

For Information especially for Rotarians

Question we are often asked- Why are we sourcing and packing food here rather than sending money or using locally sourced food?

Response from Rise Against Hunger

Rise Against Hunger is focused on providing sustainable food solutions to those that are not able to do so for themselves. In many parts of the developing world, agriculture is a skill that is either lost or never been developed. In those places, we provide the needed fortified meals to school children as they would otherwise have nothing to eat. So many of these locations have absolutely nothing - no farming, no equipment, and no persons doing such. We have very detailed data that shows that school enrolments and attendance are substantially increased when our meals are provided. The fortification of the meals helps to fight off disease. In fact, our hunger relief programs align very well with The Rotary Foundation's Six Areas of Focus (now referred to as "Causes").

- **PEACE** - many of our meals go into areas of conflict. These meals ease conflict as people can fight about 1 less item - food!
- **DISEASE PREVENTION** - our meals are fortified with a specially designed mineral sachet co-developed by Kraft Heinz and North Carolina State University. These minerals are proven to not only fight-off disease but also bring healing to those that otherwise are not well.
- **CLEAN WATER & SANITATION** - Having clean water available to cook the meals, and teaching hygiene also helps to prevent disease. We offer vocational training in these areas as a part of our program
- **MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH** - The largest majority of our meals are delivered through school feeding programs, early childhood development centres and also maternal clinics. So our meals support this endeavour very highly.
- **LITERACY** - As our meals are widely distributed in school feeding programs, we support the enhancement of making education available. For many, the reason these children are sent to school by their families is that this may be the only meal that student gets, and it's one less mouth that family needs to feed. And the education these children receive will give them the skills needed to help them get out of the poverty and uneducated situation they are in. In fact, during our 21 years of supporting school feeding programs, we graduate communities out of needing our services because they can now take care of themselves. This is our goal - to work ourselves out of a job by 2030 (The UN Sustainable Development Goal #2).
- **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** - Through our Sustainable Development and Community Empowerment programs, our programs support and teach communities not only how to feed themselves, but also to create economic development where there was none.

What so many fail to understand is that where these meals go, the people have nothing - and I mean literally nothing. There is no food available from anywhere or anyone else. If it is, then we help those organizations improve food distribution. Just search for "Rise Against Hunger Food Grocer" in the Philippines and you will see how we have setup the first food bank in the Philippines utilizing food grown by local farmers. The last thing we want to do is to take away an economic engine from those that are already providing solutions. We go where there is no solution. It's not like hunger or malnutrition that we know in the more developed world. Literally, approximately 21,000 people perish every day from hunger and malnutrition. I have personally seen the areas where our meals go. If we did not provide them, the people on these communities would also perish. There are 821 million people on our earth suffering. While we are only helping some, through the efforts of Rotary clubs like yours, we are able to help more. Rise Against Hunger will send more than 65 million meals this year. That's making a difference. We will have an impact on more than 1 million lives. That's making a difference! We will engage more than 500,000 volunteers in 2019 to help make this difference. We are proud that the Rotary Club of Grange Over Sands is a part of that solution. I am confident that you are as well.

Thank you for all of your support! You all are supporting President Barry's theme of "Be The Inspiration"! You have inspired those for whom you will never meet!