



Community Needs Assessment Form

Explanation: Matching Grant applications requesting US\$25,001 or above must include a community needs assessment. Please provide detailed answers to the following questions. The boxes will expand as you type. Attach this completed form to the Matching Grant application.

1. Name of community:	The Community of Disabled coming to St Stephen's Hospital
	Tis Hazari, Delhi – 110054, India

2. Describe the benefiting community. Include any relevant statistics as well as geographic and demographic information about the community.

St Stephen's Hospital is a 600-bed tertiary care hospital which caters to half a million patients in the out-patient and between 35 to 40 thousand patients as in-patients in a year. This is the oldest and the largest non-governmental hospital of Delhi. The disability work, which was started almost 20 years ago, now attracts patients from all over north India. Over the years with the excellent reputation that the hospital has built up almost all the NGOs working in the field of disability send their children for surgical intervention to St Stephen's Hospital. These include Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) like Palna (a centre for abandoned children), Missionaries of Charity (Homes run by Mother Teresa's Sisters of Charity), Amarjyoti (an NGO school for disabled children), Akshay Pratishthan (School for disabled children), AADI (Center for Action for Ability Development and Inclusion for special children), Astha (center for children with Cerebral Palsy), Indian Council for Child Welfare (a center for development of children), Sewa Ashram (a centre for destitute persons), Asha Sadan (Centre for persons with AIDS and terminally ill), Rotary Clubs of different districts and several other similar organizations in and around Delhi.

3. What community needs were identified?

A large number of children with complex deformities are in the community served by St Stephen's Hospital. Their needs are special needs that are not looked after by other general hospitals the way they need to be. This is because most general hospitals are under pressure to take care of the large number of trauma patients that throng these centers. The disabled children being non-emergent patients, therefore, get pushed on a lower priority for interventions. At the outset when the program of 'Polio Camp' was started in 1987, this was a realization that led to a policy decision to reserve beds and services for these patients. For the past two decades these services are continued with more and more complex cases being treated successfully. Last year alone approximately 1400 surgeries were performed by the Department of Orthopedic Surgery, of which about 250 were on polio-disabled children.

4. What is already being done to respond to the need(s)?

All the patients needing surgical intervention and rehabilitative services are provided care irrespective of caste, color, creed or religion. Those that cannot afford treatment are provided services completely free. Some of the simpler procedures are done at the respective peripheral centers. The surgeries are performed on a broken operating table at this time.

5. What resources are available locally to help meet the needs(s)?

The program was started initially from the resources generated within the hospital. Support has come from time-to-time from well-wishers and non-governmental organizations including Rotary. However, this has been sporadic and none of these have been on a continuous basis. The program has however, continued without a break and with a commitment to remain as an ongoing program. Operating tables that have durability are difficult to obtain locally.

6. What opportunities for projects did you identify?

St. Stephen's hospital has been reaching out to funding agencies but no continuous source of funds has been promised so far. The hospital does not have any support for this year or for coming years. The hospital continues to have need for equipment and funding to support its ever-increasing clientele of disabled patients.

7. Which project did you select? Why did you select this project?

This project was selected to support a very basic need in the operating room -- an operating table -- where most of these surgeries are performed. The table is special because it facilitates even the performance of complex surgeries that are required. The current table that the hospital uses for these corrective surgeries is broken and is difficult to use for spinal surgeries.

8. What challenges to implementation of this project did you identify? How does the project plan take these challenges into account?

The main challenge is the equipment cost. Partnering with multiple clubs was decided to overcome this challenge. The resources generated within the hospital are sufficient for day-to-day running of the hospital. However, for capital investment there is a severe cash crunch therefore, equipment like this gets pushed to the back burner as other needs take precedence due to small amount of funds available for the many needs of the hospital. The department of Orthopedic Surgery has been managing with a table that in ordinary circumstances would have been condemned for disposal.

9. How will the benefiting community be involved in the project?

Though the equipment expensive, the true beneficiaries will not see a tangible change. This is because this is not a product distributed to neither individuals for use nor a service for individual gain. However, it is a critical system in a process that makes a change in the life of these patients. The equipment's use is not restricted to these special needs but also to all those patients that help contribute to the much-needed revenue of the hospital. Using a better operating table will also improve efficiency in the operating room.

10. Describe the viability of the project and how it will be maintained by the benefiting community after grant funds have been expended.

The project is sustainable by a policy commitment of the institution to continue the special services of 'Polio Camp' for all children with need for surgery / rehabilitation for disability correction. Maintenance of the equipment will be done from the hospital's funds.