**SOCIAL CHANGE INITIATIVE PROPOSAL FORM**

A successful completion of the fellowship requires that all Certificate fellows propose and execute a relevant Social Change Initiative (SCI) spanning a maximum of 9 months within their fellowship year. This initiative stands as a pivotal requirement for fulfilling the awarded peace fellowship.

To kickstart your SCI, you'll need to fill in this form to communicate your proposed budget, objectives, and timeline. Upon submission of your proposal, your Center Director will electronically confirm their approval, forwarding it to the Program Officer at Rotary International for further endorsement.

It's crucial to note that failure to complete an approved SCI without prior consent from The Rotary Foundation and the Peace Center may result in termination of the fellowship.

**Approved Social Change Initiatives**

Throughout your SCI period, the Peace Center is committed to providing dedicated supervision facilitated by a faculty or experienced professional advisor (mentor). You are strongly encouraged to maintain regular consultations with your advisor, updating them on the progress, challenges, and milestones achieved while executing your SCI. Embracing this collaborative approach ensures continuous guidance and robust support throughout the initiative period.

Your SCI should encompass an applied community initiative, integrating various activities tailored to align with your professional interests and experience. The SCI should focus on actively involving your community in a peace building and development project, encouraging innovative approaches and a new viewpoint within your ongoing work. Furthermore, this duration provides an opportunity for contemplation and deliberate planning regarding your potential involvement in peacebuilding practice post-fellowship, should you wish to pursue that.

**Fund Amount**

The Rotary Foundation will grant up to $1,000 USD to each peace fellow whose SCIs receive approval. The specific amount awarded will differ among fellows and will be determined based on the budget submitted with each proposal.

It is your responsibility to anticipate and meticulously calculate all anticipated expenses during the implementation phase. These expenses encompass implementation and project costs, as well as any associated expenditures.

The awarded sum is intended as a seed fund to defray some or all of the SCI-related expenses. No adjustments will be considered once your proposal has been approved and the allocated fund has been disbursed. You are encouraged to seek additional funding from sources beyond The Foundation for your SCI, including Rotary clubs or other external sources. You are encouraged to report additional raised funds to The Foundation, and that will not impact the sum received from The Foundation.

**SCI Proposal Template**

You may utilize the Social Change Initiative proposal template and accompanying log frame found on pages 24 and 25 of your handbook to outline and detail your proposed SCI, including its associated activities.

**Proposal Template**

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| **Category** | **Guidance to Response** | **Response** (complete to the best of your knowledge) |
| **Title of SCI** |  | CultivateAct: Smallholder Farmers as Investors for Inclusive Sustainable Empowerment |
| **Objective of the SCI** | Project expected result | **Overall Impact**   * The overall impact of the Sustainable Empowerment initiative is creating a resilient, empowered, and sustainable future for marginalised women, people with disabilities, and the broader community.   **Objectives**   1. Enable marginalised women and people with disabilities to achieve financial independence by implementing small-scale drip irrigation, leading to increased agricultural productivity, nutrition, and income. 2. Promote climate-resilient agricultural techniques to mitigate the impact of climate change, addressing environmental vulnerabilities and fostering long-term sustainable development within the community. 3. Foster gender equality by ensuring the active participation of women in decision-making processes related to sustainable agricultural practices, supported by community-wide awareness workshops and dialogues.   **Outcomes**  **Outcome 1:** Marginalised women and people with disabilities achieve financial independence through enhanced agricultural productivity and income generation.  **Output**   * 1. *Select participants completing hands-on training.*   2. *Distribution and Utilization of Drip Irrigation Kits*   3. *Selected participant access extension through mentorship and coaching*   **Outcome 2:** Community members adopt and implement climate-resilient agricultural techniques, mitigating the impact of climate change, addressing environmental vulnerabilities, and fostering long-term sustainable development within the community.  **Output**   * 1. *Climate-Smart Agriculture Training Programs facilitated.*   2. *Permaculture Techniques for Production Integrated.*   3. *Awareness Campaigns on Climate Change*   4. *Collaboration with Environmental Organizations*   **Outcome 3:** Active and meaningful participation of women in decision-making processes related to sustainable agricultural practices, facilitated by community-wide awareness workshops and dialogues, leading to a more inclusive and gender-equitable community.  **Output**   * 1. *Gender-Sensitivity Workshops conducted.*   2. *Community Dialogues facilitated.*   3. *Storytelling Sessions organised* |
| **Location** | Country, District, state, city, etc. | Malawi, Central Region, Kasungu, Dowa District, Chivalu |
| **Urban/Peri-Urban/Rural** | Select one option | Rural |
| **Target Population Group** | Youths/Children/Women/PWDs/Refugees/IDPs/Elderly | Youths, Women and PWDs |
| **Direct Beneficiary** | Specify by number, gender, and age ranges. | The Sustainable Empowerment initiative will engage 15 participants, strategically selected to ensure diversity and inclusivity. Among them, there will be five women aged 18-30, 2 men aged 18-30, 4 women aged 31-45, 2 men aged 31-45, 2 women aged 46 and above, and one man aged 46 and above. This intentional selection reflects a commitment to addressing the needs and challenges of individuals across the community's different age groups and genders. The initiative aims to empower these participants through small-scale drip irrigation, climate-resilient agricultural techniques, and gender-inclusive decision-making processes, fostering a resilient and sustainable future for the participants and the broader community. |
| **Implementation Method** | Tools or techniques used: mediation, conflict analysis, awareness campaign, etc.) | * Theatre for development through interactive playback theatre and storytelling circles * Community dialogues * Training and capacity building * Awareness campaigns |
| **Positive Peace Pillar Alignment** | Primary and secondary PP pillars overlap | **PRIMARY PP PILLAR**   * ***Equitable Distribution of Resources:*** The initiative focuses on enabling marginalized women and people with disabilities to achieve financial independence through small-scale drip irrigation, thereby addressing economic disparities within the community. The distribution of resources, in the form of affordable drip irrigation kits and access to training, aims to create a more equitable economic landscape***.***   **SECONDARY PP PILLARS**   * ***Well-Functioning Government (Secondary):*** While not the primary focus, the initiative collaborates with various stakeholders, including local authorities, NGOs, and agricultural experts. This collaboration contributes to the broader concept of well-functioning governance, where partnerships and community-driven approaches are employed to address challenges effectively. * ***Sound Business Environment (Secondary):*** The initiative indirectly contributes to developing a sound business environment by promoting economic activities through sustainable agricultural practices. Empowering marginalised women and people with disabilities economically creates a positive relationship between individuals and the local business environment. * ***Free Flow of Information (Secondary):*** While not the central focus, the initiative involves information dissemination during awareness campaigns and workshops. Ensuring the free flow of information contributes to transparency, awareness, and community engagement, aligning with the Positive Peace pillar of the Free Flow of Information. * ***Good Relations with Neighbors (Secondary):*** While the initiative primarily focuses on internal community development, the principles of collaboration and partnership involve maintaining positive relations with external stakeholders, contributing to regional stability indirectly. |
| **Rotary International Area of Focus Alignment** | Primary RI Area of Focus overlap | ***Community Economic Development:*** The core objective of the initiative, which is to enable financial independence and sustainable agricultural practices, closely aligns with Rotary's focus on community economic development. It aims to create long-term positive change within the community. |
| **Results/Impact’s sustainability** | How/if the project expected to sustain the achieved results | The sustainability of the Sustainable Empowerment initiative lies in its holistic approach to addressing economic, gender, and environmental challenges within the community. By enabling marginalized women and people with disabilities to achieve financial independence through small-scale drip irrigation, the initiative establishes a foundation for long-term economic stability. Promoting climate-resilient agricultural techniques mitigates climate change's impact and fosters environmentally sustainable practices, ensuring the initiative's relevance and efficacy in the face of evolving environmental challenges. Furthermore, emphasizing gender equality through active participation in decision-making ensures that the initiative contributes to lasting social change within the community. The community engagement strategies, support networks, and collaborative frameworks established during implementation create a sense of ownership and empowerment among community members, fostering a self-reinforcing cycle of sustainable practices. Documenting successful practices and lessons learned provides a knowledge-sharing mechanism, allowing continuous learning and adaptation. Altogether, these elements contribute to the initiative's resilience and potential to sustain a positive impact on the well-being of marginalized individuals and the community. |

**Log Frame**

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| **The activity** required steps/list of tasks to carry out the SCI | **Target/Objective:** the desired result | **Baseline** a reference point to evaluate performance | **Indicators** quantitative or qualitative parameters to assess progress and success | **Means of Verification** methods or tools to collect data that shows the achievement of an indicator |
| **Needs Assessment through community storytelling.**   1. Develop survey questionnaires. 2. Conduct focus group discussions through storytelling. 3. Analyze existing data on economic constraints and vulnerabilities. 4. Development of drama script for community engagement | Identify specific needs and challenges the community faces to inform the initiative's design. |  | 1. Comprehensive needs assessment report. 2. Identified areas for intervention. | 1. Comprehensive needs assessment report. 2. Identified areas for intervention. |
| **Small-Scale Drip Irrigation Training Programs through Interactive Playback**   1. Design training modules and drama scripts. 2. Identify training participants. 3. Conduct hands-on training sessions. | Enable participants to implement small-scale drip irrigation for increased agricultural productivity and income. |  | 1. Number of participants completing training. 2. Pre-and post-training assessments | 1. Training attendance records. 2. Assessment scores. 3. Training reports |
| **Distribution and Utilization of Drip Irrigation Kits**   1. Select suitable drip irrigation kits. 2. Distribute kits to participants. 3. Guide kit utilisation. | Ensure participants have access to and effectively use drip irrigation kits. |  | 1. Number of distributed kits. 2. Adoption rate of kit usage. | 1. Distribution records. 2. Monitoring visits and participant feedback. |
| **Climate-Smart Agriculture Training Programs through interactive playback**   1. Develop training modules on climate-smart practices. 2. Facilitate training sessions. 3. Conduct practical demonstrations. | Promote the adoption of climate-resilient agricultural techniques within the community. |  | 1. Number of participants attending training. 2. Adoption rate of climate-smart techniques. | 1. Training attendance records. 2. Monitoring of implemented practices. |
| **Community Dialogues on Climate Change through** Community**-Driven Playwriting Workshops**   1. Organize community-wide dialogues. 2. Address cultural barriers to climate adaptation. | Foster community awareness and discussions on climate change impacts and adaptation. |  | 1. Number of community members participating in dialogues. 2. Changes in community perceptions of climate change. | 1. Attendance records. 2. Pre- and post-dialogue surveys. |
| **Gender-Sensitivity Workshops**   1. Develop a workshop curriculum. 2. Organize gender-sensitivity workshops. 3. Facilitate discussions on equal participation. | Ensure active and meaningful participation of women in decision-making processes. |  | 1. Number of participants attending workshops. 2. Increased participation of women in decision-making. | 1. Workshop attendance records. 2. Observations and documented changes in decision-making processes. |
| **Storytelling Circles**   1. Organize storytelling sessions. 2. Document and share success stories. | Showcase success stories to inspire and motivate community members. |  | 1. Number of storytelling sessions conducted. 2. Positive impact on community motivation. | 1. Documentation of storytelling sessions. 2. Community feedback and reactions. |

Add additional rows if necessary.

**BUDGET**

You are only eligible to receive funding for the total amount proposed in your budget, up to $1,000 USD. Any requests for additional funding will be denied.

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| **Item\*** | **Amount (USD)** | **Description** |
| **Travel/Transportation** |  |  |
| Ground Transportation | 250 | local transportation for field visits and workshops. This cost will be used to cover costs related to the transport going to rural communities where activities will be conducted. |
| Accommodations | 300 | lodging for facilitators during visits. This will cover lodging costs for training facilitators if the training is conducted for more than two days. |
| **Direct project costs** |  |  |
| Materials/supplies | 1500 | For small-scale drip irrigation kits, educational materials. These funds will be used to procure drip irrigation kits for smallholder farmers participating in this initiative. The project will develop visual arts emerging from storytelling, which will be used during the training. |
| Stationary | 500 | Notebooks, pens, training materials like flip charts and markers. This will include costs related to materials used during the training workshops. |
| Community Engagement Events | 1750 | This will cover costs related to community engagements, including refreshments, snacks, the cost of the venue, and transport refunds for participants. |
| **Other expenses** |  |  |
| Contingency | 300 | Buffer for unforeseen expenses |
| **Total (USD)** | 4,600 |  |

Add additional rows if necessary.  
\* Expense items may significantly vary based on individual proposed initiatives and planned activities. Please feel free to include additional expense lines, ensuring they are reasonably justified in the description column.

**EXPLAIN HOW YOU WILL FUND ADDITIONAL EXPENSES SHOULD YOUR BUDGET EXCEED $1,000 USD.**

The approach involves actively pursuing diverse funding sources, including grant opportunities from foundations and relevant non-profit organisation sharing the initiative's mission. Additionally, the initiative aims to engage local businesses for potential corporate sponsorships, tapping into community fundraising efforts through events, campaigns, and donation drives. Leveraging online crowdfunding platforms provides an avenue to garner support from a broader audience. Collaborations with other organizations and strategic alliances are explored to access shared resources and support. In-kind donations, services, or resources from businesses and organizations are actively sought to supplement the budget. This multifaceted funding strategy ensures adaptability and financial sustainability, allowing the initiative to meet its objectives successfully despite exceeding the initial budget of $1,000.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND SIGNATURE**

I acknowledge that my proposal necessitates approval from both my Center Director and Rotary International Peace Centers Program Officer to obtain funding.

I am aware of my responsibility to keep abreast of the latest guidance regarding travel restrictions and quarantine policies in countries I plan to visit for my SCI. Additionally, I commit to researching entry restrictions and policies in those countries.

I agree that all funding decisions will be made by The Rotary Foundation, and that I will not receive additional funding beyond what I have included in my proposed budget.

I commit to providing updates regarding my SCI to The Rotary Foundation through my host Rotary Peace Center.

I affirm that the information presented in this proposal is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

In the event that the funds provided by The Rotary Foundation are not utilized for the specified activity outlined in this proposal, or if the proposed activity does not come to fruition, I agree to return all allocated funds to The Foundation.

**Date & Signature of Rotary Peace Fellow**

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| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **: Henry Mlinde** |
| **Signature** | **:** |
| **Date** | **:11 December 2023** |