

Example Expression of Interest—Sustainable Impact Foundation

This is an imaginary example with made-up “facts”; it represents one idea of many that we would be excited about. Our goal is to give candidates a sense of the level of detail and formality we hope to receive.

What is the applying program/organization?

We are the Sustainable Impact Foundation. We are applying as an entire organization, rather than a program area or other subset of a larger organization.

Please describe your goal(s) in no more than 300 words.

Our goal is to improve the livelihoods of the world’s poorest people in a sustainable way. We identify promising organizations – some with proven track records, others that are just beginning on their path to impact – who are also working toward this goal. We are committed to supporting lasting change for the communities in which we work, and to providing long-term, flexible support to our grantees. Most of our grantees focus on agriculture, early childhood development, and sanitation. They work in [[list of countries omitted]] – all with GNI per capita of less than \$1,045 – in communities with the highest need.

Please describe your strategy to achieve these goal(s) in no more than 300 words.

We provide our portfolio organizations with multi-year grants to scale promising interventions in our three main focus areas. There are two key throughlines of our strategy:

The first is an emphasis on evaluation. Approximately 20% of our annual funding goes to organizations that provide impact evaluations for livelihood interventions targeting the world’s poorest people. These organizations specialize across the types of evaluations needed to unlock scale. Sometimes, what’s needed is a small test in another location to solidify a proof of concept; other times, it’s an increase in the intervention’s size to understand community-level effects and to attract the interest of other funders. Based on years of thoughtful work, many of our portfolio organizations have built trust with local policymakers to whom they provide technical and strategic advice.

The second is an emphasis on cultivating excellent leadership. Whether we are helping a new organization establish itself and its reputation or a proven organization reach a new level of scale, we have found that the most important determinant of success is the organization's leadership team. For this reason, we host a yearlong fellowship program for grantee leaders aimed at developing their expertise.

You can read more about our strategy on our website, including several publicly-available papers published by our grantees, here: [\[\[link omitted\]\]](#). We translate our work into [\[\[languages omitted\]\]](#), making them more accessible to policymakers and researchers.

Please describe the biggest accomplishments which your grants have enabled in the last five years in no more than 300 words.

It is difficult to choose one example, given the breadth of our work and the variety of ways we measure success. That said, we are particularly proud of our support for ABC in [\[\[country omitted\]\]](#) which focuses on increasing the use of local language instruction. We're excited about this because of the evidence base on how local language instruction substantially increases functional literacy rates.

We have funded ABC for over five years, including through their recent expansion from one to four countries. In collaboration with researchers at [\[\[organization name omitted\]\]](#), ABC develops detailed literacy and numeracy lesson plans in the relevant local language for primary-school teachers. In 2021, ABC provided a five-day training course and reusable, physical teaching materials to over 1,000 teachers. Please see this document for a detailed summary of the communities they operate in: [\[\[link omitted\]\]](#).

ABC has already seen promising initial results on reading among students with fewer than five years of schooling. In collaboration with another organization in our portfolio, [\[\[name omitted\]\]](#), ABC has created an ambitious monitoring program that will allow them to measure a wide range of student outcomes as far as ten years into the future. You can read more about that collaboration and the first set of results here: [\[\[link omitted\]\]](#). ABC is now considering expanding its remit to tackle a number of other issues intimately tied to learning outcomes, including access to schooling, school-related violence, and early childhood nutrition.

What was your annual grantmaking budget between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2021?

Over the three-year period listed, we supported [\[\[number omitted\]\]](#) of organizations with \$45 million in total funding. Here is an approximate breakdown by calendar year:

- \$18 million in 2019

- \$12 million in 2020
- \$15 million in 2021

Our grantmaking was lower than expected in 2020 and 2021, as COVID-19 disrupted the activities of several of our portfolio organizations and several planned grants were delayed.