

**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, healthcare 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. 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.***

**PREFACE:**

In the aftermath of the devastating earthquakes that struck Turkey in February 2023, the Turkish government faced significant financial challenges. The World Bank estimated the direct physical damages from the earthquakes at approximately $34.2 billion, equivalent to 4% of Turkey’s 2021 GDP. (World Bank) Recovery and reconstruction costs were projected to be much higher, potentially twice the amount of direct damages.

To address these immense financial demands, the Turkish government implemented several fiscal measures. One notable action was the introduction of additional taxes: a 10% tax on certain discounts and exceptions, and a 5% tax on others, applied to the 2022 corporate tax returns. These taxes were to be paid in two installments, aiming to generate additional revenue for earthquake recovery efforts. (Cambridge University Press)

In fact, the health sector was significantly impacted by the earthquakes, with reports indicating that 25 hospitals in the affected cities were rendered unusable, destroyed, or heavily damaged, and an additional 25 hospitals were partially or slightly damaged. Given these circumstances, the government increased funding to the healthcare sector to address the immediate needs arising from the disaster. The city of Alanya is not one of the regions effected by the earthquake, and thus its state hospital budget did not receive the same attention.

**COMMUNITY OVERVIEW**

*This project will be carried out in Alanya - Alanya is a district of Antalya province. Alanya is located in the middle of Manavgat and Anamur from east to west and the distance from Anamur to Antalya is about 300 km. There are also many villages in this region and they use the state hospital.*

*In Turkey, state hospitals are generally used by those people who financially unwell and has no private insurance. Private hospitals are also used by those who are well off and have private insurance. Private insurance is expensive in Turkish living standard.*

*Alanya State Hospital is a very busy hospital. Alanya State Hospital provides health services to a local population of 400,000 people, which increases to about 800,000 in the summer months, and to neighboring districts such as Gazipaşa, Anamur, Akseki, Ermenek, Manavgat, Sarıveliler and Gündoğmuş. The estimated population of the regions it covers, including Alanya, is about 1,300,000.*

*There is no level 3 neonatal intensive care unit between Mersin and Antalya in our region. In the last three months, 15 babies were sent back due to ventilator shortages. Alanya State Hospital active bed capacity is 395, and the bed occupancy rate has been over 90% for the last year. In the last two years (2022-2023), the increase rate in the number of outpatient clinic examinations (excluding the Emergency Department) was 29.04%, the increase rate in the intensive care occupancy rate was 26.8%, and the increase rate in the neonatal intensive care occupancy rate was 41.9%. When the first 9 months of 2024 were compared to the same period in 2023, the neonatal intensive care occupancy rate increased by 67%.*

*There is a 13-bed level 3 neonatal intensive care unit in Alanya State Hospital. Level 3 means; Infants who cannot provide adequate oxygenation on their own or who have multiple organ failure and are at high risk of mortality and require respiratory support are level 3 patients Invasive ventilation devices are mandatory according to the minimum standards for level 3 neonatal critical care. There are currently four devices in the hospital, which is insufficient considering the medical services provided by the hospital. Due to the insufficient number of ventilators in the neonatal intensive care unit, when the existing four devices are used, newborns are unfortunately transferred to Antalya, which is 150 kilometers away (approximately 2 hours by car), for this service. This situation can lead to significant loss of time, interruption of treatment, and diseases such as respiratory distress and even death of newborns*

*Due to the high-risk nature of these patients. The chief physician of the hospital informed us about the shortage of neonatal ventilators, which are very necessary for neonatal care. He asked for support from Rotary on this issue and requested that 3 ventilators be purchased if possible.*

*We asked why this was not covered by the government. In response, he said that the government gives a certain budget for state hospitals every year and that when that budget is full, it is not possible to purchase new equipment. He explained that the hospital still has other deficiencies, some of which are covered by the Chamber of Commerce and some by the Alanya Municipality. He said that they do not have a budget for this equipment and that they requested these ventilators from us as Alanya RC due to our contributions to the hospital in the past. The chief physician, his assistants and 2 pediatricians were also present at the meeting. As Alanya RC, the board and 2 Rotarian physicians (one of whom is a pediatrician) were also present at the meeting.*

*For the last 2 years (after the big earthquake), the government has reduced budgets in many areas due to economic difficulties. Unfortunately, this includes the health sector. As Alanya Rotary Club, we assigned 2 Rotarian doctors. They conducted research and confirmed that some of the necessary equipment was provided by the Chamber of Commerce and the Municipality. They reported the necessity of the ventilator to the Alanya Rotary board with the information they received from the hospital doctors and nurses. As a Rotary Club, we thought that such assistance would be appropriate.*

**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 did some research on this request. We learned from both of these organizations that the Chamber of Commerce and the Alanya Municipality really support the State Hospital and the hospital still has needs. Later, our Rotarian doctors confirmed that there was such a need by conducting a small re-search in the state hospital. We also received confirmation from different sources, especially that the government was reducing budgets due to economic hardship.*

***When in the last year did the discussions occur?***

*After the meeting we had with the hospital 2 months ago*

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

*We assigned our Rotarian doctors. They got information from their friends at the State Hospital (Doctor, Nurse). We also got information about the donations made by the Chamber of Commerce and the Municipality. We also talked to them about the issue. Then we learned whether the government included health services in the economic budget cuts and when we got confirmation for that than we decided to do this project.*

**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 Hospital will benefit from the project. Of course, all newborn babies too. This will also help the staff making their job easier and reduce the problems*

***Describe the process of how the beneficiaries were identified.***

Determining which newborns will have respiratory failure or insufficiency will be done by pediatricians at the hospital. There are currently 2 doctors in the state hospital who can use these devices. Training on the device will be provided by company representatives when necessary.

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

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

After getting information from the hospital, our assigned Rotarian doctors investigated whether the hospital really needed these devices. They learned about the need from their pediatrician friends and the department nurses at the state hospital. We learned that with the addition of these devices, many newborn babies will be saved and many economically disadvantaged families will not have to go to Antalya.

***Describe the community’s strengths and resources.***

The community has a public hospital and some private ones. There is a competent staff in the state Hospital and have training on use the existing ventilators.

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

The State hospital has skilled personnel and has been trained in the use of existing ventilators. If needed, the company from which we will purchase the ventilators is always ready to provide training.

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

Infant mortality rate represents the health of babies in a region. Infant mortality rate shows the level of the health system of a region. Respiratory problems have a large place in the infant mortality rate, according to the Ministry of Health, this seen 5.8 infant deaths per 1000 live births. With this project, we aimed to reduce the number of deaths and complications for newborn babies, make a permanent and positive contribution to public health.

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

First of all, there are 4 ventilators in our state hospital, but they are very insufficient. With the purchase of 3 additional ventilators, there will be less need for newborns and babies who need ventilators to be transported to Antalya. As a result, there will be a serious decrease in both deaths and permanent respiratory system problems.

There were 1520 births in Alanya State Hospital in 2023 and 1191 in the first 10 months of 2024. This year, 166 babies were monitored in the neonatal intensive care unit for a total of 932 days on a ventilator. This number was 94 babies in 2023. In the first 10 months of 2024, 60 babies born in state hospital were referred to Antalya (130 km away from Alanya) because they needed a ventilator. Of course, babies from neighboring districts who are at risk of premature birth or who need intensive care and whose ventilators are full and state hospital could not accept them are not included in this number.

In addition, according to the data of the Ministry of Health, it is stated that there should be one ventilator for every two beds in hospitals serving in their own districts. State hospital have 13 beds and 4 ventilators in state hospital's neonatal intensive care unit. For the reasons we have listed above, we think that at least 3 more ventilators are needed in the neonatal intensive care unit.

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

Training and technical support about the device will be provided regularly by company representatives. Since these devices will be donated to the hospital, the hospital will assume other financial responsibilities related to the repair costs. These devices will be recorded in the hospital's fixed assets list. There is a 2-year warranty for the devices. We will also receive information in the form of reports from our doctor Rotarian friends.

It is difficult to be a Rotarian in Turkey. With such donations and projects, both our recognition and the way Rotary is viewed in the eyes of the society are changing positively.