

THE WAVE

ISSUE 04 | OCTOBER 2025

Empowering Local communities, enhancing global Impact





EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION

(Exclusive of Lunch)

FOR ROTARIANS

FOR ROTARACTORS

\$149

\$99

DEADLINE: 31ST OCTOBER 2025

DATE

VENUE

**16-18
APRIL 2026**

Imperial Resort
Beach Hotel,
Entebbe



**Scan to register.
Registration
is now open**



DISCON 101

In
Partnership
with

fireworks
Advertising

CONTENTS

- 4** **Editor's Note:** The Power of Empowerment
- 6** RI President's Message: What communityled development looks like
- 7** District Governor's Message: Empowering the Vulnerable
- 8** The Safe Shield Project: Empowering the Kamwokya Community through Menstrual Hygiene Awareness & Self-Management Skills
- 10** Restoring Hope for Young Lives on Remand
- 12** RC Kitante Empowers Youth with Digital Opportunities
- 14** The Partnerships Pay Off: District 9213 Scores Big
- 16** Skilling for Equal Opportunities & Gender Based Violence Prevention
- 18** Plastics Packaging, and Employment: A case of Rotary Vijana Poa Centre at Sekiwunga
- 20** One Day, A Thousand Smiles at the Ssekanyonyi Medical Camp
- 22** RYLA 2025 Empowers Hundreds of Youths to Make a Difference
- 24** Shifting Mindsets: Rotary's Human- Centered Design Academy for Youth
- 26** Arua Eco City Club sends its First Global Citizen!
- 28** The Global Grant Application and Review Checklist
- 30** Rotary Community Corps: Strengthening Communities, Extending Rotary's Reach
- 31** Over 100 Rotarians Graduate from Rotary Leadership Institute, Embracing Facilitated Learning
- 32** A Rotary Scholar from the DRC - He knows how costly peace is.



At the FUSION Summit during the Rotary Zone 22 Institute in Brussels last month, District 9213 was recognised as the Top Most Contributor to the Rotary Foundation and to The Annual Fund; and as the Second Highest Polio Plus Contributor in Zone 22 for the year 2024/25. Vivè le Rotary!!

Editor's Note

The Power of Empowerment

In life, poverty strips us of our dignity. But in Rotary, we have the incredible opportunity to fight back. Community Economic Empowerment isn't about simply handing out money; that's a temporary fix that doesn't truly heal the root causes of poverty. Instead, it's about empowering people, especially women and youth, to create their own wealth and opportunities so they can build a better, more sustainable future for themselves.

This month's theme represents a powerful shift away from temporary aid towards building self-sufficient communities. Rotarians believe in providing people, most especially the youth with the skills and tools they need to thrive on their own. In this edition, you will read about projects where youth are being trained for self-sustenance, women are learning new skills, and even remanded juveniles are being given hope for a brighter future. By engaging with and empowering our youth, we can give them a path away from crime and towards a dignified livelihood. Now, that is the true spirit of Rotary.

We also have our usual monthly feature on how we can tap into the generous financial resources

available through global grants from The Rotary Foundation. I want to give a special thank you to Rtn Dr. Peter Isabirye for his consistently informative page; it's always a great read!

Beyond our own efforts, remember that we have more than enough friends and partners to work with. The call now is to tap into these relationships and partnerships to ensure we leave no one behind in the fight against poverty. There is money waiting for us at DFCU Bank, there is water flowing from Davis & Shirtliff, there is immense support for the green initiatives at UBL, from AMREF, and others, and there is great space for telling our stories at Next Media.

Finally, you'll learn how to establish and grow Rotary Corps, a group of enthusiastic community members who can help sustain our projects even after we've moved on to other areas. The Peace Fellows are back. Each month, the Scholarships desk brings us closer to the Fellows. This time we meet one from the DRC, and his story is a true example of the power of Rotary in action.

Enjoy the read!

Rtn Sheila Naturinda
RC-Kampala Central

Editorial team



Helen Nanteza Kawesa
RC Kampala Ssese Islands



Esther Mwambu
RC Kampala South



Innocent Ndawula
RC Kampala South



Peter Nyanzi
RC Kampala-Naalya



Tony Mushoborozi
Friend of Rotary



Amayo Roseline
RC Kirinya-Bukasa



Robert Walakira
RC Kasubi



AMOVAP

MEDICAL STORES LTD



FOR LABORATORY & HOSPITAL

SUPPLIES | KITS | REAGENTS | EQUIPMENT

CONTACT US

Telephone.: +256 200 906 907; +256 756 689 504

Location: Plot 62, Silva Arcade, Room B13 Bombo Road
P.O.Box 108392, Nakivubo-Kampala

RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

What community-led development looks like



October is Rotary's Community Economic Development Month, a time to spot light our efforts to help communities build thriving, sustainable futures. This month's observance aligns perfectly with the Rotary core value of leadership.

Leadership means empowering people to guide their own progress. That is precisely what Rotary's economic development projects aim to achieve.

Take, for example, a recent initiative in southern India in which Rotary members unlocked the power of women of the Adivasi tribal groups through sewing training to earn a living and regain social inclusion. Historically, widows and abandoned women in this region lose social standing and are shunned by society or blamed for their misfortunes. Opportunities to support themselves or obtain training are minimal.

This year, the Rotary Club of WindsorRoseland, Ontario, partnered with clubs in Districts 3203 and 3234 in India — and with the Indian organization Sevalaya Trust- to provide

sewing machines and training to 80 Adivasi women. They learned to stitch saree blouses, kurta tunics, and salwar suits, enabling them to support themselves and their families. Each woman received a certificate for completing the program, and the sewing-machine provider offered free long-term maintenance for the machines. The project offered vital income and dignity to women ostracized by society after widowhood.

This story is one example of Rotary leadership in action: local people guiding solutions that address their community needs. Our role is not to deliver charity or to impose outside models, but to foster self-reliance by investing in leadership, skills, and sustainable enterprise.

This October, I invite Rotary members worldwide to reflect on economic leadership in their communities. Who is stepping forward to lead local economic initiatives? Where is there untapped talent that could be supported with training or mentorship? How can your club catalyze opportunity through partnerships with local businesses, vocational schools,

or savings groups?

Leadership is not always about being visible. Sometimes it means listening, working collaboratively, and amplifying the voices of others. That approach lies at the heart of Rotary's philosophy and our lasting impact on economic development.

By building capacity — whether through microcredit groups, vocational training workshops, or entrepreneurship programs — we enable communities to lead their own transformation. When people take ownership of their progress, change becomes sustainable.

Let us lead with good intention and provide support with heart. By nurturing local leadership, we can create opportunities that ripple through communities, empowering individuals, families, and societies.

Together, we can support economies that work for everyone and enact community development projects that last.

FRANCESCO AREZZO

President, Rotary International

DG'S MESSAGE:

Empowering the Vulnerable



At the heart of Rotary's global mission lies a fundamental commitment to building a better world. As Rotarians, we are bound by the belief that lasting peace and prosperity cannot be built without **dignity, opportunity, and hope.**

Economic empowerment is not just about financial stability; it is about unlocking human potential, restoring dignity, and creating pathways for self-reliance. Rotary's motto, **Service Above Self**, is lived out every time we equip a young person with skills, every time we support a small entrepreneur, and every time we open doors for women and vulnerable groups to participate fully in economic life.

In many of our communities, poverty is not just the absence of money; it is the absence of **opportunity.** Unemployment among youth, limited access to credit, and a lack of vocational skills often trap families in cycles of poverty.

But where others see obstacles, Rotarians see **possibilities.** Economic empowerment is one of Rotary's seven areas of focus because it addresses the root causes of poverty and lays a foundation for sustainable development.

Rotary plays a significant role in economic development in Uganda. This has been through skills training, infrastructure, empowerment of marginalized groups, health interventions that reduce economic burdens, and partnership-driven community projects. These interventions

support Uganda's 3rd National Development Plan, particularly in boosting economic inclusion, infrastructure, human development, and agriculture and rural development. Our interventions also align with the global Sustainable Development Goals such as SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 6 (Clean Water & Sanitation), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), among others.

Through our economic empowerment projects, we have seen an increase in **incomes and job creation.**

Small enterprises and vocational training enable people to earn livelihoods rather than depending solely on subsistence or informal labor. Improved sanitation, clean water, and hygiene reduce incidences of disease. This reduces medical expenses and time lost to illness. The empowerment of women and youth helps

reduce inequality and promotes inclusive growth.

Behind every project is a human story:

- A young mother who once struggled to feed her children but now runs a tailoring business.
- A school leaver who, through vocational training, now earns a living in carpentry.
- A community that once lacked clean water but now thrives because time once spent fetching water is now spent in productive work.

These are the lives Rotary touches, and they remind us why we serve. When we empower one person economically, we empower a family. When we empower a family, we strengthen a community. And when we strengthen communities, we create the foundation for peace and prosperity in our nation and our world.

That is the true power of Rotary. Indeed, Rotary cares for our communities. **#RotaryEyamba**

**Geoffrey Martin Kitakule,
District Governor - Rotary
District 9213**

The Safe Shield Project: Empowering the Kamwokya Community through Menstrual Hygiene Awareness & Self-Management Skills

Menstrual health and hygiene remain critical challenges affecting millions of girls in Uganda, impacting on their education, health, and well-being.



Raymond Kalema,
Service Projects Director

Studies show that across Uganda, approximately 64% of girls miss school days due to menstruation-related challenges. Twenty-three percent (23%) of these girls,

between 12 to 18 years drop out after their first period.

Menstrual hygiene crises persist countrywide, fueled by inadequate access to sanitary products, insufficient sanitation facilities, and prevailing cultural taboos. Lack of affordable sanitary products forces many girls to rely on unsafe alternatives, contributing to infections and stigma. Boys and men are often excluded from menstrual health discussions, perpetuating misunderstandings and gender-based stigma.

At KCCA Primary School in Kamwokya, the Rotary Club of Kitante, in partnership with the Rotary Club of Naalya States, Rotaract Club of Kitante, and Muhimbo Foundation, last month launched the Safe Shield

project to address this pertinent issue. On Thursday, 24th September 2025, the school hosted the first in a series of menstrual hygiene education sessions, featuring interactive learning for both girls and boys.

“Kamwokya is the location for our club’s community service projects based on the Adopt-A-Village model. We have a number of project implementing partners in the area like KCCA Primary School, where, after conducting community needs assessment, we developed the Safe Shield project. Our first intervention at the school was stocking the school library and capacity development training for the teachers. The next project was a complete overhaul of the water harvesting system and toilets. We are also guided by the Rotary Areas of Focus so that we can support the areas where the school has identified the most critical challenges that need intervention,” says Maximilia Byenkya, President, RC of Kitante.



The President of RC Kitante, Maxi Byenkya and Muhimbo Care Foundations' Joy Mugisa training pupils how to make reusable Sanitary towels



Ms Joy Mugisha in a pose with students displaying powerful messages for Menstrual Hygiene from proper washing to breaking stigma.

The Safe Shield project aims to break the cycle by educating students accurately about menstrual health, demystifying myths, and fostering empathy and support among boys and girls alike. The inaugural session at KCCA Primary School combined awareness talks with hands-on training on how to make reusable sanitary pads using locally available materials. This practical skill empowers students, especially girls, to manage menstruation safely and affordably, enhancing their dignity and school attendance.

Additionally, it equips the learners with income-generating skills for the future, because

after the training, they are in position to produce reusable pads not only for themselves, but for commercial purposes as well.

The project has inclusion as one of its main objectives. A supportive school community is built by involving boys in all project activities. This is essential for lasting mind-set change. This approach also aligns with the Rotary Area of Focus on Maternal and Child Health, national efforts to integrate menstrual hygiene management into school curricula and the Ministry of Education and Sports' guidelines promoting access to timely information and

sanitary facilities.

The engagement with local youth at KCCA Primary School in Kamwokya marks a promising step toward addressing Uganda's menstrual health crisis directly at the community level. By providing knowledge, skills, and breaking harmful taboos, the Safe Shield project creates a foundation for healthier, more confident students who can participate fully in education without interruption. More sessions are planned to build on this momentum, with the goal of equipping all students at KCCA Primary with essential menstrual hygiene awareness and practical solutions.

Through continued collaboration between Rotary clubs, foundations, school leadership, and students, this initiative exemplifies community-driven action to secure a better future for Uganda's young girls and boys.

For KCCA Primary students and staff, the Safe Shield project offers hope and empowerment, transforming menstrual health from a barrier into a shield of strength and resilience.



Restoring Hope for Young Lives on Remand

Naguru Remand Home, situated in Kampala City, was established in 1954 with a capacity for 45 juveniles. Its aim initially was to provide custody for children awaiting trial in court. The law provides that children may be held for not more than 45 days for petty offences; and 90 days for capital offences; before being committed to the Kampiringisa National Rehabilitation Centre, if convicted. In practice, however, the slow resolution of cases has led to prolonged detention. Today, the facility hosts over 200 juveniles - 94% boys, out of whom, more than 75% are school dropouts and about 80% come from broken families. This overcrowding has created a pressing need for rehabilitation initiatives.

By Rtms Filbert Kinyanda and Elizabeth Mushabe

Uganda has seven Remand Homes located at: Naguru - Kampala in Central Uganda; Arua and Gulu in Northern Uganda; Mbale in Eastern Uganda; and Fort Portal, Kabale and Masindi in Western Uganda. Established under the Children Act Cap. 59, these facilities provide custody for children aged 12-17 years who are in conflict with the law.

Rehabilitation Efforts

In 2015, the management of Naguru Remand Home introduced vocational and rehabilitation programs in order to engage juveniles productively while awaiting trial. These

initiatives not only reduced idleness, but also helped to change their mindsets, leading to a noticeable decline in repeat offences.

Through this initiative, the Rotary Club of Upper Kololo was inspired to partner with the Home under the supervision of the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, to scale up the vocational skilling activities and strengthen the facility's capacity through a project dubbed "Give Hope to the Youth".

The project promotes equal participation of both boys and girls in activities such as: Intensive livestock and crop farming; fashion and design;

and, hairdressing and tailoring. In addition, complementary services include: Mental health and psychosocial support; play therapy; and storytelling, which is essential for the emotional well-being of the children.

Achievements To Date

Key milestones under the project include:

- Retooling and capacity building of the facility;
- Accreditation by the Uganda Vocational and Technical Assessment Board (UVTAB) as a Youth Skilling Centre (No. MCA/6044);
- Certification of over 400 youth in various trades such as poultry, horticulture, rabbit farming, piggery, tailoring and hairdressing; and
- Therapy, counseling, and psychosocial support in partnership with Makerere University's Department of Clinical Psychology, resulting in documented positive behavioral change.

Sustainability Model

A unique sustainability approach was built into the project through a partnership with



Rotarians from RC Upper Kololo showcasing products from the successful poultry project of the Naguru remand home, demonstrating new skills and a path to self-reliance for the young people on remand.



Hotel La Vena, where poultry farming at the facility has been commercialized. Eighty percent (80%) of the chickens reared are sold to the hotel, while 20% are consumed internally. This model has generated a net revenue of US\$ 20,000 which has been reinvested to sustain skilling activities.

Expansion to the Community

Building on these successes, the project is being scaled up to the Naguru Go-Down Community, an informal settlement of 33 villages with an estimated population of 33,000. The goal is to extend vocational skilling programs to out-of-school youth aged 15 – 24, in order to foster peaceful coexistence and community empowerment.

Innovation in Justice Delivery

The Club has also enhanced access to justice by extending Internet connectivity and provision of ICT equipment to support a Virtual Court Facility. This facility now serves 65 courts across 89 districts

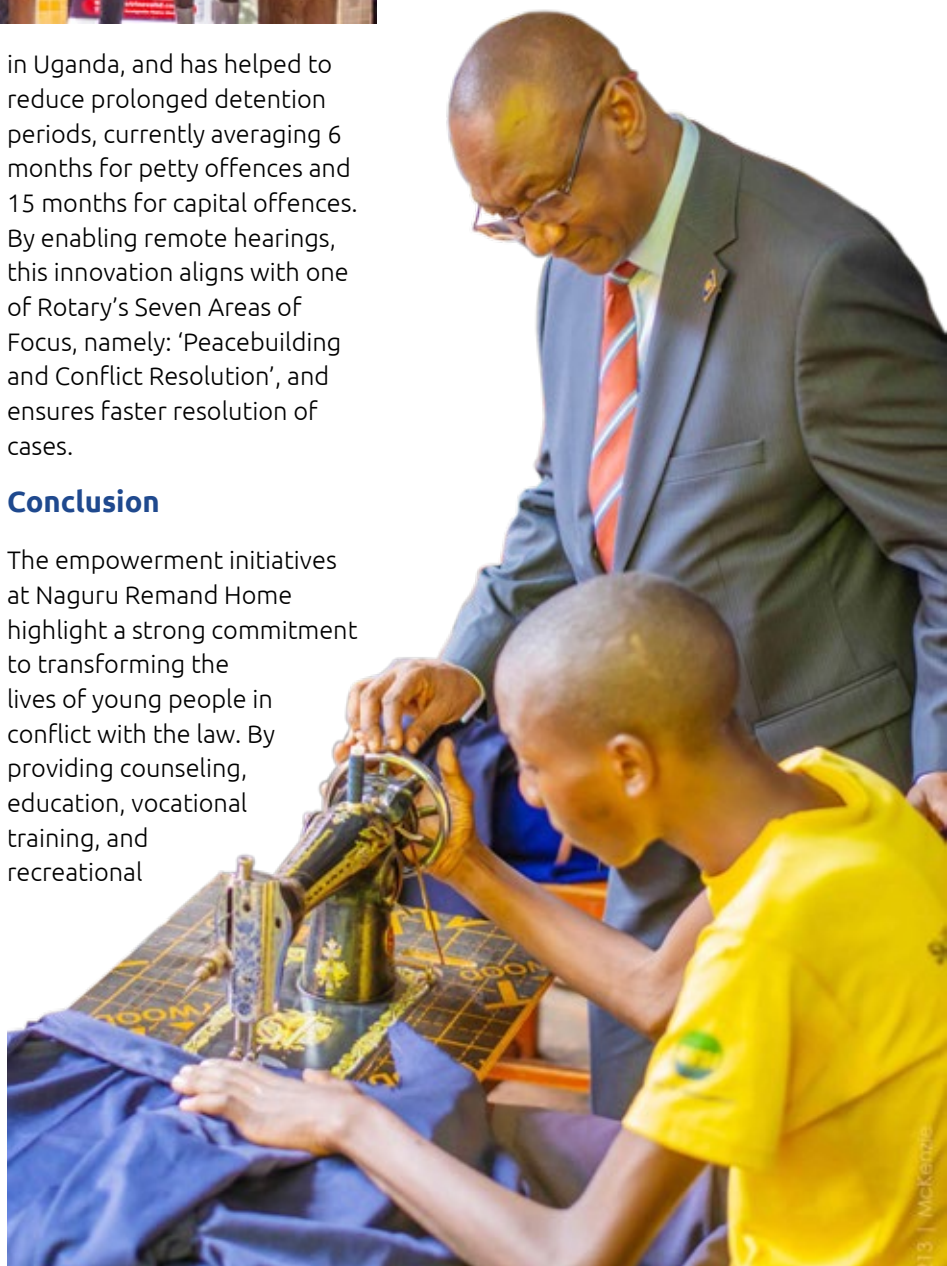
in Uganda, and has helped to reduce prolonged detention periods, currently averaging 6 months for petty offences and 15 months for capital offences. By enabling remote hearings, this innovation aligns with one of Rotary's Seven Areas of Focus, namely: 'Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution', and ensures faster resolution of cases.

Conclusion

The empowerment initiatives at Naguru Remand Home highlight a strong commitment to transforming the lives of young people in conflict with the law. By providing counseling, education, vocational training, and recreational

opportunities, the Home prepares juveniles for a better future, equipping them with practical skills; and life skills such as resilience and confidence.

Looking beyond confinement, it is evident that Naguru Remand Home, in collaboration with Rotary, is shaping the lives of Uganda's youth, and empowering them to become positive contributors to their communities and society at large.



RC Kitante Empowers Youth with Digital Opportunities

In today's rapidly evolving world, digital skills are no longer optional, they are essential. Recognizing this, the Rotary Club of Kitante has been at the forefront of equipping young people with 21st-century skills through its Boy Child Uplifting Program. This signature initiative of Past District Governor Edward Kakembo Nsubuga, launched in partnership with Purple Skills Clinic, has already transformed the lives of more than 40 boys and a few girls. The program provides hands-on training in high-demand fields such as deejaying, graphic design, photography, and other digital skills.



By Raymond Andrew Kalema

What sets this initiative apart is its holistic approach. Beyond technical training, beneficiaries also receive financial literacy

education, mentorship, and job placement support. The results speak for themselves: graduates of the program are now thriving as DJs, working with top TV stations, and running their own private ventures. These young people are not only earning a living but are also becoming role models within their communities, inspiring others to dream bigger.

But the vision does not stop here. The club's target is to skill over 500 boys and girls, creating a ripple effect that will uplift hundreds of families and communities. The challenge, however, lies in sustainability. After the skilling,

many beneficiaries struggle to practice their craft due to a lack of access to equipment and a working space.

To bridge this gap, the Rotary Club of Kitante is now focusing on establishing a Digital Skills Hub. This hub will be equipped with the necessary tools and facilities, offering young graduates a place to practice, innovate, and grow. More than just a workspace, it will be a springboard for creativity, entrepreneurship, and employment.

This initiative is about more than just training—it is about restoring hope, nurturing talent, and empowering Uganda's youth to compete on a global stage. By turning passion into a profession, the Rotary Club of Kitante is not only addressing unemployment but also shaping a future where young people are self-reliant, innovative, and impactful. As the program grows, so too does its potential for impact. With the right support, the dream of a fully-fledged Digital Skills Hub will become a reality, transform hundreds of young lives and create a lasting legacy of empowerment.



Graduands from the digital skilling hub giving a speech at their graduation, organised by the Rotary Club of Kitante.



Your one-stop quality Events Partner!



Stage & LEDScreens



P.A Systems



Events Venue



Corporate Events



Themed Decor



Parasols & Cocktail Setups

The Partnerships Pay Off: District 9213 Scores Big

The Rotary year 2025-2026 has begun with an unprecedented victory for community service across the district. Driven by the “Unite4Good; RotaryEyamba” philosophy, the Corporate Partnerships Committee has secured nine high-impact alliances in the first quarter, unlocking over \$5 Million in funding and technical resources. This success isn’t just a win for the district; it’s a massive, ready-made advantage for every individual Rotary and Rotaract club.



By Rtn Juliet Janat Kariisa

The surge of partnerships with corporate giants like DFCU Bank, Amref Health Africa, and

Uganda Breweries Ltd (UBL) is already rapidly translating into high-level commitments of tangible community assets. The most critical takeaway for club leaders is this: these District-level Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) are your club’s new resource pipeline.

Rotary clubs now have the power to elevate their local projects from simple initiatives to large-scale sustainable assets by leveraging the goodwill and expertise cemented at the district level.

1. Access to Massive Financial & Technical Resources

The most direct benefit is the immediate access to funding and specialized expertise that would be challenging for a single club to secure alone.

Health Funding:

The UGX 1 billion pledge by the DFCU Bank has already underwritten the massive West Nile Mega Surgical Camp (2,500 free surgeries). Clubs can now submit proposals to the district



District Governor Geoffrey Kitakule (R) flanked by his district officers signs an MoU with the head of AMREF

to utilise the remaining or future allocations of these funds for their own large-scale health initiatives.

Water & Infrastructure:

The \$5 Million, 5-year Memorandum of Understanding with *Amref Health Africa* for Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) means that clubs working in flood-prone or underserved areas can now tap into a dedicated fund for constructing new toilet and sanitation facilities. Furthermore, engagement with Davis & Shirtliff now offers technical assessments and a 50-50 cost-sharing model for club-led water and solar projects.

2. Amplified Visibility and Member Value

Beyond project funding, these partnerships will boost Rotary's public profile, making it easier for clubs to recruit new members and attract local partners:

National Media Reach:

The strategic alliance with Next Media has secured a dedicated Rotary Channel on the AfroMobileUG app and enhanced coverage on NBS Television. This means clubs can have their impactful work featured nationally, giving your project stories the authentic, high-visibility platform they deserve. Sharing high-quality project stories with the district is the key to unlocking this exposure.

Rotarian Welfare:

A critical alliance with Old Mutual Uganda provides essential life cover benefits,



The UGX 1 billion pledge by the DFCU Bank has already underwritten the massive West Nile Mega Surgical Camp (2,500 free surgeries).

directly increasing the value proposition of Rotary membership. Future collaborations, such as the one with Prudential Insurance currently in the pipeline, promise even more specialised Rotarian welfare products.

3. Boosting Environmental and Educational Standing

The district has positioned Rotary as a top national advocate for environmental sustainability; a mantle local clubs can proudly carry:

Forest Restoration:

Funds from UBL (UGX 372 million) for planting 80,000 trees at Namananga Central Forest Reserve provide a massive, collaborative project base. Local clubs can participate directly in planting drives and maintenance.

Green Schools:

The alliance with EACOP on the 'Green Schools Initiative' allows clubs to integrate tree planting, clean energy, and climate

education into school projects, creating a visible legacy of environmental stewardship.

Your Club's Call to Action

The success of the "*Unite4Good; RotaryEyamba*" campaign proves that Rotary is a powerful engine for change when unified with corporate partners. By leveraging these existing district signed partnerships, your club is empowered to;

- **Dream Bigger:** Stop limiting projects by what your club treasury can afford. Think strategically about how to access the DFCU or Amref funds for large-scale, multi-year initiatives.
- **Go Technical:** Utilise the expertise from partners like Davis & Shirtliff to ensure your water and solar projects are technically sound and sustainable.
- **Get Noticed:** Actively share your best work with the Rtn. Macklin Atuhaire 0706-926296 to secure a slot on NBS/AfroMobile, transforming local efforts into national news.

The momentum is strong, with advanced partnerships with C-Care, New Vision Group, and Prudential Insurance coming in the second quarter. Rotary clubs are now in the best position ever to translate this success into truly sustainable, life-changing community results.

Rotary Eyamba.

The writer is Chair, Corporate Partnerships Committee

Skilling for Equal Opportunities & Gender Based Violence Prevention

Uganda, a nation of 45m people, has the second youngest population in the world with more than 78% of its citizens below the age of 35 years, and this youthful population is projected to double in the next 25 years. Presently, available data puts youth unemployment to between 64% and 70%. It is estimated that about 700,000 youths are released annually into the job market to compete for approximately 113,000 available jobs, and that over 30% of the youths who are institutionally qualified are unable to find jobs. The situation is worse for the uneducated and semi-educated youths. Youths who remain unemployed or underemployed and do not exploit their full potential, are often associated with high incidences of crime, gender based violence, alcohol and drug abuse, and gambling. Causes of youth unemployment are multifaceted ranging from inadequate supply side of jobs, lack of employable and job-creating skills, and high rates of labor force growth per annum. Other factors are poverty, and poor mindset and attitudes. The youth are also often blind to opportunities around them.



By Rtn Nelson Kabwama

To compound the problem, Uganda's historical focus on empowering the girl child has led to a skewed societal landscape, marked by challenges such as low self-esteem, high crime rate, widespread alcoholism and drug abuse, low productivity, and an increasing school dropout rates among boys. Socially, there is increasingly more failed marriages, dysfunctional families, and high incidences of Gender Based Violence (GBV). Statistical data from the Uganda Prisons Service reports indicates a stark gender disparity in incarceration rates, with male

prisoners, mainly young men, accounting for nearly 95% of the prison population. Research has also shown that the majority of alcohol and drug abusers as well as admissions to drug rehabilitation centers are boys and young men. Factors that have led to the lagging behind of the boy child include exclusion of the boy child in the gender agenda, poverty, lack of necessary skills to create or secure employment, absence of role models and parental guidance in homes, peer pressure, societal changes in norms and values, and disintegration of the family unit.

Steps to solution

Come November 2025, the Rotary Club of Kampala Ssesse Islands in collaboration with 11 other Rotary clubs will start implementing a Rotary Foundation grant, GG2458302 worth US\$162,334. The primary objective of this project is to empower 400 young men and women in Uganda, aged 18-35 years, by equipping them with the necessary skills, resources, and opportunities necessary to create sustainable livelihoods. The youth will be

supported through mentorship and mindset change training, provision of hands-on vocational skills, and funding their business start-ups. The project will give priority to the uneducated and semi-educated youth, and will draw beneficiaries from the districts of Kampala, Wakiso, Kalangala, Kiboga, Mpigi, Arua, and Hoima. Skills and trades that match with the local labor market demands and self-employment, and which have shown growth and demand in the recent years will be prioritized. At the end of the skilling program which will last between 3 to 6 months depending on the enterprise, the youth will be organized into business groups. Each group will receive business start-ups in kind to set them off. Financial literacy and relevant business training will be provided to ensure the youth manage their new businesses successfully and profitably.

In addition, 80 youth (70% men and 30% women) will be identified from project locations and trained as champions for gender equality. The capacity building training will be in the form of skills, knowledge on

GBV prevention and response and positive attitudes on gender equality, gender roles, and positive parenting. In Uganda, GBV is a widely known problem that is mainly perpetrated by men, including young men, and community members who tolerate negative masculine practices.

Project Implementation & Partners

Project implementation will be at Club level through the 12 participating Rotary Clubs. The participating Clubs are Kampala Sseese Islands, Kitante, Kyadondo, Upper Kololo, Gayaza, Kiboga, Manyangwa-Nakwero, Kasangati, Hoima-Kitara, Bukoto, Kira and Kitezi. Each Club will identify an average of 20 eligible youth from their localities to benefit from the project, and enlist and sign up reputable local workplaces where the youth will be attached to gain skills. The participating Clubs will also organize the youth into business groups to receive business start-ups, as well as link them to existing Government and community programs for additional support. A pool of trainers, mentors and coaches on mindset change and enterprise development, two from each participating Club, will be created to continue supporting and mentoring the youth.

The project will collaborate with a number of partners and stakeholders, including the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development (ministry responsible for youth affairs), the 7 targeted District Local Government leaderships, cultural and religious institutions, and



80 youth (70% men and 30% women) will be identified from project locations and trained as champions for gender equality.

local community leaders. The project will also work with two cooperating organizations. The Man in Me will offer the mindset change training, mentorship program and the financial and business training while Magenta Girls Initiative, a women-led non-profit organization with boundless commitment to peacebuilding and combined experience of more than 25 years of creating and implementing effective interventions for vulnerable girls and women around the globe, will undertake the GBV prevention training.

The project is expected to have the following outcomes and benefits: - reduction in youth vulnerability to unemployment and poverty, lessen the widening gender gap between girls and boys, reduction in crime rate and engagement in illicit activities by young people, improved confidence and self-esteem, and reduction in gender-based violence.

Partner Roles and Responsibilities

D9213 as the host sponsor and RC Kampala Sseese Islands as the lead club, will have the primary oversight, coordination, and

mobilization responsibilities for the project in the country. They will work with the 20 participating Clubs, the 2 cooperating organizations and other stakeholders to create awareness and mobilize participation in the project by beneficiaries; oversee and ensure successful implementation of the project; receive and manage grant funds; contract vendors and service providers; maintain communication with the international Rotarians, cooperating organizations, other stakeholders, and TRF; and work with international Rotarians to prepare the required Rotary Foundation reports. D9213 also contributed US\$15,000 DDF and RC Kampala Sseese Islands US\$10,000 cash towards the grant funding.

On the other hand, the participating Clubs will work with the 7 District Local Governments and community leaders to identify meriting youths to participate in the project; enlist and sign up reputable workplaces for youths' attachment opportunities; organize the youth into business groups to receive business start-ups; link the youth to existing Government and community programs and projects in their localities for additional support; and oversee project implementation in their areas. They also contributed towards grant funding, and each Club will nominate 2 members to be trained as mentors and coaches on mindset change and enterprise development for continued support and mentorship to the youth.

Plastics Packaging, and Employment: A case of Rotary Vijana Poa Centre at Sekiwunga

Many times, as I watch trucks rumbling along, loaded with bottled water and sodas, my mind wanders. I can't help but wonder how many more trucks we would need if all those drinks were in glass bottles. A glass bottle can weigh up to 20 times more than a plastic one of the same size, which means the contents of one truck carrying plastic could fill about 20 trucks of glass. Just imagine the cost savings in transport alone, fewer trucks on our roads, less damage to the tarmac, and a significant drop in carbon emissions.



Rtn Alex Kamukama

Beyond logistics, I've seen firsthand how plastics offer a safer solution. When accidents happen, I know that a crash involving plastic-packaged drinks is far less disastrous than one with glass. We avoid the total product loss and, more importantly, the danger of sharp, scattered glass shards. Then there are the practical benefits for manufacturers: lower production costs and the freedom to create unique, appealing designs that would

be difficult or impossible with glass. All these reasons tell me that plastic packaging, for all its problems, is here to stay. And that's exactly why we had to find a solution to its afterlife.

The Vijana Poa Solution

Recognizing that plastics are likely here to stay due to these efficiencies, the Rotary Vijana Poa Centre saw a business opportunity in plastic waste. Instead of viewing discarded plastics as a nuisance, they are now seen as a valuable raw material. The youth of Kajjansi Town Council, with support from a coalition of international and local partners, have established a plastic recycling factory.

This facility provides a dual benefit: it addresses the problem of plastic pollution while creating a new avenue for youth employment. Young people are now gainfully employed by collecting and

selling used plastics to the factory. To further increase the value of this work and improve livelihoods, the factory is installing additional equipment to process melted plastics into road pavers, a value-added product that will earn the youth more income.

The establishment of this recycling plant was made possible through a collaborative effort involving the Rotary Foundation, 27 Italian Rotary Clubs, and the local Nkumba and Kajjansi Rotary Clubs. Additional support was provided by St. Mark Sekiwunga, Crown Beverages, and the Buganda Kingdom. This partnership has successfully transformed a waste management challenge into a thriving enterprise that benefits the community and the environment.

The writer is an Assistant Governor

Lake Victoria Zone 2 in D9214



Past District Governor Peace Taremwa (D9214) launching the Recycling Plant at Vijana Poa Centre, Sekiwunga.

WORLD POLIO DAY

DATE:...

**FRI. 24TH
OCT. 2025**

THEME:

**ONE DAY,
ONE FOCUS,
ENDING POLIO**

ACTIVITIES:

**POLIO IMMUNISATION DRIVE AT NSAMBYA
HOSPITAL GABA BRANCH OPPOSITE ST.
KAROLI LWANGA GABA PARISH**

10:00AM

MARCHING TO MUNYONYO

2:00PM

**JOINT MEETING - SPEKE RESORT
MUNYONYO**

4:00PM

#UniteForGood

#RotaryEyamba #Give&Impact






HIGHLIGHTS

- Immunisation Drive
- Keynote Speakers
- Recognition and Giving of Awards

**END
POLIO
NOW**

#RotaryEyamba

<https://rotaryd9213.org> 

Rotary District 9213     

One Day, A Thousand Smiles at the Ssekanyonyi Medical Camp

I still remember the early morning of September 6th, 2025. The sun had barely risen when Rotarians arrived at Ssekanyonyi Health Centre IV, and the grounds were already filled with people waiting to receive the medical services. The energy of Rotarians, Rotaractors, doctors, nurses, and health educators was bustling alive as all started to offload medicines and equipment, preparing for what would become one of the most impactful day I have ever witnessed as a Rotarian from the Rotary Club of Ssinga Mityana.



**By Rtn Teddy Nalubega
RC Ssinga Mityana.**

We had come together eight Rotary Clubs from Bwebajja, Mityana, Entebbe Base, Kitende, Lunguja, Kabulasoke Gomba, Lweza in formation, and my very own Ssinga Mityana, alongside two Rotaract Clubs -Bwebajja and Mityana, to hold this Joint Medical Camp. Our goal was simple yet profound: to bring impactful health services closer to those who need them most. By the end of the day, over 1,200 lives had been touched.

The medical camp offered a diversity of services, and as a mother, I could not help but smile as I saw parents lining up with their children for immunization, some receiving BCG, Polio, and Hepatitis B vaccines. Nearby, in the dental room, I watched a mother walk out relieved after her painful tooth extraction. Smiles and sighs of relief became the order of the day.

At another corner, women gathered for cervical and breast cancer screenings, while men queued for prostate checks. Out



Rotarians from RC Ssinga Mityana supporting nursing officers to dispense medicines to the community during the health camp.



A nurse administers a shot of Polio vaccine to a new born during the health camp.

of nearly 250 people screened across these areas, a few positive cases were detected, sobering reminders of why such camps are crucial.

I spent sometime in the health education tent, where over 700 people sat attentively as health educators spoke about prevention, hygiene, and family health. I could see faces lighting up with new understanding, nods of recognition, and sometimes whispered conversations as people connected the lessons to their daily lives.

The eye screening unit was equally busy. By day's end, 305 people had been checked. Many were diagnosed with cataracts, refractive errors, and allergic conjunctivitis, conditions that, if left unchecked, silently rob people of sight. But here, they were spotted early.

In the laboratory, the numbers told their own story: 206 malaria tests with 78 positives; 152 HIV tests with 2 positives; 103 Hepatitis B tests with 1 positive; Blood sugar checks, RPR/VDRL, and HCG tests were also available. Each test meant someone walked away with answers, treatment, or a referral that could change the trajectory of their health.

What deeply warmed my heart in the afternoon was the compassion, and obviously the medicine accessed by this community. We distributed 300 mosquito nets to protect families from malaria, 100 mama kits to expectant mothers, and an estimate of 300 sets of clothes to those in need. I'll never forget the grateful smile of a young mother clutching her mama kit and a suitcase of clothes, whispering a quiet "thank you" that said more than

words ever could.

On this day many of my club members (RC Ssingi Mityana is yet to celebrate a year in December), testified to me that they felt the mighty power of Rotary and the significant power of collaboration. Everyone had witnessed doctors who never seemed to tire, Rotarians and Rotaractors carrying medicines and equipment with cheerful resilience, and community members who came with worries but left with hope. This experience vividly demonstrated why we wear the Rotary lapel pins. It's not as decoration, but as a symbol of duty, compassion, and transformation.

In those over 1,200 acts of compassion and kindness, we proved that Rotary's spirit of service can heal not just bodies, but whole communities.

#RotaryEyamba

RYLA 2025 Empowers Hundreds of Youths to Make a Difference

What happens when you mix over 800 of the brightest young minds from over 90 schools, a powerhouse lineup of speakers, and a mission to shape the future? You get an explosion of energy, ideas, and inspiration that could only be the Interact RYLA 2025!



By Sharone Kirabo Nakimera

Kyambogo College School transformed into the ultimate leadership hub, playing host to this year's monumental Interact Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

(RYLA). The air wasn't just filled with the typical weekend calm; it was buzzing with the palpable excitement of hundreds of Interactors ready to innovate, adapt, and make their impact.

This wasn't just an event; it was a movement. A huge thanks to Rotary District 9213 and our incredible partners for pouring their energy and resources into making this year's Interact RYLA a resounding success. From the meticulous planning to the final high-fives, it was a masterclass in teamwork and vision.

This year's Interact RYLA was all about turning theory into action. Our young leaders

didn't just listen; they engaged, questioned, and practiced. A major highlight was the session on "Level Up Your Wallet" led by the phenomenal Kyobuhoro Bathsheba from Little Feza Builders. Forget boring lectures on finance! Bathsheba served us hands-on, practical tips on saving, smart spending, and building financial literacy from a young age. It was about empowering our youth to make savvy decisions today for a more secure tomorrow.

But that was just one piece of the puzzle. The stage was graced by an all-star cast of speakers who dropped wisdom



District Governor Geoffrey Kitakule poses with the young people who had successfully completed RYLA.

bombs all day long. Our District Governor, Geoffrey M. Kitakule, brought his signature passion, challenging Interactors to be champions of change and to sow a legacy that lasts long after they leave school. His message was clear: “We are planting a seed in you to be the best leaders as you transition into Rotaract and beyond”, Dr. Joyce Nalunga (President, Female Lawyers’ Network) inspired with powerful insights and Josephine Karungi (Communications Specialist) unlocked the secrets of public speaking and effective communication.

Imagine trying to start a fire with a single spark. Now imagine trying to do it with over 800 sparks. That’s the power of Interact RYLA. The impact of bringing together such a massive, diverse group of students is immeasurable. It’s about forging friendships and connections across various schools that will fuel collaboration for years to come, igniting new ideas and providing

the tools to turn them into actionable projects within their Clubs and communities and moving beyond inspiration to tangible skills, giving them the confidence to lead now, not later.

The vision for this year, “Innovate, Adapt, Impact,” wasn’t just a theme on a banner, it was the living, breathing heartbeat of the entire day. It was seen in every conversation, every workshop, and every new connection made.

As the sun set on an unforgettable day at Kyambogo, the real work was just beginning. The end of Interact RYLA 2025 isn’t a finale; it’s a launchpad. The conversations may have paused and the speakers may have left the stage, but the seeds planted are already taking root in communities across the district. These young leaders departed with a mission. They are now our frontline ambassadors of innovation, our most agile adapters to change,

and our most passionate creators of impact. They carry with them the practical tools to manage their futures, the communication skills to amplify their voices, and the leadership mindset to uplift those around them.

The true success of the Interact RYLA won’t be measured in attendance numbers, but in the tangible projects these Interactors launch, the positive peer pressure they create, and the resilient, ethical leadership they demonstrate in their schools and communities. The torch has been passed. Now, we watch as they light the way.

The journey from Interact to Rotaract and beyond starts here. And if this event was any indication, the future is not just bright, it’s brilliant, it’s capable, and it’s ready to lead.

The stage is set. The leaders are equipped. Let the impact begin.

The writer is the Vice Chair-RYLA committee



Shifting Mindsets: Rotary's Human-Centered Design Academy for Youth

Uganda is often hailed as one of the most entrepreneurial countries in the world, with more than 55% of Ugandans starting or running a business at some point in their lives. Yet, behind this vibrant energy lies a sobering reality: over 70% of small businesses fail before celebrating their second birthday, according to research by the Uganda Investment Authority (UIA) and the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor.



By Rtn Owomugisha Blessing Immaculate

A key reason behind this high failure rate is the “copy-and-paste” business model, where

too many entrepreneurs replicate what others are doing like opening yet another retail shop, boda-boda business, or small restaurant without deeply assessing community needs, customer preferences, or market gaps. The result is overcrowded sectors, price wars, and businesses that cannot withstand competition or economic shocks.

In response to this challenge, Rotary, through the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), in partnership with Ayuda Legal Business Clinic, the U.S. Exchange Alumni Network in Uganda, INVANTI,

and the University of Notre Dame, with support from a Mandela Washington Fellowship Reciprocal Grant granted by IREX, organized a three-day Human-Centered Design (HCD) Masterclass.

Held from September 18th to 19th, 2025, the event engaged close to 60 youth innovators and startup founders at the Innovation Hub in Kampala. The masterclass was facilitated by Ms. Maria Gibbs, Executive Director of the Industry Labs at the University of Notre Dame, and co-facilitated by Owomugisha Blessing Immaculate, a Mandela



Washington Fellowship Reciprocal Grant recipient and Country Director of the East Africa Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture. They were joined by the Deputy Lieutenant Governor, Rotary District 9213, Joe Nuwamanya, and Amy Peterson, the spokesperson for the US Embassy in Uganda.

Together, they guided participants through an intensive journey of learning, problem definition, empathy, prototyping, and translating ideas into sustainable business models. The training emphasized the Human-Centered Design approach, which puts people at the heart of innovation, encouraging startups to deeply understand the needs of the communities they serve and move beyond

assumptions. Participants prototyped their solutions using simple, low-cost tools, tested ideas, and delivered elevator pitches before judges for potential investment opportunities.

By the end of the training, participants left not only with refined business ideas but also with a powerful toolkit for continuous problem-solving, shifting their mindset from "What can I sell?" to "What problem can I solve?" The launch of Cohort One marks the beginning of a larger vision, where Rotary, Ayuda Legal Business Clinic, the U.S. Exchange Alumni Network, and partners aim to expand the program to more youth across Uganda, equipping them with the skills, mindset, and resilience to build sustainable,

youth-driven enterprises that create employment and foster community development.

(RYLA) Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, is a leadership development program for young people who want to improve their skills and confidence. It is a training experience for selected youth and potential leaders. The program is organized by Rotary clubs and districts. It helps young people become better leaders through workshops, activities, and by connecting them with other community leaders and mentors. Events can vary from one-day seminars to week-long camps. The program emphasizes leadership, citizenship, and personal growth.

The writer is the District Chair RYLA

A promotional graphic for Rotary District 9213's "Give & Impact" campaign. At the top, the Rotary logo and "District 9213" are displayed. The central text "Give & Impact" is in large, bold, blue letters with an orange outline. Below it, a yellow banner reads "#Rotary Eyamba". To the left is a QR code and the text "Log on to trf.rotaryd9213.org Enter your name and follow the prompts". To the right is a smartphone showing the "Welcome to TRF Giving" screen with a search bar and a "Membership Type" dropdown. The background is white with blue and orange wavy borders at the bottom. Social media icons and "Rotary District 9213" are at the bottom right.

Arua Eco City Club sends its First Global Citizen

Get ready for the adventure of a lifetime! The Rotary Youth Exchange Programme isn't just a trip; it's a global grand tour for young people eager to level up their lives. We're talking about a ticket to academic and personal growth, international exposure, and cultural immersion that forges lifelong friendships and molds future leaders. With over 100 countries participating, this program is the ultimate platform for building the next generation of global citizens.



Alvin Xavier Dakar exchanges club banners with the President of RC Windsor, to symbolize his welcome to Windsor.

By Rtn Sharon Lalam

And guess who's finally in on the action? For the very first time since its founding, the Rotary Club of Arua Eco City joined the fun! After a super-inclusive and rigorous selection process, the club found a brilliant and disciplined student from the community.

Alvin Xavier Dakar, a student from St. Joseph's College Ombaci, and the club's very first outbound exchange student jetted off to the USA on August 9th, 2025, and is now being hosted by the Rotary Club of Windsor in District 5130. Alvin kicked off his studies at Windsor High School on August 14th, 2025, and is already making the

club proud!

Before his big adventure, Alvin was a regular at the club's weekly club meetings, soaking up all the Rotary ideals and literature. He even got his hands dirty helping with the club's greening initiative and visiting ongoing projects, showing his commitment to environmental conservation and community service.

Now, Alvin is the club's rockstar ambassador. He's not just a student; he's a living, breathing connection between the two clubs. He's been wowing the Rotary Club of Windsor with presentations on some of the home club's most exciting future projects, including:

- **Opileva Health Centre III:** Helping complete and equip this vital health center in Opileva Village, Arua City.
- **Driwala Primary School:** Improving the WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) and learning facilities.
- **Ania Primary School:** A similar WASH and learning improvement project to make a real difference for the students.

Alvin is proving that a single exchange student can spark a world of change!

Youth Service Chair- Rotary Club of Arua Eco City



Your Mental Health & Education Matter – Let Us Help!

Are you or a loved one struggling with
**mental health challenges, addiction,
or academic stress?**

At Lifeline Health Services we **provide home-based care and expert support** tailored to your needs!

Our Services include;

- Mental Health
- Home visits and Treatment Care Plan
- Secondary School Awareness
- Campaign on Alcohol and Drug Abuse
- Psychosocial Support to Organisation
- Bedside Nursing
- Counseling Services



Your journey to wellness starts today!

The Global Grant Application and Review Checklist

"People raised in love will do anything FOR you. People raised on survival will do anything TO you. Know the difference."



By Peter Isabirye

A review of the Global Grant application by the District Rotary Foundation Team (DRFC) marks the beginning of the process of reviewing of all Global Grant applications.

- Area Grant Support Officers (AGSO's). Every Club in the District has been allocated one. These are key in grant preparation at the source.
- Vice Country Grant's Chairs (DVCGC's). District Grants Support Officer. They come in next in the queue in support of TRF terms and conditions of grant applications.
- District Grant's Sub-Committee Chair (DGC) is the last person to review the various Global Grant applications.
- District Rotary Foundation Committee Chair (DRFC). Reviews and authorises the

grant applications.

- District Governor (DG) gives the final authorisation of the various Global Grants after which the projects are forwarded to The Rotary Foundation (TRF) for further review, pending final approval. It is **AFTER** final approval by TRF that initial payments can be made by the various Rotary Clubs strictly in accordance to the stipulated instructions indicating the allocated Global Grant numbers.

The Application Review:

- All possible risks are identified and mitigation measures are put in place. Various roles of the host Rotarians are well defined and the project is of necessity host Club-driven, following TRF allowable budget ceilings.
- Budget and funding plans must balance and a 5% processing fees on cash contributions is included. A Global Grant financial plan (for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene [WASH] and Disease Prevention and Treatment [DPT] grants) is duly completed and attached. A hydrogeological survey report (grants involving boreholes (wells) is attached.
- Every club **MUST** be qualified for the current Rotary year. Host club minimum contributions is per District Designated Fund (DDF).

Tips for long term sustainability of global grant projects:

Always start with the community and encourage local ownership. Provide training, buy local, find local funding and ultimately measure your success (impact assessment with due diligence).

Terms and Conditions for Rotary Foundation Global Grants:

TRF may modify these terms and conditions at any time to clarify them or to reflect any necessary policy changes.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES FOR GLOBAL GRANT FUNDING:

- Alignment with the Rotary Foundation Mission is a must. Most especially aligning with one or more of Rotary's areas of focus and can include humanitarian projects, international scholarships to fund graduate level study or vocational training teams (VTT's) addressing community needs.
- Responding to findings of a community assessment and are sustainable. That is to say the community continues with it after grant funding has ceased. They must be measurable. Standard measures from the Global Grant Monitoring and Evaluation plan supplement are selected forthwith.
- There must be active participation of Rotary members, sponsorship should

ideally be by one club or District in the country where it is proposed that the project will take place and one outside that country (primary international partner).

- There should at all times be compliance with the laws of the host country, with demonstration of sensitivity to traditions and cultures of the area. The conflict-of-interest policy should always be complied with. Always include signage on or near the project site.
- May include building of structures like toilet blocks and sanitation systems, access roads, dams, bridges, storage units, fences, security systems, water irrigation systems and greenhouses. International travel for up to two people to provide mainly training is also permissible. Each club is usually limited to ten global grant applications at a time.

INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES AND SPENDING:

- Discrimination against any group or promotion of a

particular political or religious viewpoint and performing of purely religious functions are prohibited.

- Providing continuous, excessive support of any one person, entity or community.
- Establishing a foundation, permanent trust or long-term interest-bearing account is not acceptable as is creating financial liability for TRF or RI as well as fund raising activities.
- Transporting vaccines over national borders without prior Government approval is also deemed unacceptable. Requiring anyone to work without pay is also not acceptable. Strive to uphold labour rights always. Using underage "workers" is also highly discouraged.
- It is prohibited to contribute to TRF, purchase land, buildings, incur expenses related to Rotary such as District Conferences, RI Conventions and non-essential PR initiatives.
- Project signage must not exceed US\$1,000. Operating

an administrative or indirect programme of another organization is similarly not allowed. Also not allowed are abortions, travel for National Immunisation Days (NIDS), and immunization that only administers polio vaccines.

- Also, Rotary Youth exchange, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, Rotary friendship exchanges, new construction or additions to any structure in which people live, work or engage in any gainful activity (schools, homes, low-cost shelters or hospitals) as well as completion of partially constructed buildings are all not permissible activities.

"If we try, we have a fighting chance of achieving something. If we don't try, we don't have a chance at all."

Peter Isabirye is a member of the DRFC of D9213, and a member of the TRF cadre of technical advisors in three areas of focus.



ORDER YOUR T-SHIRT AND CAP NOW.

For each T-shirt, A donation of 5000 UGX goes to your club's PolioPlus fund.

For your orders:
 D9213 +256 783 656639 Gilbert Alieme
 D9214 +256 778 345959 Maureen Nyengyera

35K 15K
 TSHIRT CAP

FOR MORE INFORMATION +256773633942, +256772427916

Rotary Community Corps: Strengthening Communities, Extending Rotary's Reach

Rotary service is most impactful when it is deeply rooted in the lives of the people we serve. One of the strongest ways to achieve this is through the Rotary Community Corps (RCCs). These corps allow us as Rotarians to partner directly with local communities, ensuring that our service is not only well-planned but also community-owned and sustainable.



By Rtn Dan Kibuuka Kiguli

Rotary Community Corps are community members who may not be Rotarians but who share the same commitment to service. They are ordinary men and women, farmers, boda boda riders, business people, and youths who come together to work with Rotary clubs in identifying needs and implementing solutions within their communities.

Through RCCs, clubs gain a valuable entry into the communities, because they are the people who provide local insights, mobilize people, and bring talent and creativity that enrich projects. Simply put, RCCs are Rotary's most practical bridge to the grassroots.

Why Rotary Community Corps matter

The benefits of RCCs extend both to Rotary clubs and to the communities themselves:

- **Community Entry Point:** RCCs open doors into the community, creating trust and cooperation.
- **Local Knowledge and Talent:** They ensure projects are relevant, rooted in real needs, and enriched with community

skills.

- **Sustainability:** RCC members live where the projects are carried out, which means the work continues long after Rotarians have long completed and left the place.
- **Extended Rotary Reach:** RCCs magnify Rotary's presence, showing that Rotary is working even in places where there are no clubs.
- **Empowerment of Non-Rotarians:** While not club members, RCCs benefit from Rotary's network and gain opportunities to grow as leaders.

This model ensures that our service is not something we do for communities, but with them.

The example of RC Gayaza

At the Rotary Club of Gayaza, we have seen RCCs at work and we can testify to their power. Our club currently partners with four active RCCs; RCC Gayaza, RCC Boda Boda, RCC Gayaza Football and RCC Manyangwa with over 100 members combined.

- RCC Gayaza plays a crucial role in community assessments, giving us first-hand knowledge of what the community truly needs in the seven areas of focus of rotary.
- RCC Boda Boda connects us with a highly influential group in society across transport and civic space ensuring Rotary's message and work spread far and wide.
- RCC Gayaza Football and Manyangwa Football engage the youth, channeling their passion for talent majorly

sports into teamwork, leadership, and service.

Rotary Club of Gayaza has sponsored the four rotary community corps to train and participated in road safety campaigns, manufacture of liquid soap and detergent, and paper envelopes in line with community economic empowered, and having safer roads with reduced occurrence of road accidents. These corps have become the heartbeat of our service. They guide us, support us, and ensure that every project is embraced by the very people it is meant to benefit.

A call to action

Fellow Rotarians, RCCs are a resource we must embrace more fully across our district. They are not only about growing Rotary's reach but about empowering communities to take charge of their own transformation.

At RC Gayaza, our RCCs have made our projects stronger, our outreach wider, and our service more sustainable. I encourage every club to consider forming at least one RCC. When we empower communities as partners, we multiply the impact of Rotary service.

RCCs embody the spirit of #Rotary Eyamba loose translated as Rotary supports. They remind us that true service is about partnership. Let us embrace them and watch our communities grow stronger, together with Rotary.

The writer is Chair, Membership Attraction Committee District 9213 & a Member, Rotary Club of Gayaza

Over 100 Rotarians Graduate from Rotary Leadership Institute, Embracing Facilitated Learning

A spirit of celebration filled the halls of Protea Hotel Kololo as the Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) held a landmark graduation ceremony. Over 100 Rotarians, Rotaractors, and for the first time in history, two Interactors successfully completed the institute's rigorous leadership training.



By Maureen K. Tumwebaze

The graduates are now equipped with essential skills in leadership, strategic planning, club growth, and effective public speaking. The program is designed to prepare them as transformational leaders within their communities. This year's cohort included 86 participants in the undergraduate program and 17 in the graduate class, reflecting Rotary's steadfast commitment to continuous leadership development across all

generations.

In his keynote address, Guest of Honor Rtn. Andrew Kigumba Muguluma praised the graduates for embracing facilitated learning. He emphasized that this modern, interactive approach places the Rotarian at the center of the learning process. Unlike traditional one-way teaching, facilitation encourages reflection, collaboration, and the co-creation of solutions tailored to the unique challenges faced by clubs and communities.

"Facilitated learning will transform Rotary by moving us from passive listeners to active change agents, better equipped to deliver meaningful service to our communities," Rtn. Muguluma remarked.

The ceremony was marked by extraordinary moments that underscored the deep dedication

within the Rotary family. One graduate, balancing both personal and Rotary milestones, attended the session on his wedding day. After a brief departure to exchange vows at a church, he returned in time to graduate alongside his class before heading back to his reception. This remarkable story drew admiration from all attendees, serving as a powerful testament to the commitment of Rotary's members.

This graduation stands as a powerful affirmation of Rotary's investment in innovative leadership development. By nurturing leaders who are not only well-trained but also deeply engaged, Rotary continues to position itself as a movement capable of driving meaningful and lasting change worldwide.

The writer is a Faculty Member of RLI



Young graduates from the Rotary Leadership Institute pose with their certificates.

A Rotary Scholar from the DRC - He knows how costly peace is.



Paul Mushaho, a Rotary Peace Fellow alumnus, and a refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo, has transformed his personal experience with conflict into a mission for peacebuilding. After fleeing to Uganda and facing immense challenges, he gained an education and professional training. Now, Paul uses his unique story and skills to empower refugee communities, build bridges of understanding, and show how hardship can be a powerful catalyst for leadership. In this interview, the District Scholarships officer, **Rtn. Kiconco Mary Kwesiga** sits down with Paul as he reflects on the path that led to peacebuilding, and the impact of the Rotary Peace Fellowship.

What inspired you to pursue a career in peacebuilding—what's your personal story?

In a conflict-ridden community in Eastern DRC, I saw firsthand the pain and division caused by war. However, I also witnessed incredible resilience, like a group of women from opposing backgrounds who started a community garden to rebuild trust. This taught me that peace isn't an abstract idea but a deliberate, human effort built on empathy and shared purpose. That experience inspired my calling to help others heal and build peace from the ground up.

Many people see refugees only through the lens of need. How have you challenged that narrative?

Having become a refugee, my dreams of a professional career seemed to disappear. But I refused to be defined by need. I used my IT skills to help my fellow refugees, to create a local "Western Union" to provide financial services in the camp. Inspired by my connection to Rotary International, I founded a refugee-led organization and a youth peace foundation. Through these, I offer skills training, like empowering young women and girls with

tailoring skills by setting up a community sewing centre, Entrepreneurship skills training, setting up orphanages, preschools, safe houses for most vulnerable people like elders, peace tournaments, vegetable gardens, capacity building through trainings and launch other initiatives. My message to my fellow refugees is to use our skills to create opportunities for ourselves and our community, rather than waiting for help to arrive.

What advice would you give to other refugees or young people who want to make a difference but feel limited by their circumstances?

Don't feel you have to change the entire world at once. Instead focus on making a tangible impact within your community- step by step. I find it's best to identify immediate problems, like the devastating language barrier here in the refugee camp. By sharing your knowledge and skills with others, you take control of what you can influence, your actions and priorities. Even small, consistent steps, like



establishing a daily routine or setting small, achievable goals, build confidence and lead to an eventual large-scale change. I've learned that volunteering and helping others is key; by using your skills to serve, you empower yourself and the whole community, finding purpose and belonging along the way.

How did you first learn about the Rotary Peace Fellowship, and what impact has it had on your work and vision?

I learned about the Rotary Peace Fellowship through the Rotary International website and various club engagements. My interest deepened when Rotary established its first peace centre in Africa at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. I applied and was fortunate to be among the first class of students to join. The program has had a major impact on my vision. It provided me with academic training, practical field experience, and professional networking opportunities. Most importantly, it gave me a new framework for understanding and addressing the root causes of conflict, transforming my capacity to act as a catalyst for peace.

The Rotary Peace Fellowship brings together people from diverse backgrounds. How did this global learning environment shape your approach to peacebuilding?

My peacebuilding journey has been transformed by exposure to diverse cultural, professional, and personal experiences. The fellowship challenged my assumptions about conflict and justice by having me interact with peers from various nations. Hearing firsthand accounts of



Having become a refugee, my dreams of a professional career seemed to disappear. But I refused to be defined by need. I used my IT skills to help my fellow refugees, to create a local “Western Union” to provide financial services in the camp.

violence and injustice helped me move beyond abstract ideas and see the human impact of conflict, fostering a deeper sense of empathy. Learning alongside people from a wide range of professional backgrounds; from journalism to public administration; exposed me to a broad toolkit of peacebuilding methods. This diverse network has become a lifelong resource for sharing knowledge, contacts, and strategies across the globe.

Looking ahead, what dreams do you have for the future—for yourself, your community, and peacebuilding in Africa?

My dream is to evolve and be used responsibly and effectively to augment human potential, not replace it. To be developed and deployed with strict ethical frameworks that ensures fairness, transparency and accountability. To be more accessible to all people, regardless of location, language, or ability, helping to bridge the digital divide. My aspiration is to help communities leverage

information and innovation to address their most pressing challenges. My hope for Africa is that I can be a force for peace by providing neutral analysis and supporting human-led efforts to resolve and prevent conflict. Optimizing aid distribution, assisting with demining efforts, and using data to guide equitable recovery and reconstruction projects in war-torn regions.

If you could share one message to inspire future applicants to the Rotary Peace Fellowship, what would it be?

We, as young people, must become “brothers in arms” for peace, rather than being used as perpetrators of conflict. Technology is a powerful tool; a mirror of our intentions that we must use with empathy and purpose to build a kind and just future. I encourage future applicants to seize this golden opportunity. Rotary’s fully-funded fellowship is offered annually to 130 peace advocates who are dedicated leaders with the potential to bring about valuable change.

“Paul’s story is a reminder that peacebuilders are not defined by circumstance, but by courage and vision. Their journey shows how lived experience, when combined with opportunity, can inspire powerful change. Rotary Peace Fellowships continue to open doors for individuals committed to advancing peace and development worldwide. More than a scholarship, each fellowship is an investment in people who are reshaping communities and creating a more peaceful future for all.”

DISCON 101 THEME NIGHTS



OPENING
Night

16TH APRIL 2026
THURSDAY NIGHT

DRESSCODE:
ELEGANT ISLAND CHIC



ROTARACT
Day

17TH APRIL 2026
FRIDAY

DRESSCODE:
MONOCHROME
BLACK



ROTARACT
Night

17TH APRIL 2026
FRIDAY NIGHT

DRESSCODE:
AFRO-MODERN
ELEGANCE



DG'S
Banquet

18TH APRIL 2026
SATURDAY NIGHT

DRESSCODE:
BLACK TIE



IMPERIAL RESORT
BEACH HOTEL,
ENTEBBE



Scan to register.
Registration
is now open