

# ROTARY INTERNATIONAL AND EXCELLENT DEVELOPMENT



Providing safe water and  
opportunity for life for  
£10 per person



# INVESTING IN OPPORTUNITY

## Rotary and Excellent Development

Dedicated Rotarians all around the world and Excellent Development are very proud to work together to promote peace, prevent disease, provide access to clean water and sanitation, enhance maternal and child health, improve basic education and literacy, and develop communities.

## More about Excellent

Excellent is an award winning UK charity accredited to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. The charity supports some of the world's poorest people to transform their own lives through soil and water conservation in drylands.

Over 40% of the earth's surface consists of drylands (hyper-arid, arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas with concentrated periods of seasonal rainfall). These drylands which cover large areas of Africa and Asia are home to around 2.3 billion people, mostly living in rural poverty trying to eke out a living in a tough climate.

Working with local partners, Excellent supports rural communities to build sand dams - the most cost-effective method of catching and storing rainwater in drylands. Sand dams provide safe water for life and the opportunity to grow enough food to eat, store and sell. It is our vision that millions of the world's poorest people will transform their own lives with sand dams.



*"Kew Gardens Rotary led the first of these projects inspired by the simplicity of the technology and its effectiveness in addressing survival in times of drought. Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland has since supported communities in Kenya by subcontracting the building of dams to Excellent Development."*

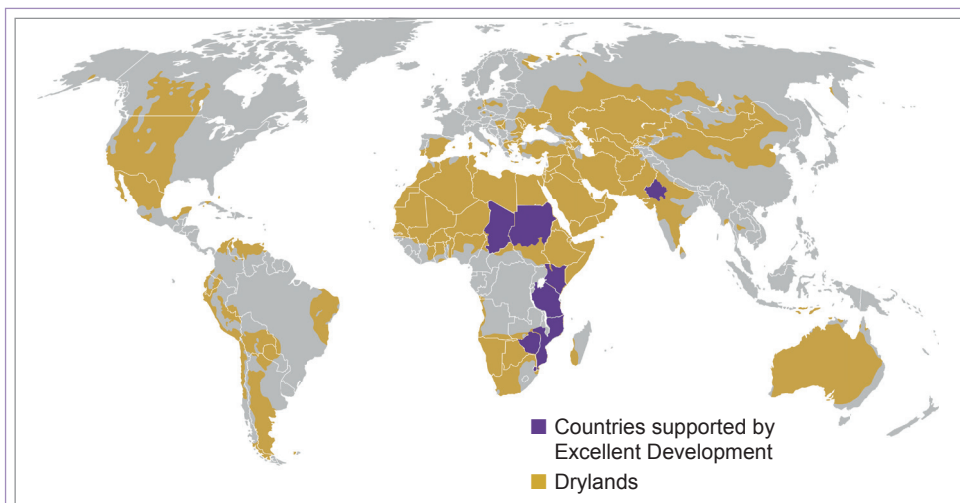
*"This technology can bring safe water to 74% of the world's poor people, and it is hard to find a more cost effective way to enable such communities to have access to safe water and healthy food, improve their health and free time for children to be educated. There is always a long list of self-help groups wanting to build their own dams to transform their own lives. We just assist them."*

**James Onions, Kew Gardens Rotary, Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland sand dams project**

# WHAT ROTARY HAS ENABLED

In rural drylands, millions of people do not have easy access to a safe water supply and are isolated from goods and services.

Rotary has to date supported communities in Ukambani County, southeast Kenya to build sand dams and invest in sustainable agriculture techniques. Rotary has also supported pastoralist communities in Lekurruki Conservancy in northern Kenya and the Maasai tribe in the southern part of the Kenyan Rift Valley to increase their access to safe water through the construction of sand dams and shallow wells.



## Key lifetime figures (up to September 2017):

**56**

Sand dams built

**£727,822**

Invested by Rotary

**Over 200**

Rotary clubs invested

**101,364**

People with access to safe water

## Looking to the future

Rotary's worldwide network presents the opportunity over time to expand into other countries, and Rotary is currently looking at involvement with Excellent Development in supporting dryland communities to improve their access to safe water in Rajasthan, India (for 75% of villages, the salinity of the groundwater can be as much as 10 times higher than is considered safe for human consumption) and Southern Africa (Mozambique and Zimbabwe).

For updated figures, the list of Rotary clubs invested, the list of communities being support by Rotary, visit [www.excellentdevelopment.com/rotary](http://www.excellentdevelopment.com/rotary)



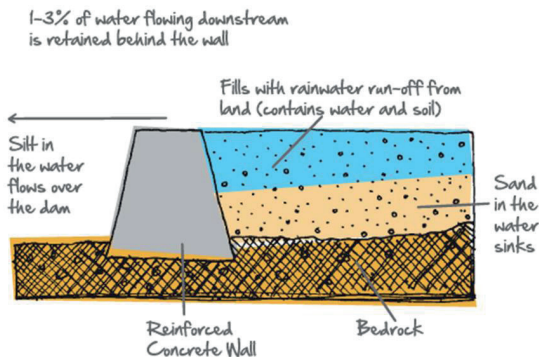
# YEAR-ROUND SAFE WATER

## What is a sand dam?

A sand dam is a reinforced stone masonry wall built across a seasonal sandy river. They have almost no maintenance costs, can last for well over 30 years and there is one still in use that is more than 100 years old.

Water behind a dam raises the water table in the surrounding area which improves the soil, creating better conditions for crops and grazing. More trees can be planted which ensures that more water infiltrates the ground and less soil is washed away – creating a virtuous cycle of soil and water conservation.

During the rainy season, the dam fills with sediment-laden water. The heavy sand is deposited behind the dam, while the light silt is carried downstream. As much as 97 to 99% of the water flowing in the river continues downstream.



Within one to four rainy seasons, the dam fills with sand. But, up to 40 million litres of water is stored in the pores between sand particles. Here it can be extracted and is protected from evaporation, contamination and disease transmitters, such as mosquitoes and freshwater snails.



*A sand dam chain in Kenya*



*A dam plaque featuring Rotary supporters*

## Excellent Development lifetime achievements

**946,999**

People with access to safe water

**8**

Countries

**1,017**

Sand dams enabled

**£15,000 - £35,000**

Cost of a sand dam

*Excellent Development figures from May 2018.*

# TRANSFORMING LIVES

Rotarians are creating the opportunity for some of the world's poorest people to work their way out of hunger and poverty with dignity. Rotary and Excellent Development are transforming lives by:

## **Providing clean water**

Sand dams provide safe clean water for life closer to people's homes.

## **Supporting education**

The time saved fetching water (up to 5 hours per day, up to 11 hours during droughts) frees time for children to go to school.

## **Growing local economies**

Sand dams increase household income by reducing expenditure on water and food. They also create the opportunity to invest in new enterprises, such as exporting surplus food to local markets, or establishing small-scale fish ponds.

## **Saving mothers and children**

Sand dam and subsequent climate-smart agriculture (such as building community seed banks with drought tolerant seeds projects) empower women as they become decision makers in their communities, whilst children (and parents alike) have improved nutrition at school, work and home thanks to the safe water.

## **Promoting peace**

Sand dams reduce human to human and human to wildlife conflict in areas of Northern Kenya where there is conflict over scarce water sources.

## **Fighting disease**

Sand dams provide a safer water supply as the water stored below the surface protects it from evaporation, contamination and waterborne diseases.



# ROTARY: YOUR IMPACT

*"This tree nursery is of great importance to us. It enables us to plant trees at our homes.*

*From the mango trees we will be able to get mangoes to eat and sell so as to earn an income.*

*We are holding millions in our very own hands."*

Eunice Katumbi  
Kakai self-help group, Kenya  
**Supported by Rotary District 1145  
in Southern England**



*"We have really benefited from our sand dams.*

*We now have easy access to water, unlike in the past when we would spend almost half a day collecting water... instead we spend that time farming.*

*Water is no longer a problem... We are not the way we used to be."*

Peter Mwanza  
Munyuni self-help group, Kenya  
**Supported by Rotary District 1040  
in Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire**



**If you'd like to support or would like more i**



*"My children's lives will change a lot because their eating habits have been changed by vegetables we have grown.*

*In the past we would only eat carbohydrates with ugali or with baobab juice.*

*But now we eat ugali with sukuma and tomatoes, so my children's health will improve and I believe they will no longer get sick."*

Joyce Kilundo  
Kakai self-help group, Kenya  
**Supported by Rotary District 1145  
in Southern England**



*"In this particular area no one is doing vegetable cultivation... there was a water crisis.*

*I have (now) planted more than 150 chilli plants, which grow well in the sweet water.*

*I tried twice earlier but I was not successful. This time, I am successful."*

Mahavir Singh  
Kakai self-help group  
**Thumba ka Goliya village, Marwar,  
Rajasthan, India**



# KICK START NOT A HAND OUT



*“On behalf of the communities Rotary has enabled to construct sand dams – tens of thousands of people now with safe access to water – we’d like to thank Rotarians for your ongoing support, and we look forward to transforming more lives together.”*

**David Jordan OBE, Chairman,  
Excellent Development**



*“When we have the fish we will give them to our children and grandchildren so they become very brainy and very strong.*

*Then we will eat the fish because I don’t want to die any time soon.*

*After that we will sell the surplus to earn an income.”*

**Josephine Musyoka  
Wauni self-help group, Kenya  
Supported by Rotary District 1145  
in Southern England**

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**Registered charity number:**  
1094478

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**Patron:**  
Sir Edward Clay

**Rotary**  
Great Britain & Ireland



 **Excellent** | Pioneers of Sand Dams