



Solving Pollution Problems, Saving Lives

Mission Statement

Blacksmith Institute's mission is to develop and implement solutions for pollution-related problems in the developing world, particularly in locations where there is a direct effect on human health.

Hazards of Pollution

Industrial wastes, air emissions, and legacy pollution affect 100 million people around the world, with tens of thousands poisoned and killed each year. Others have reduced neurological development, damaged immune systems, and long-term health problems. Children are especially at risk. The World Health Organization, in conjunction with the World Bank, estimates that 20% of deaths in the developing world are directly attributed to environmental factors from pollution. Blacksmith Institute was formed in 1999 to address acute pollution-related problems in the developing world. We work cooperatively with members of civil society, donors and governments; providing strategic, technical, and financial support to local champions working for the betterment of their communities.

Blacksmith's Strategy

Blacksmith focuses on locations throughout the developing world where human health is most affected by pollution. Our programs involve a multi-step process of:

1. Identifying polluted places in the developing world, with nominations received from members of the international community and through the internet;
2. Assessing the health risks at those locations by:
 - Reviewing nominations with a Technical Advisory Board of leading international specialists on a rolling monthly basis
 - Visiting candidate sites with likely high health risk implication
 - Conducting an Initial Site Assessment: a triage protocol that validates likely health implications, and enables the design of an intervention
3. Designing and implementing a remediation strategy tailored to the specifics of the site in question, using local champions to implement the project in a cooperative fashion.

Local Empowerment

We believe that problems are only solved when there is someone locally to guide the work and champion the solution. That person might be a passionate government official, the leader of a community-based organization, a local council member, or a local resident. This approach capitalizes on local knowledge and networks, enables practical responses within communities, and is inclusive of all site stakeholders from community leaders and local governments, to industry, national and international actors.

Support

Blacksmith supports its local partners with more than just grants so that solutions can be implemented in the most cost effective and direct manner. Blacksmith provides:

Technical Research: We bring the necessary resources to research a pollution problem and its proposed solutions thoroughly. We partner with scientific and technical groups in the U.S. (and also in Europe) that have demonstrated expertise in areas relevant to pollution remediation.

Strategic Assistance: We provide help with project planning and implementation planning, using our experience in similar projects to enable local champions to describe a credible methodology for site remediation, and move forward with it.

Networking Capabilities: We develop collaborative networking opportunities for our partners, linking them to the most appropriate resources to meet their needs, including multilateral organizations such as the World Bank.

Financial Support: Through the generosity of our personal and institutional funders, we provide seed money, and potentially continuing support to projects that have demonstrated clear successes in pollution remediation.

About Blacksmith

Blacksmith Institute is an international not-for-profit organization dedicated to solving life-threatening pollution problems in the developing world. A global leader in this field, Blacksmith addresses a critical need to identify and clean up the world's worst polluted places, focusing on sites where pollution threatens human health, especially where children are most at risk. Based in New York, Blacksmith works cooperatively in partnerships that include governments, the international community, NGOs and local agencies to design and implement innovative, low-cost solutions to save lives. Since 1999, Blacksmith has completed over 30 projects; Blacksmith is currently engaged in more than 40 projects in 19 countries. www.blacksmithinstitute.org

Blacksmith is known for its annual **World's Worst reports** (www.worstpolluted.org); for the creation of the **Blacksmith Index** (used around the world to rate levels of health risk from pollution); and for the **Blacksmith database**, the only resource of its kind, which currently documents over 600 of the world's worst polluted places. Blacksmith is currently expanding this database with the **Global Inventory Project**, a worldwide effort to assess and document some 3000 polluted sites in over 60 countries. In 2008, Blacksmith began efforts to create the global **Health and Pollution Fund** (www.hpfund.org) to finance the cleanup and elimination of legacy pollution in the developing world.

