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# ROTARY GIVE EVERY CHILD A FUTURE NEWSLETTER

September 2022

Welcome to the Rotary Give Every Child A Future September newsletter. COVID-19 has had a huge impact on RGECAF causing multiple delays, but the good news is that, as of mid-September at least some vaccines have been rolled out in all our project countries. Rotary's fundraising will soon be complete but we aim to continue with regular newsletters to keep you, our generous supporters, informed about the impact Rotary Give Every Child A Future is having on our Pacific neighbours over the next three years.

## In this issue...

- [#moveforgecaf](#)
- Project updates
- Highlighting the RGECAF partnership
- Jennifer Jones's Pacific tour
- Country launches



## #MOVEFORGECAF – THE FINAL INSTALMENT

Move For GECAF was established to provide an opportunity for Rotaractors and Rotarians around the world to connect, collaborate, build awareness of and raise funds for, Rotary Give Every Child A Future.

Since 2020 participants in 22 countries have ‘moved for GECAF’ with dancing in the streets of Uganda, a colour run in American Samoa and sunrise yoga sessions in Florida and South Africa to name just a few.

2022 is the last year that Rotaract will be running this series of virtual events in the lead up to the international MOVEFORGECAF day on the 5th of November.

If you are inspired by their cause, please consider:

- Joining them on November 5th and hosting an event. You can register your [here](#)
- Share this [givealittle link](#) with your club members so they can donate to the project



Give Every Child A Future

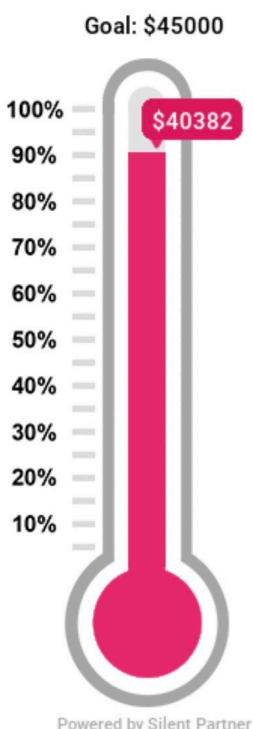
SPEAKER SESSION  
MICHELLE TANNER



2nd October 2022  
9.00AM NZDT - 10.00 PM CEST

register at  
<https://forms.gle/eFxfhLGMMTwA3YDHA>

#MOVEFORGECAF



The Rotaract Club of Auckland City has secured over NZ\$10,000 of grants which will **match every dollar raised 1:1**, so all donations up to this threshold will have double the impact!

[Rotaract Oceania MoveforGECAF](#)



# Showcasing a great partnership



*Christine Hurley (RC Wellington) presents on the RGECAF partnership*



*Michelle Sharp (CEO UNICEF) Aotearoa introduces the session*



*Lt-Rt Jackie Quick-Hinchcliff, Ann Tod, Christine Hurley, Jonathan Veitch (UNICEF PC), Michelle Tanner, Michelle Sharp (UNICEF NZ)*

13 September 2022 was a special day for the New Zealand members of the RGECAF committee. For the first time since COVID-19 hit we actually got to meet face-to-face after hours of Zoom meetings over the last 32 months. The occasion was a business breakfast arranged by UNICEF Aotearoa and hosted by DLA Piper at their offices in the PCW Tower on Auckland's waterfront. With an audience of invited IT and communication companies, UNICEF's Representative in the Pacific, Jonathan Veitch, described the situation in the Pacific while Rotary's Christine Hurley talked about the RGECAF project, highlighting the essential and highly effective partnership we have with UNICEF. The obligatory photos were followed by some very useful meetings making the most of this rare gathering of RGECAF members.

*Photos courtesy of UNICEF Aotearoa New Zealand*

# DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Rotary Give Every Child A Future reached some major milestones over the last few months. The initial project is now fully funded in eight of the nine countries and over 92% of the total budget of USD 3.9 million has been raised. While it's not quite time to bring out the champagne, we are into the home straight. What we do and where we go after that is starting to be considered.



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Overall, the program in the Pacific continues to be going well, despite the delays and challenges caused by the pandemic. Governments in the Pacific are understandably prioritising the introduction of COVID-19 vaccines for their populations.

Nevertheless, the vaccines associated with this project are progressively being rolled out and imbedded into the national immunisation programs in each country.

The size and complexity of delivering RGECAF vaccines in Kiribati has meant that the project has been planned in two stages,

first rotavirus and then HPV. The rotavirus program is fully funded and well underway. The HPV program has now started with support from the Australian Government (approx. 50%) and this is the one part of RGECAF that still requires Rotary funding to complete it.

Thank you again to everyone who has donated to this important project which was set up to celebrate the Centenary of Rotary in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific. The impact that this is having, and will have, on communities in the Pacific is amazing. Let's now finish the job.

For more information and to donate, please go to [everychildafuture.com](https://everychildafuture.com)

*James Allen RGECAF Project Director, RC Sydney*



# UNICEF PROJECT UPDATE

Since our last update in March lots of progress has been made in the Rotary Give Every Child a Future programme in the Pacific.

In April, PCV (pneumococcal conjugate) and RV (rotavirus) vaccines were launched in the Cook Islands. In July, PCV, RV and HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccines were launched in Tokelau and HPV vaccines were rolled out in Samoa.

Alongside delivering the vaccines, UNICEF focuses on ensuring health care workers and communities have all the information they require so that vaccines can become vaccinations. Operational guidelines have now been developed for all three vaccines in Cook Islands, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. And UNICEF has supported Ministries of Health in each of these countries to conduct rapid formative assessments of routine immunisation. These assessments are providing valuable insights for health care workers to better understand and mitigate the barriers to routine immunisation.

Draft communication strategies for the roll-out of new vaccines are now available in Cook Islands, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. These strategies will guide the governments' efforts to widely communicate the benefits of immunisation, mobilise caregivers of eligible children, and address vaccine hesitancy.



*Aimata, a mother, attends a vaccine clinic in the Cook Islands with her son because she wants him to "have the best protection."*

© UNICEF/2022/Sosene

In Cook Islands, Nauru, Niue and Tokelau UNICEF developed training materials to support healthcare workers, community and religious leaders in their interpersonal communication skills and community mobilization.

Due to the re-prioritisation of health programmes in response to COVID-19 outbreaks, the introduction of HPV vaccines was postponed in several countries but is planned for the next few months in Tonga, and Vanuatu, and for 2023 in Kiribati.

# UNICEF PACIFIC NEWS

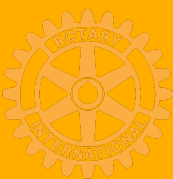
Climate change coupled with La Niña weather conditions have caused escalating drought conditions in Kiribati and Tuvalu. An emergency has been declared by UNICEF and the Governments of both countries, with more than 100,000 children and families needing urgent humanitarian assistance. UNICEF has provided pre-positioned supplies from our warehouses in Brisbane and Fiji including water containers, purifying tablets and portable water testing laboratories and UNICEF Aotearoa New Zealand has launched an [appeal](#) for funds to support this emergency response.

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UNICEF would like to thank all Rotarians and Rotaractors for your support of the Rotary Give Every Child a Future project. Your efforts means thousands of children are receiving potentially life-saving vaccines and have better health outcomes as a result.

THANK YOU

**Rotary**  
Zone 8



**unicef** 

*Give Every Child A Future - Our Australasian Centenary Project*





## Cook Islands launch

The Cook Islands had their first case of [COVID-19 in February 2022](#). COVID-19 had already impacted RGECAF across the Pacific not only with supply and logistic concerns but countries needed to get COVID-19 vaccines into their populations diverting manpower and resources away from RGECAF project vaccines. We were very relieved when the Cook Islands RGECAF vaccine programme was launched in April 2022 allowing Cook Island children to finally receive protection from pneumonias, meningitis and diarrhoea.

In a [video](#) produced around the launch, Public Health Nurse Ake Teiotu describes how training has included communication strategies enabling nurses to comfortably discuss the vaccines with family/whanau, and how to safely store vaccines that may need to travel for days to remote islands.

You can read more about the launch [here](#)



UNICEF Pacific  
26 May · 🌐

9-month-old baby Ngaoa is all smiles 😊 as she gets vaccinated against pneumococcal disease during the official launch of pneumococcal conjugate and rotavirus vaccines for children in the Cook Islands.

Thanks to parents and health workers, these life-saving vaccines will help children to grow up healthy and free from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Rotary International  
Rotary Give Every Child A Future  
Te Marae Ora Ministry of Health Cook Islands



## Tokelau launch

While Tokelau remains COVID-free is has kept its borders closed. So we were delighted when, in July 2022 they were able to launch their RGECAF vaccination program at Nukunonu (St Josephs) Hospital. After a ceremony and some presentations 89 children aged 9-19 were vaccinated against HPV. Unfortunately, due to the border closure, UNICEF representatives were unable to be present.

Teenagers across all three atolls were expected to receive their first dose of HPV vaccine within a few months. Two doses of HPV vaccine are required to fully protect children from this virus which can cause cervical cancers.



# Pneumococcal and rotavirus vaccines rollout in the Cook Islands



Public Health Nurse Ake Teiotu, transporting vaccines



Nine month-old smiling Ngaoa is about to be vaccinated while her mother looks on during the official roll-out of the pneumococcal conjugate and rotavirus vaccines.



(From left) Aloiti, with her son, Gideon, 17 months; James, and grandson, Vaikura, nine months; Ngatokoa, with daughter, Kolina, six months; and Mario, with his daughter, Nevaeh, six months, waiting outside the clinic.



Rotaractors Byron Brown and Daniel Fisher with Rufina Tutia from the Ministry of Health





# Samoa launch HPV vaccination program



Samoa commenced their HPV vaccination roll-out in July 2022. Prior to the roll-out UNICEF supported the readiness assessments, provided technical assistance towards cold chain strengthening and training for all health workers.



*Pattern courtesy of pasefika.com*



*Photos courtesy of Ministry of Health Samoa*



# HPV vaccine rollout in Tokelau



St Joseph's Hospital where vaccines commenced in Tokelau

Im Asena Senimakosoi Kauyaca and Tenali Isefo prepare for the Tokelau HPV vaccination program launch at Nukunonu (St Josephs) Hospital.



## PLEASE

- 'LIKE' [OUR FACEBOOK PAGE](#) AND SHARE' OUR POSTS
- VISIT OUR [WEBSITE](#)
- DONATE HERE [AUSTRALIAN NEW ZEALAND](#)



Tokelau Health Department is in Nukunonu Village.

15 July · 🌐

Honorable ULU of Tokelau Siopili Perez also Minister of Health sincerely gives thanks on behalf of Tokelau to New Zealand 🇳🇿, Rotary, UNICEF and Australia Aids and all regional organizations for their sponsorship and their support in procuring of the three vaccine. Rotavirus, Pneumococcal and HPV.

Nukunonu launched their three vaccine today, and TODAY ONLY IMPLEMENTATION OF HPV

♥️ Appreciation to all St Joseph Hospital staff & the Department of Health staff for setting up this ... See more





# Rotary International President Jennifer Jones’s Pacific tour



Planning is well underway for RI President Jennifer Jones’s media tour of the Pacific. Jennifer has selected RGECAF as the project that best illustrates the Rotary Foundation’s Child and Maternal Health ‘Area of Focus’ for her global media tour. UNICEF are the lead planning agency providing their expertise to ensure Jennifer and her team get the best experiences possible. Jennifer is expected to visit UNICEF staff in Fiji before heading off to Kiribati.

## Here’s how we have raised US\$3,600,565 so far

District Designated Funds	684,400	TOTAL	3,600,565
Clubs and Rotarians	907,455	TOTAL BUDGET	3,906,119
Other Foundations	266,217	EXPENDITURE TO DATE	1,328,419
Australian Government	859,473		
Global grants matching funds	883,020	<b>BALANCE NEEDED</b>	<b>305,554</b>

**HOT OFF THE PRESS!**

At time of writing, we have received news that a further four RGECAF Global Grants have been approved by the Rotary Foundation. This brings the total for the project to 22, with one further grant in the pipeline. These latest grants have been supported by District Designated Funds (DDF) from 13 Rotary Districts in Australia, all, New Zealand Districts and two in Asia.

We still need to raise approximately USD 300,000 to complete this project and make sure that we do indeed reach *every last child* in the Pacific. This is approximately 8% of the total funds needed. So, we are almost there.