

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Schools (WinS) Target Challenge

Competitive Grant

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The Rotary Foundation has awarded a competitive Phase I grant related to WASH in schools in Guatemala, jointly to the Barrington Breakfast Rotary Club, District 6440 and Club Rotario Guatemala Sur, District 4250. These clubs will now compete for the Phase II grant with a budget of \$500,000. The Areas of Focus for these grants are Water and Sanitation (WASH) and Basic Education & Literacy (BEL).

Background: The Rotary Foundation issued a global challenge to Rotary clubs to improve education quality and access – particularly for girls – by working with communities to provide improved WASH services, teacher training, and curriculum enhancement. The Target Challenge is being piloted in five countries: Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, India, and Kenya. The competitive grant process is being administered in two phases: (1) A community assessment award and (2) a project proposal award. Further details about the Target Challenge grant are available at this link:

Our team just won the Phase I competitive award for \$10,000 being one of 10 recipients among 46 participants. These ten phase I winners will now compete for a Phase II project. Three to five Phase II grants will be awarded in the budget range of \$150,000 - \$500,000. Project Phase II objectives are described below.

We are now working on Phase I assessment and preparing for the Phase II proposal, due on December 15, 2017, with an anticipated budget of \$500,000. TRF will contribute \$425,000 from The World Fund while the host and International sponsors are expected to contribute \$75,000 - combination of cash plus District Designated Fund (DDF).

Our History of WASH in Schools projects in Guatemala: Our team has been working on WASH projects over several years. We have upgraded WASH facilities at seventeen schools in Sumpango municipality, Guatemala. A detailed description of our project outcome and impact can be reviewed from the article published in WASRAG newsletter:

Phase II Project Objectives:

To integrate water, sanitation, and hygiene with basic education and literacy.

To address the needs of 40 – 50 schools benefitting 20,000 – 25,000 children.

Major milestones to be achieved during Phase II project include:

- Reduce school dropout rates – particularly for girls who otherwise may leave school at puberty
- Increase community adoption of good WASH behaviors as children become change agents within their families and communities
- Prevent the spread of disease and reduce nutrition deficiencies, diarrhea, and other illnesses related to inadequate access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene
- Teach equitable ways that girls and boys can support the health of their school, including cleaning toilets, fetching and boiling water, and caring for sick people

The implementation plan will focus on the following three specific activities:

WASH Facilities Upgrade: Having proper WASH facilities at each school is the starting point. This includes access to running water, 24/7; building drink/wash station, gender specific toilets with septic system, etc. These activities are described in detail in the article referenced above.

Hygiene Education:

- Integrate WASH with hygiene education
- Develop hygiene teaching lessons at basic, intermediate and advanced levels
- Incorporate these lessons in the school curriculum
- Encourage the formation of proper hygiene habits which also promotes changes in behavior
- Train the teachers to implement these lessons as part of their responsibilities

Hygiene Needs of Girls and Women: The project will address the unique hygiene needs of girls and women. Menstrual hygiene management is a crucial part of creating a safe school environment for everyone. The following two measures will be included in the project:

- *Educate* – Have a hygiene education program that includes information about the biology of the menstrual cycle and safe practices of menstrual hygiene.
- *Create healthy environment* - Provide consistent access to water, soap, options for waste disposal, gender specific toilets, and school facilities that afford girls and women the privacy to manage their menstrual needs.

This project presents major challenges. Our team is well positioned to implement all aspects of the project. By building partnerships and alliances, we can realize project goals and make a positive impact on boys and girls alike.

August 2017

GG1411300 Global Grant Progress Report:

This global grant had multiple mini-projects bundled under one umbrella. The funding level was \$194,000 supported by partnership with multiple clubs and districts. We are providing the status for each component below:

1. **Mechanical Cow** – Two mechanical cows were installed in Sumpango municipality in February 2015. Subsequently, a Vocational Training Team (VTT) from Barrington Breakfast Rotary Club went to Guatemala for training the local women about nutrition, health, benefits of soy milk and okara, and operating a microenterprise business making okara based products. Here is the status:

- The two machines are in good condition and fully operational
- Soy milk is distributed regularly to children, age group 1-5 years, in nine villages of Sumpango municipality
- Okara is distributed to women to blend with their tortilla flour for protein enhancement
- Four women are operating the microenterprise business successfully.
- The project is fully sustainable with the municipality paying for the staff, utility bills and other operational costs.

We are just keeping oversight on the project and its operations.

Project description is available at this link:

2. **WASH in Schools** – This project has been spread over two global grants. Under the first grant (GG1225643), WASH facilities were built at nine elementary schools within Sumpango municipality. This work was completed and grant closed.

Under this grant, the same type of work was carried out at seven secondary schools in the Sumpango municipality. Work has been completed.

As a result, sixteen schools have clean water, wash/drink stations, gender specific toilets, etc.

Project description is available at this link:

The project is fully sustainable since the Ministry of Education has taken responsibility for maintenance and operation of the water and sanitation facilities.

3. **El Yalu Underground Water Distribution System** – The objective of this project was to lay underground pipes to bring water to each house within the El Yalu village with about 300 homes. Two water storage tanks were built by the Sumpango municipality as part of the project. Unfortunately, this project had to be cancelled due to political turmoil and resistance from the local leaders in El Yalu, notwithstanding the full support of Sumpango Mayor and investment by the municipality. We have redirected funds allocated for the Yalu project with the approval of the Rotary Foundation. Following two activities, (4) and (5), will be undertaken.
4. **EL Guachipilin Underground Water Distribution System** will be built in a small village of Guachipilin – same idea as for El Yalu but in a much smaller scale – only 12 houses. Work on this project will begin within the next couple of month.

5. **WASH in Schools project for Sumpango city schools** –work similar to that carried out at other schools will be done at up to four additional schools within the Sumpango city itself. This work will start within the next couple of months.
6. **Water Filters:** Approximately 200 Q-Beta water filters were distributed to the local families in the El Tunino village. This part of project is complete.
7. **Latrines:** This project was initiated with the idea of introducing “compost latrines” in the villages as an experiment to see if the local community will accept this type of sanitation. We planned to distribute 50 such latrines with the stipulation that each recipient contribute \$100 to offset the cost (\$300) of each unit. We purchased 10 such units and offered to the community. Unfortunately, no one stepped up to experiment with the latrines. At this point, the Sumpango Mayor offered to pay \$50 towards the cost if the recipient pays the other \$50. The offer is out there and we are hoping that some individuals will come forward. Nevertheless, we are not buying any more of these units and consider the project closed. We still have the problem of disposing the 10 units.
8. **Health Clinics** – The original plan included the following three aspects:
 - Renovate, repair the available facilities in seven villages including but not limited to structural changes, water and sanitation, electrical work, etc.
 - Provide tables, chairs, and other furniture items for the waiting room, exam room and office
 - Provide basic medical equipment for the doctor/nurse for diagnosis purposes.

Status: All aspects of the project have been completed.

The local health authorities have responsibilities for maintenance and operations.

9. **Micro-Credit:** This aspect of the grant is to empower local women in Sumpango municipality to start their microenterprise businesses. We have set aside \$12,000 towards this project within the overall grant. This project went through several gyrations before being implemented. The Rotary Foundation requires micro-credit funds to be managed by an approved third party, called Micro-Finance Institute (MFI). We made arrangements with a local MFI. When their representatives presented their plans and procedures to the local women, there was an instant rejection of their ideas, primarily due to high interest rate charged. The project was in limbo for a while. At this point, the Mayor through the Sumpango municipality government offered to do the job of the third party at a very low interest rate of 3% with no economic interest. The municipality government agreed in writing to return the collected interest with the principal to Rotary at the end of the project. The plan was approved by The Rotary Foundation.

Under the new plan just started, loans are being given to a group of ten women at a time, each will receive loans for Q3,000 (\$375 approx.) repayable in twelve months at an interest rate of 3%. The first group will be engaged in weaving business.

The process will be repeated for additional ten women every three months for a total of four groups with 40 women. With the repayment schedule, it is estimated that the funds will undergo two cycles within the next two years.

Summary,

Most of the major parts of the project are complete or near completion. The following two recently approved projects will be initiated soon with a completion anticipated by early spring 2018.

- Guachipilin underground water distribution System
- WASH in Schools at up to four schools in the Sumpango city.

Finally, the micro-credit component will continue for about two years before all aspects of the grant are fulfilled.

A few observations:

- Work in developing countries offer many challenges. One of these challenges is time – it takes time to make things happen. Kudos to our friends in Guatemala Sur Rotary Club who have done a great job in managing all aspects of the project.
- Our project involved great deal of repair, renovation, electrical, plumbing and other construction type of work. We had to rely on the municipality to arrange for workers of various trades to do the job at no cost to the project. This presented itself with many challenges. Kudos to the municipality government for fulfilling its commitment.
- This project, like any other global grant, was possible due to support of many Rotary clubs/districts. Nothing would have happened without them. Our sincere gratitude and thanks to all our partners.

Respectfully submitted,

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