



PRESS RELEASE

For Publication 27th November 2005

Charitable Organisation Launched To Continue Work of Biking Humanitarian Milward

A new charitable organisation has been established to continue the work of the late Simon Milward. Milward passed away in Mali, West Africa in March 2005. He was on the final stages of a round the world motorcycle ride in support of projects aimed towards using motorcycles for the delivery of primary healthcare services in remote areas of developing countries. During stages of his journey, he worked closely with Riders for Health and co-founded a project on the Indonesian island of Flores called Health for All. The project is based closely on the RfH model and currently delivers primary healthcare to over 55,000 people via the use of motorcycles.

His long journey through many developing world countries and the contacts he made with individuals and organisations, persuaded Simon that there was a real need to promote the Riders for Health model of healthcare logistics in areas of SE Asia and Latin America. He had stated his intention to establish an organisation to concentrate on this important, but often ignored or under developed, aspect of humanitarian aid when he had completed his journey.

Motorcycle Outreach (MoR) is the realisation of Milward's vision. Established by Simon's family and close colleagues from around the world, MoR is a charitable organisation which will initially concentrate on urgent funding requirements for the existing project in Flores Indonesia and on developing this project in further in Indonesia.

Looking ahead, discussions are ongoing with Riders for Health and other key organisations to determine how best to realise Milward's wider vision in other countries as Motorcycle Outreach develops. The literal 'last mile' of healthcare logistics is urgently required in any countries in order to ensure effective delivery of day to day primary healthcare and key initiatives such as

vaccinations and other healthcare related aid -- which often dominates the headlines. Without effective logistics, aid does not reach its targets.

Riders for Health recognises this and provides effective transport resource management in a number of African countries through its ground breaking projects. Motorcycle Outreach will advocate and support the development of similar projects in other developing countries.

To mark the launch of Motorcycle Outreach and to commemorate the life of Simon Milward, two riders, David French and Craig Carey-Clinch, will leave for West Africa on November 10th. Both will be travelling on BMW GS650 Dakar motorcycles which have been provided for the journey as part of major support from BMW Motorrad. Craig and Dave will visit the Riders for Health centre in The Gambia as part of this journey.

ENDS



Vaccination by motorcycle, Flores Indonesia

Notes to Editors

1. For further information please contact Craig Carey-Clinch on 07979 757484.
craig@alamhome.co.uk.
2. For further information about Simon Milward and his Millennium Motorcycle Ride, please visit www.millennium-ride.com
3. For further information about Motorcycle Outreach, please visit www.motorcycleoutreach.org

4. A high res version of the photo featured in this release can be obtained from craig@alamhome.co.uk
5. Why Motorcycle Outreach?

It is generally acknowledged that reliable transport of primary healthcare services is severely lacking in large rural areas of many developing countries. Young children and mothers are deprived of this basic human right which restricts development in more ways than missed school attendance. The type of health services include vaccinations and nutrition for infants, collection for analysis of blood samples in treating malaria and dengue fever (among other illnesses), health education for mothers and other forms of primary healthcare in rural communities.

A high proportion of the populations of developing countries are not getting the health services they are entitled to because health ministry motorcycles and other vehicles used for healthcare delivery are not working, or are completely absent. This is because training and ongoing mechanical needs are ignored. Repairs to fix mechanical problems caused by lack of preventive maintenance are prohibitively expensive, so these repairs are rarely made. In many cases poor road conditions (if there are indeed roads at all) mean that many preventable and curable diseases are never treated. The real victims of this lack of vehicle upkeep are rural populations, who suffer from a severe shortage of basic health care.

Motorcycle Outreach (MoR) will introduce a proven method of ensuring that vehicles don't break down, thereby providing dependable and sustainable health services to remote populations. Motorcycle Outreach will work closely with the UK charity Riders for Health (RfH) so that the pioneering system of 'zero breakdown' vehicle management, which was developed in some African countries can be introduced in other developing world countries on other continents – specifically South East Asia, Indonesia and Latin America. Through a process of training people to train local people in vehicle management, health ministries in the target countries will be able to operate vehicles that never break down, however difficult the road conditions may be. The lifespan of vehicles can be expected to double or triple, the vehicles would never be out of action for repairs and populations would receive the health services they are entitled to on a reliable basis.

Health is a human right (WHO declaration in Alma Ata, USSR, 1978), therefore every person has the right to have access to the health services. A healthy society depicts a general condition of that society and will certainly produce future healthy generations as well. Motorcycle Outreach envisions for the realization of a healthy society whose current and future generations could gain needed capacity to participate actively in the development of their respective societies.

Related Links

<http://www.motorcycleoutreach.org>

<http://www.riders.org/en/html/home.php>

<http://www.bmw-motorrad.co.uk/gb/en/index.html>

