

## **AREAS OF FOCUS POLICY STATEMENTS (Purpose, Goals, & Suggested Activities)**

**PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION** Rotary supports training, education, and practices related to peacebuilding and conflict prevention through initiatives that help transform conflict in our communities and around the world.

**Area of Focus Statement of Purpose and Goals** To advance peacebuilding and prevent conflict by:

1. Enhancing the capacity of individuals and communities to transform conflict and build peace
2. Training community members in peace education, peace leadership, and conflict prevention and resolution
3. Providing services that help integrate vulnerable populations into society
4. Improving dialogue and community relations to determine how best to manage natural resources
5. Funding graduate scholarships for career-minded professionals related to peacebuilding and conflict prevention

### **Parameters for Eligibility**

The Rotary Foundation (TRF) considers the following activities to be within the scope of the Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention area of focus:

1. Group activities including workshops, trainings, and other programs that support peace leadership and education, Positive Peace, community integration of vulnerable populations, facilitated dialogue, communication, and conflict prevention and transformation
2. Education for youth on constructive ways to prevent, manage, and transform conflict, including after-school or community-based programming with robust peacebuilding and conflict-diversion activities
3. Training programs or campaigns to address conflict, or the risk of conflict, related to the use and management of natural resources
4. Legal, psychological, social, and rehabilitative services that help integrate vulnerable populations into society, including at-risk youth, refugees, trafficked people, and others affected by conflict or violence

**DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT** Rotary supports activities that reduce the causes and effects of disease. Projects strengthen the health care system by improving access to and expanding medical services, providing medical equipment, or training health care personnel.

**Area of Focus Statement of Purpose and Goals** Prevent and treat disease and support health by:

1. Improving the capacity of local health care professionals
2. Promoting disease prevention and treatment programs that limit the spread of communicable diseases and reduce the incidence and effect of noncommunicable diseases
3. Strengthening health care systems
4. Providing clinical treatment and rehabilitation for physical disabilities

5. Funding graduate scholarships for career-minded professionals related to disease prevention and treatment

### **Parameters for Eligibility**

TRF considers the following activities to be within the scope of the Disease Prevention and Treatment area of focus:

#### ***Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases***

1. Disease testing through projects such as health fairs, provided they include counseling and referrals or help admit patients for treatment
2. Educating community members and health care professionals about intervention strategies for preventing disease transmission
3. Providing equipment specifically to offer health care services to remote populations that lack access to the local primary care system
4. Supplying medical equipment to health care facilities. Equipment must meet current technology standards and satisfy environmental criteria for power, water, and air quality. Grant sponsors must provide proof of ownership and operational and maintenance plans, including documentation showing that personnel have received training on equipment operation and maintenance, or a training plan that ensures compliance with these requirements.
5. Providing surveillance systems, along with training, to track and monitor the diagnosis and treatment of disease
6. Treating communicable diseases through an approach that also helps prevent disease, improve the training of medical professionals, or enhance public health education to promote a community's long-term well-being
7. Preventing and controlling illnesses transmitted by mosquitoes and other vectors. High-priority projects will include identifying environmental hazards specific to vector-borne diseases and remedial strategies
8. Addressing environmental hazards related to infection and disease containment, such as disposal of medical waste in health care facilities

#### ***Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases***

1. Offering prevention and treatment services for physical and mental illnesses and related disabilities
2. Developing community education and early screening and treatment programs designed to reduce the incidence and prevalence of chronic diseases
3. Providing equipment specifically to offer health care services to remote populations that lack access to the local primary care system

4. Supplying medical equipment to health care facilities. Equipment must meet current technology standards and satisfy environmental criteria for power, water, and air quality. Grant sponsors must provide proof of ownership and operational and maintenance plans, including documentation showing that personnel received training on equipment operation and maintenance, or a training plan that ensures compliance with these requirements.
5. Providing lifesaving surgeries and surgeries to address congenital problems, provided they include assessing the beneficiary and ensuring follow-up care
6. Treating noncommunicable diseases, including mental illness, through an approach that also helps prevent disease, train health service professionals, or enhance public health education with measurable outcomes to promote a community's long-term well-being
7. Preventing traffic- or vehicle-related injuries, provided these projects can demonstrate measurable reductions in such injuries
8. Supplying vehicles, personnel, and equipment to provide emergency medical services. Ambulances must be new and purchased locally and include documentation of ownership, operation, maintenance, repair, and security systems by the appropriate health care facility.

**WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE** Rotary supports activities that encourage the management and protection of freshwater resources and provide universal and equitable access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene. TRF seeks to empower governments, institutions, and communities to manage their water, sanitation, and hygiene services through environmentally sound, measurable, and sustainable interventions.

**Area of Focus Statement of Purpose and Goals** Ensure communities have sustainable access to water, sanitation, and hygiene by:

1. Facilitating universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water
2. Improving water quality by protecting and maintaining surface- and groundwater resources, reducing pollution and contaminants, and promoting wastewater reuse
3. Facilitating universal and equitable access to improved sanitation and waste management services in order to achieve open defecation-free communities
4. Improving community hygiene knowledge, behaviors, and practices that help prevent the spread of disease
5. Strengthening the capacity of governments, institutions, and communities to develop, finance, manage, and maintain sustainable water and sanitation services
6. Funding graduate scholarships for career-minded professionals related to water, sanitation, and hygiene

#### **Parameters for Eligibility**

TRF considers the following activities to be within the scope of the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene area of focus:

1. Ensuring access to safe drinking water, including projects focused on water supply, storage, purification, treatment, and source water protection
2. Ensuring access to improved sanitation, defined as the collection, treatment, and disposal of human excreta or urine through sanitation infrastructure and fecal-sludge management, treatment, and disposal
3. Providing hygiene education that promotes healthy behaviors such as hand washing, safe disposal of human waste, safe water storage, and proper menstrual hygiene. The program must identify the factors that prevent or encourage positive behaviors and describe how to address barriers.
4. Providing solid waste management systems, defined as the process of collecting, treating, and disposing of solid waste materials
5. Using watershed management practices to protect source water and recharge surface and groundwater resources
6. Supplying water for crop, livestock, and fisheries production
7. Developing sustainable management practices to support water and sanitation services, including community governance, financing and planning, system maintenance, and delivery
8. Organizing strategic advocacy initiatives to encourage regional, national, and local authorities to implement policies that support sustainable access to water, sanitation, and hygiene. These include allocating funding for related services, establishing standards and guidelines, and developing processes for certifying communities as open defecation-free.

**MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH** Rotary supports activities and training to improve maternal health and reduce mortality for children under five. Projects strengthen the health care system by improving access to and expanding medical services, providing medical equipment, and training health care personnel.

**Area of Focus Statement of Purpose and Goals** Improve the health of mothers and their children by:

1. Reducing the neonatal and newborn mortality rate
2. Reducing the mortality and morbidity rate of children under five
3. Reducing the maternal mortality and morbidity rate
4. Improving access to essential medical services, trained community health workers, and health care providers
5. Funding graduate scholarships for career-minded professionals related to maternal and child health

**Parameters for Eligibility**

TRF considers the following activities to be within the scope of the Maternal and Child Health area of focus:

1. Maternal prenatal, delivery, and antenatal care

2. Training or “train the trainer” initiatives for maternal and child community health care workers and medical professionals
3. Projects that provide medical equipment to health care facilities. Equipment must meet current technology standards and satisfy environmental criteria for power, water, and air quality. Grant sponsors must provide proof of ownership and operational and maintenance plans, including documentation showing that personnel received training on equipment operation and maintenance, or a training plan that ensures compliance. Equipment projects must include educational activities for women related to healthy pregnancy, delivery, or neonatal care.
4. Education about and enhanced access to family planning and other sexual and reproductive health interventions and services available through the health care system
5. Immunizations for women, adolescent girls, and children under five
6. Interventions to combat pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria, measles, and other major causes of disease in women and children under five
7. Interventions to reduce the transmission and impact of sexually transmitted disease in adolescents and women.
8. Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV
9. Projects that promote breastfeeding and other actions that prevent, reduce, and treat the effects of malnutrition
10. Lifesaving surgeries and surgeries to address congenital problems, provided they include assessing the beneficiaries and ensuring follow-up care
11. Projects that address environmental hazards related to the containment of infection and transmission of disease, such as disposal of medical waste in health care facilities

**BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY** Rotary supports activities and training to improve education for all children, and literacy for children and adults.

**Area of Focus Statement of Purpose and Goals** Ensure that all people have sustainable access to basic education and literacy by:

1. Supporting programs that strengthen a community’s ability to provide basic education and literacy to all
2. Increasing adult literacy
3. Working to reduce gender disparity in education
4. Funding graduate scholarships for career-minded professionals related to basic education and literacy

**Parameters for Eligibility**

TRF considers the following activities to be within the scope of the Basic Education and Literacy area of focus:

1. Improving academic outcomes at the early childhood, primary, and secondary levels, in collaboration with local school officials
2. Educating adults in reading, writing, and numeracy skills
3. Providing professional development opportunities for teachers with a qualified trainer in curriculum implementation, effective instructional methods, or student assessments
4. Strengthening basic educational outcomes by providing improved learning materials and facilities supported by enhanced curricula and new professional development for teachers
5. Improving academic support for before- and after-school programs by training tutors and teachers, conducting student assessments, and providing equipment if needed
6. Supporting educators' ability to help students with physical or developmental disabilities achieve greater academic outcomes by providing professional development opportunities for teachers and staff, as well as basic educational materials and enhanced facilities if needed

**COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** Rotary supports investments in people and communities to alleviate poverty, creating measurable and enduring economic improvements in poor and underserved areas.

**Area of Focus Statement of Purpose and Goals** TRF enables Rotarians to alleviate poverty by:

1. Building the capacity of local leaders, organizations, and networks to support economic development in poor communities
2. Developing opportunities for productive work and improving access to sustainable livelihoods
3. Empowering marginalized communities by providing access to economic opportunities and services
4. Building the capacity of entrepreneurs, social businesses, and locally supported business innovators
5. Addressing gender or class disparities that prevent populations from obtaining productive work and accessing markets and financial services
6. Increasing access to renewable energy and energy-efficiency measures to create more sustainable and economically resilient communities
7. Empowering communities to develop environmental and natural resource conservation skills for economic gain
8. Strengthening communities' economic resilience and adaptive capacity in response to environmental and climate-related hazards and natural disasters
9. Developing and supporting community-based basic emergency preparedness services to improve economic resilience
10. Funding graduate scholarships for career-minded professionals related to community economic development

## **Parameters for Eligibility**

TRF considers the following activities to be within the scope of the Community Economic Development area of focus:

1. Providing poor communities with access to financial services, including microcredit, mobile banking, savings, and insurance
2. Offering training related to community economic development, including entrepreneurship, community leadership, vocational skills, and financial literacy
3. Developing community members' economic and employment potential through leadership training and empowerment tools, especially through initiatives for women, refugees, and young adults
4. Supporting small-business, cooperative, or social-enterprise development and income-generating activities for the poor, including organizing area-wide businesses that provide employment
5. Furthering agricultural development for subsistence and small farmers, including building capacity and facilitating access to financial markets and capital
6. Organizing community-led and -coordinated adopt-a-village initiatives, or comprehensive community development activities
7. Supporting equal and effective economic opportunities for women, refugees, and other marginalized populations
8. Providing access to renewable, clean, and efficient energy through sustainable, locally purchased, and innovative technology, as well as substantial training directly connected to economic outcomes
9. Training communities in conservation and resource management to help them preserve, protect, and sustainably use natural resources for their economic benefit and growth
10. Improving communities' ability to adapt to environmental and climatic changes through capacity building, and developing sustainable economic activities
11. Providing training and basic resources to support basic emergency preparedness initiatives and enhance communities' economic resilience, including fire prevention and natural disaster preparedness

**ENVIRONMENT.** Rotary supports activities that strengthen the conservation and protection of natural resources, advance environmental sustainability, and foster harmony between people and the environment.

## **Area of Focus, Statement of Purpose, Goals, and Parameters for Eligibility**

The Rotary Foundation enables Rotary members to protect, preserve, and conserve the environment by:

1. Protecting and restoring land, coastal, marine, and freshwater resources.

- a. Protecting and restoring terrestrial ecosystems and improving their resiliency through initiatives such as promoting reforestation, preventing deforestation, planting native vegetation, restoring habitats, and removing invasive plant and animal species
  - b. Preserving biodiversity by protecting and restoring habitats, conserving native species, removing invasive plant and animal species, conserving, and protecting endangered species, and preventing poaching and the illegal wildlife trade
  - c. Supporting strategies and targeted initiatives to improve aquifer and groundwater recharging, water conservation, water quality, sanitation, and watershed management (adhering to the policy statements and guidelines for the water, sanitation, and hygiene area of focus)
  - d. Protecting and restoring coastal, marine, and freshwater ecosystems through initiatives such as habitat restoration, protecting and propagating native plant and animal species, removing invasive plant and animal species, addressing overfishing, pollution, coastal erosion, and ocean acidification
2. Enhancing the capacities of communities and local governments to natural resource management and conservation
    - a. Developing peacebuilding and conflict prevention initiatives related to the management and use of natural resources (adhering to the policy statements and guidelines for the peacebuilding and conflict prevention area of focus)
    - b. Mitigating human-wildlife conflict through ecologically sound and peaceful resolutions
    - c. Training and educating communities in conservation and resource management to preserve, protect, and sustainably use natural resources
3. Supporting agroecology and sustainable agriculture, fishing, and aquaculture practices to improve ecological health
    - a. Creating awareness of and supporting ecologically viable agriculture through activities such as regenerative agriculture, conservation agriculture, managed grazing, silvopasture, and tree intercropping
    - b. Supporting sustainable fisheries and ecologically sound aquaculture (adhering to the policy statements and guidelines for the community economic development area of focus)
    - c. Promoting the use of traditional and Indigenous knowledge in agricultural, land, ocean, and natural resource management practices
    - d. Improving food security through sustainable agricultural, aquacultural, and fishing methods, enhanced local food production and consumption, reduction of food waste, and equitable access to high-quality food
4. Addressing the causes of climate change and climate disruption and supporting solutions to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases
    - a. Providing access to locally sourced, renewable energy, including solar, methane-capture, and small-scale wind and hydropower systems, as part of holistic interventions to mitigate climate change and disruption
    - b. Providing clean-cooking technologies as part of a holistic approach to reduce or eliminate the burning of biomass and fossil fuels that results in deforestation, degraded land, or increased air pollution
    - c. Providing clean-cooking technologies as part of a holistic approach to reduce or eliminate the burning of biomass and fossil fuels that results in deforestation, degraded land, or increased air pollution



- d. Supporting the transition to sustainable, energy-efficient transportation modes through holistic urban and regional planning, education, and infrastructure changes
- 5. Strengthening the resilience of ecosystems and communities affected by climate change and climate disruption
  - a. Supporting adaptation and resiliency strategies for ecosystems and communities affected by climate-related events, with an emphasis on vulnerable segments of the population
- 6. Supporting education to promote behaviors that protect the environment.
  - a. Supporting environmental education programming in schools that aligns with local government (adhering to the policy statements and guidelines for the basic education and literacy area of focus)
  - b. Promoting community-based environmental education, environmental awareness and advocacy initiatives, and strategies to facilitate engagement and behavior change to support environmentally sustainable living, environmental protection, and sustainable development
- 7. Advocating for the sustainable of products and the environmentally sound management of byproducts to build a more resource-efficient economy
  - a. Supporting community planning efforts to strengthen circular economies through composting, recycling, upcycling, and repurposing programs (for solid waste management projects, adhering to the policy statement and guidelines for the water, sanitation, and hygiene area of focus)
  - b. Promoting efficient food consumption by reducing food waste by local businesses and households
- 8. Addressing environmental justice and environmental public health concerns
  - a. Addressing adverse environmental public health impacts in communities through education, outreach, and advocacy
  - b. Eliminating and reducing exposure to environmental toxins in homes, schools, and communities within vulnerable and marginalized populations
  - c. Increasing equitable access to organic, healthy, and nutritious food for vulnerable and marginalized populations

See the *Areas of Focus Policy Statements* at [www.myrotary.org](http://www.myrotary.org) for a complete description of the Areas of Focus as of October 2020.