



Working with the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness

Fact sheet for Rotarians and Rotaractors

The International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) is an umbrella group of more than 140 member organizations from around the world, united to eliminate the main causes of avoidable blindness and visual impairment. The group brings together governments, nongovernmental agencies, academic institutions, and the private sector to help plan, develop, and implement sustainable eye care programs.

Learn more at iapb.org.

Rotary's work on the cause of [disease prevention and treatment](#) aligns closely with the mission of IAPB.

Why work with IAPB members?

IAPB members offer expertise in preventive care and treatment related to eye health. Clubs that seek to improve a community's access to eye care should consider partnerships with IAPB members.

IAPB members may serve as cooperating partners on Rotarian-led projects by:

- Training and retaining ophthalmic, optometric, and management staff
- Improving or expanding infrastructure and facilities
- Acquiring ophthalmic and optometric instruments, equipment, and supplies
- Providing patients with access to screening and outreach programs
- Developing subspecialty eye care services
- Improving clinical and surgical processes
- Strengthening leadership, governance, teamwork, and administrative and management systems

How to partner with IAPB members

Visit IAPB's [Membership Directory](#) to find member organizations in your country and community. Contact a member and:

- Introduce your club and your activities
- Invite representatives to describe their work and expertise at a meeting
- Use their expertise and ability to:
 - Help with a community assessment to identify local eye health priorities and communities seeking access to eye care services
 - Offer guidance on developing a project proposal, creating a monitoring and evaluation plan, and jointly implementing a service project

- Formalize an agreement to define the terms of cooperation between your club and the partnering IAPB member
- Serve as a cooperating partner on a global grant to improve access to eye care services

If you have trouble finding or contacting an IAPB member in your area, write to Emma Foote at efoote@iapb.org.

Strategies for supporting a joint project

All partners are responsible for funding a joint project with an IAPB member. Clubs can consider fundraising in their community, using [district and global grants](#) if the initiative meets the [Foundation's eligibility requirements](#), and [crowdsourcing](#) to solicit support from the Rotary family and the community at large.

Working with an IAPB member as a cooperating partner can determine whether a new [Rotary Community Corps](#) (RCC) should be formed. An RCC is a group of people who are not Rotary members but work in partnership with Rotary clubs to improve their communities. Each RCC is sponsored by a Rotary club and acts as its partner in service.

Some RCCs are created for a specific project, while others tackle larger, entrenched problems on an ongoing basis. Each RCC sets its own goals based on its community's specific needs. As representatives of the community being served, RCC members bring enthusiasm, creativity, and sustainability to the projects they help design and implement. They offer community solutions for community challenges.

Learn more about [Rotary Community Corps](#).