



THE RCRT FOUNDATION 2016 ANNUAL LETTER

2016 HAS BEEN ANOTHER RECORD YEAR FOR THE RCRT FOUNDATION

- Records set in terms of impact and number of beneficiaries
- Partnership with Wine to Water resulted in over 11,600 beneficiaries of clean water and improved sanitation, approximately 2x the initial targets
- Our largest project yet, SAMS medical relief and polio vaccination programme in Syria has also been the most dramatic by saving lives and providing medical support to children and their families at the heart of a desperate humanitarian crisis
- To date, the portfolio of RCRT funded projects exceeds \$500,000 (across 6 projects to date)

The RCRT Foundation – Mission and Vision

The RCRT Foundation (“RCRT”) was created in 2014 with the mission to select impactful and inspiring projects and to offer them to donors who value transparency and believe in our hands-on, asset-management-like approach. Our focus is to support children’s health and education by raising and allocating funds to carefully selected projects throughout the world. We only work with registered foundations and charities who are operationally lean and financially transparent – principles we apply to ourselves.

All of RCRT’s costs are covered by the trustees so that 100% of donations are allocated to the selected projects and therefore the ultimate beneficiaries. Beyond the funding, we work closely with the sponsor charities to help guide the projects toward successful outcomes, and we routinely collect information and track performance to evaluate the progress of each initiative and compare these with our original expectations.

Projects

In 2016, The RCRT Foundation focused its efforts in supporting three projects:

1. A new partnership with the **Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS)** was formalized as RCRT’s main project for 2016 with the objective of supporting and financing a paediatric clinic and a polio vaccination program in Idlib, Syria;
2. The RCRT Foundation extended its partnership with the **Baan Dek Foundation** (previously known as Kids Home) to provide migrant children with the support they need to enroll in school and successfully integrate into the formal education system in Thailand;
3. The RCRT Foundation and **Wine To Water** successfully completed the project they started in 2015, which has resulted in more than 11,640 people - of which 67% children - having access to clean water in rural Cambodia.



The Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS) project

The SAMS Foundation is a non-profit, non-political, medical and humanitarian relief organization that is working on the front lines of crisis relief in Syria and in neighbouring countries to alleviate suffering and save lives.

In Syria, SAMS operates over 100 medical facilities that provide general and specialized medical care for Syrians in need. Programs include primary care, specialized treatments and vaccination campaigns.

The Situation

Prior to the conflict in Syria, the Syrian healthcare system was equivalent in quality to other middle-income nations. Unfortunately, this healthcare system has dramatically declined over the past 5-6 years in line with the political situation. It has suffered from the targeting of healthcare workers, doctors, and hospitals, the fleeing of nurses, physicians and qualified technicians and the sharp deterioration in educational and training programs.

It became essential to help create safe and functioning facilities to provide care for civilians, and very important to support those willing to stay who remain in harm's way.

In the midst of this conflict, civilians, especially children, lost access to medical care they need for acute illnesses, management of chronic conditions, and preventive measures that protect them from serious communicable diseases.

Our Project

In order to combat the depleted services of the healthcare system, RCRT decided to partner with SAMS to provide the necessary funding to support a primary care facility that focuses on paediatric care in the hospital situated in the village of Kurin, Idlib. This facility serves the local population of 17,000 people. The closest city with a hospital and primary health care is Ariha, approximately 10 km away. However, the direct routes to Ariha are not always open.





We were convinced that SAMS was going to be in position to properly implement this program in Idlib, due to its experience in the region. SAMS has successfully implemented medical relief programs in Syria for over 4 years and built strong relationships with the local medical councils and with medical and administrative staff in supported facilities. Over time SAMS gained the trust of local populations in areas where programs are implemented. Moreover as a member of Syria Immunization Task Force, SAMS has a collaborative relationship with UNICEF enabling SAMS to receive vaccines, transport and distribute them to medical facilities and immunization centres including Kurin clinic.

This has been pivotal to allow SAMS to partner with UNCHR in the polio vaccination campaign that has been launched in 2016, as a consequence of an outbreak of polio brought into Syria by foreign fighters from Afghanistan and Pakistan. The vaccination campaign that RCRT and SAMS have supported is particularly focused on children under 5 years of age, when this highly contaminative disease can be extremely life-threatening.

The main objective of our funding has been the provision of financial support to the Clinic in order to facilitate free childhood polio vaccines delivery alongside more general paediatric services, maternal support, and nutritional and infant care education. The quantitative targets that had been set were as follows:

- 12,000 children to receive paediatric care and maternal support
- 2,400 children under 5 years to receive polio vaccination

What have we achieved?

Through the generous donations of a number of donors and two corporate matching programs, RCRT successfully secured enough funds to finance one year of running cost to support the clinic and its medical activities. Our support included the wages for personnel including one paediatrician, one GP, one dentist, one midwife, one pharmacy technician, four nurses, one administrator, two security guards, one driver and two janitors, as well as medicine supplies and the necessary funds to repair and maintain the clinic in Idlib.

Since we started our partnership with SAMS in July 2016 through February 2017, the clinic in Idlib has treated already more than 22,700 patients, of which a substantial portion were children, and distributed more than 9,600 paediatric vaccines, 5,210 of which were Polio vaccines to children under 5 years of age. The initial beneficiaries' estimates/targets have therefore been already surpassed, with more than 4 months to go to the end of the program.



Kids Home – Baan Dek

Since its inception, RCRT has supported the Kids Home Foundation, now called 'Baan Dek Foundation'. Founded in 2002, Baan Dek is a Thai-registered Foundation that supports migrant children's access to essential services through programs that are all complemented by individual case management. Today, Baan Dek's programs successfully support approx. 1,000 children per year in and around Chiang Mai, providing the kids with 1) non-formal education that is crucial for their development and facilitates their integration into the Thai school system, 2) basic healthcare and emergency medical attention, and 3) immediate protection in the case of critical situations, including abuse, trafficking or labour exploitation.

The **Access2Education Project** builds on the successful experience of the Smile Project, which was entirely financed by the RCRT Foundation (previously under the name of the Harvip Foundation) from 2011 to 2015. From 2015 to 2016, the new project has been the Access2Education, which uses *after-school sessions* and the *Smile Holidays Program* to provide critical education and sports opportunities to 1,000+ of the most vulnerable children in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

The Context

Due to its geographic location and economic situation, Thailand is a regional destination for migrants. Approximately 3.5 million migrant workers cross the border in search of work opportunities in Thailand, often bringing their children with them. There are approximately 330,000 migrant children currently living in Thailand, and about 60,000 of these children live on or next to construction sites, representing a vulnerable population.

The Access2Education Project: Overview & Achievements

Through support from RCRT, the Access2Education Project has provided after-school sessions to give the kids the support they need to enrol in school and successfully integrate into the formal education system. The after-school sessions provide homework assistance and individual support from teachers specialized in work with migrant children. The Smile Holidays Program offers the kids creative activities, physical exercise and sports, and other activities fundamental to their development during their school holidays.

Through both after-school sessions and Smile Holidays, we have been able to benefit 569 kids in 2015, and ca. 332 in H1 2106 alone. These programs are absolutely essential to the educational support that Baan Dek provides to these children, and this support has led to the **successful enrolment of 98% of these children in school in 2016, which is up from 80% in 2014.**

After-school sessions and Smile Holidays combined have reached 11 communities over the reporting period, including 9 construction site camps, 1 government-run orphanage, and 1 public school. These sessions benefitted circa 125-130 children per holiday period (there are 2 main holiday periods per annum). Kids in attendance showed increased interest in all 4 key areas of childhood development (cognitive, psychosocial, linguistic and physical) and successfully learned about their Child Rights from the education sessions on Child Protection.



Wine To Water

The RCRT Foundation was proud to introduce Wine To Water (“**WtW**”) at our 2015 Gala at London’s Mondrian Hotel. Since inception, Wine to Water has been providing access to clean water in a sustainable way across the world. Following extensive due diligence and research, The RCRT Foundation decided to partner with WTW to focus specifically on a project in Cambodia.

Since the 2015 Gala, RCRT & Wine To Water are working together to provide safe drinking water within the Svay Rieng region of Cambodia. This is accomplished through the construction of borehole water wells, building sanitary latrines, the distribution of ceramic water filters, and sanitation & hygiene education programs.

The context

One of the poorest countries in Asia, Cambodia was racked by genocide during the reign of the communist guerrilla group Khmer Rouge. From 1975 to 1979, nearly two million people were killed in an effort to abolish money, private property and religion. A monarchy was re-established in 1993, but the scars of the Khmer Rouge are still present in Cambodia’s deep poverty and dependence on subsistence farming. As a result, much of the population relies on contaminated water, resulting in a constant battle with disease and death.

Still recovering from years of civil war and genocide, much of the Cambodian population still struggles with water access and improved sanitation. Families in poverty often get their water from polluted ponds and rivers: water sources that are a breeding ground for infectious diseases. More than 10,000 die from water-related illnesses each year, many of them children under the age of 5 - Cambodia has one of the highest infant mortality rates in Southeast Asia.

What have we achieved?

Thanks to the support of RCRT, **a total of 11,641 individuals have had their lives transformed through the provision of water and improved sanitation & hygiene** – this excellent result almost doubled the original objectives and has been achieved by targeting high impact locations such as schools and community gathering points. Further details include:

- Throughout the year, WtW drilled 90 new wells that are now providing 1,948 adults and 3,124 children access to water throughout the year. This provides families with a means for sustainable living. They now have enough water to meet basic needs such as: drinking, cooking, bathing, laundry, and basic farming;
- Having access to water however, does not guarantee freedom from water borne illness. It is imperative to practice a form of household water treatment in conjunction with safe water storage. For this WTW provided 1,613 adults and 2,743 children with 600 ceramic water filtration systems. These are simple micro-porous ceramic pot filters infused with antimicrobial nanosilver particles that provide an entire family with safe drinking water. These filters are long-lasting and are simple to clean and maintain;
- To provide more reliable hygiene and sanitation, families must have access to a latrine. Improved sanitation is greatly needed in Cambodia. The WtW team has constructed 99 latrines that are serving 279 adults and 1,934 children. Latrine access greatly reduces the spreading of disease and reduces the risk of water contamination;



- In conjunction with the new technologies provided, WTW works to train individual community health leaders to conduct health workshops that focus on topics such as water, sanitation, solar water disinfection and diarrheal treatment using Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS). Throughout Svay Reing, community health leaders conducted a total of 624 workshops with 9901 participants.

In addition, RCRT funded the purchase of an air compressor in a view to enable the excavation of deeper and higher capacity wells through harder soil and rock. This long term investment is expected to support a commercially sustainable well-drilling business, whose proceedings will be reinvested in further charity water projects.





2016-17 Organisational Overviews

We are very pleased to announce that Sonja Laud and Joost Schellens have been appointed new trustees of the RCRT Foundation. We've known personally Sonja and Joost for many years and we are extremely proud to count them as valuable members of the team.

Our Chairman, Lorenzo Guidi, has been confirmed for an additional year and we are pleased to announce that Ben Barnett has been elected Managing Trustee of the RCRT Foundation for 2017. As a reminder, the Managing Trustee's role is to oversee all RCRT's activities while the Chairman has more of an administrative role, including representing the RCRT vis-à-vis the Charity Commission.

Finally, we continue to benefit of the support from our Ambassadors Committee, who are working alongside the RCRT Trustees to promote the values and initiatives of our charity, and provide advice on how The RCRT Foundation operates and its strategic decisions.

2016 Fundraising initiatives and results

2016 has been another year of strong growth in terms of funds deployed and project beneficiaries. Thanks to various private donations over the course of the year, corporate matching proceeds and the annual contributions by its Trustees, RCRT has raised in excess of \$129k.

By the end of the year, after all costs, RCRT has cumulated own funds, available for next year's project, of ca. \$20.2k. The below table illustrates RCRT's sources and uses for 2016.

Sources and Uses - 2016 Pro Forma			
Sources	\$²	Uses	\$²
Fund raising activities ¹	106,462	SAMS Project	124,000
Trustees Donations	17,206	WtW Project ⁴	5,900
Gift Aid (est.)	1,542	General admin costs	3,567
RCRT own funds ³	8,257		
Total	133,467	Total	133,467

(1) Including corporate matching programs, etc.

(2) Using the exchange rates as of 31.12.16 (\$/£: 1.239)

(3) RCRT's own funds as of 31.12.16 were equal to \$20,206.52

(4) Additional \$5.9k were funded to the WtW project bringing the total project amount to \$85.9k (\$80k was funded in 2015)

Important note: as a reminder, all of the running/admin costs are covered by the Trustees annual donations, so that all money raised can be deployed to our new and ongoing projects.



Outlook

2016 has been another positive year for the RCRT Foundation, which has been yet again been able to select a new extraordinary partner and fund a very ambitious project, focusing on an area where families and children suffer from incredibly difficult life conditions brought by years of civil conflict. The opportunity to make our modest but meaningful contribution to these underprivileged children make us even more eager to do more, and better, in the years to come.

As we write this letter, we are currently in the process of selecting our new project for 2017. In addition to selecting and executing a new project, we will vigilantly monitor all ongoing initiatives.

We are pleased to confirm that all the targets that we had set ourselves have been reached and surpassed in every single project that we supported to date.

We are also looking forward to organising a successful fundraising event in the coming months and will communicate soon the date and venue.

Finally, we are continuing to work on the internal debate around a question we consider strategic: how to develop a solid methodology to measure the impact of charitable projects? We are aiming at implementing a first version of a proprietary methodology during the course of 2017.

We always welcome ideas in all areas (e.g. fund raising opportunities, interesting projects, etc.), so please feel free to contact us directly on our dedicated email address: ideas@rcrt.org.uk.

The RCRT Foundation thanks all its friends, partners, donors and Ambassadors for the amazing support, without which the results described in this report, would not have been possible.

The RCRT Foundation Trustees

Ben Barnett, Patrick Chautard, Alberto Garrone, Lorenzo Guidi, Sonja Laud, Fabio Osta and Joost Schellens