WEEKLY RECAP | THU 15 OCT 2026

GoldenWagon



Impact in Motion

Rotary District 9213

RCUpperKololo
rotaryclubofupperkololo
rotary club of upper kololo

Rotary
Upper Kololo



My drop in the ocean

Follow a single gift through The Rotary Foundation

Imagine you give $100 to The Rotary Foundation. That is the amount of a Sustaining Member's yearly gift, and it is a good place to start. It is not a large sum, and the Foundation knows that.

So where does it go? On 13 October, IPP Filbert Kinyanda walked members of the Rotary Club of Upper Kololo through the answer, as part of a mentorship series called *My Drop in the Ocean*. This is that journey in plain terms.

It starts with a simple fact

The Rotary Foundation is a charity. Anyone can give to it, though most of its donors are Rotarians. And the people who decide how its money is spent are Rotarians too. "It's your Foundation" is the phrase IPP Filbert kept returning to, and it is meant literally.

Its mission is to help Rotary members advance world understanding, goodwill and peace by improving health, providing quality education, improving the environment and alleviating poverty. Put simply, it turns members' gifts into service projects that change lives close to home and around the world, so that together we can keep *Doing Good in the World*.

Your gift goes into what is called the **Annual Fund**, the main source of money for the Foundation's grants and programmes. It joins gifts from Rotarians all over the world.

The Annual Fund is the Foundation's main funding source for its programmes. It is what allows Rotary members to carry out sustainable service projects in their own communities and around the world.

Then it waits

This part surprises people. Your $100 is not spent straight away. For three years it is invested, and the earnings help pay the Foundation's running costs. That is one reason so much of what members give can go to projects.

Then it is divided

After three years, the money is shared out, roughly half and half.

The pooling is worth noticing. Gifts that members direct to **Annual Fund-SHARE** come from every Rotary club in the district, and they are divided together. (Gifts to the PolioPlus Fund follow a separate route.)

One half goes to the **World Fund**, which is directed by the Foundation's Trustees. It pays for things like scholarships, the Rotary Peace Centers, polio eradication and matching money for large projects.

It supports Rotary's highest-priority grants and programmes, and these are available to every Rotary district.

The other half goes to the **District Designated Fund**, usually shortened to DDF. This is money that belongs to our own district. Its Rotary Foundation committee decides how to spend it, so the decisions are made close to home.

Our district uses it to pay for Foundation, club and district projects, and the clubs in the district choose which ones.

> **Rotary foundation turns members' gifts into service projects that change lives close to home and around the world, so that together we can keep going good in the World.**

Then it becomes a project

This is where a gift starts doing visible work, and there are two main routes.

District Grants are the smaller, quicker route. Each year a district can receive one block grant, spent on club and district projects, in Uganda or abroad, with flexible rules. In 2024-25, $27.8 million in District Grants was awarded worldwide.

Global Grants are the larger route, and they come with conditions. A project needs a partner club in another country and must fit one of the Foundation's areas of focus: peace, disease prevention, water and sanitation, maternal and child health, basic education, and economic development. The community has to take part, the results have to be measurable, and the benefits have to last after the Rotarians leave. The total budget is at least $30,000, so the World Fund adds matching money to what clubs and districts put in. In 2023-24, more than $3.5 million was awarded for Global Grant projects in Uganda.

Where it lands

This is the point where the gift stops being a number.

It is also where the honest answer to "which dollar built what?" is what nobody can say. Your $100 is not tracked from your hand to a hospital bed. It joins everyone else's, and together they become projects no single member could fund.

That is why trust matters. The Foundation says it has put about 88% of its total spending into programmes over the past 15 years, which it describes as well above the efficiency standards set by independent charity-rating services.

The size of the need is real. About 4 in every 10 Ugandans lack even basic drinking water services, according to the United Nations in 2025. UNESCO reported in 2023 that 250 million children worldwide don't go to school. Meanwhile, through PolioPlus, global polio cases have fallen by 99.9%, a goal Rotary has worked toward for decades.

And closer to home, the community work of our own club includes Bwagonga Community Hospital in Kazo, Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital, Naguru Remand Home in Kampala, and Bugula Primary School in Gomba District. The club's giving to the Foundation has also grown into a record worth being proud of: awards over several Rotary years, including, in 2025-26, the TRF Award as overall winner and the Highest Per Capita Award for the Central Region.

What a small gift can do

The Foundation gives three examples of what a single donation can do:

$3 is the average cost to fully protect a child against polio.

$50 can maintain water filters that help fight waterborne illness.

$200 can create work opportunities e.g. replacing livestock for people affected by disasters.

These are examples, not promises about any one gift. But they show how far a small amount can travel, and why the size of the number was never the point.

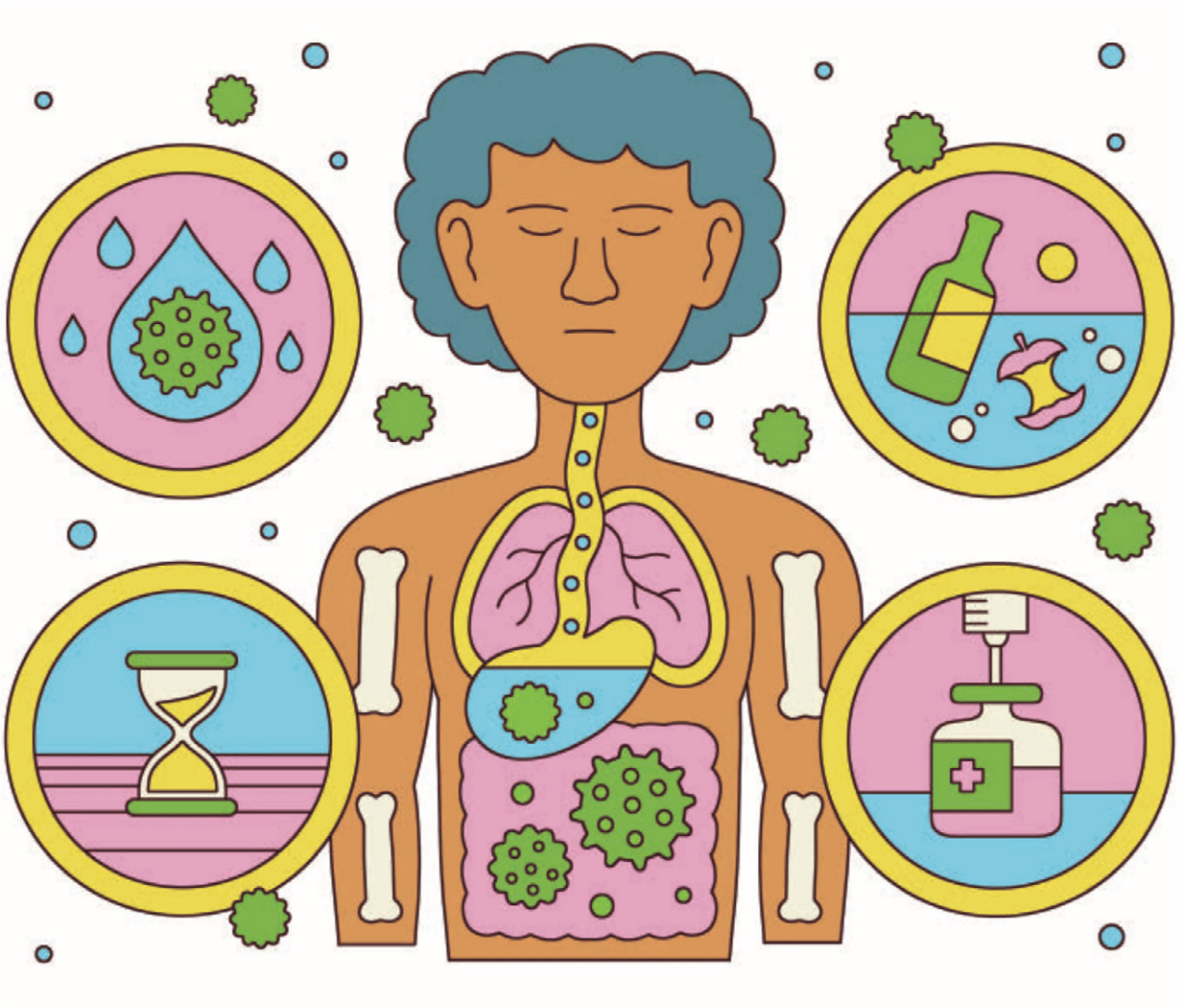
Why one drop matters

Since 1917, the Foundation has donated more than $4.5 billion. It now grants over $300 million a year. Set beside that, $100 can look like nothing.

There is no other way to fill an ocean. Every large number in the Foundation's story is a long line of ordinary gifts from members who decided theirs was worth adding *because there is a need*.

Giving to the Foundation has a ladder, and the first step is small. A **Sustaining Member** gives $100 a year. A **Paul Harris Fellow** has given $1,000 over time, or has had $1,000 given in their name. Beyond that are the Paul Harris Society, Major Donors, and the Endowment Fund, which invests gifts permanently and spends only the earnings, so a gift keeps working for years.

No one is asked to climb all of it. The question the series asks of every member is a simple one: what will your drop become?



HANDBOOK

Polio basics

Need to brush up on the facts? Here's a primer just in time for World Polio Day. Find out more on the refreshed End Polio Now website at **endpolio.org.**

What is polio?

The polio virus is an intestinal virus that is spread from person to person, typically through contaminated water.

Poliomyelitis is the disease caused by the polio virus. It can attack the nervous system and, in some instances, lead to paralysis. For several weeks, infected individuals shed poliovirus into the environment, where it can spread rapidly, especially in areas with poor sanitation and under-immunized communities. Although there is no cure, there are safe and effective vaccines — which Rotary and its partners have used to immunize over 3 billion children worldwide since 1988.

Illustration by Jackson Gibbs

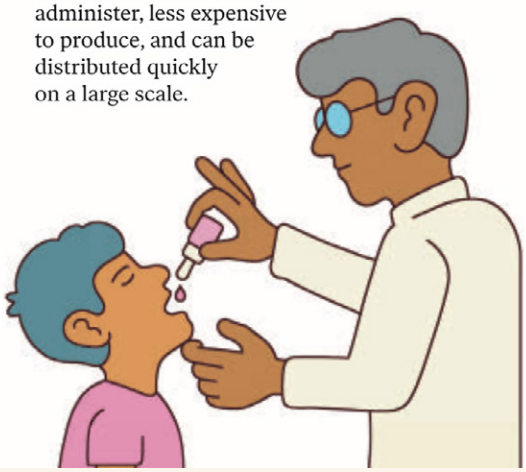
The vaccines

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative uses two types of vaccines:

The inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) was developed by Dr. Jonas Salk and approved for use in 1955. The vaccine consists of inactivated (killed) poliovirus, producing antibodies in the blood that prevent the spread of the virus to the central nervous system and protect against paralysis. IPV is given by injection and needs to be administered by a trained health worker.

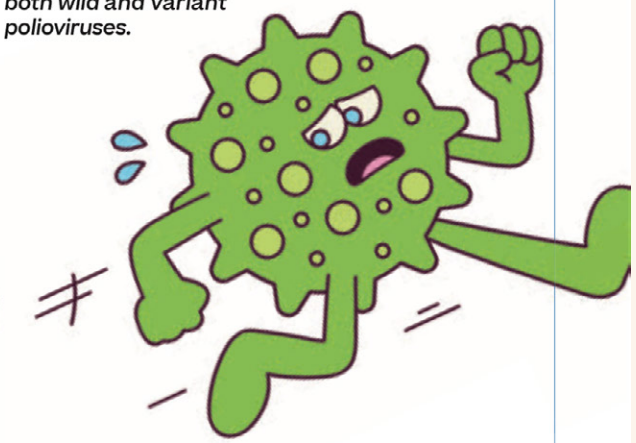


The oral polio vaccine (OPV) is made from strains of poliovirus that are live but weakened. It was developed by Dr. Albert Sabin and began to be used in national immunization programs in 1959. The weakened vaccine virus provides better immunity in the gut where polio replicates. It's excreted in the stool, and in communities with low-quality sanitation, the vaccine virus can spread from person to person, resulting in "passive" immunization and stopping transmission. It's also easier to administer, less expensive to produce, and can be distributed quickly on a large scale.

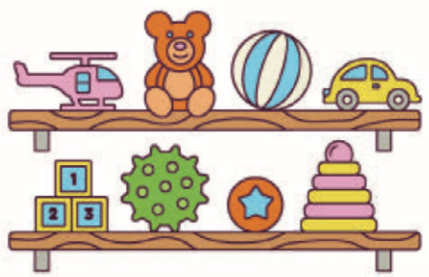


Two types of polioviruses

High immunization rates are the best protection against both wild and variant polioviruses.



Wild polioviruses are the naturally occurring strains of polioviruses. Type 2 wild poliovirus was declared eradicated in September 2015. Type 3 wild poliovirus was declared eradicated in October 2019. The few cases of wild poliovirus that we see now are all of type 1. As of 17 August, only 22 cases have been confirmed in 2026, and it is circulating in only two countries: Afghanistan and Pakistan.



Variant polioviruses can occur in places with low immunization rates. As the weakened vaccine virus is spread from one unvaccinated child to another over an extended period of time (often 12-18 months), it can revert to a form that can cause paralysis. This reverted poliovirus can then spread. A new version of the oral polio vaccine has reduced this risk. As of 17 August, there have been 124 cases of variant poliovirus in 2026.



Increase Our Impact

$312,090 Given to the Rotary Foundation, 32.2% of the $1M goal

12 Global Grants Approved, Worth $944,434

58 Clubs qualified: 46 Rotary and 12 Rotaract

Expand Our Reach

259 New Rotarians inducted under the new Membership Guidelines

152 Rotary clubs, with a new club chartered and 15 in formation

68 Areas mapped for new clubs, plus 12 Rotaract and 30 Interact

Ability to Adapt

70% of clubs reporting monthly

14+ clubs supported by the Governance and Ethics team

85% of club risks managed internally

Enhance Member Engagement

70% of club Family of Rotary Officers trained

56 Rotarians homoured for 25+ years of service

01 Wellness talk and a Cancer Run outreach with District 9214

Based on District Governor Gerald Obai's 100 Days of Service address

Impact in Motion

100 Days of Service in Rotary District 9213

#Create Lasting Impact | #RotaryEyamba | #RotaryKonyo

A Promise Renewed

Every day, millions of people around the world cry out silently for help. Rotarians hear them, and every year on the 1st of July, they answer the same way: *you will never walk alone*.

In District 9213, that promise was renewed 102 days ago. It meant saying yes to early mornings and late-night calls, and yes to serving in places where many would choose to walk away. When Governor Gerald Obai stood before the district to account for the first 100 days, he made clear that he had not come to boast. He came to show that the journey is possible.

The district began the year with one belief: *crazy ideas and the little things*. Crazy ideas push Rotarians to think outside the box and bring innovation into their work. The little things keep them close to what matters to the people they serve. Together, they are how the district intends to **Create Lasting Impact**.

The results fall under four areas of focus: increasing our impact, expanding our reach, building our ability to adapt, and enhancing member engagement.

Increasing Our Impact

The Governor was clear that the district has given more than money to The Rotary Foundation. It has given meaning, life, livelihoods, health and futures.

Against a giving goal of $1 million, the district has raised **$312,090**, or 31.2% of the target, in its first 100 days:

Annual Fund: $167,726 of $620,000

Endowment Fund: $7,773 of $80,000

Polio Plus: $44,487 of $150,000

Other funds (matching grant): $92,104 of $150,000

Behind those figures are people. The district counts 19 Major Donors, three Major Gifts of $10,000 each, 137 Paul Harris Fellows, three Benefactors, 199 Sustaining Members, 431 EREY givers and 96 members eligible for the Paul Harris Society. The Governor singled out the Rotary Club of Kololo, Kampala, which has contributed nine Major Donors on its own, and the Rotary Club of Upper Kololo, which has already passed $25,000 in giving to the Foundation.

The money is already at work. Twelve Global Grants worth **$944,434** have been approved, and more than $600,000 has been paid out, with the rest awaiting the transfer of funds. Because stewardship sits at the heart of Global Grants, the district has also built its capacity: **46 Rotary clubs and 12 Rotaract clubs** have qualified so far. Each qualified club brings the district closer to its target of $5 million in Global Grant utilization.

The Governor pointed to what this looks like on the ground. A nursery and primary school celebrated clean water for the first time. In a village in Nebbi, generations who had only heard about clean water now watch it flow. Free medical care has reached many people. Children have been mentored and given the chance to read and learn. Road safety campaigns have saved lives.

Expanding Our Reach

To respond to more people, the district knew it needed to grow, and to grow with care.

The district inducted **259 new Rotarians** over the 100 days. The Governor said openly that this figure is modest, and that it is modest by design. The district rolled out Membership Guidelines covering attraction, retention, engagement and even termination, and he insisted that no one be inducted outside them. His call was simple: induct only those who truly want to be part of Rotary, not people who collect pins and disappear.

The family of clubs is growing too:

One new club, the Rotary Club of Kampala Islanders, was chartered, bringing the district to **152 Rotary clubs**.

Two clubs are in provisional status, with charters expected within the calendar year.

Fifteen clubs are in formation, 20 are in ideation, three are corporate clubs and one is cause-based.

The district has mapped **68 prospective Rotary clubs, 12 Rotaract clubs and 30 Interact clubs**.

Members have been celebrated and supported along the way. A Membership Reward and Recognition Gala took place on 27 August, and a membership mentorship series meets twice a month from 7 to 8 in the morning.

Reach also means being seen. The district has sustained its **#RotaryEyamba** and **#RotaryKonyo** visibility campaign and its monthly publication, *The Wave*. On 30 September it launched *The Compass*, a quarterly regional newsletter that gives clubs in the Eastern, Northern and West Central regions a platform to tell their stories. Storytelling has shifted toward the beneficiaries and the impact projects that change their lives. The Governor also thanked NBS and Next Media for consistent media support.

> **His call was simple: induct only those who truly want to be part of Rotary, not people who collect pins and disappear.**

Ability to Adapt

Growth only lasts if clubs are strong, so the district began the year by strengthening governance. The Governor applauded the Governance and Ethics team, led by chair Flavia Serugo, and the work shows in the numbers:

A governance scorecard and risk register are now in place.

About 70% of Rotary clubs report monthly, with a target of every club by the end of the Rotary year.

The team has supported **14+ clubs**, including physical visits.

Nine governance awareness interventions have been carried out through *The Wave*, talks and club retreats.

85% of club risks have been managed internally.

Some of the clubs visited had serious problems, and a few were on the verge of collapse or splitting. After the team's visits, many of those issues have been resolved or calmed. The team also launched the **Governance and Ethics Lounge Series**. The first session, with speakers from the Rotary Clubs of Kampala and Muyenga, was, in the Governor's words, the most powerful discussion he has heard in Rotary.

Enhancing Member Engagement

Rotary is a family, and the district has worked to keep it close.

Seventy percent of the Club Family of Rotary officers were trained at the start of the Rotary year. The district launched a committee annual calendar and held a mental health and wellness talk for Rotarians and Rotaractors, because, as the Governor put it, mental health is key to doing the work. It also held sensitisation talks at the Cancer Run, in partnership with the District 9214 Family of Rotary Committee.

The district also paused to honour its longest-serving members. At the pre-Independence fellowship hosted by the Rotary Club of Bukoto, it celebrated **56 Rotarians who have served for 25 years or more**. A Rotaractor with 25 years of service without transition will be honoured at the district conference in Gulu.

Impact in Motion

Rotary District 9213

Giving to the Rotary Foundation

Total Toward $ IM Goal	$312,090 (31%)
Annual Fund	$167,726 of $620,000
Endowment Fund	$7,773 of $80,000
Polio Plus	$44,487 of $150,000
Other Funds(Matching Grant)	$92,104 of $150,000

17	03	137	03	199	431
Major Donors	Major Gifts	PHFs	Benefactors	Sustaining Members	EREY Givers

From Grants Approved to Lives C hanged

12 Global Grants Approved → **$944,434** Total Value Approved → **$600K+** Already Paid out

Total Toward 5M Global Grant Target — $944,434 Approved

45 Rotary clubs qualified

12 Rotaract clubs qualified

Stewardship sits at th heart of global grants. Every qualified club adds capacity to take more grants, and the remaining finds for approved grants are waiting to be sent.

Strengthening Clubs from within

70% of Rotary clubs reporting monthly

14+ Clubs supported, including visits

9+ Governance awareness interventions

85% of club risk managed internally

The year has had its sorrows, too. The district has lost members, and it stands in solidarity with their families and with every member mourning a loved one.

From Intent to Impact

The Governor has visited 70 of the district's clubs so far and found *so much potential, so much ability*. He plans to visit the remaining 80.

The next 100 days start with a retreat for all Impact Presidents in Gulu from 16 to 18 October. The idea is to energise the presidents so that the energy reaches every Rotarian in the district.

His call to action was short:

- Move from intent to impact, and from pledges to action.
- Give more to the Foundation.
- Keep growing membership, the district's number one internal priority.
- Take Rotary out of the meeting rooms and into the community, where it has meaning.
- Stay united as a family and talk openly when something weighs us down.

He closed with this request:

> **Let us not count days going forward, but let us make every single day count. When Rotarians work together, the impossible becomes possible, and those who need Rotary will never walk alone ▪**


Rotary
Upper Kololo
UK STORES
SHOP & SIP
A BUSINESS SHOWCASE FOR RCUK AND FRIENDS OF ROTARY
CALL FOR VENDORS
LIMITED SLOTS AT UGX 50,000 EACH
CORPORATE COMPANIES 200K
Airtel Merchant: 4394103
Mtn Merchant: 392898
Friday 23rd October, 2026
Fairway Hotel
01:00pm
Rotary Club of Upper Kololo
RCUpperKololo
rotaryclubofupperkololo
athena HOTEL
marun
CLARKSON
nutri nova
Nutrition Health Profitability
TRUE NORTH
People Synergies
ROKE
PRIDE BANK
FAIRWAY