



## SERVICE PROJECT SHEET International Rescue Corps



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Project name:

**International Rescue Corps (IRC)**  
(Registered Charity 283031)

Project goal:

To provide a fast response search and rescue service to any country, individual or victims of disaster, natural or man-made, here in the UK and elsewhere in the World, regardless of race, religion or any other consideration.

To relieve poverty and promote health and safety of persons by initiating or supporting humanitarian projects to be offered to foreign countries and/or specialist agencies to enable them to respond swiftly to adversity.

Rotary service types:

Fund Raising, Personal Service, International Co-operation.

Unique selling proposition:

As a privately funded charitable organisation, the IRC consists of trained volunteers. It provides overseas help but is completely controlled within the UK. The rescue support is instant and by consent with no political constraints. The IRC can also be involved in disaster after care to provide local training aimed at disaster mitigation.

Description:

IRC volunteers have to go through an extensive training programme, whatever their speciality: about half are full time members of the emergency services with the rest coming from a variety of occupations. Equipment training is provided for a full range of rescue equipment. Team members are given a working knowledge of relevant civil engineering aspects of their rescue work. The IRC is also approved by The Open College for providing training in rescue work.

Selected teams usually of fifteen men and women, equipped with the Corps' own equipment, are sent to help when disasters occur anywhere in the world, including the UK. In this country the IRC sometimes assists with Flood Rescue and some Missing Person Searches. To maintain peak readiness the IRC training programme includes working with Mountain Rescue, Mines Rescue and the RNLI.

Every day of the year volunteers are on call. The telephones and the office are manned 24 hours a day by voluntary staff, maintaining communication and liaison with the teams and Host Government.

As well as searching and retrieving survivors in the main disaster areas, IRC find that in many instances they are the first rescuers to reach towns and villages cut off from the outside world. The logistics and communications teams assess the immediate needs of the people and their communication systems can relay valuable information back to base camp, other rescue teams, and organisations.

Personalities supporting project:

- Patron - Sir Richard Branson
- President - The Lord Selkirk of Douglas

Benefits to club:

Apart from stationery, postage, 'phone and fax, there are no administrative costs.

Local members of the IRC are available to give illustrated talks to clubs, assemblies and conferences.

In addition to making contribution to the IRC running costs, Rotarians can provide technical advice during equipment procurement; they can help with training in areas such as equipment use and civil engineering. Rotarians can help with volunteer recruitment or be volunteers themselves for front-line or support activities such as communication controllers.

Rotary, as an international organisation, can provide support to the IRC when they arrive in the disaster area and provide liaison during the post disaster recovery phases.

IRC volunteers are located all over the UK based in four IRC Regions.

Contact for further information:

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or your District International Service Chairman.

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.