



INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

District 9800 Club Leadership and Learning Seminar

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District Chair, International Service



CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE



Our Plan for Today

1. Why do International Service Projects?
2. The Role of the International Service Chair
3. What Makes for a Successful International Project?
 - And Impediments to Success
4. Rotary International and District Resources
5. Building Successful International Partnerships
6. Risk Management
7. Sharing Success Stories and Club Engagement
8. Next Steps



The Fourth Object of Rotary

The advancement of understanding,
goodwill, and peace through a **world
fellowship** of business and professional
persons united in the ideal of service.



1. Why Do International Service Projects?

1. Reflects the **global mission and values** of Rotary International
2. Makes **meaningful difference** to communities in need
3. **Strengthens** a club's sense of purpose and identity
4. **Strengthens** Rotarian's **commitment** through exposing us to the worldwide Rotary network and providing rewarding experiences
5. **Builds** a club's network and adds skills and capabilities
6. **Enhances** the club's **public image** and reputation
7. **Promotes Peace** through Service, Empathy, Generosity and Friendship





Role of the District International Service Chair

To encourage, support and strengthen meaningful international projects and partnerships that advance Rotary's humanitarian objectives and promote international understanding, goodwill and peace.

The Chair works collaboratively with clubs, district leaders, Rotary International programs and external partners to identify opportunities for sustainable service projects and global engagement.

Motivate
Communicate
Facilitate
Collaborate

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Role of the District



To encourage projects and objectives and peace

The Chair of Rotary International provides opportunities for engagement

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International humanitarian goodwill

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Role of the Club International Service Chair

1. Develop and lead the club's International Service program for the Rotary year
2. Identify, evaluate and recommend international service projects.
3. Build relationships with overseas Rotary clubs and partner organisations
4. Encourage member participation in international projects and initiatives.
5. Present regular updates at club meetings and in club communications
6. Lead applications for District or Global Grants for international projects
7. Encourage contributions to Foundation programs supporting international service.
8. Link and collaborate with other clubs on joint international initiatives
9. Foster connections with Rotary Action Groups, Friendship Exchanges, Global programs and international networks

Rotary Projects Should

1. Do good in the world

2. Deliver sustainable results

3. Strengthen Rotary



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Guiding Principles

Rotary International Service activities should:

1. Reflect Rotary's ethical standards and the Four-Way Test
2. Be sustainable and community-led
3. Respect local culture and needs
4. Be well planned, well managed and accountable
5. Engage our members
6. Promote collaboration and partnership
7. Deliver measurable and lasting outcomes
8. Enhance Rotary's reputation and global impact



INTERNATIONAL SERVICE



Some examples of successful projects

1. Vocational Training Programs in Uganda – Rotary clubs of Brighton and Brighton North
2. Reproductive Health education and solar study lights Myanmar – Rotary Passport Melbourne
3. Vocational training in Australia for teacher of English, funded by a Royce Abbey Scholarship – Rotary Central Melbourne
4. WASH Project – toilets and water supply in Buedu Sierra Leone – Rotary Club of Glenferrie
5. Water pipeline distribution, sanitation and health promotion in remote villages in the Philippines – Rotary Melbourne
6. Snakebite project in PNG – Rotary Melbourne
7. Sustainable clean water to a remote Karen school in Myanmar – Rotary Hawthorn
8. Induction stoves for for villagers in Nepal – Rotary Club of Richmond
9. Shipping container of medical supplies to Cambodia via DIK – Club consortium & DIK
10. Providing free heart surgery to poor children in India – Rotary Wyndham





IMPEDIMENTS TO ENGAGEMENT

Some clubs engage regularly in International Service Projects while other clubs do not. Why is that?

Many clubs simply do not know:

- how to start
- where to find partners
- how grants work
- how to assess projects
- what “good practice” looks like
- As a result, international service may feel risky or too complicated.



CATALYSTS FOR ENGAGEMENT

What are the key factors that are present where clubs are regularly implementing International Service Projects?

- A member with a direct personal connection with the country – a project champion
- Connections within the Rotary network
- Connections with the broader community locally and overseas
 - Government, NFPs
- Access to funding
- Experience and confidence
- An understanding of the fundamental connection between the Rotary mission and international service
- Inspiration



IMPEDIMENTS TO SUCCESS

Why do some international projects fail?

Many Rotary international service projects succeed brilliantly, but others struggle or fail because good intentions alone are not enough

- Lack of genuine local ownership
- Poor needs assessment
- Poor project planning
- Insufficient long-term planning
- Poor communication
- Cultural misunderstanding
- Lack of expertise
- Inadequate financial controls
- Failure to measure outcomes
- Leadership changes within Rotary
- Local political instability

NURTURING SUCCESS

The antidote to project failure

Work **with** communities rather than do things **for** communities

- Listen carefully first
- Plan your project carefully
- Engage your members
- Work through trusted local partnerships
- Build local capacity - Plan for sustainability
- Measure impact
- Commit for the long term
- Communicate widely





THE RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

In practice, the clubs that become consistently strong in international service are usually the ones that learn how to combine these resources effectively:

- Rotary networks
- District and RI mentoring
- Foundation grants
- Technical expertise
- Project management tools
- Member engagement
- Long-term relationship building
- International partnerships

RI AND DISTRICT RESOURCES

Learning

- My Rotary
 - Learning Centre
 - Brand Centre
- Rotary Foundation Australia
 - <https://www.rotaryfoundationaustralia.org.au/resources>

Networking

- Conferences, workshops, seminars
- Rotary Action Groups
 - <https://www.rotary.org/en/rotary-action-groups>
- Rotary Partners
 - Eg. ShelterBox, clubs, Rotaract
 - <https://my.rotary.org/en/who-we-are/about-rotary/our-partners>
- Other clubs with established international programs

Service



The Rotary Foundation



RI AND DISTRICT RESOURCES

Rotary Action Groups support clubs and districts by:

- Advising on conducting community assessments
- Guiding the creation of a monitoring and evaluation plan, data collection and usage
- Helping to identify international and/or cooperating partners
- Raising funds for a project from the Rotary network or external organizations
- Facilitating partnerships with governmental, non-governmental and private agencies
- Gathering and distributing best practices and learning resources on a specific topic

<https://www.rotary.org/en/rotary-action-groups>

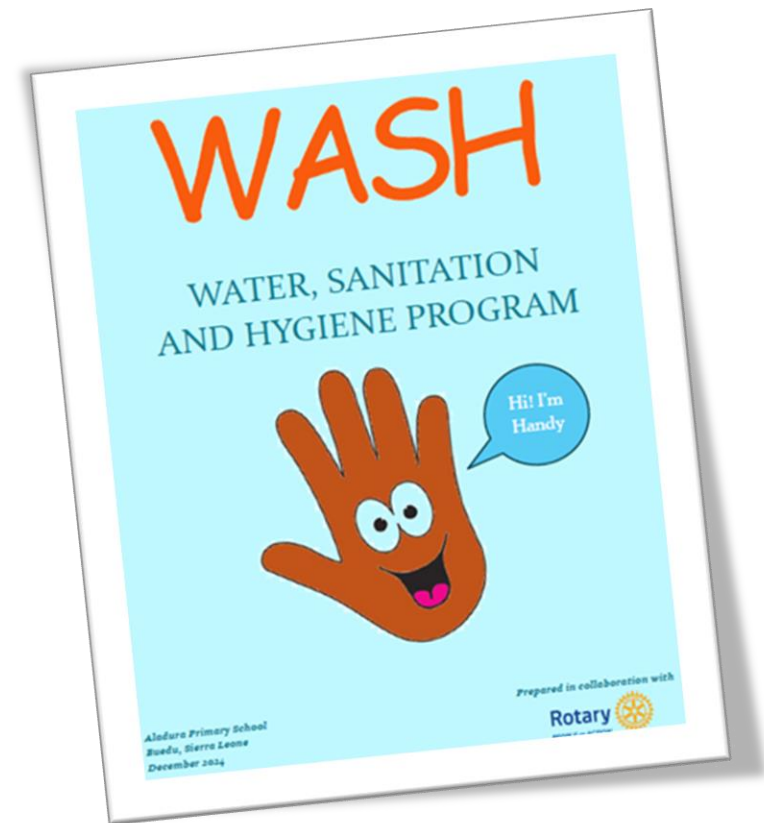
RI AND DISTRICT RESOURCES

Funding

- The Rotary Foundation – Global and District Grants
- Rotary Australia World Community Service – RAWCS
- Royce Abbey Vocational Scholarships
- Rotary Balwyn Centennial Grants
- Other Clubs
- Governments
- Project partners

Advice

- The D9800 Humanitarian Grants Committee
- Rotary Foundation Cadres
- Experienced D9800 and other district Rotarians
- Rotary partners
- District International Chair
- ?





BUILDING SUCCESSFUL INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

International Service Projects are enormously rewarding

- Network – start with relationships, not projects. Strong friendships and trust are the foundation of successful international service
- Partner with like-minded clubs
- Document agreements
- Celebrate achievements
- Involve a broad range of your club members
- Communicate regularly and broadly
- Listen

Successful international partnerships often become lasting friendships between clubs, communities and individuals.

SOME POTENTIAL HEART STARTERS

Assuming you don't already have someone with a passionate cause

- Join an existing project
- Support of Rotary International Project e.g.
 - ShelterBox
 - ROMAC
 - Interplast
- Consult a Rotary Action Group
- Host (or sponsor) a Global Scholar
- Find a candidate for a Rotary Peace Scholarship



THAT'S THE SPIRIT!



STEP 1

DREAM
BIG



STEP 2

PLAN



STEP 3

ACT



STEP 4

CORRECT



STEP 5

CONTINUE



With thanks to Aviv Palti



RISK MANAGEMENT

1. Plan thoroughly

- Success is 80% planning and 20% implementation
The Pareto Principle (the 80/20 rule)
- “Failing to plan is planning to fail”. *Benjamin Franklin*

2. Be familiar with Rotary policies

- The Rotary Code of Policies
 - https://clubrunner.blob.core.windows.net/00000050043/en-ca/files/homepage/ri-code-of-policies---2024/code_of_policies_rotary_international_en.pdf
- District 9800 Policies (Including Child Protection)
 - <https://rotarydistrict9800.org.au/sitepage/governance/protection>
- The Rotary Foundation Terms and Conditions
 - <https://rotarydistrict9800.org.au/sitepage/district-and-global-grants>



3. Document agreements

SHARING SUCCESS AND CLUB ENGAGEMENT

If your project is truly successful, your club members will be proud to be a member of your club, and your work will inspire other Rotarians and clubs to do more.



SHARING SUCCESS AND ENGAGING MEMBERS

SHINE a LIGHT on ROTARY

Rotary



SHARING SUCCESS AND ENGAGING MEMBERS

- Engage as many Rotarians as possible
 - eg. Dedicated fundraising
- Write regular progress reports for your club bulletin and webpage
- Frequent social media posts
 - Share with People of Action D9800 and local community pages
- Keep partners engaged and informed
- Submit occasional stories to *Networker*
- Report regularly to club meetings
- Visit partner Rotary clubs
- Submit stories to *Rotary Down Under*
- Be loud and proud. Tell the world, often.





Next Steps

Club International Service Chair

Draw up an International Service Plan for your club

- Speak with your club members about ideas
- Connect with experienced clubs for ideas, mentorship, and guidance through the process
- Collaborate for success

District International Service Chair

1. Set up an online Project Matching Register
2. Set up periodic International Service newsletter
3. Set up an International Service Support Network
4. Identify a potential District-wide project
5. District webinar on RAWCS





Thank You Rotary International Service





HOPE ON THE BORDER

ROTARY PASSPORT MELBOURNE

