

Evaluation of the Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund



This evaluation looks at the experiences of exchange alumni who carried out public service projects funded through the AEIF competition and the communities that benefited from these projects from 2011 to 2017. Since its inception in 2011, AEIF has funded more than 400 community service projects all around the world.

97%

Gained professional contacts by working on AEIF projects.

90%

Believed that AEIF empowers alumni communities to create change.

75%

Reported that their AEIF project changed the focus of their career.



Before, I was full of good intentions and a big heart Now, I know that small local projects play a big role in community development and that it is possible to start relevant programs for the community with efforts such as networking and writing grants.

- Team Member, Nicaragua, 2015 Award



More than 85% of alumni enhanced their skills in



Leadership



Networking



Event Planning



Budgeting and Finances

Impact of AEIF on Local Communities

More than 250 girls in Nepal without access to computers at home or in school gained STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) skills by participating in an extracurricular program focusing on computer literacy and problem solving.

A 2011 project in Armenia continues to pay dividends. The team built a solar fruit dryer to demonstrate an income generating enterprise. It now produces dried fruit, herbs, and tea. Communities in other countries have adapted the original design to create their own dryers.



99% Agreed that their projects had a positive impact on the target populations.



84% Reported that project participants shared what they learned, multiplying impacts to others in their communities.



56% Reported that their project activities continued even after grant funding ended, creating a sustainable mechanism for change.



Today, I have a greater awareness of what community service and volunteering are like.... My whole career has taken another direction in terms of involvement of humanness.

- Team Member, Côte d'Ivoire, 2011 Award



Data presented are based on a global survey of AEIF team leaders. Read the full report here:

<https://eca.state.gov/impact/evaluation-eca/evaluation-initiative/completed-evaluations>



Evaluation Division
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