

Innovations in Smart Power

Impact at Home and Abroad





Across America, our nation's most forward-thinking businesses and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are working with one another and with the federal government in innovative ways to tackle some of the toughest global problems. From food and water security, to disease prevention, to educating the next generation of world leaders, things are getting done in partnership.

Over the last year, the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition has traveled across the country to find some of the most effective programs making a difference not just overseas, but here at home in collaboration with international affairs agencies. We are pleased to bring you a sample of some of the finest.

Given the global marketplace, investing in global development and diplomacy is not just the right thing to do, it is also the smart thing to do. Programs supported through the U.S. International Affairs Budget are creating jobs here at home and building a better, safer world. That's innovation!



Bill Lane

Global Government Affairs Director
Caterpillar

Co-Chair
U.S. Global Leadership Coalition



Carolyn Miles

President and CEO
Save the Children

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Thanks to the generous support of:

Carlson
The Coca-Cola Company
Land O'Lakes
PYXERA Global

Making Safe Water

The Coca-Cola Company
& Inter-American Development
Bank (IDB)

Atlanta, GA

Not a Drop to Drink

Nearly 800 million people lack access to safe drinking water and only 1 percent of the world's water is available to drink. In developing countries, approximately 1.4 million children die each year as a result of consuming contaminated drinking water.

Refreshing Communities

Coca-Cola has created a modular, solar-powered, entrepreneur-operated kiosk called EKOCENTER, designed to offer safe drinking water—alongside services like wireless communication, electricity, goods, and medical storage. At the core of the EKOCENTER is a water purification device that can make most dirty water sources drinkable. By partnering with the IDB—funded by the U.S. International Affairs Budget, several American companies, and an NGO called TechnoServe—the EKOCENTERS will deliver approximately 500 million liters of safe drinking water by 2015 and create jobs in rural and developing communities in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

Return on Investment

Each EKOCENTER will create new economic opportunities and expand access to safe drinking water in thirsty communities throughout the developing world. Coca-Cola is dedicated to replenishing 100 percent of the water used in the company's beverages and will place EKOCENTERS around the globe in 2014 and 2015.



Ending Modern Slavery

Carlson, U.S. State Department,
& UN Global Compact

Minnetonka, MN

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery and one of the fastest growing criminal activities in the world, accounting for \$151 billion in illicit revenue annually. Approximately 27 million people are trafficked worldwide each year—becoming victims of violence and sexual exploitation. As many as 300,000 children in the U.S. become victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

Protecting Trafficking Victims

Hotels can act as unwitting way-stations in today's international slave trade, but they also play an important role in rescuing victims and identifying the perpetrators. Global hospitality and travel company Carlson began an innovative partnership with the U.S. State Department and the UN Global Compact to train nearly 3,000 of its employees across the hospitality industry on how to spot and report suspicious human trafficking activity. Carlson became a founding member of the Global Business Coalition Against Human Trafficking (gBCAT), earning the first *Presidential Award for Extraordinary Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons*, forging a path for other businesses to participate in fighting against human trafficking.

Return on Investment

Eradicating human trafficking is a top priority for the U.S. government and the private sector. President Obama directed his Cabinet to establish an interagency task force involving the State Department and Departments of Justice, Labor, and Homeland Security to focus on the issue of human trafficking.



**Observe
and Report.**

By abusing our
children, sex tourists
abuse our future.

Empowering Women Farmers

Land O'Lakes, MIT, &
U.S. Agency for International
Development (USAID)

Arden Hills, MN

Food & Financial Insecurity

In Tanzania, women make up over half of the agricultural work force, yet have limited access to financial resources; they even struggle to own land and livestock.

Empowering Women & Girls

Land O'Lakes International Development and USAID are partnering to help women farmers overcome barriers to financial and food security through the *Innovations in Gender Equality to Promote Household Food Security* program. Together with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's D-Lab, they are working with women to devise low-tech agricultural innovations using readily available local materials that will reduce women's labor burden in agriculture. The program is also providing grants to catalyze and scale up beneficial agricultural innovations, training women in leadership skills, and promoting policies that encourage gender equality.

Return on Investment

Food security is a major threat to global stability, and programs like IGE save lives and create stable communities. These efforts will directly impact at least 8,500 Tanzanians and raise awareness among up to 1 million households. With programs like these, food and agriculture companies like Land O'Lakes have improved the quality of life for millions, while empowering women and building a solid agricultural supply chain along the way.



Building a Healthier World

PYXERA Global, USAID, & Public Health Institute

Washington, DC

Lack of Healthcare Workers

Any prosperous community needs a strong healthcare system, but in emerging economies many communities lack the healthcare professionals, systems, and technologies they so desperately need.

Pro Bono Expertise

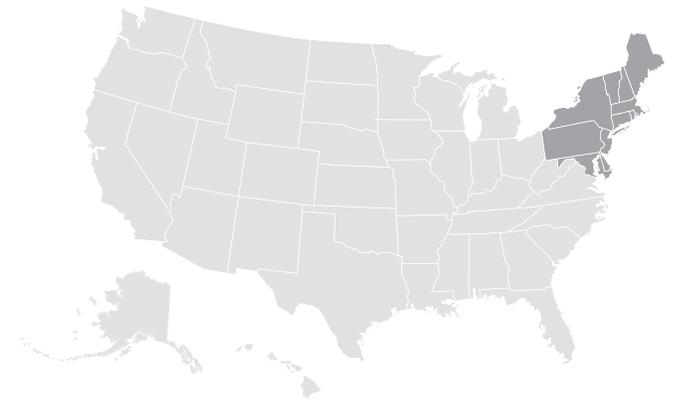
Supported by PYXERA Global, in partnership with USAID, health professionals from multinational companies are volunteering up to three months of their lives to help bring their own expertise to emerging and frontier markets. Through the Public Health Institute's Global Health Fellows Program II, private sector experts are spending their time in Africa, India, and Bangladesh, bringing advanced research and the latest medical technologies like e-medicine. This innovative partnership is helping build healthier communities with private sector knowhow to the doorsteps of the world's most underserved populations.

Return on Investment

A healthier world means a healthier America, and professionals from across the U.S. have volunteered over 1,900 days of their time in support of U.S. development efforts, enabling local communities to be trained to provide better healthcare for themselves.



Innovations from
The Northeast



Flushing Away Disease

Sanergy, Inc., & USAID
Cambridge, MA



A Sanitation Crisis

An estimated 1.7 million children die each year from preventable diarrheal diseases caused by poor sanitation. The problem is particularly acute in slums, where over 1 billion people live.

Turning Waste into Opportunity

Massachusetts startup company Sanergy designed a low-cost, high-quality sanitation solution called Fresh Life Toilets to turn waste into energy. Using a USAID Development Innovations Venture grant, Sanergy created a network of 60 low-cost latrines run by local entrepreneurs to collect waste, convert it into organic fertilizer, and sell it to local farmers in Kenya. As of June 2014, 425 of Sanergy's Fresh Life Toilets are now operated by 215 local entrepreneurs and having real results with more than 2,500 metric tons of waste removed from the Mukuru slum in Nairobi, Kenya.

Return on Investment

Sanergy's waste-to-fertilizer model allows this small Massachusetts company to tap into the growing multi-billion dollar global fertilizer and biofuel markets, creating jobs and profits both in Kenya and Massachusetts.

Making Every Vote Count

Planson International & U.S. Export-Import
(Ex-Im) Bank
New Gloucester, ME



Digital Divide

Credible elections start with credible voter registration and vote counting. South Sudan needed an electronic system in place quickly for its January 2011 referendum for independence.

Tech and Democracy

Validating South Sudan's referendum required registering 60 percent of the 4 million eligible voters. Planson International provided U.S.-made computers and software to South Sudan with a \$1.5 million credit line from Bank of America, backed by the Ex-Im Bank. This technology was used to quickly register voters, analyze demographics, tally votes, and develop post-referendum policies all in time for the country's historic elections.

Return on Investment

Promoting democracy and free and fair elections is a priority for America, and technology is key to ensuring this occurs. Planson's partnership through the Ex-Im Bank ensured South Sudan's elections were a success with almost 99 percent turnout, and thanks to the company's export sales, this small, woman-owned business from New England now employs 30 full-time staff.

Making Power Plants Work Better

Boyle Energy Services & Technology (BES&T) & Ex-Im Bank

Manchester, NH



Energy Poverty

Access to modern energy is crucial to human well-being and a country's economic development. Yet 2.6 billion people in the developing world continue to be without basic energy services needed for efficient lighting, sanitation, and clean water.

Optimizing Production

Developing countries struggle to maintain consistent power due to antiquated infrastructure and poor systems. BES&T invented a sophisticated new technology process called SigmaCommissioning to improve energy production and reduce hazardous waste and carbon emissions at dilapidated power plants. Thanks to credit insurance from the Ex-Im Bank, BES&T now helps underdeveloped communities in countries like Colombia, Guatemala, India, Nigeria, and Uzbekistan create energy more efficiently by reducing the amount of time, labor, and fuel their plants use.

Return on Investment

Modern energy not only enhances the lives of the estimated 1.4 billion poor people in developing countries who lack access to electricity, it supports American jobs. BES&T's services overseas helped connect more people to electricity while growing their New Hampshire workforce by 16 percent and doubling revenue twice in the last six years.

Coaching Kids to Spot Landmines

Scotty Lee & U.S. Department of State
Johnstown, PA



A Deadly Legacy of War

Every year, an estimated 20,000 people are killed or maimed by landmines and explosive remnants of war. Children in particular are in danger, accounting for one in every five landmine victims.

Saving Lives through Soccer

Professional soccer coach and former player, Scotty Lee, decided to explore a radical idea after a trip to Bosnia shed some light on a landmine-related tragedy killing innocent children at a soccer game. Lee's "Spirit of Soccer" program unites the universal appeal of the world's most popular sport with a curriculum to educate boys and girls about the dangers of landmines. Funded in part by the U.S. Department of State, coaches teach children how to avoid mines while they enjoy a game of soccer with their friends across the regions with the highest mine density. The public-private duo now operates projects in Syria, Iraq, Cambodia, and Laos.

Return on Investment

This unique effort has taught more than 250,000 children worldwide how to avoid the hidden dangers of lethal explosive landmines, saving the lives of refugees in areas critical to U.S. national interests.

Preventing a Cycle of Violence

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) & USAID

Baltimore, MD



Insecurity Preventing Investment

The World Bank estimates that crime and insecurity in El Salvador costs the country roughly 10.8 percent of its annual GDP.

Turning Lives Around

The Youth Builders program funded by CRS and USAID gives thousands of out-of-school, unemployed young people living in violent communities a chance to thrive. Implemented by two local CRS partners in El Salvador, Youth Builders provides young people with the vocational and entrepreneurial training, community service, and life-skills they need to end the cycle of violence, hopefully before it even begins, and learn a sustainable skill to provide for themselves and their families.

Return on Investment

Over 3,000 young people have joined Youth Builders. With an 83 percent graduation rate, these young people go on to contribute to El Salvador's economic growth and our own. As a result, crime is down and an increasingly stable market provides opportunities for American trade and investment.

Giving Kids a Shot @ Life

UN Foundation, United Nations (UN),
& GAVI Alliance

Washington, DC



Access to Vaccines

Every 20 seconds, a child dies from a preventable disease like measles, pneumonia or diarrhea because of a lack of access to vaccines; and while the world is nearly polio-free, we are not there yet.

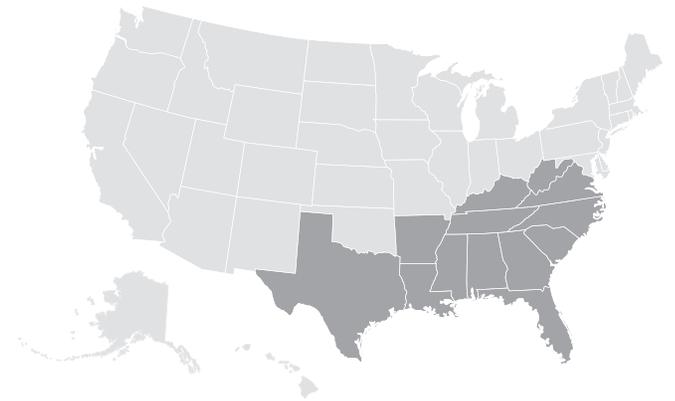
Proven Results

The UN Foundation's Shot@Life campaign helps provide access to vaccines for children in developing countries through UNICEF, the World Health Organization, and partners like GAVI, the Measles and Rubella Initiative and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. Together, these partnerships have contributed to significant results including a 99 percent reduction in polio cases and a 78 percent reduction in measles-related deaths.

Return on Investment

Because diseases know no borders, the impact of strong immunization programs extends beyond an individual child. Fully eradicating polio could save up to \$50 billion by 2035. In addition to cutting treatment cost and increasing economic growth, immunization programs strengthen health systems so that they can be used to deliver other life-saving health interventions more effectively.

Innovations from The South



Whipping up a Miracle Food

MANA Nutrition, USAID, UNICEF,
Save the Children, & World Vision
Fitzgerald, GA / Matthews, NC



Extreme Hunger

Nearly 1 billion people go to bed hungry every day, and more than half of all childhood deaths are caused by malnutrition.

Lifesaving Nutrition

Mother Administered Nutritive Aid, or MANA, is a ready-to-use therapeutic food made of a fortified peanut paste formulated to provide a child's basic nutritional needs. Roughly three servings of MANA a day for six weeks can save the life of a starving child. Over 2 million children from countries all over the world are receiving MANA right now through partnerships with USAID and UNICEF and organizations like World Vision, Save the Children, and others.

Return on Investment

MANA is produced in a 30,000-square foot facility in rural Fitzgerald, GA, creating more than two dozen jobs in the heart of the state's peanut country. From its headquarters outside Charlotte, NC, the MANA team collaborates with area businesses, creating economic opportunity across the South while saving lives overseas.

Spotlighting Extraordinary Women

CARE, USAID, Ford Foundation, &
Independent Television Service
Atlanta, GA



Marginalized Voices

In countries across the globe, women struggle with equality, gender-based violence, participation in political processes, child marriage, and teen pregnancy.

The Inspiration to Rise Above

If all you've ever known as a woman is oppression and poverty, it's hard to see a brighter future. But women today are leaders in business, the arts, science, and politics, and a public-private alliance between CARE, USAID, the Ford Foundation, and Independent Television Service called Women and Girls Lead Global uses documentary films to share stories of world-changing women and girls. The three-year, 30-film project is creating a 10-episode documentary series each year in eight countries to inspire women and girls to rise above dire circumstances and seek better lives for themselves, their families, and their communities. Projects are underway in Bangladesh, India, Jordan, Kenya, and Peru.

Return on Investment

Women and girls produce half the world's food, put in two-thirds of the world's working hours, and yet make only 10 percent of the world's income. Unlocking their potential is the key to combating global poverty. This initiative brings together the best of both the public and private sectors to inspire the next generation of girls to take charge of their future.

Powering Africa

Hecate Energy, USAID, & U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA)

Nashville, TN



A Continent in the Dark

Two out of three sub-Saharan Africans—600 million people—lack access to electricity—creating widespread health, education, and safety challenges and significantly constraining economic growth.

Leading the Charge

The U.S. government's "Power Africa" initiative aims to double the number of people with access to power in Sub-Saharan Africa, and Hecate Energy is teaming up with USAID to bring clean, reliable electricity to East Africa. Hecate is a leading U.S. developer of solar, natural gas, and wind power projects and is planning the construction and operations of power projects in Tanzania and Kenya. Through another partnership with USTDA, Hecate is replacing existing power generators with sustainable solar power for Tanzania University's Health Sciences Diagnostic Center and the surrounding community.

Return on Investment

Sub-Saharan Africa is expected to have more than 1.3 billion consumers by 2030, opening up enormous opportunities for American businesses. By doubling the number of people with access to electricity in Sub-Saharan Africa, Hecate and the other Power Africa partners are making it possible for those consumers to connect to the Internet and global commerce.

Life-Preserving Technology

Bridge to Life, Ltd. & Ex-Im Bank

Columbia, SC



The Wait is Fatal

Every day an average of 18 people die waiting for an organ transplant. One donor can save up to eight lives, but maintaining an organ's viability from the time of donation to transplantation is often too costly or too hard for developing countries.

Preserving Life

In 2005, a small biotechnology company called Bridge to Life was founded with the mission of improving organ transplants by advancing the science of human organ preservation. A few years later, they were exporting new medical technologies to Colombia, Dubai, and China, but struggled to bring their life-saving products to more developing countries. With \$300,000 in insurance financing from the Ex-Im Bank in 2011, Bridge to Life expanded their business into India, Pakistan, Thailand, Turkey, and across the Middle East.

Return on Investment

Over the last decade, Bridge to Life has made life-saving organ transplants a reality for the developing world. The company has grown from six people to over 70 employees and has undergone a \$45 million expansion, making it possible to for its cutting-edge medical technologies to save even more lives.

HIV Prevention in a Pouch

Dr. Robert Malkin, Pratt School of Engineering at Duke University, & USAID Durham, NC



A Legacy of Disease

Every day nearly 1,000 children contract HIV worldwide with 90 percent of cases transmitted during birth from mother to infant. The transmission of HIV can largely be prevented by administering antiretroviral drugs to an infant within 24 hours of birth.

A Packet of Life

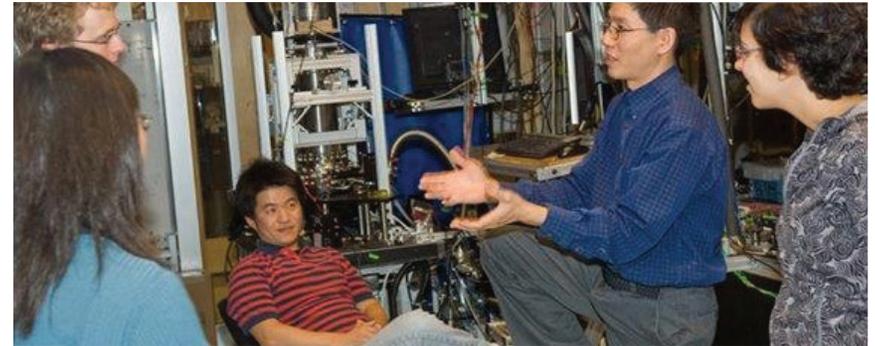
Dr. Robert Malkin and his students at Duke University developed a revolutionary solution to allow HIV-positive mothers to “squeeze” antiretroviral medication into a newborn’s mouth immediately after delivery. The “Pratt Pouch” resembles a small ketchup packet that extends the life of the medication for up to 12 months under different climate conditions. Thanks to winnings from USAID’s “Saving Lives at Birth” grand challenge for development in 2011 and 2013, Dr. Malkin and his students are scaling up efforts to increase access to the pouch and antiretrovirals in Ecuador, Tanzania, and Zambia to stop the 400,000 infants a year who contract HIV during birth.

Return on Investment

The Pratt Pouch brings the world one step closer to an AIDS-free generation and is assisting U.S. efforts in preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV. This unique pouch has the potential to tackle treatment for even more diseases overseas.

Electrifying Aging Power Grids

Quanta Technology & USTDA Raleigh, NC



Energy Supply Gap

Currently, over 31 million people in Latin America lack access to electricity, and power generation will need to double by 2030 to meet the region’s growing energy needs.

Putting the Smart into Grid

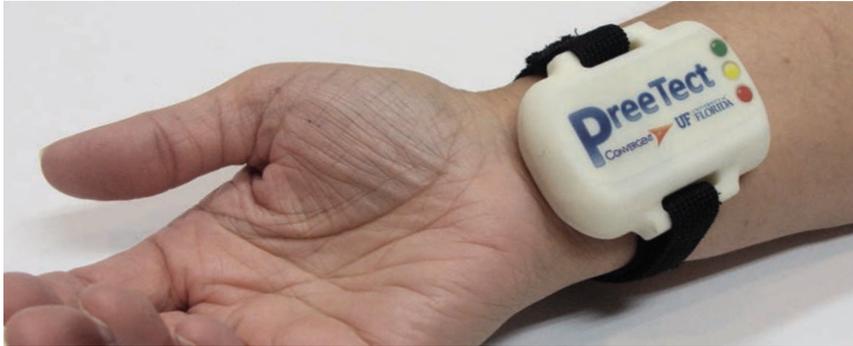
Just like phones are getting “smarter,” so are electric grids. Through a partnership with the USTDA, North Carolina’s Quanta Technology found a way to bring modernized “smart” electricity grids to developing countries with aging infrastructure. Working with local Colombian companies, Quanta assists in upgrading aging infrastructure, adopting post-disaster systems, and creating more energy efficient grids in Colombia to meet 21st century standards. This saves both money and energy.

Return on Investment

Energy demand in Colombia is expected to increase by almost 4 percent this year. Through its partnership with USTDA, Quanta Technology is transforming its extensive knowledge of U.S. grid technologies into real business opportunities, improving the power quality and reliability in Colombia, and creating opportunity for U.S. businesses there.

Saving Lives at Birth

University of Florida, Convergent Engineering, Inc., USAID, & Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Gainesville, FL / Newberry, FL



Maternal Mortality

The joy of bringing a baby into the world can often be overshadowed by the threat of a deadly, high blood pressure disorder called Preeclampsia. Women in Africa are three times more likely than women in the United States to develop it.

Engineering the Answer

University of Florida researchers teamed with Convergent Engineering to develop a low-cost, non-invasive product that detects Preeclampsia 10-12 weeks before the onset of symptoms. Thanks in part to a grant from the “Saving Lives at Birth” grand challenge, a partnership between USAID and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, among others, the team is developing a wrist strap that measures features of a patient’s vitals and transmits that data to local health worker’s mobile phones to monitor risk. For just \$50 per device, which can be used hundreds of times, this project has the potential to save tens of thousands of lives in Africa. A few months into the project, the data they’ve collected is predicting with 85 percent accuracy who was going to get Preeclampsia.

Return on Investment

In Africa, 15 percent of expectant mothers are at risk of developing Preeclampsia. This project will play a major role in protecting these mothers and their newborn babies in their most vulnerable hours.

An Online GPS for Aid Effectiveness

The College of William & Mary, USAID, Brigham Young University, Development Gateway, University of Texas at Austin, & Esri
Williamsburg, VA



Real Results for Aid Investments

Americans want to know where their tax dollars are going, and a lack of transparency in government programs can make it hard to measure effectiveness.

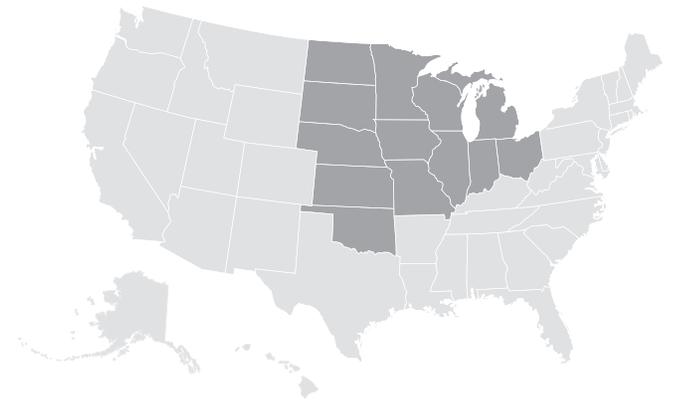
Delivering Effective, Transparent Aid

Headquartered at The College of William & Mary, the AidData Center for Development Policy is part of USAID’s innovative Higher Education Solutions Network. The AidData Center makes information on U.S. investments in development more accessible to the American public in an online portal. AidData allows Americans to see how much is being spent, where, and on what, and helps to identify gaps in service and overlapping programs. To date, AidData has worked in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Honduras, Nepal, Senegal, Timor-Leste, and Uganda to map the location of development activities, enabling USAID to make informed, evidence-based policy decisions on how best to allocate limited resources.

Return on Investment

By pinpointing where public and private development assistance projects are across the world, AidData equips USAID and the NGO community, and ultimately the American taxpayers, with information to prevent duplication of programs and stretch America’s aid dollars further than ever before.

Innovations from
The Midwest



“Backpack”ing Clean Water

Greif, Inc., Impact Economics, LLC, & USAID
Columbus, OH



Water, Too Hard to Carry

On average, 30,000 people—90 percent under age five—die each week from preventable diseases caused by dirty water. Women in developing countries may walk 3.5 miles every day to transport water home, often in heavy, contaminated containers.

A Water Backpack

Following the devastating earthquake in Haiti, Greif, Inc. CEO David Fischer went to assist with the relief efforts and saw the difficulty of transporting water first-hand. Working closely with USAID, the Clinton Global Initiative, and Habitat for Humanity International, Greif engineers came up with a better solution: PackH2O™—a light-weight, self-sanitizing backpack that holds water and offers relief to women and children who often bear the burden of carrying water home. Over 100,000 backpacks have reached women, children, and men in more than 25 countries through this unique partnership.

Return on Investment

Clean water is a major global health priority, and solutions like this are making a difference here at home. Greif is manufacturing the backpacks, and Impact Economics LLC is marketing and distributing them to water stressed regions around the world. Reaching the estimated 1 billion people living without access to clean, safe water, requires scaling up operations in a major way, but making a game-changing global impact is exactly what these two Ohioan companies aim to do.

Providing Access to the World

IREX, USAID, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, & Chicago Public Library
Chicago, IL



Libraries of the 21st Century

Libraries with public computers are essential to keeping citizens engaged in the 21st century, but getting solid data on where the underserved needs are greatest is difficult in developing countries.

Getting the Right Data for Good Decisions

To assist communities in Romania and Ukraine improve access to the internet in public libraries, IREX developed the Data Giraffe software to survey users and identify low-performing libraries that require additional technology and staff training. Through the Global Libraries projects, IREX partners with USAID, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and local governments to include Data Giraffe on public access computers. In Ukraine, the software was used to quantify the impact of libraries throughout the country and pinpoint ones requiring assistance and improvement, often creating access to information that otherwise wouldn't be available during the turmoil of recent months.

Return on Investment

Access to the internet is key to creating opportunities for individuals today, and the Data Giraffe is now planned for use in America, including the Chicago Public Library system—the largest in the U.S.—to help the city inform its decisions about public access computers.

Processing Food Security

Partners in Food Solutions, USAID, General Mills, Cargill, DSM, Bühler, & TechnoServe
Minneapolis, MN



Food Uncertainty

A third of all deaths in children under the age of five in developing countries are linked to under-nutrition. Despite overall progress, sub-Saharan Africa remains the region with the highest prevalence of undernourishment.

Partnering to Feed Tomorrow

Reducing hunger on this scale requires transferring expertise and techniques to improve food security. Partners in Food Solutions is a groundbreaking collaboration between leading global food companies such as General Mills, Cargill, DSM, and Bühler in partnership with the NGO TechnoServe and USAID to share sustainable agriculture practices with local food processors in Africa. The consortium has worked with 500 companies in Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, and Zambia already impacting over a half a million smallholder farmers.

Return on Investment

The commitment has utilized more than 60,000 hours from employee-volunteers sharing their expertise with local food companies to provide sustainable food security. This initiative is not only saving lives, but creating a more stable African continent and economy, which is good for U.S. global interests.

A Brighter Tomorrow

SunEdison, Inc. & Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC)
St. Peters, MO



Lights Out

A shortage of electricity is one of the African continent's greatest development challenges, with seven out of ten people in the sub-Saharan region living without access to electricity.

The Power of the Sun

South Africa may be Africa's second largest economy, but the supply of electricity has struggled to keep up with growing demand. Semiconductor and solar technology company, SunEdison, received \$185 million in financing from OPIC to build the first solar power plant in South Africa's Free State Province that will tie into South Africa's national grid. Free State has higher than average levels of poverty and unemployment, and the plant is also benefiting the local economy by generating over 1,000 new jobs.

Return on Investment

This leveraging of public resources and private innovation is increasing access to reliable sources of energy in South Africa, while also promoting demand for American high-tech services and products.

Fresh Water for All

The Water Council & UN

Milwaukee, WI



Water Shortages

Due to growing populations and dwindling fresh water sources, more than an estimated 50 nations and 2 billion people will face significant and life-altering water shortages by 2050.

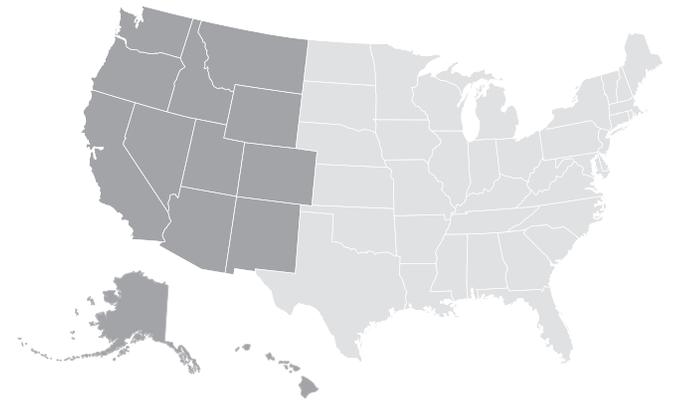
Tapping Expertise

The UN Global Compact Cities Programme, which recognizes cities for urban expertise, selected Milwaukee in 2009 to share its knowledge, expertise, and innovations in water technology with the rest of the world. The Water Council has grown into a global hub for freshwater economic development and education, opening the Global Water Center in 2013 to nurture water-related startups and provide a research space for universities and the establishment of water-related companies. Over the last year, the Council has hosted groups from nearly 20 countries including China, Jordan, Kenya, Morocco, and South Africa interested in learning more about Milwaukee's water technology cluster.

Return on Investment

The Water Council is the only organization of its kind in the U.S., and as a result of this recognition from the UN Cities Programme, national and international companies are approaching the Council to establish operations in Milwaukee, with more than 30 organizations already housed in the Center.

Innovations from The West



Engineering the Workforce of Tomorrow

Arizona State University (ASU), Intel, & USAID
Tempe, AZ



Vietnam's Skills Gap

Since 1986, the percentage of people living in poverty in Vietnam has dropped from 78 percent to about 14 percent, but the country's education and training system has not kept up, creating a gap in skilled labor.

Partnering to Spur Progress

In 2010, ASU, USAID, and the Intel Corporation joined forces to modernize engineering education in Vietnam through the Higher Engineering Education Alliance Program (HEEAP). Working in collaboration, over 500 Vietnamese faculty members have participated in engineering training programs in both countries, with additional projects underway, to share best practices and continue building "work ready" students for the booming tech trade between our two countries.

Return on Investment

American exports to Vietnam have increased by 700 percent over the past decade, and programs like HEEAP expand markets for U.S. goods and services. As Vietnam is one of our fastest growing trading partners, additional high-tech companies like National Instruments, Siemens, Cadence, Danaher, and Pearson have joined this effort as ASU expands its research and technology opportunities and fosters stronger international ties.

Texting Economic Growth

InVenture & USAID
Santa Monica, CA



Risky Business

More than 2.7 billion people around the globe lack access to banking institutions, making it difficult to save, expand, or start a business. Being dependent on a cash-based economy also means being more vulnerable to theft, fraud, personal calamity, and market shocks.

SMS = Better Business

InVenture created a financial tracking tool called InSight, which works through text, voice, web, and android to put banking at the fingertips of the nearly 6 billion people in the world with access to any type of mobile phone. With a \$100,000 grant through USAID's Development Innovation Ventures (DIV) competition, an InSight pilot in India, Kenya, and South Africa aims reach 500,000 individuals, allowing safe financial transactions for individuals with no previous access to banking.

Return on Investment

By harnessing the power of mobile technology to improve access to banking in one of America's largest trading partners, millions of Indians trapped in a deadly cycle of poverty can begin to plug into the global economy.

Fighting Global Hunger

Colorado State University (CSU) & USAID
Fort Collins, CO



Communities at Risk

Livestock is crucial to the livelihoods of more than 900 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, yet most barely get by. Changes in precipitation and temperature can affect the quality and quantity of forage available for animals to graze.

Adapting Livestock to Climate Change

Boosting agricultural productivity is a critical part of global food security and meeting the challenge of waning livestock production. In 2010, CSU partnered with USAID to help small-scale livestock holders in Africa and South Asia adapt to environmental and health impacts in the face of climate change. The Feed the Future Adapting Livestock Systems to Climate Change Research Lab has since produced more than 140 teaching publications on best practices, increasing agricultural productivity in poor communities from Tanzania to Nepal.

Return on Investment

As natural disasters and severe weather continue to affect food production, CSU's research is a proactive approach to improve agricultural productivity, enhance global food security, and increase markets and trade.

Delivering “Cool” Vaccines

PATH, Temptime Corporation, USAID,
& World Health Organization
Seattle, WA



Unnecessary Waste

It can take weeks for vaccines that must be kept cold to travel to rural health centers, and many are often heat-damaged and still used, or tossed out too soon after exposure to heat.

The World's Smartest Vaccine Sticker

Hard to believe a small sticker could save a life, but one that changes color when exposed to heat can indicate whether or not a vaccine has been damaged. PATH partnered with Temptime Corporation, USAID, and the World Health Organization to develop, introduce, and expand access to such a product—the Vaccine Vial Monitor (VVM). Since 1996, more than 5 billion VVMs have been distributed on vaccine vials alerting health workers that the medication is no longer viable when the small sticker has changed color.

Return on Investment

The global health community now saves an estimated \$14 million annually by preventing the discard of undamaged vaccines. Thanks to this partnership, the New Jersey-based Temptime grew from a small start-up of five people to more than 60 employees and lives are being saved around the world.

Cooking up a Cell Phone Charger

Point Source Power, USAID,
U.S. State Department, & Nike
Alameda, CA



Living in the Dark

In sub-Saharan Africa, one in seven people lack access to electricity and rely instead on dangerous kerosene and other toxic ways to light their homes and power electronics.

Power on Demand

The VOTO is a handheld, low-cost biomass-fueled cellphone charger and LED light powered by a simple open flame created by Point Source Power. This product caught the attention of LAUNCH, a global partnership between Nike and the U.S. State Department, USAID, and NASA, as an innovative way to provide low-cost power in the developing world. With support from LAUNCH, VOTOs have transformed charcoal stoves into charging stations for flashlights and cellphones in remote villages in Kenya.

Return on Investment

America is tapping into entrepreneurial ideas, while also helping solve some of the most difficult issues in the developing world, such as access to electricity. LAUNCH helped Point Source Power roll out the VOTO and provided a platform for this Bay Area startup to “do well while doing good” in Africa and beyond.



Have a smart power innovation that you think should be highlighted in our campaign? Tell us about it.

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