



I-Kiribati public health nurse Kakorooa working at a health clinic in Kiribati. © UNICEF/UN0820251/Itaeta

ROTARY GIVE EVERY CHILD A FUTURE NEWSLETTER

June 2024

Rotary Give Every Child A Future, as we all know, has been a work in progress for over six years now. Led by Project Director James Allen (RC Sydney) the RGECAF team have worked tirelessly to bring this Rotary Centennial project to Pacific Island children on your behalf.

With fund-raising complete (see our last newsletter, [August 2023](#)) we are now in a new phase of the project. Implementation is well underway in all nine countries, and we can now watch as each country continues to deliver RGECAF vaccines to its children. Saving lives today and into the future.

While the project's delivery is in the hands of UNICEF, we continue to work on keeping Rotarians updated through our website, social media and newsletters. And of course, James continues to report to the Rotary Foundation on our 23 global grants.

This month saw a milestone report from UNICEF on RGECAF. We have included the Executive Summary in this newsletter with a link to the full report available on our website.



Cook Island local public health staff deliver life-saving PCV and rotavirus vaccines, provided by UNICEF and Rotary, to infants at Rarotonga Hospital © UNICEF/AdiWong.



Give Every Child A Future - Our Australasian Centenary Project



rotary@everychildafuture.com

everychildafuture.com

Director's update

Seven years ago, we set out on this quest to celebrate the Centenary of Rotary in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific. The project that we agreed on was ambitious to say the least. And now we are almost there. All the necessary funding is in place. The three vaccines have been introduced into all nine Pacific Island countries and the governments in each of those countries have committed to permanently embed these vaccines into their national immunisation schedules.

It was estimated at the start that approximately 100,000 children would be vaccinated during the project. In fact, by the time all the vaccines purchased as part the project are used, the number will be in excess of 140,000 – a significant over-achievement! Most of these additional children are in a slightly older cohort who missed out on these in earlier years but will now benefit through a so called ‘catch up’ programme.



Libnah Hubert with 3-month-old Jeffrey Hubert. The first baby to be vaccinated in Nauru at the programme launch with PCV and rotavirus vaccines © UNICEF/Snooky Namaduk



Vaccination drive in a local health centre in South Tarawa, Kiribati © UNICEF/UN0820226/Itaeta

We still have some work to do getting the HPV vaccine fully introduced into Kiribati, and the remaining funds will be spent on this over the next two years.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the partnership with UNICEF. Their expertise and relationships with the governments in the region have been essential to its success. To my mind this clearly demonstrates that while Rotary can do enormous good in the world, we can do even more if we partner with the right organisations.

Thank you again to everyone who has supported this project. The impact that this is having and will continue to have on communities in the Pacific is just amazing.

James Allen, Project Director

For more information, see everychildafuture.com.

Here's how we raised US\$3.9 million

District Designated Funds	806,900	TOTAL RAISED	3,906,704
Clubs and Rotarians	994,968	TOTAL BUDGET	3,906,704
Foundations	264,343	EXPENDITURE TO DATE	2,409,997
Australian Government	859,473		
Global grants matching funds	981,020	BALANCE NEEDED	ZERO

ROTARY GIVE EVERY CHILD A FUTURE 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Introduction of New Vaccines in Pacific Island Countries as a Comprehensive Package to Improve Child Survival

REPORTING PERIOD: 2019 – 2024: Executive summary

To minimize the heavy burden of pneumonia and diarrhoea (among children under five) and cervical cancer in Pacific Island Countries and Territories, the project: Rotary Give Every Child a Future, ‘The Sustainable Introduction of New Vaccines in Pacific Island Countries as a Comprehensive Package to Improve Child Survival’ supported the introduction, roll-out and uptake of three new vaccines (pneumococcal conjugate), human papillomavirus (HPV) and rotavirus. The project was implemented from November 2019 to December 2023 in nine PICTs: Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. This is the summary report of the program to date..... It summarises the achievements, challenges, and lessons learned throughout the project period.

The project coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic. Cases of novel coronavirus (nCoV) were first detected in China in December 2019, with the virus spreading rapidly to other countries across the world. This led WHO to declare a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) on 30 January 2020 and to characterize the outbreak as a pandemic on 11 March 2020 (Organisation, 2024). As many PICTs went into a lockdown in 2021, the project activities were suspended with only planning and virtual training held remotely through digital means until the re-opening of the borders and recommencement of project implementation in 2022. The initial four-year project was then extended for one year to catch up with the implementation delays. However, challenges were not limited to the COVID-19 pandemic as PICTs experienced several major natural disasters which diverted the government efforts away from the regular programme implementation.



© UNICEF



*The repaired mezzanine floor in the regional vaccine warehouse, Suva in Fiji
©UNICEF Pacific/CCaloy*



GPS Sopo Primary School on Tongatapu, following the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcanic eruption and tsunami ©UNICEF/UN0582151/Wolfgang

Despite these challenges, all nine countries successfully introduced and rolled out the three new vaccines, benefiting over 140,000 children and adolescents by the end of 2025. Vanuatu and Kiribati are the last two countries which introduced HPV in 2023 and the phased rollout is still underway, while Samoa has decided to lower the age of eligibility for HPV vaccines from 13 to 10 years old with imminent catch-up campaign planned for girls aged 10-13.

In making this achievement, UNICEF supported in the following three areas:

- 1) Strengthening national capacities through policies and legislation, as demonstrated in the updated national immunization policy that incorporates new vaccines.....
- 2) Strengthening health system capacity to deliver quality immunization services, as demonstrated in zero stock out of vaccines at national level throughout the project period, 100% of intended health facilities providing immunization services with 3 new vaccines. Training of cumulative total of 1,089 health workers procurement and distribution/installation of cold chain equipment (e.g., 30 refrigerators, 1 freezer, 39 cold boxes and 1255 vaccine carers, etc.,)
- 3) Equipping caregivers with improved knowledge to increase adoption of recommended immunization practices through the development and rollout of communication strategy/materials, which helped new vaccine uptake.

UNICEF Pacific expresses its sincere gratitude towards Rotary International, the Rotary Foundation and Zone 8 Rotary Clubs of Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific for the generous and long-term contribution supporting the introduction and roll-out of new vaccines in nine PICTs through readiness, vaccine procurement and rollout, and social mobilization, as part of Rotary Give Every Child a Future program. Without this funding support, UNICEF would not have been able to deliver such a comprehensive program in the nine PICT's.



Cook Islands Public Health Nurse at the Te Marae Ora - Ministry of Health, Ake Teiotu, with 6-month-old Kolina ©UNICEF/UN0634529/Sosene

World Immunisation Week 2024

The World Health Organisation’s World Immunisation Week is the last week of April each year. This is when the global immunisation community celebrates the lifesaving power of vaccines.

UNICEF Australia, New Zealand Aotearoa and Pacific Islands engaged with media to highlight the great work done through the UNICEF-Rotary partnership, Rotary Give Every Child A Future.

TV, radio, national publications and social media channels ran a number of stories to feature the exciting milestone of the project during World Immunisation Week. A summary of these is available [here](#)



AKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In addition to the Rotary districts, clubs and Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors who have supported RGECAF over the last five years we received funds from the following organisations:

- The Baker Foundation (Melbourne)
- The Harold Thomas Rotary Trust (Auckland)
- Norman, Disney, Young (Melbourne)
- The Aussie Peace Walk (Canberra)
- The Grace and Emilio Foundation (Melbourne)
- Crown Currency Exchange (Melbourne)

We truly appreciate their contributions.

THANK YOU



Naibobou, son of I-Kiribati Public Health Nurse Kakoraa
©UNICEF/UN0820348/Rice Chudeau

A meeting of two worlds



Priya, Immediate Past President, Matamata College Interact and UNICEF Youth Ambassador

The worlds of UNICEF and Rotary crossed over once again when Priya, a Past President of Matamata College Interact, in the heart of New Zealand's North Island, was appointed a UNICEF Youth Ambassador. Matamata Interact raised NZ\$241.50 for RGECAF in 2021-22, a year beset by COVID-19 restrictions. As things improved, in Priya's presidential year their International project was Shelterbox for which they raised \$1500.

UNICEF Aotearoa's Youth Ambassador Programme is all about creating a platform to give young people a voice on the issues that matter to them. Here and around the world.

"When I look at my peers and the students at my school, I see the leaders of the future. I see potential. I want to encourage them to step up and aspire to influence them so they can see themselves as leaders" explained 17-year-old Priya on her appointment.

Priya joined six other Youth Ambassadors who wanted to help create a meaningful way for young people to champion their internationally recognised rights here in Aotearoa New Zealand. The Youth Ambassadors engaged in advocacy activities across the country, and around the world. The highlight of Priya was travelling to the COP 28 ([Conference of the Parties](#)) in Dubai as part of the New Zealand government delegation to advocate for climate action.

Please note we are having problems with our Facebook page and have not been able to post for some months. We are working to resolve this and hope normal service will be restored soon!



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