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ROTARY GIVE EVERY CHILD A FUTURE NEWSLETTER

April 2023

It's nearly party time! The team at RGECAF, and all of Rotary across Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific, are on the final straight of fundraising to complete our part of the Rotary 'Down Under' Centenary project. To raise US\$3.9 million to introduce three, previously inaccessible vaccines, to 100,000 children across nine Pacific Islands. The project is being actioned by our partners UNICEF who are working with governments in the islands to ensure effective implementation and project sustainability.

Our Director's report will give you a country breakdown of progress but our 23rd, and final, global grant application was submitted this month. This will allow us, with support from the Australian government, to implement the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine across Kiribati, a country which spans nearly 3.5 million km² of ocean!

It's not too late to be part of this amazing project. Just [click here](#) to donate. For \$45, you could save a life!

Kiribati local public health staff deliver life-saving vaccines, provided by UNICEF and Rotary, to infants at risk of disease in South Tarawa



Director's update

The implementation of the Rotary Give Every Child A Future program is proceeding well. Readers will probably be aware that this project aims to introduce three vaccines (human papillomavirus [HPV], rotavirus and pneumococcal [PCV]) into nine Pacific Island countries. The delays and frustrations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic are largely behind us and this is an opportune time to look back over 2022 and see what has been achieved to date in each of the countries. In:

- **Cook Islands**, 15 health workers were trained in September 2021, and PCV and rotavirus vaccines were rolled out in April 2022. Since then, 148 children have received the PCV and rotavirus vaccines. The HPV vaccine program has also been supported with 310 children receiving their HPV vaccine.
- **Kiribati**, support for the rotavirus immunisation program has continued. In 2022, a total of 3,140 children received rotavirus vaccines. The HPV vaccine rollout is planned for the second half of 2023.
- **Nauru**, 15 health workers were trained on PCV, rotavirus and HPV vaccines in August 2021, with the rollout in November 2021. Since then, over 200 infants have been protected from PCV and rotavirus, and 300 adolescents have been immunised with HPV.
- **Niue**, five healthcare workers received immunisation refresher training in December 2021 and support to PCV, rotavirus and HPV immunisation programs has been provided.
- **Samoa**, 305 health workers were trained in July 2021, with PCV and rotavirus vaccines rolled out in July 2021. Since that time, over 3,000 infants received the PCV and rotavirus vaccines. HPV vaccines were rolled out in July 2022.
- **Tokelau**, 24 health workers were trained on PCV, rotavirus and HPV in April 2022 and they were rolled out in July 2022.
- **Tonga**, 167 health workers were trained on PCV and rotavirus in October 2021 and on HPV in September 2022. PCV and rotavirus vaccines were rolled out in August 2021. Since then, approximately 2,313 children have received the PCV and rotavirus vaccines, and 128 adolescents have received the HPV vaccine.
- **Tuvalu**, 26 health workers were trained on PCV, rotavirus and HPV in April 2021. PCV and rotavirus vaccines were rolled out in July 2021, with HPV immunisations rolled out in September 2021. Since that time, over 200 infants have been immunised with PCV and rotavirus, and over 100 adolescents have been immunised with HPV.
- **Vanuatu**, 126 health workers were trained on PCV and rotavirus in August 2021, and trained in HPV in October 2022. PCV and rotavirus vaccines were rolled out in September 2021. Approximately 4000 infants have been immunised with PCV and rotavirus. HPV immunisations are planned for the second quarter of 2023.



James visits a rotavirus vaccination program in the remote island of North Tarawa, Kiribati. © UNICEF Australia/2022/Itaea

Financially the project is almost fully funded but we still have approximately US\$79,000 remaining that we need to raise out of a total of US\$3.9 million. We have just submitted our final Global Grant application, for the introduction of HPV vaccine into Kiribati. This will bring the total number of Global Grants from The Rotary Foundation to 23.

Thank you again to everyone who has supported this 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.

James Allen, Project Director

UNICEF update



Dr Frances Vulivuli, UNICEF Pacific, Health and Nutrition Specialist

Rotary Give Every Child a Future

The Rotary Give Every Child a Future programme continues to strengthen health systems across nine Pacific Island countries.

“There’s been a lot of interest from health workers.” explains Dr Frances Vulivuli, Health and Nutrition Specialist at UNICEF Pacific. *“We’ve heard a lot of stories on how it has boosted their confidence to, not only introduce the three vaccines, but it has strengthened their capacity for routine immunisation as a whole and strengthened the whole system.”*

Immunisation refresher training sessions have been held in Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Samoa. The roll out of the HPV vaccine in Vanuatu was planned for quarter two of 2023, although this may to change due to the emergency situation there. The HPV vaccine is still expected to roll out in Kiribati in quarter three this year. UNICEF has now received letters from Ministries of Finance across the Pacific, confirming that once funding from the Rotary Give Every Child a Future programme ends funds will be allocated by respective governments for the future procurement of vaccines. This means the programme is sustainable and will benefit generations of children to come.

Rotary International President visits RGECAF

In March Rotary International President Jennifer Jones, visited Fiji and Kiribati to see for herself Rotary Give Every Child A Future in action. Jennifer’s visit was part of her global ‘Imagine’ tour highlighting Rotary’s Areas of Focus and polio eradication.

Project Director James Allen met with Jennifer and senior UNICEF officials in Fiji.

Check out the [Rotary International President Facebook page](#) for video clips, look out for the project at International Convention and see the August edition of this newsletter for more information.

Vanuatu cyclones and earthquake

At the beginning of March, two category four cyclones and a 6.5 magnitude earthquake hit Vanuatu in just a few days. A state of emergency was declared, with widespread destruction of roads, bridges, communication, houses, health facilities, schools, water sources and crops.

“Vanuatu is used to natural hazards, but I think this is the first time it has had two cyclones back-to-back,” - said UNICEF’s Chief of Vanuatu Field Office, Eric Durpaire.

The impact was felt across the whole country, with kids in Tafea and Shefa provinces bearing the brunt of the emergency. 1 in every 2 children have been affected. Immediately after the cyclones, UNICEF was on the ground to support the Government of Vanuatu’s humanitarian response for affected children and families. UNICEF and partners quickly delivered: clean water, sanitation and hygiene kits, tents and tarpaulins, and school-in-a-box materials. UNICEF Australia and UNICEF Aotearoa New Zealand have both launched fundraising appeals to enable more support to reach the country.



Our partners

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[UNICEF Aotearoa NZ](#)
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Here's how we have raised US\$3.8 million

District Designated Funds	796,900	TOTAL RAISED	3,827,579
Clubs and Rotarians	932,984	TOTAL BUDGET	3,906,704
Foundations	265,201	EXPENDITURE TO DATE	1,598,704
Australian Government	859,473		
Global grants matching funds	973,020	BALANCE NEEDED	79,125

Aussie Peace Walk continues to support RGECAF

The third Aussie Peace Walk organised by the Rotary clubs in the Australian Capital Territory took place on the weekend of March 25-26. With approximately 300 participants, including a significant international contingent, the event raised funds for several Rotary causes including Rotary Give Every Child A Future. Participants could choose to walk 42km, 21km, 11km or 7km on each of Saturday and Sunday.

The organisers are to be commended for another fantastic event which was enjoyed by everyone involved. This year, they raised about A\$12,000 for RGECAF which was a great result. We are grateful for their continued support.

James Allen, Chris Edwards and Belinda Allen ringing the Nara Peace Bell in Canberra at the start of the 2023 Aussie Peace Walk.

