



WATER MANAGEMENT

AT THIRD PLENARY SESSION

Paul A. Netzel

RI Director

The Auditorium (10th Floor)
1505-1525, Saturday, Oct. 18, 2008

Water & Sanitation Rotarian Action Group

A Strategy to Bring Safe Water and Sanitation to Those in Need

The Background:

- ❖ 1.1 billion people (one in five) lack access to safe water

- ❖ 2.6 billion have no sanitation

Water borne diseases have a major impact on the health of the world:

- ❖ 8,000 people die every day

- ❖ 250 children die every hour

- ❖ Fill 50% of world's hospital beds

Economic consequences are equally serious:

- ❖ 40 billion hours spent, per year, in Africa alone, collecting and hauling water

- ❖ Women & children (usually girls) spend up to 6 hours per day fetching water

- ❖ Families often spend up to 25% of their income to purchase water.

Water plays a critical role in sustaining life and livelihood:

- ❖ Population and family stability

- ❖ Gender equality

- ❖ Environment
- ❖ Work and income
- ❖ Education and literacy
- ❖ Human health
- ❖ Reducing conflict

It was the only Millennium Development Goal (MDG) agreed on by all countries

Goal #7: *By 2015, reduce by 50% the proportion of people without access to safe water & sanitation*

But the challenge is formidable; too many people lack access:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| ❖ Sub-Saharan Africa | 47% lack access |
| ❖ East Asia | 29% |
| ❖ South Asia | 28% |
| ❖ Middle-East | 18% |
| ❖ Latin America | 18% |



And these averages conceal the reality, e.g. in Africa:

- ❖ Ethiopia 78% lack access
- ❖ Somalia 71%
- ❖ Chad 66%
- ❖ Mozambique 58%
- ❖ Guinea 56%
- ❖ Congo 54%

Thousands of Rotary clubs are already engaged in water/sanitation projects:

- ❖ Africa - 354 projects in 34 countries
- ❖ Asia - 425 projects in 26 countries
- ❖ Latin America - 305 projects in 22 countries
- ❖ Rotarians and The Rotary Foundation have committed \$8 million to water and sanitation in the past five years.

They are responding to every imaginable need in the host communities:

- ❖ Safe water for households or community
- ❖ Water & sanitation for hospitals & schools
- ❖ Eliminating disease in river communities
- ❖ Building factories to produce filters
- ❖ Training in hand-washing
- ❖ Irrigation for crops or livestock
- ❖ Setting up micro-businesses.

And they are applying whatever technology is appropriate:

- ❖ Rainwater harvesting
- ❖ Drilling boreholes, digging wells
- ❖ Purifying water: slow-sand filters
- ❖ Solar disinfecting
- ❖ Building earth & concrete dams
- ❖ Installing pipelines & distribution systems.

But these approaches are causing concerns among partners & some NGOs

- ❖ The resource may not be sustainable
- ❖ The technology may not be appropriate
- ❖ The people can't maintain the service
- ❖ No provision for spare parts
- ❖ Minimal behavior change
- ❖ There is no link to community health



And they no longer satisfy many Rotarians and/or funding partners:

- ❖ They don't want the hassle of managing small projects
- ❖ They want projects having REAL impact on the community's life and livelihood
- ❖ They want to leverage with major donors, foundations, corporations, NGOs
- ❖ They want active involvement in the project; not just raising funds.

Sustainable solutions call for a bottom-up, community-based, holistic approach:

- ❖ Empower the local community, especially the women, and the host Rotary club.
- ❖ Focus on life and livelihood in the community, not just supplying water

- ❖ Involve ALL the stakeholders—especially the women
- ❖ Understand, build on, adapt, to local culture

Sustainable solutions (*continued*):

- ❖ Help the community evaluate options & choose the most appropriate sustainable solution
- ❖ Seek assistance from partner clubs/districts, TRF, foundations, NGOs, etc.
- ❖ Agree on metrics, linking outputs to community health and livelihood
- ❖ Prepare project, agree on respective roles, assist community to implement the program

This approach implies a new strategy for most Rotary clubs:

- ❖ A 3 - 5 year commitment
- ❖ Multi-club/district partnering
- ❖ Alliances with other NGOs/agencies
- ❖ Empowering the local community
- ❖ Outside funding - \$\$\$ millions

WASRAG linkages site (www.wasrag.org) will enable this new strategy:

- ❖ Access to NGOs operating in the area
- ❖ Sources of funding
- ❖ Access to resources and expertise
- ❖ Evaluation of technologies
- ❖ Best practices
- ❖ Training and behavior change

Workshop Questions

- ❖ What water issues exist in your district or in districts you have partnered with?
- ❖ What are some examples of water

projects you have participated in?

- ❖ What resources can your club or district provide for access to safe water and sanitary conditions?
- ❖ What challenges do you expect in addressing water issues in your district?
- ❖ Which organizations can you partner with to address water issues?

