

PUNTA GORDA TOWN COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT REPORT



Rotary Club of Punta Gorda

Date: 27 May 2026

Rotary Year: 2025-2026

1. Executive Summary

Purpose of the Assessment

The Punta Gorda Town Community Assessment was undertaken by the Rotary Club of Punta Gorda to ensure that future service projects are grounded in a clear and accurate understanding of community needs.

The primary purpose of the assessment was to identify the issues that most affect daily life for residents, understand which concerns are most urgent, and provide a credible, evidence-based foundation for future project development.

In addition to identifying priorities, the assessment was intended to strengthen engagement with the community and key stakeholders, ensuring that Rotary's work reflects real experiences rather than assumptions.

This process supports Rotary's commitment to responsible, inclusive, and effective service by placing community voice at the center of planning and decision-making.

Methodology Overview (Three-Phase Approach)

The assessment was conducted through a structured three-phase process designed to combine Rotary perspectives, partner insights, and direct community input.

Phase 1 – Internal Alignment

Rotary Club members identified initial priority areas and established guiding principles for the assessment, including a commitment to neutrality, transparency, and partnership-based work.

Phase 2 – Partner and Community Leader Engagement

Consultations were conducted with a range of stakeholders, including representatives from education, health, business, environmental organizations, government agencies, and youth groups. This phase helped refine priority areas and provided deeper understanding of community challenges.

Phase 3 – Community Survey

A structured survey was administered to 311 residents across Punta Gorda Town through in-person data collection. This phase confirmed priority issues, identified which concerns most affect daily life, and gathered broader community perspectives.

Together, these three phases provide a well-rounded and credible foundation for understanding community priorities and guiding future Rotary initiatives.

A total of 311 survey responses were analyzed.

The survey findings indicate that household economic pressure is the dominant concern within Punta Gorda Town.

When respondents were asked to identify the top three issues affecting daily life:

- 84.6% identified cost of living and household income pressure
- 78.9% identified limited job opportunities
- 49.9% identified opportunities for young people

Secondary concerns included:

- health services and health-related issues (29.9%)
- environment, cleanliness, and trash (18.6%)
- education and youth support (15.4%)

These findings indicate that economic pressures and employment concerns are closely linked and form the central issue cluster identified by residents.

Cross-Cutting Insights

The findings of the assessment highlight that the issues facing Punta Gorda Town are closely interconnected. Challenges related to cost of living, employment, youth opportunity, environment, and health do not exist in isolation, but influence one another in meaningful ways.

Economic pressure at the household level is closely linked to limited employment opportunities and the need for practical, job-relevant skills. At the same time, youth face barriers in transitioning from education into stable and meaningful livelihoods, contributing to concerns about disengagement and long-term opportunity.

Environmental conditions, including waste management and the state of public spaces, affect both quality of life and community pride, while also intersecting with health outcomes. Similarly, health concerns—particularly those related to prevention and nutrition—are connected to household conditions and access to resources.

These patterns suggest that effective responses should not focus on single issues in isolation, but instead consider integrated approaches that address multiple priorities at once. This reinforces the need for coordinated, practical, and partnership-based initiatives that reflect the complexity of community needs.

The assessment also identified important community strengths, including active organizations, existing partnerships, local skills, and strong potential for community participation and youth engagement.

Rotary Response: Flagship Approach

In response to these findings, the Rotary Club of Punta Gorda will explore a flagship project approach centered on youth opportunity, livelihoods, and community resilience.

Rather than pursuing isolated or one-time projects, this approach is intended to guide the development of a connected set of initiatives that work together over time. The goal is to support practical pathways to employment and income, strengthen household resilience, and improve overall community conditions.

This may include:

- skills development and training linked to real employment opportunities
- youth engagement and pathways into work, mentorship, and community involvement
- support for small enterprise and income-generating activities
- household-level initiatives such as kitchen gardening, composting, and cost-reduction strategies
- community improvement efforts focused on environment and public spaces

This flagship direction provides a flexible framework that allows Rotary to respond to community priorities while building on partnerships and available resources. It is not a single project, but a coordinated approach that can evolve over time based on community feedback and practical experience.

The approach is intended to build on existing community strengths and partnerships, allowing projects to be developed gradually, tested through pilot activities where appropriate, and expanded over time based on community feedback, sustainability, and available resources.

Next Steps

This report represents a transition point from assessment to action.

The Rotary Club of Punta Gorda will share these findings publicly with residents, partners, and stakeholders as part of a community validation and feedback process. This stage will provide an opportunity to confirm priorities, gather feedback, and refine project directions before implementation begins.

Following this process, the Club will:

- review and incorporate community and partner feedback
- prioritize project concepts based on impact, feasibility, and available resources
- develop selected initiatives in more detail, including partnerships and implementation plans
- begin phased implementation of priority projects

Rotary recognizes that meaningful impact requires both careful planning and sustained effort. As projects move forward, the Club will continue to engage with the community, communicate openly, and adapt approaches based on experience and results.

Rotary will prioritize a small number of projects for implementation, based on community feedback and available resources.

1.1 How to Use This Report

This report is organized to provide both a detailed understanding of community priorities and a clear pathway toward action.

Readers who wish to understand the findings in detail may review Sections 6–11.

Those interested in how Rotary intends to respond may focus on Sections 12–14.

The report is designed to support both public understanding and informed decision-making.

2. Message from Rotary Club of Punta Gorda

The Rotary Club of Punta Gorda extends sincere thanks to the residents of Punta Gorda Town who took the time to participate in this community assessment. Your input, experiences, and perspectives are the foundation of this report.

We also acknowledge the contributions of our partners, including community leaders, organizations, and the University of Belize students who assisted with survey collection. This effort reflects a shared commitment to understanding community needs more clearly and working together toward practical solutions.

Rotary undertook this assessment with a simple intention: **to listen before acting**. Too often, projects are developed based on assumptions. This process was designed to ensure that future Rotary initiatives are informed by the real priorities and concerns of the community.

As a service organization, Rotary does not seek to replace the role of government or other agencies. Instead, we aim to contribute in meaningful and focused ways, working in partnership with others and building on existing efforts where possible.

The findings in this report will help guide the Club as we move from assessment to action. At the same time, we recognize that this is not the end of the conversation. Community feedback, partnerships, and continued engagement will remain essential as project ideas are developed and refined.

In keeping with Rotary's commitment to **Service Above Self** and guided by the principles of the **Four-Way Test**, we are committed to ensuring that our work is:

- based on truth and accurate understanding
- fair and inclusive in its reach
- supportive of goodwill and collaboration
- beneficial to the wider community

We also recognize that trust is built through action. As we move forward, the Club will strive to ensure that projects are transparent, accessible, and responsive to the needs of the community.

This report represents a step toward stronger connection, clearer understanding, and more effective service. We thank the community for its participation and look forward to continuing this work together.

3. Background and Purpose

The Rotary Club of Punta Gorda undertook this community assessment as part of its ongoing commitment to serve the community in a meaningful, informed, and responsible way.

Rotary clubs are often involved in a wide range of service projects, including those related to health, education, youth, and community development. While these efforts are well-intentioned, there is increasing recognition that effective service must be grounded in a clear understanding of actual community needs. This assessment was therefore designed to ensure that future Rotary initiatives are guided by the voices and experiences of residents, rather than assumptions or limited perspectives.

The assessment was also undertaken in the context of a Rotary District Grant, which emphasizes the importance of structured community input in project planning. This provided an opportunity for the Club to take a more deliberate and comprehensive approach to understanding priorities within Punta Gorda Town.

The purpose of the assessment was to:

- identify key issues affecting daily life for residents
- understand which concerns are most urgent
- explore underlying causes of these issues
- gather input on potential solutions and areas of support
- provide a credible foundation for future Rotary project development

In addition to identifying priority areas, the assessment was intended to strengthen relationships within the community. By engaging residents directly, as well as consulting with partners and community leaders, the process has helped to build a broader and more inclusive understanding of local challenges and opportunities.

It is important to note that this assessment is not intended to define a single solution or project. Instead, it provides a structured and evidence-based starting point for discussion, collaboration, and decision-making. The findings will be used alongside member experience, partner input, and available resources to shape Rotary's future activities.

Ultimately, the goal of this process is to support more effective, inclusive, and sustainable service. By taking the time to listen carefully and analyze thoughtfully, the Rotary Club of Punta Gorda aims to ensure that its work continues to reflect the needs and priorities of the community it serves.

4. Assessment Process

The Punta Gorda Town Community Assessment was conducted through a structured, three-phase process designed to ensure that findings are grounded in both Rotary member perspectives and broad community input.

Each phase built on the previous one, moving from internal alignment, to partner engagement, and finally to community-wide consultation.

4.1 Phase 1 – Internal Alignment

The assessment began with an internal alignment process within the Rotary Club of Punta Gorda.

The purpose of Phase 1 was to ensure that the Club had a shared understanding of the scope, purpose, and expectations of the assessment, as well as clarity on Rotary's role in the process.

Through a structured member feedback exercise, Rotarians identified initial priority areas, including:

- education and youth development
- health and wellbeing
- environment and waste management
- economic and community development

Members also emphasized the importance of:

- remaining non-political and evidence-based
- ensuring transparency and inclusiveness
- working in partnership rather than acting independently
- maintaining realistic expectations based on available capacity

A key outcome of Phase 1 was agreement that final priorities should not be determined internally, but confirmed through broader community input.

This phase established Rotary's role as a **neutral listener, facilitator, and community partner**, and provided the internal mandate to proceed to wider engagement.

4.2 Phase 2 – Partner and Community Leader Engagement

Phase 2 expanded the assessment beyond Rotary by engaging with a wide range of community stakeholders and organizations.

This phase involved interviews, small group discussions, and structured conversations with representatives from:

- education institutions
- health services and organizations
- business and economic sectors
- environmental and community groups
- government and public agencies
- youth representatives and sports organizations

The purpose of this phase was to deepen understanding of community issues, identify service gaps, and learn from organizations already working within Punta Gorda.

Across sectors, several consistent themes emerged, including:

- youth opportunity and engagement challenges
- health and wellbeing concerns, particularly related to access and prevention
- environmental issues, especially waste management
- limited economic opportunity and the need for skills development

Phase 2 also highlighted important cross-cutting insights, including:

- the interconnected nature of community challenges
- the importance of community participation and ownership
- the need for sustainability and coordination in project design

These findings closely aligned with the priority areas identified during Phase 1, while providing deeper context and real-world perspectives.

Importantly, Phase 2 directly informed the design of the community survey used in Phase 3.

4.3 Phase 3 – Community Survey

Phase 3 focused on gathering input directly from residents of Punta Gorda Town through a structured community survey.

The survey instrument was developed based on themes identified during Phase 2, with the intention of **validating priority areas rather than introducing new ones**.

The survey was designed to:

- confirm priority issues across a broader population

- identify which concerns most affect daily life
- determine which issues residents believe should be addressed first
- gather perspectives on potential solutions

Data collection was carried out through in-person surveys conducted across multiple neighborhoods by trained enumerators, including University of Belize students and Rotary members.

A total of 311 survey responses were collected from residents of Punta Gorda Town. While the survey was not intended to be a statistically perfect representation of the full population, the number and spread of responses provide a credible basis for identifying community priorities and guiding future project development.

4.4 Summary of Assessment Approach

Together, the three phases form a comprehensive and structured approach:

- **Phase 1** established internal alignment and initial priorities
- **Phase 2** validated and refined these priorities through partner perspectives
- **Phase 3** confirmed priorities through direct community input

This layered approach strengthens the credibility of the findings by combining:

- internal understanding
- partner expertise
- community experience

The result is a well-founded basis for moving forward to project development that reflects both local knowledge and broad community input.

5. Methodology

The methodology for the Punta Gorda Town Community Assessment was designed to provide a credible and structured understanding of community priorities while remaining practical and appropriate to the local context.

The approach combined structured survey design, in-person data collection, and consistent analysis methods to ensure that findings reflect a broad range of community perspectives.

5.1 Survey Design

The community survey was developed based on findings from Phase 2 partner and community leader engagement.

Rather than introducing new topics, the survey was intentionally designed to **validate and quantify priority areas already identified through earlier consultation**. This approach ensured continuity across the assessment process and strengthened the reliability of the results.

The survey included:

- core questions completed by all respondents
- a “Top 3 issues” question to identify key concerns affecting daily life
- a “single priority” question to identify the most urgent issue
- follow-up sections allowing deeper exploration of selected topics
- a combination of multiple-choice and open-ended questions

This structure allowed both quantitative and qualitative data to be collected, providing a more complete understanding of community priorities.

5.2 Data Collection Approach

Data collection was conducted through **in-person enumeration** across Punta Gorda Town.

Surveys were administered by trained enumerators, including University of Belize students and Rotary Club members. Enumerators were briefed on the purpose of the assessment, the structure of the survey, and the importance of neutrality when interacting with respondents.

The in-person approach was selected to:

- increase participation among individuals less likely to respond to online surveys
- allow clarification of questions where needed
- improve completion rates
- reach a broader cross-section of the community

Surveys were conducted across multiple neighborhoods and locations to ensure geographic diversity and to include a range of demographic groups.

Participation was voluntary, and respondents were not required to provide personally identifying information.

5.3 Sample Size and Representation

A total of 311 survey responses were collected during the assessment process, providing a strong and credible basis for understanding community priorities.

While the survey was not designed as a statistically representative sample of the entire population, the sample size and distribution are sufficient to provide credible, directional insight into community concerns and priorities.

The response profile includes:

- balanced participation across gender
- strong representation from working-age adults
- coverage across multiple neighborhoods within Punta Gorda Town

5.4 Data Quality Measures

Several steps were taken to support data quality:

- use of a structured survey instrument
- training and guidance for enumerators
- consistent question wording across respondents
- review of responses for completeness and clarity

Core survey sections were consistently completed by respondents, while extended sections showed expected variation depending on survey length and respondent engagement.

No major data quality concerns were identified during the review.

5.5 Data Analysis Approach

Survey data was analyzed using a combination of:

- percentage-based analysis for multiple-choice questions
- ranking of priority responses
- thematic analysis of open-ended responses

Where respondents were allowed to select multiple answers, percentages reflect the proportion of respondents selecting each option and therefore do not total 100%.

Open-ended responses were grouped into common themes to identify recurring patterns and underlying issues.

Findings were interpreted with care to distinguish between:

- strongly supported trends
- moderate or emerging patterns
- areas requiring further validation

5.6 Data Quality and Interpretation Considerations

As with any community assessment, several considerations should be noted when interpreting the findings:

- the survey does not represent a full census of Punta Gorda Town
- some demographic groups may be underrepresented despite efforts to reach broadly
- responses reflect perceptions and experiences at a point in time
- open-ended responses involve some interpretation when grouped into themes

At the same time, the assessment was designed to combine multiple forms of input, including Rotary member discussions, stakeholder engagement, and direct community surveys. The consistency of findings across these different phases strengthens confidence that the identified priorities reflect genuine and widely recognized community concerns.

The assessment was also intentionally designed to explore interconnected community issues in order to support not only Rotary planning, but also broader discussion and collaboration among community partners and stakeholders.

While no single organization can address all identified challenges, the findings and project concepts presented in this report are intended to support prioritization, partnership development, and phased approaches to implementation.

Community conditions and priorities may also evolve over time. Continued engagement and future reassessment may therefore be important to ensure ongoing relevance and responsiveness.

5.7 Ethical Considerations

The assessment was conducted with attention to basic ethical principles, including:

- voluntary participation
- respect for respondent privacy
- avoidance of collecting unnecessary personal data
- neutral and respectful engagement by enumerators

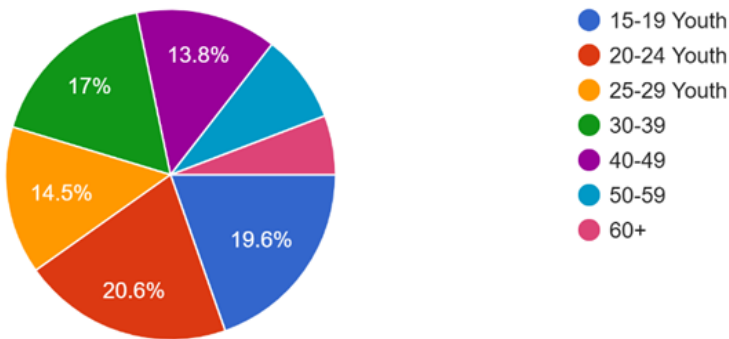
The purpose of the assessment was clearly explained to participants, and responses were used only for the purpose of informing community-focused planning.

6. Respondent Profile

This section provides a general overview of the demographic profile of survey respondents. The purpose is not to present a statistically perfect representation of the population, but to demonstrate the breadth and diversity of participation across gender, age groups, employment status, and geographic areas within Punta Gorda Town.

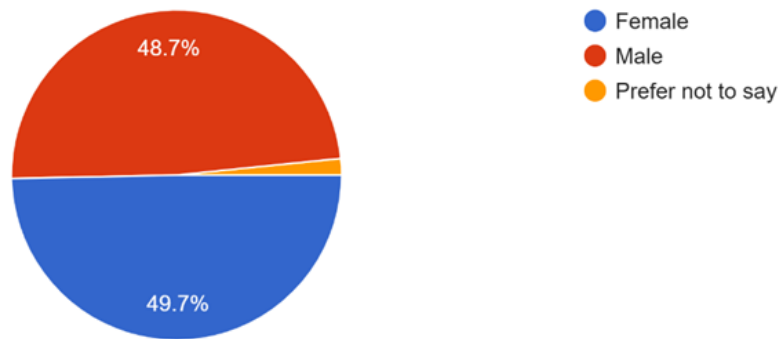
The response profile indicates participation from a broad cross-section of residents, helping strengthen confidence that the findings reflect widely shared community concerns and perspectives.

Age Group
311 responses



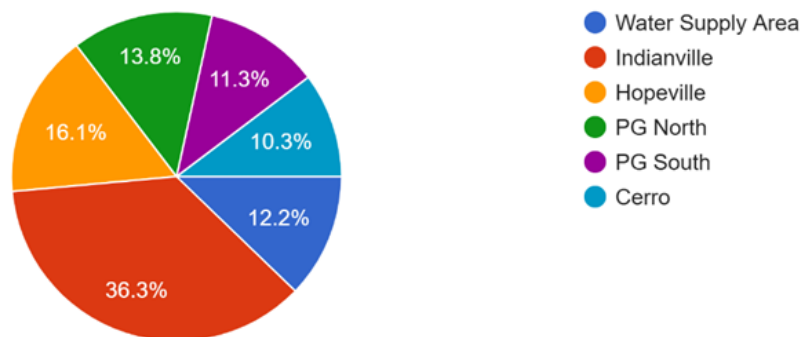
Gender

310 responses



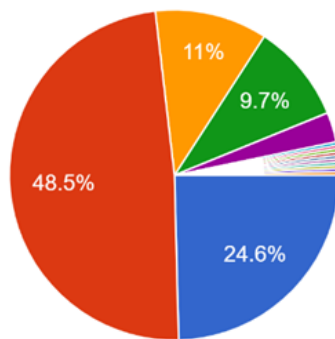
Which area of Punta Gorda Town do you live in - Indianville, Knee High, Cemetery area... or another area? ?

311 responses



Current Situation

309 responses

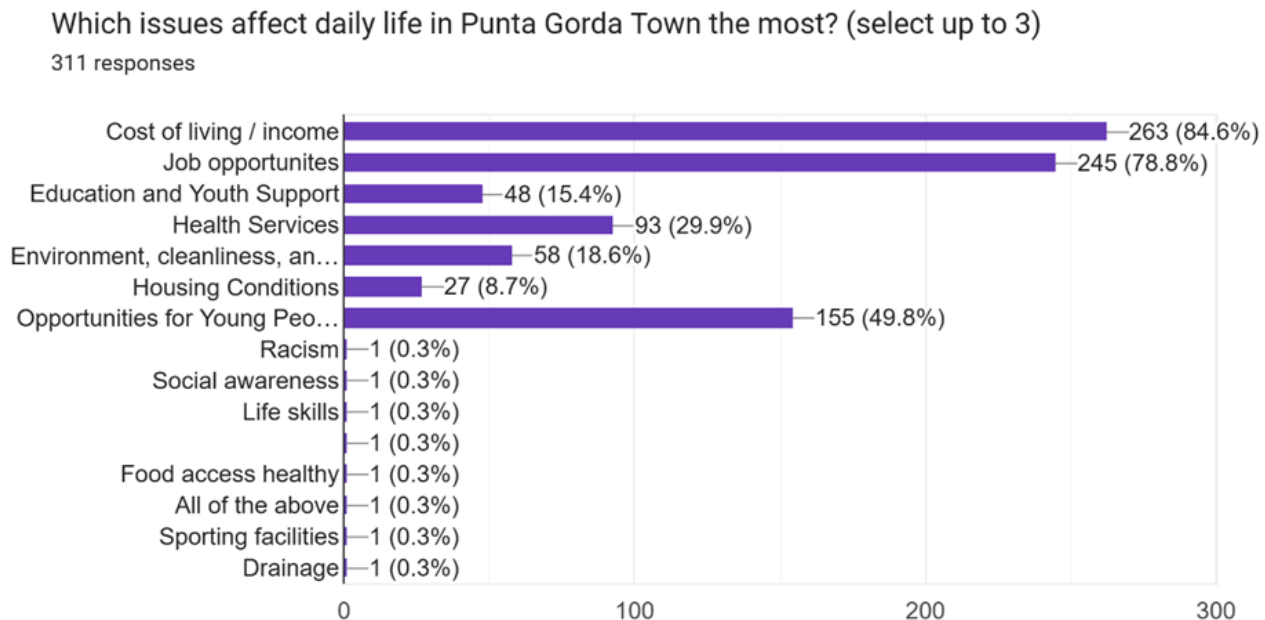


- Student
- Working
- Self-employed
- Not currently working
- Retired
- Both students/ worker
- Single Mother
- Community Health Worker

7. Overall Priority Findings

The following findings summarize the issues most frequently identified by residents as affecting daily life within Punta Gorda Town.

Figure 1: Top 3 Issues (Bar Chart)



Key Findings Summary

A total of 311 survey responses were analyzed.

The survey confirms that household economic pressure is the dominant concern within Punta Gorda Town.

When respondents were asked to identify the top three issues affecting daily life:

- 84.6% identified cost of living and household income pressure
- 78.8% identified limited job opportunities
- 49.8% identified opportunities for young people

Secondary concerns included:

- health services and health-related issues (29.9%)
- environment, cleanliness, and trash (18.6%)
- education and youth support (15.4%)

These findings indicate that economic pressures and employment concerns are closely linked and form the central issue cluster identified by residents.

Respondents were also asked to identify the single issue they believe should be prioritized first for improvement.

Figure 2: Most Important Issue (Pie Chart)

Of the priorities you selected above, which ONE should be improved first?

311 responses



Additional write-in responses included:

Agriculture / being self Sufficient

Healthy food access

Lack of Sporting facilities and support for youth and sports

Drainage

When respondents were asked to identify the single issue that should be improved first:

- 50.5% selected cost of living and household income pressure
- 21.2% selected job opportunities
- 8.0% selected health services
- 7.7% selected opportunities for young people

All other categories received substantially lower levels of support.

This reinforces the finding that economic hardship and employment opportunity are the most urgent community concerns.

8. Detailed Findings

The survey findings indicate that residents of Punta Gorda Town experience a range of interconnected social, economic, environmental, and health-related challenges. While respondents identified multiple concerns, the results show particularly strong convergence around issues related to cost of living, employment, and opportunities for young people.

The findings also suggest that many community concerns are closely linked rather than isolated. Economic pressures, youth opportunity, health, environment, and public wellbeing frequently overlap in ways that affect daily life and long-term community development.

The following sections summarize the major themes that emerged from the assessment.

8.1 Cost of Living and Household Income Pressure

Cost of living and household financial pressure emerged as the strongest and most consistent concern identified through the assessment.

When respondents were asked to identify the top three issues affecting daily life in Punta Gorda Town:

- 84.8% identified cost of living and household income pressure
- 79.0% identified limited job opportunities

In addition, when respondents were asked to identify the single issue that should be improved first:

- 50.5% selected cost of living and household income pressure

These findings suggest that many households are experiencing ongoing financial strain related to:

- food costs
- utility expenses
- transportation costs
- limited income opportunities
- overall affordability of daily living

The findings also indicate that residents often view economic challenges as interconnected. Concerns related to employment, youth opportunity, housing, health, and household wellbeing were frequently linked to broader financial pressures.

The strength and consistency of these findings suggest that household economic pressure is one of the most important underlying issues affecting quality of life within the community.

8.2 Employment and Economic Opportunity

Limited job opportunities emerged as one of the most significant concerns identified in the assessment.

A large majority of respondents identified employment and income generation as major community priorities. This concern appeared closely linked to broader concerns regarding:

- cost of living
- youth opportunity
- long-term economic stability
- household wellbeing

The findings suggest that residents are seeking:

- increased access to stable employment
- practical pathways to income generation
- opportunities for skills development
- support for entrepreneurship and small business activity

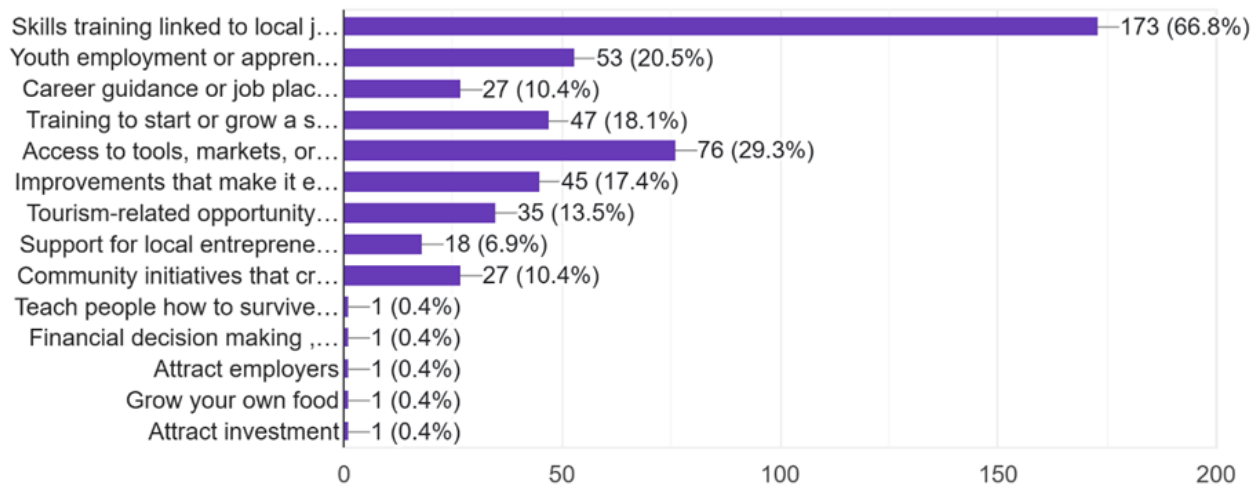
Phase 2 consultations with stakeholders also reinforced concerns related to:

- limited local employment opportunities
- the need for practical and market-relevant skills
- challenges faced by young people transitioning into employment

The findings indicate that many residents view employment and economic opportunity not only as financial issues, but also as factors influencing community stability, youth engagement, and overall quality of life.

Which changes would most improve economic wellbeing and opportunities in Punta Gorda Town?
(Choose 2)

259 responses



8.3 Youth Opportunity, Skills, and Engagement

Opportunities for young people emerged as a major theme throughout the assessment.

When asked to identify the top three issues affecting daily life:

- 50.0% of respondents identified opportunities for young people

In addition, youth-related concerns appeared frequently in open-ended responses and stakeholder consultations.

Key themes included:

- limited employment pathways for youth
- need for practical skills training
- concerns regarding disengagement and lack of opportunity
- importance of positive activities and mentorship
- value of sports and structured youth engagement

The findings suggest that many residents see youth development as closely connected to broader economic and social conditions within the community.

Stakeholder engagement also highlighted the importance of:

- partnerships with schools and training institutions
- practical hands-on learning opportunities
- community-based mentoring and support
- activities that strengthen both life skills and employability

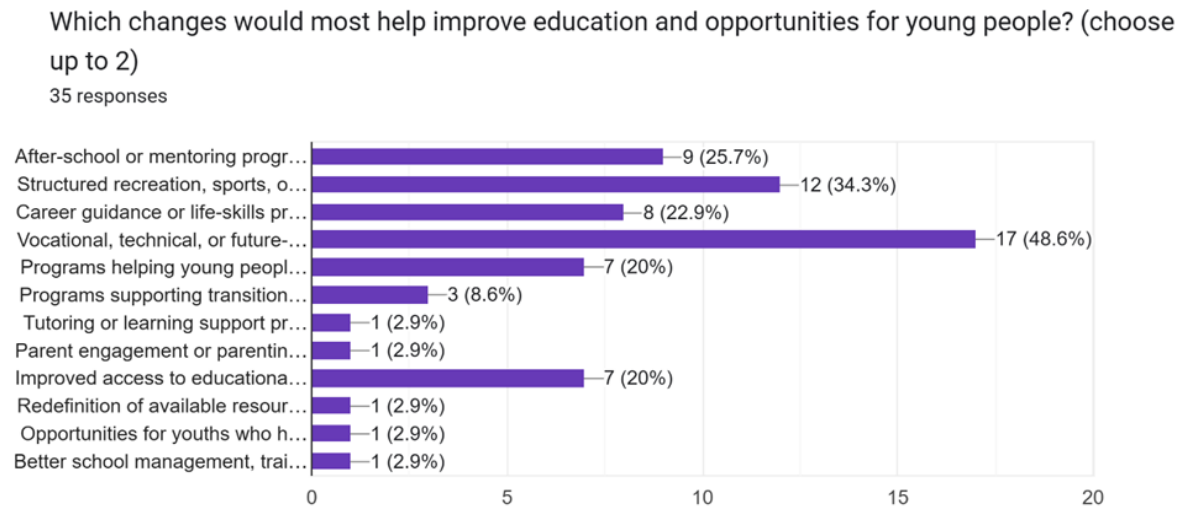
At the same time, the assessment identified existing strengths, including active sports participation, youth involvement in community activities, and interest among organizations in supporting youth-focused initiatives.

These findings suggest strong potential for projects that combine:

- skills development
- mentorship
- employment pathways
- community participation

- youth leadership and engagement

Survey responses related to youth priorities showed particularly strong support for practical skills development and structured youth engagement opportunities.



Vocational, technical, and future job-oriented training emerged as the strongest youth-related priority identified by respondents. Structured recreation, sports, mentoring, and life-skills programs were also identified as important supports for youth development and engagement.

8.4 Environment, Cleanliness, and Public Spaces

Environmental concerns, particularly related to cleanliness, trash, and maintenance of shared spaces, were identified consistently throughout the assessment.

When asked to identify the top three issues affecting daily life:

- 18.7% of respondents identified environment, cleanliness, and trash-related concerns

Although this ranked below economic concerns, the issue appeared frequently in:

- open-ended survey responses
- stakeholder consultations
- discussions regarding community pride and public wellbeing

Respondents commonly referenced concerns related to:

- littering and illegal dumping
- waste management practices
- maintenance of parks and public areas
- appearance of shared spaces
- environmental awareness and community responsibility

Stakeholder discussions also identified opportunities to strengthen:

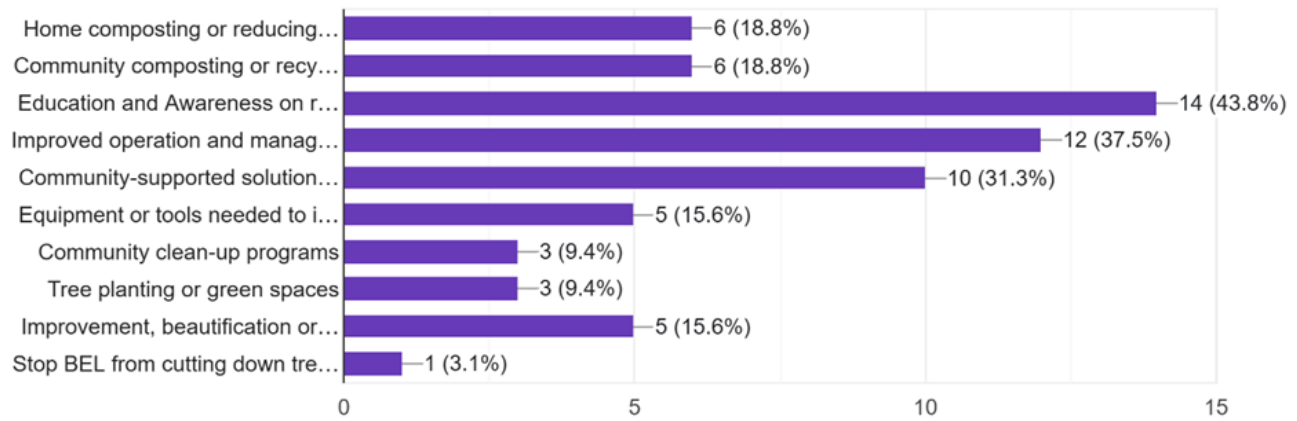
- community clean-up initiatives
- environmental education
- public waste disposal systems
- youth involvement in environmental activities
- partnerships related to beautification and public space improvement

The findings suggest that environmental concerns are linked not only to physical conditions, but also to broader issues of community pride, health, tourism, and overall quality of life.

Which changes would most improve trash management, waste systems, and community spaces?

Choose 2

32 responses



8.5 Health and Community Wellbeing

Health and wellbeing emerged as important concerns throughout the assessment, although generally secondary to economic issues.

When respondents were asked to identify the top three issues affecting daily life:

- 30.0% identified health services and health-related concerns

When asked to identify the single issue that should be improved first:

- 8.0% selected health services

Survey responses and stakeholder consultations highlighted concerns related to:

- access to healthcare services
- chronic disease and prevention
- nutrition and healthy lifestyles
- mental health and stress-related challenges
- support for vulnerable households and elderly residents

The findings suggest that many residents view health challenges as closely connected to economic pressures and household wellbeing.

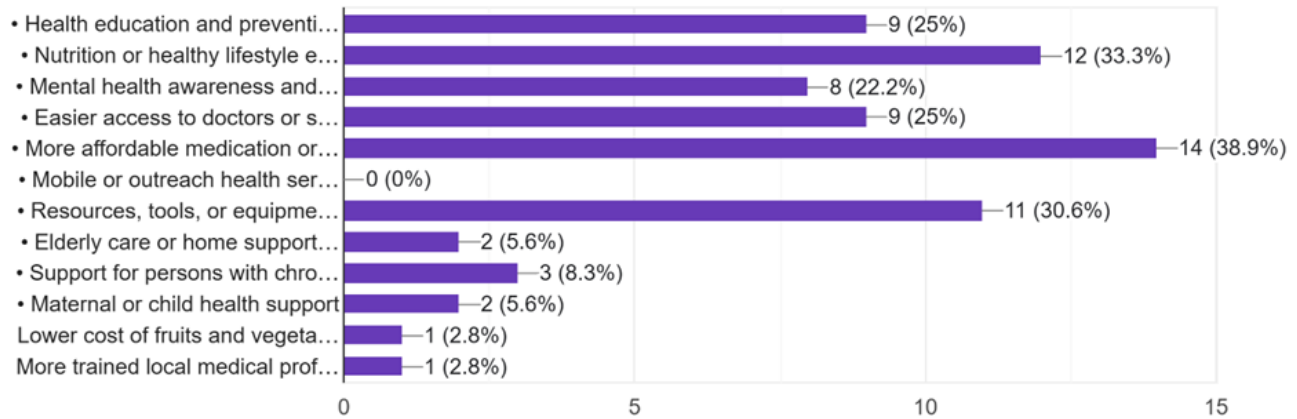
Stakeholder discussions also emphasized the value of:

- preventive health approaches
- health education and awareness activities
- partnerships with health organizations and providers
- practical community-based outreach initiatives

The assessment indicates opportunities for initiatives that focus on prevention, education, community outreach, and improved household wellbeing, particularly when integrated with broader community development efforts.

Which changes would most improve community health? (choose up to 2)

36 responses



8.6 Overall Interpretation

The findings of the assessment indicate that community concerns within Punta Gorda Town are highly interconnected.

Economic pressure emerged as the dominant issue influencing many aspects of daily life, including:

- employment opportunities
- youth engagement
- health and wellbeing
- household stability

At the same time, the assessment also identified important community strengths, including:

- active organizations and community groups
- willingness to participate in community initiatives
- local knowledge and practical skills
- opportunities for partnership and collaboration

The findings suggest that effective responses will likely require coordinated and partnership-based approaches that address multiple priorities simultaneously rather than treating issues in isolation.

These patterns informed the development of the flagship approach and project concepts presented later in this report.

9. Community Voice and Supporting Findings

The assessment process included opportunities for residents to share additional comments and perspectives in their own words. These responses provided important context to the survey findings and helped highlight both community concerns and community strengths.

Selected examples of community comments and summarized responses are included below to reflect some of the themes that emerged during the assessment process.

9.1 Economic Pressure and Employment

Residents frequently identified cost of living, affordability, and employment opportunities as major concerns affecting daily life.

Community Voice

“Creating more employment opportunities.”

“Necessities become affordable.”

“Poverty is heavily reduced.”

“More jobs and more opportunities to help the citizens if the tax and inflation rates cannot decrease.”

“Marketing — need markets.”

“More tourism-related opportunities and free educational opportunities for all levels including sixth form.”

These responses reinforce the strong survey findings related to household financial pressure, employment, and economic opportunity.

9.2 Youth Opportunity and Skills Development

Survey responses and comments highlighted strong interest in improving opportunities and support systems for young people.

Community Voice

“More opportunities for young people.”

“Technical and vocational opportunities.”

“Get schools and locals back into farming and locally supplying stuff.”

“Structured activities for youths.”

“Programs that help young people stay focused and productive.”

These responses support findings related to youth engagement, practical skills development, mentorship, and pathways to employment.

9.3 Environment and Community Spaces

Residents also expressed concerns related to cleanliness, waste management, and maintenance of public areas.

Community Voice

“Cleaner streets and public spaces.”

“More community responsibility for garbage disposal.”

“Better maintenance of parks and public areas.”

“People need to take more pride in the town.”

These comments reflect broader concerns related to environment, community pride, and shared public spaces.

9.4 Health and Community Wellbeing

Health-related responses often focused on prevention, awareness, and support for families and vulnerable groups.

Community Voice

“More health education and awareness.”

“Support for families struggling financially.”

“Better access to healthcare.”

“Programs that encourage healthy lifestyles.”

These comments reinforce findings related to community wellbeing, prevention, and household resilience.

9.5 Community Strengths and Positive Factors

In addition to identifying challenges, respondents also highlighted strengths within the community and factors that contribute to successful initiatives.

Community Voice

“Community support and good coordination.”

“Commitment, training, and follow-up.”

“They met a genuine need.”

“Funding and community working together.”

“Local leadership.”

These responses highlight the importance of collaboration, community participation, and sustained engagement in achieving positive outcomes.

The community perspectives included throughout this section complement the quantitative survey findings and provide additional insight into how residents view both the challenges and opportunities facing Punta Gorda Town.

10. Cross-Cutting Insights

The findings of this assessment indicate that the key issues identified by the community are not independent challenges, but are closely interconnected and mutually reinforcing. Understanding these relationships is important for developing effective and sustainable responses.

10.1 Economic Pressure and Employment Pathways

Cost of living and household financial pressure emerge as dominant concerns, and are closely linked to limited employment opportunities and income instability. Many households are not only facing high expenses, but also lack reliable pathways to increase earnings.

This highlights that economic pressure is not solely a matter of rising costs, but also reflects underlying gaps in:

- access to stable employment
- practical, job-relevant skills
- opportunities for income generation

As a result, responses focused only on cost reduction are unlikely to be sufficient without also addressing employment and livelihood opportunities.

10.2 Youth Development and Long-Term Outcomes

Youth-related issues are closely tied to employment and economic conditions. While youth concerns may not always appear as the most immediate priority in general questions, they are strongly reinforced when examined in more detail.

The assessment indicates that youth face challenges in:

- transitioning from education into employment
- accessing practical skills and training
- finding structured and meaningful engagement opportunities

These factors contribute to broader concerns about long-term economic stability and community development. Addressing youth opportunity is therefore not only a social priority, but also a key component of improving future economic outcomes.

10.3 Environment, Public Spaces, and Community Wellbeing

Environmental concerns—particularly related to waste management, cleanliness, and public spaces—are consistently identified across the assessment.

These issues extend beyond aesthetics and are linked to:

- quality of life and daily living conditions
- public health and sanitation
- community pride and shared responsibility
- the attractiveness of key areas, including those linked to economic activity

Poorly maintained public spaces and visible waste contribute to a negative cycle, where lack of care reduces community ownership, and reduced ownership leads to further decline.

10.4 Health, Prevention, and Household Conditions

Health and wellbeing concerns, while not always the most immediate priority, are consistently present and become more prominent when explored in depth.

The assessment suggests that many health challenges are linked to:

- household conditions
- nutrition and food access
- levels of awareness and preventive practices

This indicates that community-level health improvements are closely connected to broader factors such as income, environment, and daily habits, rather than clinical services alone.

10.5 Interconnected Nature of Community Challenges

Taken together, these findings demonstrate that the issues identified in the assessment form an interconnected system rather than a set of isolated problems.

For example:

- limited employment opportunities contribute to financial stress
- financial stress affects nutrition and health outcomes
- poor environmental conditions affect both health and quality of life
- lack of youth opportunities impacts future employment and community stability

This interconnectedness suggests that effective responses should:

- address multiple issues simultaneously where possible
- focus on practical, integrated solutions

- involve partnerships across sectors
- build on existing community strengths and resources

Approaches that recognize and respond to these relationships are more likely to achieve meaningful and lasting impact.

11. Community Strengths and Opportunities

While this assessment focuses on identifying challenges and priority issues, it also highlights a range of existing strengths within Punta Gorda Town that provide a strong foundation for future development.

Recognizing these strengths is important, as effective and sustainable initiatives are most successful when they build on existing assets, local knowledge, and community capacity.

11.1 Active Community and Organizational Base

Punta Gorda Town benefits from a number of active community organizations, institutions, and informal networks that contribute to local development.

These include:

- community-based organizations and environmental groups
- schools and education institutions
- youth groups and sports organizations
- health providers and outreach programs
- local businesses and entrepreneurs

Phase 2 engagement confirmed that many of these groups are already working to address community challenges, often with limited resources. This creates strong opportunities for collaboration, coordination, and shared impact.

11.2 Strong Culture of Participation and Volunteerism

The assessment process itself demonstrated a willingness among residents to engage and share their perspectives. Community members participated in surveys, discussions, and consultations, indicating an interest in contributing to local development.

In addition, existing activities such as sports programs, community events, and volunteer efforts suggest that there is a foundation of participation that can be built upon.

This provides an opportunity to design projects that actively involve community members, rather than relying solely on external support.

11.3 Youth Engagement Potential

While youth opportunity is identified as a challenge, it is also an area of significant potential.

Engagement through sports, schools, and informal networks indicates that:

- many young people are already connected to structured activities
- there is interest in participation and development

- there are existing entry points for mentorship and skill-building

This suggests that youth-focused initiatives can build on existing engagement rather than starting from zero.

11.4 Local Skills, Knowledge, and Informal Capacity

The community includes individuals with practical skills, trades experience, and local knowledge that are not always formally recognized but represent valuable assets.

These include:

- tradespeople and skilled workers
- small business operators
- individuals with experience in agriculture, food production, and crafts
- community members with leadership and organizational experience

This local capacity creates opportunities for:

- peer learning and mentorship
- locally delivered training
- community-led implementation of projects

11.5 Existing and Emerging Partnerships

Phase 2 engagement highlighted a number of existing relationships between organizations, as well as a willingness among partners to collaborate.

These include connections with:

- government agencies and the Punta Gorda Town Council
- education and training institutions such as ITVET and the University of Belize
- health organizations and outreach programs
- environmental and community development groups

These partnerships provide a strong foundation for coordinated efforts and reduce the need to duplicate existing work.

11.6 Community Awareness of Key Issues

The assessment indicates that residents have a clear understanding of the issues affecting their daily lives, including cost of living, employment, environment, and health.

This awareness is an important asset, as it supports:

- engagement in problem-solving
- openness to practical solutions
- willingness to adopt new approaches where benefits are clear

11.7 Opportunities for Integrated Approaches

The combination of community strengths and identified needs creates opportunities for integrated, multi-sector approaches.

For example:

- youth engagement can be linked to skills development and employment pathways
- environmental initiatives can be connected to household cost reduction and nutrition
- public space improvements can support both community wellbeing and local economic activity

These opportunities align with Rotary's approach of developing coordinated initiatives that address multiple priorities simultaneously.

11.8 Summary

Overall, Punta Gorda Town demonstrates a range of strengths that support future development, including active organizations, community participation, local skills, and emerging partnerships.

These strengths provide a strong foundation for Rotary and its partners to build upon. By aligning future initiatives with these existing assets, projects are more likely to be:

- relevant and practical
- supported by the community
- sustainable over time

This strengths-based perspective complements the identification of needs and reinforces the importance of working collaboratively to achieve meaningful and lasting impact.

These strengths provide the foundation upon which future Rotary initiatives will be developed and implemented.

12. Sustainability and Partnership Approach

Sustainability is a central consideration in the development of future Rotary initiatives in Punta Gorda Town. The findings of this assessment indicate that meaningful and lasting impact will depend not only on what projects are implemented, but on how they are designed, delivered, and maintained over time.

The Rotary Club of Punta Gorda will therefore prioritize approaches that build local capacity, strengthen partnerships, and support long-term ownership within the community.

12.1 Building on Local Capacity

Future initiatives will be designed to build on existing skills, knowledge, and community structures identified through the assessment.

Where possible, projects will:

- utilize local skills and expertise
- involve community members in implementation
- support peer learning and mentorship
- strengthen existing systems rather than replace them

This approach helps ensure that benefits continue beyond the initial project period.

12.2 Partnership-Based Implementation

Rotary recognizes that effective community development requires collaboration. Projects will be developed and implemented in partnership with:

- government agencies, including the Punta Gorda Town Council
- education and training institutions
- health providers and community organizations
- local businesses and community groups

These partnerships help align efforts, avoid duplication, and increase the likelihood of long-term success.

Rotary's role will be to support, coordinate, and complement existing efforts, rather than replace or duplicate services.

12.3 Community Participation and Ownership

Community participation will be a key component of all initiatives. This includes involvement not only in identifying priorities, but also in implementation, maintenance, and ongoing development.

Where appropriate, projects will:

- involve community members directly in activities
- encourage shared responsibility for outcomes
- support local leadership and ownership

This strengthens accountability and helps ensure that initiatives remain relevant and sustained over time.

12.4 Phased and Scalable Approach

Rather than implementing large-scale initiatives immediately, Rotary will prioritize phased approaches that begin with pilot activities and expand based on results and available resources.

This approach allows for:

- testing and refinement of project models
- adaptation to local conditions
- manageable use of resources
- gradual scaling of successful initiatives

12.5 Focus on Practical and Sustainable Solutions

Projects will emphasize practical, achievable solutions that can be maintained within the local context.

This includes:

- avoiding reliance on complex or high-cost systems
- focusing on skills, knowledge, and behavior change
- supporting systems that can be sustained locally
- aligning project design with available resources and capacity

12.6 Alignment with Rotary Priorities

Future projects will be aligned with Rotary's Areas of Focus, particularly:

- Community Economic Development
- Environment
- Disease Prevention and Treatment

This alignment supports access to Rotary Foundation funding and ensures that projects meet established standards for sustainability, impact, and accountability.

12.7 Summary

Sustainability in this context is not defined only by the duration of a project, but by the ability of the community to continue benefiting from and building on the initiative over time.

By focusing on partnerships, local capacity, community ownership, and phased implementation, Rotary aims to support initiatives that are both effective and sustainable, and that contribute to long-term positive outcomes for Punta Gorda Town.

13. Implications for Rotary Project Development

The findings of this assessment provide a clear and evidence-based foundation to guide future Rotary activities in Punta Gorda Town. While the assessment does not define specific projects, it identifies priority areas where Rotary efforts are likely to be most relevant and impactful.

The results suggest that Rotary should **consider focusing its efforts** in the following areas:

- **Youth skills development and employment pathways**, particularly initiatives that support practical, job-linked training and transition into the workforce
- **Household economic resilience**, including approaches that help families manage or reduce cost-of-living pressures
- **Community environment and public space improvement**, with particular attention to waste management, cleanliness, and shared spaces
- **Health and wellbeing**, especially preventive health, education, and outreach to vulnerable groups

These areas reflect consistent patterns across survey responses and align closely with insights from partner engagement and Rotary member input.

It is important to emphasize that these findings are intended to **guide discussion and planning**, not to limit the range of projects the Club may undertake. Rotary projects will continue to reflect:

- the interests, skills, and capacity of Club members
- opportunities for partnership with organizations and community groups
- practical considerations related to scope, sustainability, and impact

Future project development will also incorporate **community feedback**, including input gathered through public presentation and discussion of these findings.

In moving forward, Rotary will seek to prioritize initiatives that are:

- **practical and achievable** within the Club's capacity
- **inclusive and accessible**, ensuring broad community benefit
- **developed in partnership**, avoiding duplication and strengthening existing efforts
- **sustainable over time**, with clear ownership and maintenance
- **transparent and fair**, consistent with Rotary's principles and community expectations

Rotary's role is not to address all identified challenges, but to contribute in ways that are meaningful, responsible, and aligned with community priorities. This assessment provides a starting point for that process, supporting more focused, informed, and effective service.

These implications provide the basis for the project directions outlined in the following section.

14. Possible Project Directions

The following section outlines a recommended approach to project development based on the assessment findings.

This includes:

- a **recommended flagship direction** to guide longer-term Rotary efforts
- a set of **larger project concepts** that may be developed within that framework
- a range of **smaller community projects** that can support immediate action and member engagement

These components are intended to work together, rather than represent separate or competing priorities.

Rotary will prioritize a small number of projects for implementation, based on community feedback and available resources.

14.1 Recommended Flagship Project Direction

Based on the findings of this assessment, the Rotary Club of Punta Gorda is exploring the development of a **flagship project approach** centered on youth opportunity, livelihoods, and community resilience.

This is intended as a unifying direction under which multiple projects may be developed over time, rather than a single standalone project.

This recommendation reflects consistent patterns across all phases of the assessment, which indicate that:

- employment and income pressures are among the most significant challenges facing residents
- youth face limited pathways into stable and meaningful opportunities
- household resilience, including food and cost-of-living pressures, remains a concern
- environmental and health conditions influence overall quality of life

Rather than focusing on a single standalone project, the recommended approach is to develop a **connected set of initiatives** that work together over time to address these interrelated challenges.

This flagship approach may include:

- **skills development and training initiatives** that support practical, job-linked learning
- **youth engagement and employment pathways**, including mentorship, apprenticeships, and community-based work
- **small enterprise and income-generating activities**, particularly those linked to local resources and markets
- **household-level resilience initiatives**, such as kitchen gardening, composting, and cost-reduction strategies
- **community improvement activities**, including environmental and public space initiatives that can involve youth and residents

This approach allows Rotary to:

- respond directly to community priorities identified through the assessment
- build on existing efforts and partnerships within the community
- engage a wider range of Rotary members with different interests and skills
- develop projects in phases, based on available resources and opportunities
- maintain flexibility as conditions, partnerships, and community feedback evolve

It is important to note that this flagship direction represents a **recommended framework for project development**, not a final project plan.

Specific initiatives, timelines, and implementation strategies will be developed through:

- further community feedback and validation
- collaboration with partners and stakeholders
- assessment of feasibility, sustainability, and available resources

Through this approach, Rotary aims to move beyond isolated projects toward a more **coordinated and sustained contribution** to the development of Punta Gorda Town.

The projects listed below are examples of possible directions. They are not commitments, and Rotary does not expect to implement all of them. They are included to support discussion, feedback, and prioritization.

14.2 Larger Project Concepts

The following concepts illustrate how the flagship direction may be implemented in practice.

Based on the assessment findings, several potential larger project concepts have emerged that align with identified community priorities. These concepts are presented as **illustrative directions for further exploration**, rather than final project decisions.

Each concept reflects areas where Rotary may be able to contribute meaningfully, particularly through partnerships, community involvement, and sustained effort.

1. Youth Skills Development and Community Training Hub

This project establishes a structured program to provide practical, job-linked skills training for youth and young adults, with a strong focus on real-world application and pathways into employment.

Rather than creating a standalone training institution, the program would operate as a coordinated training hub, working in partnership with existing organizations and local expertise.

Core components:

• Practical, Hands-On Skills Training

Short, focused training modules in a range of locally relevant skills, designed to support both employment and income-generating opportunities. These may include areas such as:

- construction and basic electrical work
- small equipment and appliance repair
- food preparation, food safety, and small-scale food business development
- sewing, garment production, or craft-based products
- hospitality, tourism, and service-related skills
- basic digital and business skills (e.g., record-keeping, marketing, customer service)

Training is designed to be practical, inclusive, and directly linked to real work and income opportunities. The program will aim to ensure broad participation across gender and age groups, with training options that reflect diverse interests and opportunities.

• Partnership-Based Delivery

Training delivered in collaboration with partners such as the Department of Youth Services (DYS), ITVET, local tradespeople, and private sector mentors, building on existing capacity rather than duplicating it.

• Supervised Community-Based Projects

Participants apply skills through real projects such as small repairs, community improvements, or basic infrastructure work, providing both experience and visible community benefit.

• Pathways to Employment and Enterprise

Participants are supported to transition into:

- apprenticeships or work placements
- entry-level employment opportunities
- small income-generating activities or microenterprise

Intended outcomes:

- increased access to practical, job-relevant skills for youth and young adults

- improved transition from training into employment or income opportunities
- development of a pool of locally trained, work-ready individuals
- delivery of small but meaningful community improvements through training activities

Why this fits the assessment:

Survey findings show very strong demand for skills training linked directly to employment, as well as clear concern about limited job opportunities, particularly for youth. This project responds directly to those priorities by focusing on practical training, real experience, and clear pathways into work, rather than theoretical or classroom-based approaches.

2. Community Composting, Kitchen Garden, and Nutrition Initiative

This project establishes a structured, community-based program to support household-level composting, small-scale food production, and improved nutrition, while reducing organic waste and lowering household food costs.

The initiative is designed as an integrated approach that combines environmental improvement with practical economic and health benefits for participating households.

Core components:

• Home Composting Support

Provision of simple, appropriate composting methods for households, including basic materials, setup guidance, and follow-up support. The focus is on practical, low-cost systems that can be maintained easily in local conditions.

• Kitchen Garden Development

Support for small-scale household gardens using compost produced on-site, including guidance on crop selection, planting, and maintenance. Emphasis is placed on crops that are affordable, locally suitable, and commonly used in household diets.

• Training in Food Production and Nutrition

Practical sessions covering:

- basic gardening techniques
- compost use and soil improvement
- simple nutrition and meal planning
- safe food handling and preparation

Training is designed to be accessible and directly applicable to everyday household needs.

• Community Demonstration and Peer Learning

Use of demonstration sites or model households to show practical application, combined with peer learning and sharing among participants to support adoption and consistency.

Intended outcomes:

- reduced organic household waste and improved waste management practices
- increased access to fresh, locally grown food
- reduced household spending on food
- improved knowledge of nutrition and food preparation
- visible environmental and community improvement

Why this fits the assessment:

Survey findings identify cost of living as a major concern, along with environmental issues—particularly waste management—and health-related needs such as nutrition. This project responds directly to these priorities by helping households reduce expenses, improve food access, and manage organic waste more effectively, while contributing to overall community cleanliness and wellbeing.

3. Youth Employment and Enterprise Development Program

This project establishes a structured program to support youth and young adults in transitioning from skills development into income-generating activities, including employment, self-employment, and small enterprise.

The program focuses on practical, supported pathways to earning income, particularly for individuals who may not immediately access formal employment.

Core components:

- **Small Business and Enterprise Training**

Short, practical training modules focused on starting and managing small income-generating activities. Topics may include:

- basic business planning
- costing and pricing
- record-keeping
- customer service and marketing

Training is designed to be simple, applied, and directly linked to real opportunities.

- **Mentorship and Ongoing Support**

Participants receive guidance from Rotarians, local entrepreneurs, and skilled mentors, with a focus on problem-solving, consistency, and business development over time.

- **Micro-Enterprise and Group-Based Models**

Support for individuals or small groups to develop income activities, including cooperative or shared approaches where appropriate (e.g., small production groups, service teams).

- **Access to Tools and Starter Resources**

Targeted support to help participants begin activities, which may include shared tools, starter kits, or access to basic equipment, provided in a structured and accountable way.

- **Market Linkages and Opportunity Development**

Support in connecting participants to local markets, including:

- community-based sales
- tourism-related opportunities
- small-scale value-added production (e.g., food products, crafts, services)

Intended outcomes:

- increased number of youth engaged in income-generating activities
- improved ability to start and sustain small enterprises

- development of practical business skills and confidence
- stronger connection between local production and local markets
- reduced dependence on irregular or informal income sources

Why this fits the assessment:

Survey findings show strong demand for practical pathways to income, including small business support, access to tools, and opportunities linked to local markets. This program responds directly to those priorities by supporting youth not only to gain skills, but to translate those skills into real and sustained income-generating activities.

The focus would be on practical pathways to income generation, particularly for young people.

4. Community Environment and Public Space Improvement Initiative

This project establishes a coordinated, partnership-based effort to upgrade, improve, and maintain key public spaces within Punta Gorda Town, while strengthening waste management practices and community ownership.

The initiative focuses on high-visibility and high-use areas such as parks, waterfront spaces, and the Front Street vendor and market area, with an emphasis on practical improvements that enhance both appearance and functionality.

Core components:

• Targeted Public Space Upgrades

Focused improvements to selected areas, which may include:

- painting and aesthetic upgrades
- installation or repair of basic infrastructure (benches, tables, shade structures, signage, bins)
- improvements to layout, usability, and accessibility
- enhancement of market and vendor spaces to support local economic activity

• Youth-Involved Skills Application (linked to training initiatives)

Where possible, upgrades are implemented with the involvement of youth participants from skills development programs, under supervision. This provides:

- real-world application of construction, repair, and practical skills
- visible outcomes from training programs
- increased ownership and pride among participants

• Waste Management and Cleanliness Systems

Support for improved waste handling in priority areas, including:

- placement and management of bins
- simple systems for waste collection and disposal
- awareness and behavior change around littering
- integration with household composting efforts where appropriate

• Ongoing Maintenance and Community Participation

Regular, coordinated clean-up and upkeep activities involving youth, community members, and volunteers to maintain improvements over time.

• Partnership with Local Authorities and Stakeholders

Collaboration with the Town Council, relevant government agencies, local vendors, and community groups to ensure alignment, shared responsibility, and long-term sustainability.

Intended outcomes:

- visibly improved and more functional public spaces
- increased use and attractiveness of parks, waterfront, and market areas
- practical application of youth skills in real community projects
- improved waste management and reduced litter in key areas
- strengthened collaboration between Rotary, government, and community stakeholders
- increased community pride and shared responsibility for public spaces

Why this fits the assessment:

Survey findings identify environmental concerns—particularly trash, cleanliness, and public spaces—as a consistent priority. Specific locations such as parks and central public areas are frequently identified as needing improvement.

This initiative responds by focusing on visible, practical upgrades in high-priority areas, while also supporting waste management and linking improvements to youth skills development and community participation.

This initiative also contributes to improved environmental conditions and reduced health risks associated with unmanaged waste in public areas.

5. Preventive Health and Community Wellbeing Initiative

This project establishes a structured, community-based program focused on improving health outcomes through prevention, education, and accessible outreach.

The initiative emphasizes practical, low-cost interventions that help individuals and families better manage their health, with particular attention to vulnerable groups.

Core components:

• Health Education and Awareness

Community-based sessions and campaigns focused on key health concerns such as:

- chronic disease prevention (e.g., diabetes, hypertension)
- nutrition and healthy eating
- mental health awareness
- maternal and child health

Activities are designed to be practical, easy to understand, and directly relevant to daily life.

• Partnership-Based Delivery

Collaboration with health providers, community health workers, and relevant organizations to ensure that activities are accurate, appropriate, and aligned with existing services.

• Targeted Outreach to Vulnerable Groups

Focused support for groups identified in the assessment, including:

- elderly residents
- individuals with chronic illness
- mothers and young children
- vulnerable households

Outreach may include home visits, small group sessions, or community-based support activities.

• Integration with Household and Nutrition Initiatives

Linkages with other Rotary initiatives, particularly those related to nutrition, kitchen gardens, and household resilience, to reinforce healthy practices at the household level.

Intended outcomes:

- increased awareness and understanding of key health issues
- improved adoption of preventive health practices
- better support for vulnerable individuals and households

- stronger connection between communities and existing health services
- improved overall community wellbeing

Why this fits the assessment:

Survey findings show that while health is not always the most immediate daily concern, it emerges as a consistent and meaningful issue when examined in more detail. Key concerns include chronic illness, access to care, and support for vulnerable groups.

This initiative responds by focusing on prevention, education, and practical support, which are the areas most appropriate for community-level action.

14.3 Smaller Community Projects

These smaller initiatives can also serve as pilot activities that inform and support the development of larger projects over time.

In addition to larger project concepts, the assessment findings also support a range of smaller, more immediate community-based initiatives. These projects can often be implemented with fewer resources, provide visible impact, and offer opportunities for broad member and community participation.

The following examples reflect areas where Rotary may be able to act more quickly while continuing to develop larger initiatives.

1. Community Clean-Up and Public Space Action Days

This project establishes a series of organized, recurring community action days focused on improving cleanliness and maintaining shared public spaces within Punta Gorda Town.

The initiative targets specific, high-use areas such as parks, streets, schools, sports fields, and waterfront spaces, with an emphasis on visible improvements and community participation.

Core components:

- **Targeted Clean-Up Days**

Coordinated clean-up activities in selected areas (e.g., parks, neighborhoods, Front Street, waterfront), focusing on removing litter, improving appearance, and addressing immediate cleanliness concerns.

- **Community and School Participation**

Engagement of community groups, schools, youth, and volunteers to build shared responsibility and encourage broad participation.

- **Small-Scale Improvements During Activities**

Where feasible, action days may include minor upgrades such as:

- painting
- basic repairs
- placement or improvement of bins
- simple enhancements to public spaces

- **Awareness and Behavior Change**

Short, practical messaging during activities to promote better waste practices and reduce future littering.

Intended outcomes:

- cleaner and more attractive public spaces
- reduced visible litter in targeted areas
- increased community participation and ownership
- improved awareness of waste management practices
- stronger culture of shared responsibility for public spaces

Why this fits the assessment:

Survey findings identify trash, cleanliness, and public spaces as consistent concerns across the community. These action days provide a practical and visible way to respond to those concerns, while also supporting longer-term behavior change and maintenance.

2. Healthy Homes and Hygiene Support

This project establishes a set of simple, practical activities aimed at improving household hygiene and living conditions, with a focus on prevention, awareness, and targeted support.

The initiative focuses on helping households adopt and maintain healthy practices that reduce illness and improve daily living conditions.

Core components:

• Household Hygiene Support Kits (Targeted)

Provision of basic cleaning and hygiene supplies to selected households, particularly vulnerable groups, combined with guidance on effective use. Distribution is targeted rather than broad, to ensure meaningful impact.

• Practical Demonstrations and Awareness Sessions

Small group or community-based sessions demonstrating:

- safe and effective cleaning practices
- water storage and handling
- waste management at the household level
- basic hygiene practices linked to disease prevention

Sessions are designed to be simple, practical, and directly applicable.

• Targeted Outreach to Vulnerable Households

Focused support for households most in need, including elderly residents, families with young children, or those facing health-related challenges. This may include follow-up visits or small group support.

• Linkages to Other Household Initiatives

Integration with related efforts such as nutrition, kitchen gardens, and composting to support overall household wellbeing.

Intended outcomes:

- improved household cleanliness and hygiene practices
- reduced risk of preventable illness
- increased awareness of practical health and sanitation measures
- improved living conditions for vulnerable households

- stronger connection between community members and support networks

Why this fits the assessment:

Survey findings show that while health is not always the most immediate concern, it is a consistent issue when examined in more detail, particularly in relation to prevention, household conditions, and vulnerable groups. This project provides a practical, achievable way to respond at the household level.

3. Health Awareness and Outreach Activities

This project establishes a series of structured, community-based outreach activities focused on improving awareness and adoption of preventive health practices.

The initiative emphasizes practical, accessible information delivered through partnerships and small-scale engagement within neighborhoods.

Core components:

- **Partnership-Based Health Sessions**

Collaboration with organizations such as the Belize Cancer Society, local health providers, and community health workers to deliver accurate and relevant information.

- **Focused Awareness Campaigns**

Targeted activities addressing key health concerns identified in the assessment, including:

- chronic disease prevention (e.g., diabetes, hypertension)
- nutrition and healthy lifestyles
- mental health awareness

Campaigns are designed to be simple, practical, and directly relevant to daily life.

- **Neighborhood Outreach Activities**

Small, localized events in communities or neighborhoods, making information more accessible and encouraging participation from residents who may not attend larger events.

- **Practical Health Messaging**

Emphasis on actionable steps individuals and families can take, rather than general information, helping translate awareness into behavior change.

Intended outcomes:

- increased awareness of key health risks and preventive practices
- improved adoption of simple, practical health behaviors
- stronger connections between community members and health providers
- increased participation in community-based health activities

Why this fits the assessment:

Survey findings show that while health is not always identified as the most immediate concern, it becomes more prominent when examined in detail. Key themes include chronic illness, nutrition, and support for vulnerable groups. This project responds by focusing on prevention, awareness, and accessible outreach.

4. Youth Service and Engagement Program

This project establishes a structured program to engage young people in regular, practical community activities while building skills, responsibility, and pathways into further development opportunities.

The program can be led by Rotaract where available, or directly by the Rotary Club with youth participation and leadership encouraged.

The program would run as a series of organized activities over a defined period (e.g., monthly or quarterly), rather than one-off events.

Core components:

1. Youth Service Days
Regular, small-scale community projects such as park clean-ups, minor repairs, or public space improvements, organized by Rotary and involving youth participants.
2. Mentorship Through Activity
Rotarians and skilled volunteers participate alongside youth during activities, providing informal mentorship, guidance, and exposure to practical skills.
3. Structured Sports and Team Activities (where appropriate)
Sports or recreational activities used as a tool for engagement, teamwork, and discipline, combined with short mentorship or life-skills components.

- Pathway Linkages

Participants are encouraged and supported to transition into:

- skills training programs
- apprenticeship opportunities
- other Rotary-supported initiatives

Intended outcomes:

- increased youth participation in positive, structured activities
- improved teamwork, responsibility, and engagement
- stronger connections between youth and community leaders
- identification of youth for further training and development opportunities

Why this fits the assessment:

Survey findings indicate that while youth issues are not always the most immediate concern, they are strongly linked to employment and long-term community outcomes. Structured engagement—including sports—helps reduce disengagement and supports readiness for skills development and employment pathways.

5. Composting and Small Garden Demonstration Projects

This project establishes small-scale pilot activities to demonstrate practical approaches to household composting and kitchen gardening, supporting both food production and waste reduction.

The initiative focuses on creating visible, easy-to-follow examples that can be replicated by households and community groups.

Core components:

- **Demonstration Compost Systems**

Setup of simple, low-cost composting systems at selected locations (e.g., households, schools, or community sites), showing practical methods suitable for local conditions.

- **Starter Kitchen Garden Projects**

Support for a small number of households or groups to establish basic kitchen gardens, using compost produced on-site and focusing on crops that are affordable, locally appropriate, and commonly used.

- **Practical Training Sessions**

Hands-on sessions covering:

- compost setup and maintenance
- basic planting and garden care
- simple techniques for improving soil and yields

Training is designed to be practical, easy to replicate, and directly applicable.

- **Learning and Replication Approach**

Participants and observers are encouraged to learn from demonstration sites and apply similar practices in their own homes, supporting gradual expansion over time.

Intended outcomes:

- increased understanding of composting and small-scale food production
- reduced organic household waste in participating locations
- improved access to fresh, locally grown food
- development of simple, replicable models for wider adoption

Why this fits the assessment:

Survey findings highlight concerns related to cost of living, waste management, and nutrition. These demonstration projects provide a practical way to address all three areas at a small scale, while building knowledge and experience that can support larger initiatives

6. Community Education and Skills Workshops

This project establishes a series of short, practical workshops designed to build everyday skills that support household resilience, income generation, and personal development.

The workshops are designed to be simple, accessible, and immediately useful, while also connecting participants to longer-term training and development opportunities.

Core components:

• Focused Skill Workshops

Short sessions (1–3 hours) on practical topics such as:

- basic financial literacy and household budgeting
- simple income-generating skills
- introductory vocational or technical skills
- everyday “how-to” topics relevant to daily life

• Practical, Hands-On Approach

Workshops emphasize demonstration and participation rather than theory, ensuring that participants leave with skills they can apply immediately.

• Local Facilitators and Partnerships

Sessions delivered by Rotarians, local professionals, skilled community members, or partner organizations, drawing on existing knowledge within the community.

• Pathway Linkages

Participants are informed about and encouraged to connect with:

- skills training programs
- enterprise development opportunities
- other Rotary-supported initiatives

Intended outcomes:

- increased access to practical, usable knowledge and skills
- improved household financial management and decision-making
- introduction to skills that may lead to further training or income opportunities
- stronger engagement between community members and local resource persons

Why this fits the assessment:

Survey findings highlight the need for practical, applied skills—particularly those linked to employment, income, and daily living. These workshops provide an accessible entry point for building those skills, while supporting longer-term development pathways.

7. Public Waste Disposal Improvement Project

This project builds on previous collaboration between the Rotary Club of Punta Gorda and the Punta Gorda Town Council to improve public waste disposal in key outdoor areas.

The initiative focuses on expanding and strengthening the use of properly placed, easy-to-use trash receptacles, supported by ongoing collection through existing Town Council services.

Core components:

- **Targeted Placement of Public Trash Bins**

Working with the Punta Gorda Town Council to identify high-need locations such as parks, streets, waterfront areas, and public gathering spaces, and installing durable, mounted trash cans in those locations.

- **Integration with Existing Collection Systems**

All bins are placed and designed to align with Town Council waste collection routes, ensuring they are emptied regularly and remain functional over time.

- **Durable and Practical Installation**

Use of secure, weather-resistant bin designs that are easy to access, difficult to misuse, and suitable for local conditions.

- **Awareness and Proper Use**

Simple messaging or signage to encourage proper disposal of waste and reduce littering in surrounding areas.

Intended outcomes:

- increased availability of convenient waste disposal options in public spaces
- reduced litter in targeted areas
- improved cleanliness and appearance of key locations
- strengthened collaboration between Rotary and the Town Council
- more effective use of existing waste collection systems

Why this fits the assessment:

Survey findings identify trash, cleanliness, and public spaces as consistent concerns across the community. This project provides a practical and targeted response by improving access to waste disposal in areas where it is most needed, helping reduce litter and improve overall environmental conditions.

8. Sports for Development Program

This project establishes a structured, repeatable program that supports youth participation in organized sports while integrating mentorship, personal development, and community engagement.

The initiative uses sports as a platform to build teamwork, discipline, and positive engagement, while connecting participants to broader development opportunities.

Core components:

• Support for Youth Sports Participation

Targeted support for youth teams to improve participation, which may include:

- basic sports equipment and gear
 - assistance with transportation to practices or competitions
- Support is provided in a structured and accountable way to maximize impact.

• Mentorship and Life Skills Integration

Incorporation of mentorship elements through coaches, Rotarians, or community volunteers, focusing on:

- teamwork and discipline
- responsibility and leadership
- goal setting and personal development

• Community Service Linkages

Participants are encouraged to engage in simple community service activities (e.g., clean-ups, support events), reinforcing a sense of responsibility and connection to the community.

• Pathway Connections

Participants are connected, where appropriate, to:

- skills development programs
- educational or training opportunities
- other Rotary-supported initiatives

Intended outcomes:

- increased youth participation in structured, positive activities
- improved teamwork, discipline, and personal development
- stronger connections between youth, mentors, and the community
- reduced disengagement and idle time among youth
- identification of youth for further development opportunities

Why this fits the assessment:

Survey findings indicate that youth engagement and structured activities, including sports, play an important supporting role in development. While not the primary issue, sports-based engagement helps address concerns related to idle or disengaged youth and supports readiness for skills development and employment pathways.

9. Primary School Environment and Improvement Project

This project focuses on improving the physical environment and usability of selected primary schools through practical, small-scale upgrades and community involvement.

The initiative treats schools as important community spaces and aims to create cleaner, more functional, and more engaging environments for students.

Core components:

• School Environment Upgrades

Targeted improvements such as:

- painting of classrooms or exterior areas
- basic repairs and maintenance
- improvement of outdoor spaces (e.g., seating, shaded areas, simple play or activity spaces)

• Cleanliness and Waste Management Support

Introduction or improvement of waste management practices within school compounds, including:

- placement of bins
- clean-up activities
- awareness around proper waste disposal

• Youth and Volunteer Participation

Involvement of youth, Rotarians, and community volunteers in project activities, supporting both community engagement and practical skill development.

• Simple Life Skills Integration (where appropriate)

Incorporation of basic, practical lessons such as:

- personal and environmental responsibility
- simple maintenance habits
- teamwork and shared responsibility

Intended outcomes:

- improved physical condition and appearance of school environments
- cleaner and more organized school compounds
- increased student pride and engagement in their school space
- stronger connection between schools and the wider community

- practical opportunities for youth involvement and skill application

Why this fits the assessment:

Survey findings highlight concerns related to environment, cleanliness, and public spaces, as well as the importance of youth engagement. Schools serve as key community spaces, and improving them provides a practical and visible way to address these priorities while supporting positive youth development.

These smaller projects are intended to complement larger initiatives by providing:

- early opportunities for action
- visible community impact
- avenues for member engagement
- flexibility to respond to emerging needs

Final selection and implementation of these projects will depend on community feedback, available resources, and alignment with Rotary priorities and partnerships.

15. Community Feedback and Validation

This report is being shared as part of the Rotary Club of Punta Gorda's community validation process.

While the findings presented here reflect consistent and converging input from 311 community survey responses, stakeholder engagement, and Rotary consultations, **final project decisions have not yet been made.** The purpose of this stage is to ensure that the results are accurate, relevant, and aligned with community experience before moving forward to implementation.

15.1 Purpose of the Validation Process

The validation process provides an opportunity to:

- confirm that the identified priority areas reflect the lived experience of residents
- ensure that important perspectives have not been overlooked
- refine understanding of key issues where needed
- strengthen the foundation for future project development

This step is an essential part of ensuring that Rotary's work remains grounded in the needs and priorities of the community.

15.2 Community Engagement

This report will be presented to the community through a structured session that is open to residents, community groups, partner organizations, and other stakeholders.

During this session, Rotary will:

- present key findings from the assessment
- explain how information was gathered and analyzed
- outline the proposed flagship direction and project concepts
- invite discussion, questions, and feedback

The intention is to create an open and respectful space for dialogue, where participants can share their perspectives and contribute to shaping the next phase.

15.3 Feedback Focus Areas

We want to verify:

- *whether the identified priority issues accurately reflect community concerns*
- *which areas should be prioritized for action*
- *the practicality and relevance of the proposed project directions*
- *potential risks, challenges, or unintended impacts*
- *opportunities for partnership and collaboration*

Feedback may be shared during the session or through follow-up discussions and communication with Rotary members.

15.4 Role of Partners and Stakeholders

In addition to general community input, Rotary also engaged with partner organizations and stakeholders across sectors, including education, health, business, environment, and government, to validate findings and identify opportunities for collaboration.

Partnerships will play a key role in shaping both the design and implementation of future initiatives.

15.5 From Validation to Project Development

Following the validation process, the Rotary Club will:

- review feedback received from the community and partners
- refine and prioritize project concepts
- assess feasibility, resource requirements, and sustainability
- identify projects for phased implementation

Final decisions will be guided by a combination of community input, practical considerations, and Rotary's capacity to deliver meaningful and sustainable outcomes.

15.6 Ongoing Engagement

Rotary recognizes that meaningful engagement continues beyond this validation stage. As projects are developed and implemented, the Club will continue to:

- communicate openly with the community
- provide updates on progress and outcomes
- invite participation and feedback

- adapt initiatives based on experience and results

This ongoing engagement is essential to maintaining trust and ensuring that Rotary's work remains responsive and effective.

16. Monitoring and Evaluation Considerations

As Rotary moves from assessment to implementation, monitoring and evaluation will play an important role in ensuring that projects are effective, relevant, and responsive to community needs.

At this stage, specific indicators and measurement systems have not yet been finalized. However, the Rotary Club of Punta Gorda recognizes the importance of incorporating practical and appropriate methods to track progress and outcomes across all initiatives.

16.1 Purpose of Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation will be used to:

- track the progress of project activities
- assess whether initiatives are achieving intended outcomes
- identify areas for improvement
- support informed decision-making as projects evolve

This process will help ensure that initiatives remain aligned with community priorities and deliver meaningful results over time.

16.2 Approach to Measurement

Future projects will incorporate simple and practical methods of measurement, appropriate to the scale and nature of each initiative. These may include:

- tracking participation (e.g., number of participants, households reached)
- monitoring outputs (e.g., training sessions delivered, activities completed, public spaces improved)
- identifying short-term outcomes (e.g., adoption of practices, engagement levels, use of services)

Where appropriate, baseline information from this assessment may be used to support comparison over time.

16.3 Indicators and Outcomes

As projects are developed in more detail, specific indicators will be defined based on the goals of each initiative.

Examples may include:

- number of youth engaged in structured activities or skills programs
- number of individuals participating in training or enterprise development
- improvements in cleanliness or waste management in targeted areas
- participation in health outreach or awareness activities

Indicators will be selected to ensure they are:

- relevant to project objectives
- practical to measure
- appropriate to available resources and capacity

16.4 Learning and Adaptation

Monitoring and evaluation will be used not only for tracking progress, but also to support learning and continuous improvement.

Rotary will:

- review progress at regular intervals
- incorporate feedback from participants and partners
- adjust approaches where needed
- refine project design based on experience

This approach allows initiatives to remain flexible and responsive to real conditions.

16.5 Relationship to Transparency and Accountability

Monitoring and evaluation processes will support transparency and accountability by providing clear and reliable information on project progress and outcomes.

These processes form the basis for reporting to community members, partners, and stakeholders, and will be complemented by the communication and accountability measures outlined in the following section.

16.6 Summary

Monitoring and evaluation will play a key role in supporting effective implementation, continuous learning, and informed decision-making.

By adopting practical and adaptable approaches to measurement, Rotary aims to ensure that its initiatives deliver meaningful results while remaining aligned with community priorities.

17. Accountability and Transparency

The Rotary Club of Punta Gorda recognizes that trust is essential to effective community work. This assessment has been conducted with a commitment to openness and fairness, and these principles will continue to guide all stages of project development and implementation.

17.1 Commitment to Fairness and Inclusion

Rotary is committed to ensuring that future projects are:

- **inclusive and accessible**, benefiting a broad cross-section of the community
- **fair in selection and participation**, without favoritism or exclusion
- **responsive to identified needs**, rather than limited to specific groups or interests

The Club recognizes the importance of avoiding the perception or reality that projects benefit only a small or connected group. Project design and implementation will aim to ensure that opportunities are widely available and clearly communicated.

17.2 Transparent Project Selection

Project selection will follow a structured and transparent process informed by:

- findings from this assessment
- feedback gathered during the validation process
- input from partners and stakeholders
- practical considerations such as feasibility, cost, and sustainability

Decisions will be discussed within the Club and, where appropriate, shared with the community to ensure clarity around how and why projects are chosen.

17.3 Partnership and Coordination

Rotary will actively seek to work in partnership with organizations, institutions, and community groups.

This approach is intended to:

- strengthen project impact
- avoid duplication of existing efforts
- build on local knowledge and experience
- support long-term sustainability

Where possible, Rotary will align its activities with existing initiatives rather than operating independently.

17.4 Responsible Use of Resources

Rotary is committed to the responsible and transparent use of all funds and resources.

This includes:

- clear oversight of project budgets and expenditures
- alignment of resources with agreed project objectives
- accountability to donors, partners, and the community

Where fundraising or external funding is involved, the Club will ensure that resources are used for their intended purpose and reported appropriately.

17.5 Communication and Reporting

The Club will maintain open communication with the community by:

- providing updates on project development and implementation
- sharing outcomes and progress where appropriate
- making information available through meetings, presentations, or other communication channels

This ongoing communication is intended to ensure that the community remains informed and engaged.

17.6 Continuous Review and Improvement

Rotary recognizes that effective projects require ongoing evaluation and adjustment.

As projects are implemented, the Club will:

- monitor progress and outcomes
- seek feedback from participants and partners
- identify areas for improvement
- adapt approaches as needed

This process supports continuous learning and helps ensure that projects remain relevant and effective over time.

18. Conclusion

This community assessment represents an important step in helping the Rotary Club of Punta Gorda better understand the priorities, concerns, strengths, and opportunities within Punta Gorda Town.

The findings show clear and consistent concern regarding:

- cost of living and household financial pressure
- employment and economic opportunity
- youth development and pathways to meaningful engagement
- environmental conditions and public spaces
- health and community wellbeing

At the same time, the assessment also highlights important community strengths, including active organizations, local skills, strong community participation, and growing opportunities for partnership and collaboration.

A key finding throughout the assessment is that many of the issues identified by residents are closely interconnected. Economic challenges influence health and household wellbeing, youth opportunity affects long-term community stability, and environmental conditions shape both public health and community pride. These relationships reinforce the importance of practical, coordinated, and partnership-based approaches to community development.

The Rotary Club of Punta Gorda recognizes that it cannot address all identified challenges alone. The purpose of this assessment is not to create unrealistic expectations, but to provide a credible and community-informed foundation for future action, collaboration, and project development.

The proposed flagship direction and project concepts included in this report are intended as starting points for discussion, refinement, and prioritization. Final decisions will continue to be shaped through community feedback, partnerships, feasibility considerations, and available resources.

As Rotary moves forward, the Club remains committed to:

- listening to the community
- working collaboratively with partners and stakeholders
- supporting practical and sustainable initiatives
- maintaining transparency and accountability
- adapting based on experience and feedback

This assessment process reflects Rotary's commitment to responsible and community-centered service. The Rotary Club of Punta Gorda looks forward to continuing this work together with residents, organizations, and partners in support of a stronger and more resilient community.

Appendices

Appendix A: Partner List

University of Belize
Toledo Institute for Development and the Environment (TIDE)
Department of Youth Services (DYS)
Hillside Healthcare
Claver College Extension
Toledo Community College
Punta Gorda Department of Education
Punta Gorda Polyclinic
HelpAge
Helping Older People Equally (HOPE)
Belize Tourism Association Punta Gorda (BTIA-PG)
Toledo Tour Guides Association
Punta Gorda Town Council
Office of Honourable Osmond Martinez
PGTV
Belize Chamber of Commerce & Industry Toledo Chapter
Toledo Sports Council
Toledo Volleyball Association
Toledo Basketball Association
Toledo Football Association
El Shaddai Football Academy
Tribal FC Football Academy

Introduction

Punta Gorda Town Community Assessment Survey

The Rotary Club of Punta Gorda is conducting a community assessment to better understand priorities within **Punta Gorda Town** and guide future community projects and partnerships focused on the town and its residents.

This survey focuses specifically on experiences and priorities **within Punta Gorda Town**.

The survey is anonymous. No names or identifying information are collected.

Most surveys take **10–20 minutes**, with an optional extension if you wish to share additional input.

Thank you for helping shape the future of Punta Gorda Town.

Email address of **survey collector**
conducting the survey

To be completed by the UB student

Your answer

About You

Age Group *

- ☐ 15-19 Youth
- ☐ 20-24 Youth
- ☐ 25-29 Youth
- ☐ 30-39
- ☐ 40-49
- ☐ 50-59
- ☐ 60+

Gender

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Other: _____

Which area of Punta Gorda Town do you live in - Indianville, Knee High, Cemetery *
area... or another area? ?

- ☐ Water Supply Area
- ☐ Indianville
- ☐ Hopeville
- ☐ PG North
- ☐ PG South
- ☐ Cerro

Current Situation

- ☐ Student
- ☐ Working
- ☐ Self-employed
- ☐ Not currently working
- ☐ Retired
- ☐ Other: _____

Life in Punta Gorda Town

In your opinion, what are the main challenges facing Punta Gorda Town today?

Your answer

What issue affects your household the most in daily life right now?

Your answer

Community Priorities (branching question)

Which issues affect daily life in Punta Gorda Town the most? (select up to 3)

- ☐ Cost of living / income
- ☐ Job opportunities
- ☐ Education and Youth Support
- ☐ Health Services
- ☐ Environment, cleanliness, and trash management
- ☐ Housing Conditions
- ☐ Opportunities for Young People
- ☐ Other: _____

Of the priorities you selected above, which ONE should be improved first? *

- ☐ Cost of living / income
- ☐ Job opportunities
- ☐ Education and Youth Support
- ☐ Health Services
- ☐ Environment, cleanliness, and trash management
- ☐ Housing Conditions
- ☐ Safety Concerns
- ☐ Opportunities for Young People
- ☐ Other: _____

Community & Economic Development

What challenges most affect people's ability to earn a living or support their household in Punta Gorda Town?

Your answer _____

Which changes would most improve economic wellbeing and opportunities in Punta Gorda Town? (Choose 2)

- ☐ Skills training linked to local jobs
- ☐ Youth employment or apprenticeship programs
- ☐ Career guidance or job placement support
- ☐ Training to start or grow a small business
- ☐ Access to tools, markets, or business mentoring
- ☐ Improvements that make it easier for people to live and work in Punta Gorda (transportation, safety, housing, or daily costs)
- ☐ Tourism-related opportunity development
- ☐ Support for local entrepreneurs or farmers
- ☐ Community initiatives that create local jobs
- ☐ Other: _____

What change would most help improve your household's economic situation?

- ☐ Better employment opportunities
- ☐ Starting or growing a business
- ☐ Training or skills development
- ☐ Opportunities that help households reduce or better manage living expenses
- ☐ Improved transportation access
- ☐ Safer community conditions
- ☐ More stable housing or living conditions
- ☐ Market access for products/services
- ☐ Financial support opportunities
- ☐ Other: _____

Would you participate in training or business development programs?

- ☐ no
- ☐ yes
- ☐ maybe

Education & Youth

What are the main challenges related to education, youth opportunities, or activities in Punta Gorda Town?

Your answer _____

Which changes would most help improve education and opportunities for young people? (choose up to 2)

- ☐ After-school or mentoring programs
- ☐ Structured recreation, sports, or youth development activities
- ☐ Career guidance or life-skills programs
- ☐ Vocational, technical, or future-ready skills training (including digital skills)
- ☐ Programs helping young people prepare for work or careers
- ☐ Programs supporting transition from school to work
- ☐ Tutoring or learning support programs
- ☐ Parent engagement or parenting support
- ☐ Improved access to educational resources
- ☐ Other: _____

Which young people in Punta Gorda Town would benefit most from improvements in this area?

- ☐ Primary school students
- ☐ Secondary students
- ☐ Out-of-school youth
- ☐ Young adults seeking work
- ☐ All youth
- ☐ Other: _____

Would your household participate in youth or education programs if available?

- ☐ yes
- ☐ no
- ☐ maybe

Health & Wellbeing

What are the main health challenges affecting people in Punta Gorda Town?

Your answer

Which changes would most improve community health?

(choose up to 2)

- ☐ • Health education and prevention programs
- ☐ • Nutrition or healthy lifestyle education
- ☐ • Mental health awareness and support
- ☐ • Easier access to doctors or specialists
- ☐ • More affordable medication or treatment
- ☐ • Mobile or outreach health services
- ☐ • Resources, tools, or equipment needed to improve health services
- ☐ • Elderly care or home support services
- ☐ • Support for persons with chronic illness
- ☐ • Maternal or child health support
- ☐ Other:

In your opinion, which group needs the most support?

- ☐ Children
- ☐ Youth
- ☐ Adults
- ☐ Elderly
- ☐ Persons with Disabilities
- ☐ Other: _____

Would you participate in community health activities or programs?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

Community & Economic Development

What challenges most affect people's ability to earn a living or support their household in Punta Gorda Town?

Your answer _____

Which changes would most improve economic wellbeing and opportunities in Punta Gorda Town? (Choose 2)

- ☐ Skills training linked to local jobs
- ☐ Youth employment or apprenticeship programs
- ☐ Career guidance or job placement support
- ☐ Training to start or grow a small business
- ☐ Access to tools, markets, or business mentoring
- ☐ Improvements that make it easier for people to live and work in Punta Gorda (transportation, safety, housing, or daily costs)
- ☐ Tourism-related opportunity development
- ☐ Support for local entrepreneurs or farmers
- ☐ Community initiatives that create local jobs
- ☐ Other: _____

What change would most help improve your household's economic situation?

- ☐ Better employment opportunities
- ☐ Starting or growing a business
- ☐ Training or skills development
- ☐ Opportunities that help households reduce or better manage living expenses
- ☐ Improved transportation access
- ☐ Safer community conditions
- ☐ More stable housing or living conditions
- ☐ Market access for products/services
- ☐ Financial support opportunities
- ☐ Other: _____

Would you participate in training or business development programs?

- ☐ no
- ☐ yes
- ☐ maybe

Environment, Cleanliness & Trash

What environmental, cleanliness, or trash-related challenges most affect daily life in Punta Gorda Town?

Your answer _____

Which changes would most improve trash management, waste systems, and community spaces? Choose 2

- ☐ Home composting or reducing household waste
- ☐ Community composting or recycling programs
- ☐ Education and Awareness on reducing trash and waste
- ☐ Improved operation and management of town waste disposal systems
- ☐ Community-supported solutions for managing trash and waste sustainably
- ☐ Equipment or tools needed to improve waste management or community maintenance
- ☐ Community clean-up programs
- ☐ Tree planting or green spaces
- ☐ Improvement, beautification or upgrading of parks and public areas
- ☐ Other: _____

Which public or shared spaces in Punta Gorda Town would most benefit from improvement or better care?

Your answer

Would you participate in environmental or community clean-up activities?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

Lessons from Past Efforts

Have you seen community projects that worked well in Punta Gorda Town?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

If yes, what made them work well?

Your answer _____

Why do community projects sometimes fail or stop? (Choose 2)

- ☐ Lack of follow-up
- ☐ Funding ended
- ☐ Poor coordination between groups
- ☐ Community not involved enough
- ☐ Leadership changes
- ☐ Lack of maintenance
- ☐ People lost interest
- ☐ Other: _____

Participation & Ownership

Would you participate in community improvement efforts?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

How would you most likely participate? (choose all that apply)

- ☐ Volunteering time
- ☐ Sharing ideas or feedback
- ☐ Training programs
- ☐ Community meetings
- ☐ Youth activities
- ☐ Coaching or mentoring youth
- ☐ Environmental activities
- ☐ Other: _____

Looking Forward

If one thing could improve life in Punta Gorda Town in the next five years, what should it be?

Your answer

Is there anything important we did not ask?

Your answer

The End - THANK YOU

Thank you for sharing your views and experiences about Punta Gorda Town.

Your responses will help the Rotary Club of Punta Gorda better understand community priorities and guide future service projects based on public input.

All responses are anonymous and will be combined with others to prepare a community assessment report that will be shared publicly in the coming months.

We appreciate your time and your contribution to helping improve our community.

Appendix C: Community Validation Meeting Summary

Rotary Club of Punta Gorda Community Assessment

1. Purpose of the Validation Meeting

The public validation meeting was held to share the main findings of the Community Assessment, receive community feedback, test whether Rotary's interpretation reflected community perspectives, and discuss possible future directions and partnerships emerging from the assessment process. The validation meeting also helped confirm and refine the Rotary Club's interpretation of the assessment data and emerging priorities.

2. Meeting Overview

- Date: 26 May 2026
- Location: Punta Gorda Welcome Center
- Approximately 32 community members attended in person.
- PGTV livestreamed the meeting live on Facebook, with an estimated reach of approximately 1.6K people.
- The recording of the livestream later reached approximately 3.6K views.
- Love FM and PGTV attended the meeting and conducted media coverage and interviews.
- Several community members also requested electronic copies of the assessment report following the meeting.

3. Presentation Overview

The meeting included presentations on the assessment process, key findings, interpretation of the findings, community strengths, sustainability lessons, and possible flagship direction concepts emerging from the assessment. Presenters emphasized that the identified concepts were discussion ideas only and that no final projects or funding decisions had been made.

4. Main Themes Raised During Discussion

Youth Opportunity and Participation

- Participants repeatedly emphasized the need for practical opportunities for youth.
- Discussion highlighted interest in skills linked to real employment and income generation.
- Mentorship, structured activities, and youth engagement were repeatedly mentioned.
- Some comments reflected concern that youth participation in public discussions remains challenging.

Employment and Economic Opportunity

- Community members discussed the limited number of local job opportunities.
- Manufacturing/productive sector and tourism-related opportunities were suggested as possible areas for future development.
- Participants emphasized the importance of training that connects to realistic employment pathways.

Sustainability and Follow-Through

- Participants repeatedly stressed that projects should be sustainable and continue over time.
- Concerns were raised about projects that stop when funding or coordination ends.
- Questions were asked regarding implementation timelines and realistic next steps.

Environment and Community Pride

- Participants raised concerns about plastics and environmental cleanliness.
- Healthy lifestyles and community participation were also discussed.
- Comments reflected interest in community improvement and environmental stewardship.

Partnerships and Coordination

- Questions were raised regarding Rotary's relationship with Town Council and other organizations.
- Participants discussed the importance of public-private cooperation and partnerships.
- Representatives from organizations including DYS participated in the discussion.
- Comments also highlighted inclusion concerns related to children and youth with disabilities.

5. Public Response to the Integrated / Flagship Direction Approach

Overall discussion generally supported the interpretation that many community issues are interconnected and cannot be fully addressed through isolated projects alone. Participants showed interest in practical, partnership-based approaches that connect youth opportunity, skills development, mentorship, economic opportunity, community participation, and sustainability.

6. Key Reflections and Lessons Learned

- The validation meeting provided valuable additional perspectives and helped confirm several major assessment themes.
- The livestream significantly expanded community reach beyond those physically present at the meeting.
- Public discussion formats remain more comfortable for adults than youth, suggesting that additional youth-focused engagement approaches may still be beneficial.
- Community members demonstrated strong interest in practical implementation, partnerships, and long-term sustainability.

- The meeting reinforced the importance of realistic planning, coordination, and continued consultation as project concepts continue to develop.
- Rotary recognizes that continued engagement with additional youth voices, organizations, and stakeholders will remain important as concepts continue to develop.

7. Conclusion

The Community Validation Meeting generally confirmed that the Rotary Club of Punta Gorda's interpretation of the assessment findings reflected many of the concerns, priorities, and ideas raised by community members. The meeting also generated additional suggestions, partnership ideas, and implementation considerations that will help inform future project and partnership development. Rotary will use the findings and feedback from the assessment and validation process to help guide future feasibility discussions, partnership exploration, and project development priorities.