



Delivering Results The Power of Unlikely Partnerships

In 2024, delivering results for people in the United States and around the world was not always easy. Technological disruptions, geopolitical competition and conflict, political change, and the effects of climate change all made progress harder to defend and new progress harder to achieve.

But despite the odds and the challenges, we saw new and unexpected partnerships deliver: In Haiti, local energy entrepreneurs partnered with international funders to bring solar-powered mesh grids into underserved communities. In India, public agencies, farmers, and software developers came together to reliably power farms and their community. In Brazil, cattle ranchers and climate startups worked hand-in-hand to reforest the Amazon.

Those partnerships, and many more like them, did not emerge by chance. They were forged in the recognition that transformative change requires humility and a willingness to challenge old assumptions about who should lead and how.

In The Rockefeller Foundation's 111th year of operation and the first full year of our \$1 billion, five-year strategy to promote humanity's well-being at a time when the effects of climate change were intensifying, we saw the power of partnerships.

Much of our work in 2024 was done with coalitions, sometimes between organizations that had never worked together. We found that leveraging support, skills, and resources from diverse partners is the best way to build, scale, and sustain the solutions to the world's problems.

By the Numbers

People



4.5M
enablers engaged
people engaged by Foundation grantees or partners to spur downstream impacts for end-users/targeted beneficiaries

527.3M
end-users reached
people from target beneficiary communities accessing or using a product or service

1M
people impacted
people experiencing a clear, measurable outcome or impact from an intervention

Planet



83M
tonnes of carbon
t/CO₂e* avoided, reduced or sequestered

15.6M
hectares covered
hectares affected by water, land and/or biodiversity conservation, protection and/or restoration

Capital



\$2.8B
directly mobilized
\$ into Foundation-created or -supported organizations, funds or solutions

\$762M
indirectly mobilized
\$ into a concept or model that the Foundation piloted, demonstrated, and/or helped to scale

What We Are Learning

From 2024, we have taken away five key lessons for how to build unlikely partnerships that are lasting and impactful:



Learn first, join second, build last. Weigh the benefits of control versus the risks of duplicating existing work or alienating partners.



Agreement isn't essential, embracing candor and conflict is. Successful cross-sector partnerships require accepting disagreement and moments when a coalition's interests don't always align with the Foundation's.



Stand behind—don't stand in for—leaders. In a turbulent world, avoid micromanaging partnerships and instead allow strong leaders to emerge.



Bridging between data holders and data users is getting harder. Limited data limits partners' ability or willingness to engage.



Polarization opens doors, too. Honest brokering may be tougher now, but some unlikely partnerships are becoming more likely.

*CO₂e—a common unit used to express a variety of greenhouse gases in terms of carbon dioxide equivalence

This is a snapshot of our impact in 2024, from a subset of the Foundation's grantmaking and program-related investment portfolio.

Read the full report:
rockefellerfoundation.org/impact