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Spectrum



Take action to provide water and sanitation

Posted on March 6, 2019 by By Rotary Service and Engagement



Students at El Tunino school hold glasses of clean water. This is one of nine schools in the Sumpango area of Guatemala at which Rotary is improving water and sanitation facilities through Rotary a global grant. El Tunino now has clean water, new hand washing stations, toilets, septic tanks, and drainage systems

According to the United Nations, 2.1 billion people around the world still lack access to safely managed drinking water services and 4.5 billion people lack safely managed sanitation services. Unsafe hygiene practices are widespread, effecting people's health. More than 340,000 children under five die annually from diarrheal diseases due to poor sanitation, poor hygiene, or unsafe drinking water – that is almost 1000 children per day.

Access to an improved drinking water source is most impactful when there is also access to improved sanitation and commitment to good hygiene practices. Beyond the immediate advantages of people being hydrated and healthier, access to water, sanitation and hygiene has broader socio-economic impacts, particularly for women and girls. *

Through water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programs, Rotary's people of action mobilize resources, form partnerships, and invest in infrastructure and training that yield long-term change. Below are some recent examples of Rotarians in action:

- The Rotaract Club of Melbourne City in Australia organizes an annual Clean Up the Yarra event for Rotaractors, Rotarians, and community volunteers. This event coincides with Clean Up Australia Day, a nation-wide initiative to inspire and empower communities to clean up and conserve the environment. 45 passionate People of Action stepped forward to clean a portion of the Yarra River. Volunteers were organized into three teams to tackle separate areas of the shoreline and nearby green space.
- Many students attend the Bang Klam Pottery Learning Center in Thailand, but only have access to one very old restroom which sometimes doesn't have a water supply. The Rotary Club of Hatyai East, in partnership with their local Rotary Community Corps, supported the center by building three restrooms and a water tank. The funds from the project came from selling community pottery products.
- The Rotary Clubs of Rabindra Sarobar and Sahanagar in India organized a full-day awareness campaign to promote healthy

sanitation and hygiene practices in slums of South Kolkata. 1000 people from the community attended the awareness sessions.

- The Arusha region in Oldonyo Sambu, Tanzania has a population of 3,256 and is the region most affected by fluorosis in Tanzania. The fluorine content of the drinking water in Oldonyo Sambu is about 12 times more than the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended level. This leads to skeletal fluorosis, a very debilitating bone condition. In conjunction with the Nasio Trust, the Rotary Club of Abingdon in England implemented a project where three water tanks, guttering and all pipe work were strategically installed at various locations within the Arusha region, enabling families to share the supply of safe water.

Continued from the previous issue of Spectrum

We didn't see this coming

By Bill and Melinda Gates, February 12, 2019

How would you describe 2018? Was it what you expected?

In the year's annual letter, Bill and Melinda Gates are highlighting things that have surprised them. Earlier, we posted the following surprises:

SURPRISE #1 Africa is the youngest continent. Its median age is the lowest in the world.

SURPRISE #2 DNA tests can find serial killers and could also help prevent premature birth. Scientists have discovered a potential link between pre-term labor and certain genes.

SURPRISE #3 We will build an entire New York City every month for 40 years! The world's building stock will double by 2060.

SURPRISE #4: Data can be sexist. How much more time do girls spend on chores than boys do? 9 hours, 2 hours We don't know

Bill: I spend big chunks of my day studying data on health and development. I'm amazed at how little data we have on women and girls. I think the main reason is that we create this artificial divide where some issues are "women's" issues and others aren't, and the women's issues don't get as much in-depth study. That blocks progress for everyone. You can't improve things if you don't know what's going on with half the population. There's no good reason for that, now that technology makes it so much easier to gather data.

Melinda: How much income did women in developing countries earn last year? How much property do they own? How many more hours do girls spend on household chores than boys?

I don't know. Neither does anyone else. The data just doesn't exist. Bill and I could easily spend our whole annual letter talking about the role data plays in driving progress for the world's poorest people. Data leads to better decisions and better policies. It helps us create goals and measure progress. It enables advocacy and accountability. That's why the missing data about women and girls' lives is so harmful. It gets in the way of helping them make their lives better.

The problem isn't only that some women are missing from the record altogether. It's also that the data we do have—data that policymakers depend on—is bad. You might even call it sexist. We like to think of data as being objective, but the answers we get are often shaped by the questions we ask. When those questions are biased, the data is too.

For example, what little data we do have about women in developing countries is mostly about their reproductive health—because in places where women's primary role in society is being a wife and mother, that's what researchers tend to focus on. But we have no idea how much most of these women earn or what they own, because, in many countries, income and assets are counted by household. Since the

husband is considered the head of the household, everything a married woman brings in is credited to him.

When such flawed data is all you have to go on, it's easy to undervalue women's economic activity—and difficult to measure whether women's economic condition is improving.

Three years ago, our foundation made a big investment to start filling some of these data gaps. We are part of a network of organizations working to accelerate a gender data revolution—from empowering data collectors with new tools and training to breaking down existing datasets by gender to mine them for insights.

This work to collect and analyze data can sound—let's face it—boring. But what's not boring is using data to empower millions of women and girls.

When I was in Kenya a few years ago, a data collector named Christine let me accompany her as she went door to door surveying women in one of the poorest parts of Nairobi. She told me that many of the women she meets through this work have never been asked questions about their lives before. Christine says that when she knocks on a woman's door and explains that she's there to learn more about her, it sends a message to that woman that she matters—that someone cares about her.

I think her point is a powerful one. What we choose to measure is a reflection of what society values. That's why when it comes to understanding the lives of women and girls, the world can't accept "I don't know" as an answer.

SURPRISE #5 You can learn a lot about processing your anger from teenage boys.

Melinda: Two autumns ago, Bill and I spent an afternoon at a Georgia state prison. We were there to learn more about the link between poverty and mass incarceration. (As we wrote about in last year's letter, our foundation is beginning to expand our work in the U.S. beyond our investments in public education, so we've been studying U.S. poverty from lots of angles.)

The most memorable part of the day was a conversation we had with a small group of inmates. If we had any preconceived idea of what a violent offender would be like, the men we met didn't fit it. During our time together, they were funny, friendly, and reflective.

We talked about their plans for life after release and the circumstances that led to their convictions. While we didn't go deeply into the specifics of their crimes (some of which were serious violent offenses), most of them said something about considering themselves to be generally good people who fell in with a bad group and, during a heated moment, did something terrible. They take responsibility for what happened, and, given the chance to go back in time, they would do things differently. But in the moment that mattered, their decision was the wrong one.

Every day, there are young men across the country finding themselves in similar situations—high-stakes interactions that could turn violent or deadly. A growing body of research suggests that interventions that work with young people to improve their impulse control may help them more safely navigate these situations—keeping them in school and out of trouble. That's where programs like Becoming a Man come in.

BAM helps young men in neighborhoods with a lot of crime and gang activity explore their emotions and hone their decision-making skills. It's drawn a lot of attention for its success: A study by the University of Chicago found that BAM reduces its participants' violent crime arrests by almost half.

Last year, Bill spent time with BAM and joined a small group of high school students for a meeting. When he got home, I could tell right away how much the experience had touched his heart. "I didn't just see a BAM circle," he told me. "I participated in it."

Bill: I heard about BAM because our foundation is starting to invest in programs that help kids with social and emotional growth. I was surprised that its approach could be so effective, and I wanted to see it in action. I had no idea how moving it would be.

I sat in on one of the small meetings that students in the program have with a counselor twice a week. After the students asked me to join—you have to be formally invited by the group—I sat in a circle with

five young men, a mix of sophomores and juniors. They started by going around the circle and letting each person share something about the topic of the day. When I was there, the subject was anger. When was the last time you were angry? How did you handle it and what could you have done differently?

Although some of the guys talked about typical teenage frustrations—a teacher was treating them unfairly, or they kept dying in a video game—others had tragic stories. One had just watched a family member go to jail. Another spoke about a friend who had been shot. (I'm leaving out some details of the visit to preserve the participants' confidentiality.)

When it was my turn, my answer was not like everyone else's. I talked about getting mad at a meeting where I learned that the number of polio cases was going up. I am lucky to be able to worry about problems like that. The things that troubled the young men in the circle that day were a lot closer to home. Polio was hardly on their list of top concerns, and I understand why.

But even though the circumstances were very different, learning to deal with your anger was something we all related to. It's an important life skill, part of becoming a mature adult. Growing up, if I thought my parents were being unfair, I could be pretty harsh with them. When I was at Microsoft, I was tough on people I worked with. Some of it helped us be successful, but I'm sure some of it was over the top.

So it was inspiring to see these young men in such tough circumstances working on this skill much earlier than I did. They were deeply engaged in the conversation, asking each other thoughtful follow-up questions. They were facing big challenges with incredible resilience.

After the session was over, I stayed around to chat a while. We posed for selfies and joked about the Xbox versus PlayStation debate. (I said we're an Xbox family, which surprised no one.)

This particular BAM group had been together for a year, and it showed. I was touched by the respect they had for each other and the intimacy they allowed themselves. I left thinking: This is how every classroom in the world should feel.

To be continued

Every day is Women's Day for IDA

By Akihiko Nishio's on Wednesday, March 6, 2019



At the World Bank, we believe no country, community, or economy can achieve its potential or meet the challenges of the 21st century without the full and equal participation of women and men, girls and boys. This is particularly true in developing countries supported by the International Development Association (IDA), the arm of the World Bank that supports the poorest countries.



Basira Basiratka, principal of the Female Experimental High School in Herat, Afghanistan; her school benefited from an IDA-supported program. © Graham Crouch/World Bank

IDA countries have made encouraging progress on closing the gaps between women and men in recent years, especially in health and education. For example, women in IDA countries on average can expect to live longer than men (66 years vs. 62 years). With education, girls have caught up with or overtaken boys in enrolling in and completing primary school, as well as in transitioning on to secondary education.

But in many areas, persistent gaps make it so important for IDA to continue focusing on the issue of gender. Overall, IDA countries still lag in critical areas that prevent women from fulfilling their individual and economic potential. For example:

- Maternal mortality rates are still alarmingly high in many low-income and FCV countries—one in 36 women in Sub-Saharan Africa risks dying due to maternal causes.
- Women in IDA countries are more likely than men to work in informal jobs, work as unpaid family workers, or transition in and out of the labor force.
- Women and girls in IDA countries often lack access to quality, affordable, reliable, and safe transportation—cutting them off from better economic opportunities.
- Women in developing economies continue to trail men in financial account ownership by 9 percentage points, with even wider gaps in many IDA countries.
- Women and girls in IDA countries often lack an equal role in making decisions in their lives, households, and communities.

Closing the gaps between women and men of all ages can help set low-income countries on a sustainable path toward more diversified economies, better jobs, and improved prospects for the next generation. In supporting countries, IDA continues to raise its ambitions in its support for women and girls.

For example, IDA seeks to help women access quality jobs. In Nepal, a project to improve rural transport infrastructure also gives employment opportunities to poor women, particularly from vulnerable groups. Along with these jobs, rural women are provided with facilities for safer working conditions; free monthly checkups; access to free bank accounts and digital banking; and skills development training. The program has created 2.5 million workdays of paid employment, recruiting over 70% women workers who have been able to earn and save money for themselves and their families.

IDA programs also increasingly promote women's participation in the governance of public services, such as the water sector, where women in IDA countries are almost universally underrepresented. For example, as part of a water and sanitation project in Malawi, IDA support is promoting the representation of female professionals among the sector's leadership by providing career training for women as a component of institutional capacity strengthening. This approach is setting a new standard and is being incorporated into the planning of future IDA projects.

In addition, when women have the chance to hold leadership roles and actively participate in their community's challenges, they can make a positive impact, even in fragile and conflict-affected settings. Research has recognized that when women are able to participate more fully in resolving conflicts, peace agreements endure longer and participants are more satisfied with the outcomes.

Women can also play leading roles with difficult challenges, such as addressing the issue of gender-based violence (GBV). IDA is building a portfolio of evidence-based interventions to support women and address GBV in a holistic manner. With the Nigeria for Women Project, for example, the creation of targeted groups helps to build networks for women in rural and semi-urban areas and to facilitate access to social support and trainings on GBV risk monitoring, responses, and confidence building, along with other critical skill building activities to build the entrepreneurship and technical skills of women.

IDA is also working to fill other critical gaps on gender—in data and knowledge. Country-level data on gender gaps is limited and the dearth of data in IDA countries limits our ability to design interventions that address gender disparities. IDA is working in a range of countries to build government capacity to collect more data

and produce sex-disaggregated statistics in a timely manner in key areas such as jobs and asset ownership.

As we look toward 2030, we know that the Sustainable Development Agenda cannot be realized unless IDA countries make considerable progress in gender equality. Through the collective effort of IDA, our partners, and the countries and communities we support, I believe we will continue to close the gaps between women and men, girls and boys, so that opportunities are available to all.

Inspiring Women of Action

Posted on March 8, 2019 posted on rotaryservice by ShelterBox



Ace Robbins with members of the Rotary Club of Mataram Lombok

Local Rotarians in countries affected by disasters often contribute vital support to ShelterBox responses, providing valuable points of contact for Response Teams through first-hand knowledge, introductions, logistical assistance, and vital links into communities. Throughout August 2018, a series of earthquakes struck the Island of Lombok in Indonesia killing more than 460 people and displacing around 400,000. Rotarian Ace Robin, the current president of The Rotary Club of Mataram in Lombok discussed how her club could help affected families. Through pre-existing contacts in Indonesia, ShelterBox was put in touch with Ace.



Members of the Rotary Club of Mataram Lombok

Ace's house was largely undamaged, but many of her friends' and neighbors' homes were destroyed. Ace and the Club of Mataram were instrumental in helping bring ShelterBoxes from Jakarta, liaising with heads of local communities to identify the most affected regions and distributing aid to families. Ace reflected that "working with the ShelterBox Response Team taught us a lot; with their experience they showed us how to build and select families to help."

The partnership ShelterBox and Rotary shares supports Rotary collaboration in the emergency phase of a disaster response, but it also means local Rotary clubs are then better able to continue to help communities in the next phase of their recovery. Ace stated, "it gave us a chance to show what Rotary is to local people. My club has continued to help the affected communities, help with school repairs and provide additional resources", further aiding recovery. When asked why she had got involved in helping the response, Ace simply replied, "to be able to help people makes me happy".



Rotarians Herman and Lisa from the Rotary Mataram Lombok

When the earthquake struck Central Sulawesi in Indonesia on 28 September 2018 it destroyed the home of Fatnizar and her family in the Tondo Village of Donggala. Many of the homes in her neighborhood survived the earthquake, only to be swept away moments later by the subsequent tsunami. Fatnizar relocated with her husband and four children to a football field five kilometres away.

A total of 121 families took refuge on this field across from a school; Fatnizar's family had to share a space under a large tarpaulin with fifteen other families. A month had already passed when ShelterBox reached this newly formed community. The village leaders identified additional families in the area and with help from the Indonesian Disaster Management Agency and local Rotary partners we assisted 150 families with tents, mosquito nets, water filters and carriers.

When we returned the following week on a hot day with light rain falling, Fatnizar was sewing under the awning of her tent. We learned that she had previously worked as a seamstress from her home, creating custom clothing for special orders. When the earthquake took her dwelling it also closed her business. The tent her family had been given not only provided a more private and secure space for the family, but also the opportunity for her to get back to work.

Council on legislation to review changes to RI policies

Rotary members from all over the world will gather in Chicago 14-18 April to consider changes to the Constitutional documents that guide Rotary International and its member clubs.

The Council on Legislation meets every three years and is an essential part of Rotary's governance. The representatives, one from each Rotary district, review and vote on proposals that seek to change Rotary's constitutional documents.

This year, the council will consider more than 100 proposals, including one new item and three recently amended motions from the Rotary International Board of Directors:

1. Authorize the RI board to change RI to a 501(c)(3) organization

Proposed enactment 19-117 seeks approval to change Rotary International's charity status from a 501(c)(4) organization to a 501(c)(3) organization under the United States tax code. As a 501(c)(3) organization, RI would be eligible for benefits, such as tax reductions, vendor discounts, and certain corporate sponsorships.

2. Admit Rotaract clubs to RI membership

Proposed enactment 19-72 would acknowledge Rotaract clubs in the RI Constitution and Bylaws and elevate them to being more equal to Rotary clubs. The Board believes that now is the time to emphasize the important role that Rotaract clubs play in the Rotary family by formally recognizing them in the constitutional documents. Rotaract clubs will continue to have their own standard constitution, maintain their own identity as Rotaractors, and preserve their unique club experience but will receive greater support from RI.

3. Amend the term of reference for Rotaract and Interact Committee

Proposed enactment 19-75 would remove Interact from the responsibilities of the committee in order to emphasize Rotaract as a membership experience distinct from Interact as a youth program

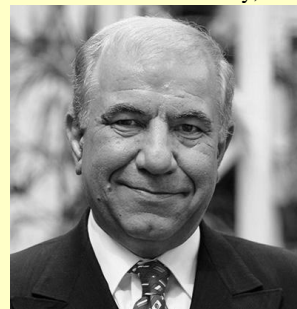
conducted by Rotary clubs. It allows the committee to focus efforts on improving the Rotaract experience, which was identified by the strategic plan as showing great potential as a new channel into Rotary. The RI president may still appoint an Interact committee.

4. Revise policy on financial reserves

The RI Board seeks to modernize RI's policy for reserves to meet future circumstances, in accordance with principles of good governance. Proposed enactment 19-95 would provide a clearer definition of reserves and specify that the appropriate level of reserves is 55 percent of annual operating expenses instead of 85 percent.

Rotary Foundation Trustee Örsçelik Balkan dies

Rotary Foundation Trustee Örsçelik Balkan, a member of the Rotary Club of Istanbul-Karaköy, Turkey, died unexpectedly on 6 March.



Balkan, a Rotary member since 1973, was the executive senior board director of the EAE Elektrik Company, a manufacturer of electrical products in Turkey and Russia. He was a developer in the field of renewable energy. He also taught strategic planning, effective communication, and project planning for an MBA program at Istanbul Kültür University.

"Örsçelik was a Rotarian's Rotarian," says Rotary Foundation Chair Ron D. Burton. "He knew and loved Rotary and exemplified Rotary principles in everything he did. He always put others before himself. His Rotary work worldwide is a true testament to his commitment."

He was a Rotary district trainer, district governor, and RI director. He also served on numerous committees, including as chair of several.

In 1999, he led disaster relief services in Turkey after a devastating earthquake. He also helped bring Rotary services to Bosnia-Herzegovina and initiated a heart surgery project for Iraqi children. He convened Rotary Presidential Peace Forums in Sofia, Bulgaria; Istanbul, Turkey; and Nairobi, Kenya.

Balkan was recognized with the Service Above Self Award and the Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service. He and his spouse, Yasar Afet, were Major Donors and Benefactors of TRF.

He is survived by his spouse, Yasar Afet, sons Aydin and Gökçe, and grandchildren Aylin and Ozan. Memorial services will be held in Istanbul and Aydin, Turkey, on 8-9 March.

Rotaract Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan leads a seminar

Rotaract Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan organizes **TECHNOLOGIA**, a 2.5 hour long Seminar and Workshop on Data Science (DS) and Machine Learning (ML) on March 9, 2019 at the open house, Theatre Road AC Market, 7th floor from 11.00 am onward.

Introduction to Data Sciences & Machine Learning will be the subject of this seminar. Ms Chandrabali Karmakar, BTech (CSE), MS (Forest Information Technology, HNEE Germany), PhD Scholar (on ML at German Aerospace Centre DLR) would be the guest speaker.

Birthdays of Rotary members in March, 2019

Subimal Bhattacharya, past Governor on March 1, 2019

Anniversaries of Rotary members in March, 2019

Spouse Rakhi & Governor Mukul Sinha on March 10, 2019

March is Water and Sanitation Month

UNWIND

Tintu to God: Please give me 1 bag full of money, a job and 1 big vehicle full of girls.

God: Bless u!

Today Tintu is the bus conductor of a Girls College.

TAILPIECE

Keeping a smile on your face, when inside you feel dying, for the sake of supporting others, means Strength