



SERVICE PROJECT SHEET

Impact



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Project name:
IMPACT Foundation
(Registered Charity 290992)

Project goal:
Impact's aim is simple - that no-one should become needlessly disabled through disease, lack of knowledge or shortage of health services.

Rotary service type:
Fund Raising.

Unique selling proposition:
Prevention is better than cure. Low administrative costs, paid for this year by specific grants and legacies - so every pound goes towards action.

Description:
Impact was formed under the initiative of the UN General Assembly and three agencies (UNDP, WHO, and UNICEF). Impact was first chaired by the late Rtn Sir John Wilson who was blind himself.

Impact is active throughout the world, including at home in Great Britain and Ireland.

Highlights of Impact's programme of Action include:
Ending hidden hunger (Philippines) pilot project: Co-funded by D1120, aimed at preventing disability caused by micronutrient malnutrition by providing fortified foods and supplements. Long term support is provided through new 'home garden' schemes. Impact takes action to prevent and treat needless disability. Priorities are: ageing successfully, accessible surgery, immunisation, safer motherhood and child survival, early identification and treatment of disabling conditions and ending hidden hunger. As a result, poverty is alleviated since disabled people rank among the poorest of the poor in developing countries. For example:-

Taking the hospital to the people:
Most famous perhaps is the Lifeline Express which travels around India's rail network and has now benefited over 300,000 people. The five-coach train provides three operating theatres and two recovery rooms. It is always heavily subscribed when it visits.

A riverboat hospital (40m by 10m) called Jibon Tari was built on time and on budget, and now provides hospital care on 3,000 kilometres in inland waterways in Bangladesh, where one in six people are disabled in some way. Over 10,000 people have had eyesight, hearing or mobility restored since its launch in April 1999. The Jibon Tari has been generously supported by the Rotary Club of Birmingham.

In Kenya, IMPACT works through partners supporting Mobile Treatment Units and Eye/Ear Centres located in Mission Hospitals in rural areas.

In Nepal, ear, eye and orthopaedic surgical and treatment camps are held in rural areas for people who live far from such care.

In Thailand, the hearing of school children is tested each year using an IMPACT audiometer. The programme is used by other developing countries for training their own doctors.

In Tanzania, a fistula clinic treats women disabled by complications of childbirth.

There is a project within the reach of all clubs, as the following price list shows:

£10.00 - Would immunise 10 children.

£25.00 - Cost of restoring sight, hearing or mobility to one person, or will screen 20 children against disability.

£86.00 - Train and equip a village midwife or pay for an audiometer to test hearing of 10,000 children per year.

£3,654 - Will run the Jibon Tari for a week.

Rotary's involvement means that Foundation Matching Grants can be obtained for some projects, since local Rotary clubs are brought into the project by Impact. Rotarians have actively participated in some of IMPACT's projects, for example surgeons have spent time as volunteers on the Lifeline Express and the Jibon Tari, carrying out operations.

Impact is active in Albania, Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Malawi, Nepal, Norway, Pakistan, Tanzania, The Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Zanzibar, the USA, AND the UK.

Benefits to club:

Speakers to clubs, trained by IMPACT, are available, and IMPACT provides feedback on how the money is spent.

Feedback from clubs:

"What a worthwhile project the 'village to village' scheme in the Philippines is. IMPACT enlisted support or other agencies to keep the costs down. It is excellent value for money."

Contact for further information:

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Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland has adopted this statement of policy for its work with children, the elderly, the vulnerable and those with disability. The needs and rights of the child, the elderly, the vulnerable and persons with disability take priority. It is the duty of every Rotarian to safeguard to the best of his or her ability, the welfare of and prevent the physical, sexual or emotional abuse and neglect of all children, the elderly, persons with disability or otherwise vulnerable persons with whom they come into contact in their Rotarian duties. Rotarians should refer to the detailed "RIBI Protection Policy" when planning events and activities.