



The JCI Active Citizen Framework

Overview

INTRODUCTION

As global citizens we all have rights and responsibilities, as well as shared goals. Through active citizenship we encourage young people to take responsibility for the local challenges and find targeted, sustainable solutions that benefit our communities and the world. Motivated by the passion to transform their lives and the world, JCI members have the courage to address the critical challenges of our time.

However we also recognize that one individual or organization alone cannot achieve sustainable impact. Solutions to the greatest problems facing our community can only be reached by involving all sectors of society. These solutions must ensure healthy communities, drive economic empowerment and secure a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world.

JCI will be the organization that unites all sectors of society—business, government and civil society—to create sustainable impact. Sustainable impact is achieved through the collective actions of active citizens across local communities. Designed to address all types of community issues, JCI members are guided by the JCI Active Citizen Framework, which provides a methodology for conducting impactful projects that provide sustainable solutions to communities around the world.

THE FRAMEWORK

The process outlined by the JCI Active Citizen Framework consists of collaborating with partners and community stakeholders to examine community needs, formulate sustainable solutions and take action all while monitoring and evaluating our results to ensure sustainable solutions.

ANALYZE: Examine Community Needs

Community challenges cannot be solved without first understanding them. Using tools like surveys, demographic data and interviews with key stakeholders, active citizens conduct a community needs analysis to deepen their understanding of the community's challenges and their root causes. This first phase of the framework ensures the project is relevant to the needs of the community while also connecting members of the community, supporters of the initiative and potential partners for the project.

DEVELOP: Formulate Sustainable Solutions

After collecting and analyzing data on community needs, the next step is to formulate a project plan that address the core needs and their root causes, as well as provide long-term solutions. Collaborators outline goals, actions and desired outcomes that produce maximum impact in the community. Just as the needs analysis helps ensure community ownership of the challenges, involving all sectors of society in collaborating on a solution will help ensure sustainable impact.

STAGES OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The community can address the challenges it faces through three integrated stages of development that will drive a community toward prosperity and enhance development.

Stage 1: Health and Wellness

Healthy people are fundamental to building a successful society. Projects related to this stage address barriers that stand between citizens and healthy lives. Solutions may include disease prevention, enhancing sanitation and increasing access to medical treatment.

Projects related to Global Goal #1: No Poverty, Global Goal #2: Zero Hunger, Global Goal #3: Good Health and Well-Being, and Global Goal #6 Clean Water and Sanitation will apply to this stage.

Stage 2: Education and Economic Empowerment

Education and economic empowerment are the engines behind economies, lifting citizens out of poverty and putting them on a path toward sustainable development. This step builds on the foundation of Health and Wellness to ensure the development of skills and opportunities related to economic growth, employment, gender equality and entrepreneurship.

Projects related to Global Goal #4: Quality Education, Global Goal #5 Gender Equality, Global Goal #8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, Global Goal #9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, and Global Goal #10: Reduced Inequalities will apply to this stage.

Stage 3: Peace, Prosperity and Sustainability

When addressing issues in the first two stages, we must take a long-term view of development. Avoiding environmental and economic crisis that reverse progress requires a sustainable approach. Projects in stage three will prepare a community to maintain its successes by educating businesses and the public about their role in all types of sustainability including environmental sustainability as well as Corporate Social Responsibility.

Projects related to Global Goal #7: Affordable and Clean Energy, Global Goal #11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, Global Goal #12: Responsible Consumption and Production, Global Goal #13: Climate Action, Global Goal #14: Life Below Water, Global Goal #15: Life on Land, Global Goal #16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, and Global Goal #17: Partnerships for the Goals will apply to this stage.

EXECUTE: Take Action

Once the community need and root causes have been identified, take action by mobilizing resources, rallying support and implementing the project plan. By combining resources across sectors from key stakeholders, the community is enabled to achieve even greater sustainable impact. During this stage, communication, action and accountability is key to ensuring positive results and sustainable impact.

REVIEW: Monitor and Evaluate Results

Throughout the project, progress and results must be monitored to determine if the goal is on track to being achieved. Compare data collected during the needs analysis phase to data collected during and after the project to measure how much positive change was created. After completion, take the time to reflect on the actions taken and evaluate the team's performance in creating a long-lasting impact. The project's results will prove JCI's value to partners and help earn recognition as the organization that unites all sectors of society to create sustainable impact.

PARTNERSHIPS

To increase impact, partners are engaged during each step of the framework, which increases every stakeholder's ownership of the need and solution. Uniting resources and leveraging each other's strength can achieve better results. Resources can include people, expertise, physical or web-based tools and information or frameworks such as training and financial resources. With the JCI Active Citizen Framework as a tool to achieve sustainable impact and create a better world, likeminded organizations can better understand how we can create sustainable impact in the community together.

CONCLUSION

The JCI Active Citizen Framework provides a context for young active citizens to work together and unite all sectors of society to create sustainable impact. The framework ensures a community-based, needs-focused approach centers on grassroots action and results in sustainable positive change. Once the process has been completed and impact achieved, active citizens must continue to working toward transforming their community's challenges into opportunities for empowerment, development and impact.