

Learning Today to Transform Opportunity Tomorrow



IMPACT REPORT 2023



2023 was a dynamic year for the people we serve. Many suffered from some of climate change's worst effects. Meanwhile, others found new opportunity in climate solutions that are already proving it is possible to lift people up while protecting our planet.

Amid the climate crisis, every institution must reimagine how it works. For philanthropies, this context throws up new challenges and opportunities to missions and organizations. It requires resolve and focus, a vast array of trusted partners and collaborators, a willingness to listen and experiment, and a large dose of humility. The Rockefeller Foundation sought to bring all of those and more to bear in 2023.

Less than a year after launching our 5-year climate strategy, this report is not meant to grade our progress but to inform it. It abounds with lessons learned recently and across the span of the Foundation's history. These lessons will inform all we do this year and after as we work to scale solutions that advance human opportunity and reverse the climate crisis.

What We Learned

The results of last year's work extend far beyond these numbers. They have taught us a great deal about our work amid climate change. The report contains many lessons, including:

Lean into risk. Amid an unprecedented crisis, someone has to go first and farthest. One benefit of philanthropic capital is its flexibility, we must remember to try new things and invest early even if it means taking on risk.

Getting as close to community as possible enables impact. When we work closely with regional and local partners, projects are better implemented and have deeper impact for the people in those communities. In some cases, we have found ourselves too headquarters focused or removed from the communities we hope to serve.

Use more than grants alone. When RF has real impact, it is often when we look beyond the traditional use of grant capital to other innovative investment structures, and work with partners to promote new ideas, host convenings, build partnerships, and mobilize capital. Thinking bigger must extend to the array of tools we bring to the table.

We have a long way to go when it comes to being part of alliances. Big bets require big alliances of doers, funders, conveners, and more. Sometimes, we made assumptions about how easily collaboration between actors would come, underestimating the hard work it takes.

Speed counts, but impact comes with persistence. Meeting our goals requires patient and consistent focus. At times impatience has hindered our impact.

Impact by the Numbers

ENERGY



147M
tons of CO2
emissions averted
through the provision
of renewable energy

1.2M
people connected
to new or improved
energy systems

FOOD



137M
people with
improved nutrition
security

100K+
produce
prescription
patients
supported

HEALTH



518K
community health
workers across 13
countries supported
by stronger national
community health
policies, investment
cases and digital tools

61M+
people reached
by more precise
infectious disease
surveillance tools

FINANCE



300+
communities
reached with clean
energy projects in
the US

\$1B+
capital mobilized with
a 35x leverage on the
now fully committed
\$30M Zero Gap Fund