



The actual cost of training a midwife is around £2,000 to cover training fees, accommodation and travel. The cost of the midwifery kit and purchase of a donkey adds an additional £110 to give a total cost of £ 2,110. £ 23,480 of the funds provided by ICING will be used to finance the training of 10 midwives.

Training of paravets

The provision of goat and donkey loans to poor families is one of the activities which transforms the lives of children. Most of the recipients of the loans have no animals and the goat loan transforms gives them the start of a small livelihood as well as contributing to the health of their children. Initially the milk from the goats provides much needed nourishment, including vitamins and essential minerals, for the children who are frequently severely malnourished. Then, as the flock increases, sales of milk and offspring mean that families can begin to pay for schooling and water (which saves children time and drudgery) and other items formerly beyond their reach and build up a reserve to provide cover for emergencies. One mother was able to buy antibiotics for her sick daughter by selling one of the offspring of her goats. The donkey is invaluable to the family – it saves women and children much time in collecting water, firewood, etc. With children able to accomplish these vital tasks to help the survival of their families quickly, they finally have time to attend school and to gain the education which can be the passport to a better life for them..

The establishment of basic veterinary health care services in the villages is essential to the success of the goat and donkey loan programmes, ensuring that the animals remain healthy and productive. Regular inspection by the paravets is essential if animals are to remain healthy – and children are to have the milk they so desperately need. Two paravets, frequently women, are trained for each village. The paravets are provided with the basic equipment they need and a crossbred donkey to ensure that they can reach their clients speedily.



The cost of training a paravet, including the kit, is £335 and the purchase of a donkey adds an additional £110 giving a total cost of £445. £11,480 of the funds provided by ICING will be used to finance the training of 23 paravets.

On behalf of the communities in Darfur, we are most grateful to the supporters of ICING for their contribution to this valuable programme. We can assure you that this assistance is making a huge difference to the lives of families, even more so because of the on going conflict which has weakened traditional coping strategies.

A new cause...



For the first time, ICING has been able to identify a particular cause in India which meets with our objective of making a real difference. Future Hope is a UK registered charity which is helping the street children of Kolkata (formerly Calcutta) and was set up by Tim Grandage a former HSBC colleague of Richard Groves, MD at SABB. The following is an extract from their Newsletter.

Future Hope started twenty-one years ago. It wasn't planned. We didn't open a school, have a clinic or play sport. We just wanted to give a few children a better chance. Children who had nothing but the ragged clothes on their backs. Children who had somehow become separated from family. Children whose only support was from other children living in the same gang. If they got ill, they suffered alone; if they got very ill they died. These first steps were simply about giving those few children, visible to us, help. Get them well, perhaps teach them to read, give them a better chance for the future.

As we got to know the first children we also got to know there were many more like them. Children who had run away from home or whose home had been destroyed in a disaster or whose parents were no longer able to feed them. We learnt about the diseases, which afflict the children, and the abuse of which they were the victims. Children converge on Kolkata from across India, carried by the railways and the lure of the city lights. But really all that is here for them is the slim chance of survival.

As Future Hope began to take shape we discovered more about the lives of these children who we found on the streets. Survival takes courage and is often a battle of wits with the authorities who just want to see the problem go away. To survive children drift towards Kolkata's stations and its markets where they find company and perhaps carry out menial jobs or beg to make some money. It doesn't cost much to live on the streets of Kolkata and children quickly learn how to survive, there is no safety net if they fail.

For more information see www.futurehope.net