USPTO’s Patents for Humanity Program
Patents for Humanity summary

• Awards competition for innovators who deploy game-changing technologies to meet global humanitarian challenges

• Winners receive accelerated USPTO processing of one matter in their portfolio (any technology)

• Awards ceremony for the winners

• Gave 7 awards in Apr 2015 and 10 awards in 2013
1. Why is USPTO doing this?
Context

• 1.02 billion suffer from hunger
• 884 million don’t have access to clean water
• Neglected tropical diseases affect 1.4 billion
• Poor sanitation impacts 2.5 billion
Since 1990, people living on less than $1.25 a day declined from 1.8 billion to 1.4 billion.
USPTO Goals

Goals include:

• Bring attention to humanitarian issues
• Provide success stories for others to emulate
• Show how patents create solutions to global challenges
2. Why should you do this?
Emerging opportunity

Businesses are using innovative models to create new opportunities at the base of the economic pyramid

- “4 billion people at the base of the pyramid... represent one-third of the world’s economy.”
- Bill Gates: “how to fight poverty with profitability”
Local engagement

Engaging with local communities yields greater success

- Understanding local needs creates better solutions
- Reverse Innovation can benefit developed markets (GE, P&G, Microsoft, Nokia, Tata Motors)

“if companies link their own financial success with that of their constituencies... The local communities’ growing economic health boosts profits and prosperity for everyone along the value chain.” Segmenting the Base of the Pyramid, HBR 2011
Recipient’s view

“Since winning the award, we have received inquiries from potential clients and partners who were impressed by our innovation and the recognition from USPTO. The award has opened doors for us and helped to solidify greater brand awareness and reputation.”

Meliza Anne Mitra, Global Business Coordinator for Sproxil Inc. (2013 recipient)
3. Who else is doing this?
2015 Awards

• Made 7 awards in 5 categories: Medicine, Sanitation, Nutrition, Energy, Living Standards
• Ceremony at the White House (EEOB)
Artemisinin anti-malarial drugs

Image © Kristian Peters 2007. CC-BY-SA
Tuberculosis drug candidates
Sanitation

American Standard

“SaTo” safe toilet pans

Image © American Standard
Shipping container solar lighting station
Nutrition

PlumpyNut malnutrition treatment

Image © Michaël Zumstein / Agence Vu'
Nutrition

Golden Rice Project

Vitamin-A enriched rice
Living Standards

All-terrain wheelchair

Image © GRIT
2013 Recipients

5 large companies, 3 small companies, 1 university, 1 non-profit. More info at www.uspto.gov/patentsforhumanity
2012 Applicant Types

80 Total Applications

• 67 Use
• 13 Research
How to Apply

- Applications due Dec 8, 2017
- Non-technical narratives, doable in a few hours
- Apply online at http://www.uspto.gov/patentsforhumanity
Practitioners

What can you do in your practice?
“In our global economy, progress in even the poorest countries can advance the prosperity and security of people far beyond their borders, including my fellow Americans.”

President Barack Obama
U.N. Millennium Development Goals Summit
September 22, 2010