

# MANAGEMENT OF ZERO BREAKDOWN MOTORCYCLES FOR RURAL HEALTH DELIVERY IN FLORES, INDONESIA



## Health for All (Motorcycle Outreach) Yayasan Kesehatan Untuk Semua

### A Brief History

Sometime during July 2000 Willy Balawala, currently Health for All (HfA) Executive Director, conducted focus group discussions with health workers from all public health centres in East Flores District, Flores Island, Indonesia. During the course of the discussion he heard many stories about the bad health situation in the area. A great number of pregnant women in rural villages were suffering from anaemia and were sometimes dying due to severe bleeding during childbirth. There were also many children suffering from malnutrition. In addition, there were many other life threatening illnesses such as diarrhoea, malaria and TB, that could be medically treated if those in rural areas had adequate access to healthcare.

One of the main factors which exacerbate these health problems is that people in isolated areas lack access to health facilities. People have difficulty visiting health centres due to the limited availability of public transport. Similarly, health workers do not have vehicles that can be used to reach the isolated villages within their area of responsibility. As a consequence many people die due to the absence of health workers, or people delay referring emergency cases to health centres due to limited transport options.

There are a few motorcycles distributed by Government for operational activities but the problem was that those vehicles were not well maintained and damage was not repaired. Sometimes operational

vehicles became personal property which were used for personal needs so that the operational expenses of the vehicles could be shouldered by the riders themselves.

There was an absence of a sustainable system that could manage transportation for Mobile Health Services.

In September 2000 Willy (at that point working with MSF Belgium) happened to meet Simon Milward, in



Kupang, West Timor, during Simon's round the world Millennium motorcycle Ride. During their brief meeting they discussed the health issues outlined above and the importance of adequate transport to improve the quality of healthcare for people in remote areas. Willy maintained contact with Simon, who later gave Willy the address of Riders for Health (RfH) UK. Willy discovered that RfH had already

developed a programme of transport resource management for health delivery in several countries in Africa. Expressing his intention to design a similar programme in Indonesia, Simon and RfH then sponsored Willy to undergo training at the programme being implemented in Harare, Zimbabwe in February 2001.

### Vision

Health is a human right (WHO declaration in Alma Alta, 1978), therefore every person has the right to access health services. A healthy society depicts a general condition of that society and will certainly produce healthy future generations as well. Health for All envisages the realisation of a healthy society whose future generations can participate fully in the development of a vibrant, peaceful society.

### Mission

Many people in remote areas live a long distance from health facilities. They have little or no access to health services nor to health information and education. This can lead to severe, but often preventable health problems. Health workers have no means of transport to get to villages in remote areas. Knowing this, Health for All strives to provide access to



health services by developing transport resource management. In particular by managing a Zero Breakdown programme for motorcycles, in order to improve health service delivery, as well as give health information and education, to people in remote villages.

## Activities

**1.** To provide motorcycles for health workers, specifically midwives and nurses working in public health centres that cover large areas but who have no means of transport to cover these areas. The aim is to provide easier access to health services for those in rural areas, particularly those having very limited access to transport. The use of motorcycles is monitored by Health for All and others such as community leaders, the Ministry of Health in sub-district levels, Non Governmental Organisations and the public.

**2.** To manage and control the roadworthiness of the motorcycle fleet. This is to ensure that a Zero Breakdown principle is maintained. This is carried out by monitoring the condition of the motorcycles regularly. The health workers responsible for the motorcycles fill in a logbook, and the riders themselves are regularly evaluated.

**3.** To conduct regular field monitoring to ensure the proper use of the motorcycles.

**4.** To carry out repairs whenever damage occurs.

**5.** To supply spare parts. To do this, HfA uses parts from its own stock and is refunded by the health centre or rider.

**6.** To train health workers to ride motorcycles. This training is specially designed to enable the healthworkers to ride properly and safely in local conditions and ensures they can maintain the Zero Breakdown programme.

**7.** To organise seminars and group discussions on health issues such as reproductive health, nutrition, STDs and HIV/AIDS, etc. Such discussions are open to the general public and aimed particularly at women's groups.

**8.** Training on Health in the Perspectives of Gender and Human Rights. Health workers participate in this training with the purpose of widening their horizons with regard to the importance of looking at health in the perspectives of gender and human rights.

**9.** To network and to collaborate with Government in order to work more effectively in partnership, to ensure clear understanding of the issues and mutual support by all parties.

**10.** To network and communicate / work with NGOs, local organisations and community leaders. These groups are involved in monitoring and evaluating the programme and will give feedback as to how far the programme responds to the needs of the local people.

**11.** To supply health education and information materials for distribution.



## Main Results

**1.** Training at the International Academy for Transport Resource Management in Harare, Zimbabwe, facilitated by Riders for Health UK.

**2.** Exposure to the programme being implemented in Harare.

**3.** Purchase of 12 Yamaha YT115 motorcycles which are used to deliver health services to more than 50,000 people in four sub-districts.

**4.** 13 Healthcare workers trained to ride motorcycles and in basic motorcycle maintenance.

**5.** Health delivery riders accustomed to implementing the Zero Breakdown system.

**6.** During the successful National Immunisation Week in four sub-districts, the utilisation of motorcycles was managed by HfA.

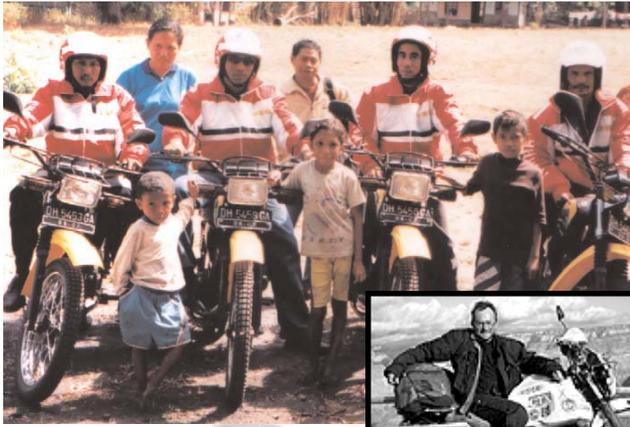
**7.** The decline of malnutrition cases in children under five years old.

**8.** An increase in the number of Healthcare worker visits to rural areas to deliver health services such as vaccinations for children and education in good nutrition, health and hygiene for mothers and children.

**9.** Intensive monitoring of the Zero Breakdown programme and regular servicing of the motorcycles to ensure the success of the programme.

**10.** An increase in the monitoring of sanitation facilities





## Funding

After it was founded, HfA was financially supported by Simon Milward, who mobilised and raised funds from different parties around the world. Through his efforts, HfA was able to get support from individuals, motorcycle associations and industries worldwide, including FEMA, AMA, RfH, Yamaha Japan, ABATE of Indiana, ABATE of Alaska, South Suburban Chapter of Illinois, etc. So far the funds have been used to pay for training in Zimbabwe, to purchase 12 motorcycles, and for operational and administrative expenses.



in memory of  
**SIMON MILWARD**  
1965 - 2005

**11.** The ability to respond quickly and more easily to emergency cases.

**12.** Training given to 60 Healthcare workers in Health Services in the Perspectives of Gender and Human Rights.

**13.** Dissemination of health information material on subjects such as Nutrition, Maternal and Child Health, STDs and HIV/AIDS.

Training on Health Services in the Perspectives of Gender and Human Rights was sponsored by the New Zealand Embassy.

## Operational Collaboration

In order to implement its programme, HfA is working with the Ministry of Health in that the motorcycles are used by health workers for mobile health services and HfA is responsible for their maintenance and for monitoring their use. HfA also co-ordinates the participation of community leaders and NGOs in the evaluation process.

## Areas of Operation

This programme is being implemented in four sub-districts of Flores, namely Tanjung Bunga, West Adonara, Woten Ulu Mado and West Solor. These districts cover more than 50,000 people. However, knowing the worrying health problems being faced by the public, HfA is striving to expand the programme to other areas where it is needed in order that more people may benefit.



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[www.motorcycleoutreach.org/](http://www.motorcycleoutreach.org/)  
[www.millennium-ride.com](http://www.millennium-ride.com)

# MOTORCYCLE OUTREACH

Is a new charitable organisation which has been founded to:

- 1. Advocate and support further development of zero breakdown healthcare delivery by motorcycle in developing countries, based on the Riders for Health model and:**
- 2. Provide funding & Support for an Indonesian Motorcycle Outreach project (HfA) which was founded by Simon Milward on the Island of Flores. This project currently serves over 55,000 people in remote areas of Flores.**

[www.motorcycleoutreach.org](http://www.motorcycleoutreach.org)  
[www.millennium-ride.com](http://www.millennium-ride.com)



Motorcycle outreach takes forward the vision of humanitarian motorcyclist Simon Milward, who in addition to establishing HfA in Flores, built extensive links with other organisations and individuals who wish to create sustainable healthcare logistics in developing countries.

Most significant among these is Riders for Health, whose award winning programmes have been established in Zimbabwe, The Gambia and Nigeria. Motorcycle Outreach has been founded in close consultation with Riders for Health.

Motorcycle Outreach also works with other organisations, such as the Ranger Company who have developed valuable healthcare delivery tools and Pilotos Solidarios in Argentina. Motorcycle Outreach is developing links first established by Simon Milward in the USA, Latin America, Australia and elsewhere, with the ultimate aim of developing a global network of sustainable healthcare logistics in developing countries based on the Riders for Health model.

**Motorcycle Outreach  
Currently Supports  
Zero Breakdown  
Healthcare Logistics  
in Indonesia and  
Latin America**



**Simon Milward. 1965-2005**