrub Club for kids: <http://www.scrubclub.org/home.aspx>

Rotary and Water

The challenge- About 97 percent of the world's water are oceans -- and saline. More than 2 percent of the rest of the water is frozen in icebergs and glaciers, leaving less than 1 percent of all water available for human use. If it were possible to fit all the water on Earth into a gallon (4 liter) jug, the relative quantity of water available would be about one tablespoon (4 fluid drams). Fresh drinking water and water for food production and waste disposal are essential and increasingly threatened. Population growth and megacities have increased demand six times since the beginning of the 1900's. Pollution contaminates available supplies. Today, almost half of the world's countries have severe water problems.

Rotary Solutions- Recognizing the vital importance of safe water, Rotary International policy encourages all Rotary districts and clubs to support efforts which help people to provide themselves with safe water. The **safe water projects** are to be reasonably close to homes using simple sustainable technology. This policy is reflected in projects of all sizes in all

WASRAG 3rd

World Water Summit

Date Saturday June 19, 2010

Book the date now!

On June 19 2010, immediately prior to the RI Convention in Montreal, WASRAG will host the Third Water Summit. More details later!

Contact Anna Shepherd

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Rotary forms new alliance for water, sanitation projects

Rotary International and USAID have launched a collaborative effort to implement water, sanitation, and hygiene projects in the developing world. The International H2O Collaboration was formally announced 18 March at the World Water Forum in Istanbul, in conjunction with World Water Day, 22 March.

Focusing on Africa, Asia, and Latin America, the alliance will develop its inaugural projects in 2009-10 in Ghana, the Philippines, and the Dominican Republic -- countries where Rotary clubs and districts and USAID missions have the demonstrated ability to carry out effective water and sanitation projects. After the initial phase, the alliance will evaluate its work and strategically consider expanding into other countries.

The Rotary Foundation and USAID will share the project funding. Each organization will distribute funds separately and independently, keeping budgeting, expenditures, and reporting mechanisms separate. Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) Grants will support Rotary club and district involvement with these projects. Both Rotary and USAID will provide technical expertise and on-the-ground support.

"We intend these projects to be models for future projects with strategic partners and in this way to enhance our contribution to world understanding, goodwill, and peace," says Past RI President William B. Boyd, chair of the RI-USAID Steering Committee. He underscores the need for Rotary to meet the challenges of today's world, citing the [Future Vision Plan](#) and strategic partnerships as ways to focus and strengthen service.

USAID is a government agency that provides economic, development, and humanitarian assistance in support of U.S. foreign policy goals. Its Global Development Alliance model promotes partnerships with prominent private-sector partners in the nongovernmental, foundation, and corporate arenas.



Sara Lucena, a member of the Rotary Club of Puerto Plata Isabel de Torres, Dominican Republic, installs a water filter in a home in Aguas Negras. *Rotary Images/Alyce Henson*

WASRAG provides information, support and encouragement to Rotarians, Rotary clubs and districts to take active roles in projects/programs to develop safe water and sanitation as a means of promoting health and alleviating hunger.

WASRAG was authorized by Rotary International to carry out this mission in February 2007 and was officially launched on World Water Day, March 22nd, 2007 at the National Press Club, New York. Since then it has facilitated some 200 projects—helping clubs find partners, helping to ensure sustainability, stressing the importance of a needs-driven approach, developing best practices, encouraging a holistic, integrated approach in which water is not the end in itself but is rather the means to a better life and livelihood in the community. Most importantly it links water and sanitation to personal hygiene, better health, empowering the community - especially women, irrigation and agriculture, education and literacy and, ultimately, child mortality.

Rotarians Provide Water Tanks



What all Rotary clubs should know about Clean Water Projects

By Rotarian Carolyn Crowley Meub, executive committee member for the Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group, and executive director for Pure Water for the World stresses the importance of clean water projects.

- First, know the importance of this work. The basis of good health is access to clean, safe drinking water. Experts say that unsanitary water is responsible for about 80 percent of all diseases in developing countries. For most of the world, clean water is medicine.
- Rotary clubs of all sizes can get involved in a water project, but developing a project takes planning, and these projects can be expensive. Most clubs aren't equipped to run a project on their own and often don't know how to get started. By uniting several clubs together and/or partnering with a reputable organization, a single Rotary club can make a bigger impact. Pick your partners well.
- When getting involved, look for projects that are sustainable. Poorly planned and built shallow wells won't work two years after construction.
- The most important thing to remember is that the project doesn't belong to the Rotary club or district — it belongs to the people it serves. Water projects must begin and end with the local community. To ensure that the project provides the intended benefits long after the donor has left, make sure the local community has ownership from the beginning. As Rotarians dedicated to the communities we serve, we wouldn't want to do it any other way.

Water Resource Group

This resource group shall work to increase awareness of the importance of conservation and development of potable water resources in all parts of the world. Through its efforts, the group shall support the RI Strategic Plan goal to increase Rotary's capacity to provide service to others.

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