



SIX STEPS TO SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability means different things to different organizations. For Rotary, sustainability means providing long-term solutions to community needs that the beneficiaries can maintain after grant funding ends. Here are six steps that can make your project sustainable:

1) Assess community needs

Have local sponsors conduct a thorough assessment to identify a community need that the sponsors can address in a way that fits beneficiaries' values and culture. Involve multiple community partners in the planning process.

2) Use local materials

Purchase equipment and technology from local sources when possible. Be sure that spare parts are readily available. Involve community members in the selection of technology and equipment, and train them to operate, maintain, and repair it on their own.

3) Identify a local funding source

Confirm the existence of a local funding source to support a project's long-term operation, maintenance and repair. Compensate the project's suppliers and vendors appropriately so they will have an incentive to continue providing services.

4) Provide training, education, and outreach

By providing training, education, and community outreach you will strengthen beneficiaries' ability to meet project objectives. Confirm that there is a plan in place to transfer knowledge to new beneficiaries. Collaborate with local agencies and organizations to supply needed expertise.

5) Motivate beneficiaries to take ownership

Provide incentives for beneficiaries and project participants to continue their support. Identify individuals willing to lead beneficiaries in sustaining project outcomes. Prepare the community to assume ownership of the project once grant funds are expended.

6) Monitor and evaluate

Develop clear and measurable project objectives, and identify methods for collecting project data. Establish baseline data that can be used to demonstrate significant change for at least three years.