



A project of the Rotary Club of Denton & Audenshaw

From the desk of the Chairman

Ever since **Disaster Aid International** was formed in 2010 it has been a wish to secure recognition from Rotary International of the quality, and the benefits, of the work that its Country Partners carry out. After all, each Country Partner is sponsored by either a Rotary club or a Rotary district.

Now, some nine years later, that wish has been granted and **Disaster Aid International** is now recognised by Rotary International (RI) as a **Collaborating Organization**.



The RI website page dedicated to **Collaborating Organizations** states: *Rotary recognizes collaborating organizations, including nongovernmental organizations, government agencies, corporations, and universities that have a history of working with Rotarians and Rotaractors on service activities locally or internationally. Collaborating organizations adhere to Rotary's ethical standards, have no conflicts of interest in their work with Rotary, and have a regional or global presence.*

Collaborating organizations work alongside Rotarians or Rotaractors, or they offer Rotary members opportunities to participate actively in humanitarian service.

(<https://www.rotary.org/en/collaborating-organizations>)

If you follow the above link to the RI website, you find that **Disaster Aid International** is now ranked alongside the likes of **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library** and the **American Cancer Society**.

However, although **Disaster Aid International** organises the relief work, none of it would be possible without the substantial help that we get from our supporters — those who help finance our work, and those who give their time, either as ambassadors, Disaster Aid Response Team (DART) volunteers, or in some other capacity.

If you are one of these supporters we thank you, as without your help our wish would still be a wish.

Robert

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**Updates:** This time we give updates on Hurricane Dorian, Kerala-3, Cyclone Idai, and the Indonesia Disaster.

**Hurricane Dorian:** It seems like a long time ago now but responding to Hurricane Dorian has turned out to be one of our biggest deployments so far. It certainly used up a lot of our stock of tents and a significant amount of other aid too.



# Newsletter: 2019 -2

At the request of Rotary International Past President Barry Raisin, along with our partners in Disaster Canada and USA, we accepted the challenge to supply tents for two camps that were to be established on Scout camping grounds, for those displaced from their homes. These 150 tents would be additional to the 70 or so tents we had left over from Hurricane Matthew in 2016, and stored locally in the care of Rotary clubs. Later this month we have a meeting planned to determine what our next steps in The Bahamas might be.

**Kerala-3:** We have now funded a third distribution of Sawyer water filters, this time in the Wayanad area which was badly affected by floods and landslides in August 2019. Wayanad is a highland area above 700m, of outstanding natural



beauty with vast forests and nature reserves, but following the landslides the area was cut off for some time. The distribution of 175 filters and buckets was coordinated by Past Rotary District Governors Scaria Jose Kattoor and VG Nayanar, of Districts 3211 and 3202 respectively. Scaria and VG are two of the Rotarians our DART

Volunteer Matt worked with on his Kerala-2 deployment, and Scaria has now helped us on all three of our deployments in Kerala.

**Cyclone Idai:** A post deployment review showed that we had spent more than we had received in donations specific to this disaster and, as other requests were being made, the Trustees decided not to return to Mozambique at this time.

**Indonesia:** In Newsletter 2018-2 we mentioned that two of our own DART

Volunteers, Craig and Matt, attended Palu on Sulawesi Island in the aftermath of the tsunami and earthquakes of September 2018. They took over the deployment started by Disaster Aid Australia DART Volunteers.

During their deployment, Craig and Matt assisted an orphanage badly damaged by the earthquakes and where the Australians had already installed a well, but the living conditions continued to be heart-breaking.



Through the dedication of the orphanage staff, the children were being well cared for, despite their appalling conditions, in buildings severely damaged by the earthquakes. Craig and Matt provided them with new, clean mattresses, and a few 'treats'.

On one of their visits to the orphanage they met John, a Rotarian from Holyhead Rotary Club in Wales, who had travelled to the area independently, and was providing further help with food, bedding and educational materials. John advised that he was on a mission to tackle the seemingly huge task of getting the orphanage rebuilt.

On their return home, contact with John and his Rotary club were maintained and, after due diligence, our Trustees offered to use the balance of the donations received for Indonesia to help finance rebuilding the orphanage.

Work has now begun with the demolition of the existing, damaged building shell, and rebuilding work is ongoing.

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Disaster Aid International has Country Partners in:
Australia, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, India, Malaysia, New Zealand,
United Kingdom & Ireland, and Uruguay.