

WEEK 35 FOUNDATION MINUTE – WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE MONTH

This month Rotary focuses its attention on initiatives to bring clean water, sanitation, and healthy hygiene practices to communities throughout the world. For many populations, having clean, potable water is a natural part of daily life – but many live in areas where just finding water is a daily challenge. Rotary has tackled these problems for decades. What is changing is that we can no longer take water for granted; merely doing the same thing will not protect this precious resource.

Clean water and sanitation is a human right. When people, especially children, have access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene, they lead healthier and more successful lives. We don't just build wells and walk away. Rotary members integrate water, sanitation, and hygiene into education projects. When children learn about disease transmission and practice good hygiene, they miss less school. And they can take those lessons home to their families, expanding our impact.

There are 2.5 billion people in the world that lack access to improved sanitation and 748 million people that don't have clean drinking water. Nearly 1400 children die each day from diseases caused by lack of sanitation and unsafe water. When people have access to clean water, they live healthier and more productive lives. The Rotary Foundation seeks to empower governments, institutions, and communities to manage their water, sanitation, and hygiene services through environmentally sound, measurable, and sustainable interventions.