



## 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 project is to take place in Goa, India.

Goa is a state in western India with coastlines stretching along the Arabian Sea. Its long history as a Portuguese colony prior to 1961 is evident in its preserved 17th-century churches and the area's tropical spice plantations. Goa is known for its pristine beaches, natural beauty and features on the world map as one of the top tourist destinations. **Though it is one of the smaller states of India with a population of 1.58 million it has a tourist influx of approximately 8.04 million. The state's economy thrives on tourism.**

Despite Goa being a small state, we discovered alarming figures of the mentally and physically challenged children in the community. The Early Intervention Centres in Goa identified about 8,255 children in the age group 0-18 having one of the four disabilities (Autism Spectrum Disorder, Down Syndrome, physically or intellectually disabled) in FY 2019-20. Of these identified cases, nearly 268 were referred out to higher centres for further management. On average, 200+ children have been referred in the subsequent years for further management. According to available figures, Goa has a population of slightly over 5,000 children with disabilities in the age group 5-19 of which about 17% children with disabilities have never attended school.

### 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.

We have had engaging discussions with The State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Special School management Committees, Special educators, Medical Professionals treating these children, teaching staff and parents of children with disabilities.

When in the last year did the discussions occur?

Discussions took place all throughout the year starting from September 2023.

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

We had meetings and interviews with the school authorities, teachers, children, and their parents. We also had discussions with local volunteers and The State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities.

### **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).

#### **Beneficiaries:**

Currently about **70 students** are enrolled at Anand Niketan which will be immediately increased to accommodate **200** and benefit from modern classrooms, therapy and vocational training

Project is inclusive and benefits children with various disabilities, including **Autism Spectrum Disorder, Down Syndrome, physically or intellectually disabled, under-privileged** and others

Parents and families of these children

**Teachers & Parents of other regular schools** who can observe and then replicate such facilities in their own premises for benefit of their students in the North District of Goa

**Long-term beneficiaries include current as well as future generations of children with disabilities and their families in Goa**

Community integration: **Transformation in the Community** by fostering understanding and acceptance of children with disabilities

Describe the process of how the beneficiaries were identified.

A recce was done to study the better performing institutions in the domain of special needs education. Existing regulatory offices like the **The State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Social welfare Department of Govt. of Goa and District Govt. Hospitals were visited.**

Few institutions were shortlisted based on this research. The team visited the institutions and based on the review of past track record and managements' interaction finally, Aastha's Anand Niketan was

shortlisted. 360 degree feedback for the institution involved interviews with School staff, parents and existing donors.

### **COMMUNITY STRENGTHS, NEEDS, PRIORITIES, AND PROJECT DESIGN**

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

The community members see a lack of access to specialized education, comprehensive support services, early intervention programs and training to members in the community that can help create an inclusive environment which will promote the holistic development, independence, and integration of children with disabilities into society.

Describe the community's strengths and resources.

**Strength:**

The Community has a good number of regular schools and teachers that can take care of the special needs of these children if trained and sensitized on this subject.

The local government also supports such schools through salary grants for teaching staff and other subsidies.

Active collaboration with local community leaders, NGOs, volunteers, and government agencies.

Institutions like Anand Niketan that are building new capacities to accommodate higher number of children with special needs.

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

The gap identified is lack of holistic education, upgraded teaching aids, lack of training to the educators in regular schools and sensitization towards children with disabilities in the regular schools.

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

**Limited Capacity and Access to Special Education:** The current school infrastructure is unable to accommodate the increasing enrollment of students with disabilities, leading to overcrowded classrooms and scheduling challenges.

The school has highly trained staff and has developed as a good resource center. It can train many other educators in the community in imparting education and other relevant aspects in caring for these children. This project will address the lack of professional teaching aids, equipment, furniture required for increasing school capacity for new students and also training new educators/ stakeholders.

Currently, these issues are partly addressed through existing services of such schools. However, they are lacking in quantity and quality which may be addressed through this intervention.

The proposed project seeks to overcome these challenges by expanding classroom infrastructure and

enhancing educational and therapeutic services locally with professionally designed training programs for the special educators and other teachers from normal schools.

Provide the specific details of the project design and how it will solve these issues.

Grant Program is to fund Classroom Infrastructure, teaching equipment and training to create disable friendly classrooms for enhanced learning that will help increase student capacity and access to high quality special education at Anand Niketan School.

This infrastructure and teachings aids/equipment will also facilitate training of educators from regular schools and other stakeholders who can give care to slow learners and children with learning disabilities from their schools/communities.

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

Rotary will fund the classroom infrastructure to help increase the capacity of the school. It will not only benefit the current set of children with disabilities but also children if born with such disabilities.

**Financial & operational sustainability:** Land leased by Government for 30 years & more, Operational expenses including maintenance of the equipment, furniture and furnishings through committed and new annual donations, Salary through government grants, Proportion of transport costs through special education grants by Govt., School Reserve fund created through Philanthropists & CSR Funds

**Community engagement:** Actively collaborating with local community leaders, NGOs, and government agencies, Encourage and engage volunteers

**Long term vision & awards:** Anand Niketan's Vision 2025 is to become one of the top ten schools and the best Residential facility for children with disabilities in India; Professionally run with qualified, trained and empathetic teachers and staff, proven track record; Accreditations for such schools and contemporary admin standards like ISO 9001 etc.

Rotary would gain visibility and recognition within the community as a champion for disability rights and inclusive education.

### **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?