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## Finding new Rotary friends through metal music

Posted on June 12, 2019 by Felix Heintz, Founder and Chair of the Rotarian Metalhead Fellowship, and Manouchehr Shamsrizi, Director of Strategic Partnerships and Communication of the Rotarian Metal-head Fellowship



A special convention takes place annually in Northern Germany, bringing together almost 100,000 people from all over the world. The visitors share fundamental values, which the theologian and publicist Dr. Sebastian Berndt once summed up as "Authenticity, honesty, solidarity, cohesion, truth without frills, directness, and loyalty". His Swiss colleague, Dr. Jörg Scheller, stated that the community coming together at this convention is "a hybrid, multi-ethnic and globalized fairground for all shades of color, mentality and gender", and "a playing field of complex identities."

Now you may be wondering, "Is this a Rotary event I haven't heard of?" Rest assured, you haven't missed a thing because we're talking about the Wacken Open Air, the world's largest heavy metal festival. Nevertheless, our comparison of the Wacken Open Air to Rotary is not completely inappropriate, because the two worlds are closer than one might think. For example, last year during Wacken, we met up with fellow Rotary members and started a successful pilot for a Rotary Fellowship with 23 participating members.



The similarities of our shared values and impact in the world will be celebrated and developed together through the Rotarian Metalhead Fellowship, recently approved by Rotary International. Through this fellowship, we will bring together all the metalheads in the family of Rotary to serve Rotary's goals through music and for music.

"Rotary's ultimate purpose is serve the community, it has never been more important than it is today," as Paul Harris quotes back in 1917, and told us, "Where and how to serve is for everyone to decide for themselves."

Would Harris have become a member of our Fellowship today? His vision, "Friendship is the rock on which Rotary was built, and tolerance holds it together.", is an excellent match for metal, which, according to Dr. Scheller, "has crossed ideologies, political borders, and national borders in recent decades." This shapes our conviction that not only was friendship the rock on which Rotary was built, but also the Rock (and Heavy Metal) can build the friendship.



In addition to enjoying the common musical style, the Rotarian Metalhead Fellowship will provide financial support to The Rotary Foundation and the Wacken Foundation with surplus membership fees. The aim of the Wacken Foundation is to promote young metal talents around the world.

If you want to get in touch with us or maybe even join the loudest Rotary Fellowship? Visit our website and follow us on Facebook.

The Rotarian Metal-head Fellowship is one of more than 80 recognized Rotary Fellowships. Throughout the month of June, we'll be celebrating Rotary Fellowships Month by sharing inspirational services stories from various Rotary Fellowships. We hope these stories inspire you to join or start a Rotary Fellowship.

## How to ensure children are taken care of in the face of disaster?

By Tigran Shmis, Joel Reyes, Koji Miyamoto And Hanna Alasuutari, June 12, 2019



### How to ensure children are taken care of in the face of disaster?

We live in a turbulent world, marred by man-made crises and exposed to intensifying natural disasters and climate challenges. This leaves



children and youth vulnerable to major risks across the globe. Each year, disasters interrupt the schooling of approximately 175 million children. Since 2013, conflicts in Yemen, Syria, Ukraine, Bangladesh, and other countries have forced millions to move from their homes and find safer places. A significant share of those displaced is children of preschool and school-age. If the education sector is poorly prepared to recover quickly from a major disaster or crisis, the impact on these children can be severe and long term.

Education plays a critical role in protecting communities from new risks and vulnerabilities that arise in the aftermath of a disaster or crisis. Schools can provide safe spaces, normalize the daily activities of children, and provide life-saving and wellbeing, knowledge and skills. Education also enhances people's resilience and encourages their recovery and active involvement in activities that reduce exposure to further risks. It is therefore important that governments respond quickly to restore the provision of education, with the longer-term ambition of building back better.

Drawing on our experience working on resilient education across the globe, the World Bank and the Global Facility on Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) have recently published an education recovery guidance note. The note provides critical insights that government officials, the private sector and other development practitioners should take into account in the recovery and reconstruction of the education sector over 3 distinct phases of action.

**The response phase** involves the provision of emergency services and public assistance during or immediately after a disaster. The purpose is to save lives, reduce health impacts, ensure public safety, and meet the basic subsistence needs of the people affected. Typically, the response phase is focused on immediate and short-term needs. For the education sector, the extended disruption of key services and the destruction of education facilities means response actions often extend into the recovery phase.

**The recovery phase** involves the restoration and improvement of facilities, livelihoods, and living conditions. It also involves addressing the psychosocial wellbeing of affected communities, including efforts to reduce disaster risk factors.

**The preparedness phase** is focused on the prevention and mitigation of hazards. At the time of the disaster, these hazards may pose a significant risk to people and property. This phase consists of activities and measures taken before and between hazardous events to raise awareness and promote actions to ensure an effective response. It is vital that all stakeholders use this phase to focus on building resilience, knowledge, and capacities.

As the note stresses, the immediate response is critical for saving people's lives and taking care of the most vulnerable such as children with disabilities through appropriate material and psychological support. The quality of the immediate response will impact the recovery stage. In best case scenarios, communities or countries can build back stronger and be better prepared for any future disasters, if not preventable.

The guide also provides considerations particular to five domains of action, which can be applied in each of the three phases of action.

1. **Assessment, Policy and Planning:** Ensuring that structures, systems, and conditions are in place to address the education sector needs.
2. **Infrastructure:** Ensuring that all education facilities are accessible, safe, and protect students from hazards and all potential forms of harm.
3. **Engagement, Coordination, and Communication:** Ensuring roles and responsibilities are understood, and stakeholders are positioned to deliver on agreed actions.
4. **Capacity and capability:** Ensuring sufficient resources are allocated to needs and that stakeholders have the skills to deliver them.
5. **Teaching and Learning:** Ensuring education sector leaders and teachers build knowledge, skills, and behaviors that reduce risk and prevent potential harm to all students.

For a deeper look at how the education sector can build back better in the aftermath of a disaster or crisis, check out the guidance note in

full. We hope it answers many key questions about how to rebuild the education sector in the aftermath of a disaster. May it also serve as a reminder to all about the importance of ensuring that the education sector is prepared for emergencies, be it in a low, middle or high-income country?

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## From poverty reduction to women's economic and social inclusion

By **Ceyla Pazarbasioglu, Vice President, Equitable Growth, Finance and Institutions (EFI), World Bank Group, June 11, 2019**



**A woman with her livestock: Program beneficiaries received cows, sheep or goats. Photo: © Microfinance Investment Support Facility for Afghanistan**

In Afghanistan, where violence and conflict continue unabated, and poverty is entrenched, a World Bank program aimed at lifting rural households out of extreme poverty has generated remarkable results. Aply called 'Targeting the Ultra Poor' (TUP), the program has supported 7,500 families, an estimated 52,500 people, in the provinces of Balkh, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunar, Laghman and Takhar since 2015. The goal of the program is to provide a "big push" to improve the welfare of the poor and marginalized families, with no regular income to meet their daily expenses, and put them on a path out of poverty. Early impact results are significant, not just for Afghanistan but for all similar programs which have been implemented worldwide for more than a decade. It was initially unclear whether successful outcomes could be achieved in a setting like Afghanistan, which is affected by fragility, conflict & violence. It turns out that not only did the program succeed, but the results were even stronger than in other countries, such as Ethiopia, India or Bangladesh.

Over the course of a year, families enrolled in the program in Afghanistan received livestock (mostly cows, but sheep and goats as well), skills training, and coaching on livestock rearing and entrepreneurial activity. They also received a monthly cash stipend of \$15, and a basic health subsidy of up to \$30 that would cover a basic hygiene kit and reimbursement of medical expenses. To promote financial inclusion, families were encouraged to save and were introduced to local microfinance institutions to help them open savings accounts.

*"The results from Afghanistan are inspiring and energizing, and they show that it is possible to bring about meaningful change for those most in need." Ceyla Pazarbasioglu*

Vice President, Equitable Growth, Finance and Institutions (EFI)

The impact evaluation of the program, recently completed in Balkh, tracked families from before the interventions started until one year after the program ended. The evaluation found inspiring results on multiple critical fronts --- poverty, women's empowerment, access to finance, as well as human development (education, child health and mental health).

The TUP program led to a significant reduction in the incidence of extreme poverty, increased consumption, and improved food security among the beneficiaries – over 90 percent of whom were women. A fifth of participating families in Balkh moved above the national poverty line (roughly equivalent to \$1 per person per day). Per capita monthly consumption increased by almost a third. The study also found marked declines in the number of meals skipped or reduced among both adults and children.

Similarly, the positive effects on women's empowerment are noteworthy. The program increased women's labor participation by providing economic opportunities to previously under-employed women. It also improved women's access to resources like mobile phones and bank accounts, helped women obtain national IDs and encouraged their social and political involvement.

Access to finance for TUP families also improved, albeit from a very low level. Not only were TUP beneficiaries less likely to borrow for consumption purposes, but they were also more likely to be saving, one year after the program ended. While only 2 percent of non-TUP households reported saving (with an average savings balance of only \$1), 28 percent of TUP households were saving, with an average savings balance of \$32!

in Balkh, to determine the sustainability of the results of the first impact evaluation.

Due to the successful outcomes achieved so far, the program is being expanded to 3,000 additional families in Parwan and Nangarhar, two provinces which are hosting internally-displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees.

The results from Afghanistan are inspiring and energizing, and they show that it is possible to bring about meaningful change for those most in need. We will continue to strive hard to achieve our mission of rooting out extreme poverty wherever it exists and measure our impact wherever it is possible.

Note: The TUP program in Afghanistan is led by the World Bank Group's Finance, Competitiveness and Innovation Global Practice and implemented by the Microfinance Investment Support Facility for Afghanistan. Initially piloted in Bamyan in 2010, it was later scaled up to include six additional provinces (including Balkh) through funding from the International Development Association (IDA).

About the author:



Ceyla Pazarbasioglu is Vice President for Equitable Growth, Finance and Institutions (EFI) at the World Bank Group (WBG) since October 1, 2018. Ceyla sits on the board of several multinational institutions, including the Financial Stability Board (FSB) and the Toronto Centre. She holds a PhD in economics from Georgetown University, USA

### What is inspiration?

Posted on June 13, 2019 by Stacey Jones, Rotary Club of Kingsville Southshore, Ontario, Canada



*The Rotary Club of Kingsville Southshore, Ontario, Canada, involves children in all club activities.*



*A group of women in Kandahar attend a financial literacy class to learn about the importance of saving and how to access local financial institutions. Photo: © Microfinance Investment Support Facility for Afghanistan*

Additional benefits have included the psychological well-being of men and women, evaluated in terms of self-esteem, life satisfaction, and stress level. Also, school-age children were more likely to be enrolled and missed fewer days of school and the health of children under five also considerably improved.

The impact evaluation provides solid evidence that the TUP programs have the potential to reduce poverty among the poorest, especially women, living in an extremely fragile and conflict-affected environments. A follow-up survey will be undertaken later this year

What is inspiration? To me it means that we are so moved by something, that we are compelled to act - without a conscious thought. That was my experience in Italy in the summer of 2018. While attending an event at the Coliseum, I had the opportunity to speak to Connie Nielsen about her charity called the Human Needs Project. They work primarily in the slums of Nairobi assisting people with the very basics of human needs. And as I stood there, literally rubbing elbows with these celebrities listening to them speak so passionately about their charity work; and staring out into the city from this private gala, I couldn't help but question what I was doing with my life. And so at that moment my question became my answer.

Seven months from that night, a small group of us met for our very first Rotary meeting. The great thing about never having been in Rotary before is that we knew we could write our own script. We are a group of young professionals with families for the most part. I understood immediately that that meant kids would be a main "concern." It's the entire reason I hadn't joined Rotary for so many years. I was busy with my kids!





**A member and his daughter plant a tree during a club activity.**

So we decided that our children had to be a part of our story. Immediately we held a vision planning session. Through that process we secured our belief that children and families would be our priority. Not just our community children, but our own. Who wants to go to meetings feeling guilty that yet another evening is being spent away from your kids? So they tag along. We set up tables for them during our meetings and they come to most of our events and service projects.

Can it be chaotic? *Oh ya.*

Is it fun? *Definitely*

Does it appeal to everyone? *Absolutely not*

I do understand that I have lost potential members when they come in to one of our meetings and one of the kids is doing handstands up against the wall and two others are doing a dance routine in the corner. That's OK with me. I am happy to recommend another club in my area.

We are different. What we do offer is a new version of Rotary. Rotary 2.0. We don't take attendance. (I hear the gasps!) We don't recite The Four-Way Test; our children do. We don't serve dinner at our meetings. It takes too much time. And we don't have meetings every week. Maybe we go to someone's house or clean up a park one week. It's not perfect and it's not for everyone. We are learning and growing and trying our best.

But what I do know is that it's working. I know its working because last week, two of the kids made their own "end polio now" bracelets as a craft. On their own! The week before that, three of them were crawling through a ditch and long grass helping us clean a park; because it was fun. They had a meeting of their own and decided that they want to hold bake sales and also paint and sell rocks. And every Wednesday when we pick our daughter up from school, she asks if WE have Rotary tonight.

You see, kids are no different than us adults. They want to do good things because it makes them feel good. They also want to feel empowered. So let them. Just because they are children doesn't mean they don't have really good ideas. And allowing them to help at service projects will absolutely make that experience richer for everyone.

So while there are times that we have to shush them in a meeting or stop to kiss a boo boo, at the end of it all I know they hear us. They may not be listening but they certainly hear. And by hearing, they do. And my hope is that we've now created the next generation of doers.

### **New Rotary club models enhance connections**



*Posted on June 11, 2019 by Jessie Harman, chair of the Rotary International Membership Committee and a member of the Rotary Club of Wendouree Breakfast, Victoria, Australia*

Rotary's new strategic plan is underpinned by four key priorities – to increase our impact, expand our reach, enhance participant engagement, and increase our ability to adapt. The emergence of new club models is evidence that Rotary clubs and districts are working actively to advance these priorities.



**Munkhtuul Nyamdorf, from Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, checks out the four priorities of Rotary's new strategic plan in the Future of Rotary booth during the 2019 Rotary International Convention in Hamburg.**

*Photo by Monika Lozinska/Rotary International*

These new club models represent an opportunity to connect with a more diverse group of individuals – particularly those who are unable or unwilling to join our traditional clubs. While new club models have been emerging for some time, the 2016 Council on Legislation decision to promote flexibility and innovation has arguably accelerated their development.

At the present time, it's possible to recognize at least seven different types of clubs:

- **Traditional clubs** – at the heart of Rotary: a group of professionals and aspiring leaders who meet regularly for service, connections and personal growth
- **Satellite clubs** – sponsored by a traditional club, but with their own meetings, projects, bylaws and board
- **E-Clubs** – that meet exclusively online
- **Passport clubs** – that allow members to attend other Rotary club meetings and service projects, so long as they attend a specified number of meetings in their own club
- **Corporate clubs** – whose members are employed by the same employer, but who have different roles in their workplace
- **Cause-based clubs** – whose members share a passion for a particular cause and whose service projects and activities center around that cause, and
- **Rotaract clubs** – sponsored by Rotary clubs, whose members are aged between 18 and 30 and who meet together for service, friendship, and connections

Amid this landscape there are also hybrids of these types – adding further to the diversity of Rotary, and there can be little doubt that new club models will continue to emerge – including the possibility of a model of participation which is not club-based.

Development of new club models and new ways to engage with Rotary is a healthy sign – indeed some would say a critical ingredient – of our ongoing sustainability and success. Our challenge is to continue to evolve – to meet the needs of our members and our communities and to ensure Rotary stays relevant, innovative, and engaging long into the future.

### **Birthdays of Rotary members in June 2019**

Siddhartha Sadhan Bose, past Governor on June 21, 2019

Nayantara Palchoudhury, past Governor on June 24, 2019

### **Anniversaries of Rotary members & spouses in June 2019**

Sp Sharmila & PDG Siddhartha S Bose on June 3, 2019

Spouse Sushma & PP Uma Shankar Agarwal on June 20, 2019

Sp Lalita & PDG Kamal Seth on June 30, 2019

Sp Sweeta & Dr Rajesh Goel on June 30, 2019

### **June is Rotary Fellowship month**

### **UNWIND**

*A man is incomplete until he is married. After that, he is finished.*

### **TAILPIECE**

*Give up the past: The present moment is all you have and all you will ever have. After all life is a journey not a destination.*

*Have a clear vision for the future, prepare yourself, but always be present in the now.*