



GLOBAL GRANTS COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Use this form to report community assessment findings to The Rotary Foundation when you apply for a global grant.

Assessing the strengths, weaknesses, needs, and assets of the community you plan to help is an essential first step in designing an effective and sustainable global grant project. See [Community Assessment Tools](#) for full instructions and helpful tips.

This form will help you report the results of your community assessment, and it's required when you apply for any humanitarian or vocational training team grant. Complete a separate form for each beneficiary community (e.g., school, health care system, or village), using information that is both current and specific to each community. Remember, you can't use global grant funds to cover the cost of doing an assessment, but you can use district grant funds.

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

Describe the characteristics (such as geographic information, main sources of income, population size, and access to education and health services) of the specific community where this project will take place.

The "Sounds of Hope" project will be implemented in the department of Santa Cruz, which has a population of 3.32 million inhabitants who rely on the industry, agriculture, as well as informal businesses or individuals. It has both public and private healthcare services, as well as public and private education.

COLLECTING COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT DATA

When you conducted the assessment, who in the community did you speak to? At least two different community representatives and beneficiaries who are not involved in Rotary (such as teachers, doctors, or community leaders) should be included in the discussions.

An interview was conducted in July 2023 with the heads of ASORMO (Association of the Deaf of Montero), as well as a call to the leaders of ASOCRUZ (Association of Deaf in Santa Cruz), to learn more about the deaf community and especially the challenges they have been going faced. They also indicated the number of schools that work with inclusive, which in total are 9 throughout the department and the number of people with this disability who attend these educational institutions education. They have a database of individuals with hearing disabilities in the school-age stage, which they will share with us for our project.

Additionally, a meeting was held at the premises of the Government of the Department of Santa Cruz on

January 25, 2024, with the director of the Hearing Disability Program, with whom we had previous meetings to present the project we want to carry out and the support we need from them for its execution. Representatives from 4 institutions for individuals with Hearing Disabilities participated in the meeting: ASOCRUZ, ASORMO, AFAEDA, and ASHICRUZ, who made their own contributions and concluded by requesting that the project include children from the age of 4 to 18 since the younger the child with a hearing disability, the better they can adapt to hearing aids with the help and follow-up of professionals such as psychologists, who can provide the necessary support to both parents or guardians and the children with this disability. From this meeting, we have minutes and some photos that were taken.

When in the last year did the discussions occur?

In January 2024, the Rotarians agreed to hold a meeting at the facilities of the Departmental Government of Santa Cruz, as mentioned above. This meeting was convened by this public institution to ensure that the project reaches a wider audience. Each of the four institutions involved could learn about the objectives and execution of the project in more detail and cooperate with any requests to improve the quality of life of the beneficiaries. It was an extensive meeting where we were able to learn about the difficulties faced by the officials of ASHICRUZ regarding the acquisition and adaptation of hearing aids. Additionally, a mother who is part of the board of ASOCRUZ mentioned the difficulties her son went through and how the entire process was for her. This is why, in the end, they requested that the age range be expanded to ensure the success of the project.

What methods did you use to collect information from community members (such as community meetings, interviews, or focus groups)?

The first method utilized was conducting interviews with two institutions, namely ASOCRUZ and ASORMO, which cater to individuals with hearing disabilities. Following this, a focus group was organized by the Hearing Disability Program of the Departmental Government of Santa Cruz. In addition, two other institutions, AFAEDA and ASHICRUZ, were invited to participate at this meeting, and two social workers from a medical center in Montero, who collaborate with the GADSC (Governmental Agency for Disability Services Coordination), were also involved to familiarize themselves with the program.

TARGET POPULATION

Who will benefit directly from the project? List the groups that will benefit (such as schools, hospitals, vocational training centers, cooperatives, or villages).

The beneficiaries of the project will be individuals with hearing disabilities ranging from the age of 4 to 18, which corresponds to the school-age group. This focus aligns with the request made by the officials of the institutions during the meeting held in January

Describe the process of how the beneficiaries were identified.

Firstly, through the interviews, we identified that individuals with hearing disabilities in the school-age group should be the focus or beneficiaries of this project. This is because it is the ideal stage for adapting to the use and care of hearing aids, which often incur higher costs. Subsequently, during the community

meeting, we decided on the age range at the request of the four institutions. They also specified that the project should cater to individuals with moderate to mild hearing disabilities. All of these decisions were agreed upon by the officials of the Hearing Disability Program, led by the Departmental Government of Santa Cruz.

COMMUNITY STRENGTHS, NEEDS, PRIORITIES, AND PROJECT DESIGN

Describe what members of the community said matters to them during the assessment.

The officials from the four institutions (Deaf 's Associations) emphasized the importance of adapting hearing aids for individuals aged 4 to 18. They highlighted that at the age of 4, with the support and guidance of a psychologist, both the child and the parents can effectively adapt to, manage, and care for the hearing aids. Additionally, they requested that beneficiaries have moderate to mild hearing disabilities since providing hearing aids to those with total hearing loss wouldn't contribute to improving their hearing.

Describe any challenges and gaps in the community's behaviors, skills, and knowledge.

The community has associations that are well-established in institutional format, meaning they have a board of directors. These associations are recognized by the Departmental Government of Santa Cruz, and some have a place for their meetings and activities. Additionally, they manage a database of a significant portion of individuals with this disability. Some have spaces where they hold their meetings and various activities. They are also willing to support whatever is requested of them for the better quality of life of the beneficiaries.

What issues will the project address, and how does the community currently address those issues?

A major challenge for this community is the acquisition of hearing aids due to their cost and quality, compounded by the lack of support from the national or departmental government for their acquisition. They are seeking greater support from their institutions and are also requesting the assignment of a teacher to provide free sign language instruction, enabling them to communicate with their families and society.

Describe the long-term plan for the project (such as oversight, financial responsibilities, and expected behavior change) after Rotary's involvement ends.

"Rotary: Sounds of Hope" will provide hearing aids to economically disadvantaged individuals in the school-age range, from 4 to 18 years old, to facilitate their inclusion in school and improve their academic performance, as well as communication with their families and society. During the initial interviews, one of the officials mentioned that while there are individuals with hearing disabilities in school, many of them do not attend because they lack the necessary resources to purchase hearing aids or because the cost of learning sign language is high, given the scarcity of teachers. This highlights the fact that they stay at home to assist with household chores.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (FOR ALL ENVIRONMENT AND WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE PROJECTS)

What are currently the greatest environmental threats to local land, air, water resources, and the ecosystem?

List any cultural practices that are relevant to the project (such as agricultural techniques or traditions).

What positive and negative environmental changes do you expect to result from the project?