

ABOUT FSD

The Foundation for Sustainable Development (FSD) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization created in 1995 to offer capacity building and funding to grassroots, community-based organizations throughout Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

CAPACITY BUILDING TO COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Our professional field staff, consultants, and trained volunteers provide on-site technical training and project support, while enabling information sharing to more than 200 partner organizations around the world.

GRANTMAKING TO PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES LED BY OUR PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Donations and grants given to FSD are used to support projects and initiatives implemented by our partner organizations, site teams, and volunteers. Our grant funds support projects in our host communities related to:

Microfinance/Microenterprise
Youth and Education
Environment

Community Development
Women's Empowerment

Human Rights
Health



WILL PERREault

This brochure is an invitation to join us in building a worldwide network of individuals and organizations dedicated to social justice, environmental sustainability, and economic growth.

HOW TO PARTNER WITH FSD

FSD welcomes new partners that seek to join a network of organizations dedicated to community development and social change. To partner with FSD, please contact the local FSD Program Director.

REQUIREMENTS

To become an FSD partner, an organization must:

Express objectives that are aligned with sustainable community development. Organizational programs must address one or more of the following development areas: Microfinance/Microenterprise, Youth and Education, Environment, Health, Community Development, Women's Empowerment, Human Rights.

Provide specific responsibilities and projects to participants that fulfill a 40-hour work week.

Provide FSD participants with an English-speaking supervisor who is available to answer questions and guide project development.

Be open to engaging in cross cultural exchange and show a readiness to support international volunteers' integration into the organization and local community.



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foundation for sustainable development

building communities.
connecting worlds.

AFRICA ASIA LATIN AMERICA

WHY PARTNER WITH FSD?

OUR APPROACH

FSD partners with locally managed, locally founded organizations who represent the voice of their communities. Through building relationships and working side-by-side with community leaders on local issues, FSD supports collaborative solutions that offer the greatest chance for sustainable results. This approach stems from the understanding that communities must have a voice, invested interest, and ownership in the development of their land, economy, education, rights, and values. The role of FSD is to engender hope, encourage and activate local leadership, and facilitate the application of resources that produce change. Only through this collaborative approach can community development be sustainable.

CAPACITY BUILDING

FSD volunteers support our partner organizations by bringing professional experience, enthusiasm, innovation, and a deep commitment to development work. They are trained by FSD in collaborative project implementation skills and sustainable development principals, while learning about the cultural and political context of the local region. In addition to the project work of volunteers, partner organizations also benefit from the ongoing support of FSD's local staff. Leading our site teams are local Program Directors who have several years of grass-roots development experience in the region. Assisting each Program Director are two to three experienced Program Coordinators who bring local and international development experience to our site teams. Working together, they aid partner organizations through direct project support and help them effectively utilize volunteers. This model allows FSD to provide consistent, hands-on support to our partner organizations.

"We are very grateful to have worked with Preetam Rao (2007 FSD volunteer). During his time with us, over 200 grannies, barmaids, and OGLM staff attended his savings and business administration trainings. The trainings Preetam delivered, along with the microfinance manual he created, saved OGLM 4 million shillings. We wish so much to host another volunteer from FSD."

— Christopher Kalema, Director of Organization for the Good Life of the Marginalized (OGLM) | Jinja, Uganda

INFORMATION SHARING

Through a network of FSD partnerships, organizations connect with each other, build relationships, and share best practices. By joining relevant people and resources, we reduce programmatic redundancies while increasing organizational effectiveness. To build and maintain community collaboration, the local FSD site teams facilitate trainings, conferences, and informational meetings on a regular basis.

FUNDING

The FSD Grant Program funds sustainable project initiatives designed by partner organizations and their volunteers. Ranging in size and scope, projects are only funded when communities actively participate in the planning, execution, and maintenance of the work.



Empowering Women Through Self-Help Groups | Udaipur, India

Historically, patriarchal gender relations in rural Udaipur limited women's social, economic, and political opportunities, restricting the majority of them to domestic and agricultural labor. In recent years, self-help groups (SHGs) are becoming an effective and popular tool for women's empowerment in the region. Through SHGs, village women—many of whom are uneducated, illiterate, and married since early adolescence—are gaining economic independence through pooling small amounts of savings, accessing loans through the group, and supporting microenterprise initiatives. As more women begin to see the benefits that SHGs offer, interest in the skills needed to create new groups is growing exponentially.

However, the growing demand for SHG training far outweighs the current availability of support. To address this need, FSD intern Sharon Carney and the *Institute of Local Self-Government and Responsible Citizenship* researched the strengths, challenges, and best practices of eight recently created SHGs in the Udaipur district. Using their findings, Sharon developed a picture-based, low-literacy friendly "SHG Start-Up Manual" that expands the Institute's existing efforts to train, develop, and empower women leaders. The Institute will distribute over 500 manuals across Udaipur district, providing a tool for motivated women leaders to independently and successfully launch SHGs in their own villages. In effect, the manuals empower women with tools that help them gain greater equality and economic independence.

community impact

In 2007, over **300 volunteers** committed **125,000+ hours** to support the work of more than **200 partner organizations**.

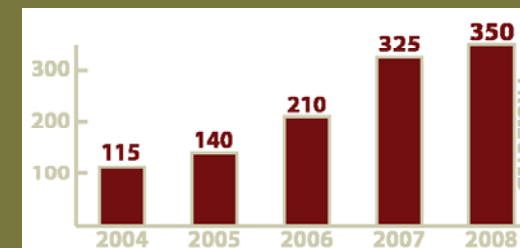
Projects addressed development issues related to:

Microfinance/Microenterprise
Youth and Education
Environment

Community Development
Women's Empowerment

Human Rights
Health

Number of projects initiated and supported in the field*



* these numbers are an approximation