



## SERVICE PROJECT SHEET Riders for Health



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Project name:

### **Riders for Health**

Project goal:

To ensure that every humanitarian programme working in Africa has uninterrupted access to vehicles that do not breakdown and to expand the vehicle maintenance culture.

Rotary service type:

Fund-raising.

Unique selling proposition:

Riders for Health is the only organisation working in Africa that provides transport management for sustainable development. Every outreach organisation (e.g. WHO) or initiative (e.g. PolioPlus) needs this service.

Description:

One of the most frustrating factors underlying the suffering of many African people is that there is almost no infrastructure to allow public services to reach them. In health, for example, children die for want of a vaccine or a doctor or a nurse simply because a new spark plug, or air filter is needed or the knowledge of how to change a cam belt before it destroys an engine is required.

Riders for Health is working to fill that vital gap. Before they began work, a motorcycle might last for only 20,000 frequently interrupted kilometres. When it stopped, the villages, once reached by the health worker it carried, would be abandoned. Disease would run riot and deaths would occur.

By contrast, when motorcycles and vehicles are put in their system they run without breaking down (ever) and health delivery increases by 500%. The improvement is phenomenal. Lives are saved and are transformed.

Riders for Health creates a "virtual" maintenance infrastructure where none exists to make sure that motorcycles and vehicles perform however difficult the conditions, precisely as the designers and manufacturers intended. It is not rocket science but it is difficult and it does cost money.

Every pound donated to Riders for Health enables at least 15 more pounds already invested in transport to do their job. It may be the best pound that can currently be spent to help people of Africa to help each other. It also enables public service bodies and other NGOs to reach the people they serve.

Examples:

£1 buys a spark plug that will cover 6,000 kms. enabling a health worker to reach 18,000 people five or six times.

£5 buys a brake cable that will cover 36,000 kms. enabling 18,000 people to be reached up to 30 times.

£20 buys a tyre that covers 15,000 kms.

£60 buys a day of training at the RFH training school in Zimbabwe. The trained fleet manager then trains 20 other people who will then manage 100 vehicles with zero breakdown. Those vehicles run for five years, each reaching 20,000 people 60 times - 1,200,000 visits.

£1800 pays for the costs for a trainee fleet manager to come from any part of Africa for training.

£3000 provides a motorcycle and running costs for three years (excluding fuel).

This gives an idea how much impact each pound will have in delivering health care education and medical supplies, day in and day out to rural Africa.

Benefits to club:

Supporting an organisation that really ensures maximum impact for Rotary's commitment.

Building an appropriate durable infrastructure saves millions of pounds and enables Africa to start going forward at last.

Support for Riders for Health means that the money for vehicles is not wasted.

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or your District International Service Chairman.

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