

Corporate Responsibility

The Roche Employee Action and Charity Trust

Overview

The Roche Employee Action and Charity Trust (Re&Act) is an independent trust, which supports humanitarian programs and community rebuilding projects, especially in developing countries, both on an ongoing basis and for rebuilding projects after disasters. The purpose of Re&Act is to receive, administer and distribute voluntary financial contributions made by Roche employees or organisations and ensure that donations are effectively channelled into specific projects which also harness the company's knowledge and resources.

How does it work?

Founded and supported by Roche and its employees, the goal of Re&Act is to provide sustainable support for selected projects with charitable organisations around the world. While Roche as a company can assess and deploy a range of resources for both emergency and continuing needs, Re&Act reviews each situation to determine additional initiatives requiring funding and for which employee donations could be applied.

The work of Re&Act is done in three ways:

Managing donations

Re&Act manages and monitors project donations to ensure they are used effectively.

Responding to global emergencies

Re&Act works to channel funds to best support humanitarian needs and community restoration in the event of natural disasters or other global emergencies focused on developing countries.

Financial contributions and available skills and expertise are pooled and managed to fully support the specific projects and their changing needs over the longer term.

Rebuilding funding

Re&Act maintains relationships with key organisations to identify opportunities where support may be needed and to work with them on long-term, sustainable projects to ensure the greatest potential impact.

Re&Act is governed by an independent board made up of members from the global Roche organisation who are responsible for funds management, for potential programmes assessment, and for monitoring and reviewing the funded projects. Operating in line with the Corporate Roche Policy on Donations and non-commercial Sponsorship, Re&Act work focuses on a small number of projects where the contributions can make a real difference.



Key facts and figures

Re&Act...

- Was established in 2006 to manage voluntary financial contributions from Roche employees
- Has received more than 12 million Swiss francs to date through in-kind and financial contributions
- Supports humanitarian and community-rebuilding projects, primarily in developing countries to benefit those in greatest need
- Emphasises projects that can assure impact, innovation, sustainability and collaboration
- Receives all operational support and all administrative costs from Roche

“UNICEF welcomes the support of Re&Act, whose contributions continue to bring about immediate and lasting change for those we work with, providing them with a better future.”

Elsbeth Müller, UNICEF Switzerland

Results

Some of the main projects that Re&Act is helping to support are:

Chocos village: the Peru Earthquake Project

On August 15 2007, much of the region south of Lima was shaken by an earthquake that destroyed and damaged many of the country's infrastructures. Roche Peru employees responded directly with emergency assistance, but also promptly recognised the need to identify a longer-term initiative. They have since assisted in rebuilding homes, schools, community facilities and a dam at San Cristóbal de Chocos, where financial support and many hours of volunteer work by the employees have helped to rebuild this town.

Education projects in Malawi

Since 2003, Roche employee walkers have joined together for the annual Children's Walk to raise essential funds for vulnerable children worldwide. The money raised mainly goes towards supporting projects in Malawi, with a focus on improving the lives of individuals and communities, both now and for a sustainable future. This includes providing their basic needs, education and practical skills training.

Phelophepa Health Care Train

Transnet-Phelophepa is a mobile healthcare clinic that travels into areas of rural South Africa, where there is just one doctor for every 5000 patients, to provide health care. Literally translated, 'Phelophepa' means 'good, clean health' and this encapsulates the essence of what the train aims to achieve. Roche is the main external sponsor of Phelophepa, having provided support since its first journey in 1994.

ICRC Clean Water Project

Since 2006, Roche has been providing financial support to ICRC water projects in Africa which can be further supported through Re&Act.



Re&Act has been helping support humanitarian programs and community rebuilding projects since 2006, including providing support in response to natural disasters such as the earthquake in Peru.

Operating in very difficult security conditions, for example in conflict areas, the ICRC Water and Habitat Unit endeavours to continue to help over seven million inhabitants and displaced persons in Africa, providing assistance for rural populations so that they do not have to move to camps because of lack of water and food.

Haiti and Pakistan

In 2011 a Re&Act disaster relief campaign was established to supplement Roche funds helping rebuild schools following the devastating earthquake in Haiti and widespread flooding in Pakistan. In both cases the generated funds from the campaign are now making a lasting contribution to restore and strengthen their education infrastructure by enabling local partners to erect catastrophe-proof schools and help equip and maintain them long-term. These projects are especially important as they pilot reproducible 'blueprint' plans for building such school complexes in other regions or countries.

Additional projects will also be considered for funding as new needs arise. Re&Act guarantees that all money donated is invested appropriately and in a sustainable way. Roche provides all operational support and bears all administrative costs for Re&Act.

Published by

Published by
F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd
Corporate Donations and
Sponsorship
4070 Basel, Switzerland

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