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ROTARY GIVE EVERY CHILD A FUTURE NEWSLETTER

December 2022

In preparation for Rotary International President Jennifer Jones' March 2023 Pacific visit, Rotary and UNICEF undertook a planning visit to Fiji and Kiribati in October. Read on for their reports and get exciting updates on our fund raising.

We are *almost* there. Can you, your Club or your District's DDF (District Designated Fund) be the donation that gets us over the line, funding our last Global Grant to introduce HPV vaccine into Kiribati?



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UNICEF and Rotary teams travel by truck to remote health clinics in Kiribati

Director's update

The Rotary Give Every Child A Future project continues to be rolled out across the nine Pacific Island countries. After the delays and frustrations caused by the pandemic, travel restrictions have now been lifted and implementation is going according to plan.

Rotary International President, Jennifer Jones will be in the Pacific in March 2023. She will visit Fiji and Kiribati and be accompanied by journalists. Her objective is to highlight the impact that Rotary is having, and in this case particularly in the area of maternal and child health.

In preparation for this a planning visit was undertaken in October. You can read more about this on page three.

To complete this project in total, we still need to raise USD 188,000 out of a total of USD 3.9 million. We really are, almost there. We have one final Global Grant application being prepared, for the introduction of HPV into Kiribati.. This will bring the total number of Global Grants from The Rotary Foundation to 23.

James Allen, Project Director



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James Allen (Project Director) visits a rotavirus vaccination program in the remote island of North Tarawa, Kiribati. James said of the project, *"It's an amazing feeling to come here to Kiribati, just one of the nine countries in which this immunisation program is happening, and actually see what we've initiated."*

‘ON THE GROUND’ PROJECT VISIT

In October, I had the opportunity to visit Kiribati and Fiji with a team from UNICEF. The purpose was to see the implementation of Rotary Give Every Child A Future in one of the Pacific Island countries and to scope out the details for Rotary International President Jennifer Jones’ visit next year – a bit of a dress rehearsal. The only way to get to Kiribati is via Fiji. So, we used that opportunity to have talks with UNICEF Pacific which is headquartered there, and to visit the regional vaccine distribution centre in Nadi, operated by UNICEF.

Next, we travelled to Tarawa, the main island of Kiribati, an atoll close to the equator about a three-hour flight north of Fiji.



The visit underscored the challenges of distributing vaccines in the Pacific. Tarawa is a series of narrow atolls spread in a horseshoe shape around a lagoon which is open to the ocean at one end. In most places the distance between the ocean and the lagoon is no more than 100-200m.

There is a single road that connects it all, although North

Tarawa can only be reached by boat, and then only at high tide. The photo was my first glimpse of Tarawa from the plane and will help explain the geography. While on Tarawa we visited several clinics where infants were receiving their vaccines. One clinic was in North Tarawa which we got to after a one-hour boat trip in the early morning. While in Kiribati we met with UNICEF staff, senior executives in the Ministry of Health and members of the local Rotary club. It was encouraging to see how vaccines we have been supporting have been embedded into the routine childhood immunisation program. However, it is quite confronting to see the living conditions under which many people are living. It is crowded; water and sanitation systems are limited or non-existent; and disposal of rubbish is clearly a problem. Perhaps just some of the other issues that Rotary might help address in the future.

James Allen, RGECAF Project Director

UNICEF report

Thanks to funds raised by amazing Rotarians and Rotaractors across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, the Rotary Give Every Child a Future partnership continues to reach even more communities with life-saving vaccines. We are delighted to report that in November the HPV vaccine was rolled out across Tonga and preparation is now underway to launch the HPV program in Vanuatu early next year. In the lead up to this the trainers, who will be training the healthcare workers, have received their own training.

In October, Rotary Give Every Child a Future Director, James Allen, Rotary International's Senior Media Relations Manager, Chanelle Williams and UNICEF Australia's Leisel Shaw visited Kiribati to see the project firsthand.



Above: Kiribati local public health staff deliver life-saving vaccines, provided by UNICEF and Rotary to little ones at risk of disease in South Tarawa



Right: Kakorua Naibobu administers rotavirus vaccine

Following an arduous journey by plane, boat and truck the team reached a remote health clinic in North Tarawa to watch the rotavirus vaccine being issued. There they met local dad and public health nurse Kakorua Naibobu. Kakorua explained *"In my career as a nurse, I want to look after my people. My favourite part of my job is to make sure that my children, and all children, do not get any diseases! My kids have received their vaccinations, and I have not seen any diarrhoea, pneumonia or any other serious diseases. I encourage other parents in my community to receive vaccinations for their kids by telling them the example of my kids."*

The group also met with Ruth Cross, President of the Rotary Club of Tarawa, Kiribati Ministry of Health officials and visited the UNICEF distribution centre in Fiji to see UNICEF humanitarian supplies, including vaccination equipment funded by Rotary Give Every Child a Future.

OUT AND ABOUT



RGECAF member Christine Hurley promoting RGECAF at Wellington North Rotary's Khandallah Fair



“A project like RGECAF, ... is incredibly valuable. It brings vaccines that we don't have here . Knowing we're able to support families, and the health sector to be able to deliver these programs is something as a Rotarian, that I'm incredibly proud of, not just as a Rotarian, but as an I-Kiribati person to know that this, has been made available.” Ruth Cross, President RC Tarawa



(Above) RGECAF member Michelle Tanner presenting to Rotaractors and Rotarians at the Zone 8 Conference in Canberra in October and, (left) time taken out of a holiday in Aitutaki (Cook Islands) to talk to local public health nurses about Rotary Give Every Child A Future. Pictured here is Public Health Nurse Kura loane demonstrating their vaccine fridge..

Here's how we have raised US\$3,718,632 so far

District Designated Funds	751,900	TOTAL	3,718,632
Clubs and Rotarians	904,600	TOTAL BUDGET	3,906,704
Other Foundations	265,639	EXPENDITURE TO DATE	1,507,548
Australian Government	859,473		
Global grants matching funds	931,020	BALANCE NEEDED	188,071

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The Rotary Give Every Child A Future team and UNICEF thank all Rotarians and Rotaractors for your support. Your contribution means thousands of children are receiving potentially life-saving vaccines and will have better health outcomes as a result. **THANK YOU.**

🎄 **GAADHA GAYAA, MERRY CHRISTMAS and MERI KIRIHIMATI** 🎄

Rotary
Zone 8



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Give Every Child A Future - Our Australasian Centenary Project