



Water gives us what war takes away from us!

Friends, the Rotary theme for March is **“Access to Water and Sewerage”**.

I must admit, it sounded a little distant to me, because we live in a free and civilized country member of the elite club—the European Union. We have implemented many projects related to improving access to clean and quality water. We continue to work actively in this direction in view of the growing environmental requirements and challenges.

I realized that water, a symbol of purity, of change, is actually life. We come immersed in water and the more it leaves our body, the more life leaves us. Friends from many districts are implementing water supply projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Just drinking water. Most of these places are located in war zones or affected by natural disasters. Fortunately, we are not affected by these problems.

But as John Lennon sings, **“Life is what happens to us when we are making other plans”**.

The war in Ukraine has suddenly rearranged our priorities. It is hard for me to talk about water, when the war is in Europe again, when our compatriots are under fire, when the innocent are suffering.

But at the same time, I am proud, because even before the men in power in the country started talking about preparing to accept Bulgarian refugees from Ukraine, the first two friends had already called me with ideas for concrete actions.

We have the potential, we have a network of 90 Rotary clubs and one satellite, nearly 2,000 Rotarians, 29 Rotaract clubs with about 300 Rotaractors, and dedicated and talented Interactors. Within days, the District Executive Committee will offer its vision to the clubs for concerted action to help refugees from Ukraine. Rotary International is also preparing an initiative coordinated with Ukrainian clubs.

No one can predict how big the refugee wave will be, how long it will last. Whatever we do to alleviate the plight of refugees who have left their homes will always be helpful.

Let us show our empathy, as we did in the Fukushima disaster, the earthquakes in Albania and Croatia, and the explosion in Lebanon.

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