



## **Working with Rotary**

### **Fact sheet for members of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB)**

Rotary is a dynamic, community-based volunteer service organization with more than 1.2 million members and over 35,000 clubs worldwide. In addition, more than 240,000 university students and young professionals are members of Rotaract clubs, Rotary's partners in service. Our members are attuned to their communities' needs. Their local knowledge, experience, and connections make them valuable partners for humanitarian service.

Disease prevention and treatment is one of Rotary's six areas of focus. While each club sets its own priorities, many club projects focus on access to preventive and treatment services, health education, and health worker training.

Learn more about Rotary's work in [disease prevention and treatment](#).

#### **Why work with the Rotary network?**

Rotary members are successful community and business leaders, and their connections can provide insight into community priorities and help get a project started. They can identify prospective beneficiaries and key local leaders, offer logistical and funding resources, advocate for specific causes, mobilize outreach and action, build local or international partnerships, and much more. Collaborating with clubs on projects to improve access to quality eye care can lead to sustainable preventive and treatment services.

Club members identify local priorities and work on projects. Club-led projects often achieve more when clubs in two countries form a partnership. Clubs can also strengthen their projects by collaborating with organizations that have technical expertise in eye care.

#### **How to work with a Rotary or Rotaract club**

Each club meets regularly to share information with members and plan service projects. Here are some good ways to introduce yourself to a club:

- Contact club leaders and offer to describe your work at a meeting.
- Invite Rotary members to visit your organization or locally hosted activities or projects.
- Meet with club leaders or their community service committee to discuss ideas for working together on local priorities.

Clubs may work with IAPB members in several ways. Ideas include:

- Jointly assessing communities to identify the most pressing concerns and the populations most in need of access to eye care.
- Drawing on local relationships with stakeholders, from residents to businesses, to develop strategies for improving access to health services.
- Supporting projects through in-kind contributions, volunteers, medical equipment, and financial support.
- Helping plan and implement humanitarian projects or health worker training as a cooperating partner.

- Organizing a Rotary Community Corps, a group of people who are not Rotary members but work in partnership with Rotary clubs to improve their communities. As representatives of the community being served, RCC members bring enthusiasm through their contribution of volunteer skills, community insights, and local connections.

### **Connect with the Rotary network**

To find a Rotary or Rotaract club near you, use Rotary's [Club Finder](#) or download the Club Locator app for your mobile phone. Most clubs have websites with contact information. You can find clubs in every country where IAPB members are present. Work directly as a partner with local clubs to formalize an agreement and define the terms of cooperation.

The [Rotarian Action Group for Blindness Prevention](#) is an international group of Rotarians, Rotaractors, program participants, and alumni who promote eye health and vision worldwide. They also advise club-led service projects related to preventing and treating eye disease. This group can help identify clubs working on related projects in a particular country.

If you have trouble finding or contacting a Rotary club, write to [rotary.service@rotary.org](mailto:rotary.service@rotary.org), and Rotary staff will help connect you with clubs in your area.