

THE NGO WORLD



The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI)



Women and girls in Syria and Türkiye still need your support

'Civil society killer': Israel tax bill threatens to silence NGOs



The Indispensable Role of NGOs in Alleviating Human Suffering

Dear readers,

In times of unprecedented challenges, the resilience and compassion of the human spirit come to the forefront. In this regard, the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) cannot be understated. NGOs, with their unwavering commitment to humanity, have been instrumental in lessening the suffering of individuals and communities across the globe. Their tireless efforts have provided hope, support, and relief to those in need. Today, we delve into the invaluable contributions of NGOs in alleviating human suffering, while also shining a light on their recent humanitarian response in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Turkey.

The Compassionate Champions:

NGOs play a vital role in addressing various socio-economic, environmental, and health-related issues. Their presence fills the gaps left by governments and complements international aid efforts. These organizations are driven by a sense of purpose, working towards sustainable development, empowerment, and social justice. NGOs champion causes ranging from poverty eradication and education to healthcare, women's rights, and disaster response. They are known for their agility, grassroots connections, and ability to respond swiftly in times of crisis.

Transforming Lives and Communities:

NGOs actively engage in on-the-ground work, directly impacting the lives of individuals and communities. They provide

humanitarian assistance during conflicts, natural disasters, and public health emergencies. NGOs offer immediate relief by providing food, shelter, medical aid, and clean water to those affected. Additionally, they focus on long-term solutions, working closely with local communities to ensure sustainable development through education, capacity building, and skill training programs. By empowering individuals, NGOs enable communities to break the cycle of poverty, leading to improved standards of living.

Crisis in Turkey: Humanitarian Response by NGOs:

Recently, Turkey experienced a devastating earthquake that left countless lives shattered and communities in disarray. In the wake of this catastrophe, NGOs promptly stepped forward to provide essential aid, comfort, and relief to those affected. These organizations mobilized their resources, deployed teams of dedicated volunteers, and worked in close coordination with local authorities and international partners.

NGOs played a crucial role in search and rescue operations, medical assistance, and the distribution of emergency supplies. They set up temporary shelters, ensuring a safe haven for displaced families. NGOs also provided psychological support, helping individuals cope with the trauma of loss and displacement. In the aftermath of the earthquake, these

organizations continue to work tirelessly to aid in the process of rehabilitation and rebuilding, offering hope for a brighter future

Looking Ahead:

As we reflect on the significant contributions of NGOs in lessening the suffering of humanity, it is essential to acknowledge the challenges they face. Funding constraints, bureaucratic hurdles, and the need for sustained public support often pose obstacles. Nevertheless, NGOs remain steadfast in their mission, driven by the belief that every life deserves dignity, equality, and access to basic necessities.

The NGO World commends the selfless dedication and unwavering commitment of NGOs worldwide. Their relentless efforts have been instrumental in alleviating human suffering and bringing positive change to countless lives. Let us unite in recognizing their invaluable contributions and support their noble endeavors, ensuring a more compassionate and just world for all.

Together, we can create a future where the suffering of humanity is alleviated, and the collective resilience of individuals and communities prevails.

Warm regards,

Zafar Iqbal

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Pillars and Entities

The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI)

20 Years of Hope

The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI) was established in 2015, combining under its umbrella over 30 humanitarian and developmental initiatives and entities, most of which have been launched and supported by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai, for more than 20 years.

The Foundation's humanitarian, social and development initiatives and entities are primarily devoted to supporting and empowering vulnerable and disadvantaged communities around the world.

The MBRGI is the largest regional foundation in terms of the number of institutional initiatives that lead wide-reaching programmes and projects on a global scale.

Besides major time-bound humanitarian aid and relief operations, the MBRGI entities and initiatives also support vital societal sectors and develop practical and innovative solutions to address cultural, knowledge, economic, social, health, environment and

humanitarian challenges in the region and the world.

Our Vision

The Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI) reflects the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, to develop a comprehensive humanitarian aid and social framework that adopts and implements a culture of hope.

Under this framework, diverse initiatives, programmes and projects have evolved into established entities that institutionalize humanitarian and developmental work to maximize and sustain positive impact and expand the scope of beneficiaries.

The MBRGI's entities and initiatives carry out hundreds of programmes, projects, campaigns and activities to improve the quality of life in societies, with special focus on vital developmental and service sectors including education and healthcare, human development, capacity-building, talent investment and women and youth empowerment.

The wider scope of the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum stems from the necessity of effective investment in efforts and capabilities to build advanced and civilized societies.

Overview

What We Do

The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives' entities and initiatives are classified under five main pillars, each serving a particular humanitarian, social and development sector to meet the Foundation's overarching mission to build stable and prosperous societies. The pillars reflect MBRGI's vision to create hope and foster a culture of positive change in the region.

The five main pillars are:

- ◆ Humanitarian Aid and Relief
- ◆ Healthcare and Disease Control
- ◆ Spreading Education and Knowledge
- ◆ Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- ◆ Empowering Communities



Humanitarian Aid and Relief

Humanitarian Aid and Relief is of exceptional importance to Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives, reflecting its core mission as an overarching entity of humanitarian entities and initiatives that seek to improve lives and deploy necessary resources and capacities to alleviate all kinds of suffering across the world. The fundamental pillar aims to provide urgent aid and effective emergency relief to communities affected by natural disasters, wars and other crises, in addition to implementing sustainable long-term development projects and programmes that improve lives of communities facing challenges such as poverty and conflict.



Empowering Communities

One of the core missions of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI) is to empower communities with the necessary tools for their development and prosperity. The Foundation organizes numerous projects, initiatives, programmes, conferences and awards to promote common human values among people and societies and foster a culture of hope and positivity. The MBRGI strives to establish the values of cultural and religious pluralism and coexistence, and encourage an acceptance of and respect for differences as part of the efforts to fight despair, radicalism, marginalization and conflict-igniting hate speech.

Under the Empowering Communities pillar, the Foundation channels efforts to promote cultural and humanitarian dialogue regionally and globally, raising awareness of multiculturalism and cooperation to ultimately create human solidarity in societies. Initiatives within this pillar also emphasise the pivotal role of traditional and digital media in keeping up with societal changes and communicating people's aspirations. Diverse leadership development programmes are also implemented, with aims to build the next generation of effective leaders capable of formulating future policies and strategies that nurture advanced, stable and prosperous societies.





Spreading Education and Knowledge

The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI) pays special focus to Spreading Education and Knowledge that serve as the basis of building nations through investing in its main resource: the human capital. To achieve its vision, the Foundation's numerous initiatives, projects and campaigns are dedicated to supporting educational systems in developing countries and facilitating necessary resources to create innovative and high-quality school environments.

Entities and initiatives devoted to Spreading Education and Knowledge essentially provide basic education to ensure a better future for young generations. As part of its efforts to fight illiteracy, MBRGI seeks to develop educational cadres and build facilities equipped with the latest technologies, as well as implement vocational education programmes that empower students in disadvantaged societies to improve their lives and lift their families out of poverty. Through this pillar, the MBRGI develops knowledge-oriented programmes and projects, aiming to foster a culture of knowledge among youth in the Arab world, and equip and build a well-informed generation capable of responding to challenges in their societies effectively.



Innovation and Entrepreneurship

As part of its strategic vision to shape the future, the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI) supports initiatives, programmes and projects that promote entrepreneurial thinking and creativity to meet the global need of building knowledge-based economies and adopting future technologies towards a prosperous future for communities.

Entities that operate within the Innovation and Entrepreneurship pillar establish programmes and projects that seek to support entrepreneurs and innovators, invest in futuristic strategies, and establish incubators for innovative youth projects. Holding the awareness of the necessity to build sustainable economy that drives stability in societies, the MBRGI channels collective efforts to create proactive solutions for future challenges and foster a culture of innovative forward-thinking and practice to meet people's future needs.



Healthcare and Disease Control

Work in Healthcare and Disease Control pillar comprise a large portion of Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives' programmes and projects, driven by objectives to combat major diseases and epidemics, prevent and treat infectious diseases, and provide healthcare services, particularly maternal and pediatric services, to disadvantaged communities.

This central pillar focuses on providing primary and preventative healthcare services, including surgical procedures, vaccination, examination and awareness campaigns and treatment programmes to alleviate the suffering in less fortunate communities.

Programmes launched by entities in Healthcare & Disease Control aim to support and fund medical research and scholarships, equip cadres of medical professionals and invest in capacity-building. These areas of work are designed to shape healthy environments that enable quick and effective response to major infectious diseases and epidemics, thus, ensure public safety and wellbeing.





Civil Society Forum Calls for Action on Sustainable Development in LDCs

Civil society organizations (CSOs) from around the world, in particular from LDCs and other developing countries, gathered at the Civil Society Forum of the LDC5 Summit. We thank the government of Qatar for the hospitality that made it possible and the UN OHRLS for partnering with civil society in its organization.

The participants explored a variety of issues of particular concern to LDCs and expressed commitment to engage with the Doha Programme of Action (DPoA) and contribute to its robust monitoring and accountability.

Many CSOs participating in the Forum are rooted in local communities and derive strength and credibility from the diverse interests represented. Many of the constraints to an LDC's ability to achieve sustainable development and sustainable peace are exacerbated by external factors, and civil society actors working nationally and locally are committed to working with

colleagues in LDCs as well as regionally and globally.

In their deliberations, CSOs expressed concern about the abundance of false solutions or unfulfilled promises for LDCs. They called for respect of human rights and fundamental principles for the sustainable development of LDCs, primary amongst them the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities.

Many gaps remain between the goals and aspirations of LDCs and implementation. The DPoA "note[d] with concern that the LDCs remain marginalized in the world economy and continue to suffer from extreme poverty, inequality and structural weaknesses".

Not only is the international community failing to reduce this marginalization, monetary and fiscal policies foster it. LDCs have only 3.5% voting rights at the International Monetary Fund, while they hold 24% of the votes in the UN General Assembly. The Bretton Woods Institutions and global financial system were designed when most of today's LDCs were still

colonies. Many CSOs support the calls for a new Bretton Woods.

Multilateral trade rules create some exemptions for LDCs, but the terms of their integration into international markets remain unfair.

Further, the regulatory power of LDCs is often curtailed in the expansion of the digital economy. Trade agreements force LDCs to



agree to free data flows, facilitate tax evasion by digital companies, and the moratorium on customs duties for e-transmissions perpetuates structural injustices.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the unjust response to it have further marginalized the ability of LDCs to protect their residents and exposed the inequitable allocation of life-saving vaccines and treatments.

And support is woefully lacking as LDCs must adapt to the damaging impact of the climate crisis, a crisis they carry little or no responsibility for creating.

Some of the lasting solutions will come from building on LDC strengths. As the CSO Forum heard: "Farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolk, indigenous peoples and local communities use agroecology to steward their land sustainably, produce nourishing food that celebrates cultural heritage, strengthens local markets and economies and helps solve the climate crisis."

They add that: "LDCs face particular challenges due to limitations of finance, capital equipment, and infrastructure. A large part of their economic production and distribution depends heavily on human labour, paid and unpaid, and takes place in small farms, households, and small and medium enterprises.

As in much of the world, both paid and unpaid work are deeply gendered, with women and girls having major responsibilities for the care work that is essential to human survival. At the same time, migration has often been a part of economic subsistence, engaging entire families and communities. Climate change, deforestation and land and water degradation and pollution push people to migrate, even as it becomes riskier and more fraught with threats and fear of violence. During the present time of multiple and interlocked crises, the pandemic of violence against women and girls is more pernicious than ever."

"Building an "economy that actually cares" is a matter of ratcheting LDCs and all developing countries from the low road to the high road to sustainable development. The low road is one created by policies of enforced austerity, deregulation, and the undermining of human rights. The high road is one that protects and promotes human rights and human development for all to catalyze national socio-economic and structural transformation. This is the high road that LDCs need, want, and deserve."

Source: <https://www.un.org/ldc5/>



The IRC supports communities in the U.S., Central Africa, and Pakistan with sustainable solutions to climate change

London, United Kingdom, April 21, 2023 – The International Rescue Committee (IRC) recognizes the critical role that the environment plays in supporting thriving communities. Earth Day highlights the urgent need to protect our planet and its resources, as conflict and economic instability provide a feedback loop to environmental degradation, which exacerbates displacement. Communities that contribute the least to the causes of climate change are bearing the brunt of extreme weather worldwide. The IRC is committed to addressing the impact of climate change on the world's most vulnerable people and communities through programs in places such as the United States, Central Africa, and Pakistan, focusing on adaptation, building resilience, and emergency response.

Source: <https://www.rescue.org/uk/press-release/irc-supports-communities-us-central-africa-and-pakistan-sustainable-solutions-climate>



UNICEF UK and University of Cambridge launch toolkit for supporting mental health in infancy and early childhood

Launched today by UNICEF UK and University of Cambridge Centre for Research on Play in Education, Development & Learning (PEDAL), toolkit on supporting mental health in infancy and early childhood. Providing resources, signposting, and conversation guides to support constructive local discussions, decisions and action about the needs of babies and young children in local areas, and what more might be done to respond to these needs (including through strategy development across mental health, maternity, early years or Family Hubs & Start for Life). Great work Joanna Moody, Sally Hogg and so many others.

Source: <https://www.unicef.org/uk/campaign-with-us/early-moments-matter/early-childhood-mental-health-toolkit/>

Girls must be digital leaders!

Girls are taking opportunities to become digital creators and learn skills that will allow them to flourish this Girls in ICT Day, write Julia Spencer and Nikita Shrubsole.

The gender divide in digital access, digital literacy, and ICT education and occupations hinders young women and adolescent girls' access to the benefits and opportunities that digital technologies offer. Over 90% of jobs worldwide already have a digital component and most jobs will soon require sophisticated digital skills.

Discrimination experienced in early education systems reinforces stereotypes of what is appropriate for boys and girls to learn and acts as a barrier for girls from studying and working in non-traditional fields such as STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths).

As adolescents, their access to technology and the internet increases but they are less equipped to navigate online spaces safely and benefit from the many educational, social, economic, and health resources that digital spaces and technologies offer. Girls know this and recognise how important it is for them to obtain digital skills.

Source: https://plan-international.org/blog/2023/04/27/girls-must-be-digital-leaders/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ictday

Girls and young women must have a voice in shaping the digital world



#GIRLSINICT



Moses: The first person in the whole village to go to university

will help motivate my siblings and other kids in my community to think that they can do it too." – Moses

Source: <https://www.wvi.org/stories/child-sponsorship/Christmas-of-firsts/moses-first-person-whole-village-go-university>

Moses is 19 and about to become the first person not only in his family, but in his whole village, to go to university. It's all thanks to hard work, his sponsor, and a cow.

"There haven't been any children from my village so far who have made it to college, so just making it there

The Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue: Working Together for Our Common Future

Will take place from 13 to 15 June 2023 in Marrakesh, Morocco. The Conference is organised by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco in cooperation with Religions for Peace, and with the support of the United Nations Alliance of Civilisations and the Mohammadia League of Religious Scholars. Those from the Religions for Peace network are invited to attend this conference and can register at no cost.* When answering the question "Is your Organization or Institution affiliated with Religions for Peace or the UN Alliance of Civilisations?" on the registration form, ensure you click, Yes and indicate Religions for Peace.



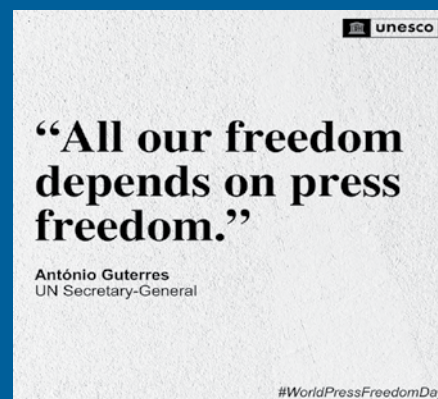
Addressing issues of inclusion and coexistence is an important part of the IPU's mandate to promote peace and understanding through political dialogue, cooperation and parliamentary action. The IPU's 2012 Quebec City Declaration on Citizenship, identity and linguistic and cultural diversity in a globalised

world recognises the importance of balancing respect for diversity with social inclusiveness and cohesion as a means of building trust within and among societies and as a precondition for progress, prosperity and a high quality of life. The 2017 St. Petersburg Declaration on Promoting cultural pluralism and peace through interfaith and inter-ethnic dialogue recognised that dialogue with faiths, cultures and ethnicities is essential to peace and cultural pluralism and that, as representatives of the people, the world's parliaments are committed to strengthening normative processes and legal frameworks conducive to more open and inclusive societies.

The Conference will bring together speakers and members of parliament, religious leaders, representatives of civil society and other experts to engage in dialogue and share good practices around key issues standing in the way of sustainable co-existence and to jointly explore action points for building more peaceful and inclusive societies. It will also aim to develop a roadmap for joint action ahead.

Only the registration fee is waived for those in the Religions for Peace network. Registrants must be able to arrange their own travel and accommodations to and from Marrakesh, Morocco.

Source: https://plan-international.org/blog/2023/04/27/girls-must-be-digital-leaders/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ictday



UN Antonio Guterres Affirms Press Freedom as Foundation of Human Rights and Democracy Worldwide

We must protect and uphold #Press Freedom because it is the lifeblood and foundation of all human rights. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres reaffirmed today the crucial role of freedom of expression and press in promoting democracy and justice worldwide. Without these liberties, we cannot have inclusive societies and informed decision-making.

Source: https://twitter.com/search?q=press%20freedom%20UNESCO&src=typed_query



Trust Fund for Victims to Launch Programme in Georgia

The Trust Fund for Victims (TFV) at the International Criminal Court (ICC) is pleased to announce this week's official launch of its transformative reparation programme in Georgia. The reparations programme will focus on providing the most vulnerable victims with medical treatment, counselling and psychosocial support, as well as livelihood and socio-economic initiatives to address conflict-related harm. The TFV programme for victims of the Situation in Georgia, which is under the jurisdiction of the ICC, is in regards to victims of war crimes and crimes against humanity of the conflict in and around South Ossetia that took place between 1 July and 10 October 2008 ('2008 Conflict').

Andres Parmas, member of the TFV Board of Directors, said, "This is a historic moment for TFV and ICC, as we launch a first TFV reparation programme outside the African continent. As a representative of the Eastern European Group of States, I welcome this programme that is sadly so necessary to alleviate the

suffering of the victims of the 2008 conflict. Even after 15 years since the crimes were committed, victims still suffer physical harm and live with psychological trauma. Through this programme, the TFV aims at addressing victims harm and empowering them to move forward with hope and dignity."

The Acting TFV Executive Director, Franziska Eckelmans underlined that, "The TFV Board of Directors decided on 10 November 2020 to initiate this programme for a duration of three years and allocated an initial EUR 600,000 to this programme. Given the limited funds available, the TFV will only be able to address a limited number of victims of the 2008 conflict. However, the TFV stands ready to receive additional earmarked contributions and welcomes in particular the EUR 20,000 already received from Lithuania for the programme in Georgia."

The TFV has selected two organisations, the Georgian Centre for Psychosocial and Medical Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (GCRT) and the

Global Initiative on Psychiatry, Tbilisi (GIP-T), to partner with on the implementation of the rehabilitation services to victims of the 2008 conflict. The rehabilitation projects started on 1 April 2023, following a rigorous, open, and competitive call for proposals process conducted by the TFV and ICC. The programme and project activities have been developed in close consultation with victims, affected communities, the relevant authorities, and the implementing partners.

The TFV will continue its efforts to raise funds and mobilise resources as well as to advocate among donors and supporters that victims in Georgia receive the assistance they need. The TFV appreciates the support of the Georgian government towards the programme and looks forward to working together to rehabilitate victim injuries of the 2008 conflict.

For more information about the Trust Fund for Victims, please contact: trustfundforvictims@icc-cpi.int or visit: www.trustfundforvictims.org.

Source: <https://www.icc-cpi.int/news/trust-fund-victims-launch-programme-georgia>



Brazil: Online Learning Tools Harvest Children's Data

Educational websites directed at Brazilian students, including two created by state education secretariats, conducted surveillance on children and harvested their personal data, Human Rights Watch said today. The national government should amend Brazil's data protection law by adding new safeguards to protect children online.

Analysis conducted by Human Rights Watch in November 2022 and reviewed again in January 2023 found that seven educational websites extracted and sent children's data to third-party companies, using tracking technologies designed for advertising. The websites are: Estude em Casa, Centro de Mídias da Educação de São Paulo, Descomplica, Escola Mais, Explicae, MangaHigh, and Stoodi. An eighth website, Revisa Enem, sent children's data to a third-party company, though without using ad-specific trackers.

These websites not only watched children inside of their online classrooms, but followed them across the internet, outside school hours, and deep into their private lives.

"Children and their families in Brazil are being kept in the dark about the data surveillance conducted on children in online classrooms," said Hye Jung Han, children's rights and technology researcher and advocate at Human Rights Watch. "Instead of protecting children, state governments have willfully enabled anyone to surveil them and collect their personal information online."

The Minas Gerais and São Paulo education secretariats originally authorized these websites for children's use during the Covid-19 pandemic, and they remain in use. Human Rights Watch had reported in May 2022 that these and one other website infringed on children's privacy. Following that investigation, one website,

DragonLearn, was taken down from the internet.

Human Rights Watch found that five websites deployed particularly intrusive tracking techniques to invisibly surveil children in ways that were impossible to avoid or protect against.

Escola Mais' study guides and videos were endorsed by the São Paulo education secretariat for elementary school students during Covid-19 school closures. The website now advertises technology-driven, in-person classes for elementary and high school students.

Human Rights Watch discovered Escola Mais using session recording, a technique that allows a third party to watch and record a user's behavior on a webpage. That includes mouse clicks and movements around a webpage; the digital equivalent of logging

video surveillance each time a child scratches their nose or grasps their pencil in class.

Typically, the third party would then scrutinize the data on behalf of the website to guess a user's personality, their preferences, and what they are likely to do next. Escola Mais did not respond to four requests for comment.

Human Rights Watch also found that from 2021 to 2023, educational websites owned and operated by the education secretariats of Minas Gerais and São Paulo sent children's personal data to advertising technology companies. Both websites continue to be regularly updated with video classes and materials for students.

In response to the investigation, the education secretariat of Minas Gerais promptly removed all ad tracking from its website. This positive development demonstrates that it is possible to build and offer educational services to children that do not compromise their data and their privacy.

The São Paulo education secretariat continues to endorse the use of seven educational websites that improperly harvest children's personal data, including its own. It did not respond to four requests for comment from Human Rights Watch.

Human Rights Watch also found that four websites tracked children more intensely than the average adult browsing the internet.

With the exception of Revisa Enem, all websites examined by Human Rights Watch harvested vast amounts of children's data and sent it to companies that specialize in behavioral advertising, which entails analyzing a child's data to predict what the child might do next, or

how they might be influenced. Advertisers might use these insights to target the child with personalized content and ads that follow them across the internet.

Profiling, targeting, and advertising to children in this way impermissibly infringes on their privacy, as it is neither proportionate nor necessary for these websites to function or deliver educational content. It also risks violating children's other rights if this information is used to guide them toward outcomes that are harmful or not in their best interest. Such practices also play an enormous role in shaping children's online experiences and determining the information they see, at a time in their lives when their opinions and beliefs are at high risk of manipulative interference.

Children could not meaningfully object to such surveillance during Covid-19 school closures. As these websites that were temporarily offered were free and widely disseminated to schools by the government, many schools adopted their use. It was impossible for many children to opt out of tracking without giving up on formal learning altogether.

Neither the Minas Gerais nor the São Paulo education secretariat appears to have checked whether their online learning endorsements were safe for children to use. Even as schools have reopened, the state governments' dissemination of these websites during the pandemic paved the way to their continued use by students and schools.

Children continue to be denied the knowledge to challenge or protect themselves against these invasions on their privacy: Neither the state authorities nor the companies have fully disclosed their tracking practices, which are invisible to the user.

Brazil's data protection authority should stop these assaults on children's privacy. It should require these companies and state governments to delete children's data collected since the pandemic, and prevent them from further using children's data for any purpose unrelated to providing education.

Brazil's constitution protects the right to privacy. The country has also ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which entitles children to special protections that guard their privacy.

While the decision by Minas Gerais' state government to remove all data surveillance from its educational website is positive, Brazil's children should not face state-by-state variation in protection, and cannot rely on individual providers to do better. As written, Brazil's data protection law – the Lei Geral de Proteção de Dados Pessoais, or the General Personal Data Protection Law – does not provide sufficient protections for children. It does not explicitly prohibit actors from exploiting children's information or require them to provide high levels of safety and security for children.

Lawmakers should amend the law to establish comprehensive child data protection rules, including bans on behavioral advertising and the use of intrusive tracking techniques on children. These rules should also require all actors offering online services to children – including online learning – to provide the highest levels of protection for children's data and their privacy.

"Children shouldn't be coerced to give up their privacy in order to learn," Han said. "The government should urgently adopt data protection safeguards to stop the surveillance of children online."

More than half a million Afghans supported through Area-Based Approach for Development Emergency Initiative (ABADEI)



On 31 March 2023, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) completed the first phase of the Area-Based Approach for Development Emergency Initiative (ABADEI) supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The 12-month project started in March 2022 as part of a multi-year and multi-agency effort in Afghanistan to promote socio-economic recovery and strengthen resilience among the most vulnerable communities affected by the protracted crisis and recent environmental shocks (including the worst drought in three decades).

Source: <https://pro.drc.ngo/resources/news/more-than-half-a-million-afghans-supported-through-area-based-approach-for-development-emergency-initiative/>

We need to keep talking about cyber violence against women and girls (CVAWG)



It is an act of gender-based violence that is perpetrated through new technologies but is deeply rooted in the inequality between women and men that still persists in our societies.

Last week the European Commission published a list of the very large online platforms and search engines that will be monitored in the framework of the Digital Services Act. This is a big step in the protection of users on online platforms. EIGE developed the most important terms and concepts related to CVAWG you need to know.

Source: <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-based-violence/cyber-violence-against-women>

FUNDS



Bulgaria makes first voluntary contribution to the Trust Fund for Victims

The Trust Fund for Victims (TFV) at the International Criminal Court (ICC) takes great pleasure in announcing that the Government of Bulgaria made its first ever voluntary contribution of €20,000 to the TFV.

Bulgaria's recognition of the TFV's mandate and activities demonstrates its support and commitment to making reparative justice a significant reality for survivors of crimes under the jurisdiction of the ICC.

Speaking on Bulgaria's contribution to the Trust Fund, H.E. Mr Konstantin Dimitrov, Bulgaria's Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands said: "Bulgaria's contribution serves to underpin our continuous support for the work of the Trust Fund for Victims and our commitment to a truly restorative vision of justice that has been embodied in the Rome Statute. We remain committed to further support the activities of the Trust Fund for Victims as an important element of the architecture of the Rome Statute in the fulfilment of its important mandate by ensuring

assistance and reparations to the victims and their families to provide justice for all."

Welcoming the donation, the TFV Acting Executive Director Franziska Eckelmans thanked the Government of Bulgaria saying "The TFV highly welcomes Bulgaria's first time direct financial support; an important signal that further strengthens the Rome Statute's reparative justice system. Armed conflict, as that in Eastern DRC, leads to children becoming victims of Rome Statute crimes, who often suffer long-term consequence psychologically and socially. We will use these funds to repair the harm suffered by children in Eastern DRC." Mrs Eckelmans emphasized the pivotal importance of voluntary contributions, and of new donors coming on board, to enable the Trust Fund to implement its mandates.

The TFV intends to allocate this contribution to programmes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The TFV is conducting three Court-ordered reparation programmes in Ituri Province relevant to the cases Lubanga,

Katanga and Ntaganda (an initial programme). The Lubanga programme addresses the harm suffered by former child soldiers. In addition, the TFV conducts a country programme that allows in particular victims of conflict-related sexual violence to receive medical treatment, individual trauma counselling and group therapy, education, and socio-economic support.

Voluntary contributions, such as this from Bulgaria, enable the Trust Fund for Victims to make reparative justice for victims of the gravest crimes to the international community a reality.

For more information about the Trust Fund for Victims, please contact: trustfundforvictims@icc-cpi.int or visit: www.trustfundforvictims.org.

Source: <https://www.icc-cpi.int/news/bulgaria-makes-first-voluntary-contribution-trust-fund-victims>

Civil society organizations concerned over a draft EU directive that could undermine their work

3 May 2023. FIDH and 229 civil society organizations from across Europe express concern about a draft EU directive which would introduce registration requirements for NGOs receiving foreign funding. The directive, which is part of the European Commission's upcoming Defense of Democracy Package, could have unintended negative consequences for NGOs. It could hinder their capacity to fulfil their role as democracy and human rights watchdogs in Europe and beyond and would limit EU capacity to support civil society and human rights defenders. By introducing an obligation to disclose non-EU funding and creating a register for organizations receiving such funding, the proposal echoes 'foreign influence legislation', used by non-democratic States to narrow civic space and silence criticism. FIDH strongly supports civil society's fundamental role in upholding democracy and human rights globally and, while in favor of enhanced transparency and accountability standards, recalls the importance of preserving its space and alerts against initiatives that could undermine its work.

Source:

30 Organizations Urge Biden Administration to Double Down on Strong Diplomacy and Inclusive Governance in Central America to Combat Corruption and Protect Human Rights

We believe in strong and principled diplomacy to combat corruption, promote respect for human rights, worker rights, and the rule of law, and encourage inclusive governance in Central America.

As organizations working with civil society and faith-based partners in the region, we urge the Biden Administration to intensify efforts to address pervasive governance

problems through public statements, diplomacy, aid to protect civic space, and using visa and financial sanctions on corrupt government and private sector individuals.

Read the powerful letter we've signed, along with 30 of other organizations, calling on the administration to double down on a real root causes strategy in Central America.

Source: <https://www.lawg.org/letter-to-president-biden-and-vice-president-harris-to-double-down-on-a-real-root-causes-strategy-in-central-america/>



European Commission must uphold corporate transparency in the 6th Anti-Money Laundering Directive

On the eve of interinstitutional negotiations on the EU's anti-money laundering legislative package, Transparency International and our allies call on the Commission to explicitly support strong provisions for meaningful stakeholder access to beneficial ownership registers that were recently proposed by the European Parliament.

Source:



FRDP's Efforts Towards Women's Empowerment in Rural Pakistan: Let's Come Together to Bridge the Gender Gap

Attention all! It's time we talk about the importance of women's empowerment in rural areas. Did you know that globally, women form almost 39% of the labor force, but in Pakistan, it's just around 20% - one of the lowest in South Asia? Shocking, right?

This is where FRDP comes in, working tirelessly to support women in these communities. Through education and skill-building programs, FRDP is empowering women to become self-sufficient and financially independent.

But the fight for women's empowerment is far from over. As per the Global Gender Gap Index Report 2022, Pakistan ranks 145 out of 156 countries in terms of women's economic participation and opportunity. Let's come together and share this post about the importance of women's empowerment in rural areas, and support FRDP that are working towards this cause.

Source: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7059469871721459712/>

Alexis Morgan, WWF Global Water Stewardship Lead, Calls for Collective Action to Protect Water - The Force that Connects Us All

What if water is the thing that gives us power and connects us all, like the Force in Star Wars? And much like the rebel resistance we have to come together to save it? That is exactly what Alexis Morgan, Global Water Stewardship Lead at WWF, suggests in his new blog <https://lnkd.in/eCyxGuwt>. And if water is indeed the force, then collective action is the way we must walk if we are to retain magic on this planet... The time has come to join together towards a bigger vision of collective action: one that shifts us from a ragtag group of rebels, into a coherent force for good. In short, we need collective action to restore our living waters. We are looking forward to this year's AWS Forum where we will come together with our members and the water stewardship community to forge new paths for collective action on water. #MayTheForceBeWithYou

Source: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/hashtag/?keywords=maytheforcebewithyou>



Ex-British Gurkha hopes Everest climb will change disability perceptions

KATHMANDU, May 21 (Reuters) - Hari Budha Magar, the first above the knee double amputee to scale Mount Everest, said on Sunday that his ascent would raise awareness about disability.

Magar, 43, climbed the 8,848-metre (29,032-foot) Everest on artificial legs on Friday and is now taking rest at the base camp, said Pravat Adhikari of the Himalayan Ski Trek company that provided logistics for him.

"Gurkha veteran, Hari Budha Magar creates history ... as the first ever double above-knee amputee to scale Mt Everest," the Gurkha Brigade said in a twitter post.



Bigyan Koirala, an official with Nepal's Department of Tourism, confirmed that Magar had climbed the mountain with five Sherpa guides and that his ascent is "a world record".

Magar, who joined the British army in 1999, lost both his legs after stepping on an improvised explosive device (IED) during a patrol duty in Afghanistan in 2010.

He said he had "suffered a lot" because of his disability and did not want other people to face the same pains.

"I hope my climb will help change the perception of persons with disabilities," Magar told Reuters from the base camp by phone.

"I would like to encourage all people to take to climbing any mountain of their choice," he said.

Magar went via the Southeast Ridge route, pioneered by Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay in 1953, which remains the most popular among climbers.

Mount Everest has been climbed by more than 11,000 people, including those with disabilities - like blindness and below the knee amputees.

Nepal has issued 478 permits to climb Everest during the current season that ends this month. Nine people have died on Everest this year.

Mountain climbing is a key source of income for cash strapped Nepal, home to eight of the world's 14 highest mountains in the world.

Reporting by Gopal Sharma;
Editing by Christian Schmollinger

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/ex-british-gurkha-hopes-everest-climb-will-change-disability-perceptions-2023-05-21/>



Companies in Japan to be required to accommodate the disabled from next year

Japan will legally oblige companies to provide necessary services and infrastructure to assist people with disabilities from April 2024 by ensuring they set up measures such as sloped access points for wheelchairs, the government said Tuesday.

The decision taken by the Cabinet comes on top of central and local governments already being obligated to provide for and "reasonably accommodate" people with disabilities after the law, designed to prevent discrimination against them, was enacted in 2013.

The revision to the law last year broadened its scope to private companies, which are currently advised to provide for and accommodate people with disabilities.

Source: <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/03/14/national/barrier-free-accommodations/>

WHO calls for protection of health workers and patients, unrestricted access to health care in Sudan

As fighting continues in Khartoum and other parts of Sudan, the World Health Organization urges all parties to the conflict to respect the neutrality of health care and ensure unrestricted access to health facilities for those injured by the hostilities.

WHO reminds all parties of their obligations under International Humanitarian Law to protect the wounded and sick, civilians, health care workers, ambulances and health facilities.

Since 13 April, more than 83 people have been killed and more than 1126 people injured across Khartoum, South Kordofan, North Darfur, Northern State and other regions,

with the heaviest concentration of fighting now taking place in Khartoum City.

Movement in the city is restricted due to the insecurity creating challenges for doctors, nurses, patients, and ambulances to reach health facilities, and putting at risk the lives of those who need urgent medical care.

WHO is monitoring the health needs and resources across Khartoum and other affected cities to ensure that limited supplies are directed to where they are most needed. Supplies distributed by WHO to health facilities prior to this recent escalation of conflict are now exhausted, and many of the nine

hospitals in Khartoum receiving injured civilians are reporting shortages of blood, transfusion equipment, intravenous fluids, medical supplies, and other life-saving commodities. There are also reports of shortages of specialized medical personnel, including anesthesiologists. Water and power cuts are affecting the functionality of health facilities, and shortages of fuel for hospital generators are also being reported.

As the situation evolves, WHO continues to work with partners and health authorities to fill gaps in the provision of health care, especially for trauma care, while also ensuring the safety of our own staff and their families.

Source: <https://www.emro.who.int/media/news/who-calls-for-protection-of-health-workers-and-patients-unrestricted-access-to-health-care-in-sudan.html>

Environmental Group Takes Legal Action Against Cargill for Links to Deforestation and Human Rights Abuses in Brazil

We're taking action against agricultural giant Cargill over its failure to deal with its links to deforestation and human rights abuses in Brazil. Brazil's forests and savannas are under threat. The mass production of soy to feed cattle, pigs and chickens is driving the destruction of these critical ecosystems while putting the communities that depend on them in danger. We've found that the company is failing to carry out proper checks on the vast amount of soy that passes through its hands to ensure it isn't causing harm to people and nature. So we've submitted a complaint in the US alleging Cargill has breached the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)'s Guidelines on responsible business conduct.

Source: <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/03/14/national/barrier-free-accommodations/>



Peacebuilders and Leaders to Mark 25 Years of Northern Ireland's Good Friday Agreement, Pay Tribute to President Carter at Atlanta Event

ATLANTA – This spring marks the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, which ended decades of violence and established inclusive, democratic power-sharing institutions in Northern Ireland. On May 4, the Consulate General of Ireland in Atlanta and The Carter Center will co-host a commemorative event and reception with special guests representing diplomats, peacebuilders, and leaders from Northern Ireland and the United States.

Barbara J. Stephenson, former U.S. ambassador and American consul general in Belfast, will moderate a discussion with speakers from Northern Ireland — Bronagh Hinds, Emma Johnston, Jarlath Kearney, and Mike Nesbitt. Carter Center Board Chair Jason Carter and CEO Paige Alexander will deliver remarks. Ambassador Mitchell Reiss, to 2007, will share his reflections on the role of the United States. The powerful contribution of women to the Northern Ireland peace process will be highlighted through the “Peace Heroines” exhibition.

The event will pay special tribute to the contribution of President Jimmy Carter, who in 1977 issued

the first formal statement on Northern Ireland by a U.S. president. His groundbreaking initiative established the precedent for the pivotal role succeeding U.S. presidents played in securing the peace.

Throughout the peace process, the bipartisan support of the many friends of Ireland across all levels of government and from communities in every U.S. state was essential, and that friendship remains cherished to this day.

Ireland's consul general in Atlanta, Caoimhe Ní Chonchúir, underlined the importance of recognizing the U.S. role in achieving peace:

“While the Agreement belongs, first and foremost, to the people of Northern Ireland, it was, in many ways, born of hope made in America,” she said. “Successive U.S. leaders, starting with President Carter, helped drive the process forward. This event will celebrate the Good Friday Agreement as a triumph of the best of U.S. foreign policy.”

Alexander reflected on the Carter Center's involvement in commemorating the Agreement:

“More than two decades before the Good Friday Agreement was signed,

President Carter aligned himself with those in Northern Ireland who were advocating for peace and nonviolence,” she said. “He helped lay the groundwork for the Agreement, and it is our honor to co-host this event to celebrate with the people of Northern Ireland.”

The Good Friday Agreement, signed in Belfast on April 10, 1998, and then endorsed by an overwhelming majority in referendums the following month, provided the foundation for a peaceful, prosperous society. The May 4 event at The Carter Center will be an opportunity to commemorate this historic achievement, reflect on its lessons, and redouble commitments to supporting peace in Northern Ireland.

The “25 Years of the Good Friday Agreement” commemoration will take place from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Thursday, May 4, in the nondenominational Cecil B. Day Chapel at The Carter Center, 453 John Lewis Freedom Parkway N.E., Atlanta, GA 30307.

The public is welcome to attend this free event but must register in advance here: [25 Years of the Good Friday Agreement Tickets](#), Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. | Eventbrite.

Source: <https://www.cartercenter.org/news/pr/2023/good-friday-agreement-050123.html>

WORKSHOPS



Ponlok Chomnes Hosts Workshop on the Knowledge Sector and Foreign Policy in Cambodia

In Cambodia, The Asia Foundation supports key partners who form the country's knowledge sector to inform public policy analysis and dialogue – including on foreign policy.

On March 14, the “Ponlok Chomnes: Data and Dialogue for Development in Cambodia” program co-hosted a workshop and networking event on “The Knowledge Sector in Foreign Policy in Cambodia” in partnership with the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP).

The workshop gathered participants to discuss key findings of a study on the knowledge sector in foreign policy, which CICP conducted. The publication explores emerging issues, priorities, opportunities, and challenges for knowledge users and knowledge producers in Cambodia.

Around 75 participants, including academics, students, think tank

members, and government officials attended the workshop. Many expressed that the discussions were productive and positive. A few remarked that “this study is the first of its kind on the foreign policy that focuses on its significance and benefits to the country” and that “the study provides different perspectives on emerging issues, priorities, opportunities, and challenges from government

officials, researchers, and think tanks.”

These research findings will be incorporated into a policy brief and diagnostic study for knowledge users and policymakers as a next step.

Ponlok Chomnes is a program supported by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Source: <https://asiafoundation.org/2023/04/27/ponlok-chomnes-hosts-workshop-on-the-knowledge-sector-and-foreign-policy-in-cambodia/>



World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is just around the corner. Do you remember how it all started? Henry Dunant was the founder of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement.

Source:

New courses on OpenWHO this month New channel for Health Emergency Preparedness, Response and Resilience (HEPR) course series

Civil society organizations (CSOs) from around the world, in particular from LDCs and other developing countries, gathered at the Civil Society Forum of the LDC5 Summit. We thank the government of Qatar for the hospitality that made it possible and the UN OHRLLS for partnering with civil society in its organization.

communities and derive strength and credibility from the diverse interests represented. Many of the constraints to an LDC's ability to achieve sustainable development and sustainable peace are exacerbated by external factors, and civil society actors working nationally and locally

This new learning channel brings together resources for WHO, national counterparts and partners to outline the process of developing national investment plans to apply for additional resources, including Pandemic Fund resources.

A new course, resulting from a webinar series held by WHO in late March, has been made available to further support eligible countries, regional entities and implementing entities to develop full proposals for potential projects to be supported in this Pandemic Fund funding opportunity window, which is open until 19 May 2023. The recordings are available with subtitles in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.

You can access the course:

https://openwho.org/courses/webinar-pandemic-fund-proposals?tracking_user=3QKEYA2rNw1CeuzCvcN162&tracking_type=news&tracking_id=5zbEbF4chiPms2YSE9SMpw

The participants explored a variety of issues of particular concern to LDCs and expressed commitment to engage with the Doha Programme of Action (DPoA) and contribute to its robust monitoring and accountability.

Many CSOs participating in the Forum are rooted in local



European Humanitarian Forum highlights need to diversify funding sources in the Humanitarian sector beyond the top 10 donors

80% of funding in the humanitarian sector comes from just 10 donors - but how can we widen the pool? The European Humanitarian Forum discussed alternative solutions, including stimulating collective engagement, more responsibility sharing, and engaging with the private sector. Read on for key takeaways.

Source:

HNPW 2023 Kicks Off with Record Sessions on Procurement and Sustainability; Host Launches Free Online Courses on Greening Humanitarian Responses and Sustainability

The Humanitarian Network and Partnerships week (HNPW) started today, with a record number of sessions focused on procurement and sustainability. The sector is adapting to the changing times, with environment and sustainability being core elements of many strategies and visions. The host of the only session dedicated to sustainable procurement and driver

for change last year, launched a new list of free online courses on greening humanitarian responses, SDGs in practice in aid, climate change, and human rights. Four interesting university courses on sustainability are available for free and online. A separate list of free online Disaster Risk Reductions courses and Climate Change Adaptation will follow soon.

Source: <https://clairebarnhoorn.com/2023/04/17/sustainability-and-greening-humanitarian-responses/>

Invest In Rural Women

And there's more: this in turn could reduce the number of hungry people worldwide by up to 17%. We need world leaders to #InvestInRuralWomen Do you agree?

Source:



International Day of the Midwife: Celebrating Midwives' Vital Role in Ensuring Safe Births and Wanted Pregnancies

Today marks the International Day of the Midwife! The #IDM2023 campaign celebrates midwives and their critical role in realizing a world where every pregnancy is wanted and every childbirth is safe.

Hear more from CanWaCH CEO Julia Anderson, speaking at the House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development, on how trained midwives provide critical sexual and reproductive health care and promote health outcomes.

Source: https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7060332739895431169/?origin=SHARED_BY_YOUR_PAGES



3 months on from the earthquakes, 5 reasons women and girls in Syria and Türkiye still need your support

SYRIA/TÜRKIYE – “I feel very broken. I’m trying to hold on for the sake of my children, because they are extremely exhausted after the earthquake – I don’t want anything to disturb them anymore.”

Three months on from the worst natural disaster the region has seen in recent memory, 42-year-old Ghada* is still living in a shelter with her three children in Lattakia, Syria. The earthquakes on 6 February 2023 upended the lives of nearly 9 million people in Türkiye and 8.8 million in Syria. Among them were some 270,000 pregnant women – women who no longer had hospitals to give birth in; women who still, months later, need vital access to health services in structures that remain too dangerous to use, through rubble that used to be roads.

In Syria, the earthquakes only deepened the entrenched suffering from 12 years of conflict that had left 90 per cent of Syrians destitute and forced half the population from their homes, most of them women and children – many taking refuge in Türkiye.

In Türkiye, a country home to the largest number of refugees in the world, tens of thousands of people were forced into makeshift shelters on the street, their family homes flattened in an instant – some 2.4 million are reported to be still living in displacement camps.

In a humanitarian crisis, women and girls are still, always, the hardest hit. The last to eat, the most exposed to sexual violence and exploitation, the heads of houses they no longer hold. No emergency response should be gender blind: Women and girls have to be put first.

Here’s why.

1. Crises can mean life or death for pregnant women

Hundreds of hospitals and health centres, including UNFPA-supported facilities and safe spaces, collapsed or were severely damaged. This left pregnant women and new mothers struggling to access essential care, including emergency obstetric support and Caesarean sections.

Um Subhi and her newborn received maternal support from UNFPA in Syria, at a temporary camp in Jinderis. “When the earthquake hit I was breastfeeding my baby, I didn’t know what happened. I’ve never experienced anything like this in my entire life,” she said.

We know that in crisis and disaster

settings, maternal deaths can rise dramatically from complications that would be easily managed in settings where health systems were functioning. When the quakes hit there were an estimated 140,000 pregnant women in Syria, around 15,000 of whom were due to give birth in the next month: In the ruins of the region’s worst natural disaster in recent history, they had to rely on a health system bludgeoned by over a decade of bombardments, economic chaos and near total lack of supplies or staff.

In Türkiye, more than 14,000 of the 130,000 pregnant women directly affected by the earthquakes delivered within a month of the crisis striking. Nearly the entire health infrastructure in the four most affected provinces was damaged or destroyed – 70 per cent of family health centres were damaged and 60 per cent of maternal health and obstetric services not operating, endangering tens of thousands of lives.

2. Disrupted sexual and reproductive health access could trigger a secondary disaster

The sudden lack of health care from the disaster endangered the immediate and longer-term health of some 2.2 million women and girls of reproductive age in Syria and 2.4 million in Türkiye, all of whom needed the sexual and reproductive health care of their choice: Without contraceptive supplies or access to them, unintended pregnancies spike, as could sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. Other diseases are more easily spread too, such as COVID-19 and influenza and pre-existing outbreaks of cholera, hepatitis A and measles in Syria.

We must ensure access to reproductive health care for all women and girls who need it, regardless of where they may be, including in temporary shelters and within host communities in both Syria and Türkiye.

3. Gender-based violence protection needs soar in a crisis

Women and girls are also at much greater risk of violence and abuse in disaster settings, just as social security and protection services break down and health facilities

collapse. Yasmin*, 26, is a single mother of five children. Originally from Deir-ez-zor in eastern Syria, she has lived in Türkiye for five years and took shelter at a UNFPA safe space for women and girls set up in a sports hall after the earthquakes.

Her husband was physically and emotionally abusive towards her. “He threatened me, he wanted to take my children away.” UNFPA previously provided shelter in a safe space, and with her home severely damaged she had been moved to the shelter.

UNFPA safe spaces in Syria and Türkiye ensured prevention and response services for gender-based violence for tens of thousands of women and girls living in overcrowded, makeshift camps or on the streets. Many are still facing acute protection risks, including gender-based violence, exploitation and abuse, and violations such as child and forced marriage – all of which have also become increasingly ‘normalized’ during Syria’s protracted crisis.

Millions of women and girls, in Syria in particular, are finding it nearly impossible to recover and rebuild their lives, enduring terrible trauma and need access to mental health and psychosocial support.

4. Displacement takes a severe physical, mental and social toll

Hundreds of thousands of people were displaced by the earthquakes: Many remain stranded, others

discrimination, poverty and escalating risks of exploitation and abuse. Rojin is a 36-year-old mother of four, who took shelter in a UNFPA safe space for women and girls in Diyarbakir, in Türkiye. Originally from Syria, she and her family bedded down alongside 15 others in a single room of a former factory. She told UNFPA, "We stayed outside in a park for four days. We couldn't take anything. Nothing, nothing for the children, no shoes... the situation

and supplies, including life-saving maternal health medicine, contraceptives and menstrual hygiene products, have not been fully restocked, which could endanger millions of lives.

Since the onset of the crisis, with the generous support of our partners and contributions from Australia, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), Ireland, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States, UNFPA has ramped up its facilities and mobile health teams to reach vulnerable and displaced people with essential services.

UNFPA has been coordinating with partners since day one to get reproductive health and protection supplies delivered and services up and running again, increasing mobile teams and outreach to reach nearly 500,000 women and girls in need.

Yet millions are not receiving the necessary support: In Türkiye, UNFPA is appealing for \$19.7 million to scale up the delivery of reproductive health and protection services. To date, the appeal is not even 50 per cent funded. In Syria, UNFPA is appealing for \$24.8 million, of which we have received only a third. And we cannot forget that the earthquakes exacerbated the pre-existing crisis in Syria, for which UNFPA is also appealing for \$141.2 million.

As Ghada* told UNFPA, "I want to enter my home and close the door, so that I feel safe. I just want a safe space for my family." We urge a show of solidarity to ensure the women and girls of Syria and Türkiye receive the protection and sexual and reproductive health support they deserve, without further delay.

Name changed for privacy and protection

is very difficult."

To help survivors deal with the immediate upheaval, UNFPA is assuring psychosocial support and has set up hotlines for emergency help. Dignity and reproductive health kits are also being provided, containing essentials such as soap, underwear, menstrual hygiene products, laundry detergent and warm clothing.

5. Solidarity and financial support must be sustained

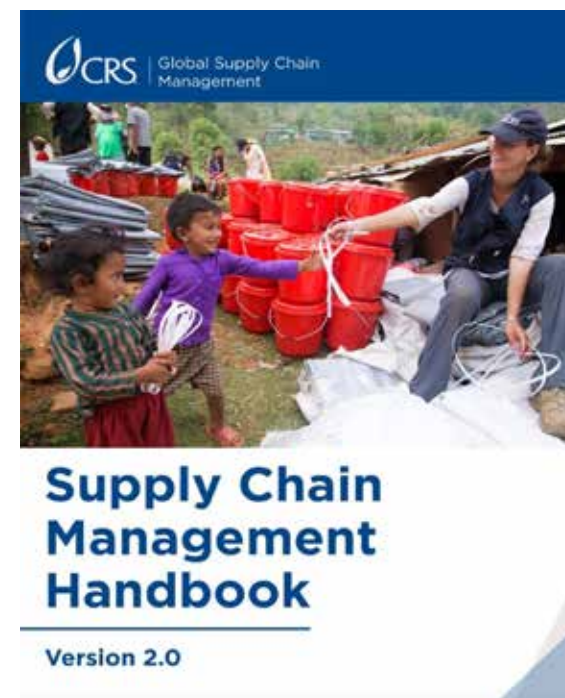
UNFPA was on the ground from day one, coordinating with partners to reestablish sexual and reproductive health and protection services in Syria and Türkiye. But funding is still urgently needed for more clinics, mobile health teams and safe spaces. Additional staff, equipment

returned to unsafe, uninhabitable homes and many more endure life on the streets or in refuges, unable to rebuild their houses or livelihoods.

Before the earthquakes, Syria already had the largest number of internally displaced people in the world at 6.8 million, with the same number having fled for neighbouring countries. People forced from their homes by war, disease outbreaks and financial ruin were later met with droughts and floods that destroyed what remained of their livelihoods. With this latest disaster, millions more had to battle the trauma of involuntary migration once again.

Almost half of them are women and girls, grappling with homelessness,

Source: <https://www.unfpa.org/news/3-months-earthquakes-5-reasons-women-and-girls-syria-and-turkiye-still-need-your-support>



CRS Celebrates National Supply Chain Day: Introducing the New Supply Chain Management Handbook to Enhance Life-Saving Work in 116 Countries

Today is National Supply Chain Day, which marks the importance of the global supply chain. Did you know that supply chain management is central to CRS' mission to deliver life-saving and life-improving goods and services in the 116 countries we serve? CRS recently introduced a new Supply Chain Management Handbook, filled with supply chain best practices that enable our supply chain staff around the world to continue meeting the needs of all we serve in the most effective way. Check out our new handbook to learn how supply chain management enables our life-saving work: <http://bit.ly/3oenvDv>.

Source: [https://www.linkedin.com/feed/hashtag/?keywords=supplychain management](https://www.linkedin.com/feed/hashtag/?keywords=supplychain%20management)

Indian Institute of Forest Management Empowers Sashastra Seema Bal Officers with Comprehensive Management Training Program

The Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal organized a five-day training program on "Management Science" for mid-level commandant officers of the Sashastra Seema Bal from 27th April to 03rd May 2023. This initiative aims to equip 20 middle-level commandant officers with essential knowledge and skills in various management areas, including strategic management, communication, and motivational principles. The institute is proud to contribute to the country's security system by supporting the professional development of defense and paramilitary officers. Throughout the program, officers will receive training on various subjects related to effective management, communication with the public, and environmental conservation for proper management. These will include topics such as decentralized leadership, communication skills, conflict management, resource management, stress management, and motivational principles.

Source: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7059501895744167936/>



Crisis Group Launches Initiative on Climate Change and Deadly Conflict



The International Crisis Group is delighted to announce the launch of a new initiative to better understand the impact of climate change on deadly conflict, in great part thanks to a generous new gift by Kerry Propper. Having already grown from visionary seed funding by the Global Challenges Foundation, this initiative will build on Crisis Group's core strengths – rigorous field research, sharp policy analysis and access to policymakers – to raise the profile of climate security in critical policy discussions in Africa, particularly in the Horn, and we will continue to expand its scope.

Mr. Propper, who joined Crisis Group's Board of Trustees in February 2021, is a dedicated activist and philanthropist and has been a member of Crisis Group's Advisory Council for over a decade. His support for our conflict prevention mandate will feed the growing demand for pragmatic

recommendations and high-level advocacy on how to proactively manage conflict risks exacerbated by climate change.

"The goal of my philanthropic endeavours is to help prevent mass atrocities, and I am confident my gift will help put Crisis Group at the cutting-edge of mitigating deadly conflicts caused by climate change on the African continent", said Kerry Propper, founder and chairman of Chardan, an independent global investment bank, and founder and managing partner of ATW Partners, a private equity fund based in New York. "These risks threaten hundreds of millions of people, and thus need to be addressed in real time with actionable policy suggestions for stakeholders".

The growing threat to peace and security that current trends present to Africa – where millions already experience record heat waves, extreme precipitation and rising sea levels – requires urgent and

robust action. This new funding will advance Crisis Group's ongoing analysis of climate-related security challenges there with first-of-their-kind visualisation tools and innovative climate science. Our advocates will bring these new insights to the attention of key African governments and major stakeholders. Over time, Crisis Group aims to expand the geographical scope of this initiative to other regions, including Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

"We are immensely grateful for Kerry's generosity that has made this initiative possible, and his commitment to values at the heart of Crisis Group", said Interim President Richard Atwood. "We look forward to deepening our analysis and elevating outreach at this crucial time for action on climate security".

Source: <https://www.crisisgroup.org/who-we-are/crisis-group-updates/crisis-group-launches-initiative-climate-change-and-deadly-conflict>

If there's a single belief that seems almost inseparable from success, it's that **THERE IS NO GREAT SUCCESS WITHOUT GREAT COMMITMENT.** We see this in any field, even those where natural ability would seem to have the strongest hold. If you look at individuals with proven, **LASTING** success, you'll find they're not necessarily the brightest, or the fastest, or the biggest. You'll find they're the ones who are **UNSHAKEABLE** in their **COMMITMENT.**

Source:



Ending violence against women

One in three women worldwide experience physical or sexual violence, mostly by an intimate partner. Violence against women and girls is a human rights violation, and the immediate and long-term physical, sexual, and mental consequences for women and girls can be devastating, including death.

Violence negatively affects women's general well-being and prevents women from fully participating in society. It impacts their families, their community, and the country at large. It has tremendous costs,

from greater strains on health care to legal expenses and losses in productivity.

At least 155 countries have passed laws on domestic violence, and 140 have legislation on sexual harassment in the workplace (World Bank 2020). But challenges remain in enforcing these laws, limiting women and girls' access to safety and justice. Not enough is done to prevent violence, and when it does occur, it often goes unpunished.

Source: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women>



UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Cate Blanchett Advocates for Support to Syrian Refugees in Jordan: Sharing the Stories of Marwan, Yusra, and Mohammad

Life has been precarious for Syrian refugees Marwan and Yusra. But they try to remain positive. The cost of living crisis hit them hard, and illness means they are not able to work. UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Cate Blanchett met them and their son, Mohammad, in Jordan, where she heard about their hopes for resettlement. It's a path available to a very small percentage of refugees. We must continue to support refugees in Jordan in every way we can.

Source:



Rights campaigners call on policy-makers in the EU and beyond to end corporate abuses

4 May 2023. FIDH and seven of its members and partners from Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America call for strong legislation to make companies responsible for preventing and addressing the adverse impacts of their activities on human rights and the environment.



Every day, communities worldwide are exposed to the devastating human rights and environmental harms caused by many business operations. Some of them even pay with their lives for fighting corporate impunity. Several countries have passed or are currently considering legislation that could render corporations more responsible and accountable for such abuses. FIDH and seven of its members and partners from Brazil, Chile, Norway, Peru, South Africa, South Korea, Spain and Taiwan, gathered in Brussels from 25 to 27 April 2023, stress once again the need for legislators to enact effective legislation on business and human rights.

The EU is moving towards a Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence (CSDDD), the bloc's attempt at setting human rights and

environmental obligations for companies. After a key vote on 25 April in the European Parliament's Legal Affairs Committee, MEPs involved in the process are one step closer to joining the European Commission and the Council of the EU in negotiations of a final text. The legislation will have impacts well beyond Europe's borders. The stakes are too high for the EU to miss the mark by adopting weak standards. It is still time for Europe to set a strong example.

It is essential that the Directive be wide in its scope and its support to those whose rights and environment are affected by corporate abuse. As the effects of the climate crisis ripple across continents, the Directive must also oblige companies to set and achieve ambitious targets to reduce emissions.

Corporations of every sector and size, wherever they operate or invest, must be required to respect all human rights and the environment. Due diligence – a continuous, preventative and risk-based process – is a means to that

end. It should be conducted across the whole value chain, in alignment with international standards. The fact that corporate activities or a part of them occur outside the borders of the states where they are based, should not justify impunity. States cannot, without violating international standards, let companies escape their obligations or allow them to violate human rights only because they operate extraterritorially.

An ambitious Directive must stand for justice

Crucially, the CSDDD should contain strong provisions on access to justice if it wishes to stand with affected communities and individuals across the world. Ambitious legislation could finally rectify some of the gaps that have so far hindered redress and effective remedy. The burden of proof should not be on rights-holders who endure human rights and environmental violations, but on the company liable for them. Access to information as well as legal and financial support must be guaranteed to claimants.

The legislation will only be truly effective if it recognises and puts at the centre affected communities as the rights-holders, and civil society representatives as essential stakeholders. That can be achieved through an obligation to conduct meaningful consultations all along the way and to respect the right to free, prior and informed consent. It should also ensure that they can find redress according to the more protective existing laws for their case, whether that is the law of the country where the violation happened or the one of the country where the parent company is registered.

The Directive should not set a ceiling on ambitious rules for corporate accountability. When implementing the CSDDD, Member States should retain the right to go further in protecting the environment and human rights through more extensive national laws. Furthermore, the Directive's provisions should not weaken existing national and international laws and standards, nor serve as an excuse to lower existing protections – they should reinforce or complement them.

Finally, any mechanisms such as contractual clauses, third-party auditing or multi-stakeholder initiatives should not be seen as a way for companies to excuse themselves from doing their own due diligence or used to hinder access to remedy.

Momentum for binding corporate accountability standards is growing in countries across the world. Our organisations call on decision-makers worldwide to develop and implement laws that effectively protect human rights and the environment and tackle climate change. Once they enter into force, a strong EU Directive and domestic legislation can empower communities who have for a long time been at the front line of the fight against corporate impunity.

Photo - Juan RESTREPO / AFP : "Aerial view showing the environmental impact from illegal mining in Cauca municipality, Antioquia department, Colombia on March 22, 2023. The giant skeletons of burnt and dismantled gold dredgers litter the rivers of northwest Colombia, where the government is waging a full-out war on illegal mining. Nicknamed

"dragons" by locals, the massive machines used to suck gold from river beds are blamed for destroying the environment and financing organized crime. But their dismantling in a massive army operation has been met with hostility by communities who depend on mining for their daily survival."

P.S.

Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos España - APDHE (Spain)

Centro de Políticas Públicas y Derechos Humanos - Perú Equidad (Peru)

Environmental Rights Foundation (Taiwan)

FIDH - International Federation for Human Rights

Korean Transnational Corporations Watch (South Korea)

Lawyers for Human Rights (South Africa)

Norwegian Helsinki Committee (Norway)

Observatorio Ciudadano (Chile)

Global Food Security Crisis Escalates in 2022, 2023 Outlook Remains Challenging: Food Security Cluster Mobilizes Partners at HNPW 2023 to Tackle Hunger



2022 marked a tragic turning point in the rapid escalation of food crises globally. 2023 Food Security Horizon looks

just as challenging and resources are acutely needed. We remain committed to coordinating #food and #livelihood operations in #humanitarian crises.

This week the #FoodSecurityCluster Global Co-Coordinators are present

at the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week in Geneva to further mobilize partners in the cluster's fight against hunger.

Source:

IFAD issues first sustainable bond in euros to Germany's HPK and others, increasing investments to alleviate rural poverty and hunger



The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) today issues its first-ever euro private placement for €65 million to four German pension funds with the Hamburger Pensions kasse (HPK) as key investor. HPK is one of Germany's largest company pension funds and works with the German food and beverages sector as well as the retail industry. This investment will enable IFAD to help thousands of small-scale farmers and their families in rural areas of developing countries adapt to climate change, grow their production and better access value chains and markets at a time when rural populations are being hit hard by food, fertilizer and energy prices and are bearing the brunt of extreme weather events.

"We are particularly proud to partner with these pension funds that, like IFAD, pursue long-term sustainable goals. The investment will help small-scale farmers in developing countries, who produce one third of the world's food, to make a decent living," said Natalia

Toschi, Head of Funding at IFAD. "The goals we share with the team from Hamburg were an important factor that made this milestone investment happen despite the persistent volatility in current markets."

"After years of low and even negative interest rates we are now actively using the current interest rate environment to strengthen our direct fixed-income investments again. If these can then be put to greater use and make a real difference, we are very happy. The mission of IFAD coincides perfectly with the interests of our almost one million members, who are looking for a safe, sustainable and valuable old-age provision," explains Stefan Klein, who is Head of Fixed Income in portfolio management at HAPEV, the mandated administration company.

Since IFAD issued its first two sustainable bonds for a total amount of US\$150 million in 2022, the Fund has diversified its offer to investors, now being able to issue

in euros. IFAD also offers different tenors. The maturity of the private placement with the pension funds is 12 years.

"With this 12-year bond, IFAD adds another point to its issuer curve, and hopes to continue to populate the curve in the near future. Our ultimate goal is to increase financing for vulnerable rural populations at a time when they face economic and climate hardships. Right now, IFAD's investments in rural development are more important than ever," said Toschi. IFAD issued its first sustainable bond in June 2022 as part of a strategy to explore new funding models to channel more resources to those in need in low- and middle-income countries. It became the first United Nations Fund and the only UN body and specialized agency other than the World Bank Group to operate in capital markets. In 2022, IFAD issued two bonds for a total of US\$ 150 million. IFAD has an AA+ rating from both Standard & Poor's and Fitch.

About 3 billion people live in the rural areas of developing countries and rely to a significant extent on small-scale farming for their food and livelihoods. Small-scale farmers produce one third of the world's food and up to 70 percent of the food in low- and middle- income countries. While being essential for global food security, they often live in poverty and hunger. About 80 per cent of the world's extremely poor people reside in rural areas.

The number of people suffering from hunger has been growing in recent years and reached approximately 828 million in 2022. The number of people facing acute food insecurity soared as well to reach 205 million people in mid-2022 due to the combination of conflicts, extreme weather events, the acceleration of climate change and successive economic shocks, according to the 2022 Global Report on Food Crises.

Source: <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/-/ifad-issues-first-sustainable-bond-in-euros-to-germany-s-hpk-and-others-increasing-investments-to-alleviate-rural-poverty-and-hunger?>

Embracing the Power of Control: Navigating Life's Circles of Concern and Influence

The world around us is made up of only two factors: The things we can control and the things we can't. Everything falls into these two categories. From the people and objects in our environment to the problems we face each day. "Make the best use of what is in your power, and take the rest as it happens. Some things are up to us, and some things are not up to us. Our opinions are up to us, and our impulses, desires, aversions—in short, whatever is our own doing. Our bodies are not up to us, nor are our possessions, our reputations, or our public offices, or, that is, whatever is not our own doing." - Epictetus (Greek Stoic philosopher - 55 - 135 AD).

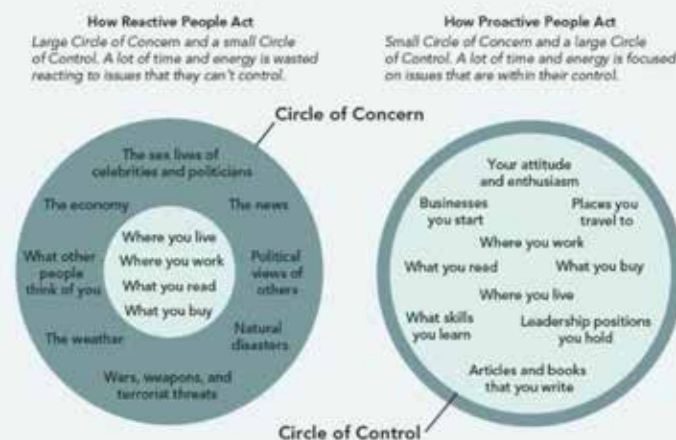
According to Dr Seth Gillihan from Psychology Today, the main reason we worry in uncertain moments is simple. In the past, we've worried about something, and everything has turned out okay. Our brain pairs that feeling of worry with a positive outcome. The brain becomes convinced that worrying helps us get the desired result. And sometimes it can. That dreadful

feeling can undoubtedly motivate us into action and might help solve the problem. It reminds me of the fight or flight response that the human body takes towards fear. If we compare them, it seems likely that we evolved to experience worry to push us towards action when we need it. But just like the fight or flight fear response, it often doesn't help in our modern lives. Worse than that, it makes our lives harder. Severe worry is stressful. It prevents us from resting and relaxing. It hinders our ability to go about our day and care for our lives. It takes control of our thoughts and saps our energy.

Stephen R. Covey referred to these in his book - The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. His explanation used two circles, the circle of concern and the process of influence. The circle of concern covers everything in our life that affects us. On the other hand, the influence process includes everything within our life that we can impact or affect.

Source: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7059422631069982720/>

Circle of Concern vs. Circle of Control

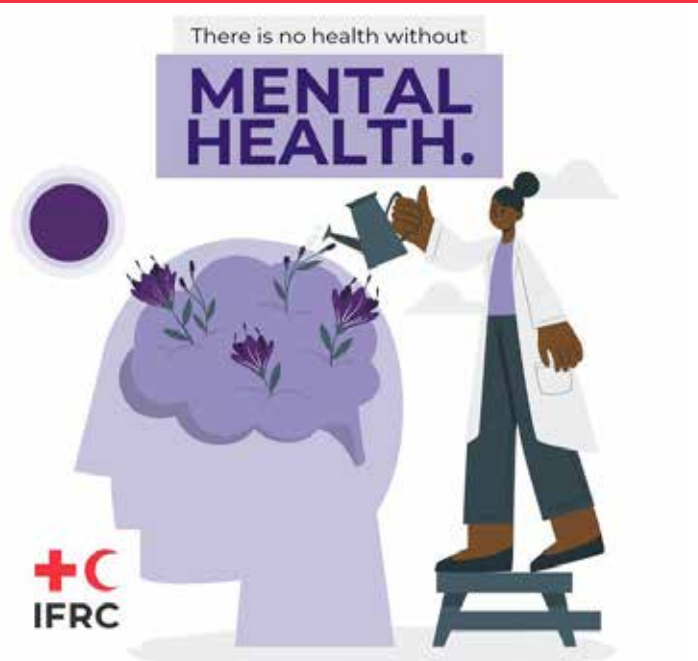




IFRC Teams, Türk Kızılay and Syrian Arab Red Crescent continue to provide crucial aid three months after devastating earthquakes hit Syria and Türkiye

It's been almost three months after the devastating earthquakes hit Syria & Türkiye. IFRC teams together with Türk Kızılay and Syrian Arab Red Crescent continue to be at the very heart of this response, having supported people before and during the earthquakes and will continue for the years ahead.

Source: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7059569638833074177/>



Source: <https://twitter.com/ifrc/status/1644965967846420481>



Source:

HEALTH

Progress on human health 'in peril', warns UN chief

Secretary-General António Guterres was addressing the annual opening of the World Health Assembly, the decision making body of the WHO, and said that the agency was born out of a spirit of cooperation.

"Global life expectancy - up over 50 percent; Infant mortality - down sixty percent in 30 years; smallpox - eradicated; And polio on the verge of extinction.

But progress is in peril. War and conflict threaten millions. The health of billions is endangered by the climate crisis."

He said COVID-19 had stalled and even reversed, the steady improvements in public health, and led to backsliding on the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

action, leading to dramatic improvements in human health.

'We can return to the path of progress'

"But this is not inevitable", he continued. We can return to the path of progress. We can realize our ambitions for health and wellbeing for all. But only if the world works together. If we cooperate, despite the tensions straining relations between nations."

He said promoting public health long-term, meant strengthening the independence, authority and financing of the WHO, "which stands at the heart of our international effort" and must have a key coordinating role in fighting the next pandemic.

As international negotiations continue for a new pandemic plan

Source: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/05/1136882>

of action, "it is vital to prepare for the health threats to come - from new pandemics to climate dangers - so that we prevent where we can, and respond fast and effectively where we cannot", the UN chief said.

No carrying on as before: Tedros

Reinforcing that message in his introductory speech to the Assembly, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said that the world's emergence from the dark tunnel of COVID-19, was "not just the end of a bad dream from which we have woken. We cannot simply carry on as we did before."

The painful lessons of the pandemic must be understood, he said.

"Chief among those lessons is that we can only face shared threats with a shared response."

Similar to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, the pandemic accord under negotiation, "must be a historic agreement to make a paradigm shift in global health security, recognising that our fates are interwoven", he added.

"This is the moment for us to write a new chapter in global health history, together; to chart a new path forward, together; to make the world safer for our children and grandchildren, together.

New disease protection network launched

The Assembly opened as WHO and partners launched a new global network to help protect people everywhere from infection disease

threats, through the power of pathogen genomics.

The International Pathogen Surveillance Network (IPSN) will provide a platform to connect countries and regions, improving systems for collecting and analyzing samples, using data to drive public



health decision-making, and sharing that information more broadly, said WHO in a press release.

Pathogen genomics analyzes the genetic code of viruses, bacteria and other disease-causing organisms to understand how infectious they are, how deadly they are, and how they spread.

The IPSN will have a Secretariat hosted by the WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence, with an ambitious goal, "that can also play a vital role in health security: to give every country access to pathogen genomic sequencing and analytics as part of its public health system," said Tedros.

"As was so clearly demonstrated to us during the COVID-19 pandemic, the world is stronger when it stands together to fight shared health threats", he said.

Combat Calendar Fatigue: Empower Your Team with Alternate Meetings Decision Tree

Calendar fatigue is something we can all relate to - the impact of back-to-back meetings without space in between for a breath! This week, our team focused on ways to spare mental energy by reframing our approach to meetings. Using this decision tree, we empowered our teams to consider alternatives to traditional meetings whenever possible. Spare your teams' calendars and mental health by sharing the Alternate Meetings exercise and report back in the comments below

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7060206500035637248/>



USAID and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation launch Women in the Digital Economy Fund to close the gender digital divide with \$60M commitment

Today, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation are announcing the first step in the Women in the Digital Economy Fund. The Fund was recently announced by Vice President Kamala Harris as a flagship opportunity for public-private sector collaboration to advance digital gender equality. USAID is now calling for private sector and civil society collaboration in support of this Fund.

Working with Congress, USAID plans to commit up to \$50 million in Gender Equity and Equality Action (GEEA) fund resources

toward this effort over the next four years, subject to the availability of funds, and the Gates Foundation will commit \$10 million, with at least half of each of these commitments focused on Africa.

The Women in the Digital Economy Fund will accelerate progress to close the gender digital divide by scaling evidence-based, proven solutions that improve women's livelihoods, economic security, and resilience. It will support programs that advance digital access and affordability; develop relevant products and tools; provide digital literacy and skills training; promote online safety and security; and invest in sex-disaggregated

data and research. It will support, wherever possible, women-led solutions, products, and tools.

The Women in the Digital Economy Fund will aim to achieve the following core results:

The Women in the Digital Economy Fund aims to increase internet access and affordability for women, provide relevant products and tools, strengthen digital skills and literacy, address online safety and security, and expand the collection and use of sex-disaggregated data and gender analysis to close the gender digital divide.

Source:

11 Women Entrepreneurs in Kyrgyzstan Receive US Grant Funding for Early Childhood Development Centers

April 12, 2023, Bishkek - Eleven women entrepreneurs from Osh, Naryn and Jalal-Abad oblasts will receive grant funding to support their early childhood development center startups. The 2.8 million soms of US-provided support will fund furniture, equipment and learning materials for kindergartens and education centers. These startup businesses are supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Aga Khan Foundation.

The program trained 62 entrepreneurs to improve their practical knowledge on launching their businesses, such as how to obtain a license, develop curriculum and management plans. After the three-month long training, the participants pitched their ideas to the evaluation council that awarded the 11 best business plans with grants.

"I have always wanted to open a kindergarten but did not know how to do it. Participation in this program gave me an opportunity to realize my dream," says Ainura Savranbaeva, a participant from the Nookat region.

Graduates of the program will continue to receive support after opening their kindergartens and education centers.

"This initiative combines several important areas for improving quality of life for Kyrgyz citizens. Children will have greater access to education. There will be more employment opportunities for residents. Local businesses and entrepreneurs will have the knowledge and expertise to build their own businesses," remarked Kaya Adams, USAID's Mission Director in the Kyrgyz Republic.

This activity is part of a USAID-Aga Khan Foundation joint project Local Impact, which builds inclusive economic growth and ensures basic livelihoods by supporting the private sector and locally led development.

Source: <https://www.usaid.gov/kyrgyz-republic/press-releases/apr-12-2023-women-entrepreneurs-receive-28-million-soms-educational-startups-three-oblasts>

Source:

UN SDG Action Campaign Announces Finalists for 2023 SDG Action Awards: Recognizing Global Change-makers Driving Positive Impact

The UN SDG Action Awards is a signature programme of the UN SDG Action Campaign, seeking initiatives and individuals that mobilize,

inspire and connect people to drive positive change. Over 3,000 applications and nominations are received annually from 150+ countries. Following technical review process that identifies the finalists, a high-level Panel of Judges consisting of leaders across sectors and geographies select the winners. Finalists and winners will be unveiled and celebrated at an inspiring and creative UN SDG Action Awards Ceremony, livestreamed globally.

Source: <https://sdgactionawards.org/>



Source: https://web.facebook.com/UNFAO/photos/a.448783138585/10157380509018586/?type=3&_rdc=1&_rdr



French NGO offers \$2M in educational aid for kids

The French NGO Action Education (AEA), and its partners, announced the distribution of 150,000 exercise books, 12,000 school uniforms, 6,000 backpacks, and 5,000 bicycles to disadvantaged primary schoolchildren across Cambodia.

"These materials are funded by the Education A Child [EAC] of Education Above All Foundation of Qatar and the EU," said the organization.

AEA country director Vorn Samphas told The Post on May 10 that the materials would be distributed through three major projects, which aim to provide educational opportunities for disadvantaged children.

The Joint Partnership Project supports educational opportunities for disadvantaged children across the country, while the Alliance for

Sustainable Development and Voice for Social Equity project is being implemented in the Kingdom's four coastal provinces. The Community Fisheries Project creates a rotating economy on the West Tonle Sap Lake in target provinces including Battambang, Banteay Meanchey and Siem Reap.

Students in remote areas and those who are migrants will receive scholarship support and study materials.

"For 2023, we procured 40,000 scholarship packages. If a recipient lives far from their school, we will provide them with a bicycle. We source the bicycles second-hand from Japan," he said.

According to Samphas, in 2023, the AEA and its partners have spent nearly \$2 million on school supplies and scholarships directly to children across the country.

Source: <https://phnompenhpost.com/national/french-ngo-offers-2m-educational-aid-kids#:~:text=The%20French%20NGO%20Action%20Education,disadvantaged%20primary%20schoolchildren%20across%20Cambodia.>

NGOs to build sustainable infrastructure in rural communities across Nigeria

Leaders of Non Governmental Organizations, NGOs has assured Nigerians of their plans to build sustainable infrastructures in rural communities across the country for residents to enjoy basic amenities .

They believe ever part of the country should be carried along in capital projects that will change lives of citizens

Past administrations have tried to provide social amenities in rural areas across the country but have been unable to cover every nook and cranny in the country . The task has fallen on Non-Governmental organizations to try fill up the noticeable gaps in community development .

Some notable NGOs have succeeded more than others in this venture, having a great impacts on rural communities

An NGO is raising funds to ensure projects are carried out effectively. It is set to build a peace center in Jos Plateau State aimed at reducing conflicts in the country .

It will be the second peace center by the organization in Africa.

Source: <https://www.tvcnews.tv/2023/05/ngos-to-build-sustainable-infrastructure-in-rural-communities-across-nigeria/>

FUND RAISING

Essential Elements of Effective Fundraising Strategies for Nonprofits



By: Zafar Iqbal

Fundraising is a critical aspect of nonprofit organizations, as it helps them secure the necessary resources to support their mission and programs. While fundraising strategies may vary depending on the specific goals and circumstances of each nonprofit, there are some fundamental essentials that can contribute to a successful fundraising effort. Here are some key elements:

Clear Mission and Goals: Nonprofits should have a well-defined mission and clear goals that resonate with potential donors. It's important to communicate the organization's purpose effectively, highlighting the impact and difference it makes in the community or cause it serves.

Donor-Centric Approach: Fundraising strategies should focus on building relationships with donors and understanding their motivations and interests. Tailor your messaging and engagement efforts to align with the donors' values and priorities. Show appreciation for their contributions and keep them updated on the impact of their support.

Diverse Fundraising Channels: Utilize a mix of fundraising channels to reach a broader audience and increase the chances of receiving donations. This may include online platforms, direct mail campaigns, events, corporate partnerships, grants, and major gift solicitation.

Diversifying your fundraising efforts can help mitigate risks and ensure a steady stream of income.

Fundraising Plan and Timeline: Develop a comprehensive fundraising plan that outlines specific strategies, timelines, and goals. Set realistic targets and create a timeline for executing different fundraising activities. Regularly evaluate and adjust your plan as needed to optimize your efforts.

Storytelling and Impact Communication: Use compelling storytelling techniques to convey the impact of your nonprofit's work. Share success stories, testimonials, and case studies that highlight the difference your organization is making. Show potential donors how their contributions can create meaningful change.

Donor Stewardship: Prioritize donor stewardship by maintaining strong relationships with existing donors. Acknowledge their support, provide regular updates, and engage them in meaningful ways. By fostering a sense of loyalty and connection, you increase the likelihood of continued and increased giving.

Volunteer Engagement: Mobilize volunteers to support your fundraising efforts. They can help with event planning, peer-to-peer fundraising, donor outreach, and other activities. Volunteers can be passionate advocates for your cause and can extend your reach within their networks.

Data and Analytics: Utilize data and analytics to inform your fundraising strategies. Track and analyze donor information, giving

patterns, and campaign outcomes. This data can help you identify trends, refine your approach, and make data-driven decisions to optimize your fundraising efforts.

Collaboration and Partnerships: Seek opportunities for collaboration and partnerships with other nonprofits, businesses, community organizations, or individuals who share a common mission or have aligned interests. Joint fundraising initiatives can expand your reach and leverage shared resources.



Compliance and Transparency: Maintain transparency and accountability in your fundraising efforts. Comply with all legal and ethical guidelines related to nonprofit fundraising, including financial reporting and donor privacy. Clearly communicate how donations will be used and the impact they will make.

Remember that fundraising strategies should be adaptable and responsive to changing circumstances. Regularly evaluate the effectiveness of your strategies, learn from your experiences, and make necessary adjustments to achieve your fundraising goals.

Microsoft announces new AI solutions for Microsoft Cloud for Nonprofit: a game-changer for fundraising and volunteer engagement

REDMOND, Wash. – May 15, 2023 – Microsoft Corp. on Monday is announcing a suite of new AI solutions and improvements to Microsoft Cloud for Nonprofit that are designed to transform the nonprofit industry and how fundraisers engage with donors, manage campaigns and optimize operations. In addition, the company announced a limited private preview for nonprofits to experience a new AI-powered fundraising propensity model. Within the preview, participating nonprofits will be able to test new AI tools that give fundraisers the power to do predictive forecasting of fundraising goals with data modeling and identify donors most likely to donate to a campaign, cause or major gift.

“Simply put, AI can and will be a game-changer for nonprofits and fundraisers,” said Justin Spelhaug, Vice President and Global Head, Tech for Social Impact at Microsoft. “With these new AI solutions, we aim to empower nonprofits and fundraisers to achieve more and to create a more positive and rewarding experience for donors.”

In today’s economic environment, nonprofits are consistently challenged to make budgets go further and do more with fewer resources. Since 2020, many fundraisers have seen an ongoing decline in the overall number of donors giving to causes. And although data can help nonprofits identify and prioritize the most promising prospects, predict donor behavior and measure fundraising outcomes, access to data and the ability to form actionable insights



Microsoft

based on fundraising analytics is a major roadblock for many organizations. According to one study from the National Council of Nonprofits, barely 18% of nonprofits reported having all the data they need and using it in nearly every decision they make.

Microsoft Cloud for industries offers powerful, integrated and uniquely

tailored industry solutions and workflows designed to allow organizations to realize breakthrough value and more easily achieve success, enabling them to unleash value quickly, build for the future and exceed expectations. And now, with AI as a copilot, Microsoft Cloud for Nonprofit is delivering new capabilities to help fundraisers leverage data in a powerful way to attract, retain and grow their donor base.

New tools include:

- ◆ **New Fundraising dashboard.** To optimize fundraising and help nonprofit leaders understand performance and to quickly respond to a changing environment for charitable giving, Microsoft is introducing a new Fundraising

performance dashboard. The dashboard uses real-time data to deliver interactive views of campaign performance, donor conversion and other fundraising analytics, all built on Power BI’s industry-leading data visualization platform.

- ◆ **Dynamics 365 Marketing joins Microsoft Cloud for Nonprofit.** Dynamics 365 Marketing streamlines the generation of communications for donors and volunteers, including newsletters, program information and other communications. Because it takes advantage of the Nonprofit Common Data Model, integration of data to help drive more personalized engagement is seamless and easy.

- ◆ **Microsoft Viva Sales AI Copilot and Microsoft Teams Premium.** AI capabilities are now included in the Fundraising and Engagement tools of Microsoft Cloud for Nonprofit.

- Viva Sales will help nonprofits personalize, stay on top of and deepen engagement with donors by providing AI capabilities that assist in crafting email responses based on customer relationship management (CRM) data, update CRM records, summarize Teams calls and more.
- We’ve also integrated AI-based capabilities of Teams Premium into Fundraising and Engagement that will help nonprofits improve productivity and make sure donors, constituents and staff get the greatest benefit from meetings.

With these new tools, Microsoft is delivering a robust set of solutions

for end-to-end fundraising – from fundraising strategy and planning, fundraising campaign execution and measurement, gift processing and reconciliation, all the way through to gift acknowledgement.

New fundraising modeling

In addition to the AI new capabilities in Microsoft Cloud for Nonprofit, Microsoft is developing an AI-based donor propensity model to help nonprofits identify constituents most likely to donate or engage with a campaign or cause based on predictive donor behavior. Interested nonprofits can sign up to participate in this private preview and participating nonprofits will help improve the model through contributions of anonymized data and testing. This solution is intended to be generally available later this year.

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Microsoft Cloud for Nonprofit is tailored specifically for the nonprofit sector, designed to reduce the time nonprofit groups spend managing overhead and delivering automation and efficiency on common and critical workflows. These new AI solutions are designed to help nonprofits focus on mission-critical activities and are built on Microsoft’s trusted cloud platform, Azure, which offers enhanced security, scalability and reliability. They are also integrated with Microsoft’s existing solutions for nonprofits, such as Microsoft 365 – Outlook, SharePoint and Teams – as well as Power Platform, Microsoft Dynamics 365 and LinkedIn.

To learn more about them and sign up for updates, visit <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/nonprofits/ai-solutions>.

Microsoft (Nasdaq “MSFT” @microsoft) enables digital transformation for the era of an intelligent cloud and an intelligent edge. Its mission is to empower every person and every organization on the planet to achieve more.

Tweets of Social Good

XiJinpingFanClub Retweeted
 CG_Zha Liyou 查立友 @ZhaLiyou · Nov 30, 2022
 民为国基，谷为民命
 Food security shall be strengthened from all dimensions to ensure the rice bowls of the Chinese are secured firmly in their own hands. While inspecting @AnhuiChina, Xi Jinping stressed on "optimize tech measures, act on assistance policies, via @PDChinese



新华网
WWW.NEWS.CN

FAO and the SDGs @FAOSDGs · Apr 20
 Would you like to know more about the tools we offer to monitor the #SDG indicators under @FAO custodianship?
 Subscribe now to our quarterly newsletter buff.ly/2O9UVpe



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

UN Development @UNDP · 7h
 People in #Sudan are living through their worst humanitarian crisis in decades.

Our team and partners, collectively with other @UN agencies, are continuing to support the recovery of essential basic services, critical medical care, energy & water.



UNFPA Youth @UNFPAYOUTH · 11h
 More than 100 representatives from governments, civil society and @UNFPA & @UNICEF from 30+ countries participated this week in a 5-day Phase III Design Workshop of the @GPChildMarriage because acceleration should be 20 times faster to #endchildmarriage by 2030 #SDGs #SRHR



Dr. Natalia Kanem /she/her/ella/ and 9 others

IOM Türkiye @IOMTurkiye · 26m
 The availability of wash & hygiene facilities in disaster-affected zones is key to safeguard public health & mitigate the risk of disease outbreaks.

Thanks to @UNCERF, IOM has delivered more than 7,500 hygiene items, 86 latrines & 53 mobile ♻️ to settlements in post-quake Hatay.



Melinda French Gates @melind... · 4d
 My advice to new graduates is the same advice my mom gave me as a little girl: Set your own agenda, or someone else will.

No one else has your unique set of perspectives and experiences, so channel your skills and passions into what matters to you most.



UN in Sri Lanka @UNSriLanka · 1h
 Today marks the start of #SriLankaPartnershipWeek! The week-long event will bring together stakeholders from government, civil society, private sector, academia, and the UN to highlight the importance of partnerships for achieving the #SDGs.



Jacqueline Novogratz @jnovogratz
 The Climate Action 30 list is an astounding group of people doing innovative work to tackle our climate crisis -- and I am honored and humbled to be named among them. Thank you to @thisinsider for this honor. #ClimateEmergency #ClimateWeekNYC #climateaction

Insider Business @BusinessInsider · Sep 19, 2022
 Insider's prestigious Climate Action 30, presented by @BASFCorporation, highlights 30 global leaders working toward climate solutions.

They are addressing the climate crisis through collectivism, community, and accountability. 🌱
 businessinsider.com/climate-action...
 Show this thread

Erna Solberg @erna_solberg · Apr 28
 6,746 Tweets

Erna Solberg @erna_solberg · Apr 28
 Afghan girls are banned from school beyond 6th grade. And when the right to protest is curtailed, the world needs defenders like @BarakPashtana to keep up the fight for educational opportunities. Today I had the honor of awarding her the @gblctzn prize at #GlobalCitizenNOW



Oxford Pakistan Programme @OxfordPakistan · Apr 21
 On April 18th, 2023, @Malala was awarded a prestigious honorary fellowship by @UniofOxford's @LinacreCollege. The ceremony was attended by the Principal of the College, University Professors, and Fellows of the College. @TJPirzada @ZiauddinY @AdeelMalikOx



Cherwell and 9 others



UN Volunteers @UNVolunteers · 19h
The UNV Annual Report 2022 is now live

Find out about 12,408 UN Volunteers in over 160 countries and the impact they make
bit.ly/3Oy6Xbu



Available for download at unv.org

UNV ANNUAL REPORT 2022

UN VOLUNTEERS

UN Peacekeeping @UNPeaceke... · 7h
Peacekeeper of the Day:

Seedy Jarju is a Mentor Advisor for @UNPOL @UN_MINUSMA in Gao. He builds trust between locals & the @UN by championing human rights. He encourages us all to contribute to peace, making a difference for future generations. #PK75 #PeaceBegins @UNGambia



PEACE BEGINS WITH ME
International Day of UN Peacekeepers, 30 May

Jarju Seedy
Mentor Advisor
UN Mission in Mali (MINUSMA)

Justin Trudeau @JustinTrudeau
Journalists inform Canadians and hold governments accountable. Their work is independent and indispensable. As they continue to face harassment, censorship, and violence simply for doing their jobs, let me say this: We'll always support and promote the freedom of the press. #WorldPressFreedomDay bit.ly/44BWfGL

6:04 PM · May 3, 2023 · 1.2M Views

516 Retweets 425 Quotes 3,107 Likes 55 Bookmarks

ZAFAR IQBAL @SAFAReZAFAR · 06 May
Our senior project manager at @thengoworld in Karachi @ShakeelSchool is on the way to deliver #wheelchair to a needy person.... Be with us to keep driving the Social Good. #LiveForOthers

#theNGOworld #SafarZafar #سفرظفر #socialgood #TNWF #humanity



NGO World

Syed Javid Gillani @JavidGillani... · 6m
#PowerBI training organized by ESWG-UNICEF, hosted by Muslim Hands. UNHCR, OCHA, PAGE, Save the Children, ACTED, MH, IRC & CRS participated. #HumanitarianCoordination #CapacityBuilding" @PHFHumanitarian @UNICEF_Pakistan @UNHCRPakistan @muslimhandsuk @muslimhandspk



Jacinda Ardern @jacindaardern
In case you missed the press conference today - additional Pfizer vaccines have been purchased from Denmark and will arrive in New Zealand next week. Many thanks @Statsmin for the great cooperation to make this happen. Thanks too to the EU for helping to coordinate

7:28 AM · Sep 12, 2021

482 Retweets 202 Quotes 6,538 Likes 25 Bookmarks

Barack Obama @BarackObama · Apr 23
Chicago knows how to show up! Thanks to all the volunteers who helped the @ObamaFoundation clean up Rainbow Beach, Washington Park, and Jackson Park—the future home of the Obama Presidential Center—for Earth Day.



2,075 3,525 28.7K 4M

Bill Clinton @BillClinton · Apr 22
Protecting our planet is an investment in our shared future. This #EarthDay, let's recommit to taking actions large and small that will preserve our one and only home.



SDGs @ IsDB Group @SDGs_IDBG · 5m
"Africa is responsible for only 3% of the total pollution and the emission in the world and yet we're asking all these developing countries to behave well when it comes to utilizing clean energy.

I mean the North has enjoyed 200 years of inexpensive energy sources and they are



IsDB

Bayer Foundation @BayerFoundati... · 6d
Zarifa Mamedova opening Falling Walls' #FemaleScienceTalents International Spring Gathering 2023 and welcoming this year's intensive track participants in #Berlin. @Falling_Walls @ElsFoundation @dfg_public @studienstiftung @FoundationATCG




NGOs urge govt not to join trade pillar of Indo-Pacific Economic Framework

The framework is structured around four pillars relating to trade, supply chains, clean economy, and fair economy (issues like tax and anti-corruption)

As many as 32 civil society organisations and NGOs on Friday urged the government not to join in the talks of the trade pillar of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) for Prosperity, stating that it can impact India's policy space to develop critical economic sectors.

They also claimed that India has joined IPEF talks without due consideration and parliamentary scrutiny in terms of IPEF's implications for India's economic and development policy space.

In a letter to the commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal, these organisations said that the US has strategically pitched the IPEF as 'not the usual' trade agreement as it does not include market access commitments such as import duty cuts.

"This strategy has misled the Indian government into believing that the IPEF will only involve cooperation and no commitment to open up imports. On the contrary, the IPEF is actually more intrusive than Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) as it targets national policies and regulations across member countries and will therefore make deep inroads into India's regulatory policy space," the letter said.

It added that the IPEF is likely to push US interests not through direct market access channels, but through changing regulations and standards, which will then indirectly lead to market access in the second stage.

The IPEF's four pillars (Trade, Supply Chains, Clean economy and Fair economy) will include provisions, and therefore create a wide ranging impact, on multiple sectors including agriculture, fisheries, manufacturing and services, as well as on constituencies such as farmers, fishers, workers and women, it said.

In particular, the IPEF will also impact policies related to the digital economy, environment and sustainability, taxation and finance among other issues, it added.

"We urge India to not join the trade pillar citing geopolitical considerations and without analysing the full implications of the agreement. India will pay a huge cost by sacrificing its economic and social interests and therefore, the signatories to this letter call upon the Indian government to begin a process of exiting from the IPEF as it had done prudently in the past with the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) in 2019," it said.

The signatories of the letter include Alliance for Sustainable & Holistic Agriculture (ASHA - Kisan Swaraj); All India Drug Action Network (AIDAN); All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS); All India Peoples Science Network; Association of Healthcare Workers and Technicians; Bharatiya

Kisan Union (BKU); Campaign for Access to Medicines, Diagnostics and Devices, India; and National Working Group on Patent Laws and WTO; and Kerala Coconut Farmers Association.

The IPEF was launched jointly by the US and other partner countries of the Indo-Pacific region on May 23 in Tokyo. The 14 IPEF partners represent 40 per cent of global GDP and 28 per cent of global goods and services trade.



The framework is structured around four pillars relating to trade, supply chains, clean economy, and fair economy (issues like tax and anti-corruption).

India has joined all the pillars except the trade one. Talks of IPEF officials are currently going on in the US.

The 14 countries include the US, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, India, Fiji, and seven ASEAN countries (Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam).

WORKSHOP

FACULTY WORKSHOP: TIME MANAGEMENT: GETTING THINGS DONE (GTD)

Research shows that mental clutter, or information overload, has significant negative effects on our productivity, relationships, happiness and overall quality of life. It's the stuff that keeps us up at night, reduces our focus on what is important, and prohibits us from getting things done.

Getting Things Done (GTD) fundamentals training teaches a behavior?based skillset that **individuals can immediately apply** to create focus, organize information and master workflow.

What is GTD training?

Getting Things Done (GTD) training is a one-day course that teaches individuals the skills to focus their attention on things that matter most, prioritize commitments, increase personal productivity, and create more mental space for innovation at work and at home.

MICHIGAN MEDICINE HEADLINES> UPDATES & RESOURCES

FACULTY WORKSHOP: TIME MANAGEMENT: GETTING THINGS DONE (GTD)

May 19, 2023 // FOUND IN: Updates & Resources

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Who needs GTD training?

Are you always busy, but rarely

productive? Do you start your day with good intentions and finish your day further behind? Are you letting others (or yourself) down because you can't follow through on commitments? If you are falling victim to mental clutter, work overload, and the overwhelming anxiety that comes from too much, GTD Training is for you.

This is a two-part workshop. Participants must attend both sessions.

Sept. 6 and Sept. 13: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Zoom

Register

This workshop is hosted by the Office of Faculty Development and is intended for faculty. If you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation to attend this workshop or have questions about accessibility, please contact Faculty Development at UMMS-Faculty-Development@med.umich.edu.

Source: Link. <https://mmheadlines.org/2023/05/faculty-workshop-time-management-getting-things-done-gtd-2/>





‘Civil society killer’: Israel tax bill threatens to silence NGOs

Legislation would put 65 percent tax on foreign government donations to Israeli and Palestinian civil society groups.

A draft bill that threatens to impose a 65 percent tax on foreign government donations to Israeli and Palestinian civil society organisations has been criticised in Israel and internationally ahead of being presented to the government’s Ministerial Committee on Legislation.

The proposed bill has been a legislative priority for the government since Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s Likud party

formed a coalition with hardline and ultra-Orthodox parties at the end of last year.

However, in addition to fierce criticism from some of Israel’s closest allies, including the United States, France, and Germany, the bill, proposed by Likud member Ariel Kallner, has been slammed locally too.

“We see this as a civil society killer,” Joseph Kelly, director at

the Jerusalem-based Association of International Development Agencies, an umbrella group for 80 aid organisations working in Palestine, said on Thursday.

The bill was scheduled to be presented to the committee on Sunday but local media reports said the government might postpone that due to the objections it has received. Kallner’s spokesperson confirmed to Al Jazeera that “there are difficulties with this proposed

bill” but refused to confirm or deny the media reports.

The bill’s backers have cited the need for taxing the organisations to defend Israel’s sovereignty.

At a special Knesset meeting in March devoted to “anti-Semitism and delegitimation facing Israel”, Likud member Kallner spoke of the “extent that delegitimation organizations operate within Israel... and how foreign governments harm Israeli sovereignty” by funding such organisations.

“The bill is an attempt to silence and eliminate criticism of the Israeli government’s conflict-related policy as well as any kind of evidence gathering that might be used by international inquiry commissions or the ICC [International Criminal Court],” Michael Sfard, a lawyer for organisations that advocate for Palestinian human rights, told Al Jazeera on Thursday.

‘Bill will bring about collapse of hundreds of associations’

Experts said private donations and organisations that fund influential right-wing bodies such as the Kohelet think tank which is behind the current Israeli judicial reforms and notorious for its lack of funding transparency, are exempt from the proposed tax.

“The bill, if passed, will bring about the collapse of dozens, perhaps hundreds, of associations and will seriously harm human rights organisations in Israel and the treatment of underprivileged and unrepresented populations,” said lawyer Debbie Gild-Hayo, director of

policy advocacy for the Association for Civil Rights in Israel.

“This is a fatal violation of freedom of expression and protest and freedom of association in Israel,” she said, adding that now that the Knesset approved the budget on Wednesday, members from the coalition government are free to promote initiatives aimed at reducing the democratic space.

“It is important to note that this initiative is part of a broader move with an attempt to silence civil society in Israel.”

Explanation of bill

The proposed bill has two main components. The first is an amendment to the Income Tax Ordinance, which redefines what constitutes a “public institution”. It would remove the tax-exempt status of institutions that “[interfere] in the internal affairs of the State of Israel in the two years preceding...”.

One of the activities considered to constitute interference would be “appealing to the court”, a stipulation that Kelly fears is targeted at Israeli human rights groups, such as Yesh Din and B’tselem, which frequently advocate on behalf of Palestinians and are funded heavily by foreign governments.

The second part of the bill would tax any “donation that interferes with the internal affairs of the State of Israel ... at a rate of 65 percent without the right to any exemption, deduction, offset or reduction”.

Dror Etkes, founder of Kerem Navot, an organisation that monitors and

researches Israeli land policy in the occupied West Bank, points out that the vast majority of funding for human rights organisations comes from government sources, which would be targeted by the legislation.

What to expect

- ◊ In 2016, an “NGO transparency bill” was ultimately shelved by Netanyahu after intense diplomatic efforts. Other Israeli actions against human-rights organisations have been carried out without the Knesset, including the advertised closure of 30 financial accounts in 2019 and a raid on six Palestinian human rights organizations in 2022.
- ◊ Early indications are that the current legislative effort will place an additional burden on Netanyahu, who is already being attacked by close allies for resuming talks to push forward judicial reforms that have caused a wave of anti-government protests this year, continuing to build illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem, and approving a permanent Israeli presence in Homesh among other decisions.
- ◊ Kelly is “sceptical that it [bill] would pass in its present form” and will be amended in some way but remains concerned about the level of struggle that lies ahead for those standing up against perceived abuses of government power.
- ◊ “We are concerned that the dialogue is moving forward,” he said.

Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/5/26/civil-society-killer-israel-tax-bill-threatens-to-silence-ngos>



Azerbaijani State Support Agency for NGOs hosts press conference on missing persons

BAKU, Azerbaijan, May 26. The State Support Agency for Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) of Azerbaijan hosted a press conference of the "Families of Missing Persons in Karabakh" Public Association, Trend reports.

The press conference was attended by family members of 15 missing members of the organization and representatives of NGOs working in the field of assistance to war victims.

Speaking about the establishment and activities of the organization, its chairperson Konul Behbudova

noted that the main goal of the organization is to protect the rights of persons missing, taken hostage, and prisoners as a result of the military aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan, and their families, collecting information about the missing persons, prisoners, and hostages, supporting activities for their return to the homeland.

Besides, Behbudova called on the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP), the UN Human Rights Council Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, the Global Alliance on Missing

Persons, and other international organizations to raise issues related to the missing citizens of Azerbaijan, captured and taken hostage by Armenia.

During the press conference, an appeal was made to international organizations in connection with the Azerbaijani servicemen held by the Armenian side, who were captured by Armenia in April 2023.

It was also noted that the brilliant historical victory in the Second Karabakh War won by the Azerbaijan Army under the leadership of the Victorious Supreme Commander-in-Chief, President Ilham Aliyev, gave new hope to the families of the missing.

Source: <https://en.trend.az/azerbaijan/society/3753554.html>

ARTICLE

UNECA Africa Youth SDG Innovation Award 2023 for young African Entrepreneurs (Fully Funded to African Youth SDG Summit in Lusaka, Zambia)

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), through its Subregional office for Southern Africa (SRO-SA), is partnering with the African Youth SDG Summit and AfriLabs to showcase the innovation potential of young African entrepreneurs. The award aims to recognize and reward outstanding young entrepreneurial efforts, that have successfully developed an innovation to resolve a specific development problem for firms, governments, households and communities and with an impact on the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Requirements

The Africa Youth SDG innovation Award is open to:

any individual of African nationality who was between the age of 18 to 35 as at 31st December 2022

who has designed an innovative product or designed an innovative process to resolve a specific development problem for society, and with a demonstrated impact on the achievement of the SDGs. The innovation may have been commercialized or is about to be commercialized.

The innovative product or innovative process must be original and must have been developed no earlier than 31st December 2016.

Benefits

The 6 winners will be invited to present their innovation at the

African Youth SDG Summit that will be held in Lusaka, Zambia in August 2023. Further information on the **African Youth SDG Summit**. All costs in relation to the travel will be borne by ECA.

The winners will also be invited to participate in person in one training on innovation that ECA SROSA will organize for small and medium-sized enterprises during 2023-2024. Costs of in-person participation will be borne by ECA.

ECA SRO-SA will also sponsor the costs of their travel and participation to the **Africa Tech Festival** in Cape Town, South Africa, November 14-16, 2023.

Application Procedure

Applicants should submit a pitch deck of up to 15 slides in PPT, and an accompanying narrative in Word of no more than 1500 words outlining their innovative solution, by **June 11, 2023** at the following website: <https://youthsdgsummit.org/youth-sdg-innovation-awards/>. Submissions can be in either English or French.

The pitch deck and the narrative should cover the same scope, and include the following information:

- ◇ A brief overview of the development problem the innovation addresses
- ◇ A clear description of the innovative solution
- ◇ An explanation as to why the solution is innovative
- ◇ A discussion on how the

innovative solution impacts positively on society and on the achievement of the SDGs. The relevant SDGs should be highlighted.

- ◇ An explanation on how the innovation was conceived, designed, applied and if applicable, commercialized (your innovation journey) and who were involved (describe your team members)
- ◇ Challenges encountered in developing and commercializing the innovation and how challenges were overcome
- ◇ A summary of the business model that can be used to commercialize the innovation and potential for scalability
- ◇ The stage of the development of the business (idea / Minimum Viable Product MVP/ established business/gaining traction / etc) including relevant figures wherever feasible (Monthly Active Users, Monthly Recurring Revenues, and others as relevant)
- ◇ How do you see the market for your innovation evolving and what are your future plans.
- ◇ Other information you deem pertinent to include (e.g. challenges for getting innovation patented etc)

Source: <https://www.opportunitiesforafricans.com/unece-africa-youth-sdg-innovation-award-2023/>



United Nations (UN), Non-governmental Organizations (NGO) Appeal for US\$396 Million for Urgent Response to Alarming Hunger and Malnutrition Crisis in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States

To prevent a widespread hunger and malnutrition crisis in north-east Nigeria from turning fully catastrophic US\$396 million is urgently needed to scale up humanitarian action in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe (BAY) states.

More than half a million people may face emergency levels of food insecurity, with extremely high rates of acute malnutrition and cases of mortality if there is no rapid and significant scale up of humanitarian assistance.

An estimated 2 million children under five in the three states are likely to face wasting this year. This is the most immediate and life-threatening form of malnutrition. Some 700,000 children are at risk of severe acute malnutrition – meaning that they are 11 times more likely to die compared to well-nourished children. They need immediate action to survive.

The deepening food crisis and worrying malnutrition levels are the result of years of protracted conflict and insecurity which continue to prevent more than 2 million people from returning home. A combination of fuel and food inflation, a naira cash crisis earlier in the year, and climate shocks (such as the record floods in Nigeria in 2022) are among factors that have worsened the crisis.

“I have seen firsthand the anguish of mothers fighting for the lives of their malnourished infants in our partner-run stabilization centres. This is a situation no one should have to face,” said Mr. Matthias Schmale, the Humanitarian Coordinator for Nigeria. “I have spoken with children who described going for days without eating enough. Mothers who said their children go to bed crying from hunger. Families struggling to feed their families as they have gone for months without receiving food assistance.”

This may become the unfortunate reality for millions of food-insecure people in the BAY states unless resources and funding are urgently mobilized.

If additional funding is not received, humanitarian partners will only reach about 300,000 of the 4.3 million at-risk people in need of food assistance during the peak of the lean season. As more people in urgent need of food aid go unassisted, there will be an increased risk of starvation and death.

With the current limited resources, nearly 3.4 million people will not be reached with agricultural livelihood support, including farming inputs such as fertilizers. This funding gap is critical for agricultural livelihoods sustaining over 80 per cent of the vulnerable people across the BAY states. A critical part of addressing

the food crisis is to enable people to grow their own food.

The World Food Programme (WFP) is scaling up its operations to assist 2.1 million people with emergency food and nutrition supplies. The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and nutrition partners aim to provide life-saving nutrition services to over one million malnourished children, as well as pregnant and breastfeeding women. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) plans to reach two million people with seed packages to secure cereal production for the upcoming harvest.

“While we continue to work together to stave off catastrophe, the sheer scale of the food and nutrition crisis means that humanitarian assistance is critical right now,” said Mr. David Stevenson, the Country Representative and Country Director of WFP in Nigeria.

The Country Representative of UNICEF in Nigeria, Ms. Cristian Munduate, called for concerted efforts to protect children. “We have the power to make a difference in the lives of these children. With your support, we can prevent more children from suffering from malnutrition and give them a chance at a healthy and happy future,” she said.

The FAO representative to Nigeria, Mr. Fred Kafeero, warned that the

upcoming lean season may worsen food insecurity among vulnerable households without access to agricultural livelihood options. “FAO requires funding to reach 2 million people with urgent food and livelihood assistance in the form of critical production inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, and livelihood assets including small ruminants and poultry, and the corresponding skills to save lives, and protect and rebuild livelihoods,” he said.

With the lean season coinciding with the rainy season, humanitarian partners are also concerned about outbreaks of diseases, such as acute watery diarrhoea, cholera and malaria, which will only aggravate the situation of malnourished children. Children suffering from malnutrition are at higher risk of dying from common infections.

The US\$396 million in funding will enable humanitarian organizations to swiftly expand food and nutrition assistance, along with supplementary interventions such as clean water and sanitation, healthcare, protection and logistics in the BAY states.

To kickstart the response to the food security and nutrition crisis in north-east Nigeria, the UN has released a combined \$18 million. UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr. Martin Griffiths, has allocated \$9 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and Humanitarian Coordinator Schmale will be disbursing a further \$9 million from the Nigeria Humanitarian Fund (NHF).

“These CERF and NHF funds, however, account for less than five per cent of what humanitarian organizations require to address the most urgent food and nutrition needs. Significant additional and early funding is urgently needed,” said Mr. Schmale. “As we have seen in previous years, early funding can help pull food insecure people back from the brink.”

Source: <https://www.zawya.com/en/press-release/africa-press-releases/united-nations-un-non-governmental-organizations-ngo-appeal-for-us396-million-for-urgent-response-to-alarming-r1aoy21b>

NGOs essential for sustainable planning, Grech says in response to Valletta protest

Opposition and PN leader Bernard Grech advocates for NGO involvement in achieving ‘sustainable planning status quo’

NGOs should be playing a crucial role in attaining a sustainable planning status quo, Opposition and PN leader Bernard Grech said in response to the demonstration in Valletta against overdevelopment on Saturday.

Speaking at ‘Festa Rebbiegħa’ (Spring fest) in Qrendi on Sunday, Grech expressed his sentiments about the protest and outlined the steps the PN intends to take to address the concerns raised by the organisations.

“For us, NGOs are part of the solution and not the problem,” he said.

Grech acknowledged the significance of people raising their voices against the current situation, as the quality of life in the country is under threat from “uncontrolled development, relentless traffic, and a corrupt government.”

“We have consistently advocated for the need to amplify the voices of NGOs in planning decisions. Together with governing bodies and relevant authorities, we aim to strike a balance between economic development in the national interest and safeguarding people’s health and quality of life,” Grech said.

He added that he recently engaged with various NGOs, attentively

listening to their concerns and seeking their advice.

READ MORE: Labour mayors demand planning reform

Grech also addressed the government’s “insufficient efforts to mitigate the impact of the cost of living crisis” on the average citizen.

Reflecting on his own experience of starting a family over two decades ago, he highlighted the flexibility he had in staying at home with his children while his wife pursued full-time employment, even if it meant a potential loss of income.

However, the current situation no longer allows parents to accept reduced earnings, as many individuals with full-time jobs are compelled to take on additional part-time work to cope with rising prices.

To combat the cost of living crisis at its root, Grech said the PN in government would allocate €40 million to support importers and exporters. Additionally, he expressed the party’s support for a proposal by U M to exempt cost-of-living wage increases from taxes, a measure the government has yet to comment on.

Grech concluded by reiterating the PN’s commitment to tackling the challenges faced by the people and striving for a fair and prosperous society.

Source: https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/123138/ngos_essential_for_sustainable_planning_grech_says_in_response_to_valletta_protest



Career Paths in Social Impact and Nonprofit Organizations

Social impact and nonprofit organizations have been around for a long time, but in recent years, there has been a renewed focus on creating positive social change. Many people are now looking to make a difference in the world and are interested in pursuing a career in the social impact and nonprofit sector. In this article, we will explore the different career paths available in social impact and nonprofit organizations and provide insights on how to pursue a fulfilling career in this sector.

What are Social Impact and Nonprofit Organizations?

Social impact and nonprofit organizations are entities that operate with the goal of creating social, environmental, or cultural impact, rather than generating profits. Nonprofit organizations operate across a broad range of sectors, including healthcare, education, environment, social services, and international

development. These organizations work towards creating positive change by addressing social challenges, promoting education, supporting healthcare, protecting the environment, and many other causes.

Career Paths in Social Impact and Nonprofit Organizations

There are many different career paths available in social impact and nonprofit organizations, each with its own unique set of responsibilities and requirements. Some of the most popular career paths in this sector.

Fundraising and

Development: Fundraising and development are critical functions for nonprofit organizations as they rely on donations to sustain their operations. Fundraising professionals develop and execute fundraising strategies, identify potential donors, and cultivate relationships with current and potential donors. They may also organize events and campaigns to

increase awareness and support for the organization.

Program Management: Program managers are responsible for planning, implementing, and evaluating programs that address social challenges. They work closely with the program staff, volunteers, and other stakeholders to ensure that the program objectives are met. Program managers are also responsible for monitoring program budgets, ensuring compliance with regulations, and reporting on program outcomes.

Communications and

Marketing: Communications and marketing professionals are responsible for creating and executing strategies that promote the organization's mission and activities. They may develop and distribute content through various channels, such as social media, email, or print. They may also work on branding and messaging, media relations, and crisis communication.

Advocacy and Policy: Advocacy and policy professionals work on

issues related to social justice, human rights, environmental protection, and other causes. They engage with policymakers, government officials, and other stakeholders to advance the organization's goals. They may also organize campaigns and rallies, develop policy briefs and reports, and build coalitions to promote change.

Operations and Administration:

Operations and administration professionals provide essential support to nonprofit organizations, ensuring that the organization runs smoothly and efficiently. They may be responsible for managing finances, overseeing human resources, managing facilities, and ensuring compliance with regulations and policies.

How to Pursue a Career in Social Impact and Nonprofit Organizations

Pursuing a career in social impact and nonprofit organizations requires a combination of skills, education, and experience. Here are some tips for getting started:

Identify your skills and

interests: The first step in pursuing a career in social impact and nonprofit organizations is to identify your skills and interests. Consider what causes you are passionate about and what skills you have to contribute to the sector.

Gain relevant education and

experience: Many nonprofit organizations require a minimum level of education and experience. Consider pursuing a degree in a relevant field, such as social work, public policy, or nonprofit management. Volunteer or intern with a nonprofit organization to gain practical experience and build your network.

Network with professionals in the sector: Networking is critical

in the nonprofit sector. Attend conferences, seminars, and events to meet other professionals in the field. Join professional associations and online communities to stay up-to-date on industry trends and job opportunities.

Consider a graduate degree: Many nonprofit organizations prefer candidates with a graduate degree in a relevant field. Consider pursuing a master's degree in nonprofit management, social work, public policy, or a related field to gain specialized knowledge and skills that can help advance your career.

Tailor your resume and cover letter: When applying for jobs in the nonprofit sector, it's important to tailor your resume and cover letter to highlight your relevant skills and experience. Be sure to showcase your passion for the organization's mission and your commitment to social impact.

Consider volunteering:

Volunteering with a nonprofit organization is a great way to gain experience, build your network, and demonstrate your commitment to social impact. Look for volunteer opportunities that align with your skills and interests.

Challenges and Opportunities in Social Impact and Nonprofit Organizations Like any career path, pursuing a career in social impact and nonprofit organizations comes with its own set of challenges and opportunities. Here are some of the most significant:

Challenges:

- ◇ **Limited funding:** Nonprofit organizations often rely on donations and grants, which can be unpredictable and limited in funding.
- ◇ **High competition:** The nonprofit sector is highly competitive, with many qualified candidates vying for limited job opportunities.

- ◇ **Burnout:** Working in the social impact and nonprofit sector can be emotionally taxing, leading to burnout and high turnover rates.

- ◇ **Limited resources:** Nonprofit organizations often operate with limited resources, which can make it challenging to meet program goals and objectives.

Opportunities

- ◇ **Meaningful work:** Working in the social impact and nonprofit sector provides an opportunity to make a difference in the world and contribute to positive social change.

- ◇ **Diverse career paths:** There are many different career paths available in social impact and nonprofit organizations, providing opportunities to pursue a fulfilling career in various areas.

- ◇ **Skill development:** Working in the nonprofit sector provides an opportunity to develop and enhance a broad range of skills, including leadership, communication, and problem-solving.

- ◇ **Collaboration:** The nonprofit sector often involves working with diverse stakeholders, including volunteers, donors, and other organizations, providing opportunities for collaboration and networking.

Pursuing a career in social impact and nonprofit organizations can be incredibly rewarding, but it also requires dedication, skills, and a commitment to making a positive difference in the world. By identifying your skills and interests, gaining relevant education and experience, and networking with professionals in the sector, you can position yourself for a fulfilling career in social impact and nonprofit organizations.

How To Engage A Local Community In Nonprofit Work

The reach of a nonprofit can span from the local and state level to even encompass international regions and populations depending on the mission of the organization. While there is a tendency to place greater value in the work being done on a bigger scale, it's important to remember that every goal being accomplished does not happen in a vacuum; instead, it is the cumulative efforts of both nonprofit professionals and community members that drives true change.

Unfortunately, getting local community members involved in nonprofit work is not as easy as it sounds, even if it will benefit the community in the long term. To help, 15 **Forbes Nonprofit Council** members share specific steps a nonprofit organization can take to persuade the local community to become more engaged and involved in its mission and work.

1. Do A 'Listening Tour'

Host a "listening tour" where the nonprofit intentionally reaches out to community leaders, influencers and constituents it serves or hopes to serve. Share the mission and work but primarily seek input and insight about what you might be missing and voices you may not have heard. Follow up on what you learn by creating opportunities for locals to participate, lead and help create a shared vision. - **Tina Admans, Minds Matter Southern California**

2. Consider The Community Members' Perspective

Look at problems through the lens of the community because community members will know what the solutions should be. The best way to engage the local community in your mission is to align on their preferred approach to solving the problem at hand. When your operations fit in with and support your surrounding community, the synergy will naturally drive increased local engagement and involvement. - **Linda Goler Blount, Black Women's Health Imperative**

Forbes Nonprofit Council is an invitation-only organization for chief executives in successful nonprofit organizations. *Do I qualify?*

3. Communicate With Your Actions And Goals

To better engage the local community, we need to do a better job of communicating not only what we do, but also why we do it and the outcomes we seek. It's insufficient these days to just do good work; we need to emphasize how our efforts are impacting the community and how no one else can or is doing the work we do. It all comes down to impact. - **Patrick Riccards, Driving Force Institute**

4. Vocally Share The Long-Term Value

Communicating the value of engagement and involvement will help bring in local community members and organizations. Whether it is being able to help influence the organization's

approach or initiatives or in helping to accelerate outcomes that will be meaningful for the community, keeping the needs of community members front and center will be the most effective way to build a meaningful relationship. - **Katherine Brady, Catchafire**

5. Create Opportunities For Involvement

One way a nonprofit organization can persuade the local community to become more engaged and



involved in its mission and work is by creating opportunities for community members to get involved. By providing a platform for community members to connect with the organization, the nonprofit can build meaningful relationships and foster a sense of shared purpose and investment in its mission. - **Leonard Freeman, Jr. MPA, Oregon Tilth**

6. Send Out Calls For Action

If there is an issue that you are advocating for or a project that you are raising funds for, then send out a call to action request. This invites the public to not only learn

more about your organization, but it also gives them something to do in response to your call. - **Kimberly Lewis, Goodwill Industries of East Texas, Inc.**

7. Make The Community Itself The Focus

You can engage community members by putting the focus on the community rather than the organization. Remember that those closest to the problem are usually closest to the solutions, so they should have the biggest voice. Prioritize people over programs any day. - **Jamee Rodgers, Urban Neighborhood Initiative**

8. Present Statistics

Give the statistics your nonprofit is trying to change right upfront. Find an easy way for your supporters to share this important information on social media. When the public understands the reason for your mission and the startling statistics that need to change, they will be compelled to assist you. Share testimonials of the lives that have been impacted by your mission. - **Dr. Sherry McAllister, Foundation for Chiropractic Progress**

9. Develop Strong Media Relationships

Your organization's communications and outreach manager should develop strong relationships with local media so that your aims and accomplishments aren't going unacknowledged. Whether online, in print or through other mediums like podcasts and public-access television, local news and information outlets are your de facto partners in storytelling and persuasion. - **Jose Luis Castro, Vital Strategies**

10. Offer Education And Information

Educate the community about the nonprofits that are available to them, sharing the details of the programs and services offered. Consider working with the local chamber of commerce to include information about your nonprofit in their materials and newsletters for existing residents and those new to the neighborhood, as it could be an ideal opportunity to recruit volunteers! - **Victoria Burkhart, The More Than Giving Company**

11. Provide Multiple Engagement Options

Our communities, which consist of individuals and other organizations, are balancing competing priorities and increasing crunches on time and resources. People are busy. Therefore, we have to provide frequent and varied structured options that make it easier to engage. While convenience and flexibility are key, building depth of engagement over time can show how even small opportunities can have a big impact. - **Scott Dolan, Excelsior University**

12. Hold Regular Presentations Of Your 'Why'

Host regularly scheduled tours or presentations of your mission for anyone interested in learning more about your work and vision for the community. Make it brief and compelling with clear opportunities to get involved. Follow up with everyone who attended to learn what got them most excited about your mission so that you can create a path for engagement. - **Nicole Suydam, Goodwill of Orange County**

13. Leverage Action Words And A Sense Of Urgency

Is the reason to engage important to the community? Is there a sense of urgency? Most people will move if there's a sense of urgency and they see the importance of immediate engagement. Communicate organizational needs with action words and a sense of urgency. Once people are involved, make them feel valued and appreciated, share a next step or project and communicate how they can contribute to a successful outcome. - **Aaron Alejandro, Texas FFA Foundation**

14. Partner With Local Groups

Many social and civic groups are already focused on helping the neighborhoods they live and meet in. Search for your local chapters and reach out to speak at an upcoming meeting. With a quick internet search, you can engage directly with individuals and groups already looking for ways to improve their communities. By seeing your passion, they will support you and spread your message to others. - **Christina Potts, LISTEN**

15. Form Real Bonds

Stop thinking of it as you or the community. Your community is both a partner and a resource in addition to a client or audience. Share how your work is informed by the community, detail specific impact stories and show the evolution of your work in response to shifting community needs and opportunities. Look to engage donors relationally, not transactionally. - **Matthew Gayer, Catalogue for Philanthropy**

Source: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbesnonprofitcouncil/2023/05/26/how-to-engage-a-local-community-in-nonprofit-work/?sh=5a246a01909e>



7th UN Global Road Safety Week Highlights Urgent Need for Safe and Sustainable Mobility

The 7th UN Global Road Safety Week, observed from 15 to 21 May 2023, sheds light on the crucial theme of “sustainable transport.” Recognizing the pressing need for governments to promote walking, cycling, and the use of public transport as primary modes of transportation, a seminar on “Promoting Safe and Sustainable Mobility: Strategies for the NGO Community” was organized by Suprativa in association with the District Level NGO Coordination Committee (DLNCC) and Forum for Prevention of Road Accidents (FPRA) in Cuttack.

Bringing together numerous NGOs, experts, and stakeholders dedicated to road safety, the seminar

served as a platform for sharing knowledge, experiences, and best practices. Under the guidance of Mr. Rajakishore Panda, Chairperson of Suprativa, the event explored the challenges and opportunities related to safe and sustainable mobility, with a specific focus on the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Delving into various aspects of mobility, including transportation, urban planning, and environmental sustainability, the seminar emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts to achieve safe and sustainable mobility for all. Participants gained valuable insights into innovative approaches, successful case studies, and practical strategies that NGOs

can implement to bring about positive change in their respective communities.

Mr. Kurshna Chandra Samal, Former Addl. DCP (Traffic), highlighted the lack of dedicated footpaths as a significant issue faced by pedestrians. He urged the city authority to invest in the construction and maintenance of safe and accessible pathways for pedestrians, separated from vehicular traffic, particularly in high-traffic areas and near educational institutions.

Speaking at the seminar, Bikash Mohapatra, Secretary of Suprativa, emphasized that road safety is a fundamental prerequisite for the successful transition to sustainable

transportation. He stressed the need for authorities to address the safety concerns of pedestrians and cyclists in the district, emphasizing that prioritizing sustainable transport not only facilitates safer and healthier travel options but is also an outcome of such prioritization.

Addressing the seminar, Mr. Dillip Kumar Panda, President of SAFE India, emphasized the crucial role of pedestrian crossings in enhancing road safety. He called for the installation of zebra crossings and traffic signals at appropriate intervals to provide pedestrians with a clear right of way and foster a culture of respect for their safety among motorists.

Ms. Minati Bindhani, General Secretary of the Women and Child Welfare Society, stressed the

importance of cycling as an integral part of sustainable transportation, offering numerous environmental and health benefits. She urged the authorities to develop dedicated cycling lanes, establish secure bicycle parking facilities, and promote awareness campaigns for safe cycling practices.

Mr. Amiya Bhusan Biswal, Convenor of the District Level NGO Coordination Committee, expressed the NGO community's firm belief that addressing pedestrian and cyclist safety concerns will contribute significantly to building a safe and sustainable city. Such measures will protect the lives and well-being of citizens while encouraging a positive shift towards eco-friendly transportation options.

During the seminar, it was unanimously decided to approach

the concerned authorities and request their due consideration and immediate action to enhance the safety and accessibility of roads for pedestrians and cyclists in Cuttack city.

Representatives from various esteemed organizations attended the meeting, including AWHAN, Maa Sarala Women's Forum, BAAHKP, Maa Bindhya Basini CCI, Maa Bauti Jana Kalyana Seva Samiti, Catch Charitable Trust, IHRD, Utkal Sevak Samaj, FPRA, Suprativa, Swagatika Brudhesrama, SAI, Women & Child Welfare Society, Leal Aid Centre, ABP Smile, Drusti, Cuttack Development Council. Radio Utkal 91.2 FM and Radio Hirakhand 90.8 FM were media partners of the event.

Source: <https://orissadiary.com/7th-un-global-road-safety-week-highlights-urgent-need-for-safe-and-sustainable-mobility/amp/>

KPEC, ECI workshop on enterprise development

Four days capacity building workshop was conducted in district Khyber from 16th May to 19th May 2023, where 26 businessmen from clearing and forwarding businesses cluster have successfully completed their training course.

The workshop was organized by Khyber Pass Economic Corridor (KPEC) and Empowerment thru Creative Integration (ECI). The

purpose of the training was to enhance the capacity and business management skills of clearing & forwarding businesses in the area. Based on the diagnostic study and training need assessment, 500 individuals from selected business clusters in districts Peshawar and Khyber are being trained in business management skills, under the capacity building program.

The training was followed by a certificate distribution ceremony. The ceremony was graced by Imran Zahoor, Project Director, KPEC. He appreciated the activity and highlighted the importance of business management skills in business growth and sustainability. Different stakeholders participated in the certificate distribution ceremony including KP Board of Investment, FBR Turkhram,



Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce, KP commercial importers & exporters, Mohmand Chamber of Commerce, and the Khyber Chamber of Commerce. Moreover, the participants also include an association of clearing and forwarding businesses and representatives of other business clusters in the region.

Source: <https://minutemirror.com.pk/kpec-eci-workshop-on-enterprise-development-106671/>



Role of Biotechnologies in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through Health Promotion: Insights from MAGISNAT Roundtable at the WHO Headquarters during the 76th World Health Assembly.

(MENAFN- VS Media)

In the grand setting of the World Health Organization (WHO) Headquarters in Geneva, a distinguished panel of experts recently convened for a momentous roundtable discussion. These esteemed guests contributed invaluable insights during a parallel event attend of the 76th World Health Assembly focusing on the "Role of Biotechnologies in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through Health Promotion". Guided by the valuable moderation of Dr.

Ludovico Seppilli, the roundtable featured prominent individuals who shared their expertise and perspectives on the critical interplay between biotechnologies and health promotion. Dr. Gabriella Sozanski, a Founding Board member of the Alliance for Health Promotion (A4HP) and WHO Focal Point in Geneva, set the stage by emphasizing the crucial role of biotechnologies in advancing the SDGs and promoting global health. She highlighted the transformative power of biotechnological advancements in addressing

pressing global challenges.

Prof. Hussein Elsangak, Vice-President of A4HP and a distinguished scholar from Life University in the USA, took center stage to impart his wisdom on the profound "Philosophy of Life". Prof. Elsangak expounded upon the philosophical foundations of chiropractic advancements, exploring their far-reaching implications for human existence and well-being. Ms. Audrey Wong, the Public Health Chairperson of the International Pharmaceutical Students Federation (IPSF), offered

a fresh perspective on the topic. Her presentation titled "The Youth Perspectives on Biotechnologies" Role in Achieving SDG No. 4" shed light on the active role that younger generations can play in attaining sustainable development through the transformative power of biotechnologies. Dr. Faten Benabdelaziz, the Head of the Well-being Unit at the WHO Department for Health Promotion, graced the roundtable with her expertise. Dr. Benabdelaziz emphasized the need to harness biotechnological innovations in creating environments that foster well-being, enabling individuals and communities to thrive.

The roundtable continued with a series of profound insights from esteemed speakers, each offering a unique perspective on the intricate relationship between biotechnologies and health promotion. Prof. Robert S Marks from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel, delved into the topic of "A Career in One Health Sustainability: How Biotechnology Contributes to the World's Pressing Needs." He shed light on the significant contributions biotechnology and bioengineering makes in addressing global challenges and promoting holistic well-being. Prof. Liborio Stuppia from the Center for Advanced Studies and Technology (CAST), "G. d'Annunzio" University of Chieti-Pescara, Italy, eloquently discussed the intricate relationship between "Genes and Diet in the Prevention of Chronic Diseases in Future Generations." His insights showcased the potential of biotechnological advancements in shaping the health outcomes of future generations. Dr. Matteo Bertelli, the President of MAGISNAT, brought

attention to the "Important Role of Mediterranean Diet Polyphenols in Preventing Non-Communicable Diseases." His presentation shed light on the beneficial impact of biotechnologies in promoting healthier lifestyles and preventing chronic illnesses. Prof. Munis Dunder, the President of the European Biotechnology Thematic Network Association Society (EBTNA), provided a global perspective on "Biotechnological Uses in Protective Health Services Worldwide." Prof. Dunder emphasized the transformative power of biotechnologies in enhancing health services and improving the well-being of populations across the globe. Prof. Tommaso Beccari from the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Perugia, Italy, addressed the pressing issue of "Eating Disorders Affecting Younger Generations." His insights shed light on the potential of biotechnologies in understanding and addressing this growing concern.

Prof. Sandro Michelini from the Vascular Diagnostics and Rehabilitation Service, Marino Hospital, Italy, focused on the intricate "Genetic and Epigenetic Causal Factors in Lipedema." Prof. Michelini's discourse showcased the role of biotechnologies in unraveling the underlying factors contributing to lipedema and advancing treatment options. Prof. Antonio Amoroso from the Department of Medical Sciences, University of Turin, Italy, provided a compelling discussion on "Genomic Approaches for the Diagnosis and Prevention of Genetic Diseases." His presentation highlighted the transformative potential of biotechnologies in advancing genetic medicine and improving diagnostic and preventive strategies. Dr. Carlo Zuccato, an AERSAFE Researcher,

concluded the roundtable with his presentation on "The Importance of Air Purification in Epidemics Prevention." Dr. Zuccato shed light on the critical role of biotechnologies in maintaining air quality and preventing the spread of epidemics. The roundtable at the WHO Headquarters in Geneva served as an intellectual gathering of brilliant minds, each contributing to the advancement of knowledge and the pursuit of health promotion through the lens of biotechnologies. With their diverse perspectives and expertise, these experts provided valuable insights into the interplay between biotechnologies and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Through collaboration and innovation, biotechnologies hold immense potential in shaping a healthier and more sustainable future for all. In conclusion, our primary focus is to create a position paper that emphasizes the importance of the Mediterranean Diet in preventing Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). We specifically examine the role of individual genetic predispositions, lifestyles, and the pressing issue of climate change. This endeavor is closely aligned with the World Health Organization's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which sets forth a comprehensive vision for global well-being. By shedding light on the crucial role of the Mediterranean Diet as a preventive measure against NCDs, our aim is to promote a deep comprehension of its potential impact on overall health worldwide. Through this exploration, we strive to raise awareness and understanding of the Mediterranean Diet's significance in improving global health and well-being.

Source: <https://menafn.com/1106320893/Role-of-Biotechnologies-in-Achieving-the-Sustainable-Development-Goals-SDGs-through-Health-Promotion-Insights-from-MAGISNAT-Roundtable-at-the-WHO-Headquarters-during-the-76th-World-Health-Assembly>

Gender Bonds, a Miracle? What They Are and How They May Help Achieve SDG 5



Olivia Fowler

According to UN Women, it will take centuries to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 – global gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls – if we continue to progress at our current rate. With the SDG deadline falling in 2030, serious initiatives and work are needed to empower women and promote equality.

However, in 2021 UN Women unveiled a series of innovative financing strategies, in collaboration with the Luxembourg Stock Exchange (LuxSE), to promote gender equality through bonds.

A bond is when an investor loans money to a government or company and receives a certain amount of interest back called a coupon rate. Bonds will also meet a maturity date after which the investor's loan is repaid in full.

The guidance publication, titled “Bonds to bridge the gender gap: A practitioner’s guide to using sustainable debt for gender equality,” aims to help people “use sustainable bonds to credibly access financing for projects and strategies that advance gender equality objectives and achieve lasting impact.”

Two years on, some bonds are close to their maturity date whilst others

are still in the first year of trading. UN Women has begun to release case studies by country that detail how the initiative is going. The case studies are free to download and read here.

In Mexico for example, a bond of approximately \$150 million USD was issued by the Fideicomisos Instituidos en Relación con la Agricultura (FIRA) [Trust Funds for Rural Development] with a coupon rate of Interbank Equilibrium Interest Rate (TIIE) +27 basis points (bp). This bond is set to reach maturity in October 2023 so FIRA issued a second one of approximately \$175 million USD with a coupon rate of TIIE +16 bp.



The proceeds were used to grant credit recipient status to women and businesses run by women, therefore increasing financial inclusion. The proceeds also meant women and women-run businesses were able to claim loans for themselves as well as loans helping them to secure productive infrastructure.

In terms of reaching women in Mexico who may be less financially educated, UN Women tell Impakter: “The funds raised on capital markets are strictly allocated to rural women who typically face restrictions such as the lack of productive assets and resources, access to credit, networks

of producers, inputs and guarantees for loans that are necessary in the agricultural sector.”

How do gender bonds actually help?

The guidance will **help bond issuers integrate gender equality objectives into the use of proceeds and key performance indicators**, as we are now seeing in Mexico.

The use of gender bonds in Mexico is contributing towards achieving several SDGs: **Goal 1, Goal 2, Goal 5, Goal 8 and Goal 10**. By ensuring that everyone has the same access to economic resources, regardless of gender or income, the belief is that this ensures a “level playing field” so that the levels of poverty and hunger can be expected to decrease.

Gender bonds are also meant to increase women’s participation at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life, ensuring women, men and young people can have decent employment opportunities with fair pay regardless of ability.

- ◊ All of this is designed to help reduce inequalities stemming from gender, race, age, religion or any other factor within the country as well as between separate countries.
- ◊ A country where gender-targeted bonds are making a notable impact is Finland – perhaps helped along by a very egalitarian society that has long been used to sophisticated financial instruments. Here,

impact investor Finnfund issued a bond of €75 million with a coupon rate of +125 bp. The bond will reach maturity date in October 2025 but the proceeds are already helping to meet the requirements of multiple SDGs.

- ◊ As well as financial inclusion, ensuring affordable health care and bridging the **digital gender gap**, the bond in Finland is helping to create more sustainable food systems by training women in **agribusiness**.
- ◊ In addition to all the SDGs that the Mexican bond is aligned to, the proceeds from the Finnish bond also help to meet **SDG 9** – innovation and inclusive, sustainable industrialisation. This is being achieved by levelling up access to the internet and helping small-scale industrial businesses access financial services such as affordable credit.
- ◊ Using financial instruments to help meet SDGs, however, implies that many conditions for success are already in place, in particular, familiarity with instruments such as bonds and what they can do. There is potential for bonds to be much more successful in countries where there is already a relatively high degree of gender equality.
- ◊ The case study for Tanzania states that the bond issuer “had to find

an innovative way of reaching out to specifically communicate with and lend to women.”

- ◊ UN Women say they place “special focus on innovative programs to drive the financial independence of women, including rural entrepreneurs who are typically less included in the formal economy.”
- ◊ Some countries, UN Women notes, “are in high risk of debt distress or already in debt distress.” This means that introducing the bonds initiative here is more complicated. In order to mobilize foreign capital into these areas, UN Women “plan to continue raising awareness about these instruments and build capacity in the region.”
- ◊ These case studies, and the SDGs they are addressing, are showing that gender equality is a keystone objective when it comes to meeting many SDGs. **By focusing the proceeds of bonds onto communities of women in business or helping them to access financial support, we could be unlocking a fast track to satisfy multiple SDGs at once.**

Editor’s Note: The opinions expressed here by the authors are their own, not those of Impakter.com – **In the Featured Photo: CROWN PRINCESS MARY OF DENMARK RAISED A FLAG FOR GOAL 5, GENDER EQUALITY. Featured Photo Credit: The United Nations**

Source: <https://impakter.com/gender-bonds-solution-to-achieve-sdg-5/>

Newly formed Private Sector Working Committee aims to help implement SDGs

The establishment of the Bangladesh Private Sector Working Committee (BPSWC) was jointly announced on Sunday by FBCCI President Md Jashim Uddin, Bangladesh Employers Federation (BEF) President Ardashir Kabir and the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh Gwyn Lewis.

The committee will support the country’s private sector to work together with the government, the UN, as well as national and international development organisations, for the advancement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the country.

The signing ceremony to establish the committee took place at the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office in Bangladesh and was attended by representatives of the private sector, international organisations, and the government of Bangladesh, including the Country Director of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Tuomo Poutiainen, the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Bangladesh Stefan Liller, Additional Secretary (SDG Affairs) at Prime Minister’s Office Mohd Monirul Islam, Adviser of FBCCI Safety Council Brig Gen (Retd) Abu Nayeem Md Shahidullah, FBCCI Trade & Tariff Policy Adviser Manzur Ahmed and the Secretary General BEF Farooq Ahmed.

Source: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/corporates/newly-formed-private-sector-working-committee-aims-help-implement-sdgs-639670>





5 Legal Issues When it Comes To NPOs and Chat

As artificial intelligence (AI), such as ChatGPT, continues to evolve and become more commonplace, many trade and professional associations and nonprofits are turning to AI technology to enhance their operations and decision-making processes and benefit their members and clients. However, as with any emerging technology, the use of AI raises several important legal issues that must be carefully considered and worked through.

Data Privacy

One of the primary legal issues associated with the use of AI is

data privacy. AI systems rely on vast amounts of data to train and improve their algorithms, and nonprofit leaders must ensure that the data they collect is used in accordance with applicable federal, state, and international privacy laws and regulations. You must be transparent with members and clients about how their data will be collected, used, and protected, and must obtain the necessary member consents to use and share sensitive data.

Remember that data (such as confidential membership information) that is inputted into an AI system such as ChatGPT will no longer remain confidential and

protected and will be subject to the AI system's most-current terms of use/service. As such, you should not allow staff, volunteer leaders, or other agents to input into an AI system any personal data, data constituting a trade secret, data which is confidential or privileged, or data that may not otherwise be disclosed to third parties.

Intellectual Property

Intellectual property is a key legal issue that leaders must consider when using AI. AI systems can generate new works of authorship, such as software programs, artistic works, and articles and white papers. You must ensure that you

have the necessary rights and licenses to use and distribute these works, as well as being transparent about who/what created such works.

Take steps to ensure that AI-generated content is not, for instance, registered with the Copyright Office as your organization's own unless it has been sufficiently modified to become a product of human creation and an original work of authorship of the association.

You must be mindful of any third-party intellectual property rights that might be implicated by their use of AI, such as copyrights or patents owned by AI vendors, developers, or others, and ensure that they do not infringe any third-party copyright, patent, or trademark rights.

Finally, as stated above, be mindful not to permit the inputting into an AI system of any confidential or otherwise-protected content (such as trade secrets or information subject to a nondisclosure obligation or the attorney client privilege), as such content will no longer be protected and confidential.

Discrimination

Another legal issue to consider is discrimination. AI systems can inadvertently perpetuate bias and discrimination, particularly if they are trained on data that reflects historic biases or inequalities.

You must ensure that AI systems do not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, age, disability, or other legally protected characteristics, and must take steps to identify and address any biases that may be present in their algorithms.

For instance, the use by large employers of AI systems to help screen applicant resumes and even analyze recorded job interviews is rapidly growing. If AI penalizes candidates because it cannot understand a person's accent or speech impediment, for instance, that could potentially lead to illegal employment discrimination. While this will only become a legal issue in certain contexts (such as the workplace), the use of AI has the potential to create discriminatory effects in other association settings (such as membership and volunteer leadership) and needs to be carefully addressed.

Tort Liability

You must consider the potential tort liability issues that might arise from their use of AI. If an AI system produces inaccurate, negligent, or biased results that harm members or other end users, your organization could potentially be held liable for any resulting damages. You must therefore ensure that their AI systems are reliable and accurate, and that all resulting work product (such as industry or professional standards set by an association) is carefully vetted for accuracy, veracity, completeness, and efficacy.

Insurance

You need to ensure that your organization has appropriate insurance coverage in place to protect against potential liability claims in all of these areas of legal risk. Note that traditional nonprofit directors and officers (D&O) liability and commercial general liability insurance policies may be – and likely are – insufficient to fully protect organizations in all of these areas. You also should explore acquiring an errors and omissions

liability/media liability insurance policy to fill those coverage gaps.

In conclusion, while the use of AI presents numerous opportunities and benefits, there are a number of legal issues that need to be carefully considered before going too far down the AI path. Among other things, you must ensure that you are transparent with their members about the use of their data, obtain necessary intellectual property rights and licenses and avoid infringing others' rights, address any potential biases in their algorithms, protect themselves against potential tort liability claims, and secure appropriate insurance coverage to protect against these risks.

As the work of organizations involves both staff and member leaders, adopting and distributing appropriate policies governing AI usage by staff, officers, directors, and committee members is critical, as is policing compliance with such policies. Similar clauses should be built into employee handbooks and contracts with staff, contractors, and members (including agreements with volunteer speakers, authors, and board and committee members).

With careful planning and attention to these issues, associations can use ever-developing AI technology to enhance their operations, programs, and activities, better serve their members, and further advance their missions.

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Source: <https://thenonprofittimes.com/legal/5-legal-issues-when-it-comes-to-npos-and-chat/>

CSR Funds for NGOs: How to Get, How to Plan, Here are Top 10 Practical Tips

Harnessing the Power of CSR Funds, which can be A Catalyst for Positive Change and Sustainable Development



CSR funding is a grant process under which non-profit organizations can get financial as well as other support from the corporate players for various causes such as education, health, environment, women empowerment, etc. CSR funding agencies are the entities that facilitate the CSR funding process by connecting the companies with the eligible NGOs and monitoring the implementation and impact of the CSR projects.

A CSR fund is a type of fund that is used to support corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives. CSR initiatives are programs or projects that businesses undertake to benefit society.

CSR funds can be used to support a wide range of CSR initiatives, such as:

Environmental protection, Education, Healthcare, Poverty alleviation, Disaster relief and Social justice, etc.

- ◆ CSR funds can be funded by businesses, individuals, or foundations. Businesses may choose to fund CSR funds as a way to give back to the community, improve their public image, or meet regulatory requirements. Individuals and foundations may choose to fund CSR funds as a way to support causes that they care about.
- ◆ There are a number of different ways to access CSR funds. Businesses can apply for grants from CSR funds, or they can partner with CSR funds to implement CSR initiatives.

In this guide, we present “**CSR Funds for NGOs: How to Get, How to Plan,**” offering the top 10 practical tips to help NGOs navigate the process of securing CSR funding, effectively utilizing it, and enhancing their capabilities to make a difference.

What is CSR Fund?

CSR Fund is a term used to refer to the funds that are provided by companies for social development projects under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy. CSR is a mandatory provision under the Companies Act, 2013, which requires companies with a net worth of rupees 500 Crores or more, or turnover of rupees 1000 thousand Crores or more, or net profit of rupees 5 Crores or more, to spend at least 2% of their average net profits on CSR activities.

Mandatory provisions of CSR under section 135 of the Companies act, 2013 became effective from 01.04.2014.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is a commitment by businesses to contribute to the social and environmental well-being of the communities in which they operate. CSR can take many forms, including philanthropy, volunteering, and environmental initiatives. One way that businesses can support CSR is by providing funding to NGOs. NGOs are non-profit organizations that work to address social and environmental issues. By providing funding to NGOs, businesses can help to make a real difference in the world.

In the arena of philanthropy, effective fundraising and strategic planning are key for NGOs to sustain their efforts and create meaningful impact. With the advent of **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** initiatives, there lies an untapped potential for NGOs to secure crucial funding.

Individuals and foundations can donate to CSR funds, or they can volunteer their time to support CSR initiatives.

- ◆ CSR funds can play a significant role in supporting social and environmental progress. By providing funding for CSR initiatives, CSR funds can help businesses, individuals, and foundations to make a real difference in the world.

How to Get CSR Funds for NGOs

There are a number of ways that NGOs can get CSR funding from businesses. One way is to apply for grants. Grants are typically awarded to NGOs that are working on projects that align with the business's CSR goals.

Another way to get CSR funding is to partner with businesses on projects. Businesses can provide funding, in-kind donations, or volunteer time to help NGOs achieve their goals.

Finally, NGOs can also reach out to businesses directly to ask for funding. When doing this, it is important to be clear about the project that you are working on and how the funding will be used.

How to Plan for CSR Funding

If you are an NGO that is interested in getting CSR funding, there are a few things that you can do to plan for it. First, you need to identify the businesses that are likely to be interested in supporting your work. You can do this by looking at the businesses that have a history of supporting CSR initiatives, or by targeting businesses that operate in the same sector as your NGO.

Once you have identified a list of potential funders, you need to develop a proposal that outlines

your project and how the funding will be used. The proposal should be clear, concise, and persuasive.

It is also important to be prepared to answer questions from potential funders. They may want to know about your organization's track record, your plans for sustainability, and your impact on the community.

Top 10 Tips for Getting CSR Funding for an NGO



1. Research

Do your research. You can identify businesses that are likely to be interested in supporting your work by looking at the businesses that have a history of supporting CSR initiatives. You can also target businesses that operate in the same sector as your NGO. **For example,** if your NGO works to provide clean water to communities in need, you could target businesses that sell bottled water.



2. Proposal

Develop a strong proposal. Your proposal should be clear, concise, and persuasive. It should outline your project, the problem that it will address, and how the funding will be used. For example, your

proposal could include information about the number of people who will benefit from your project, the costs associated with the project, and how the funding will be used to achieve your goals.



3. Q&A

Be prepared to answer questions. Potential funders may want to know about your organization's track record, your plans for sustainability, and your impact on the community. Be prepared to answer these questions in a clear and concise way. For example, you could provide information about your organization's mission statement, your financial statements, your impact reports and most important your governance structure.



4. Relationship

Build relationships with potential funders. Attend industry events, meet with business leaders, and make your organization known. The more people who know about your work, the more likely you are to get funding. For example, you could attend industry conferences, volunteer at business events, or connect with business leaders on LinkedIn.



5. Persistence

Be persistent. Don't give up if you don't get funding from the first few businesses that you approach. Keep trying until you find a funder who is interested in supporting your work. For example, you could continue to network with business leaders, attend industry events, and submit grant applications.



6. Transparency

Be transparent. Be open and honest with potential funders about your organization's finances and operations. This will help to build trust and credibility. For example, you could provide potential funders with copies of your organization's financial statements, your impact reports, and your volunteer hours.



7. Accountability

Be accountable. Use the funding

that you receive to achieve your goals and make a real difference in the world. This will show potential funders that your organization is a good investment. For example, you could provide potential funders with updates on your progress, share stories about the people you have helped, and show how your organization has made a difference in the world.



8. Greatfulness

Be grateful. Thank potential funders for their support and let them know how their funding is making a difference. This will show that you appreciate their investment and that you are committed to using the funding wisely. For example, you could send a thank-you note to potential funders, share stories about the people you have helped, and show how your organization has made a difference in the world.



9. Professionalism

Be professional. Communicate with potential funders in a professional and respectful manner. This will help to make a good impression and increase your chances of getting funding. For example, you could use proper grammar and

spelling, avoid using jargon, and be respectful of potential funders' time.



10. Patience

Be patient. It may take time to find a funder who is interested in supporting your work. Don't give up and keep trying. For example, you could continue to network with business leaders, attend industry events, and submit grant applications.

How CSR Fund is A Valuable Resource

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is a valuable resource for driving socio-economic projects. It can help to improve the lives of people in the community and make a real difference in the world.

CSR can be defined as "the responsibility of businesses for the impact of their activities on society". It can include a wide range of activities, such as:

- ◆ Donating money to charities or foundations
- ◆ Volunteering the time of employees
- ◆ Using environmentally friendly practices
- ◆ Providing fair wages and working conditions
- ◆ Promoting diversity and inclusion

CSR can be a valuable resource for driving socio-economic projects

because it can provide much-needed funding and support.

For example, CSR funds can be used to support:

Education: CSR funds can be used to support scholarships, school supplies, and other educational initiatives. This can help to improve educational opportunities for children and young people in the community.

Healthcare: CSR funds can be used to support healthcare initiatives, such as providing access to healthcare services, medical supplies, and healthcare education. This can help to improve the health of people in the community.

Poverty alleviation: CSR funds can be used to support poverty alleviation initiatives, such as providing food, shelter, and job training. This can help to reduce poverty in the community.

Disaster relief: CSR funds can be used to support disaster relief efforts, such as providing food, water, and shelter to people affected by natural disasters. This can help to mitigate the impact of disasters on communities.

Social justice: CSR funds can be used to support social justice initiatives, such as fighting for human rights, promoting gender equality, and protecting the environment. This can help to create a more just and equitable society.

Source: <https://indiacr.in/csr-funds-for-ngos-get-plan-top-10-practical-tips/>

Child marriages prevented with Indian NGO's efforts

Rathin Das, The Statesman

AHMEDABAD – Marriages of at least 19 underage couples were prevented here today thanks to timely intervention of a voluntary organization which also took the help of government officials and local police.

Community weddings of poor and orphans once in a while are popular in Gujarat, with social organizations sponsoring the events and liberally gifting necessary household articles to the newly-wed couples.

Thus, there was nothing unusual about the Devipujak Samaj announcing a mass wedding of 38 couples in the Vatva area of the city on Sunday.

But volunteers of an NGO Prayas suspected that some of these could be underage boys and girls.

Accompanied by district child protection officials, the NGO activists on Friday demanded to see the participants' School Leaving Certificates (SLC) which have date of birth mentioned.

As the organizers could show only 14 SLCs by Saturday, the activists and district officials launched a thorough probe about the age of all the participants in the mass wedding scheduled on Sunday.

Finally, as many as 19 couples were found to be underage while 17 couples tied the knot at the mass wedding ceremony in the Vatva area on Sunday.

"We did all this by taking the local police into confidence," Prayas volunteer Indrajeet Chauhan told The Statesman on Sunday evening.

Once the information leaked out that many of these could be child marriages, he said, the local politicians and community leaders too did not turn up to grace the occasion.

As society leaders act liberal with these mass weddings meant for poor, many underage orphans under custody of distant uncles or aunts often get 'disposed of' through such events, a detailed conversation with the NGO activist revealed.

Source: <https://asianews.network/child-marriages-prevented-with-indian-ngos-efforts/>



Environmental NGOs In The Global South: Saviors Of Humanity Or Predatory Special Interests?



Tilak Doshi

On Friday, the Moscow Times announced the closure of Greenpeace Russia following the government authorities' decision to label it "undesirable," a designation that renders all its activities illegal. The Prosecutor-General's Office claimed that the group "intervenes in Russia's internal affairs," financially supports "foreign agents," and that its activities "pose a threat to the foundation of the constitutional system and security of the Russian Federation." It also said that after the beginning of the war in Ukraine, "Greenpeace

activists have been involved in anti-Russia propaganda, calling for the further economic isolation of our country, and an increase in sanctions" imposed on Moscow.

In response, Greenpeace Russia said "By destroying Greenpeace for being critical of environmental issues, the country loses one of its leading experts in solving environmental problems." Over the past 30 years, the organization has played a role bringing to the attention of society and policy makers the myriad environmental problems in the country, from illegal deforestation to the pollution of lakes and rivers, waste management and recycling and so on. The organization argued that "We are doing everything possible to ensure that people in our country live in favorable environmental conditions...Can the protection of

the country's nature be contrary to its interests?"

It is no surprise that the green chattering classes of the West will cast this event as yet another example of Putin's autocratic government riding roughshod over an organization that speaks on behalf of ordinary people in Russia. Alas were it that simple.

The Indian Experience With Greenpeace

In 2015, the Indian government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi cancelled the foreign funding of an estimated 10,000 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for "not complying with tax codes". The ban on Greenpeace India provoked much furore in the Western press (here and here). The Western mainstream media cast the actions of the government as

reflecting the BJP party's "intolerant nationalism". Yet it did little to counter the country's Intelligence Bureau's charges that Greenpeace was a threat to national economic security, leading protests against nuclear and coal power plants, mining projects and GM foods. According to the Bureau's report, Greenpeace alone was leading a "massive effort to take down India's coal-fired power plant and coal mining activity." According to Reuters that had seen an excerpt of the report, the cancellation, disruption or delay to various development projects had clipped gross domestic product growth by 2 to 3 percent a year.

Greenpeace India defended itself from the accusations, claiming that it stood for "sustainable development". It said "We have a legitimate right to express our views in what is the world's largest democracy. We believe that this report is designed to muzzle and silence civil society who raise their voices against injustices to people and the environment by asking uncomfortable questions about the current model of growth."

A good example of Greenpeace's notions of "sustainable development" relates to the case of the village of Dharnai in India's poorest state (Bihar) severely lacking access to electricity. Greenpeace activists set up a solar-powered microgrid for the village in 2014 with much publicity. Problems emerged immediately with the load put on the solar "grid," as households began hooking up appliances such as television sets, electric water heaters, irons, and air conditioners. At the official opening of the solar power system, the villagers protested with banners saying, "we want real electricity, not fake electricity." "Real" meant power from the central grid generated mostly using coal. "Fake" referred to intermittent and dilute solar

power. In great irony, embarrassed state officials facing the press at the gala opening of the Greenpeace-promoted solar showpiece ensured that the village was soon connected to the coal-fired power grid.

According to a report published last week, state-run Coal India Ltd has developed 52 coal mining projects, including 13 new coal blocks in a plan to attain the one billion tonne coal production target by the fiscal year 2025-26. As a result of aggressive coal mining developments over the past few years, India has maintained relatively stable electricity prices despite the surge in global energy prices after the Ukraine war. Greenpeace would have had it otherwise though claiming to represent the interests of India's power-deprived citizens.

Western-Funded Environmental NGOs in the Third World

Greenpeace is headquartered in Amsterdam, has a large budget with contributions from rich foundations such as the Rockefeller Family Fund. It controls huge lobbying and litigation resources, often exceeding government finances available to many small developing countries. Well-funded NGOs such as Greenpeace represent large bureaucracies with interests in creating environmental scares to maximize income, salaries and perks of its staff and key executives. The classic example of Greenpeace raising cash via bogus alarmist reports relates to polar bears that are allegedly facing extinction.

Are Western-funded environmental NGOs such as Greenpeace operating in the Global South the moral arbiters of environmental issues affecting the poor and the marginalized? Are they the "global salvationists" giving succour to the "wretched of the earth"? Do they promote "sustainable development" in the face of predatory capitalists

and their governmental supporters? As the late classical economist Deepak Lal asked in an opinion piece on the foreign-funded NGO ban, "what are we to make of their local representatives who seek to influence their countries' public policy to the agenda of their foreign sponsors?"

Western environmental NGOs became a fixture in multilateral organizations, especially through the United Nations specialized agencies such as the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). They grew in influence over the 1990s via the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) which gave them formal recognition as partner agencies in setting agendas affecting policies and programs concerning developing countries.

Their greatly expanded role gained momentum as the UN moved to produce "a global consensus" for a new "sustainable development" agenda for the 1990s and beyond. These NGOs became participants in the development and implementation of UN policies and programs, endorsed enthusiastically by the UN's then-chief Kofi Annan. In a subversion of constitutional democracy, these self-selected NGOs were given a direct voice in UN deliberations and in World Bank activities under the presidency of James Wolfensohn.

The agenda of the Western environmental NGOs operating in the developing countries is, in no uncertain terms, a left wing one. It demands radical changes in individual and social behavior opposed to the norms of modern industrial civilization, individualism, private property, profits and

market competition. Such preferred changes are in keeping with the concept of “sustainable development”, a nebulous concept dreamed up by the luxury beliefs of privileged intellectuals of the developed West. It espouses the politically correct values that stand in opposition to the interests of economic development and the world’s poor in whose name the Western NGOs claim to speak.

Perhaps the clearest example of the perversions of “sustainable development” is the crisis last year in Sri Lanka’s agricultural sector. Encouraged by environmental NGOs such as Greenpeace, the government had rushed to introduce organic farming and imposed a nationwide ban on the importation and use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. It effectively ordered the country’s 2 million farmers to “go organic”. The results were quick and horrific.

Source: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/tilakdoshi/2023/05/23/environmental-ngos-in-the-global-south-saviors-of-humanity-or-predatory-special-interests/?sh=4c206ace59aa>

Domestic rice production fell 20 percent in just the first six months. Long self-sufficient in rice production, the country was forced to import \$450 million worth of rice and domestic prices surged by approximately 50 percent. The ban also devastated the nation’s tea crop, its primary export and source of foreign exchange.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa fled to the Maldives, chased out after the economic collapse unleashed a popular uprising. The president was the poster child of the World Economic Forum until the disaster happened and the WEF scrubbed him off its website. The climate ideologues in charge of agricultural policy and “sustainable farming” in the developed countries such as Holland, the United Kingdom and New Zealand are busy emulating the horrific experiment that Sri Lanka underwent.

Beware of Good Intentions!

In his essays on theology, C. S. Lewis observed that:

“Of all tyrannies, a tyranny sincerely exercised for the good of its victims may be the most oppressive. It would be better to live under robber barons than under omnipotent moral busybodies. The robber baron’s cruelty may sometimes sleep, his cupidity may at some point be satiated; but those who torment us for our own good will torment us without end for they do so with the approval of their own conscience. They may be more likely to go to Heaven yet at the same time likelier to make a Hell of earth.”

The Western-funded environmental NGOs, the moral busybodies, may yet be the worst enemies of the poor and the marginal of the third world.



ARTICLE

Cooperation with humanitarian relief organizations

The Federal Government provides humanitarian assistance through the Federal Foreign Office in close collaboration with the humanitarian organisations of the United Nations, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and specialist non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Projects selected to receive support are chosen on the basis of the Policy Paper on Funding for Federal Government Humanitarian Assistance Projects Abroad.

What projects can be funded?

The humanitarian divisions within the Federal Foreign Office fund humanitarian assistance and demining projects as part of its international crisis response work. General poverty reduction and development cooperation measures, including transitional assistance for development and capacity-building, fall within the remit of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Funding principles

Until a funding guideline comes into force, the key reference document for allocating funds to relief organisations is the Federal Foreign Office Policy Paper on Funding for Federal Government Humanitarian Assistance Projects Abroad.

Applicants are expected to have experience in humanitarian assistance and in dealing with donations or public funds. They must also be non-profit-making and must accept the Federal Government’s arrangements for funding and accounting. The Federal Foreign Office’s usual policy is to provide deficit funding while the humanitarian relief organisations themselves bear responsibility for the projects. In accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, the Federal Foreign Office only provides funds for those items of expenditure which the agencies’ own resources do not cover.

The legal basis for the allocation of funding is the **Federal Budget Code (BHO)**. The Code cannot be used to establish a legal claim to funding.

Humanitarian organisations regard the constant monitoring and improvement of the quality of their own work as a key part of what they do. Every organisation has its own approach, depending on its structure, size, main tasks and other factors. While the Federal Foreign Office recognises this diversity, it nevertheless aims to standardise quality assurance on the basis of a catalogue of criteria (“quality profile”) which it has drawn up. This does not apply to UN organisations and the ICRC/IFRC.

Relief organisations should only apply for funding for humanitarian assistance measures after they have confirmed with the humanitarian divisions within the Federal Foreign Office that they are in principle eligible for humanitarian assistance Funding.

Gleaner Life Insurance Society, employees donate \$54,318 to local nonprofit groups

DRIAN – Donations totaling \$54,318 to local nonprofit groups were recently presented from Gleaner Life Insurance Society to the Lenawee Community Foundation.

The donations, a news release from Gleaner said, came through the Gleaner Gives campaign in which Gleaner employees each made contributions that were matched up to \$1,000 by Gleaner Life. The Gleaner Gives program works in conjunction with the Lenawee Community Foundation’s Lenawee Cares campaign.

A total of 24 nonprofit organizations were helped through the Gleaner donations.

The largest contribution to a single

group was \$9,452 to the Lenawee Humane Society, according to the release. That contribution was followed by \$6,146 to Neighbors of Hope, \$5,526 to The Daily Bread of Lenawee, and \$3,922 to Share the Warmth of Lenawee.

Other groups employees chose to assist with their contributions and donations included the Adrian Community Preschool, Adrian Rea Literacy Center, Associated Charities, Boys & Girls Club of Lenawee, Boy Scouts, Catherine Cobb Safe House, Catholic Charities, Daybreak Adult Day Services, Department on Aging, Goodwill Industries of Southeast Michigan, Habitat for Humanity, HOPE Community Center, Hospice of Lenawee, Housing Help of Lenawee, Jasmynn’s Voice, Joseph Widberg



Fund for Veterans, Salvation Army, St. Mary’s Food Pantry, St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry at St. Joseph Church and the Frank and Shirley Dick Family YMCA.

Founded in 1894, Gleaner Life Insurance Society is nonprofit fraternal benefit society that provides volunteer opportunities and supports outreach programs.

Source: <https://eu.lenconnect.com/story/news/local/2023/05/27/gleaner-life-employees-donate-54318-nonprofit-groups/70260204007/>

Source: <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/humanitarianassistance/-/256632>

Nonprofit Support Network Invites Nonprofit Workers to Celebrate Summer at the Nonprofit Summer Social

MAY 24, 2023

By Carly Acree King Relationship & Resource Director—

MUNCIE, IN – Nonprofit Support Network is celebrating nonprofit workers and volunteers and the kick-off to summer with the Nonprofit Summer Social. The event will take place on Thursday, June 1, from 3:30 to 5:30 pm on the patio of The Fickle Peach, located at 117 E. Charles Street in downtown Muncie.

This new event is designed to bring together individuals currently working or volunteering at nonprofit organizations located in or serving Muncie-Delaware County. This casual gathering also marks the first anniversary of Nonprofit Support Network's launch, and the organization looks forward to celebrating this milestone with the local nonprofit community.

Guests will enjoy complimentary food from Three Bears Concessions, music, and yard games. In addition,

the Fickle Peach will be open for craft beer and wine. After the celebration, guests are encouraged to stay downtown for Muncie Downtown Development's Brink of Summer ArtsWalk and Flower Hour from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. By attending the Nonprofit Summer Social, guests can win one of the 15 free passes to Flower Hour, an event not to be missed.

RSVP for the Nonprofit Summer Social by Wednesday, May 31, at muncienonprofits.org/summersocial.

This event promises to be a wonderful occasion for nonprofit workers to come together, celebrate their hard work and achievements, and strengthen their connections within the Muncie-Delaware County community. Nonprofit Support Network invites all nonprofit workers to join this festive event and enjoy an evening in downtown Muncie.

To learn more about Nonprofit Support Network,

visit muncienonprofits.org or email Carly Acree King, Relationship and Resource Director, at carly@muncienonprofits.org.

Nonprofit Support Network is a nonprofit organization designed to support other organizations serving Muncie and Delaware County by providing them with the resources and time needed to meet their missions. Our mission is to provide support to ensure a healthy, well-supported, sustainable nonprofit sector in Muncie and Delaware County. We believe our community is best served when nonprofits have the resources to focus on their mission. We take a targeted approach to support organizations in areas they need it the most by cultivating relationships and addressing resource needs. We were established to provide quality and valuable training and coaching resources to nonprofit organizations and the individuals that serve them.

Source: <https://www.munciejournal.com/2023/05/nonprofit-support-network-invites-nonprofit-workers-to-celebrate-summer-at-the-nonprofit-summer-social/>

100 Women Who Care Maui finds fast, simple, and effective way to raise \$20K each quarter

The group, 100+ Women Who Care Maui has raised more than \$425,000 for local nonprofits or causes since starting in 2014.

The group meets four times per year and is now raising more than \$20,000 for a Maui nonprofit at each meeting.

Debbie Benton, a volunteer organizer, provided a breakdown of funds raised during the last four meetings:

Quarter 3, Sept 7, 2022 – \$19,700 – Maui Foodbank Backpack Buddies

Quarter 4, Dec 7, 2022 – \$20,900 for Maui Historical Society (Bailey House Museum/Hale Hō ike ike)

Quarter 1, March 7, 2023 – \$22,100 for LOVE THE SEA

Quarter 2, May 10, 2023 – \$20,950 for Maui Search and Rescue

The group meets for one hour, four times a year, and each member brings a check for \$100 or more. Any member can nominate local charities, nonprofits, or worthy causes, whose names are



100+ Women Who Care Maui meets in local restaurant venues such as Oceans Vodka and The Maui Country Club that host the group free of charge – so every penny raised goes to the local charity. In March, \$22,100 was raised for LOVE THE SEA.



100+ Women Who Care Maui meets in local restaurant venues such as Oceans Vodka and The Maui Country Club that host the group free of charge – so every penny raised goes to the local charity. In May, \$20,950 was raised for Maui Search and Rescue.

put into a bowl. Then, three names are drawn at random during each meeting.

The 100+ Women Who Care Maui member, or a representative from the nonprofit, makes a 5-minute presentation about her nominated cause. All members who are present and current with donations, vote with a secret ballot, for one of the three causes.

All members and guests write their checks out to the cause that receives the most votes, they're on the spot. "It's fast, simple, and amazingly effective. Plus, all the money stays right here in Maui County," according to the organization's website.

Future gatherings are planned on Sept. 6, 2023 from 5-6 p.m. at Ocean's Vodka; Dec. 5, 2023 at Maui Country Club; May 8, 2023 TBA; and Sept. 11, 2024 from 6-7 p.m. at The Mill House.

Source: <https://mauiNOW.com/2023/05/20/100-women-who-care-maui-finds-fast-simple-and-effective-way-to-raise-20k-each-quarter/>

Why is it so much harder for nonprofits to raise more funds online in 2023?

Over the past decade, I have worked with nearly 100 nonprofit organizations that all share 2 things in common: They want to do more good and need to generate new donors to do so.

The importance of generating new donors is clear. Organizations lose about 20% of their existing donor base every year. If they don't grow their donor bases, it is only a question of time before they become irrelevant.

But a shift in the digital fundraising world will soon change the way nonprofits think about generating new revenue and will require them to pivot their outreach and marketing strategy.

Digital fundraising is an essential aspect of the nonprofit industry, enabling

Customer acquisition costs (CAC) are the expenses that organizations incur to acquire a new donor or supporter. These costs have been steadily increasing over the last decade, making it harder for nonprofits to reach their fundraising goals.

According to a study conducted by Nonprofit Hub, the average CAC for nonprofits in 2012 was around \$93, while in 2018, it had increased to \$141, a 51% increase. I personally managed campaigns with Facebook ads in 2015 with a budget of \$30,000, campaigns that now cost \$90,000 (increase in cpm rates/lower ctr rates), a 200% CAC increase

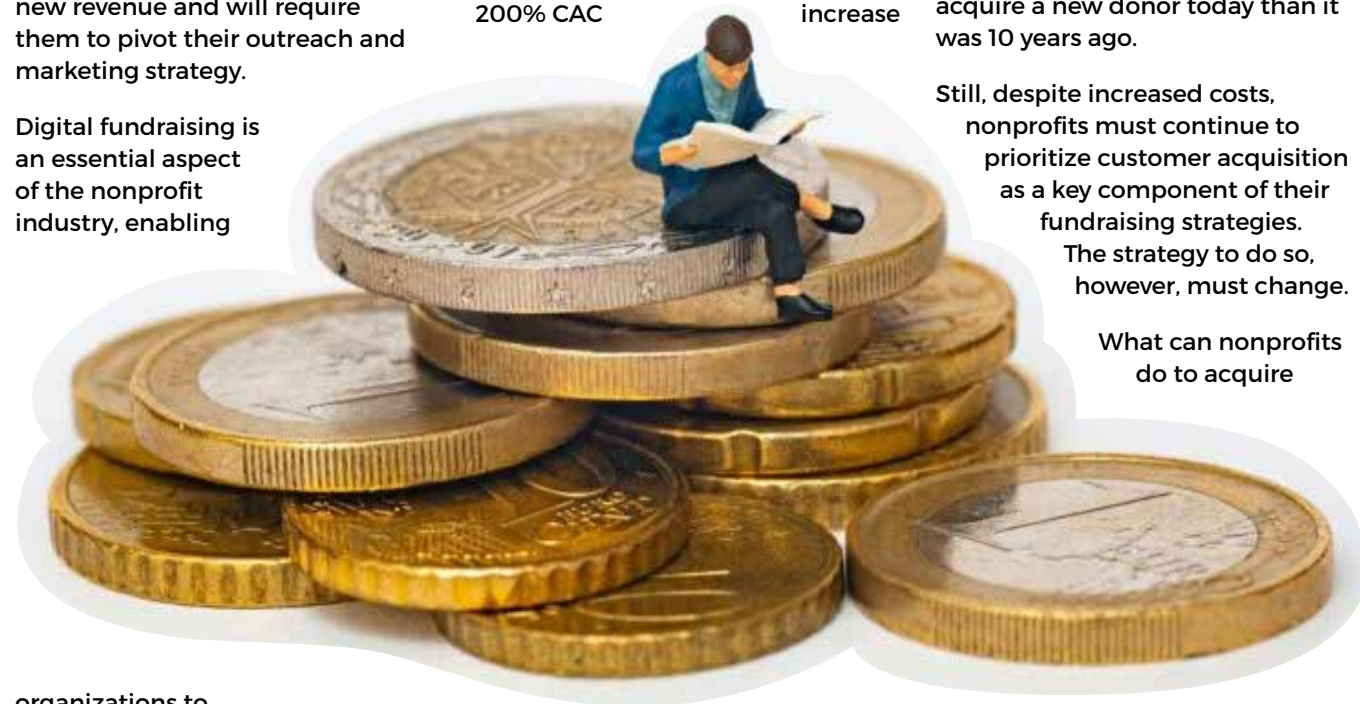
digital fundraising methods, the competition for donor attention and support has increased, leading to higher demand and higher costs associated with acquiring new donors.

The results for email marketing are no better. We have managed email marketing campaigns with leading Christian and Jewish media outlets for over a decade. In 2013, 30% of subscribers opened the emails sent. Since then, open rates for email lists have dropped nearly 2% annually, making it harder for nonprofits to reach potential donors.

To sum it up, it is 3 times harder to acquire a new donor today than it was 10 years ago.

Still, despite increased costs, nonprofits must continue to prioritize customer acquisition as a key component of their fundraising strategies. The strategy to do so, however, must change.

What can nonprofits do to acquire



organizations to reach a wider audience and raise more funds than ever before. However, with the rise in customer acquisition costs, the future of digital fundraising is changing rapidly, forcing nonprofits to adapt and find new ways to engage donors.

resulting in a much smaller return on ad spend (ROAS).

What caused this dramatic increase in CAC?

As more nonprofits have turned to

new donors in today's challenging environment? Here are a 6 fundraising strategy suggestions and technologies to optimize CAC and maximize ROI:

◆ **Crowdfunding and**

technology: Crowdfunding is a proven way to acquire new donors at a low CAC. Focus on using psychological nudges such as social proof and many other hacks to get donors to give more and encourage their friends to give via a peer to peer campaign. This will ensure your CAC stays low as your donors become your ambassadors. You can learn more about crowdfunding and donor psychology here.

◆ **Go all in with strong focus on retention:** Call donors to say thank you, send out transparency emails every month, be personal in your emails, and use tech tools such as GiveCloud's AI platform that increase monthly giving by suggesting donors make smaller ongoing donations in place of larger one-off donations. According to a study conducted by Nonprofit Hub, the average retention rate for new donors is 46%. This means that even as nonprofits are spending more money to acquire new donors, they are also struggling to keep them engaged. By working harder to keep new donors more engaged, organizations can increase revenue without increasing expenses. Jonah Halper, President of ALTRUICITY and author of Date your Donors, shared a stat that converting a 1-time giver to a monthly giver resulted in 42% increase to their annual giving. In addition, the LTV (Life Time Value) of monthly donors is 5 years, far higher than the 46% of donors who stay for a 2nd year. According to Jonah, this should be the key focus of campaigns that not just leads to more funds but also gives donors a sense of real partnership.

◆ **Upsales:** The rising cost to acquire donors can be offset by increasing the value of new donors through upsales. Gavi Zeitlin from Zeitlin Consulting LLC recommends nonprofits immediately upsale every new donor by offering a gift if they become a monthly partner or increase their giving level.

◆ **Build relationships:** There is so much noise online today that many potential donors become blind to marketing emails, ads and influencer videos. But it is hard to forget your friends. Israel365 has invested in running events such as the Orlando NRB night to celebrate Israel's 75th anniversary in order to build real relationships with potential partners. By focusing on offline relationship building as a complement to your online efforts, you will increase the value of your donors and justify a higher customer acquisition cost.

◆ **Focus on awareness and engagement campaigns and REPEAT your message:** Is it better to reach the same 100,000 subscribers 5 times or reach 5 groups of 100,000 subscribers 1 time? A recent study has shown that when trying to educate a new audience, it is better to reach the same 100,000 subscribers 5 times with a repeated message that will help influence new donors as opposed to reaching 5 unique groups with a one-off message. A suggestion by Yoni Apler from theprospectingengine.com is to be proactive in creating good content - such as videos and podcasts relating to your field - that is separate from donation requests and establishes the organization as an authority over time.

◆ **Optimize your messaging:** To achieve better results, it is important to optimize your messaging. A compelling message can have a significant impact and go viral, while a difficult request may require increasing amounts of money to promote it. Itai Schimmel, CEO and Founder of Artza, an organization that supports small businesses and charities in Israel while fostering connections to its people, history and stories, emphasizes the importance of constantly creating and testing new content to find the one that resonates the most. Innovative messaging can lower the cost of customer acquisition by increasing response and conversion rates.

Digital fundraising is changing, and nonprofits must adapt to the rise in customer acquisition costs to stay competitive. By leveraging the power of crowdfunding, retention, personal relationships and taking the time to educate the market, nonprofits can reach a wider audience, acquire new donors and achieve their fundraising goals while minimizing costs.

Shlomo Schreibman is a licensed industrial and organizational psychologist who serves as the director of sales and marketing for Israel365 Media. He writes and lectures on topics of psychology, digital marketing and Jewish-Christian relations. Shlomo consults to some of Israel's largest companies and NGO's on their marketing strategy focused on pro-Israel Evangelical Christians.

Source: <https://ejewishphilanthropy.com/why-is-it-so-much-harder-for-nonprofits-to-raise-more-funds-online-in-2023/>

Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$45 Million to Improve Energy Efficiency for Nonprofit Buildings

WASHINGTON, D.C. – As part of President Biden's **Investing in America** agenda, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today announced that **applications are open** for the **Renew America's Nonprofits** grant, a funding opportunity that will support projects to reduce energy use in buildings owned and operated by 501(c)(3) nonprofits. This competitive grant – authorized by President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law – demonstrates a first-of-its-kind engagement between DOE and the nonprofit sector and recognizes the central role that nonprofits play in American's lives, as well as their potential significance in the nation's clean energy transition. By investing in nonprofits, DOE is investing in America's physical and social infrastructure, reducing emissions and utility costs in vital institutions so that savings can be redirected to mission-critical work serving communities.

"Nonprofits promote social cohesion, public health, creativity, and innovation – all of which are essential to strong and resilient communities" said **U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm**. "With this funding, DOE is helping nonprofits amplify their impacts. Every dollar saved is a dollar that can be reinvested in crucial community services, all while helping us achieve President Biden's goal of a net-zero emissions economy by 2050."

"Thanks to my legislation included in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we're helping nonprofits lower emissions and utility costs so they're able to direct more resources to their core missions. This will support local places of worship to libraries, community centers, and more," said **U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar (MN)**. "The Renew America's Nonprofits grant program is a win-win – it's beneficial for the environment and the communities our nonprofits serve. Thank you to all the groups that worked to make this a reality including the National Council of Churches, the YMCA, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations, and more."

"After years of advocating for the passage of my bipartisan Nonprofit Energy Efficiency Act, I am thrilled that it is now a reality thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law," said **U.S. Representative Matt Cartwright (PA-08)**. "These investments will help nonprofits save energy costs in the long run, allowing them to redirect critical funds to their mission-focused work."

There are approximately 1.5 million 501(c)(3) nonprofits in the United States, including diverse organizations such as libraries, worship facilities, community centers, animal shelters, hospitals, healthcare clinics, museums, art institutions, youth sports leagues, food banks, and more. Nonprofits historically employ the third-largest

workforce in the American economy – more than 12.4 million people. These organizations also operate more than half a million facilities, mostly in commercial spaces where efficiency improvements can reduce energy use by up to 30%. This indicates significant potential for reducing emissions nationally. Given that most nonprofits operate on annual budgets of less than \$500,000, energy savings have the potential to build organizational and community resiliency and to increase their service capacities.

The **Renew America's Nonprofits** grant is a pivotal opportunity to create partnerships between nonprofit stakeholders that stimulate widespread energy improvements in the sector. To enhance the technical and administrative capacity of nonprofits seeking access to this funding, DOE is using an aggregation model. Under this model, DOE will award 5-15 larger grants to nonprofits interested in serving as Prime recipients that will recruit and provide technical assistance to eligible projects. These Prime recipients will assemble and support a group of energy-efficiency projects in the facilities of other nonprofit organizations. The Renew America's Nonprofits grant aligns with the **Justice40 Initiative** and encourages applicants to show how their projects will benefit historically disadvantaged communities. Ultimately, hundreds of nonprofit facilities should be represented across these project bundles.

Prospective **Prime recipients** should be 501(c)(3) nonprofits able to provide technical assistance, maximize savings, ensure effective program implementation, and manage program activities for all projects across the portfolio. This "**nonprofits-supporting-nonprofits**" model is designed to lay the groundwork for a pipeline of energy and cost-saving projects that will continue beyond the life of the grant. Organizations that wish to collaborate with prospective Prime recipients – for example, 501(c)(3) nonprofits that own and operate buildings in need of retrofits, or entities with the capacity to enhance the services of prospective Prime recipients – are encouraged to engage directly with prospective Prime recipients.

All entities interested in participating in the Renew America's Nonprofits grant are encouraged to **join the Teaming List**, indicate one or more prospective roles, and begin connecting with other organizations. To view the **current Teaming List** and learn more about the three pathways for participating in the **Renew America's Nonprofits** grant, visit the **Renew America's Nonprofits** website.

Digital Marketing Company Offers Free Websites to Nonprofits in Massachusetts

Exclusive Initiative Aims to Support Local Nonprofit Organizations and Make an Impact in the Community

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., May 20, 2023 /PRNewswire/ -- Hostimus, a leading digital marketing company in Western Massachusetts, announces an exclusive initiative to support local nonprofit organizations. Under this new initiative, the company will offer free websites to nonprofits, helping them establish a strong online presence and better engage with their target audience.

Recognizing the importance of a well-designed website for nonprofits, Hostimus aims to empower these organizations to effectively communicate their mission, raise awareness, and gather support from the local community. A professionally-built website often acts as the first point of contact for potential donors, volunteers, and beneficiaries, and this initiative aims to ensure that nonprofits can make a lasting impression.

"We understand that many nonprofit organizations operate with limited budgets and resources, which can make it challenging to invest in a high-quality website," said Jacob Broyles, Founder at Hostimus. "By offering our web development services for free, we hope to help these organizations make a significant impact in the community and further their mission."

This exclusive offer is available in limited supply, and eligible

nonprofit organizations are encouraged to apply. To take advantage of this opportunity, nonprofits are invited to schedule a consultation with Hostimus' web development team. During the consultation, organizations can discuss their specific needs, goals, and design preferences, allowing the team to create a tailor-made website that truly reflects the nonprofit's vision and values.



"We are thrilled to be able to give back to our community and support the incredible work that nonprofit organizations in our community are doing," added Jacob Broyles. "We believe that by providing them with a professional and user-friendly website, we can help them reach new heights and make an even greater difference in the lives of those they serve."

To learn more about this initiative or to schedule a consultation, please contact Hostimus. Additional information can also be found on the company's website at **www.hostimus.com**.

Source: <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/digital-marketing-company-offers-free-websites-to-nonprofits-in-massachusetts-301830218.html>

<https://www.energy.gov/articles/biden-harris-administration-announces-45-million-improve-energy-efficiency-nonprofit>

Make it easier to start charities

RALEIGH — North Carolina has a robust network of charitable enterprises that deliver tremendous value across our great state.

They feed the hungry, treat the sick, shelter the homeless, counsel the hopeless, cultivate the artistic, educate the young (and not-so-young), and minister to countless other material and spiritual needs. About 10% of the state's workers are employed in the nonprofit sector, reports the North Carolina Center for Nonprofits, and their wages totaled \$19 billion last year.

While there are about 146,000 nonprofit corporations registered in the state, some 43,000 are 501(c)(3) organizations — that is, tax-exempt public charities or private foundations engaged in what is traditionally considered philanthropic work. While a few are big institutions such as universities and hospitals, most are modest organizations in size, scope and staffing.

That's why I found a new Philanthropy Roundtable study of charity regulations so troubling. It ranked North Carolina a disappointing 46th for costs imposed on new nonprofit enterprises. Our incorporation and registration fees are higher than the average state, for example, and we require more forms to be filed. In terms of ongoing regulation, North Carolina is about average when it comes to annual reporting and audit requirements. We're worse than average in solicitation requirements. Overall, says the report, North Carolina ranks 34th in the nation in charity regulation. Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska,

Delaware, and Idaho are the friendliest to charities. Connecticut, Mississippi, New Jersey, Florida, and Pennsylvania impose the greatest burdens.

For-profit and not-for-profit enterprises differ in important ways, some more obvious than others. For example, the labels I just used aren't quite accurate. Both kinds of enterprises should strive to earn more in revenue than they spend. The difference is that in a business, the net income — the profit — has one or more discrete owners. Owners or their agents decide whether to pocket annual profits or reinvest them in the business to maximize investment returns in the long run.

What really distinguishes a nonprofit from a business is that the former has no owners. Its leaders are obligated to manage the nonprofit's assets — that is, net incomes accumulated over time — for the public good, not for private gain. For all their differences, however, both sectors benefit from robust competition and entrepreneurship. New enterprises create most new jobs in any economy. As for new charitable enterprises, they play key roles in innovation, in filling gaps, and in bringing new donors, volunteers, and community leaders to the table.

By regulating nonprofits the way it does, North Carolina probably reduces the startup rate for new charitable enterprises. That is, at least, a reasonable take on the Philanthropy Roundtable data. The report author, economist Wayne Winegarden, computed for each state a ratio of the number of charitable organizations to the size of each state's economy. He

then divided the states into thirds based on their regulatory burdens on charities. The group with the lightest regulations had, on average, about 15% more charities than the other groups.

It's been a pleasure and a privilege for me to help create, fund, and govern a variety of tax-exempt charities over the years. In my current role as president of the John William Pope Foundation, I help administer some \$15 million a year in grants to 501(c)(3) nonprofits, the



majority of which are either based in North Carolina or deliver goods and services here. So I say this as both a practitioner and a fan: as dynamic as our independent sector is, it could be even healthier and contribute even more to making our state a great place to live, work, play, and rear children.

North Carolinians can help make that happen by becoming even more generous with their time, donations, and patronage (keep in mind that service fees and other earned revenue actually fund a larger share of nonprofit budgets, on average, than cash gifts do). As for policymakers, they can help boost North Carolina's charitable sector by making it easier for North Carolinians to start new charities.

Greenville Women Giving awards \$518K to six local nonprofits

Greenville Women Giving announced the 2023 grant recipients at its 17th annual meeting on May 16.

The local women's collective giving organization awarded \$517,980 in grant funding to six nonprofit organizations in Greenville County.

Since its inception in 2006, Greenville Women Giving has awarded more than \$8 million in grants to 89 nonprofit organizations. The grants are funded by the contributions of the Greenville Women Giving members.

"Collective giving has a tremendous impact," said Susan Cinquemani, the organization's co-chair. "Working together with local nonprofit partners, including this year's grant recipients, we are able to address significant needs in our community with grants that will affect far-reaching positive change."

The 2023 grantees are:

- ♦ **Fostering Great Ideas** received \$71,468 to hire a second former foster child to serve as a certified life coach for teens aging out of the state foster care system. By adding this new position, 43 additional teens will be able to receive assistance and counseling.
- ♦ **Greenville County Historic and Natural Resources Trust** received \$100,000 to preserve farmland with minority owners and place conservation easements on 200 acres of farmlands in southern Greenville County. Over the last century,
- ♦ **minority land ownership** has declined by 95 percent.
- ♦ **Greenville County Schools Fine Arts Center** will receive \$81,085 over two years to expand its Summer Arts program and provide rigorous arts instruction to 70 underserved 7th and 8th-grade students. The students will participate in the summer programs with the goal of being accepted to the Fine Arts Center.
- ♦ **New Morning** received \$90,000 to help address the needs of more than 30,000 low-income and uninsured women in Greenville County who need access to free and low-cost contraceptive healthcare services to prevent unintended and mistimed pregnancies. With the grant, the organization can serve an additional 3,000 women and train local healthcare workers on contraceptive and procurement practices.
- ♦ **Public Education Partners** will receive \$75,427 to fund the third and final year of its pilot researched-based classroom management program in 27 schools within Greenville County. By providing training in conscious discipline, the program addresses both teacher and student needs by creating a healthy learning environment.
- ♦ **Safe Harbor** will receive \$100,000 over two years to

assist in the construction of a new domestic violence shelter and co-located services center. The grant will fund four two-bedroom and one-bathroom units in the new facility. Along with improving services for domestic violence victims, the new center will increase the bed count from 34 to 56 and increase the number served by 100 residents.



A total of 71 grant applicants were submitted for consideration. To qualify, an applicant must provide services in Greenville County, request between \$50,000 to \$100,000 in grant funds and meet a need in at least one of the organization's five focus areas:

- ♦ Arts
- ♦ Education
- ♦ Environment
- ♦ Health
- ♦ Human Services

For more information, visit <https://www.greenvillewomensgiving.org/>.

Source: <https://greenvillejournal.com/community/greenville-women-giving-awards-518k-to-six-local-nonprofits/>

Developing country voices will be excluded at UN plastic talks, say NGOs

Limits on numbers at Paris summit mean some of those 'most needing to be heard' will not be in attendance

Scientists and NGOs have accused the UN's environment programme (Unep) of locking out those "most needing to be heard" from upcoming negotiations in Paris aimed at halting plastic waste.

Last-minute restrictions to the numbers of NGOs attending what the head of Unep described as the "most important multilateral environmental deal" in a decade will exclude people from communities in developing countries harmed by dumping and burning of plastic waste as well as **marginalised waste pickers**, who are crucial to recycling, from fully participating, they said.

The groups criticised the agency for **publishing a report this week**, before negotiations between 193 countries over 29 May to 2 June, which they claimed did not fully reflect the health and environmental effects of plastic pollution. The report said mismanaged plastic waste could be slashed by 80% by 2040.

Scientists's Coalition for an Effective Plastics Treaty (Scept), representing 200 scientists who were invited to comment before the report's publication, said their concerns and criticisms were ignored.

Unep said it regretted that "due to a technical issue" an email containing Scept comments was not received in time for publication. However, it said it received feedback from 75 experts from 39 organisations that were incorporated. It denied claims

its report did not sufficiently reflect the health and environmental impacts of plastic.

Rich Gower, a senior economist for Tearfund, an international NGO that provides advocacy and support to waste pickers, said: "This last-minute restriction locks out those who most need to be heard. It's vital that negotiators hear from those with firsthand experience of plastic pollution: waste pickers, communities harmed by dumping and burning, and those living near toxic production plants. "Without these groups' voices the treaty will fail to be the life-changing instrument we desperately need it to be."

The Tearfund partner and campaigner Tiwonge Mzumara-Gawa, from Malawi, who will now share a pass with four colleagues after NGOs were told only one in five people would have access to negotiations, said: "World leaders must hear real stories from people in countries where the plastics treaty could have a life-changing impact. In Malawi we don't have organised public waste collection and many people are forced to either dump or burn their waste. It's extremely disappointing that my colleagues and I will now have much less access to these talks."

Therese Karlsson, a science adviser at International Pollutants Elimination Network and member of Scept, said: "We were asked to review the report. Thirty scientists provided over 300 comments. We have several major concerns, one around the framing of the

report, which is very focused on technological solutions in a very optimistic way, even although those technical solutions are not proven."

"This creates a narrative that makes it easy to think we can fix our way out of this. But we need to talk about chemicals from plastics and decrease the use of plastics."

One concern, she said, was the inclusion of chemical recycling, which was "not recognised as environmentally sound management" under the Basel convention, as a possible interim solution.

Bethanie Carney Almroth, a professor of toxicology at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden and a member of Scept, said: "For a group that have called on scientists, they have locked us out of the room and they have not registered our criticisms."

Andrés Del Castillo, a senior attorney at the Center for International Environmental Law, said: "The headline figure of the Unep report predicts an 80% reduction of plastics pollution with the proposed 'new plastics economy'. This number does not represent a reduction, but rather a narrowing of the scope and definition of what is considered plastic pollution from a full life cycle perspective."

The "reduction", which refers to a decrease in plastic waste into the environment, did not count other elements of plastic pollution, such as upstream greenhouse gas emissions and toxic emissions, he said.

NGOs have expressed concern over the report's inclusion of burning plastic waste in cement kilns as one of several strategies to address the plastics crisis.

Dr Neil Tangri, the science and policy director at Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, said: "Burning plastic waste in cement kilns is a 'get out of jail free card' for the plastic industry to keep ramping up plastic production by claiming that the plastic problem can be simply burned away."

A spokesperson for Unep said NGOs were informed at registration that the venue, which has a capacity of 1,500, had space constraints. However, 640 or 40% of attendees were from NGOs, it said. It denied claims its report insufficiently considered the health and environmental impacts of plastic pollution.

It said: "A large part of the economic costs associated with plastics pollution, assessed at the outset of the report, are due to human health impacts ... well over one-third of the estimated \$300bn a year costs stemming from plastic pollution are related to exposure to hazardous chemicals.

"The report builds on this evidence to call for the need to completely transform the plastics economy. On waste management the report proposes changes that affect the whole life cycle, from raw materials extraction and processing, with a significant focus on design needs (design of both products and systems), use and reuse, and indeed highlighting the importance of strengthening waste collection and management."

Unep denied the report presented chemical recycling and cement

kilns burning plastic as fuel as part of the solution to plastics problem, saying they were simply "options when safe disposal facilities are to be used as a last resort to avoid plastic leaking into the environment and stresses the needs for emissions (and/or effluent) control and standards to assure safety.

"The potential lock-in effect of purpose-built facilities such as incinerators and plastic-to-fuel plants is highlighted as something to be avoided," it said.

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/may/18/scientists-say-they-have-been-locked-out-of-the-room-at-unep-talks-on-plastic-waste>



Afghanistan: Ban on female aid workers and future of UK aid

Since capturing the Afghan capital Kabul in August 2021, the Taliban has increasingly restricted the rights of women and girls.

In December 2022, these restrictions were tightened with a ban on women working in non-governmental organisations (NGOs). In April 2023, this was extended to local UN workers.

Bans on female aid workers

In December 2022, the Taliban issued a decree banning women from working in national and international NGOs in Afghanistan. Media reports state the Taliban banned women from working for not adhering to the country's Islamic dress code.

In April 2023, Afghan women were also banned from working with UN agencies. In response, the UN ordered its 3,300 male and female Afghan workers to remain at home.

The UN Security Council has unanimously adopted a resolution calling for the ban to be

rescinded and for the UN to remain in Afghanistan. The UK Foreign Office condemned the ban as putting at risk "millions of Afghans who depend on humanitarian assistance for their survival".

The Organisation for Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has also called for the ban to be reversed. The OIC represents 56 member states, each of whom has a significant Muslim population.

How many women and NGOs are affected?

Since taking power, the Taliban has increasingly excluded women from the workforce. However, NGOs continued operating, and before the ban 40% of NGO staff in Afghanistan were women.

For 70% of these women, this was also their family's main income source.

According to UN Women, 94% of surveyed NGOs fully or partially ceased their operations after the December ban.

Aid agencies report that the ban has hindered the delivery of aid,

made it harder to assess the needs of women and girls, and increased safeguarding risks.

However, the ban is not universally enforced and increasing numbers of NGOs have resumed work.

Separate data from the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) states the proportion of organisations fully suspending work fell from 38% to 12% between January and February. Local organisations led by Afghan women continue to be most affected, as the Taliban refuses to negotiate with them.

How much does Afghanistan depend on aid?

In 2022, the UN Development Programme estimated that 85% of Afghans were living in poverty, up from half in 2020.

The UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs also projects that 28 million Afghans, which is two thirds of the population, will need humanitarian assistance in 2023. Nearly 80% of those in need are women and children.

The prospects for improvements in conditions are limited, and there are warnings that international support for Afghanistan will fall because of donor fatigue and humanitarian need in Ukraine, east Africa and Syria.

Can aid still be effectively delivered?

All UK aid is directed through the UN or international NGOs.

The UK, UN and others are pushing for the Taliban to reverse the ban and find a means for NGOs to continue their work. This includes direct engagement with the Taliban, though the UK Government does not expect them to change the decree.

Another issue is that monitoring aid spending in Afghanistan is difficult. While the UK Government is monitoring how its aid funding is spent, in April 2023 the US Inspector General for Afghanistan told Congress that he could not assure them that the Taliban is not diverting foreign aid.

Could aid be made conditional on rights for women and girls?

In January 2023, International Development Minister Andrew

Mitchell opposed making UK aid conditional, arguing the Taliban was unlikely to be affected and conditionality would harm those the UK is seeking to help.

Human Rights Watch has argued that any conditions on funding should be sensitive to the fact that some provinces and sectors (such as primary education) do not restrict women and girls to the same degree, and nation-wide funding conditions should not penalise them.

UK aid to Afghanistan is expected to fall

The UK committed to providing £286 million a year in aid to Afghanistan for 2021/22 and 2022/23. This made it the UK's largest bilateral aid programme.

However, FCDO data seen by the Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI), which is responsible for scrutinising UK aid spending, found funding fell to £246 million in 2022/23. Work affected included polio vaccinations and landmine clearance.

In response to questions on whether the UK will use the ban as a reason to reduce its aid, the Minister for South Asia and the Middle East, Lord Ahmad, said the

Government must be "realistic" about what funding can be effectively distributed.

In its allocations for 2023/24, the FCDO plans to spend £142 million across Pakistan and Afghanistan (53% lower than 2022/23).

In its May 2023 report on UK aid to Afghanistan, the ICAI said it understands UK aid to Afghanistan will be £100 million in 2023/24. It cites increased spending on hosting refugees in the UK as one cause of the reduction.

In June 2023, the House of Commons is expected to hold a debate on the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan. The Commons International Development Committee has held two evidence sessions into the situation for women and girls in Afghanistan.

Source: <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/afghanistan-ban-on-female-aid-workers-and-future-of-uk-aid/>

International Day of the Boy Child: NGO Raises Awareness On Protection From Harmful Societal Influence

Mary Nnah

The Executive Director/ Founder of WeLead, a nongovernmental organisation (NGO), Dayo Oladele-Ilori has raised awareness of the need to protect the boy-child from harmful societal influences.

While recommending the domestication of the boy child to have responsible men in society during the International Day of the Boy Child celebration held at CMS Grammar School, Bariga, Lagos on May 16th, Oladele-Ilori disclosed that too many boys are invisible and forgotten.

“Many are equally marginalised, neglected, alienated, and left behind. That is why we need to do something for our boys before it is too late”, she noted.

She revealed further that boys' enrollment in primary and secondary schools is on the decline while dropout is skyrocketing.

“There have been several reports on incidents that misguided the young boys to be involved in vices such as fraud, robbery, smoking, alcoholism, drug addicts, violence among others”, Oladele-Ilori said, adding that that the boy child should be given the right attention, care, guidance, and support for the boy child development and have general well-being.

She gave some insight into the activities of her NGO and the event's impact, on the boys, urging society to equally focus more on the boy child to upscale the gender gap.

“We have 16 courses on our curriculum where we offer intensive training just to ensure that the boy child has an all-around education.

“Most NGOs focus on the girl-child, we should equally carry out advocacy for the male child as well for healthy rivalry. We go around schools to have this training and ensure we educate and equip them to be better boys and men in the future”, she added.

She reminded us of our collective guilt in neglecting the boy-child, which led to the spate of insecurity bedeviling the nation from all angles and in all directions.

“As we celebrate the International Day of the Boy Child this year, let us reflect on the dangers of neglecting the boy-child. Let us look towards taking definite actions to address the neglect of the boy child.

“Let us summon the courage to end the phenomenon of street children by whatever name they are called. We should protect our boys as much as we protect our girls. World Day of the boy child celebrates all the positive elements that boys bring to their families and communities. It also sheds light on the issues and challenges that boys face as they develop.”

“While the United Nations successfully celebrates the International Day of the Boy Child, there has been a glaring absence of official recognition for the International Day of the Boy Child.

I believe it is time for the United Nations to embrace this important day, providing a platform to address the unique issues faced by boys and foster true gender equity”, she added.

One of the facilitators at the event, Dr. Oludare Ogunyombo who presented a paper on peer pressure said, “Peer pressure or influence is when you do something because you want to feel accepted



and valued by your friends. Peer influence can be positive or negative.”

◇ Ogunyombo added that coping well with peer influence is about getting the right balance between being yourself and fitting in with your group.

◇ Another facilitator Mr. Oviawe who presented a paper on Masculinity and Sexuality gave an illustration with a moral lesson to drive home his point.

◇ Oviawe said World Day of the Boy Child is aimed at focusing on the well-being of the boy, including his emotions, values, and transition into manhood.

◇ He stated that society is paying a lot of attention to the well-being of the girl child, a situation which he said had led to the neglect of the boy child physically, morally, mentally, and psychologically, thereby leading to an increase in crime and other social vices in the society.

◇ Advocating affirmative actions to improve the well-being of the boy-child, Oviawe explained that the organization is also promoting committed fatherhood, and implored fathers, male family members, and leaders to exhibit appropriate behaviours, morals, and ideals worth emulating by the boy-child.

◇ “Emphasising that a well-balanced boy child today will turn out to become a well-groomed gentleman tomorrow

◇ The Vice Principal, Administration, Mrs Kehinde Ajibola said that to ensure a balance in the upbringing of both the boy and girl child, recommended intentional parenting based on the application of family system engineering, a process in which every member of the family impact on one another. She also advised parents to share their parenting blueprints with caregivers.

◇ Ajibola canvassed the nurturing of the boy child in a loving family unit. She also called for a return to communal child upbringing, mentorship in schools and what she called male education, and a change in societal perception of the boy child, pointing out that a lot of boys are already roaming the streets without proper guidance.

◇ Dance.

Source: <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2023/05/18/international-day-of-the-boy-child-ngo-raises-awareness-on-protection-from-harmful-societal-influence/>

A training on institutional fundraising for Uzbek NGOs



ADVOCATING VULNERABLE GROUPS' RIGHTS THROUGH A STRONGER CIVIL SOCIETY IN UZBEKISTAN

A FEW International in collaboration with Isonch va Hayot made next important step in striving Uzbek non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working for vulnerable populations in enhancing their fundraising capabilities. On May 17, in the framework of the project “Advocating vulnerable groups' rights through a stronger civil society in Uzbekistan” partners conducted a comprehensive training session focused on acquiring funding for advocacy and service provision projects on a smaller scale.

During the session, participants got valuable knowledge on effectively preparing for fundraising initiatives. They gained insights on tailoring their project concepts to meet the specific requirements of potential donors and honed their skills in completing application forms seamlessly.

By strengthening the fundraising capacities of Uzbek NGOs working for vulnerable populations, we can contribute to their sustainable growth and their ability to make a positive impact in the community.

For reference

The project “Advocating vulnerable groups' rights

Source: <https://afew.org/a-training-on-institutional-fundraising-for-uzbek-ngos/>

through a stronger civil society in Uzbekistan” started in 2022. It is dedicated to empowering underserved groups in Uzbekistan, such as people vulnerable to discrimination – women, people with disabilities, people living with or at high risk of HIV and migrants, and to protect their rights and freedoms through strengthening and building local CSOs' own organisations and capacities, thereby strengthening civil society in Uzbekistan.

By giving voice to vulnerable groups and seeking to participate in decision-making, the project contributes to the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 16 on developing an inclusive society and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions.

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The Challenges and Wins of A Non-Profit CFO



Jeff Thomson

Leading the finance function in a non-profit, public/private partnership enterprise can be a challenge. A late 2022 survey found that the percentage of non-profits with more than four months' operating expenses on hand is down to 72% from 81% in 2021, while a combination of a tight job market and concerns about a possible recession has forced organizations to both spend more money on salaries and devote more effort to fundraising, which can come at the expense of core mission. CFOs in the non-profit world have many of the same constraints and demands as in the strictly private, for-profit sector – but also have to navigate politics and relationships with donors to ensure ongoing funding and support, while thinking of ways to diversify away from pure donor funding. I recently

spoke with Cecilia Kelly, who is CFO of the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts in Orlando, about how she successfully made the switch from the for-profit world to what was at the time a strictly donor-funded institution, that she helped build into a public/private entity with profitable revenue streams and what skills CFOs at this type of organization need to utilize. Ultimately, says Kelly, the non-profit CFO has to imagine what will drive new revenue and appeal to the public as much as the finance leader in a profit-focused business: “We continue dreaming of ways to increase our impact with the best spaces, technology and experiences to solidify our position as a global destination.”

Jeff Thomson: The CFO's role in a non-profit corporation like the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts encompasses traditional CFO

functions like revenue management and financial oversight, but also overseeing the philanthropic aspect of the organization including fundraising and donor relations. How have you evolved as a CFO to meet these responsibilities? What role does your Board of Directors play in strategic planning and ensuring the organization stays on mission?

Cecilia Kelly: Prior to becoming CFO of the Dr. Phillips Center, I worked in the for-profit world. The Dr. Phillips Center has the complexities of an operating entity, with added non-profit missions. When I joined in 2007, we were in the planning phase, with construction commencing in 2011—we only had philanthropic funds. Our team benchmarked similar centers, researched best practices and planned operating approaches.

My focus is strategizing how to accomplish goals, in operations and community-based activities,

understanding our environment and anticipating unknowns. I am passionate about our business and mission – it brings joy to guests, students and our stakeholders.

Working with President & CEO Kathy Ramsberger is another factor in success. I believe an effective CFO must be a good listener – listen to ideas and consider avenues to accomplish them. We encourage collaboration amongst all colleagues and that starts from the top. We have an entrepreneurial board of community leaders from a variety of sectors. We have been board-advised, staff-led in operations from the beginning. The board is engaged in planning efforts and strategies for future goals. While they provide oversight, one of the things I admire about them is the trust they put in our team to stay mission-driven.

Thomson: In the face of economic uncertainty in which the arts are often deprioritized by donors as well as patrons, how do you work to ensure sustainable profitability across the organization's lines of business? What role does new technology and other types of business innovation play in keeping the Dr. Phillips Center and its mission of providing artistic value to the community thriving?

Kelly Business innovation is key for us. Covid gave us a glimpse of economic uncertainty, and the industry is still experiencing change. The pandemic caused immediate shutdowns. Shortly after we created the Frontyard Festival, a socially distanced outdoor venue with QR code service. We introduced the first touchless security system in the southeast across entertainment venues, allowing our community to experience entertainment and cultural arts safely. While it was a measured risk, the Frontyard Festival provided sustainability, community support and positive reception from existing and new

audiences. We'll continue to enter new areas of business and engagement on local, national and international levels.

Our goal has always been to evolve and create a place where everyone feels like they can be part of the arts culture, and we have so much more to accomplish. In 2022, we opened Steinmetz Hall, one of the world's greatest acoustically remarkable concert halls, and soon we're opening Judson's, a 150-seat, cabaret-style space. We are reimagining our 9-acre campus plan, to include three state-of-the-art theaters, a 10,000-sf immersive space and a residential tower.

Thomson: Your organization depends on the support of political leaders as well as the donor community in achieving financial goals and remaining operational. How do you communicate with these various stakeholders to ensure they stay engaged? How does the finance team contribute to strong stakeholder engagement? What can CFOs at for-profit businesses learn from your experience overseeing

the financials of a public-private partnership?

Kelly: We strive to be a devoted partner in all relationships we are engaged in, from our staff and our donors to our city and county leaders. My decision making process demands I understand both the political milieu and the outlooks of our donor family. As a public-private partnership, we have many stakeholders at the local, state and federal levels. We are actively engaged with our partners at the city of Orlando and Orange County, including both mayors sitting on our board.

With all our board members and community supporters we strive for a culture of transparency, which builds strong relationships. When we talk with our board and committees of the board, we always look to provide them with the information they need to make their decisions that will help further our goals and mission. As a hands-on CFO, one of the practices I find most valuable is talking with our guests and participating in our community events and mission programs when possible.

Source: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/jeffthomson/2023/05/19/the-challenges-and-wins-of-a-non-profit-cfo/?sh=1789e50b699c>

UN calls for more global efforts to ensure 2030 SDGs

Addressing disaster risks and bolstering resilience has become “a priority for all countries,” irrespective of their geographic location, he added.

Source: <https://www.newvision.co.ug/category/agriculture/un-calls-for-more-global-efforts-to-ensure-20-160687>





Spreading Smiles During Eid Al Adha: Empowering Underserved Communities



By: Zafar Iqbal

As Eid Al Adha draws near, nonprofit organizations and social workers have a unique opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of underserved individuals. By harnessing the spirit of this joyous occasion, we can bring smiles to their faces and foster a sense of inclusivity and celebration. Here are various impactful ways to maximize the potential of this event: Community Meal Organize a delightful community iftar or Eid feast, where individuals from underserved communities can gather and enjoy a hearty meal. Collaborate with local businesses, volunteers, and donors to ensure a memorable and nourishing experience for everyone involved.



Food Packages

Curate food packages containing essential items and traditional Eid treats, and distribute them to families in need. Prioritize those who may struggle to afford special meals during the festivities. Forge partnerships with local grocery stores or sponsors who can contribute to the packages, amplifying the impact of this initiative.



Clothing Collection

Launch a clothing drive to gather new or gently used garments, including traditional attire, for individuals who lack appropriate clothing for Eid. Distribute these items to underserved individuals, with a special focus on children and families, enabling them to partake in the festivities with dignity and joy.



Financial Support

Raise funds to provide crucial financial assistance to economically challenged families. Whether in the form of vouchers, cash grants, or subsidies, this aid can help them purchase groceries, settle bills, and meet urgent needs during the Eid period. Strengthen collaborations with sponsors and donors to amplify the reach and effectiveness of this support.



Eid Parties for Children

Organize festive gatherings tailored specifically for children from underserved backgrounds. Engage them

with activities like face painting, games, storytelling, and small gifts or toys, creating lasting memories and a sense of joy during the Eid festivities.



Meat Distribution

Facilitate the equitable distribution of meat from sacrificial animals to underserved families. Partner with local slaughterhouses, volunteers, and donors to collect and process the meat. Work closely with community centers and mosques to identify deserving families, ensuring they can partake in the cultural and religious significance of Eid Al Adha.

Hospital and Elderly Home Visits

Coordinate visits to hospitals and elderly care homes, bringing comfort and companionship to patients and senior citizens who may feel lonely or isolated during Eid. Engage in heartfelt conversations, share small gifts, and create moments of happiness to brighten their day.

By implementing these initiatives and collaborating closely with local community leaders, volunteers, and partner organizations, we can create a ripple of positivity and bring smiles to the faces of underserved communities during Eid Al Adha. Let us embrace the true spirit of generosity, compassion, and unity during this auspicious occasion, leaving a lasting impact on the lives of those in need. Together, we can make a meaningful difference and spread joy throughout our communities.

OPPORTUNITY

Two area nonprofit organizations awarded grants

STEUBENVILLE — Two area nonprofit organizations have been awarded grants through the Dale Hileman Legacy Fund and the Donald R. Myers Legacy Fund to Support Partnership in Appalachian Ohio. The Buckeye Ruritan Club received \$500 from the Donald R. Myers Legacy Fund to support the creation of the Free Little Lending Library that will serve the village of New Alexandria, which has no public library branch. The project was developed by Gretchen Yanssens, a club member and retired special education teacher, who hopes to spread her love for reading within her community.

Steubenville-based Urban Mission Ministries received grants from the Donald R. Myers Legacy Fund and the Dale Hileman Legacy Fund.

The \$900 from the Myers grant will support the nonprofit's Next Steps for Homeless Shelter Residents program, which will enable shelter residents to acquire documents essential to gaining employment, housing and other life advancements, including copies of birth certificates and Social Security cards as well as state-issued photo IDs.

The \$1,400 Hileman funding will assist the Urban Thrift and Opportunity Center in launching its Recycled Remnants program, a social enterprise that employs people to cut clothing that would have been recycled into remnants to be sold.

"This funding will not only support individuals and families but will provide for the betterment of Appalachian Ohio communities," said Eric Myers, a Donald R. Myers Legacy Fund committee member and Myers' son. "Behind each of these projects and programs are individuals who give to uplift lives and livelihoods of our communities, embodying the same passion and generous spirit as my father. We are proud to partner with each of them to make a difference while continuing his legacy."

The Donald R. Myers Legacy Fund at the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio was created in 2008 to honor Myers' service to the region and to continue his legacy as a champion of Appalachian Ohio. It provides a permanent source of funding to encourage and support nonprofit and public organizations across the 32-county region, with an emphasis on areas Myers worked passionately to address: Education, regional networking, support for community leaders and fulfillment of basic needs.

Myers served as executive director of the Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Alliance and president of the Eastern Ohio Development Alliance. During his years of service, he advocated for Appalachian Ohio and generated financial investments to support the region's progress.

The Dale Hileman Legacy Fund was created in 2015 in partnership with FAO and with support from EODA. It supports causes that were close to Hileman's heart — economic

development and growth — and organizations within EODA's service area of Athens, Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Tuscarawas and Washington counties.

A native of Columbiana County, Hileman's legacy includes a lifetime of service to Eastern Ohio. He worked for Columbia Gas of Ohio for 40 years, serving Carrollton, Jackson and Cambridge in Appalachian Ohio, and helped establish EODA to promote economic development and growth in Eastern Ohio.

In retirement, he remained committed to improving quality of life and to promoting his community of Cambridge in Guernsey County, where he lived with his wife, Evelyn.

"Dale's legacy of service to Eastern Ohio and dedication to the communities he called home lives on in the grants bearing his name that are supporting work he would have been proud to have been a part of," said Jim Schoch, EODA executive director. "It is an honor to provide this funding to projects that are improving quality of life and moving our communities forward."

For information about the Dale Hileman Legacy Fund, the Donald R. Myers Legacy Fund to Support Partnership in Appalachian Ohio, and how to support opportunities throughout the region, visit AppalachianOhio.org, e-mail info@ffao.org or call (740) 753-1111.

SWOT analysis

Data source: @pinterest.com | Infographic design by @agrassoblog for educational and motivational purposes

Strengths

- ⑤ Capabilities
- ⑤ Competitive advantage
- ⑤ Resources, assets and people
- ⑤ Experience, knowledge and data
- ⑤ Financial reserves, returns
- ⑤ Marketing, reach
- ⑤ Innovative aspects
- ⑤ Location, geographical
- ⑤ Price, value and quality
- ⑤ Processes, systems, it, communications
- ⑤ Advantages of proposition

Weaknesses

- ④ Lack of capabilities
- ④ Gap in competitive strengths
- ④ Reputation, presence and reach
- ④ Timescales, deadlines and pressures
- ④ Financials
- ④ Cash flow, cash drain
- ④ Continuity, supply chain
- ④ Effects on core activities
- ④ Reliability of data, plan and project
- ④ Management cover & succession

Opportunities

- ④ Market developments
- ④ Industry or life style trends
- ④ Innovation and technology development
- ④ Global influences
- ④ Market dimensions, horizontal, vertical
- ④ Target markets
- ④ Geographical import, export
- ④ Major contracts, tactics and surprises
- ④ Business/product development

Threats

- ④ Political and economical effects
- ④ Legislative effects
- ④ Environmental effects
- ④ Competitive intentions
- ④ Market demand
- ④ Innovation in technologies, services and ideas
- ④ New contracts and partners
- ④ Loss of resources
- ④ Obstacles to be faced
- ④ Poor management strategies
- ④ Economic condition home, abroad

Source: <https://www.heraldstaronline.com/news/local-news/2023/05/two-area-nonprofit-organizations-awarded-grants/>

Inspiring Quotes on Social Good

These quotes emphasize the importance of selflessness, compassion, and the profound impact individuals can have when they dedicate themselves to helping others and making positive contributions to society.

“Kindness is a mark of faith, and whoever is not kind has no faith.”

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him)

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”

Winston Churchill

“No one has ever become poor by giving.”

Anne Frank

“The greatest use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it.”

William James

“Philanthropy is not about money; it’s about using whatever resources you have at your fingertips and applying them to improving the world.”

Melinda Gates

“We rise by lifting others.”

Robert Ingersoll

“You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.”

John Bunyan

“In a gentle way, you can shake the world.”

Mahatma Gandhi

“The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

“We can change the world and make it a better place. It is in your hands to make a difference.”

Nelson Mandela

Submit your stories for upcoming edition & for queries, suggestion, feedback
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