

2008 Playpump Project

Playpumps were an idea of English born South African resident, Trevor Field. They are protected by a patent owned by Playpumps International (PI), a non-profit South African organisation based in Johannesburg. Up to now they have installed some 800+ Playpumps on water wells in Southern Africa. The wells are drilled and paid for by the host governments or by UNESCO. A Playpump is a very simple children's carousel which sits atop and seals off the water well. The circular motion of the carousel is translated into reciprocal motion of pump rods that work a glorified bicycle pump set at the bottom of the well. There is very little to go wrong and what does is fixed by the local trained maintenance teams. Each team will look after 100 or so wells in a 150kms radius circle. Children playing and having fun can pump up to 1400 litres an hour of water into a storage tank placed on a 7 metre high trestle. The tank sides carry advertising which helps to pay for the 15 year maintenance contract included in the overall cost of £7000. PI will test all wells for water purity and for deliverability. I have in the last 3 years organised 3 District 1260 projects to fund Playpumps in South Africa and Zambia.

My new multi-District project plans to finance and install 16 Playpumps on wells in this circle above. That's a basic cost of £112,000. To do this we need to recruit enough clubs in each District to find £12,000. In this District that's around £1000 per supporting club. With 4 Districts that's £48,000. The rest of the funds will come from individual District's DDF (£6000 each), this DDF is matched 100% by the World Fund and from a Foundation Matching Grant of 50% of the contributions from each District. With 4 Districts we would have £120,000 total funding available. It is still a viable proposition with only one or two Districts but you just get less pumps. To make the impact even larger, I will ask the OneWater charity in the UK to match Rotary's effort with a further 16 installations. OneWater sells bottled water from Wales (brand name One) in the UK and Ireland and its entire profits go to fund Playpumps! They have done 120 Playpumps in Africa so far. I plan to talk to their Finance Director when she returns from holiday in two weeks time. She is the lady that deals with Sandra Hayes my contact at PI. Have a look at their website. www.onedifference.org

Surplus funds would be spent on extra supplies for the schools. I would additionally ask for some minor contribution from the Mozambique host club or clubs. I have asked for help in finding these clubs from the RI Zone Coordinator, Patrick Coleman. Negotiations for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Mozambique Government and PI are well advanced and signature is expected shortly. The MoU will govern PI's terms of reference in Mozambique. To organise the project I will seek coordinators from each participating Rotary District to raise the necessary cash. We would make up the project planning team. As overall project organiser, I plan to seek a Volunteer Service Grant from RI to go out to Mozambique before the end of December 2008 to liaise with the local club that will act as our host club in the receiving country. I can then make the application for a Matching Grant in late January. We need to have funds in the bank or pledged by then. The project could then happen in May/June 2009.

Yes, it is ambitious but I feel possible given that two clubs in two Rotary Districts, other than my own District, each have £12,000 waiting to be invested! In my own District 1260, I am just recruiting clubs and I have five signed up already plus District Foundation already know of my project needs from DDF. I feel that together with OneWater we have an opportunity to change a lot of people's lives for the better.

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