

International Committee at Salisbury Rotary Club

Rotary Clubs around the world make strides in giving humanitarian aid around the world to people in need together with promoting peace and understanding.

The aim of the International Committee is to support and encourage actions which: -

- Promote projects which align with Rotary Millennium Goals,
- Respond to relief efforts and rebuilding projects following natural disasters,
- Build and sustain international friendship and service,
- Support programmes of Rotary International and RIBI.

Salisbury Club has worked extremely hard to focus on worthwhile projects around the world not only in times of war and natural disasters but provide aid to communities to enable them to have basic tools for life which we take for granted – food, clean water, sanitation, education, health.

Over recent years we have given support to enable Shelterbox (initiated by a Rotarian) to respond to natural disasters by supplying communities with boxes which contains tenting, cooking and basic needs for a family of 6 to survive until their homes are rebuilt. Another innovation is repair kits which provides basic tools and extra tarpaulins whereby if not homeless at least will give them relief and help to rebuild.

The 3-year Wateraid project we are supporting is focusing on the Oromia region in Ethiopia to improve their water supply in 2 villages and a township. The villagers have to walk 3 miles to the nearest river which is polluted and shared with livestock. The town's population has doubled therefore the existing water supply cannot cope and requires upgrading.

The Zambian Literacy Box scheme aims to advance education in schools, primarily but not exclusively in Zambia but also in sub-Sahara Africa. These boxes contain enough materials for 25 children and are distributed to 15 schools. Continuity of supply ensures that children would get school materials and by linking with School Aid 4 Zambia who distribute supplies we ensure the children receive the basic equipment.

We continue to support the Rotary Guildford Eye Project who continue to equip eye hospitals in remote areas in Africa, India and the Middle East whilst also expanding existing hospitals and assist in the provision of transportation for patients in remote areas. Clare House Orphanage at Thandigudi, India also benefits from our support and continues to care for the destitute in that locality.

Our major current project is a Women for Women International 12-month training programme for women that have lost menfolk through conflict in the region of Birava, Democratic Republic of the Congo. 25 women are undergoing training for a year and will set up businesses within their community to enable them to provide a stable economic foundation for their dependants. These women receive an income during training otherwise they would not be able to take part as they are probably the sole breadwinner. Research shows that women invest 90% of their earnings into their families and by investing in these women we are helping to create economic empowerment and a stronger community.