

DISTRICT GRANT REPORT

Club Name: Rotary Club of Kidman Park

Activity Type: Community Development - Volunteer Services

Grant Report: Birthing Kit Project

It is estimated that over 300,000 women die annually in childbirth, many from preventable infections. That's over 800 women every day. Through the provision of 2,000 Birthing Kits we have been able to assist an equal number of women in the most challenging of situations – those who for reasons of isolation, cultural choice or poor transport have little or no assistance during childbirth, often giving birth at home. By providing a clean birthing kit these mothers have the resources to reduce infection.

There are ways to help reduce these statistics, including:

1. Preventing unwanted pregnancies
2. Improving antenatal care
3. Improving capacity for dealing with obstetric complications
4. Providing **clean** birthing conditions

The utilisation of Birthing Kits has addressed Point 4 above. These kits are basic and consist of 6 items. A plastic sheet, soap, 2 gloves, sterile scalpel blade, 3 cords and 5 gauze squares. (Photo1)

- i. **A plastic sheet:** For the mother to lie on preventing mother and baby coming into contact with the floor or ground
- ii. **5 Gauze Squares:** To wipe secretions from the babies eyes and the mother's perineum
- iii. **3 Cords:** For clean ties for the umbilical cord and to preventing bleeding from the umbilical cord for mother and baby
- iv. **2 Gloves:** For Clean hands
- v. **Sterile Scalpel Blade:** for a clean cut of the umbilical cord.
- vi. **Small Cake of Soap:** For clean hands and to prevent the birth attendant transmitting germs to mother and baby. Washing and drying the stumps prevents infection

To ensure the total integrity of all kits, the components are centrally sourced from the Birthing Kit Foundation. However, donors are encouraged to hold "Assembly Days" at which the components become a single Birthing Kit.

Activity Description:

Kidman Park opted to hold an Assembly Day for our 2,000 kits on 29th November at the premises of Bunnik Tours, in Adelaide. With over 75 Rotarians, Partners and Friends in attendance, the production lines were soon humming. At the end of the evening most involved agreed that it had been both a fulfilling and a rewarding exercise that would make a huge difference to 2,000 women in the most challenging of situations – those who for reasons of isolation, cultural choice or poor transport have little or no assistance during childbirth, often giving birth at home. By providing a clean birthing kit these mothers will have the resources to reduce infection of themselves and their newborns.

BKFA Birthing Kits packed by our group went to women living in and facing the most challenging of circumstances when they give birth. One kit **can** mean the difference between life and death!

Activity Location:

"You'll be pleased to know that we distributed kits to the following field partners in January".

Kit Distribution Report	
Country	Partner organisation
Uganda	Rotary Club of Makindye
Cameroon	Alternatives Durables pour le Développement
Burundi	Association Infirmier Sans Frontière Burundi
Uganda	Beaton Foundation
Nigeria	Department of Primary Health Care, Bayelsa State
Uganda	Egoli Africa
Tanzania	Hurumia Watoto
India	Society for Women's Education and Awareness Development
Uganda	Teso Women Peace Activists
Uganda	Think Humanity
Uganda	Uganda Australia Christian Outreach
Tanzania	Universal Ministry of Africa
DR Congo	Green Ark Committee
DR Congo	Green Ark Committee
Somalia	Social Relief Organisation

Photos:



