



# GRANT MODEL EVALUATION SUMMARY (2018-19)

## BACKGROUND

At the end of the Future Vision pilot, the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation approved a comprehensive evaluation of the grant model to begin three years after the global launch of the new model and every three years after that. The purpose is to assess how satisfied Rotarians are with the new model, gauge their agreement with and understanding of the six areas of focus, and assess the sustainability of global grant projects. The evaluation also serves to review issues that arose during the pilot and the first years of global launch of the new grant model.

The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers and Secretariat staff members conducted the evaluation. The Cadre's technical expertise allowed us, for the first time, to complete a grant evaluation without external consultants.

The evaluation included survey responses from nearly 2,800 people representing 128 countries. Some 138 Rotarians with a range of involvement in Rotary grants shared their experience and perspectives through global focus groups. Cadre members visited 59 sites to review projects' sustainability and 38 sites to gather feedback from people who benefited from the projects.

The collection of qualitative and quantitative data from surveys and focus groups began in July 2018; sustainability site visits were conducted in 2016-17, 2017-18, and the first half of 2018-19. Where it was possible, data was collected to compare with the 2015-16 grant model evaluation.

The evaluation examined:

- Rotarian satisfaction with the grant model
- Rotarian agreement with the six areas of focus
- Rotarian understanding of the area of focus eligibility requirements
- Sustainability of global grant projects in the areas of focus, including feedback from beneficiaries

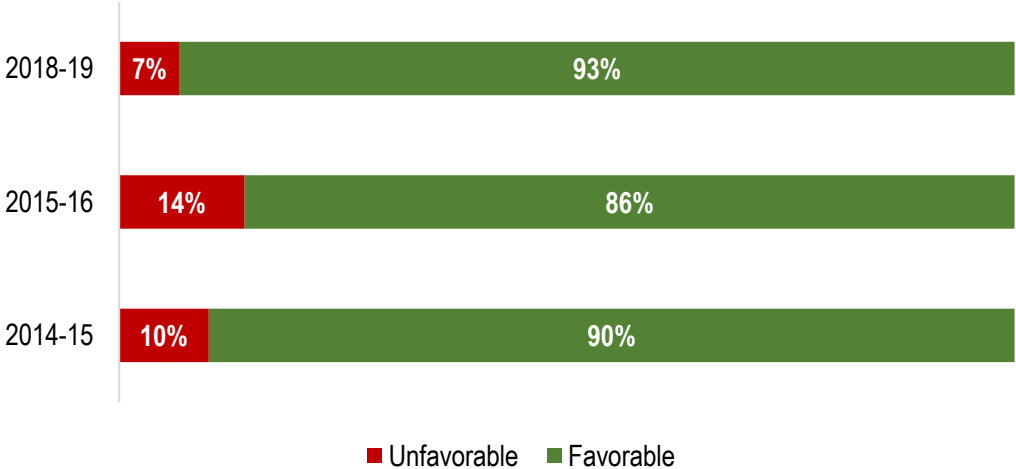
The findings of the grant model evaluation were shared with the Area of Focus Review Committee in March 2019, and with the Programs Committee and the Trustees in April 2019.

# KEY FINDINGS

## ROTARIAN SATISFACTION

- Since the launch, the number of approved global grants has risen 50 percent, the average global grant award amount has risen 21 percent, and the average district grant award amount has risen 16 percent.
- Disease prevention and treatment is the most common area of focus for global grants.
- 93 percent of global grant sponsor survey respondents agree with the statement: “The current grant model is an improvement over the former model.” This indicates that Rotarian satisfaction has risen back to the level it was during the Future Vision pilot. Many Rotarians were optimistic about the grant model when it launched in 2013-14, and their satisfaction dropped slightly in the early years when they had to actually adjust to the new model. Now that Rotarians have several years of experience with it, their satisfaction with the current grant model is back to where it was originally.

The current grant model is an improvement over the former grant model

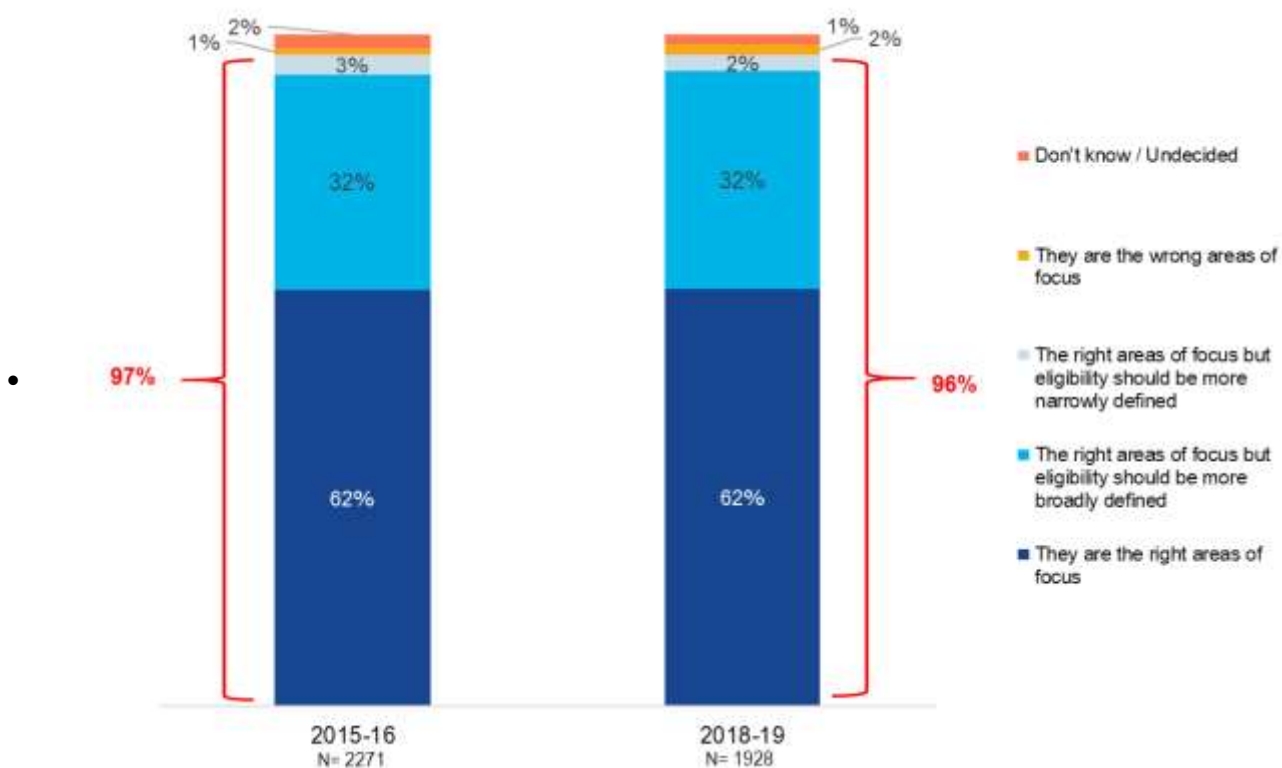


## SUSTAINABILITY

- The evaluation assessed the potential for global grant projects to produce sustainable outcomes for the beneficiaries.
- 73 percent of grant sponsor survey respondents felt it was very important that Rotary be able to communicate about the sustainability of its projects.
- 62 percent of grant sponsor survey respondents felt they were well-prepared to implement sustainability requirements, and 60 percent felt the requirements were clear. Yet only 29 percent felt it was easy to incorporate sustainable elements into their project design.

## AREAS OF FOCUS

- 96 percent of global grant sponsor survey respondents agree that Rotary is working in the right areas of focus.



- Of those Rotarians who agree that the six areas of focus are right for Rotary, 32 percent feel the areas of focus should be defined more broadly, and 2 percent feel they should be defined more narrowly.
- Although the concept of adding the environment as an area of focus was not directly studied, feedback from surveys and focus groups revealed significant interest in this area, particularly among Rotaractors and alumni.

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- Many Rotarians understand the importance of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) when implementing projects but still find it difficult to implement M&E in practical terms.
- Cadre observations of monitoring and evaluation systems in Level II (World Fund match over \$50,000) and Level III (World Fund match over \$100,000) projects show how a lack of useful monitoring and evaluation can hurt the ability to implement a project successfully.

## **BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY**

- Basic education and literacy ranks as the priority cause to support among Rotarians, Rotaractors, Alumni and non-Rotarians.
- The basic education and literacy sustainability score was the lowest of all areas of focus. The strong focus on technology, training, and purchasing equipment may be a factor.

## **DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT**

- Disease prevention and treatment once again has the highest number of global grant approvals and total award amounts each year.
- Rotarians' interest in disease prevention and treatment goes beyond global grants — this area also has the highest number of Rotarian Action Groups of any area of focus.

## **ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (NOW COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT)**

- Community economic development is the No. 2 preferred cause to support among Rotarians, Rotaractors, and non-Rotarians.
- Sustainability scores for community economic development projects increased slightly from 2015-16, and were higher than the overall average for all grants.

## **MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH**

- The goals and parameters of maternal and child health work are clear to Rotarians, who understand how to create eligible projects in this area of focus.
- Maternal and child health shows a significant percentage of vocational training team activity, higher than any other area of focus.

## **PEACE AND CONFLICT PREVENTION/RESOLUTION (NOW PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION)**

- Peacebuilding and conflict prevention remains the lowest in terms of grant activity. Scholarships comprise most of the activity.
- Survey data suggests that many Rotarians are unsure of how to design and implement a peacebuilding and conflict prevention project.

## **WATER AND SANITATION (NOW WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE)**

- Grant activity shows Rotarian strengths in certain kinds of projects, such as water supply and WASH in Schools.

- The interim monitor reports (from site visits the Cadre conducted midway through the implementation of a project) noted that water, sanitation, and hygiene projects that contained a water supply component also included elements that enhanced and increased sustainability.

### **VOCATIONAL TRAINING TEAMS**

- Survey respondents felt very comfortable with designing a vocational training team (93 percent) and aligning it with an area of focus (92 percent).
- 70 percent of survey respondents indicated that it was easy or moderately easy to organize a vocational training team, and 66 percent felt it was easy or moderately easy to develop a plan that aligned with the host community's needs. Both represent a large increase over 2015-16.

### **ACTIONS TAKEN**

- The Trustees approved retaining the existing six areas of focus.
- The [Area of Focus Policy Statements](#) were updated so that most areas include projects designed to protect the environment.
- The Trustees agreed that the grant model evaluation will now be conducted every five years with interim reports to the Foundation's Programs Committee. During the first year of the new evaluation cycle, the Research and Evaluation team will develop the questions and update the methodology that guides the evaluation.