



Working with Ashoka

Fact sheet for Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Peace Fellows

For 35 years Ashoka has found exceptional change-makers around the world and guided them to turn unexpected ideas into social progress. Ashoka's network enables over 3,300 social entrepreneurs to learn from one other while creating faster, more powerful change on a large scale. Venture and Fellowship, Ashoka's core program, drives the organization's goal of identifying leading social entrepreneurs with transformative ideas and giving them the support and community they need to thrive.

The one-year partnership pilot between Rotary and Ashoka will debut in seven countries: Egypt, Mexico, Nigeria, Netherlands, Philippines, Romania, and Spain.

Why work with Ashoka?

Ashoka identifies change-makers worldwide to help them find creative solutions to social problems. It joins with social entrepreneurs, organizations, educational institutions, and governments to bring new perspectives on social change. By partnering with Ashoka, Rotary clubs and districts gain access to a wide range of experts in social entrepreneurship. These people are devoted to offering support and resources to improve the lives of their communities.

Ashoka has an array of global programs that strengthen the power of collaborative entrepreneurship and enable everyone to become a change-maker. Check whether one of the following is active in your country:

- [Ashoka Fellows](#) are leading social entrepreneurs who come up with innovative solutions to some of the world's greatest challenges. Ashoka invests in these entrepreneurs at a key time in their venture, when minimal resources have maximal leverage. Through this program, Ashoka plants ideas that represent potentially groundbreaking paths forward for society.
- Through the [Executive in Residence program](#), corporate executives provide Ashoka Fellows with immersive learning opportunities at their place of employment. Companies hosts fellows for two weeks to six months. Fellows:
 - Develop change-making leaders by teaching them strategic, inclusive, and adaptive leadership skills
 - Identify business insights and opportunities to enable the company to gain a unique perspective — and advantage — in increasingly competitive global markets
 - Build partnerships with company leaders to tackle challenges together and find solutions
- The [Ashoka Support Network](#) (ASN) comprises a global community of successful, innovative leaders from a variety of fields. They see entrepreneurship as the primary engine for economic and social development. ASN members engage with Ashoka and Ashoka Fellows based on interests and skills. Members also participate in [Ashoka Globalizer](#) events, serve on advisory boards for Ashoka Fellows, attend local and regional retreats with members of the Ashoka community, help staff with institution-building efforts, and meet at global or regional summits. They commit to sharing knowledge, networking, and making an annual economic contribution to Ashoka. ASN currently includes more than 350 members in 25 countries.

- [Ashoka Youth Venture](#) empowers young people to learn change-making at an early age in order to become successful innovators and problem solvers as adults. The program supports opportunities for young people to dream, lead, and initiate change in and out of school, and to apply change across all aspects of their lives from an early age. Ashoka's Youth Venture works with schools, parents, organizations, and companies to support young people in this growth.

Rotary's six areas of focus align closely with Ashoka's vision to solve local challenges through social entrepreneurship. [Learn more](#)

Ways to partner with Ashoka

Connect your club with local Ashoka Fellows

- Read about [Ashoka's network of fellows](#) to learn how they address challenges through innovative solutions. Invite a fellow to present about his or her work at a club meeting. [Write to](#) an Ashoka country or fellowship representative for an introduction to a local change-maker.
- Design and implement projects in cooperation with an Ashoka Fellow. To help launch and increase the impact of joint projects, consider [crowdsourcing](#) from the Rotary family and the public. We encourage people who have qualifying projects to apply for a district or global grant for added support.
- Explore opportunities for club members to get involved with local Ashoka Fellows' work. Rotarians may want to offer hands-on support, give technical guidance, or introduce fellows to businesses with shared interests.
- [Get inspired by young change-makers](#) and expose Rotary's young leaders to Ashoka's youth efforts and opportunities with the [Lead Young](#) campaign. Youth Venture can work with Interact and Rotaract clubs to integrate change-making into their projects. Ashoka Fellows can offer easy ideas that will lead Rotary's young leaders to master the four change-making skills: empathy, new leadership, teamwork, and problem-solving. [Youth Venture](#) also offers tools and resources to launch your own youth-led community venture.

Maximize professional opportunities

- Explore how your business or employer can participate in the Executives in Residence program by becoming a host site for Ashoka Fellows. Fellows will learn from your executives while contributing their own expertise. Contact executiveinresidence@ashoka.org.
- Join the [Ashoka Support Network](#). Contact infoasn@ashoka.org.

Just as Rotary clubs choose their priorities, Ashoka Fellows are independent entrepreneurs who strive to solve social problems. Clubs and fellows have full discretion over the partnerships they build. We encourage clubs that partner with Ashoka Fellows to formalize their relationships with a memorandum of understanding that details the responsibilities of both parties.

Share your impact

Have you collaborated with an Ashoka Fellow? Publicize your joint work on [Rotary Showcase](#), and tell us about it through this [brief online survey](#). Your opinions help us better support the partnership. Success stories may be shared through Rotary and Ashoka media to further inspire local collaboration.