AIF William J. Clinton Fellowship for Service in India
Twenty-seven young leaders from the U.S. and India worked in development organisations across 15 states in India. This event was the culmination of their ten months of service and it showcased their transformative work through presentations, exhibitions, stories and art.
The Fellowship provided me the opportunity to understand how medical technology can improve access to care for underserved populations.

Facilitated research at BEMPU Health (Karnataka) to understand the market for new products and select study sites.

Abigail Smith
Messages from development sector leaders
In our Fellowship cohort, I see living examples of how the age of interconnection has affected our understanding of who we need to serve in coming generations. (The Fellows) are not only committed to social change and development in their own communities but feel a strong responsibility to work for the betterment of communities who are different than their own. Through their ten months of service, our Fellows also have a deep awareness of how complex the task of cross-cultural understanding and problem-solving can be.

Katrina Dikkers Program Director, AIF Clinton Fellowship

Crossing Cultures, Sharing Solutions, Shaping Leaders
We have ‘networked problems,’ so solving them isn’t going to come with a silver bullet and one single solution, nor one organization. It’s going to come from bringing multiple organizations with multiple specialities on one platform in order to solve one problem. That means our ego has to go out of it. That takes a lot of discipline when you are used to talking about your organization and fighting your organization’s survival. It takes concerted effort to put the beneficiary at the front of the outcome.

When it comes to women’s inclusion in leadership positions, there is a need to create gender equalizing practices that are based on competence.
What you [AIF] are doing here is changing lives forever. You [AIF] have provided a forum for the next generation of leaders – women and men who are committed to making lasting change to under-privileged communities in India, women and men who aren’t afraid to change the status quo. And let me just say, a win for India is a win for the world. The work that you do or are doing in communities can solve some of the smaller problems in those communities that’s a victory for the world. What India has is a prototype for the whole planet and it is a wonderful place to work.

Mark A. White  Mission Director, USAID India
As AIF works towards addressing multiple development challenges, the Fellowship program compliments our work by creating future leaders, fostering solutions, and transcending borders and cultures. We have an alumni network of 452 Fellows, who have gone on to be leaders in their own fields. They carry with them a rich understanding of India’s culture, they carry with them potential solutions for a better tomorrow, and most importantly a desire to connect these two countries.

Mathew Joseph  
Country Director, AIFT

Crossing Cultures, Sharing Solutions, Shaping Leaders
The most powerful thing the Fellowship did for me was to push me out of my comfort zone.

Explored the intersection of perspectives around trafficking, migration and human rights at Srijan Foundation (Jharkhand).
Insights on nurturing leadership
The Fellowship can be seen as a lab for micro-innovation and the length of the Fellowship enables Fellows to devise solutions that are ready for scale up.

The process of the Fellowship allows Fellows to experience a culture and social context different from their own and to question, shape, and rebuild perspectives.

The Host Organizations also benefit from the process, as Fellows bring with them a set of diverse talents that are not easily available in the sector or even to the partner organization.
Give space and confidence to make mistakes and to fail. Success often stalls the process of learning, we need to accommodate failure.

Today’s democratic institutions are being challenged; in such a scenario the role of the civil society becomes very significant. This Fellowship program builds future leaders and bridges between countries.

During the Fellowship, leading and following go hand in hand, this process makes the Fellowship a unique journey.
The Fellowship solidified my interest in South Asia and empowered me to commit to working for marginalized communities in this region of the world.

Streamlined documentation, communication, and archiving at VAAGDHARA (Rajasthan)

Parijat Jha
Journeys of Leadership

Crossing Cultures, Sharing Solutions, Shaping Leaders
Narratives of Development
Asra Yousuf & Prashant Anand

Unpacking what development means through multiple perspectives – creating sustainable livelihoods in flood-prone Assam, and applying innovations in survey collection on sanitation in Bihar.

Videos screenings of singing for awareness, protest, social justice, transformation and joy, by communities in Bihar. Live performance of song ‘Dhak Se’!

Film-Screening Dhak Se!
Esmeralda Herrera
Life Skills as a Development Goal
Jackson Walker & Janelle Funtanilla

A conversation on the wide-ranging impact of life skills on young people, from personal growth to employability, and why we should place more emphasis on life skills in skilling initiatives.

Sharing Artists' Stories, Shaping My Own
Priya Charry

A presentation of the work and lives of three artists with disabilities, the stories they tell, and how art can not only create livelihoods but also social change.
Unfilmed Moments: Connecting to Communities to Share their Stories
Kara Morgan & Jamsheena Abdul Jabbar

A comedic performance on storytelling amidst cultural differences and languages, and the awkwardness of the interview process while filming artisans as part of a Fair Trade campaign.

Original spoken work poetry performance on the need for vulnerability when working across culture, witnessing injustice, and overcoming biases. In the search of defining development, the importance of understanding before intervening.

Development Is…
Crystal Williams & Esmeralda Herrera
Beyond the Space: Moving Towards a Reconceptualization of ‘Safe Spaces’ in Development

Minahil Khan, Shruti Rajan & Camille Parker

Introduction of a new framework for redefining ‘Safe Spaces’ to include self-expression, mentorship, and dignity of labor, based on the experience of working with women’s collectives in Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu and Delhi NCR.

A compelling reflection on moving beyond zones of comfort and growing while facing challenges, told through the lens of serving with a child’s rights organization in Gujarat.

The Year That Was…

Maitreyi Nandhakumar
The Fellowship provided me the opportunity to reconnect with my roots and understand how I could give back to my community.

Subha Shanmugavel

Worked with Shaishav (Gujarat) on their organizational communication and grant proposals.
Impact Showcase

Click here to view and download the posters
https://aif.org/fellowship/publications/

Crossing Cultures, Sharing Solutions, Shaping Leaders
The Fellowship provided me the opportunity to take my dreams to the next level.

Tsering Lhamo

Designed and implemented a comparative study on menstrual hygiene issues across three districts through AIF MANSI (Uttarakhand)
Publication Launch

Yearbook 2017-18, William J. Clinton Fellowship for Service in India

People-Powered Partnerships: U.S. and India Collaboration towards the Sustainable Development Goals

Senior Fellow Dossier 2017-18, William J. Clinton Fellowship for Service in India
The yearbook captures the stories of service and cross-cultural learning during the AIF Clinton Fellowship 2017-18. It also highlights the unique contributions made towards sustainable development goals this year.

Launched by Mark A. White, USAID India Mission Director

Click here to view and download the publication https://aif.org/fellowship/publications/
People-Powered Partnerships: U.S. and India Collaboration towards the Sustainable Development Goals, Senior Fellow Dossier 2017-18, William J Clinton Fellowship for Service India

Launched by Meagan Fallone, CEO of Barefoot College International

The inaugural Senior Fellow publication is written from the perspective of seasoned development practitioners with expertise in education, livelihoods, and public health. It provides tangible examples of how the 2017-18 AIF Clinton Fellowship has forged participatory, cross-cultural partnerships to promote inclusive solutions across 15 states of India.
This was a transformative year of my life because I learned to adapt and rely on my leadership skills. It gave me the courage to be the person who got things done over someone who only wanted to be liked.

Vipin Shri

Handled market research, digital marketing, and communication for Jaipur Rugs Foundation (Rajasthan)