

PROGRAMME FOCUS REPORT FORM

FEDERATION: SI/Europe

NEW PROJECT/PROGRAMME X
CONTINUING PROJECT/PROGRAMME
FUNDRAISING

The core purpose of Soroptimist International is to advance human rights and the status of women. In order to do this, clubs undertake service projects in their communities that improve the lives of women and girls. In order to track the success in achieving the core purpose, SI clubs are asked to submit programme focus reports on their successful club projects. Once completed, forward to:

Union and/or Federation Coordinator : **Human Rights Coordinator SI Belgium and SI/E**

Part I. Identification

Date April and November 2005

Club Name: **ANTWERPEN**

Union/Region: BELGIUM

Club contact Name: Bea RABE

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Project Title **The HOUSE of WOMEN in ISTALIF, AFGHANISTAN**

Project Partnerships: de Vrouwenraad (the Dutchspeaking Council of Women in Belgium) which covers 40 women organisations, and Mothers for Peace (Belgium and France)

Target Group: **Illiterate women and girls in Istalif, Afghanistan**

Part II:

Programme of Service Area* (Check the box/boxes that best describes your project): *Details overleaf.

Human Rights/Status of Women: **Education:** **Economic and Social Development:**
 Health: **Environment:** **International Goodwill and Understanding:**

Describe your project

(1) What you did, (2) Why you did it, (3) How you did it, (4) Results and recommendations

(1) In October 2002 the construction of a women centre started in the heavily damaged village of Istalif, 48 kilometres north of Kabul. This education centre organizes reading and writing courses for women. They learn traditional crafts in order to be able to gain their own income. The women hope to become self-supportive and take care of themselves and their children. A first group were awarded their diplomas in October 2004.

The centre has also become a social centre, complete with medical office, a family centre and a meeting area. Women receive healthcare information. A doctor and a gynaecologist are present three days a week. A nurse is present daily. More specialized medical help, such as optometry and specific vaccinations, are available (for example a vaccination to treat Leishmaniasis, etc).

The women centre in Istalif is sponsored by various organizations: "Mères pour la Paix" (France), "ADHA" (Afghanistan), "Enfance Arc-en-Ciel" (France), "Moeders voor Vrede" and "Vrouwenraad" (Belgium). Members of the Vrouwenraad coordinate the initiatives in Belgium and visit the centre on a regular basis (minimum 3 times a year). Support will remain necessary for the next years.

(2)) For the celebration of the 75th anniversary of SI Club Antwerpen we wanted to make a special effort to support effectively different organizations (9 in total) which are committed to the softening of the life of needy people in society, in Antwerpen and abroad.

Projects were chosen that would not only help financially but also in a more practical way as help with alphabetisation, healthcare, creating job opportunities, etc.

The House of Women in Istalif was chosen as main project for the 75th celebration of SI Antwerpen.

(3)) Several activities to collect funds were organised (theatre, concerts, selling of products, auction of peace dolls made by artists, etc.). An exposition of pictures of the activities in the House of Women was organised.

(4) A contribution of **15.500 €** was made for the House of Women. This sum represents the salaries (of 13 people – secretary, teachers, doctors, cook, driver, guard, etc) and costs of the House of Women for three months.

Working in partnership creates a better understanding of the aim and work of the other organisations involved; meanwhile it also creates a spirit of competition to do the utmost in favour of the project.

Project Costs: Estimated number of Hours Spent: the club members organised a number of activities (theatre, concert, selling chocolates, lanyards, decorated notebooks, auction of peace dolls made by artists, etc); in two years time, nearly 26.000 € were available for the 9 chosen projects.