



RI & USAID Global Development Alliance

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the RI/USAID Global Development Alliance?

The RI/USAID Global Development Alliance (GDA) is an alliance between Rotary International and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) that was created to implement water, sanitation and hygiene projects in the developing world.

2. What is USAID?

USAID is the U.S. government agency that provides economic, development and humanitarian assistance around the world in support of the foreign policy goals of the United States. Some of the areas in which USAID works include:

- economic growth, agriculture and trade
- environment
- education
- global health
- democracy and governance
- humanitarian assistance

For more information about USAID, please visit www.usaid.gov.

3. What is the Global Development Alliance (GDA)?

The Global Development Alliance (GDA) is an innovative public-private alliance model developed and used by USAID for improving social and economic conditions in developing countries. The GDA combines the assets and experience of strategic partners, such as RI, leveraging their capital and investments, creativity and access to markets to solve complex problems facing government, business, and communities. The RI/USAID alliance is an official USAID GDA. To find out more about GDA, please visit www.usaid.gov/our_work/global_partnerships/gda.

4. How did the alliance begin?

USAID distributed a paper in October 2005 to Rotary representatives sharing opportunities for partnership, and after further discussion a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed in April 2007 between the two organizations. As a result of the MOU, a steering committee was formed in June 2008 and a project manager hired in August 2008. The MOU was renewed by the Board at its November 2008 meeting.

5. What does the alliance hope to accomplish?

During an initial 18 month time frame, the following goals will be achieved:

- RI/USAID will establish a functioning Global Development Alliance with mechanisms that permit joint activity in water, sanitation, and hygiene at a significant scale.
- The GDA will initiate water projects in at least three focal countries around the world (one each in Asia, Africa, and Latin America).
- The GDA will have long-term strategic, financial, operational, communication, technology, and monitoring and evaluation plans in place to ensure continuation of activities beyond the initial term.

6. What is the role of the project manager?

The project manager serves as the liaison between Rotary International and USAID and oversees the implementation of projects the alliance undertakes. For information on how to contact the project manager, please refer to question 15.



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7. Why is water, sanitation and hygiene an important humanitarian issue selected by RI and USAID?

Today, more than 1.1 billion people lack access to safe drinking water; 2.5 billion people lack access to improved sanitation. Each year 1.8 million people — 90 percent of them children under five — die from preventable diarrheal diseases. Diarrheal diseases and related malnutrition account for virtually all of the deaths and nearly 90 percent of the overall disease burden associated with unsafe water supply, sanitation, and hygiene. Therefore, activities to improve water supply, sanitation, and hygiene are key health interventions. (Source: *Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act Report to Congress June 2008*)

The Millennium Development Goals (MDG) address this situation in the seventh goal: Ensure Environmental Sustainability. Within that goal is the target to, “Halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.”

8. Who is on the Steering Committee and when does the committee meet?

The Steering Committee is made up of:

- Trustee William B. Boyd, Chairman
- Director-elect Thomas M. Thorfinnson
- Past District Governor and WASRAG Chair, F. Ronald Denham
- James Robinson, Humanitarian Grants Division Manager, The Rotary Foundation
- Sharon Murray, Ph.D., Freshwater Program Manager, USAID
- John Borrazzo, Ph.D., Chief, Maternal and Child Health Division, USAID

The committee's first meeting was held 25 September 2008 in Evanston. The second meeting will be held 10 March 2009 in Evanston. Meetings will be held approximately every six months. Contact between meetings is maintained by conference calls.

9. In what countries will projects be implemented and how was that decision made?

The Steering Committee chose three focal countries for the first phase of the alliance, including one country in Africa, one in Asia, and one in Latin America. The countries chosen are Ghana, the Philippines, and the Dominican Republic. The decision was based on several strategic factors, including need, USAID earmarks for water and sanitation, willingness of Rotary clubs and USAID missions in the country to take on such projects, and club and district grant experience. After the initial phase, the alliance will evaluate its work and will strategically consider expanding into other countries.

10. When will the alliance be formally launched and how will it be publicized?

The alliance will be formally launched at the World Water Forum 2009, www.worldwaterforum5.org, in Istanbul, Turkey, 15 – 22 March 2009. This is in conjunction with World Water Day on 22 March 2009. In addition to the formal launch, *The Rotarian* and *Rotary World* will feature articles about the alliance in their April 2009 issues and a press release will be distributed to specific media outlets. The Project Manager and members of the Steering Committee will promote the alliance and explain its procedures and mechanisms to Rotary clubs and districts around the world through presentations, informational materials, and training.

11. What is the timeline for implementing the projects?

The timeline will be developed by the Steering Committee, although a tentative timeframe for the launch of the first project has been set for the 2009-10 Rotary year.



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12. How will Rotarians and Rotary clubs be involved?

Rotarians and Rotary clubs will be involved similarly to their involvement in other humanitarian (3H) grants. Rotary clubs and districts will apply for grants from The Rotary Foundation to implement water, sanitation and hygiene projects within the focal countries. These projects will be supported and complemented by USAID Missions in country.

13. How is project funding organized between RI and USAID?

The alliance is using a parallel funding model which means that 50% of the funds will be raised by RI and the other 50% of the funds will be raised by USAID. The funds raised by RI and USAID will be distributed separately and independently. This allows for budgeting, expenditures and reporting mechanisms to be kept completely separate between the two organizations.

14. How is this alliance related to the Future Vision Plan?

While the alliance was originally developed separately from the Future Vision Plan, the concept of strategic partnerships with other organizations has become a vital part of TRF's new grant making model. Rotary Foundation Global Grants will work to package large scale projects with other organizations to leverage funding, advocacy and technical expertise to then develop projects for Rotarians to implement. The alliance comes at a crucial time as the Foundation works to develop packaged projects and allows TRF to explore the concepts of the Future Vision model through this alliance. So while the alliance and the Future Vision Plan are not directly connected, the alliance will in many ways serve as an example of how TRF can work with strategic partners in future.

15. Who do I contact with questions about the alliance?

Please direct all questions about the alliance and its activities to:

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