Future Vision: A successful pilot, an exciting prospect

“To do the most good requires saying no to pressures to stray, and the discipline to stop doing what does not fit.”  
— Jim Collins, Good to Great

“The Future Vision pilot has been a success in that larger-scope projects are being undertaken. A consequence — perhaps unintended — is clubs working together to accomplish these projects. The result is greater good being done at the project sites, and goodwill and better friendships at the participating club level.”  
— Brian Bishop, District 7980 (Connecticut, USA)

| Project: Water and sanitation global grant in Sierra Leone |
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| **Rotary club sponsors:** Freetown, Sierra Leone & Fishers, Indiana, USA |
| **Cooperating organization:** World Hope International |
| **Project budget:** $303,517 |
| **Results:** Rural communities had 71 wells installed that will serve 71,000 people and established community committees to maintain the wells for the long-term. |
| **High praise:** “With the contribution of water wells from Rotary International, Sierra Leone will go a long way in providing safe, clean water and healthy living for people.”  
— Ernest Bai Koroma, president of Sierra Leone |

72% of pilot districts say that host sponsors now have greater control over the project.

| Project: Economic and community development global grant scholarship |
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| **Sponsors:** Districts 9600 (part of Queensland, Australia; Papua New Guinea; and Solomon Islands) and 1600 (The Netherlands) |
| **Project budget:** $30,000 |
| **Results:** Australian Alex Dalley is pursuing a master’s degree in business administration at Erasmus University in the Netherlands, which he plans to use in building relationships between large global agricultural retailers and small farmers in developing countries. |
| **Quotable:** “If you can establish a modern, sustainable distribution and supply chain between small farmers and various food markets, governments will be more inclined to improve roads, power, and infrastructure.”  
— Alex Dalley |

90% of pilot districts say the new grant model is excellent or good.

“We’re seeing an increase in giving to The Rotary Foundation because of the opportunities Rotarians have to use district grant money in their own communities. So district grants are a win all the way around.”  
— Pam Russell, District 5340 (California, USA)

“We have a total of 16 clubs participating in the district grants program in just the first two years. Under the previous Matching Grant and District Simplified Grant schemes, we had at most only three or four clubs participating in any one year. We are also increasing our number of Rotarians making personal donations via EREY, the Sustaining Member Club, and the Paul Harris Society.”  
— Joanne Schilling, District 9550 (Northern Territory and part of Queensland, Australia, and Timor-Leste)

All monetary amounts are in U.S. dollars. Percentages reflect responses from pilot district surveys.
Project: Disease prevention and treatment global grant vocational training team in Uganda

Sponsors: Districts 6560 (Indiana, USA) and 9200 (Entrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda)

Project budget: $77,284

Results: U.S. surgeons and other medical staff performed lifesaving surgeries on 11 young people in Uganda and trained Ugandan medical personnel in specialized pediatric heart surgery and postoperative care.

Notable assistance: The team's visit was coordinated by Grace Agwaru, of the Rotary Club of Soroti Central, Uganda, who was the first person to receive heart surgery through a Rotarian-sponsored Gift of Life program.

"Smaller clubs have begun to embrace the process and to actively seek ways to work with other clubs — both within and outside our district — to create larger, more sustainable projects." — Cecelia Babkirk, District 5170 (California, USA)

Project: Disease prevention and treatment global grant in Mali

Rotary club sponsors: Bamako-Amitié, Mali & Capitol Hill (Washington, D.C.), USA

Project budget: $60,000

Results: Provision of insecticide-treated bed nets, physician services, and medications to help prevent and treat malaria, one of the principal causes of suffering and death in Mali.

Winning tactics: In Mali, a survey of local households targeted the number of bed nets needed. In the United States, Rotarians used social network Crowdrise to raise funds for the project.

Project: Basic education and literacy global grant vocational training team in South Africa and the United States

Sponsors: Districts 7980 (Connecticut, USA) and 9400 (Botswana, part of Mozambique, parts of South Africa, and Swaziland)

Project budget: $75,000

Results: Vocational training teams of early childhood educators from South Africa and the United States shared best practices, participated in online teacher training, visited preschools, and exchanged ideas on preparing young children for formal education.

Future plans: The teams plan to continue their collaboration, and the sponsors hope to establish pilot educational centers in South Africa.

"After clubs learned more . . . they showed their support for the Future Vision Plan, got a better grasp of district grants, and participated more actively. As a result, we had many meaningful projects in various areas." — District 2650 (Fukui, Kyoto, Nara, and Shiga, Japan)

Project: District grant

Sponsors: Clubs in District 5020 (parts of British Columbia, Canada, and Washington, USA)

Project budget: $187,889

Results: The grant funded more than 10 international projects (e.g., the installation of solar panels on the roofs of schools in Peru and the Philippines, and provision of books and teacher training in Kenya) and local projects (e.g., the purchase of defibrillators for school events, and scholarships for two students selected for their outstanding ambassadorial ability).

Why it worked: The clubs chose to sponsor such a large number and variety of projects because the Future Vision pilot enabled them to develop efforts that fit their capacity, passion, and expertise.