Rooted in extraordinary vision and leadership, Washington’s global development sector is becoming an international force. Academic, business, philanthropic and nonprofit leaders from across the state are making crucial contributions to global health, poverty alleviation, the environment, and education.

Building on Washington’s strengths in international trade, health sciences, information technology, academic research, and philanthropy, the sector’s scope and impact are expanding as it gains scale and momentum.

Global development is an important economic cluster emerging in Washington, impacting lives around the world while improving livelihoods here at home. Now is the time for Washington’s nonprofits, academic institutions, businesses and individuals to organize and harness this activity and develop a concerted movement to build a more equitable and prosperous world.

Global Washington and BERK (a public policy consulting firm) contacted 763 businesses, academic centers, nonprofits and foundations in March and April 2009, inviting them to complete a survey of their global development activities.

Of an estimated 763 organizations, a sampling of 122 met our definition of global development work based on their survey responses, including their reported activities in the developing world and the kind of issues they reported addressing. Our findings complement those of earlier studies conducted by Global Washington and the University of Washington. For the purposes of this study, global development was defined as efforts to improve the quality of life in developing nations, particularly those of the poor.

Washington’s impact can be felt on a wide spectrum of global development issues. The 122 businesses, nonprofits and academic centers reported that:

- **114 Washington organizations** work on economic development and poverty alleviation.
- **85 Washington organizations** conduct programs that improve global health.
- **85 Washington organizations** contribute to climate, environmental and agriculture activities.

Global Washington convenes, strengthens, and advocates across key global development issues, generating new opportunities for growth for our members.

Global Washington’s global development organizations address critical issues in all 144 developing countries across the globe.

The map below highlights a sample of the work conducted by Washington organizations in Bolivia, China, Costa Rica, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Mongolia, Oman, Peru, Rwanda, Uganda, and Zambia.
Global and Local Impacts of Global Development

GLOBAL IMPACT

Key Characteristics of Washington’s Global Development Sector

- Washington’s global development organizations work in 144 developing countries across 5 continents. 38 countries have a dozen or more Washington-based organizations active in their communities. ¹

- Washington-based organizations are contributing in multiple ways to issues across the spectrum of health, poverty, the environment and education. ¹

- Nearly 200 Washington-based nonprofits are working on global development issues. ²

- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation provided $1.5 billion in grants to global health and development efforts worldwide in 2007. ²

- An additional 38 Washington foundations reported providing roughly $12 million in grants to global development efforts in 2007. ³

- Washington’s higher education institutions have made significant investments in global development education, research, and cross-cultural learning.

- Many of Washington’s leading businesses, including Starbucks, Boeing, Microsoft and Weyerhaeuser, are recognized as pioneers in the global corporate citizenship movement.

- Washington is home to some of the most powerful nonprofits making a difference across the globe including: PATH, Rural Development Institute, Seattle Biomedical Research Institute, and Global Partnerships.

LOCAL IMPACT

Employment

- Global development is a growing generator of high wage jobs in multiple industries; global development job wages are higher than the statewide average. ², ³, ⁴

- In 2007, foundations and nonprofits reported 3,181 full time employees that work on global development activities with about $168 million in total salaries paid. ²

Volunteerism

- More than 4,000 volunteers support Washington’s global development nonprofits. ³ ³

- About one-third of Washington’s global development nonprofits have an all-volunteer staff. ³ ³

Education

- Washington has more than 14,000 international students. ⁴

- The state’s public and private universities and colleges offer approximately 200 university-level degrees with international focus. ⁵

- The University of Washington ranks first in the nation among universities whose students volunteer in the Peace Corps⁶, and offers 76 different foreign languages for study.

- Each year, Washington State University hosts approximately 650 faculty and researchers from around the world, and 1,100 students from over 100 countries. WSU partners internationally with public and private organizations in agriculture, bioengineering, and small business development leveraging research and development grants and donations of $16.5 million to bring education and research to people in developing countries.

- In 2009 Pacific Lutheran University became the first university in Washington to receive the prestigious Senator Paul Simon Award for Campus Internationalization. In 2009 PLU matched a $1 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to create a $2 million dollar endowment to assist low income students to participate in study abroad programs.

- Seattle Public Schools have 5 international schools, 5 elementary dual language immersion programs in Spanish, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, and 2 International Baccalaureate High Schools.

- In 2008 alone, over 16,000 Washingtonians attended global development events to increase awareness and understanding about global issues.

- Washington organizations are leaders in improving the effectiveness of their programs through partnerships with organizations in the developing world. Microsoft’s $500 million Partners in Learning program, promoting innovation and technology use in educational settings through partnerships with local schools, has improved the educational experience for 135 million students worldwide.
Contributions

• Washington businesses address critical issues in all 144 developing countries across the globe.*
• Washington businesses and nonprofits contributed more than $48 million to global development activities in 2008.*
• Nonprofits and academic institutions identified more than 90 unique funders that support their global development work.*
• Nonprofits reported that 9% of their revenue, or about $63 million, came from individual donors.*

Poverty Alleviation/Economic Development

• 163 nonprofit organizations in Washington work on poverty alleviation in the developing world. 32 of them work on microcredit, 28 support access to communication technologies, and 20 promote fair trade.  
• A long history of experience in global development issues by some Washington organizations provides lessons for the future, and demonstrates a track record of success. For instance, the Rural Development Institute has worked for over 40 years to deliver land rights to over 400 million people worldwide.

Global Health

• 149 Washington nonprofit organizations work on global health issues abroad with some 36 others working on global health issues domestically. 1
• 57 academic centers at Washington’s six public four-year universities address global health concerns. 1
• 127 companies headquartered in Washington State contribute to global health programs through corporate social responsibility efforts. 1
• Global health is a $4 billion sector in Washington State, generating $143 million in tax revenue annually for state and local governments. 1

Environment

• Woodland Park Zoo supports 38 field-conservation projects in more than 50 countries—from Africa to South America, Papua New Guinea to Central Asia. The investments go directly into the field to support species conservation, capacity building, protection of habitat, education and health in local communities.
• As part of its mission to build global community through local environmental service, EarthCorps brings emerging leaders from around the world to take part in environmental service-learning programs. Alumni have used this experience to return home and implement similar programs.
• Water 1st addresses the environmental aspects of water supply by promoting and funding sanitation, reducing the impact of human waste on water supplies. Community level projects include a water source protection component to help villagers understand the threats to their water systems and ways that they can address these threats.

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SNAPSHOT

Worldwide Impact: Global Development in Action
Sixty-two Washington organizations are working in Kenya. Below is a snapshot of some of their projects.

EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY ACCESS: MICROSOFT HELPS CONNECT SCHOOLS ACROSS AFRICA

MICROSOFT UNLIMITED POTENTIAL: PARTNERS IN LEARNING has collaborated with the New Partnership for Africa’s Development on the e-school initiative. This project connects schools across Africa via a satellite network. A pilot e-school in Kenya is one of 25 pilot schools across Africa that has benefitted from Microsoft information and communication technology solutions, receiving computer labs, connectivity to the internet, educational software, teacher training, and maintenance and support.

COMMUNITY HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS: WORLD VISION AND PATH’S APHIA PROJECT

Since 2006, PATH has partnered on APHIA (AIDS, Population and Health Integrated Assistance) programs funded by USAID in Eastern and Nyanza provinces. The programs work to expand access and usage of treatments for HIV/AIDS, malaria, TB, as well as improving the availability of maternal and child health services. PATH uses community theater, school-based interventions, and village health committees to illustrate healthy behaviors, reducing the incidence of disease in the provinces, and ensuring that more individuals utilize available treatments when ill. WORLD VISION is responsible for working with the local NGO partners on the ground to deliver HIV prevention programs.

CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS: STARBUCKS’ KENYA HEARTLAND COFFEE PROJECT

Since 2005, STARBUCKS and the African Wildlife Foundation have collaborated to help protect wildlife, conserve natural resources, and promote high-quality coffee production. The project’s grassroots education efforts (such as teaching ecologically-sound growing practices to local farmers) help sustain the ecosystem while improving the livelihoods of coffee farming communities throughout Kenya.

HEALTH CARE, EDUCATION AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM: CROOKED TRAILS AND THE MAASAI ASSOCIATION

CROOKED TRAILS and THE MAASAI ASSOCIATION partner in a community-based tourism program which brings participants to the village of Merrueshi to assist with development projects, such as the construction and renovation of schools and clinics, which are designed and implemented by the villagers. This program directly supports the local economy, increases local access to education and health care, and helps to minimize permanent migration of young men and women from the community into urban areas.

Global Washington is a broad-based membership association that promotes and supports the global development sector in the state of Washington. Composed of nonprofit organizations, foundations, businesses, government and academic institutions, our members work collectively to build a more equitable and prosperous world.

Global Washington is one of the drivers of the global development sector in Washington. It convenes members to generate new opportunities for growth, strengthens member organizations to increase their impact, and advocates across key global development issues at the local, national, and global level.

WASHINGTON ORGANIZATIONS WORKING IN KENYA