



Future Vision Plan Sustainability and Rotary Foundation Global Grants

Rotary Foundation Global Grants support large, grant-funded activities that relate to one or more of the six areas of focus and have a long-term impact. Clubs and districts can either create their own global grant-funded activities or sponsor packaged global grants that The Rotary Foundation develops in cooperation with its strategic partners. One requirement of a global grant is that activities must be sustainable and measurable.

What is sustainability?

The Rotary Foundation defines sustainability as the capacity for maintaining outcomes long-term to serve the ongoing need of a community after grant funds have been expended.

What are The Rotary Foundation’s principles of sustainability?

The Foundation’s principles of sustainability provide Rotarians with a guide to incorporating sustainability into their projects and activities. These eight principles are stated below, along with examples for putting them into action:

- 1) Global grants include activities and safeguards that continue a project’s impact after Foundation funding is fully expended.

Rotarians developing a water and sanitation project add a reasonable user fee to ensure that funds are available for ongoing maintenance of the water system as needed and that the local community feels ownership and remains invested in the project over the long term.

- 2) Global grants work toward multiple levels of sustainability.

Resource	Rotarians developing a water project ensure that the proposed technology uses resources that are available, easy to access, and not destructive to the local environment.
Economic	The project’s ongoing source of funds covers maintenance and any necessary improvements.
Cultural	Rotarians take cultural norms into account by including the local and traditional officials who should take part in the decision making process.
Social	Rotarians take social norms into account, such as gender roles and how men and women can participate in the project successfully.

- 3) Global grants make use of local resources, regional input, and local knowledge as much as possible.

Rotarians developing a maternal and child health project in a rural area include traditional birthing attendants, who incorporate traditional healing methods, along with new, innovative approaches to health care. The beneficiaries are more likely to embrace new techniques if traditional means of health care are also respected.

- 4) Global grants respect the natural resource base and avoid deterioration or destruction of the local environment.

Rotarians planning a small business development project target businesses that use sustainable materials in their production process and that don’t produce pollution-generating goods or services.

- 5) Global grants attempt to reach the most beneficiaries possible.

Rotarians developing a malaria prevention project select an area for bed net distribution where the greatest numbers of people are at risk of infection or where bed nets are scarcest.

- 6) Global grants prepare scholars and individuals to contribute to new and innovative methods in professional fields within a Foundation area of focus.

Rotarians developing a basic education and literacy project want to support a scholar in the study of adult literacy methods. They discuss the area of focus goals with candidates and ask them to identify how their studies and future career path may advance these goals.

- 7) Global grants prepare participants to increase impact and improve effectiveness in the communities and vocations in which they work.

Rotarians develop an economic and community development project that sends a vocational training team to a developing country to train small business entrepreneurs to market their services. The training curriculum also includes a “train the trainer” component to ensure that the knowledge can be passed on to the greatest number of individuals. They also ensure that the training program is given to a group that can truly use and apply the skills.

- 8) Global grants utilize the input and skills of grassroots individuals and groups, such as Rotary Community Corps, to ensure continuation of projects and activities.

Rotarians incorporate the assistance of Rotary Community Corps members in building interest in project activities as well as using their local support and guidance to assist with ongoing monitoring and evaluation.