



Projects Update

Rebuilding after Hurricane Dorian



Hurricane-strengthened Aldersgate Methodist Church and School

In September of 2019, Hurricane Dorian, a Category 5 hurricane, made landfall in the Bahamas. For three days, winds of up to 298 km/h (185mph) tore across Grand Bahama and the Abaco Islands.

Seventy people lost their lives and strategic infrastructure including power, water, telecommunications, and sewage services were knocked out, and roads badly damaged. So severe was the devastation, its cost has been estimated to be US\$3.4 billion, making it the worst natural disaster in the country's history.

Amongst the buildings and thousands of houses damaged or destroyed was Aldersgate Methodist Church and School. Situated in Marsh Harbour, on the Island of Abaco, a multi-use building which served as a church, school, and a community centre.

Such was the facility's importance to local residents, the Rotary Club of Abaco, with the support of the Rotary Bahamas Disaster Committee, submitted a funding application to the **Rotary GBI Disaster Recovery Trust** to restore the structure, build-out its interior, and provide fixtures and fittings.

Initial work commenced in August 2020, with structural work on the roof, ceilings, exterior walls, together with the

installation of new doors, windows, bathroom and kitchen fittings being completed in November, and the project finalised in the second week of December.

With the help of **Rotary GBI Disaster Recovery Trust**, the church and school have now been returned to the community, and the islanders of Abaco have begun restoring their lives in a rebuilt, hurricane-strengthened building.

New Australian Bushfires Projects

The damage caused by the Australian Bushfires in 2019-2020 was so widespread that **Rotary GBI Disaster Recovery Trust** has been asked to help with another two new projects.

East Gippsland, Victoria (D9820) suffered huge losses to infrastructure, forests and stock. One rural community hit particularly hard was Sarsfield on the Western side of East Gippsland. Sarsfield lost some 85% of its homes and a number of cottage industries including Bed & Breakfast venues, and wildflower farms.

The **Rotary GBI Disaster Recovery Trust** is now working with D9820 to build and extend the Community Hall in Sarsfield. At times of emergency, this work will allow those without power (5 days in some cases) to stay in their unaffected homes but still have access to electrical power necessary for cooking and storing food, to shower, and a place to gather for support. On completion, the rebuild and upgrade of the hall will allow it to be used more frequently for community gatherings during 'peace' time.

In a second project, the **Rotary GBI Disaster Recovery Trust** has been asked to help a project in District 9705. The project focuses on the community of Lake Conjola on the far south coast of New South Wales, whose residents were not only hit by the devastating fires of January 2020, but were dealt a second blow of severe flooding.

Funding is being provided for the construction of a robust, fireproof community building which, at times of disaster, will function as an emergency assembly point. The project is being led by the Rotary Club of Milton Ulladulla, and is being supported by the Rotary Club of Sydney Cove, and the D9705 District Bushfire Committee.

Saving Lyasikika Secondary School, Northern Tanzania

In 2018, extremely heavy rains in Northern Tanzania led to the complete collapse of the toilet block of Lyasikika Secondary School. The collapse was such that, unless rebuilt, the school faced the possibility of its closure.

The potential loss of a vital community asset led a number of Rotary Clubs to come together and help with the rebuild. The Rotary Club of Morden (D1145), with the support of the Rotary Club of Callington (D1175), and ABCDreams (UK) – a UK charity which supports vulnerable schoolchildren in Tanzania and which raised some two-thirds of the cost of the rebuild through a GoFundMe campaign – were able to secure the bulk of the money needed, and the outstanding balance being provided by the **Rotary GBI Disaster Recovery Trust**.

In Tanzania, the project is being overseen by the Rotary Club of Moshi, who alongside local stakeholders including the School Board, Education Officer, and the school's Headteacher, are providing on-site supervision and monitoring of the build.

Scheduled for completion in early 2021, the project consists of digging an effluent pit with a secure cover; laying the foundations; and the construction of the substructure consisting of two buildings of eight cubicles with a plumbed water supply, together with an enhanced cubicle for girls' hygiene, and a latrine in the boys' block. To guarantee the project brings benefits to the wider community, all materials and labour are being sourced locally.

Once finished, the rebuild will not only ensure the community retains an essential asset, but will bring additional benefits since the quality and cleanliness of a school's toilets not only influences health and well-being, but also pupils' attainment, behaviour, morale, and attendance.



Roofing the Girls' Toilet Block of Lyasikika Secondary School

New Appeal

On the 30th October, a magnitude 7 earthquake struck just off Turkey's Aegean coast and north of the Greek island of Samos, making it the deadliest earthquake of 2020. The tremor, centred off Turkey's İzmir province killed at least 115 people and injured over 1,000, and destroyed homes and buildings with 15,000 people losing their homes in İzmir alone. The tremor also triggered a mini-tsunami which flooded İzmir and Samos.

If you wish to make a contribution to this appeal, please see how you can make a donation below.

Applying for Funding and Making a Donation

Criteria for Grant Applications

To be considered for a grant from the **Rotary GBI Disaster Recovery Trust**, projects must:

- Address a community need, with the aim of providing sustainable development.
- Demonstrate a benefit to the community as a whole, and not an individual person. The project must not directly benefit a Rotarian, spouse or descendent, a member of a Rotary Club, Rotary District or other Rotary entity.
- Have significant Rotary involvement and visible Rotary identification.
- Rotarians from RIBI and, where appropriate, from partner Clubs or Districts overseas must:
 - a. be actively involved in each grant project,
 - b. take responsibility for the implementation of the project, and
 - c. be responsible for regular reporting on the status of the project and related expenditure.
- Exclude any liability to the RIBI Disaster Recovery Trust except for the amount of the grant.

Making a Donation

Rotary GBI Disaster Recovery Trust is a long-term helping hand to communities affected by disaster, both home and abroad.

Donations can be made on the **Disaster Recovery Trust** "Virgin Money Giving" page, using the QR code below, or by cheque to:

Disaster Recovery Trust
Rotary International in Great Britain & Ireland
Kinwarton Road
Alcester
Warwickshire
B49 6PB



QR Code to
Disaster Recovery Trust
Virgin Money Giving page

For an application form please go to our website: rotarygbi.org or contact Brian Stoyel (Chairman) at brian@stoyel.co.uk

Charity No: 1119688
Facebook: [/RotaryDisasterRecoveryTrust](https://www.facebook.com/RotaryDisasterRecoveryTrust)