



Photo C/O UNICEF. Girl receiving HPV vaccine

ROTARY GIVE EVERY CHILD A FUTURE NEWSLETTER

March 2026

Welcome to the penultimate newsletter of the Rotary Down Under centenary project, Rotary Give Every Child A Future.

As previously reported, our goal of raising US\$3.9 million was achieved in August 2023. Rotary’s fundraising is completed while our project partner, UNICEF, continues to implement the project on our behalf.

The rollout of the three vaccines across nine Pacific Island countries has been staggered. Each vaccine delivery is funded for three years *from the rollout date*. This means that the projects finish in different countries across different years. Rotary Give Every Child A Future will only be concluded once the (in this case), four-year human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV) rollout has been completed in Kiribati.

This edition focuses on last year’s visit to Kiribati, the second field visit to the country. This trip’s team included The Rotary Foundation’s project [CADRE](#) Dr Patricia Canning OAM (RC Wanneroo) and RGECAF Project Director James Allen (RC Sydney).



James and Belinda Allen in discussion with a mother.
Photo C/O UNICEF Pacific

Director's update

In 2024 we reported that the three vaccines (rotavirus, PCV and HPV) had been introduced into all nine Pacific Island project countries and the governments in each of those countries had committed to permanently embed these vaccines into their National Immunisation Schedules. Since then, children in each of these countries have continued to be immunised with vaccines purchased as part of Rotary Give Every Child A Future. At completion of the three-year rollout, we expect to have vaccinated 140,000 children.

The final phase of the project to introduce the HPV vaccine into Kiribati is well under way. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Australia funded the first half of this program and Rotary is now funding the second half. This will continue at least until the end of 2026 and probably into 2027.



James observes an HPV vaccination clinic in Kiribati May 2025.
Photo courtesy of UNICEF

In May 2025, I had the pleasure to accompany Patricia Canning, the Cadre appointed by The Rotary Foundation, on an interim review of the HPV project in Kiribati. The three-day visit to Tarawa (the capital of Kiribati) was facilitated by UNICEF with several staff members from UNICEF Australia joining us. We visited two schools and two health clinics where groups of 9-year-old girls were being vaccinated. We also had meetings with senior staff from the Ministry of Health.

It was clear that the introduction of these vaccines has been embraced by the community. Any potential issues around vaccine hesitancy had been addressed through various communication methods. Particularly memorable was the grandmother who had made a special trip to one of the health clinics from the outer islands to get her granddaughter vaccinated because she had missed out when the team had visited her island.

It was a very worthwhile visit and great to see the program in action. The Cadre's report to the Supervising Committee was very positive. She said that "this project is a shining example of how, through shared purpose and working in unison and harmony, we can make the world a better place— This project shows how meaningful change happens step by step—when we support one community, help one child, and take one caring action at a time, we build a healthier and more hopeful future for all."

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.

For more information, please go to everychildafuture.com.

On the ground quotes

Q. Were the girls aware of the vaccine's importance and the reasons for receiving it before getting vaccinated?

A. Yes, because without proper information, they might have been unwilling to get vaccinated. I expected that after our meeting last Friday, the parents had done their part in informing their children well. When I went to call them to line up for vaccination, they all came without hesitation or fear. They were all ready. They were happy to receive the vaccine.

We are grateful for the support provided to safeguard our children's health, and we also sincerely appreciate the funding assistance.

*Boata Kaaka, Head Teacher
Sunrise Primary School, Kiribati*



Cadre interim review summary

Dr Patricia Canning OAM from Western Australia, a member of The Rotary Foundation's Cadre of Technical Advisors, provided a brief update following her visit to Kiribati in May 2025. She was there to undertake an interim review of the Kiribati HPV grant, one of the 23 global grants received as part of RGECAF.

"I am pleased to share a brief update on the progress of the (Rotary Give Every Child A Future- Kiribati HPV) Global Grant to continue to strengthen the local health systems and vaccinate the most disadvantaged and highest priority girls against HPV in the Pacific Island country of Kiribati. The project is on track to meet its stated goals, and we can see significant positive impact already. It has been truly inspiring to witness the dedication and reach of Rotary and UNICEF in action - bringing vital healthcare to some of the most remote parts of the world. In a country as geographically dispersed as Kiribati, this has been no small feat.

What has been especially heartening is the strong sense of unity shown by everyone involved. Teachers, medical staff, nurses, health workers, parents, community leaders, Rotarians, UNICEF partners and the Ministry for Health have come together with dedication and purpose. Their collaborative spirit ensures the success of this program and reinforces the value of working together for a common goal. Their collective commitment to promoting a healthier future for the young girls of Kiribati has been both heart-warming and inspiring. This effort not only advances public health but also stands as a powerful example of what can be achieved when communities and global partners work hand in hand.

This project is a shining example of how, through shared purpose and working in unison and harmony, we can make the world a better place - This project shows how meaningful change happens step by step - when we support one community, help one child, and take one caring action at a time, we build a healthier and more hopeful future for all. On behalf of everyone involved, thank you for your continued support and belief in this important work."



CADRE Dr Patricia Canning observes HPV immunisations being delivered in Kiribati. May 2025. Photo c/o UNICEF Pacific

World Immunisation Week 2026

World Immunisation Week, 24-30th April 2026, is a global campaign led by the World Health Organisation that promotes the use of vaccines to protect people of all ages against diseases. The aim is to strengthen immunisation programmes and ensure equitable vaccine access worldwide. Activities aim to raise awareness, address vaccine hesitancy, and improve vaccination rates for diseases such as measles, polio, and diphtheria. At Rotary we support this week with clubs undertaking awareness raising activities in their local communities. You can find out more [here](#).





On the ground quotes

Q. How do you feel about the vaccine?

A. I feel okay, and I'm grateful for this visit because it has given me confidence that our children will now be protected from potential problems in the future starting from today. I extend my heartfelt gratitude, and on behalf of the children who have also received this vaccine, I thank the team for this invaluable gift.

From an interview with a mother of a nine-year old girl receiving HPV vaccine at Clinic Bikenibeu, Kiribati

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 support. THANK YOU

Where to next?

What is the future for Rotary Give Every Child A Future? This project developed a model of partnership, with UNICEF, utilising multiple global grants to deliver a substantial health-based project across multiple Pacific Island countries.

UNICEF and Rotary are keen to continue this partnership. We would love to see another large, impactful project developed and there are no shortage of worthwhile projects out there.

So, is there another million-dollar project for Rotary Give Every Child A Future in our zone? Do you have ideas on how Rotary might raise such sums? Are you interested in working on such a project? Do you have expertise in project management, Foundation grant projects, WASH or health systems?

To succeed we need a new team. Please share your ideas with RGECAF Project Director [James Allen](#)