

The Wave

October 2024

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Against
Polio
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EDITOR'S NOTE

Empowering the Mind

Suppose all the money in Uganda was abolished, all property ownership scrapped and then everybody given one million shillings to start with. Assume law enforcement remains in place, would all be equal after one year?

The answer is a straight NO! Some people will be billionaires, others will still have the one million. Many will have zero and some would be in debt.

When Makerere University still gave out boom (personal allowance for students), some recipients invested it and left the university ready to continue running their businesses.

Others bought nice apparels while the rest did what was conventional 'wisdom' expected boom to be used for – BOOM – and partied it away, to end up begging for support from relatives, friends and in-laws after graduation.

So is it with a country like Uganda which is famously "gifted by nature"; where a prominent citizen quoted by international and local media early this year indicated that dying of hunger in the country is only caused by mental deficiency.

Indeed no amount of money and property received, lectures attended, exams sat and passed, well-paying jobs secured and held for however many years, can on their own deliver economic empowerment to a person whose mind is not prepared.

There is probably no district in Uganda which does not have a grave of a former senior civil servant who used to live in a government mansion in Kololo or Nakasero, occupied an important office, returned to the village after attaining the mandatory retirement age and failed to come to terms with the natural physical and social environment.

Such former senior officers lived only a few years

after mandatory retirement and deteriorated socially after being cut off from their previous social circles for the simple reason that they were broke.

In their last days they would sit at watering joints with local youth whom they would regale with stories of their days. The boys would say Mzee So-and-So is a very interesting man, he tells us about the countries he visited, even the president knows him...

Such sad old men are products of an education system that encouraged cramming and to prepare one for serving in the public service straight jacket, without imparting social, financial nor emotional skills that would enable one to survive and thrive outside the ever narrowing civil service in a rapidly growing population. Unfortunately the education system has not improved much since independence.

Instead it erodes one's capacity to survive and thrive in their natural setting, without preparing them to operate in the competitive, ruthless global village.

So as we expend our energies and resources to economically empower the less fortunate, we need to bear in mind that maximizing the benefits from our projects and securing them in the long term can best be assured if the beneficiaries understand and internalize the propose of the projects, the importance of observing operating and maintenance procedures if they are to see sustainability and growth.

As the popular saying these days goes, referring to "my background" stops at Age 30, after which "you are the background." Benefitting from economic assistance starts in the mind of the recipient. Donors, in our case Rotarians, need to bear it in mind and prepare the mind of beneficiaries as we give them our service above self.

Joachim Buwembo
RC Kampala-Naalya

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“As people of action, we don't have the luxury of giving in to despair, even in the face of tragedy.”



It Takes a Team

With World Polio Day on 24 October, I'm proudly rooting for Rotary as we team up around the world to End Polio Now. I had the honour of attending a Strike Out Polio event in July at PNC Park, home of the Pittsburgh Pirates MLB team. The Rotary Club of Delmont Salem hosted the event, which raised \$1.3 million for PolioPlus.

Later in the summer, I joined members of our Rotary family in supporting the Más Millas Menos Polio (More Miles Less Polio) bike ride. Felipe Meza Chávez and his team rode all the way from Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, to One Rotary Centre in Evanston, Illinois, to raise money and awareness. The ride took 12 days, and Felipe and his team collected more than \$100,000 to support the fight against polio. It was a joy to greet them as they arrived in Evanston.

And I was thrilled to see Team End Polio raise global awareness around the 2024 Paris Olympics. This world-class roster of athletes, global leaders and polio eradication supporters came together to advocate for a world where no child has to live in fear of being paralysed by polio. Some of the athletes on Team End Polio are polio survivors themselves, adding weight to their advocacy.

These are just a few examples of the many ways Rotary has teamed up recently to End Polio Now. It is vital that we continue to seek out and recruit teammates in polio eradication, especially after the

challenges our eradication efforts have faced this year.

The Rotary world was heartbroken to learn about the tragic passing in August of Aidan O'Leary, director for polio eradication at the World Health Organisation.

I knew Aidan and worked with him directly. He was a tireless advocate in the fight against polio and a kind, genuine man. We will remember him both for his advocacy and his warmth.

But where there is hardship, there is also hope. I feel hopeful whenever I consider the countless ways Rotary supports the fight every day to eradicate polio.

As people of action, we don't have the luxury of giving in to despair, even in the face of tragedy. The best way to honour Aidan's memory is by teaming up and reaching our goal to End Polio Now.

We made a promise to the children of the world and their families. It is incumbent upon us, together with our global partners, to end this threat once and for all.

There are so many ways we can team up to eradicate polio. You can donate to the End Polio Now campaign, join or initiate a PolioPlus Society in your club or district, or take inspiration from the fundraisers I mentioned above.

I encourage Rotary members around the world to continue to seek out new teammates, so that together, we end polio.

Stephanie A. Urchick
President, Rotary International



TOGETHER, WE

END POLIO

Rotary believes healthy communities are strong communities. That's one reason we've worked tirelessly to help immunize 2.5 billion children against polio. Bringing the world closer to eradicating a deadly disease — that's what people of action do. [Learn more at Rotary.org.](https://www.rotary.org)



DISTRICT GOVERNORS'S MESSAGE

**“AS WE
COMMEMORATE
ECONOMIC AND
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
MONTH, WE MUST
REFLECT ON HOW
WE ARE SUPPORTING
COMMUNITIES TO
CREATE LASTING
CHANGE.”**



Giving Fish or Teaching How to Fish?

I recall a discussion a few years ago in which one of the presenters accused charities like Rotary of creating “white elephants.” He argued that while many of the facilities we have constructed are important, they risk being underutilised because the beneficiary communities may not afford the cost of the services offered. His assertions sparked a lively debate, with many in the room contesting his views.

However, I later found myself reflecting on whether there might be some truth to his claims. Are we giving enough attention to sustainability issues in our projects? When we donate items, do we consider where beneficiaries will obtain their next supplies once our donations are depleted? When we install water tanks or construct classroom blocks, are we thinking about how those schools will maintain them?

When building or equipping health centres, do we take into account the resources needed to ensure a consistent flow of quality services? I believe that if we don't consider these issues carefully, many of our interventions may end up being short-term fixes rather than the transformative solutions we aspire to achieve.

As we commemorate Economic and Community Development Month, we must reflect on how we are supporting communities to create lasting change. I am happy that more clubs are recognising the

importance of active community participation and local ownership.

As a result, we are witnessing the formation of more Rotary Community Corps (RCCs). Comprising local community members, RCCs serve as vital vehicles for sustainability. When sufficiently empowered, they can sustain project benefits long after the implementing Rotary clubs have moved on. However, this is only part of the solution.

Many of our project investments require a continuous flow of resources to remain fully operational. Therefore, I believe we should place greater emphasis on creating economic opportunities for communities, enabling them to generate the resources needed to sustain services and foster self-reliance. I commend all those clubs that are incorporating elements of economic empowerment into their projects, whether through microfinance schemes, skills training, or income-generating activities.

As the famous adage goes: “Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach him how to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime.” I believe we can — and should — do both.

**Anne Nkutu,
District Governor**

Embracing Leadership And Growth Through RYLA 2023

ELVIN TURIBAMWE
PUBLIC RELATIONS
DIRECTOR

ROTARACT CLUB OF NAJJERA

As a proud alumnus of the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) 2023, I have to say that my experience at the boot camp in Kaazi was nothing short of transformative. I greatly thank the Rotary Club of Najjera, Rotaract Najjera, Rotary District 9213 and Rotary world over for making this opportunity possible. The theme of the 3-day boot camp, “Building Resilience,” resonated deeply with all participants. It wasn’t just about physical resilience, but also mental, emotional, and social resilience. We were thrust into an unfamiliar environment, which at first seemed daunting. But this was what made the experience so valuable it taught us to adapt, connect, and thrive in new and challenging situations. Rotaractors from different backgrounds and professions came together, and through our shared experiences, we built bonds that have persisted beyond the camp.

What made RYLA truly special were the well-curated sessions led by a group of incredibly inspiring facilitators. David Rogers Kintu’s session on character and personal growth was especially eye-opening. He reminded us of the importance of integrity, resilience, and the relentless pursuit of excellence in both our personal and professional lives.

Helen Kirunda’s discussion on the power of collaboration drove home the value of teamwork in leadership. Through her insights, I realised how much more we can achieve when we lean on each other’s strengths and work toward common goals.

The session that most resonated with me was delivered by Winfred



I encourage anyone who has the opportunity to participate in future RYLA events to do so.

Karungi Ssewava, who spoke passionately about the power of storytelling. As a communications professional, this message hit home. Storytelling isn’t just about recounting events, it’s about conveying emotion, building connections, and inspiring action. Her insights have stayed with me as I continue to develop my career and refine my craft.

Lastly, Dr Stella Kivila, whose session on decision-making and feedback demonstrated the importance of deliberate action and continuous growth. Her energy and passion for leadership left a lasting

impression on us all.

RYLA provided me with a platform to reflect on my leadership style and personal growth. As a communications professional, the skills I honed during the boot camp; networking, collaboration, and resilience have been invaluable in my work. It’s easy to get caught up in the day-to-day demands of a job, but RYLA reminded me of the importance of being deliberate in my actions and always seeking feedback for continuous improvement.

I look back at RYLA 2023 with immense pride. It was an experience that pushed me out of my comfort zone, helped me build meaningful connections, and equipped me with tools that I will continue to use in both my personal and professional journey. I encourage anyone who has the opportunity to participate in future RYLA events to do so. It is truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience that fosters leadership, resilience, and personal growth.

The writer is a professional in Corporate and Strategic Communications, digital marketing, writing and digital

Rotary’s Commitment to Eradicating Polio: A Global Fight for a Healthier Future

RTN EVELYN AKELLO
ROTARY E-CLUB OF NAGURU
DISTRICT POLIO CHAIR D9213

Polio is a crippling and potentially deadly infectious disease, that has been one of humanity’s most daunting public health challenges for decades. The virus mainly affects children under the age of five, causing irreversible paralysis and, in some cases, even death. It is highly infectious and can spread rapidly through contaminated water and food supplies. In addition, polio anywhere can affect children everywhere. Therefore, as Rotarians, we need to maintain our efforts to end polio now.

Rotary in its global fight against polio has helped immunise more than 3 billion children against polio in 122 countries thus reducing the polio cases by 99.9%, has contributed more than US\$2.7 billion to global polio eradication efforts, and helped secure more than US\$11 billion from donor governments.

Polio has no cure but can be prevented by vaccination. A Polio vaccine, given multiple times, can protect a child from polio for life. With partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) including the World Health Organisation, UNICEF and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Rotary is working to interrupt the transmission of all polioviruses (wild polio and vaccine-derived variants), by:

- i) Ensuring that specific geographic areas have thorough immunisation coverage
- ii) Carrying out other immunisation activities (including targeted campaigns when needed)
- iii) Monitoring any outbreaks, as well as wastewater for signs of polio virus.

Rotary’s fundraising efforts have been crucial to maintaining progress.

Every year, Rotary clubs worldwide contribute millions of dollars to the cause.

A significant portion of this funding goes toward vaccine delivery, health worker training, community mobilisation and disease surveillance; all of which play a critical role in keeping polio at bay in high-risk areas.

“Rotary in its global fight against polio has helped immunise more than 3 billion children against polio in 122 countries thus reducing the polio cases by 99.9%.”

KEY MILESTONES IN ROTARY’S POLIO INTERVENTIONS

- **1985:** Rotary launches PolioPlus, the first and largest internationally coordinated private-sector effort to support public health initiatives.
- **2000:** A record 550 million children (almost 10% of the world’s population) receive the oral polio vaccine.
- **2014:** India, once an epicentre of polio outbreaks, is declared polio-free, marking a monumental victory in the global fight against the disease.
- **2020:** Africa is certified free of wild polio virus, a milestone that highlighted the tireless efforts of health workers, volunteers, and supporters across the continent.

While the progress in polio eradication is remarkable, the fight is far from over.

Polio remains endemic in two countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan, where persistent challenges like conflict, political instability, and vaccine hesitancy continue to hinder eradication efforts.

Rotary is doubling down on its efforts to address these challenges by enhancing surveillance, improving healthcare delivery systems and educating communities about the importance of vaccination.

POLIO OUTBREAK IN UGANDA

On May 31, 2024, Uganda confirmed a circulating Vaccine Derived Polio Virus type 2 (cVDPV2) from one sample

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Immunisation against polio in Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh, India



Polio immunisation in Kaduna, Nigeria

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collected from the sewage plant in Doko, Mbale city, which is one of the sentinel environmental surveillance sites in Uganda. The tests were conducted at the Uganda Virus Research Institute and further confirmed by the National Institute for Communicable Diseases in South Africa, that the virus is genetically linked to one cVDPV2 that was detected in Garissa Province in Kenya having emerged from Somalia.

This is a circulating Vaccine Derived Polio Virus type 2 (cVDPV2). Therefore, the identification of a cVDPV2 from the environment in Uganda confirms

“As we approach World Polio Day, Rotary clubs worldwide will host events to raise awareness and funds for polio eradication.”

that there are persons in Mbale sub-region shading the virus.

As a result of this outbreak, the Ministry of Health is planning two rounds of a sub-national Polio Immunisation campaign in two phases: October 3-6, 2024 and November 7-10, 2024, covering 49 districts in the greater Mbale region to ensure that all our children are safe from polio. **(Attached is the list of 49 districts).**

The call to Action is for Rotarians to support the campaign by encouraging communities to have children vaccinated.

ROTARY POLIO DAY, A GLOBAL CALL TO ACTION World Polio Day (October 24) is a

POLIO

DISTRICTS FOR POLIO OUTBREAK RESPONSE CAMPAIGN

(RD 1: October 3-6, 2024, RD 2: November 7-10, 2024)

District	District
1 Abim	26 Katakwi
2 Amudat	27 Kibuku
3 Amuria	28 Kotido
4 Budaka	29 Kumi
5 Bududa	30 Kween
6 Bugiri	31 Luuka
7 Bugweri	32 Manafwa
8 Bukedea	33 Mayuge
9 Bukwo	34 Mbale
10 Bulambuli	35 Mbale City
11 Busia	36 Moroto
12 Butaleja	37 Nabilatuk
13 Butebo	38 Nakapiripirit
14 Buyende	39 Namayingo
15 Iganga	40 Namisindwa
16 Jinja	41 Namutumba
17 Jinja City	42 Napak
18 Kaabong	43 Ngora
19 Kaberamaido	44 Pallisa
20 Kalaki	45 Serere
21 Kaliro	46 Sironko
22 Kamuli	47 Soroti
23 Kapchorwa	48 Soroti City
24 Kapelabyong	49 Tororo
25 Karenga	

call to Action for their participation. It is expected that Rotary clubs in the 49 districts where polio cases have been identified will participate in this online event.

●**Saturday, October 19, 2024** Community Polio Mobilisation and Immunisation activities. Rotary and Rotaract clubs will team up to educate communities about polio, mobilise parents to vaccinate their children and participate in immunisation drives.

●**Thursday October 24, 2024 World Polio Day** A Mega Fellowship is proposed where Rotarians and Rotaractors will come together to reflect on the progress made and discuss future strategies of their participation as people of Action to Stop Polio Now. There will be keynote speeches, fundraising activities, and discussions about how to sustain the momentum of the polio eradication campaign.

●**Saturday October 26, 2024** Commemoration in Mbale and support for the door-to-door immunisation campaign by the Ministry of Health Rotary's Call to Action "Give for Polio" Rotary International has set an ambitious goal for 2024, raising USD50m for polio eradication, which will be matched 2-to-1 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Districts 9213 and 9214 are playing their part by asking every Rotarian to contribute at least USD25 by June 2025, with each club expected to raise a minimum of USD1,000. District 9213 TRF goal for PolioPlus for the current Rotary Year is USD109,220.

Every dollar raised brings us closer to a world where no child will ever be paralysed by polio again. The power of Rotary's global network and collective efforts cannot be underestimated.

Together, we can finish the job and ensure that polio becomes a disease of the past.

As we look toward World Polio Day and beyond, let's continue to champion this cause, spread the word, and raise the funds needed to finally make history by eradicating polio once and for all.

time for Rotary members, public health advocates and all who want a world free from polio to come together, recognise our progress in the fight to end polio and talk about the actions we need to take to end polio for good. As we approach World Polio Day, Rotary clubs worldwide will host events to raise awareness and funds for polio eradication.

This year, Rotary Districts 9213 and 9214 are organising a series of activities to engage communities and Rotarians in the fight against polio:

●**Thursday, September 26, 2024**

An orientation of Rotarians on the door-to-door immunisation campaign by the Ministry of Health and a



A Dynamic School Programme with Roots in Vijana Poa Intervention

By Rtn Sylvia Nankya, RC Kampala-Naalya

As schools opened their doors for the third school term, two young girls, aged 15 and 17 sat in one corner of the administrative office of Bandera Farmers Network International (BFNI) in Kamuli District. One of them was carrying a baby while the other was heavily pregnant.

The 15-year-old was a victim of rape. She recalled the fate that befell her one evening when she was sent by her father to protect their rice garden from intruders. All she hoped was that Bandera Farmers Network could figure out something for her.

The other girl has just run out of a forced marriage. After dropping out of school after Primary Six, she now hoped the network could support her in becoming a tailor.

These and similar stories are now routine at BFNI, which was started

to create opportunities for growth, development, and resilience by harnessing the power of sustainable agriculture.

The Rotary Club of Kampala-Naalya adopted the community in the Rotary Year 2022-2023 with a skilling programme under Every Youth Working Initiative (Global Grant Number 2230212), which sought to address youth unemployment through supporting young people (Vijana) to get employed or develop their entrepreneurial skills to earn a living.

Through the programme, more than 20 youths were taught the art of making craft shoes and bar soap. Their products are now on the market.

Often, the club gave the youths motivational talks, to provide inspiration and empower them with the knowledge, skills and attitude for overcoming generational challenges.

Two of the Rotary Vijana Poa

Trainees were teenage mothers, who had dropped out of school during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thanks to the support from Club Members, they both returned to school and continue to thrive with renewed energy. One of them was part of the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards RYLA last year, a programme that she credits for transforming her life.

In subsequent engagements, the founders of the network noticed that school-going children were accompanying their parents to the farm, instead of attending school.

"We discovered that the high levels of poverty, insufficient land for commercial agriculture, and general lack of appreciation for education fuelled the concerning trend," says Rtn Fathila Nanozi, a member of the Rotary Club of Kampala Naalya, who led the implementation of the Vijana Poa Project activities in the

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community. Out of this trend, the Bandera School Programme was born, and so was New Hope Charity School. It sought to support the less privileged children of farmers in Kiyunga and neighbouring villages who could not afford to go to school. The school's model heavily depends on well-wishers' donations and sponsorships for fees and educational materials. Today, the school programme has up to 203 learners.

Each primary school child in the community needs only sh50,000 (about USD 15) and direct donations like books, pens, pencils, reams of paper, school bags, uniforms, and reading materials to stay in school for a term. Those in secondary school need up to sh150,000 (about USD 50) per term. One can also donate a goat to the programme with the hope that as the goats grow and produce, each goat will be used to cater for the school needs of the child it is attached to. The estimated cost for each goat is 150 USD. The programme also encourages teachers to volunteer their services whenever possible to teach learners and mentor the teachers on the ground.

"We have seen a steady rise in student enrollment since the inception of the school programme

Through the programme, more than 20 youths were taught the art of making craft shoes.

and plans are now underway to expand the school facilities to accommodate the growing student population," Rtn Fathila said during a recent visit.

The increase in numbers has presented more challenges; the school needs infrastructure to move away from the existing mud and wattle structures that have been set up, as well as desks to ensure that the learners are in a conducive study environment.

The Support from the Rotary Club of Kampala-Naalya has so far:

- Empowered youth with practical skills
- Inspired the creation of the school programme
- Directly supported the education of

vulnerable pupils and students

- Encouraged community-wide participation in development initiatives

The club is now conducting a needs assessment to take on the challenge and magically change the lives of learners in Kamuli through the school programme.

Denis Tibenkana, the Chief Executive Officer of BFNI, says the school programme justifies the vision he holds for the transformation of rural communities.

"I am a victim of a poor education system, having studied in 14 schools due to economic conditions at home," he said.

"Seeing more children go to school, complete their education and get a brighter future is fulfilling to me."

Tibenkana emphasises that having the children get an education is key to the community's success.

"We are building a society of thinkers and doers, creators and innovators with various talents and expertise. We want the community to build self-sustaining initiatives with education inclusive, agriculture alone can't sustain a community. There needs to be diversity in knowledge, skills, and sectors to make an inclusive community."

In an inspiring show of community support, the school's director has generously offered land for the community to begin making bricks which will contribute to the school's construction efforts, reducing costs and fostering a sense of ownership among the community members.

Rtn Fathila explains that the community's involvement in brick-making not only aids in the physical construction of the school but also symbolises the strong foundation of community support and participation that will ensure the long-term success of this programme.

"Our goal is clear," she says.

"To empower young minds and give them the chance to pursue a better future through education.

By addressing the barriers to schooling, we hope to transform not just individual lives, but entire communities."

PDG Robert Wagawa Nsibirwa- Champion of Community and Economic Development

BY SAMUEL NGAMBWAKI

When one mentions the name Oweekitibwa PDG Robert Wagawa Nsibirwa in Rotary circles, many will easily relate it to Rotary Vijana Poa. The man who serves as the second Deputy Premier of Buganda doubling as Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development in Buganda Kingdom is very passionate about economic and community development. Nsibirwa is well known as a champion for coffee growing and ensuring chain and value addition in the coffee sector. Indeed, his famous statement 'emwanyi telimba' is a common statement in Buganda and beyond.

In 2015/2016, Oweek Nsibirwa served as District Governor of D9211, comprising Uganda and Tanzania and gave birth to the programme Rotary Vijana Poa (Youth are cool) with its Vision of 'Every youth working'.

In Uganda, over 78% of the population is below the age of 35, and the levels of unemployment are high. Vijana Poa has become the medium of seeking to skill and empower young people to gainfully be employed and earn a living.

The ripple effect of this is that it trickles down to the community because when youth are earning, the community benefits.

Over the years, Rotary Vijana Poa has seen over 4,000 youths trained in different skills and over 300,000 US dollars invested into this venture and significant partnerships signed.

This has improved the standards of living within the communities



Wagawa Nsibirwa

where youth were equipped with skills. Over 500 jobs have been created and other young people have grown in their career spaces and are now also mentoring and creating opportunities for others.

PDG Nsibirwa believes it's not the lack of employment which is the challenge, but rather our inability to see the jobs within us and transform ourselves into skilled people who then create jobs. He believes there is a need to create more awareness about mindset change if we are going to transform our communities.

Robert Wagawa Nsibirwa is a practicing entrepreneur with over 20 years of business leadership experience. He is a Co-founder and group chief executive officer of the Africa Coffee Academy, an international firm providing professional, technical and business support to coffee value chains.

He is a co-founder and Executive Director of Ashland Motors Africa Limited- dealers in VW and Leyland automobiles and Co-Founder and Executive Chairman of Bridge Credit Finance among others.

He is a Consultant with the World Bank and the United Nations International Trade Centre in Commodity Risk Management – especially in coffee and cotton. He serves on several Boards: Chairman of Greenhill Holdings Limited (owners of Greenhill Academy Schools), Chairman of Uganda Coffee Federation, Council Member of Ndejje University, Board Member Habitat for Humanity Uganda, Board Member Tondeka Metro Company, Chairman of World Class Team Limited, Co-Founder and Director Health Heart Foundation and Trustee of the CEO Summit, among others.



Digital literacy is important in these times and age

Literacy That Expands Horizons Beyond the Classroom



AG MARION
NATUKUNDA, RC KIWATULE

When we think of literacy, the first image that often comes to mind is the ability to read and write. While this foundational aspect of literacy remains essential, the demands of the modern world have broadened the definition far beyond traditional notions. Today, literacy encompasses a diverse range of skills that empower individuals to navigate complex environments, make informed decisions, and thrive in their communities.

Three critical areas of this expanded understanding include financial, digital and health literacy.

Financial Literacy: The Key to Economic Empowerment

Financial literacy refers to the knowledge and skills needed to make informed decisions about money management. It includes understanding how to budget, save,

invest and plan for the future, as well as knowing the risks and benefits of loans, credit, and debit.

In a world where economic instability is a reality for many, financial literacy can be a game changer. It equips individuals and families with the tools to secure financial independence, avoid exploitation, and make sound investments that improve their long-term well-being. Without financial literacy, people are more vulnerable to predatory lending practices, excessive debt and poor planning.

Rotary clubs are well positioned to address this by organising club training, community dialogues on personal finance, partnering with banks and financial institutions, or introducing programs that teach youth the basics of money

management. Such initiatives not only benefit individuals, but also contribute to the economic health and community stability at large.

Digital Literacy: Navigating the Information Age

In today's fast-paced, technology-driven world, digital literacy is essential. It goes beyond simply being able to operate a smartphone or computer.

Digital literacy involves the ability to find, evaluate, create, and share information using digital tools responsibly and safely. It also includes understanding the risks of cyber threats, maintaining digital privacy, and being aware of the ethical use of technology.

As more services, from banking to education, move online, being digitally literate becomes crucial to participating in modern society. Without digital literacy, many individuals risk being left behind, especially in underserved communities where access to technology and the Internet may be limited. Rotary clubs can play a significant role in bridging this gap by offering digital literacy training, creating internet access points in existing computer school labs, or donating devices to schools and community centres.

These efforts can empower individuals to access valuable resources, apply for jobs, and take part in virtual learning opportunities.

Health Literacy: The Foundation for Well-Being

Health literacy is the ability to obtain, process, and understand basic health information to make appropriate health decisions. This type of literacy is more critical than ever, especially in a world still grappling with the effects of pandemics and chronic diseases. Understanding how to navigate healthcare systems, read medication labels, manage chronic conditions, and maintain a healthy lifestyle is essential for maintaining physical and mental well-being.

Low health literacy can lead



THE ROLE OF ROTARY IN PROMOTING BROADER LITERACY

As we celebrate Education and Literacy Month, it is essential to recognise that literacy extends beyond the confines of traditional education. Financial literacy helps people achieve economic stability, digital literacy empowers them to participate in the global economy, and health literacy enables them to make decisions that enhance their well-being.

Rotary clubs are uniquely positioned to champion these broader concepts of literacy by initiating programs, building partnerships, and fostering environments where learning in these areas can flourish.

By embracing this expanded vision of literacy, Rotary can continue to be a force for good in the world, promoting not just the ability to read and write, but knowledge and skills that truly empower individuals to lead successful, healthy, and fulfilling lives.

Digital literacy involves the ability to find, evaluate, create, and share information using digital tools responsibly.

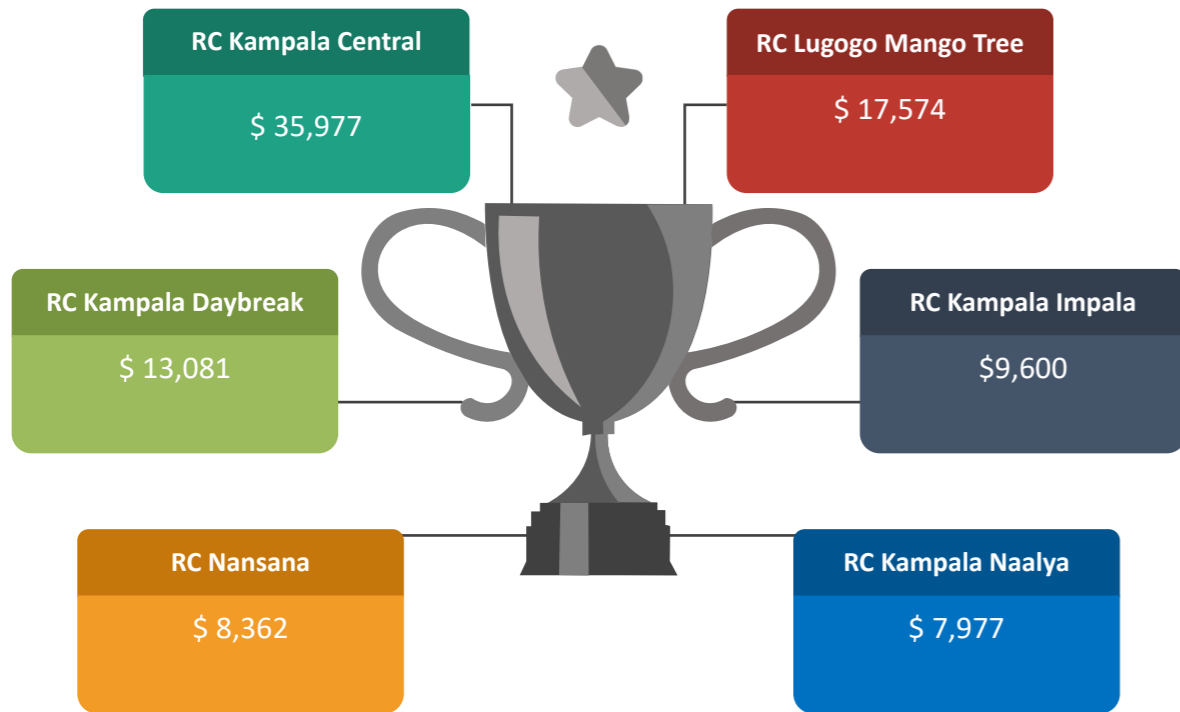
to poor health outcomes, as individuals may struggle to understand medical instructions, identify symptoms, or adhere to treatment plans.

Rotary clubs can contribute by organising health awareness campaigns or camps which are carried out annually, supporting health screenings, and partnering with healthcare professionals to provide educational materials and sessions on various health issues.

Ensuring that community members are informed and educated about their health fosters a more resilient and healthier society.

RECOGNITION OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

Clubs with the highest giving as of 5th October 2024



PDG Edward Kakembo Nsubuga shows skills at tailoring

Economic and Community Development for The Boy Child

RTN. JENNIFER MIREMBE SSENSUWA,
BCUP CHAIR RC KAMPALA EARLY BIRD

The more we give importance to skill development, the more competent will be our youth - Narendra Modi.

In the just-released preliminary results of the 2024 census, Uganda is a youthful nation with children 0-17 years making up 50.5% (23.1million) of the population; and the youth demographic (18-30 years) constitutes 22.7%. Our country's male population is approximately 24.07 million, with approximately 60% below 35.

This continues to give Rotarians, Rotaractors and Ugandans at large a clear reason to celebrate the selfless heart of our Immediate Past District Governor Edward

“We can start by recognising the silently celebrated days like the International Boy Child Day.”

Kakembo Nsubuga (a.k.a Jajja Boy) for being ahead of the many stakeholders that are directly or indirectly in charge of raising

boys in our nation. He continues to prioritise efforts to mentor, handhold, nurture and educate the Boy Child.

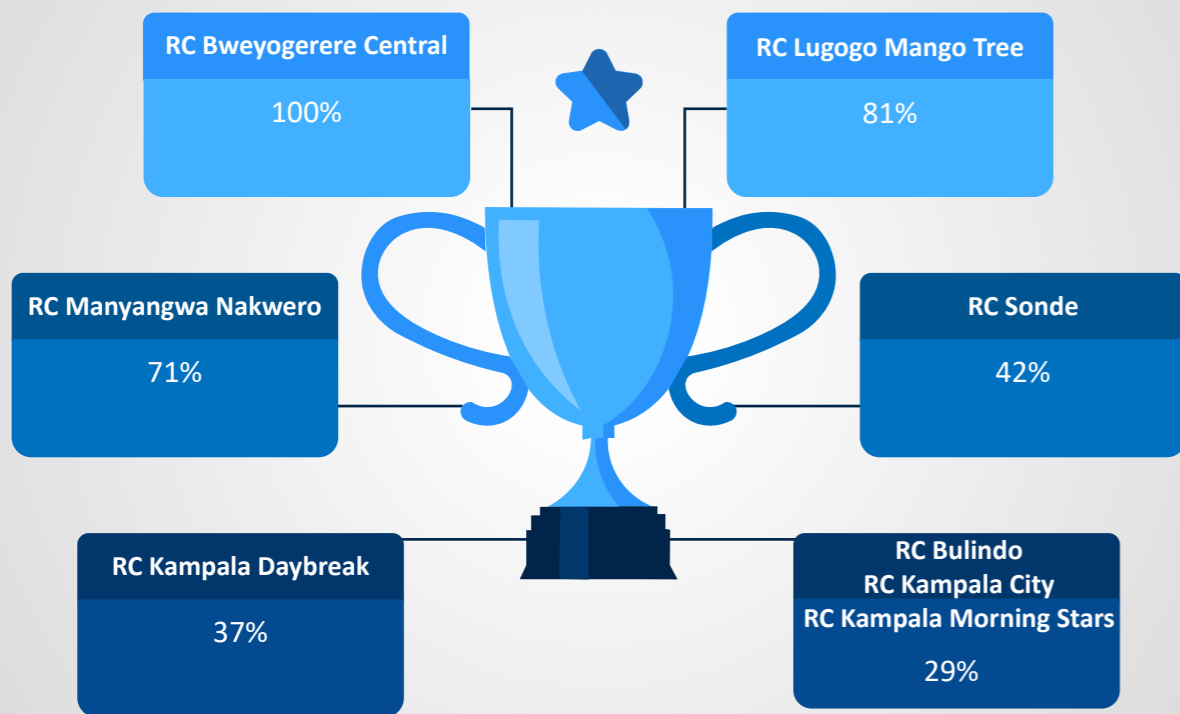
The magnitude of support required to uplift the Boy Child is not even a quarter way achieved, and that is why the Rotary and Rotaract Family must work with all stakeholders in the country to add forces to this noble cause. The good news is this stakeholder support has already started right from the Religious Organs.

The Most Rev. Dr Stephen Samuel Kazimba Mugalu is at the forefront of mentoring boys in the 'Boys to Men' initiative through the Church of Uganda. He also gave a talk at the Rotary Club of Kampala-Sse Islands on the Challenges of the Boy Child in Holy Matrimony.

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RECOGNITION OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

Clubs with the highest % of members contributing to TRF as of 5th October 2024



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Another religious leader, the Rev. Fr Deogratias Kiibi Katerega also gave a talk at the Rotary Club of Kiira and emphasised the need for our Boys to be economically supported to acquire skills and tools to get them started or revamp their small businesses.

Rotarians and Rotaractors purposed to implement this programme under two major areas, basic education and literacy, and economic and community development. r of implementation, the programme witnessed a great collaboration with School Administrators collaborating with Rotarians and Rotaractors to support the Boys in School under different uplifting projects. The Rotary Club of Sonde adopted student Boys at the launch of the Boy Child Uplifting Programme.

The boys are in uniform and orderly and easily conform to instruction. They are also easily identified in any crowd.

Emphasis must be given to the growth of the economic well-being of the Boy Child, and this

requires Rotarians, Rotaractors and all stakeholders to get down to the communities to identify and support these Boys. This journey has started. Sports is an equally powerful tool to boost the economic status of our Boys and young men. This was also demonstrated by the Rotary Club of Gayaza in their mentorship efforts to uplift the Boy Child.

PERTINENT STATISTICS

- Crime: 74,444 prisoners, including pre-trial detainees, remand prisoners and convicts: 95.4% are male, 4.6% female
- Addiction: 60%-71% of school-going children (12 to 24 years) use addictive substances, especially alcohol (19.3%) and drugs (4.4%), (May 26, 2022). Boys are two times more prone than girls.

- School drop-outs: One in 10 school-age children did not report back to school in January 2022, after the COVID-19-induced lockdown due to lack of school fees and requirements, loss of parents and guardians, peer pressure for sustaining small income initiatives during the

lockdown.

- The share of the workforce aged 15 to 24 that is currently not working but is actively searching for work is 4.5% (2023) excluding the majority of long unemployed and unskilled.

Economic and Community development, therefore, requires us to identify the upcoming generation in our communities and for us to remain hands-on to support their decent growth.

We can start by recognising the silently celebrated days like the International Boys Child Day.

We can annually convene our Boys in a designated venue and celebrate them; with their fathers, uncles and male guardians; the girls and women too in accompaniment for support!

To recognise their outstanding small, medium and big efforts and contributions to make things happen in their personal space and their networks. This is how we shall start to build a confident and resilient nation with boys, girls, men and women of substance and all of us together, will become economically sound for a bigger and better nation!

Rotary Titles are More Than Just Labels



MARK GERALD ASIMWE, RC SATURDAY E JAZZ

In many workplaces and public spaces, people are addressed by their titles — manager, HR, counsel, ED, chairman, boss, etc. Rotary is no different. At Rotary events, titles like President, Past President, Assistant Governor, and Past Assistant Governor are frequently used. But what do these titles mean to you as a Rotarian or Rotaractor?

Titles often represent more than just labels. They carry a sense of responsibility, authority and accomplishment. Titles can be a source of pride and a symbol of achievement, influencing how others perceive you and your capabilities.

A title like President implies a leadership role, while “District Officer” suggests a higher level of authority and decision-making power. These titles reflect your role within the organisation, your level of expertise, your leadership or the scope of your responsibilities.

However, titles have increasingly become status symbols. For instance, some Rotarians may not respond, unless addressed by their



title, like MD (Major Donor), PHF (Paul Harris Fellow), or ARCH (Arch Klamp) indicating their significant financial contribution to the Rotary Foundation. For some,

titles are more about status than impact.

I recall interactions with Peter Mukuru, a seasoned Rotarian from the Rotary Club of Kampala South.

He mentored and trained our club (RC Saturday E Jazz). When I addressed him as ‘PAG Peter in a WhatsApp message, he responded, “Young man, who is PAG? Please address me as Peter or Rtn Peter.” His response underscored the notion that titles, while part of one’s identity, should not define a person’s worth or skills.

Titles should align with personal and professional growth, rather than a mere desire for status. It is the skills, experience and character behind the title that makes a person valuable in any role.

In the world of service organisations, the term ‘Rotarian’ often invokes images of accomplished professionals and leaders. However, delving deeper

In the world of service organisations, the term ‘Rotarian’ often invokes images of accomplished professionals and leaders.

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Past District Governor John Magezi Ndamira in action with members of the Rotary Club of Upper Kololo

A Path to Personal Growth and Leadership

By Mary Namuwaya

As a Rotarian, I have discovered a world of opportunities that have significantly shaped my personal and professional life. Transitioning from the Rotaract Club of Naguru to the Rotary E-Club of Naguru has been an enlightening experience. The shift has not only enhanced my leadership skills but has also provided me with a deeper understanding of what it truly means to serve.

At Rotaract, we often focus on developing our skills and building networks among our peers. While this is incredibly valuable, the transition to Rotary introduced me to new challenges and opportunities for growth. I quickly learned that Rotary 9213's scope extends beyond the familiar and pushes us to work under pressure, manage more complex projects, and interact with people from diverse age groups and professional backgrounds.

The experience has been transformative. Working alongside seasoned Rotarians, I have gained insights that I wouldn't have encountered in Rotaract alone. It has broadened my perspective on service, collaboration, and leadership. The mentorship and support from my fellow Rotarians have been instrumental in helping me navigate the complexities of our projects and initiatives.

For my fellow Rotaractors, I strongly encourage you to consider transitioning to Rotary or taking on dual membership.

This step will not only enhance your skills but also expose you to a wealth of knowledge and experience that can be invaluable for your personal and professional development.

It is an opportunity to learn how to engage with and understand people who may not share your background or age group, which is a critical skill in today's diverse world.

The journey from Rotaract to Rotary has been fulfilling, and I am grateful for the chance to grow in such a supportive and dynamic environment. I look forward to continuing my journey, learning from my peers, and contributing to our shared mission of service above self.

Mary Namuwaya is a Past Assistant District Rotaract Representative, Past President, Rotarian, and now Public Image Director, of Rotary E-Club of Naguru.



Rotarians of the Rotary Club of Lugogo-Mango Tree receive their Paul Harris Fellows certificates

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into Rotary's essence reveals that it is not about titles, but a profound commitment to service, leadership, and making a difference.

Rotary International stands as a beacon of humility and selfless service. The organisation's motto, 'Service Above Self', emphasises the importance of action over recognition. Rotarians, irrespective of their titles, strive to positively impact their communities and the world at large.

The late Sam F. Owori, a revered Rotarian in Uganda, insisted on being addressed simply as Rotarian Sam, reflecting his commitment to service over titles. Similarly, past District Governor Tusu prefers being called Tusu or Rtn Tusu, reminding us that a true Rotarian's measure lies in their commitment to service, not the titles they hold. Rotary International President John F. Germ (2016-2017) emphasised that his title

was secondary to his dedication to Rotary's values and his commitment to fostering peace, fighting disease, and providing clean water. He believed that Rotarians are defined not by their titles, but by their deep desire to help others.

Titles bring several benefits. They define responsibilities and expectations, enhancing efficiency and co-ordination. Titles can recognise contributions and motivate members to take on leadership roles. Clear lines of accountability are essential for effective project management and decision-making.

However, titles can also present challenges. Titles might create perceived hierarchies, discouraging inclusivity and collaboration. There is a risk that the focus shifts from service and impact to attaining and holding titles. Titles can sometimes become status symbols rather than representations of actual

contributions. Some Rotary clubs explore titleless leadership, emphasising contributions over official titles. These clubs focus on shared leadership and collective responsibility, fostering a more inclusive and collaborative environment.

Rotary's message is clear: Titles and honours are fleeting, but the impact of service endures. Rotarians understand that their true measure is not in the titles they hold, but in the lives they touch and the communities they uplift. As Mother Teresa said: "It's not what we do, but how much love we put into it that matters."

We invite Rotarians in Uganda to reflect on the role of titles in their service. Let us strive to align our pursuit of titles with personal and professional growth and focus on the impact of our actions rather than the labels we hold.

Together, we can continue to make a lasting difference in our communities and the world.

Rotary Moment a Testament To Collaboration and Excellence



CAROL KYAZZE KAKOOZA

There is something truly awe-inspiring about the strides Rotary clubs in Uganda have made in enhancing their public image. Across the nation, our clubs are shining more brightly than ever, gracing television screens, echoing across radio waves, and harnessing the immense power of online platforms to connect with broader audiences. This transformation results from relentless dedication by PR directors within the clubs and at the district level, bringing Rotary’s mission into homes and hearts across Uganda.

They have ensured that media houses are present at every event, and it is gratifying to see how rarely Rotary now appears in negative press. Increasingly, strangers come to our defence, having witnessed the impact of



our work through various media channels.

My journey in building a media presence began three years ago with the launch of The Rotary Moment. At the start, we almost pleaded with Rotary clubs to allow us to cover their events. But today, The Rotary Moment is a recognised force. We have covered five district conferences, and this footage remains available on our YouTube channel, standing as a powerful archive of our dedication and energy.

In the early days, I often covered the costs for many events myself. Over time, we introduced a subsidy programme, and today we have expanded to a second television network. We now broadcast through three channels: UBC on Tuesdays, BE TV daily, and our Rotary Moment YouTube channel, with over 150 videos showcasing the vibrancy of Rotary in Uganda. Whether it’s a club installation or a project implementation, our coverage brings to life the vision of incoming presidents, allowing the public to witness first-hand

how Rotary serves communities — often reaching places that government projects may overlook.

The Rotary Moment has also had the privilege of engaging in meaningful conversations with Rotary International Presidents. Shekhar Mehta’s passion for helping children with heart conditions deeply touched me, while Jennifer Jones, Rotary’s first female President, reassured me with her vision for growth and sharing Rotary 9213’s story.

I have also had the honour of interviewing phenomenal leaders such as PLO Lumumba, the eloquent Katikkiro of Buganda, Owekitibwa Charles Peter Mayiga, and the impressive King Oyo of Toro.

These dialogues were not simply agenda-driven; they were profound exchanges grounded in the district’s values and the impact of our work.

Our dedication has ensured that the legacies of our district governors — John Magezi Ndamira, Mike Ssebalu, Edward Kakembo Nsubuga, and Francisco

Ssemwanga — are preserved for posterity. Their profiles are immortalised on platforms like YouTube, providing insights into Rotary 9213’s story and leadership.

We will continue to profile governors and past leaders, giving a glimpse into the extraordinary achievements that have shaped our district, such as the Cancer Ward initiative, the Blood Bank set-up, and the ongoing impact of Mission Green and the Rotary Roses. We highlight how Rotary thrived during the COVID-19 pandemic, even holding district conferences amidst the crisis, and explore the selection of conference locations like Arusha.

On a personal note, my passion for showcasing Rotary’s beauty comes not from a career in media, but from my deep love for the organisation and its mission. By classification, I am a Data Forensic Scientist, and my Rotary vocation is Data Services. However, when the cameras roll for The Rotary Moment and the director calls “action!” I am reminded of the immense power of storytelling.

Together, let us continue to be proud ambassadors of Rotary’s values and champions of its public image.

I believe every Rotarian, regardless of media expertise, can champion our public image.

You don’t need to be an expert; you simply need to love what you do for Rotary and have an authentic story to share. We are instruments of change, and by telling our stories, we invite the world to experience the joy and fulfillment we feel in service. There is no greater satisfaction than seeing the smiles of those we help, and we want to

share that euphoria with the world through our media presence.

I am deeply grateful to my Rotary Club of Kiwatule, for without their unwavering support, none of this would have been possible. As we move forward, let us continue to operate with professionalism and integrity, upholding Rotary’s Four-Way Test in all we do. Let us learn from one another, collaborate rather than compete, and ensure that as public image work grows commercially, it remains rooted in mutual respect and cooperation.

I also express my gratitude to Centenary Bank, whose sponsorship of district conferences has helped ease the financial burden of these large-scale events, allowing us to focus on showcasing Rotary’s incredible work.

Finally, my deepest thanks to all my fellow Rotarians for believing in the importance of the work we do and recognising the value of sharing it with the world.

Together, let us continue to be proud ambassadors of Rotary’s values and champions of its public image. Indeed, there has never been a better time to be in Rotary!



Rotary Women brings Rotary activities to the world’s attention

Shaping Dreams Through Rotary

By Rtn Emmanuel Mwaka – RC Sonde

As October begins, our attention turns to one of Rotary 9213's key areas of focus - Economic and Community Development. It is during this time that we reflect on the powerful ways we can transform lives, not only in Uganda but around the world.

Uganda, a country rich in vibrant cultures and diverse traditions, is a land where dreams abound. Yet, beneath this colourful exterior, harsh realities demand our compassion and action. It's a sobering truth that a significant portion of the population survives on less than \$2 a day. This statistic compels us to respond with more than just words.

However, amid these challenges, a beacon of hope remains – the resilience of the people. Millions face adversity daily, yet their spirits remain unbroken. This resilience speaks to the inner strength of our communities, and it is here that Rotary's mission finds its true purpose.

Another striking reality in Uganda is that of the 49 million people, half the population are under the age of 25. These young individuals are the torchbearers of the nation's future, the custodians of dreams waiting to be realised. As Rotarians, we hold the power to shape these dreams, creating pathways that not only foster economic growth but also



This October, let us honour the resilience of our global community, recognising that within every challenge lies the opportunity for transformation.

nurture the boundless potential within each young life.

Our projects are the threads in a tapestry of change: Vocational training centres in Uganda have equipped youth with skills in electronics, sewing, carpentry, and more – empowering them to find jobs or start businesses, contributing to economic development. Clean water and sanitation initiatives have improved public health while also stimulating economic activity; microfinance programmes have fueled entrepreneurship by providing much-needed loans.

Medical clinics have enhanced healthcare services, indirectly supporting economic growth. Investments in education continue to enable individuals to pursue better opportunities.

These accomplishments, inspired by Rotary's dedication, are stories of transformation. They remind us that our work, though often unsung, leaves a lasting imprint on the lives we touch. As we stand at the intersection of compassion and action, let us continue to carry forth Rotary's spirit, fostering change in ways as unique as the communities we serve.

This October, let us honour the resilience of our global community, recognising that within every challenge lies the opportunity for transformation.

As we step out to serve, may our hearts remain open and our hands extended, for it is through these acts that we truly make a difference in the lives of many across the world.

Empowering Communities: Rotary's Role in Community Economic Development

By Robert Odedo, RC Kampala Maisha. District Area of Focus Champion, CED. D9213

In October, Rotary clubs around the globe focus on one of Rotary International's most impactful focus areas: Community Economic Development. This focus area represents Rotary's commitment to fostering sustainable economic growth, improving livelihoods, and building resilient communities across the globe.

What is Community Economic Development?

Community Economic Development (CED) involves creating economic opportunities and improving the quality of life for people, particularly in underprivileged areas. Rotary clubs globally invest technical, financial and other inputs in providing access to education, training, resources, and financial support which help communities thrive. From offering vocational training to creating micro-credit schemes, Rotary empowers communities to overcome economic challenges and take control of their future.

D9213's Role in Transforming Communities

In Uganda, the power of CED is evident. Across Rotary District 9213, clubs have undertaken initiatives to create lasting economic change. Some clubs have launched Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), providing communities with micro-credit facilities to support small-scale enterprises. Others have introduced vocational training programs, equipping youth, women, and people with disabilities



The projects have strengthened the overall resilience of communities.

with the skills they need to secure employment or start their businesses. These projects have not only helped boost individual incomes but also strengthened the overall resilience of communities.

Why Community Economic Development Matters to Rotary

At the heart of Rotary's mission is the desire to create a better, more equitable world. Economic empowerment is a critical pillar of this mission, as poverty is often the root cause of other challenges, such as poor health, lack of education, and conflict. By focusing on community economic development, Rotary clubs are helping to break the cycle of poverty and unlock new

opportunities for people in need.

In Uganda, where many communities still grapple with high unemployment rates and limited access to capital, Rotary's work in this area has the potential to transform lives. As we empower people to generate their income, we are not just addressing their immediate needs, but also setting them on a path to sustainable, long-term success.

Opportunities for Clubs to Enhance Impact

There are numerous strengths that Rotary clubs in Uganda can leverage when designing and implementing Community Economic Development projects:

- **Local Knowledge:** Rotary clubs have deep-rooted knowledge of the communities they serve, making it easier to identify the specific needs of each community.
- **Rotary's Global Network:** Clubs can tap into Rotary's global network for funding, technical expertise, and best practices from successful projects around the world.
- **Diverse Membership:** With a diverse membership base, clubs can draw on the expertise of members from different professional backgrounds to design effective interventions.
- **Collaborations:** Partnering with local businesses, NGOs and government agencies can enhance the reach and sustainability of projects.

Possible Projects in Community Economic Development

There are numerous ways that Rotary clubs can support Community Economic Development:

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- Microcredit Programmes (VSLAs): Clubs can set up Village Savings and Loan Associations, where community members contribute to a savings pool and receive small loans to start or expand businesses.
- Vocational Skills Training: Focus on marginalised groups, such as women, youth and people with disabilities, offering training in marketable skills like carpentry, tailoring, or IT.
- Entrepreneurship Development: Provide mentorship and business development support to young entrepreneurs looking to start small businesses.
- Agricultural Cooperatives: Support farmers in forming cooperatives to access better markets, reduce costs, and improve farming practices.
- Job Placement Initiatives: Create linkages between vocational training centres and employers, helping trained individuals secure employment.

Steps in Designing a Community Economic Development Project

To ensure that Community Economic Development projects are successful, Rotary clubs can follow a simple, but effective process:

- 1 Needs Assessment:** Start by identifying the specific economic challenges facing the community through surveys, interviews, or community forums.
- 2 Project Design:** Based on the needs assessment, outline clear project goals, target beneficiaries, and a detailed implementation plan.
- 3 Resource Mobilisation:** Identify funding sources, including Rotary Foundation grants, partnerships with local businesses, or community fundraising efforts.
- 4 Implementation:** Engage with the community throughout the project to ensure local ownership and sustainability.
- 5 Monitoring and Evaluation:** Continuously track progress and outcomes to ensure that the project is

achieving its goals. Adjust strategies as needed to improve results.

Selected Community Economic Development Interventions by Clubs in D9213

1 Ntenjeru Women’s Empowerment Project

Club: Rotary Club of Kampala Maisha

Location: Ntenjeru Sub County, Mukono District

Project Duration: 2021-2024 and beyond

In partnership with the Rotary Club of Frankfurt Stadel and seven other clubs under the Frankfurt Plus network, the Rotary Club of Kampala Maisha is implementing the Ntenjeru Women’s Empowerment Project with a \$220,000 grant from The Rotary Foundation (GG2096194). This initiative empowers local women across several villages by equipping them with vocational skills, financial literacy, and access to micro-credit through group lending.

365 women, organised into 15 groups, have been mobilised, many of them from pre-existing associations. Group lending, facilitated by FINCA Uganda, provides women with credit based on collective responsibility. This has allowed many women to start or expand income-generating activities.

Key Achievements

Financial Literacy: 17 groups (358 individuals) completed training, achieving 89.5% of the target.

Business Skills: Tailored training sessions focused on planning, marketing, and operational management.

Microloan Disbursement: 116 loans, totalling UGX 114.7 million, have been disbursed since April 2022, with a 98% repayment success rate as of September 2024.

2 Financial Empowerment of Women in Nakawa Market

Club: Rotary Club of Kampala Impala

Location: Nakawa Market, Kampala

Project Duration: August-September 2024
Launched in August 2024, this project aims to empower 67 women vendors in Nakawa Market by

enhancing their financial and business management skills.

Delivered in partnership with FINCA Uganda, the training covered topics, such as budgeting, saving, loan management and customer service, culminating in a graduation ceremony on 6th September 2024.

3 Bringing Hope and Joy through Skilling Juveniles at Naguru Remand Home

Club: Rotary Club of Upper Kololo

Location: Naguru Remand Home, Kampala

Project Duration: Ongoing (2022-Present)

The Rotary Club of Upper Kololo has trained over 150 juveniles at Naguru Remand Home in vocational skills such as tailoring, poultry, piggery, horticulture, and salon work.

On August 23, 2024, 50 juveniles graduated with certificates, marking their readiness to reintegrate into society with employable skills.

4 Women and Youth Economic Empowerment in Kiwenda

Club: Rotary Club of Kiwenda

Location: Kiwenda Town, Wakiso District

Project Duration: 2023-2024

The Rotary Club of Kiwenda, in collaboration with CHAIN Uganda, has trained 35 beneficiaries in making liquid and bar soap as an alternative to agriculture. The training also included financial literacy to ensure the beneficiaries can manage the income generated from their products.

5 Luwerere Community Agricultural Skilling Project

Club: Rotary Club of The Source of the Nile

Location: Luwerere Village, Mayuge District

Project Duration: January 2024 –

The Luwerere Community Agricultural Skilling Project targets 200 farmers, mostly youth, to enhance skills in crop agronomy, mechanisation, post-harvest handling, and using modern implements including a tractor, to increase productivity and income.



Rotafield Schools – Started by Rotarians

By Gift Ann Typhine, Deputy Headteacher

Rotafield Schools is a school that was started by a group of Rotarians who were leaders in the Rotary year 2015/2016 when PDG Bob Nsibirwa was the District Governor. In November 2016 during an extraordinary meeting, the leaders came up with the idea of starting an investment activity which was a school.

World Class Team Limited (WCT) as a registered company started Rotafield Schools with an International Nursery school which was located in Naguru. In 2021 they acquired land in Kira Division, Kitukutwe village where they constructed another campus that comprises both Nursery and Primary school.

As Rotarians we all know that

Our Strategic Objective is to prosper in the education sector.

education is one of the areas of Focus that Rotary takes passionately, so we wanted to give back to our society a good education where the children can learn and become responsible citizens.

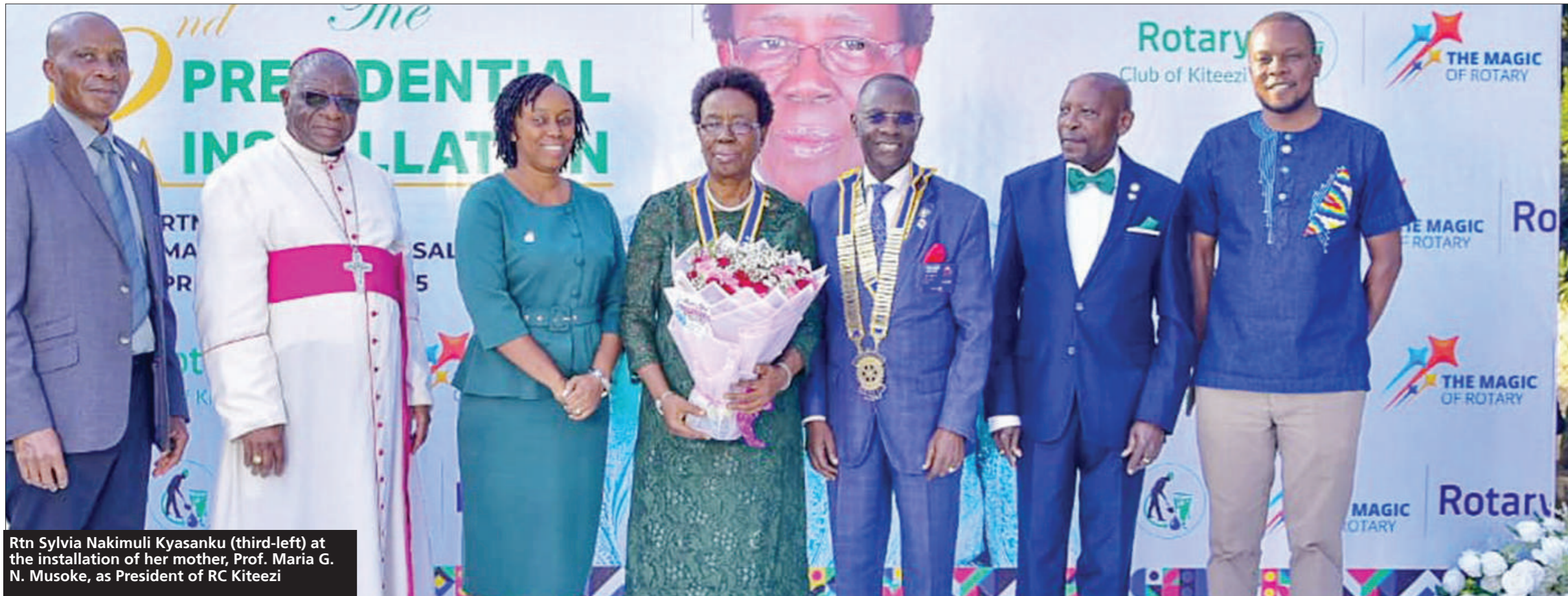
Our Strategic Objective is to prosper in the education sector and give each of our customers (children and parents) unique individual experiences as a drive of several key objectives which include:

To provide a Holistic Education to children where creativity & Innovation are the Centre of our success.

Give parents a lasting experience where we will become a Centre of reference.

Grow the Rotafield Schools brand to a level where it is synonymous with success and quality.

Visit our home in Bulindo-Kitukutwe Riverside Road plot 1009 Kampala Uganda
Website: www.rotafieldschools.com
Email: rotafieldschools@gmail.com



Rtn Sylvia Nakimuli Kyasanku (third-left) at the installation of her mother, Prof. Maria G. N. Musoke, as President of RC Kiteezi

Mother and Daughter Presidents

Rtn. Sylvia Nakimuli Kyasanku, (PHF) President RC Buloba

I joined Rotary in April 2016. By then, the Club was meeting at Forest Park and we would get talks from members of Kampala Central, (our mother club), who kept reminding us that, 'Rotary is service above self'.

I joined Rotary to serve because I am passionate and committed to serving communities. I believe by serving others in a community, we are opening another opportunity for someone and we are also building ourselves. I am the only surviving female Charter member of RC Buloba, a Club that was chartered on June 28, 2016.

I have learned to value myself and my time. Time is not the main thing. It is the only thing.

Since I joined, I have held several positions in the Club, including Director of Polio and then Director of Family of Rotary in both the Change Marker and Opportunity years. During the Hope Creator year, I was the Club Secretary and

PE. When I was elected President, I had mixed feelings and lots of fear. To me, the Presidency is a huge hard task and it makes you leave most of your other work. I am the chief executive officer of a child-focused Christian organisation, I am a Church leader, I have businesses to supervise, and above all, I have a family - I am a wife, a mother and a firstborn.

RC Presidency has taught me a few more things about leadership, people relations, etc. For example, I have learned to value myself and my time. Time is not the main thing. It is the only thing. So, do what is useful, reject what is useless and add what is specifically your own.

Presidency is not just a walk in the park. It is a test of patience,

resilience, understanding, commitment and work ethics.

In the nine years I have spent in Rotary there have been some positive and some negative.

However, I have always said that life is a bag of good and bad, it is good to concentrate on each other's positives and build on them to support one another. If all Rotarians would keep their hearts strong and committed, and follow the Four Way Test, then most of our Clubs would be shining. As we create light for others, we need to light our way as well.

When DG Anne accepted to visit our Club's second Magic project at 2:00pm, amidst her busy schedule, I was extremely happy and humbled. I am forever grateful to DG Anne because the programme to RC Buloba was supposed to start at 4:00pm, but she willingly agreed to adjust it to 2:00pm as we requested. These are the leaders we need – considerate, supportive and

motivating.

The Maternal and Child Health project is something that needed attention, I felt the DG needed to be with us at the Health Centre and for Rotary to be known to these ladies.

Seeing them get the Mama Kits and waiting eagerly with smiles to get scanned so that they could go back home with a report to show their families was a very big deal for me.

Mother Theresa said: "The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention." I still believe we should give light in the darkest moments and hope for a better community because of our interventions.

DAUGHTER AND MOTHER MAGICAL PRESIDENTS

It was and still is magical to see both my mother and I as Presidents of Rotary Clubs in District 9213.

I kept encouraging my mother to join Rotary and many of her friends

did, but her busy academic life made it difficult. She had planned to join Rotary when she retires but when the RC Kiteezi was started a few metres from her residence, she could not resist it anymore.

She consulted me and I told her stories of the community activities we were doing and knowing how she loves to serve communities, she made up her mind to join earlier than she had planned.

Our family is, therefore, fully serving Rotary from one generation to another this year. My mother, Prof. Maria G. N. Musoke, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Kyambogo University, is also the President of the Rotary Club of Kiteezi, a Club that was started in July 2022 and chartered in May 2023.

She is, therefore, a Charter member and new to the Rotary family, but she is a very fast learner and is doing very well. I have been impressed by her unwavering energy and commitment to the Kiteezi Landfill disaster survivors. She has played a key role in mobilising relief items from RCs and coordinating with the Red Cross at the camp and the local authorities.

We are both happy about serving Rotary and we respect its values and object, which we truly treasure. We visited some Clubs together and we both attended the District conference in April at Muyonyo, we had a lot of fun, as well as learning new things. We were supposed to have traveled to Singapore together, but I failed due to work-related issues. We already share some Rotary memories and enjoy every bit of it, as well as sharing some challenges and encouraging each other.

Finally, the magic of Rotary is indeed doing magic in my life and am grateful to my Club members who gave me the chance to walk the Magic journey with them.

I end with a quote: "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."



The Rotary E-Club of Naguru planting trees in Moroto

Planting Balance in Moroto

By Rtn Mary Namuwaya,
Public Image Director

On Saturday, August 3, 2024, the Rotary E-Club of Naguru, in partnership with the Moroto Regional Referral Hospital and Moroto Municipality, embarked on a significant tree-planting initiative to combat malnutrition and promote environmental sustainability.

The event saw the enthusiastic participation of over 200 community members who resident dignitaries joined to plant 1,200 fruit trees, generously provided by Roofings Company Limited and the National Forestry Authority, on the grounds of the Moroto Regional Referral Hospital and various locations across the Moroto Municipality. These fruit trees including mango, avocado,

In addition to the fruit trees, over 200 timber trees were also planted around the municipality.

and citrus varieties, are expected to provide a sustainable source of nutrition for the local community, thereby addressing the pressing issue of malnutrition.

In addition to the fruit trees, over 200 timber trees were also planted around the municipality. This effort is part of a larger

commitment to plant over 10,000 trees across the region, significantly enhancing the forest cover and contributing to environmental conservation.

Following the planting activities, a hospitality event was held to celebrate the successful collaboration. Discussions centered on the ongoing commitment to environmental initiatives and the potential for future projects aimed at enhancing the well-being of the community and the environment.

The tree planting initiative in Moroto stands as a testament to the power of collective action and the enduring impact of the Rotarian service. As Rotary districts 9213 and 9214 celebrate 100 years of Rotary in Africa, the Plant My Balance initiative exemplifies the organisation's dedication to creating a healthier, greener future for all.

Partnership with Naguru Children's Reception Centre

By PP Charles Turyamureba

Established by Save The Children UK Fund in 1959, Naguru Children's Reception Centre (NCRC) was handed over to the government of Uganda in 1973. Due to poor funding thereafter, the Centre encountered several challenges and it started approaching various institutions for support.

During the Rotary year 1989/1990, Ms Christine Kajumba, who was the newly appointed in-charge of NCRC, approached RC Kololo with a request for support to the Centre.

Under the leadership of the seating club President, the late Rtn Pascal Mukasa, the board and the entire club membership agreed to support the centre. This was the beginning of the long relationship

Over the years, the Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala has carried out various projects to improve the condition and welfare of the children at the Centre.

between the Club and NCRC, which has been maintained up to

the present day.

Over the years, the Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala has carried out various projects to improve the condition and welfare of the children at the Centre.

These include a sick bay, a girls' dormitory, a perimeter wall, WASH facilities, a poultry project, a heifer project, play facilities, renovation and face-lift of administration offices, dining room and stores; beds and beddings, furniture, kitchen retooling, a vegetable garden and Christmas parties.

I must add that the proximity NCRC to the RC Kololo has been a great advantage to the effective implementation of the projects, and in any case informed the choice of the centre for this partnership that is already 35 years and growing stronger every passing day.



Renovation works by RC Kaolol-Kampala at the Naguru Children's Reception Centre



Handing out books to school children



Immunisation at the medical camp

A Collaborative Launch of the Rotary Year 2024-2025

By Ritah Nabatanzi, Service project director, Rotary Club of Kampala Sseese Islands

On July 27, 2024, the Rotary Clubs of Kampala Sseese Islands and Masaka, along with their respective Rotaract Clubs, launched the Rotary Year 2024-2025 with a dynamic community outreach event in Masaka. A team of 70 Rotarians and 10 Rotaractors demonstrated the power of local partnerships.

The Rotary Club of Masaka, leveraging its local presence, played a crucial role in mobilizing on-the-ground resources and expertise, which significantly enhanced the event's impact.

ADDRESSING COMMUNITY-WIDE NEEDS

The outreach event was driven by a needs assessment at St. Bruno Sserunkuuma Ssaza Primary School, which identified an urgent need for a new girls' latrine and expanded medical care. Beyond the school, the District Health Office highlighted



Optician services at the medical camp

critical health issues in the surrounding community, including high rates of malaria, dental and optical ailments, and ongoing investigations into suspected polio cases.

Environmental concerns, particularly deforestation, also emerged, emphasising the need

for a comprehensive approach to improving both health and ecological well-being.

A WHIRLWIND OF GENEROSITY AND ACTION

A key highlight was the foundation stone ceremony for a new 8-stance girls' latrine at St. Bruno



checking blood pressure at the medical camp

Sserunkuuma, Ssaza Primary School, led by Rotary Presidents Moses Ssebugwawo and Dennis Kalyango. This marked a significant step toward improved sanitation and health for the students, underscoring Rotary's dedication to creating lasting community impact.

The medical camp, the core action of the outreach, showcased a remarkable array of services. Over 400 individuals received crucial general medical care, while the dental clinic provided relief to 119 patients. The optical clinic provided care to 184 people, offering glasses to those

in need and treating various eye conditions and specialised services offered vital support with HIV testing and counselling for 10, tuberculosis screenings, safe male circumcision, and vaccinations against polio, measles, and yellow fever.

Cancer screenings were a beacon of hope, reaching 35 individuals and offering early detection for cervical, prostate, and breast cancers. The spirit of giving was further exemplified by the 24 blood donors, whose contributions were invaluable. The day also saw the provision of essential legal aid to 15 individuals,

wrapping up the outreach with a comprehensive range of support that addressed both health and legal needs.

Extending beyond immediate care, the outreach embraced a holistic approach to community support. The donation of 105 new books to the school library sparked excitement and a love for reading among students. Five wheelchairs were given to those in need, and 400 fruit tree seedlings were distributed, symbolising a commitment to environmental sustainability. Generosity flowed through the distribution of over 500 items of clothing, 118 goodie bags from Unilever Uganda Limited, and 500 cancer run vests, each item representing the day's spirit of compassion and community.

REFLECTING ON IMPACT AND LOOKING AHEAD

The outreach showcased Rotary's impact through collaboration and community-focused action, addressing health, education, and environmental needs. It also highlighted the need for stronger branding for future visibility.

Celebrating the lives touched, the Rotary Club of Kampala Sseese Islands remains committed to uplifting communities and creating a future where everyone thrives.



Economic Community Empowerment of the Women of Namalemba in Namutumba

By Rtn Sam Farouk Mukasa – RC Kololo

Economic empowerment of women means that they have the skills and resources to improve their economic status and make the effort to move out of poverty. In addition, it means that they will have the capacity to decide how to utilise their income and other resources and make decisions affecting their lives.

They are also expected to emerge as strong business people, great household managers, and most importantly as the agents of change in their community who have the biggest role in making decisions for their families through community participation.

The Namutumba Women Economic Improvement and Health Intervention Project in Eastern Uganda aims to contribute towards the improvement of their welfare and their families through the creation of opportunities in several areas, including agribusiness value chains

and health.

The conceptualisation of women's empowerment was viewed in two major dimensions: economic advancement, their ability to succeed and advance economically and the power to make and act on economic decisions. For economic empowerment, we considered their access to productive resources such as human capital (their numbers), financial capital (loans, savings), physical capital (land, machinery), and social capital (networks and mentors).

The women of Namalemba have been armed to make and act on decisions regarding the distribution and control of resources and proceeds from their business ventures. This conceptual framework is the basis of our theory of change and the intervention that is being made to empower them through a combination of mentorship, and leadership training, to improve their basic business skills and their capacity for product development.

The other dimension is aimed at

improving the community health facilities, both of which were identified as areas of need by women who participated in the needs assessment of 2021. The intended exposition of women's economic empowerment is to empower them through skilling them in basic business skills and product development (adding value to the product).

We believe that skilling women in business will not only enhance their access to human capital but also improve capacity for their wellbeing. For instance, we anticipate that women who have trained in basic business skills and apply them in their businesses will improve the performance of their businesses in terms of increased profitability and their group expansion.

The project, located in Namutumba district in Eastern Uganda, was designed to contribute to the economic and social empowerment of women by empowering them economically and addressing the health challenges in the community

over the high maternal mortality problem.

In the health sector, 18 health workers will be trained in better healthcare, management of mothers with HIV and prevention of transmission from mother to child.

In addition, 30 expectant mothers and post-delivery mothers will be trained in basic health child management. The project will also target reducing the occurrence of malaria, pneumonia, diarrhea and HIV, the leading causes of mortality in children in general and for antenatal and perinatal care by 50%, a critical factor that increases neonatal mortality through training.

Economic community development will empower the women with the capacity to earn money by processing their produce (rice and maize processing techniques). It will also increase awareness of sustainable agriculture with a touch of economic empowerment, it will provide an electricity-powered huller for processing rice and maize to a group of women who are presently growing rice and selling it unprocessed for a price less than half of the processed rice. Where they attempt to process it, it takes them two days to process



one sack, a process that will be reduced significantly. The powered huller will have the capacity to process more than 30 bags a day.

The project will contribute to the economic and social empowerment of women of Namalemba and improve the health environment of the Namutumba Health Centre III. It will improve the livelihood of women and their families and through training

will be enlightened in business management.

We are confident that this project will change their lives, thanks also to the Rotary clubs of Evanston Lighthouse, Skokie Valley, St. Charles Breakfast, Barrington, Wheaton, Schaumburg-Hoffman Estates, Bartlett, Los Altos, Delta Township, Arlington Heights, Batavia, Glenview and RC Chicago.





A computer lab for the Namugongo Community

RC Bweyogerere-Namboole transforms Namugongo School Community

By Rev. Fr Henry Ssemakula

Although the Salesians of Don Bosco Catholic congregation concentrate on educating youngsters in poor environments to prepare them for a better future, their mission at Namugongo expected to take in street and abandoned children has been getting overwhelmed by also those coming from ‘normal’ homes. The numbers that have exceeded 560 are far beyond its resources and capacity to support.

It is in this light that the Rotary Club of Bweyogerere – Namboole (RCBN) came in to support us with three projects that will enable us to enhance and improve our services to the youngsters.

These three projects will not only promote the lives of our children, but will also help to economically empower us and protect the environment and that of the communities around us.

The first of these projects is the ‘Diary Cattle For Community Economic Empowerment and Nutrition which will support the community with milk for children, facilitate learning for pupils and also empower the community economically to meet other needs of the vulnerable children.

Being new our school lacked a well-facilitated library to support reading and reference guides for teachers, RCBN has now offered a modern stocked library under the project ‘Refurbishing and Furnishing of the Library

and Computer Lab’ to support e-learning. This is going to promote a reading culture in the school, and facilitate preparations for reading competition with neighbouring schools. It will also serve the surrounding community.

Environment protection is key nowadays for all to maintain a better world for those who will come after us.

At Don Bosco Community Namugongo, we have always suffered with firewood as fuel for preparing meals which not only destroys the environment but also is very costly, also the smoke produced from the firewood causes a negative public health impact for those in contact.

Observing this challenge and out of love for the poor and vulnerable

found in our community, RCBN has offered this community a kitchen with Solar cooking stoves and use of briquettes, supplemented by biogas under the project ‘Environmental protection with various components’.

This project will also see the planting of 210 fruit trees on the compound that will both serve the young people with fruits and safeguard the environment.

The Don Bosco community of Namugongo remains grateful and thankful to the Rotary Club of Bweyogerere-Namboole for the support given to its mission.

The youngsters are excited about the new library and cannot wait to

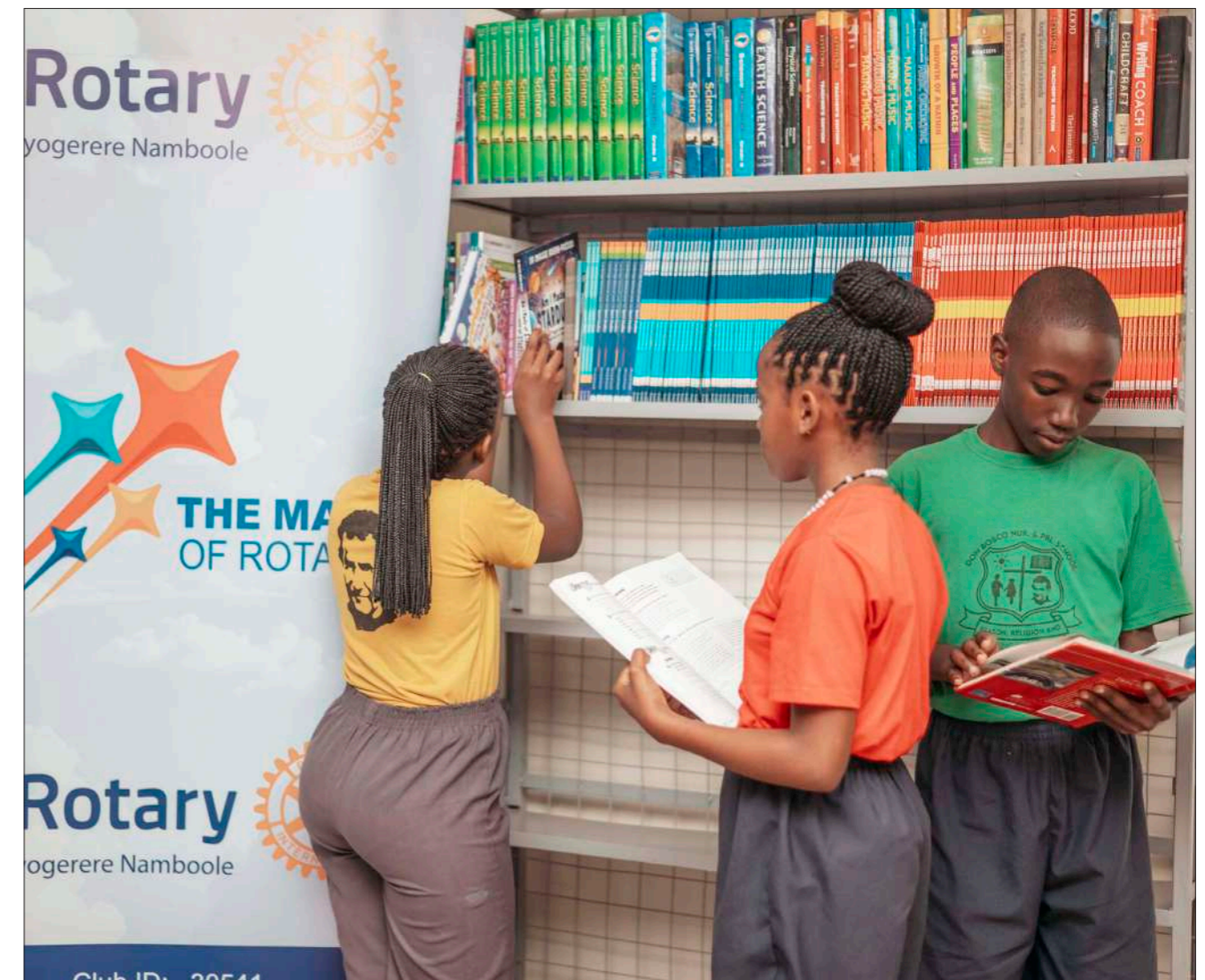
“The youngsters are excited about the new library and cannot wait to utilise it.”

utilise it.

The Salesian fathers and brothers managing this community, and the entire community cannot wait to see the completion of these projects as they are going to improve impressively not only the lives of the children and all members of the Don Bosco community but also neighbouring community of Namugongo-Kira as well.

I can’t wait to witness the completion of these highly impactful and transformative community projects.

May God bless RCBN.



A new library for the Namugongo Community



Giving Classy Housing to Special Needs Teachers

By Rtn. Samson Buwembo, Public Relations Officer

Jinja special needs teachers at Balitwegomba School of the Visually Impaired have breathed a sigh of relief, thanks to the Rotary Club of Jinja that has committed sh170 million to construct a five-unit self-contained room for them.

The Government-aided, universal primary education school cares for special needs pupils including 58 visually impaired students who rely on braille.

Ms. Betty Linda Ashaba, the headteacher, expressed gratitude towards Rotarians for their compassion, while Mr Shariff Muganwa, a visually-impaired teacher and beneficiary teaching at Buyengo Senior Secondary School in Jinja district, called upon both government and private sector

Past president William Okello revealed that the club allocates approximately sh25 million annually to cover various needs.

to promote inclusivity for equal employment opportunities.

The President of the Rotary Club of Jinja, Ronald Rujumba,

emphasised the link between quality accommodation for teachers and quality of education for visually impaired pupils.

“My leadership will focus more on environment protection by encouraging pupils and students in the school to plant trees and address climate change challenges,” he said.

Past president William Okello revealed that the club allocates approximately sh25 million annually to cover various needs of the pupils, including school fees, scholastic materials, food, medical services and utility bills, as well as repairs to the braille equipment.

“To sustain and facilitate a continuous education of the visually impaired children in the region, I propose a multi-purpose building for three billion Uganda shillings on the school land after completion of the accommodation facility,” Rtn William added.

Rotary E-club of Ntinda Secures the Future of Naguru Remand Home

By Lynn Odul, President

The Rotary E-Club of Ntinda, in partnership with Commonwealth Business Women Africa (CBW Africa), Tibasungurwa Development Foundation, and Zimba Technologies, recently embarked on a transformative project at the Naguru Remand Home. The initiative aimed to empower young minds and provide them with the tools and support necessary for a brighter future.

The remand home’s Officer in Charge, Mary Kyomugisha,

affectionately referred to as ‘Mummy’ by the residents, received the partners’ team which included Nana Wanjau, Vice President of CBW Africa and co-founder of the organisation. Nana highlighted the plight of the boy child, urging ‘all men of honour’ to step up as role models and mentors. Other partners from CBW, Gloria Aminat of Bora Minds Foundation, and Rennie Male commended the partnership for its effectiveness and inspiring hope.

Lydia Mwesigwa, the founder of Tibasungurwa Development Foundation, introduced the slogan, ‘I will shine my shine’, which resonated

deeply with the children.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROJECT:

- Empowering Young Minds: Providing educational opportunities and mentorship
- Skill Development: Offering vocational training and practical skills.
- Food Relief: Ensuring access to nutritious meals
- Mental Wellness: Supporting emotional and psychological well-being.
- Agricultural Initiatives: Promoting sustainable farming practices.





Charter members of the Rotary Club of Adjumani with DG Anne



Rotarians from RC Bugiri cutting a cake during their charter night with DG Anne

Celebrating New Beginnings: Charter Celebrations of Three Rotary Clubs in District 9213

By Rtn Maureen Kawombe Tumwebaze

As we look back to the first quarter of this Rotary year, District 9213 proudly celebrated the charter of three new clubs: The Rotary Club of Adjumani, Rotary Club of Bugiri Municipality and the Rotary Club of Nansana-Metro. Though these clubs were chartered in the last quarter of the previous Rotary year, their official celebrations took place this year, officiated by District Governor Anne Nkutu. This marks a significant expansion of Rotary's impact on our communities.

Rotary Club of Adjumani: Pioneering Service in the Ma'di sub-region
 Charter date: May 22, 2024
 Celebration Date: July 26, 2024
 Sponsor Club: Rotary Clubs of Gulu and Entebbe

The Rotary Club of Adjumani has engaged in impactful community projects, such as the Madi Cancer Run, which raised awareness.

The Rotary Club of Adjumani stands as the first Rotary club in

the Ma'di sub-region. Charter President Akuku Richard shares the club's vision: "We are thrilled to bring Rotary's values of service, fellowship, and integrity to the Madi Sub-region. Our club is dedicated to addressing local needs, promoting global understanding and inspiring positive change."

Comprising 24 dedicated members, the club has engaged in impactful community projects, such as the Madi Cancer Run, which raised awareness and provided support to cancer patients.

They have also secured a four-year scholarship for a top candidate in the National Primary Leaving Examination and donated irrigation kits to the Pagirinya refugee settlement. Currently, they are fundraising to provide sanitary pads for schoolgirls.

Weekly meetings are held every Thursday from 7:00pm to 8:00pm at Aragan Hotel, fostering a culture of fellowship and collaboration.

Rotary Club of Nansana Metro: A Vibrant New Community

Charter date: June 26, 2024
 Celebration Date: September 14, 2024

Sponsor Club: Rotary Club of Nansana

The Rotary Club of Nansana-Metro celebrated its charter with a lively spirit. Charter President Ankunda Balam reflects on their journey: "Our first meeting on January 5, 2024, was a memorable start. The rotation leadership strategy allowed us to discover our members' strengths and foster unity."

With 26 members, the club has cultivated a fun and engaging atmosphere, incorporating dance into their meetings at HolyFam Hotel every Friday from 7:00pm to 8:00pm.

President Balam, a multimedia lecturer, is excited to lead this energetic group as they plan future community projects.

Rotary Club of Bugiri Municipality: Committed to Service and Growth

Charter date: June 5, 2024
 Celebration Date: August 3, 2024
 Sponsor Club: Rotary Club of Jinja

The Rotary Club of Bugiri Municipality, with 25 members



Rtn Balam Ankunda is installed as Charter President of RC Nansana Metro

under the leadership of Charter President Biryeri Proscovia, is ready to make a significant impact. A professional teacher and long-time inspector of schools, Proscovia aims to leverage her extensive experience in service. She states: "My appointment as Charter President will help me build on my existing skills to serve above self."

While the club is in the early stages of establishing projects, Proscovia assures members that project proposals are in development, seeking guidance and support from the district.

Meetings are held every

Wednesday from 6:00pm to 7:00pm at the Executive Hotel, providing a platform for collaboration and planning.

As we celebrate these newly chartered clubs, we look forward to their contributions to our communities and the continued growth of Rotary's presence in District 9213.

Each club embodies the spirit of Rotary, dedicated to service, leadership, and fostering fellowship in their respective regions. Together, we can inspire positive change and uphold the values of Rotary International.

Rotary Club of Kampala



Rotary Club of Bulindo



Rotary Club of Saturday E-Jazz



Rotary Club of Kampala Morning Stars



Rotary Club of Najeera



Rotary Club of Sunrise Kampala



D9213 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) Programme 2024 | 2025

Theme: **Passion
Action
Reaction**

Date: **10th-12th
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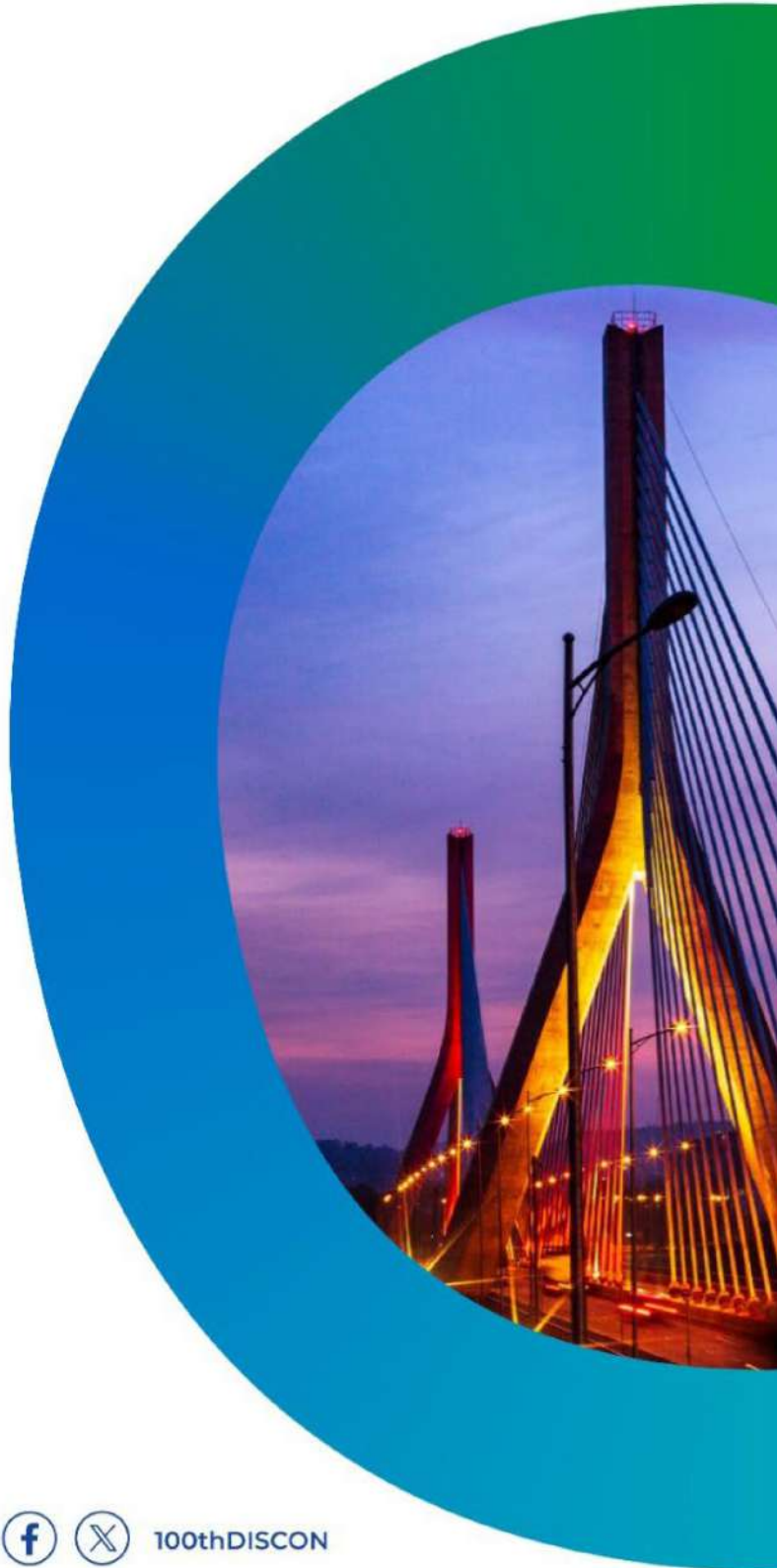
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