

# **First Quarterly Report 2008-09 Water Resource Group**

## **1.0 Introduction**

The following report reflects the actions of Rotarians this Rotary year. The action may have been through their clubs and/or districts, through the Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group (WASRAG), or as individual Rotarians working together to address the issues of Child Mortality.

## **2.0 Organization and Communication**

At the Water Resource Planning Meeting in May 2008, the consensus was that the major obstacle to achieve our goals for the Water Resource Group was effective communications. Consequently, emphasis has been placed in this quarter on establishing a communications network down to the District Water Coordinator level. There were many excuses given for not immediately getting a water coordinator assigned by the district governor at the beginning of the year. However, working with the zone coordinators has yielded some increases in assignments. The first list we received from the staff listed about 36% of the districts reporting. We are now at 56% with a goal of 75%. We have the highest participation this year that we have had in the last five years. Our next challenge after identifying the District Water Coordinators is to get them talking and working together.

## **3.0 Major Projects**

We have six major projects in work as of October 1, 2008. These projects are being worked by various Rotarian entities. These include the Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group, Indian Rotary Water Trust, multi-district committees for safe water and sanitation, and various district committees which include partner districts in other parts of the world.

### **3.1 India**

The Rotary India Water Trust has been building check dams for a number of years. That effort is continuing. Another dam will be inaugurated in October which serves four villages. This is the dam where President Lee laid the cornerstone last Rotary year. There is also a significant rain water harvesting project which may become part of the relationships between the PepsiCo Foundation, the Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group, and a potential third party.

### **3.2 South Africa**

The five districts of South Africa have combined their resources to address water and sanitation at approximately 1800 schools which currently do not have safe water and sanitation. A country-wide plan for water and sanitation allows the Rotary leadership to encourage clubs to adopt water plans which will do the most good for the largest group of people.

This unified effort is a first for South African Rotary. The mutual cooperation among the districts allows them to focus on a common problem and devote resources to its solution. Supporting the

effort and the country plan are the Rotary Districts, the Rand Water Board, The ABSA Bank Foundation, and the PepsiCo Foundation.

### 3.3 Zambia and Malawi

While Zambia and Malawi are in the same district, the partnering districts have different project focuses in each of these countries. Consequently, they are addressed separately below.

#### 3.3.1 Zambia

There is currently underway a nationwide program initiated by the Rotary clubs within Zambia to drill a bore hole at every school, both government and community based, throughout the country. It is estimated that there are 3000 schools in Zambia without access to clean, safe water. Since the schools serve as the principal community centers for a village, locating a bore hole near the school will serve an entire village. The Rotary Clubs of Zambia have committed to a goal to provide the drilling of 100 bore holes/year for a five year period. Ten NGO's working in Zambia have agreed to the drilling of 500 bore holes per year in order to realize safe, clean water at all 3000 schools within five years. Drilling costs currently are averaging \$10,000 USD per well. The Rotary Clubs in Zambia are committed to oversee all aspects of the projects and wish to package Matching Grants for the costs of four to five wells per grant. The impact of this project is enormous and the goal of providing clean water to very remote areas of Zambia is far reaching with Rotary again in the forefront of Making Dreams Real for thousands of children and their families.

#### 3.3.2 Malawi

In the plateau area of Livingstonia, Malawi there are over 40 Rotary Clubs involved at this time on a \$650,000 overall budget for water and sanitation for ten villages and 15,000 villagers. The project consists of three main phases and Phase I has recently been completed. For Phase II there are currently three active projects under construction. Once these projects have been completed and the grants reviewed and closed by The Rotary Foundation we have two more applications ready to be submitted --- which will be a total of 8 of the 12 that we are planning.

The project is progressing well now that there is a focus on some of the community activities and on coordinating the work at the village with the work with the NGO, Water for People (WFP) is doing on sanitation. Education and management is a key part of the entire program. The Water Committee of the villagers is a key part of the program with the quarterly Chiefs meeting helping keep the ten villages working as a team along with WFP, Rotary, CCAP (Central Church of Africa - Presbyterian) and our many volunteers.

The villages are participating with the hand digging of over 13,000 meters of trenches in very mountainous terrain. This contribution is their commitment for in-kind donation at this stage and once water becomes available to each village, the village will begin collection of a small fee to accrue for future maintenance and updates to the overall water system. Currently, 60% of the trenching is completed. The building of a sediment & debris separation tank is almost complete. In addition there are two storage tanks in final stage of completion. Volunteers from the American Water Corps who were working on this project in late May 2008 discovered a lagoon that in the original system had served as a sewer treatment system. (The original system was

designed and built over 100 years ago.) Plans are being developed to update this to a modern sewer treatment feature that will be appropriate technology for the region.

The Livingstonia, Malawi project is an excellent example of a water project that has been planned thoroughly with a needs and feasibility study, gained approval and cooperation from ten villages and their chiefs and is proceeding on time and budget with a large number of Rotary clubs, three Rotary districts and two NGO's.

### 3.4 Kenya

The rain water harvesting project in western Kenya which has been supported by Canadian and United Kingdom Rotarians have built over a thousand systems but the effort was stopped by the violence after the elections in Kenya. The restart of the effort has been slow due to the Rotarians in the affected area's focus on rebuilding relationships and trust destroyed by the violence.

We have also had a unique opportunity for service in the Islands of Lake Victoria. The District 5810 Rotarians found a private donor who wished to test the validity of using a specific product to provide safe water for the inhabitants of one of the islands. Rotarian water activists had looked for empirical data about the use of the product and found that the only information available was a manufacturer's sponsored test. The donor (a medical practitioner) put up the funds to purchase the product and fund an independent evaluation of the effectiveness of the product supervised by the local Rotarians and in-country Rotary water activists. It is clearly understood that the oversight does not constitute Rotary's branding of the product.

The funds for this effort did not flow through the Rotary Foundation because the donor was unwilling to release the funds without a guarantee that they would be spent at his wishes in a one week time frame. This is an experiment in donor utilization and local Rotary club support. Projects which can be funded by non-Rotarians makes additional capital available with the potential of valuable new members.

### 3.5 West Africa

Zone 25 has mounted an effort with several of the driest West African countries to bring safe water and sanitation to the poorest of the poor. As a result of on-site visits, they have observed first hand the devastating effect of bad water on child mortality and village health; they are working to bring community water wells, irrigation, gardens and sanitation projects to rural villages in Togo and Niger. In the last 2 1/2 years TRF has approved nine matching grants with a total cost of more than \$450,000. Additional matching grant projects, including a solar powered water and electrical system for a village in the Sahara area of Niger are near submission. A 3-H Grant is also under consideration at TRF to bring wells and a new agro-forestry industry to Niger. Two large matching grant projects are being done in partnership with the US Peace Corps in Niger which enables the local Rotarians to plan and execute projects a considerable distance from their club locations. Another of the projects in Niger is being done in partnership with the Nomad Foundation.

Not only do the projects include the basic water wells and food production (which is now part of each water project), but additional projects for education, income generation, and health are now underway in the villages that have wells and food.

These projects are now making an enormous positive impact on the health and economies in over 50 villages in Togo and Niger. They are supported by the generosity of 68 Rotary clubs in 14 Rotary districts located in 7 countries

Recently when a community well went on line in a community in the north of Togo, the village chief said, "This bore hole well is the center of health in the village." Another chief said, "With this well, our wives will not have to fight with animals at the river to fetch water."

### 3.6 Madagascar

At the request of the U.N. Ambassador from Madagascar, Rotary representatives from WASRAG and local PDGs met with the President of the country. After discussions about Rotary's water and sanitation efforts and Rotarian capabilities, the President designated one of the Madagascar PDGs to head an effort to put together a country wide program administered by Madagascar Rotary and WASRAG. WASRAG Chair Ron Denham was responsible for the service opportunity. WASRAG is the action arm of many Rotary activities while the Resource Group is the information arm of this productive Rotary joint effort.

## 4.0 Partnership Building

The Resource Group is supporting the Reach Out to Africa Committee (ROTA). Through the efforts of our resource team we are building the partnerships necessary to build the ROTA effort.

We know there are many water projects going on between twinning clubs. The number of projects, the dollar amount of their effort, the number of individuals affected by the projects, and the sustainability of the projects are data that we hope to collect in the goal discussed in section 6.0.

## 5.0 International Year of Sanitation

2008 is the United Nation's International Year of Sanitation. October 15<sup>th</sup> has been designated Global Hand Washing Day. The Water Resource Team has asked our Rotary clubs to celebrate Global Hand Washing Day with projects in their communities. Clarissa Brocklehurst, Head of Water and Sanitation for UNICEF, forwarded materials to be used in the celebration. These materials were sent to the Water Resource Team for their dissemination to our clubs and districts.

We know the information has not reached all of our clubs because the General Coordinator sampled some of the clubs in Eastern Europe during his August trip to the region. We will continue to work on this persistent communication challenge.

## 6.0 Project Data Base

We are gathering a list of water and sanitation projects which are being worked by our Rotary Clubs. We are depending on our District Water Coordinators to compile these lists and forward them to our Zone, Area, and General Coordinators. The collection is beginning. However, the compilation is insufficient at this date to draw any general conclusions. We do have a listing of the water and sanitation matching grants from our Rotary Foundation that were open at the

beginning of the year. The summary of the grants indicated that \$19,177,810 had been awarded to water and sanitation projects. The break down of those grants by region is Africa \$6,814,489, Asia \$6,348,424, Latin America \$5,403,805, Europe \$525,543, and North America \$85,549. Section 7.1 includes recommendations on interfacing and data availability.

## **7.0 Recommendations**

### **7.1 Interfacing and Data Availability**

To access the Rotary Foundation grants data, we submitted a request for the information in May to the RI staff supporting the Resource Groups at the planning sessions. They then requested it from their liaison person in the Rotary Foundation who requested the info from the grants group. We received the data in late July. Access to such data in the Rotary Foundation data base can be very valuable to the administration of both the Resource Groups and RAGs.

Perhaps it would be possible to grant read only access to the Rotary Foundation data to key RI staff and volunteers (General Coordinators or their designees for each of the major committees).

### **7.2 Resource Availability**

We requested graphic artist assistance in preparing Rotary specific materials for the Global Hand Washing Day. We were informed with regrets that their staff graphic artists were only available to the RI staff. Consequently, we have only the UNICEF materials to submit to the water team to use in encouraging our clubs to participate.

We recommend that the policy be modified to include support of the senior volunteer staff appointed by the RI President.