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Accomplishing more together

Joseph Derr 撰

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6 月 22 日聯合國兒童基金會水資源暨衛生設備主席 Clarissa Brocklehurst, 在英國伯明罕國際扶輪國際年會對扶輪社員演講。Clarissa Brocklehurst, UNICEF's chief of water, sanitation, and hygiene, speaks to Rotarians on 22 June, at the 2009 RI Convention in Birmingham, England.

透過協同合作組織一個寬廣的網絡，可以幫助扶輪及其他的組織完成偉大的事情。這是 6 月 22 日英國伯明罕 2009 國際扶輪國際年會第二次全體大會的主旨。

「讓參與根除小兒麻痺的行動成為明燈，人們因有共同的目標，從世界各地同來成為可能，我們對共同需要做的工作具備強而有力的心智及敏銳的思想，」英國國會議員暨英國國際發展秘書長 Douglas Alexander 說。

「基本的問題也需要協同解決，例如缺乏乾淨的水源及進步的衛生設備，」聯合國兒童基金會水資源暨衛生設備主席 Clarissa Brocklehurst 說。

全球大約有 10 億人口缺乏安全的飲用水可用，約有 25 億人沒有適當的衛生設備，Brocklehurst 說，腹瀉可導因於糟糕的衛生設備，是僅次於肺炎的兒童第二大死因。她說，「水龍頭、廁所及肥皂」這三個部份是相關聯且不可分開的，對所有社區都不可或缺。

Brocklehurst 形容這些方面的重要性已經超越了基本問題——這同時是一個習慣的改變。「教育、傳播、及推廣成為非常重要的活動，」她說。

聯合國兒童基金會正在學校發展教育計畫，培養對衛生設備及公共衛生更大的注意，並致力讓全世界所有的國民小學都有水及衛生設備。「這是有雄心的目標，而且顯然聯合國兒童基金會無法獨立完成，」Brocklehurst 說。「我們需要有活力、承諾及影響力的夥伴。我們需要像扶輪這樣的夥伴。」

另一個仰賴協同合作才能成功的例子是「避難箱」，一個由扶輪社友 Tom Henderson 及英國康瓦爾省 Helston-Lizard 扶輪社發起的善舉。從 2001 年開始，它已在自然災害及其他的危機中幫助提供了 57 個國家、超過 80 萬人避難的地方。

在全體大會期間，Henderson 感謝曾經捐款或運送這些「避難箱」的扶輪社員。「我想說的是，我擁有來自 32000 個辦公室的 120 萬個朋友，」他指的是全球的扶輪社員。「當世界發生了災難，我可以拿起電話，在一分鐘內我就能跟一個在世界某處的扶輪的朋友說話，而且我可以問他們發生了什麼事。我相信他們，因為他們是扶輪社員。」

因為「避難箱」這個計畫，也幫助提升了社區人們對扶輪的認識，並且吸引新的社員。「在這個房間裡，今天有人現在是扶輪社員，但兩年前還不是。人們因為我們及扶輪所做的事變成扶青團團員，」Henderson 說。

Casting a wide net through collaboration helps Rotary and other organizations accomplish great things. This was the message of the second plenary session at the 2009 RI Convention in Birmingham, England, on 22 June.

"Let this partnership for [polio eradication](#) be a beacon that shows how it is possible when people from right around the world come together in common purpose, with strong hearts and clear minds about the work that together we need to do," said Douglas Alexander, a member of the British Parliament and secretary of state for international development for the United Kingdom.

Infrastructural problems, such as a lack of access to clean water and improved sanitation, also require collaborative solutions, said Clarissa Brocklehurst, UNICEF's chief of water, sanitation, and hygiene.

About one billion people worldwide lack access to safe drinking water, and about 2.5 billion don't have proper sanitation, Brocklehurst said. Diarrhea, which can be caused by poor sanitation, is the second-leading killer of children after pneumonia. The three sectors of "taps, toilets, and soap" are related, inseparable, and vital to all communities, she said.

Brocklehurst described how addressing these areas is more than an infrastructural problem -- it is a question of changing behavior as well. "Education, communication, and promotion are becoming crucial activities," she said.

UNICEF is developing educational programs in schools to foster greater attention to sanitation and hygiene, and it's aiming for all primary schools worldwide to have water and sanitation facilities. "These are ambitious goals, and clearly UNICEF cannot reach them alone," said Brocklehurst. "We need partners with energy, commitment, and influence. We need partners like Rotary."

Another effort that relies on collaboration for its success is ShelterBox, a charity started by Rotarian Tom Henderson and the Rotary Club of Helston-Lizard, Cornwall, England. Since 2001, it has helped provide shelter to more than 800,000 people in 57 countries during natural disasters and other crises.

During the plenary session, Henderson thanked Rotarians who have sent funds and worked to deliver the boxes. "I like to say I've got 1.2 million friends in 32,000 offices," he said, referring to Rotary's global network of club members. "When there's a disaster in the world, I can lift the phone, and within minutes I can be speaking to a Rotarian friend somewhere in the world, and I can ask them what's going on. I trust them because they're a Rotarian."

The project also has helped raise awareness of Rotary in communities and attract new members. Because of ShelterBox, "There are people in this room today who are Rotarians who [weren't] two years ago. People are becoming Rotaractors because of the work we're doing and the work Rotary does," said Henderson.