



Rotary

Spectrum



RI District 3291

July 6, 2019

Weekly bulletin of Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata

VOL 12A NO 1

PRESIDENT DR SUDHA CHAUDHARY

SECRETARY KUSUM CHAMARIA

EDITOR BL AJITSARIA

CLUB NO 78956

CHARTERED ON APRIL 30, 2008

WEBSITE www.rcslmk.org

Healthy people drive strong economies

*Kristalina Georgieva, Chief Executive Officer of the World Bank
June 28, 2019*



Waiting to be seen by the midwife at the postnatal ward in the Kuntair Minor Health Center, the GambiaWorld Bank

Dieynaba Nioula Kane remembers vividly when, for the first time in her life, she was forced to ask friends and family for money. It was out of desperation after the birth of her fifth child, a little boy with a life-threatening condition that needed specialist treatment in the capital. Dieynaba was forced to leave her job teaching French and hurriedly relocate to Dakar, where she was able to find the health services he needed.

But the expenses quickly piled up. Hospital bills, a tracheostomy, medicines, dressings, fees for nurses and doctors, plus the cost of transportation to and from the hospital. As she took a break from paid employment for four years to focus on her son's health her family's economic conditions deteriorated. It took the family years to recover.

Financing UHC drives inclusive economic growth



Country health systems built on the principles of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) ensure that all people have access to the quality essential health services they need without suffering financial hardship. They enable the good health for children to thrive at school

and for adults to be productive at work. They also prevent catastrophic expenses for families.

Financing UHC efficiently and equitably is important to ensure inclusive growth—especially since the health sector accounts for 11 percent of global GDP. Japan, the current President of the G20, credits its own adoption of a UHC-based system in 1961 for the decades of social and economic development that followed.

This weekend at the G20 Summit in Osaka, the World Bank Group will publish a new report that explains how people in developing countries, just like Dieynaba, spend half a trillion dollars on direct healthcare costs each year. This burden falls most heavily on the poor who spend a larger proportion of their meagre budgets dealing with health crises because they are not covered by a universal healthcare system like the UK's NHS.

For individuals who live without this protection, the impact is catastrophic—every year, out-of-pocket medical bills result in 100 million people like Dieynaba living in extreme poverty.

For societies and economies, the big improvements in health of recent decades are at risk. Economic growth is stifled by a less productive workforce. And we are all more exposed to the pandemic disease outbreaks that can spread rapidly in an interconnected world.

Part of the reason is that developing countries don't spend enough on health. By 2030, we estimate that the world's 54 poorest countries will have a funding gap of US\$176 billion per year between what they have and what they need for decent, affordable health services. Unfortunately, however, the problem goes deeper than not enough money. Between 20 and 40 percent of health spending in developing countries is wasted or used inefficiently, and low-income countries are also starting to face the challenges of an aging population and an increase in chronic, non-communicable diseases.

Together, these factors will drive an upward spiral of healthcare costs which will further burden the poor and create a disastrous recipe for potential health and economic setbacks in the coming decades. It is in the interests of the whole world to guard against economic risks, and we owe thanks to the government of Japan for putting this on the agenda of the G20.

Money sent home by workers now largest source of external financing in low- and middle-income countries (excluding China)

By Donna Barne & Florina Pirlea, July 02, 2019

The money workers send home to their families from abroad has become a critical part of many economies around the world. Based on the most recent data, remittances will only grow in importance. Officially recorded remittances amounted to a record \$529 billion in 2018, and are on track to reach \$550 billion in 2019.

This money is flowing at about the same levels as foreign direct investment (FDI), but if China is excluded, they are the largest source of foreign exchange earnings in low and middle-income countries, according to Migration and Remittances Brief 31, published by the World Bank Group and KNOMAD, the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development. In other words, if China is excluded from the analysis, remittances have already overtaken FDI as the biggest source of external financing.

Today, remittances equal or surpass 25% of GDP in five countries: Tonga, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Haiti, and Nepal.

“Remittances are on track to become the most important game in town when it comes to financing development,” says *Dilip Ratha*, lead

economist in Macro Economics and Fiscal Management at the Bank and the head of KNOMAD.

Today, they are more than three times larger than *official development assistance* (ODA), and FDI has been on a downward trend, notes the brief. "In five years, remittances will likely become larger than ODA and FDI combined," says Ratha. "The underlying factors driving remittances will continue to grow," he added. "We could see remittances reach a trillion dollars in the future."

Factors driving remittances

The underlying factors driving migration and therefore remittances are big global trends that are already apparent. Ratha lists them as:

- **Income gaps:** The average per capita income in a high-income country is \$43,000, versus \$795 in a low-income country.
- **Demographic imbalances:** Between 2018 and 2030, the working age population will grow to 552 million in low- and middle-income countries. In high income countries, the working-age population will decrease by 40 million people.
- **Climate change:** An estimated 143 million people have already been displaced by climate change within their own countries.
- **Fragility, conflict and violence:** A record 70.8 million people were forcibly displaced in 2018, including 25.9 million refugees seeking refuge in other countries.

Remittances are a lifeline to low and middle-income countries, but sending them cost too much

Remittances are a lifeline to low and middle-income countries and an effective way to alleviate poverty because they go directly to families; there is little waste, says Ratha. The United Nations has recognized the importance of remittances to development and to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

But the benefits of remittances are reduced by the generally high cost of sending the money, which averages 7% on a money transfer of \$200. Banks were the costliest channel for transferring remittances, at 10.9%. In Sub-Saharan Africa the cost of sending money is higher than the average at 9.3%.

For the five most expensive remittances-sending corridors, the cost is dramatically higher - 18.7%. That's almost three times higher than the global average and six times higher than the SDG target.

The SDGs call for reducing the cost of sending remittances to 3% of the value of the money transfer. Digital currency or cryptocurrency could expand access to credit and eliminate many fees, argue proponents. New research estimates that international digital remittances will exceed \$300 billion globally by 2021, about 44% of total formal international remittances.

Diaspora bonds offer an opportunity for impact

Another way to maximize the power of remittances is to encourage migrant workers to invest in their home countries in a more formal way, such as through a diaspora bond. Diaspora bonds can be a tool to make remittances more productive and are "perfect for financing development," says Ratha.

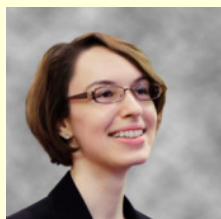
Migrant workers save about \$500 billion a year as well as send money home, says Ratha. If a 10th of their savings could be mobilized, that could be an additional \$50 billion for development finance, he says.

Ratha is preparing a diaspora bond for the state of Kerala in India as part of a World Bank Group project.



Donna has enjoyed working in online news and communications since 1998. An online communications officer at the World Bank, she has worked for AOL, the District of Columbia Office of the Chief Technology Officer, the Bureau of National Affairs, Toronto Star, and other news and publishing organizations.

Florina Pirlea is an analyst, Development Data Group, World Bank. Her areas of interest are data quality and dissemination, private sector development, the environment, and public policy. She holds an MA in International Economics from Johns Hopkins University and a BA in Economics and Psychology from Bryn Mawr College.



Dilip Ratha is Lead Economist, Migration and Remittances and Head of KNOMAD. He acts as a focal point for the World Bank on migration, remittances and diaspora bonds. He is a co-coordinator of the (G7/G20) Global Remittances Working Group. His TED Talk, "*The hidden force in global economics: sending money home,*" has over 1.3 million views.

Besides migration, Dilip has worked extensively on innovative financing tools such as future-flow securitization, models for predicting sovereign ratings, and South-South FDI. He founded KNOMAD in 2013 and co-founded Migrating out of Poverty Research Consortium in 2011. He is also the brain behind African Institute for Remittances. Prior to joining the World Bank, he worked as a regional economist for Asia at Credit Agricole Indosuez, Singapore, and taught at Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. He has been a visiting professor of economics at the University of Sussex and a senior visiting fellow at Harvard South Asia Institute. He has PhD. in economics from Indian Statistical Institute. In 2008, a New York Times article about his life and work stated, "No one has done more than Dilip Ratha to make migration and its potential rewards a top-of-the-agenda concern in the world's development ministries."

Thank you for a wonderful year, Rotaractors

Posted on June 27, 2019 by Barry Rassin, 2018-19 RI president



RI President Barry Rassin, middle, with Rotaractors in Mozambique

Time has really flown by. As the Rotary year draws to a close, I wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on all that we've accomplished together.

When I started my year as president of Rotary, I set a number of goals that I hoped Rotary clubs all over the world would strive to achieve. One significant goal was important, but simple: double Rotaract.

I realize that was quite a lot to ask clubs. But there's a reason why I didn't ask Rotary clubs to simply grow Rotaract. I chose the goal of doubling Rotaract because it gave us something specific to reach for, and I believed that whatever we managed to accomplish this year would still be significant.

Since 1 July 2018, we have started 1,148 new Rotaract clubs around the world (as of 24 June), with 24,254 new Rotaractors. These numbers are growing every day. I am so impressed by this growth. In the process, we raised awareness among Rotarians of the power and potential of Rotaract. We have also worked to increase engagement and gather feedback from Rotaractors.

Last, an important piece of legislation was approved during the Council on Legislation that now includes Rotaract clubs as a membership type of RI.



RI President Barry Rassin takes a selfie with members of Rotaract in London

I championed this item because I believed it was the best way to make Rotaractors our equal partners in service. This will also help lay the foundation for emphasizing and growing Rotaract as a critical part of Rotary, while still allowing for the unique experience that Rotaract clubs provide.

To Rotaractors around the world: I am so glad I got to meet so many of you. You have all truly inspired and motivated me throughout the year. I traveled to over 55 countries in the last year and everywhere I went, I was met with the same level of energy and enthusiasm. I will always look back fondly on this year, including all the selfies we took together. And to those of you I didn't get the chance to meet, I hope our paths cross someday. Thank you for all that you do and all that I hope you continue to do, as you continue on your journey as a part of the family of Rotary. Most importantly, thank you for being the inspiration.

New Voices club charts its own course

Posted on July 2, 2019 by Marty Peak Helman, growth chair for District 7780 (parts of Maine and New Hampshire, USA)



RI Director Jeffrey Cadorette, left, with members of the Rotary Club of New Voices

A new Rotary club, New Voices, was chartered 15 June in my district with 33 new members. What makes this club unique is that the newly-minted Rotarians, who range in age from 18 to 30, are all graduates of the district's phenomenal Rotary Youth Leadership Awards program. They were introduced to RYLA and Rotary youth leadership at age 15 as high school juniors, and since then, they have stayed active through the district's RYLA Reset program for grads, RYLA workdays, and RYLA leadership opportunities. What these young people have in common is a love for what RYLA and Rotary offers them in terms of positive youth development. But, with high school graduation looming, many of them were expecting to leave the Rotary orbit.

"We have a strong track record of getting RYLA participants into Interact, if they aren't involved already," Phil Giordano, executive director of RYLA in District 7780 and past president of the Rotary Club of Scarborough, Maine, told me. "Then they graduate from high school and go off to university, and we tell them to check out a local Rotaract club, or start one if there is none on campus. We lose many of them then and more when it's time for them to graduate college and concentrate on their careers."

Youth pipeline

It's a common problem throughout Rotary in North America, as RI Director Jeffrey Cadorette noted to me at the chartering. "We have the greatest pipeline in the world of young people coming up through RYLA, Youth Exchange, Interact, and Rotaract. Other organizations would kill for a pipeline such as we have. But we are only now beginning to learn to capitalize on it. New Voices gives us a critical tool to do just that and turn our Rotary youth alumni into Rotarians."

Earlier this year, it became evident to Giordano and me, as the District 7780 Growth Chair, that the changes enacted by the 2016 Council on Legislation meant that the young people could form a club of their own – a club that would focus on youth leadership and which would meet (mostly) on line, with three or four "live" events each year – events which the young people are already involved in.

Giordano reached out to his RYLA leadership team, determined solid interest in a new club, and helped them get organized. First, the young people created their own mission statement: New Voices D7780 will be a new type of Rotary Club that is accessible to people of all geographies, abilities, and ages, and is for folks who share a passion for youth leadership development and service to others; our goal is to expand the traditional model of Rotary to as many people as possible.

A new kind of club

New Voices is a whole new kind of Rotary club, focused on capturing an underserved population that happens to be already excited about Rotary, but who – because of time constraints, school commitments, and job expectations – could never commit to a weekly or biweekly mealtime meeting. In Rotary parlance, the closest existing model is a Passport Club, and certainly, the New Voices Rotarians expect to "make up" with Rotary clubs in communities where they may be studying or working in order to engage with them in service or fundraisers.

Zone leadership, most especially Director Cadorette and Director-nominee Valarie Wafer, have been extremely supportive and are firmly committed to this new concept. Cadorette brought a video recording of 2018-19 RI President Barry Rassin welcoming the club to Rotary. Cadorette has recognized that this model is infinitely scalable and can be replicated anywhere. All it takes is an existing strong Rotary youth program. Access to a database of past members going back at least several years is helpful. Additionally, a group of Rotary mentors are needed to help navigate the process, while empowering the new members to create Rotary from a blank canvas. For more information about New Voices Rotary Club and how you can start one in your district, email me at martyrotary@gmail.com; or Giordano at philtastic7780@gmail.com.

What brings Rotarians, returned Peace Corps volunteers together?

Posted on July 5, 2019 by Mark D Walker, Membership Chair, Partnering for Peace



Ross Feezer, Mark Walker and Hal Rifken are at the outset of the video project

The recently formed Partnering for Peace (P4P), an affiliate of the National Peace Corps Association, brings together a group of professionals with a shared vision to promote peace by creating sustainable projects locally and around the world. The stories of how and why they joined are as diverse as the 50 members themselves.

Steve Werner, president of the group, tells how the initial vision started in Colorado, USA:

"Over five years ago, some of us Rotarians in the Denver, Colorado metro area were attending our district conference. As we looked around during the reception, we noticed a large number of returned Peace Corps volunteers. As it is common for both returned Peace Corps volunteers and Rotarians to exchange ideas while socializing, we started talking about how Rotary is a natural extension of service for anyone who had Peace Corps experience as a volunteer or staff person."

Steve, in addition to his Rotary work in Denver and elsewhere, was a Peace Corps volunteer in Korea and later worked with Peace Corps Response in Georgia. Steve didn't have a difficult time recruiting me to the board. I was a Peace Corps volunteer in Guatemala in the early

1970s and joined Rotary over 30 years ago in Bogota, Colombia, where I was a country director for Plan International. I'm a past president of the Rotary Club of Scottsdale North and was a district community service chair for three years. All three of my children were Rotary Youth Exchange students.

As chair of the P4P membership committee, I teamed up with Ross Feezer, a returned Peace Corps volunteer from the Dominican Republic and past president of the Rotary Club of Casa Grande Breakfast, to promote the Rotary-Peace Corps partnership throughout Arizona. According to Ross, District 4060 in the Dominican Republic helped support Peace Corps volunteers working in education, bringing books to new readers. This is one of many examples of Rotary working with Peace Corps.

In August 2017, our board realized that sharing our story with others would be key to future growth. About that time, Hal Rifken, a member of the Rotary Club of Palisades in New Jersey, returned Peace Corps volunteer, and award-winning documentary maker/cameraman, agreed to film the "Gift a Book" program in Costa Rica. He went on to produce two promotional videos and then visited South Africa to film a child literacy program being implemented by Rotary and Peace Corps.

If you are a returned Peace Corps volunteer and a Rotary member, we encourage you to join Partnering for Peace. Here are some of the benefits:

- Becoming part of a powerful international network for change
- Receiving a quarterly e-newsletter which highlights recent collaborations between Peace Corps and Rotary clubs
- Gaining access to the P4P list of Rotary clubs and returned Peace Corps volunteer groups committed to working together
- Receiving information on joint projects and key contacts for assisting with or replicating one of these projects
- Showcasing joint projects and sharing experiences on the P4P website and Facebook page
- Receiving a Membership Tool Kit, including videos that will help you promote P4P to your Rotary club

We started 2019 with 50 members and plan to double our size over the coming year in order to attract more Rotarians and returned Peace Corps volunteers with their own special talents and visions of how to change the world. Visit our newly designed website for more details, including how to get involved.

District recognition



PP Dr Aruna with some of District Recognitions of Clubs in respect of Women empowerment, Economic and community development and Cervical cancer support to foundation held on June 28, 2019 at GD Birla Sabhaghar

Evolution of Rotary Club of Calcutta



The Rotary Club of Calcutta, referred to as the "Old Number One" was formed on the 26th September, 1919 and received its charter on the 1st January, 1920, thus making 2020 also the Centenary of the Rotary movement in Asia. Two other Clubs in Asia, viz. Manila and Shanghai, were chartered a few months prior to Calcutta in 1919.

However, Manila lost its charter for four years during the Second World War following the Japanese occupation. Also, Shanghai lost its charter for more than 65 years in 1935. It has recently been granted a provisional status in 2001. This makes Rotary Club of Calcutta the longest running Rotary Club in Asia. Thus Centenary of this club is indeed the centenary of Rotary in Asia. Rotary Club of Calcutta's unique emblem is displayed on the Presidential collar with the motto *Per Arduo Stabiles Esto*. It is the first Rotary Club in India - indeed at the time of its inception, it was the only club between the English Channel and the China Sea and can claim to be present even before Rotary International was formed in 1921. Rotary Club of Calcutta has sponsored twenty-eight Rotary Clubs including the first clubs of Pakistan (Lahore) and Bangladesh (Dhaka). No less than thirteen of its members have gone on to become District Governors. The Club's Guest Speakers included Mahatma Gandhi on August 18th 1925, the Dalai Lama on November 20th 1986. Nitish Chandra Laharry, RI President 1962-63 was a member of this club

Birthdays of Rotary members in July 2019

Ranjan Kuthari on July 9, 2019

Dr Om Tantia on July 10, 2019

Pravat Krishna Rohatgi, past Governor on July 14, 2019

Amitava Mookerjee, past Governor on July 19, 2019

Anniversaries of Rotary members & spouses in July 2019

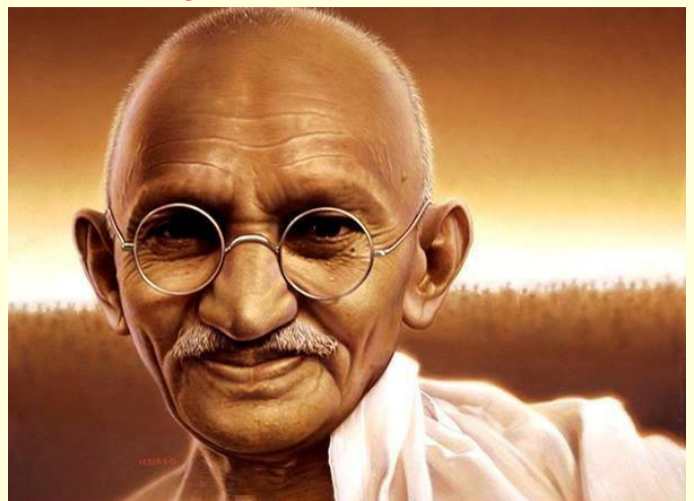
Spouse Rinki & Anirban Majum on July 3, 2019

Spouse Lakshmi & PP Siddhartha Tantia on July 3, 2019

UNWIND

A husband said to his wife, 'Your mother has been living with us for 5 years now. Isn't it time she got herself her own apartment?'
'My mother?' said the wife, 'I thought she was your mother!'

TAILPIECE



The seven sins according to Gandhi: "Wealth without work. Pleasure without conscience. Knowledge without character. Commerce without morality. Science without humanity. Religion without sacrifice. Politics without principle."

fb.com/factsweird