

# THE NGO WORLD



**Fatmata  
Jalloh**

**Boost global action  
and ambition to  
reach SDGs, urges  
new UN campaign**



**Chairman Senat  
Commends Pakistan  
Humnaitarian  
Forum's (PHF)**



# Embracing Excellence: Core Values for an Impactful Change

Values are guiding principles that reflect the fundamental beliefs and ethics of a nonprofit organization. They serve as a moral compass, guiding the organization's actions, decisions, and interactions with stakeholders.

For a nonprofit organization, values are crucial in shaping its culture, defining its identity, and ensuring it stays true to its mission and purpose.

Creating a set of values for a non-governmental organization (NGO) is crucial to guide its mission, operations, and overall impact.

Here's a suggested set of values that align with the major areas your NGO is working on:

**Integrity:** Upholding high ethical standards and transparency in all actions and decisions.

**Compassion:** Demonstrating empathy and kindness in serving those in need.

**Collaboration:** Working together with partners, volunteers, and communities to achieve shared goals.

**Accountability:** Taking responsibility for the organization's actions and results.

**Innovation:** Embracing creativity and adaptability to find new and effective solutions.

**Inclusivity:** Emphasizing diversity and creating an environment where everyone feels valued and respected.

**Empowerment:** Empowering individuals to reach their full potential and improve their lives.

**Sustainability:** Ensuring long-term impact by considering the environmental and social consequences of activities.

**Advocacy:** Standing up for the rights and well-being of the populations served.

**Excellence:** Striving for the highest standards in all aspects of the organization's work.

**Stewardship:** Carefully managing resources to maximize positive outcomes and minimize waste.

**Empathy:** Understanding and addressing the unique needs and challenges of the beneficiaries.

These values can help guide the nonprofit's mission, vision, and daily operations, fostering a positive impact on the community and the world.

Warm regards,

**Zafar Iqbal**  
Editor-in-Chief, The NGO World

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# Respond to humanitarian crises

**D**uring internal conflict, war or natural disasters, communities and public services are shattered. It is often older people who are the most affected, but the most overlooked.

A large and rapidly growing number of older people are affected by humanitarian crises. The proportion of the population aged 50 and over in fragile countries, where conflict and disasters are more likely to occur, is expected to rise from 12.3 per cent (219.9 million) in 2020 to 19.2 per cent (586.3 million) in 2050.

A radical shift is needed. Older people must have a say in the decisions that affect them, and be able to get the support they need.

Governments and international organisations have made a number of commitments in recent years to take account of older people's needs. However, change has been slow.

## Out of sight, out of mind

In emergency response, older people are typically overlooked in favour of larger, more visible groups. They are rarely consulted and are often missed out when data and information is collected so, their needs are unknown. Without information, humanitarian work often relies on outdated assumptions about older people.

Addressing older people's needs is often thought of as an activity for specialist agencies, or something to be done if extra time and resources are available.

Emergency help such as shelters, water supplies, toilets and health centres are rarely designed for people with disabilities or limited mobility.

Older people face numerous barriers that see them excluded from humanitarian response, including:

- Food distribution points can be difficult for older people to reach

and food aid packages do not cater for older people's particular nutritional requirements.

- Older people who are physically unable to flee are often left behind, isolated from their family and communities.
- Health conditions such as diabetes and dementia are common in older people in many low- and middle-income countries. The medicine is often not available or in short supply, while health services are disrupted. This can become life-threatening for older people.
- Older people are often left-out of programmes to help people recover their livelihoods such as micro-credit (loan) schemes.
- Organisations often deliver a 'one-size-fits all' approach in response to humanitarian crises without understanding the specific barriers that older people face.

Source: <https://www.helpage.org/what-we-do/humanitarian-action/>

# NGO says OECD bid to reform international tax system a failure

**P**ARIS: The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has failed in its efforts to reform the international tax system despite several deals in recent years, the Tax Justice Network said on Tuesday (July 25), calling for the United Nations to take over responsibility.



(RM21.5 trillion) over the next 10 years.

For comparison, the NGO says the 2007-2009 Great Recession was estimated to have led to a loss of US\$2 trillion in global economic growth.

The Tax Justice Network said many of the OECD's proposals are serious and in line with its own.

"However, in all cases these policies have been rendered largely toothless under the pervasive influence of some OECD members who are also among the world's biggest tax havens," it said.

The NGO estimated that OECD nations are responsible for 77% of the US\$472 billion in tax losses countries suffer each year.

Higher income countries suffer most of the losses, but the figure is less than a tenth of their public health budgets, while for lower income nations it represents 56%.

That is one of the reasons why the Tax Justice Network believes the United Nations would be a better forum to reform global tax rules.

"The Tax Justice Network is urging

The OECD, a club dominated by rich nations, has helped set global tax rules for decades and has been working to reform them given rampant abuse by multinational firms.

In 2021, in talks led by the OECD, agreement was reached on a minimum tax rate of 15% on multinationals and to develop rules on how to tax multinationals so countries do not lose out by profit shifting.

But implementation of the minimum rate and development of the tax rules have been slow.

"No significant reductions have been made in the amount of tax countries lose to global tax abuse since the start of the OECD's efforts to reform global tax 10 years

ago," said the Tax Justice Network.

The Britain-based NGO said that several studies, including one by the International Monetary Fund, conclude that the OECD's draft proposals will make little to no impact on the scale of tax losses.

The Tax Justice Network estimated that if countries follow the course they have for the past decade, they will lose US\$4.7 trillion

countries to support moving leadership on global tax from the OECD to the UN, where global membership, public transparency and the UN's human rights legal frameworks and technical expertise can provide a more viable forum for securing effective tax solutions," it said.

Nations opened the door last year to negotiations on a UN tax convention and the secretary general is expected to present a report at the general assembly in September about options to move forward.

The Tax Justice Network's chief executive, Alex Cobham, said experience has shown that a handful of countries and lobbyists have been able to undermine tax reform via the OECD.

"We now have a real shot at bringing this process into the daylight of democracy at the UN, where all countries will finally get a real say, and where governments will finally have to answer to their people on tax policy," he said.

Source: <https://www.thesundaily.my/business/ngo-says-oecd-bid-to-reform-international-tax-system-a-failure-HF11277347>



## Major UK NGO faces 'uncertainty' over future after FCDO cuts



David Ainsworth

British NGO [CARE International UK](#), which filed its accounts more than 400 days late this week, admitted there is "material uncertainty" over the organization's future after it saw a big drop in funding from its main backer, the [Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office](#).

The charity, warned in its accounts for the fiscal year to June 2021, published this week on the U.K. Charity Commission website, that there is uncertainty over whether it remains a "going concern," and is therefore financially stable enough to guarantee its future operation.

The accounts show that the charity, which fights poverty and social injustice globally, had revenue of £62.7 million, down 15% on the previous year – a drop CARE blamed on [U.K. government aid cuts](#).

"The economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic led the UK government to reduce official development assistance, which had a significant impact on the income of CARE International UK in the financial year ending 2021 and going forward," the charity said in the accounts.

"This reduction in income presented a challenging financial environment for the Charity, and we amended our strategy and operations, resulting in a corporate restructure."



In both F.Y. 2020 and 2021 CARE received a little over 71% of its income from FCDO, making it unusually dependent on FCDO for income, compared to other U.K. charities, and therefore particularly vulnerable to changes in U.K. government policy.

The charity has £2.8 million of unrestricted reserves – funds to deal with unexpected surprises, which are not earmarked for a particular project. These sit at a low level compared to other, comparably sized U.K. NGOs, several of which hold reserves of well over £10 million, giving CARE limited ability to weather a financial storm.

But the charity highlighted that it had increased its unrestricted reserves from £1.4 million in the previous year, and says it expects this level to rise again to £3.4 million in its 2022 accounts.

CARE's comparatively low levels of reserves are also driven by the charity's dependence on FCDO spending. Since FCDO spending is typically earmarked for a particular

project, the charity has relatively little income that can be channeled into free reserves.

CARE also acknowledged that it had placed itself at greater risk by filing accounts so late – typically seen as a red flag by funders, who use accounts as a means to assess the reliability of potential grantees.

The accounts said charity leaders had modeled the organization's ability to keep working in different scenarios. Leaders were confident it could continue to operate if it suffered a drop of as much as 20% in income from its main sources, but not if income from those sources dropped by twice as much.

"While mitigations could be put in place, for example a reduction in staff and non-staff costs, the challenges in doing so within a reasonable timeframe and the resultant knock on impact on programme delivery and fundraising are uncertain. For this reason, the Trustees have concluded that there is material uncertainty relating to going concern. Trustees

remain committed to taking all available actions required in terms of cash management and control of expenditure to ensure a worst-case scenario is avoided."

The charity's auditors also drew attention to the trustees' warning over whether the organization remained a going concern.

This is the second year in a row that the charity's accounts have contained these "material uncertainty" warnings, with the previous year's accounts highlighting uncertainty in accessing sufficient working capital.

Accounts for the year to June 2022 are now due and were already 66 days late at the point of publication.

A CARE International UK spokesperson said: "These statements have had no bearing on CARE International UK's ability to carry out its work. In both years, the Audit Opinion was unqualified and not modified in respect of going concern."

The late filing of our FY21 and FY22 accounts was caused by the cumulative impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the sudden budget reduction of our main donor, the FCDO, followed by a series of staff changes and restructures. These factors delayed the submission of our FY20 accounts, which has had a regrettable knock-on effect on the timely submission of our FY21 and FY22 accounts. With FY21 accounts now published, we are focused on progressing our FY22 accounts. This audit will start in late July and will be completed later this year."

Source: <https://www.devex.com/news/major-uk-ngo-faces-uncertainty-over-future-after-fcdo-cuts-105833>

## Human Appeal UK

Human Appeal UK continued to provide essential medical supplies to the ministry of health in #Gaza

More than a decade-long blockade has destroyed more than half of the hospitals in Gaza. These supplies are essentials for doctors to continue to save lives.

Already delivered sterilised gloves for medical surgeries. These gloves will benefit more than 100,000 patients across 11 different #hospitals in the Gaza Strip.

Human Appeal says Thank you for continuing to support your brothers and sisters in Gaza. We could not carry out our life-saving work without your aid.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/100064696870712/posts/pfbid0amL9ueQ5MvjSZQcGvXeEjnHWGGGvbOh6QNzy5LthsWZYyAQ3xfruajkPxWjsQmNxl/?mibextid=NifSoz>



## Muslim Hands Achievement

Muslim Hands achieves another milestone signing of two MOUs with NUST. Contributing to endowment fund, supporting the education of underprivileged and collaborating in R&D to promote AI & Entrepreneurship.



# French minister blasts NGOs' 'permanent spirit of demolition' on EU farming subsidies

**N**GOs are suing the European Commission for having approved France's national plan for implementing the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) despite allegedly breaching EU law – a move that French Agriculture Minister Marc Fesneau called a “destructive battle”.

Read the original French article [here](#).

The French national plan, a roadmap detailing how subsidies are to be used to achieve the CAP's objectives, was validated by the Commission on 31 August 2022. In November of the same year, British NGO ClientEarth and a group of French associations (*Collectif Nourrir*) [requested](#) the approval to be re-examined.

On 17 July, the NGOs lodged a complaint against the European Commission with the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU).

According to the organisations, the EU executive should not have approved the French National Strategic Plan since “it does not meet the minimum environmental standards required by the European CAP regulation”, they explained in a press release.

France's Agriculture and Food Sovereignty Minister Marc Fesneau, who was questioned on the matter at an informal briefing with the press on Tuesday (25 July), deplored this “permanent spirit of demolition”.

“The legal attacks systematically carried out by certain organisations



are destructive battles. We have collectively succeeded in establishing a programme and are trying to stabilise things,” he told reporters.

“What is the proposed alternative? We need to take a constructive approach, not a deconstructive approach,” he said, while complaining that the NGOs had focused on France but did not take aim at the similar plans put forward by Germany, Spain or Italy.

By taking the matter to court, the NGOs hope to obtain a ruling from the EU Court of Justice in Luxembourg, forcing the Commission to reassess the French national plan. An initial hearing could take place by the end of 2024.

Contacted by EURACTIV, the European Commission declined to comment.

## ‘Renationalisation’ of the CAP?

The provision on CAP strategic plans stresses the need to “contribute to the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change”, “promote sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources” and “contribute to halting and reversing the loss of biodiversity”.

However, according to the NGOs, France's national CAP plan does not encourage reducing greenhouse gas emissions because it supports the highly emitting cattle industry rather than sustainable livestock farming.

The group also pointed to a lack of financial incentives to reduce the use of pesticides and fertilisers and to promote more sustainable farming practices that would help to protect nature.

According to European Commission, the [accusation is unfounded](#). The EU executive also stated on 5 May that national plans

are member state competence, but that did not go down well with the NGOs.

“If the Commission does not have the powers to judge the soundness of NSPs [national strategic plans], what powers does it have?” Mathieu Courgeau, co-chairman of the *Nourrir* collective, told EURACTIV.

According to him, “the Commission must equip itself with the means to control NSPs effectively, not only for France but also to achieve harmony between the member states”.

He also criticised the Commission for dumping its responsibilities on the national government, claiming the CAP is somewhat “renationalised” through national CAP plans.

## Breaching its own laws

In spring 2022, the Commission sent recommendations to France, pointing out its lack of “environmental ambition”.

During that summer, the government agreed to several changes, including increasing support for organic farming to distinguish it from the less restrictive High Environmental Value (HEV) label.

However, for Courgeau, these changes are “anecdotal” and insufficient, as evidenced by a [report from the French High Council for the Climate](#) and a [study by INRAE](#), according to which “99.6% of farms in mainland France (...) can (...) reach the standard level of payment without any change to their practices”.

According to [ClientEarth](#), by approving the French national plan, the Commission is “breaching” its own laws.

“If the Commission itself is not convinced of its ability to provide this ambitious common framework and to ensure that countries spend this money on sustainable and resilient farming practices, who is going to hold governments to account?” Lara Fornabaio, a legal expert at ClientEarth, said.

Source: <https://www.euractiv.com/section/agriculture-food/news/french-minister-blasts-ngos-permanent-spirit-of-demolition-on-eu-farming-subsidies/>

# NGO Engagement

## LEARN ABOUT THE CCAC

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are encouraged to engage in the Coalition's work in the following ways:

### 1. Join our information Network

Subscribe to our newsletter for access to the latest news, events, and funding opportunities from the Coalition. We encourage you to spread the work about short-lived climate pollutants and the Coalition's work by sharing our news on your organisation's [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) or [LinkedIn](#) accounts.



### 2. Explore our Solution Centre

Our [Solution Centre](#) contains a wealth of resources and training materials on measures and policies that help reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants. Please contact the Secretariat know if there are areas to which you would like to contribute.

### 3. Learn about our work and how to get involved

Find out more about the Coalition's funded projects and the work of its [sectoral Hubs](#).

## WAYS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CCAC'S WORK

NGOs can take on the following roles and responsibilities:

Actively participate in the [CCAC Hubs](#), such as by sharing experiences and expertise, helping define strategic directions, and supporting collaboration and coordination with other existing efforts

Become implementers of CCAC-funded projects by applying to [Calls for Proposals](#) to receive funds from the Coalition's Trust Fund

Provide [expert advice](#) on specific issues related to their particular expertise

Raise awareness of short-live climate pollutant issues and mitigation strategies at relevant events, meetings, and through the media

## HOW TO BECOME A PARTNER

NGOs that are interested in becoming a partner may secretariat [at] [ccacoalition.org](mailto:ccacoalition.org) (contact the Coalition Secretariat) to be considered.

Please note that the Coalition is not a funding agency.

Source: <https://www.ccacoalition.org/content/ngo-engagement>



## Sudan: NGOs urge authorities to facilitate humanitarian access

**J**uly 23, 2023 (KHARTOUM) – More than 40 international non-governmental organizations have urged the leadership in Sudan to support and intervene in facilitating humanitarian access to thousands of civilians displaced by conflict.

The group, in a statement, called for overcoming the critical issue of pending visa applications and travel notifications and approvals for humanitarian agencies.

Fighting between Sudan's army and the Rapid Support Forces (SAF) has reportedly killed over 3,000 civilians and displaced nearly 3 million since April 15, amid reports that 25 million people need humanitarian aid and protection.

"The current situation in Sudan demands immediate humanitarian action – thousands have been killed, at least 3 million displaced and millions more are vulnerable to disease, hunger, and other risks,"

Source: <https://sudantribune.com/article275361/>

Anthony Neal, the coordinator of the Sudanese international NGO Forum said in statement issued on Sunday.

The group said whilst some United Nations agencies and organisations have been able to secure a small number of visas, there are currently over 110 humanitarian NGO visa applications indefinitely pending, many for more than two months now.

"This is further aggravated by the lack of a clear system that appears to preference particular profiles without clear justification on humanitarian grounds as well as the significant challenges NGO workers who remain in country face in renewing their residency permits or extending their visas," the statement noted.

It further added, "This severely impedes the collective ability of the humanitarian system to provide

vital and timely assistance to people around Sudan".

The NGOs said highlighted the fact in the past rounds of talks in Jeddah, both sides involved in the Sudanese conflict had committed to facilitating humanitarian access, and this was also a conclusion at the recent meetings in Cairo and Addis Ababa, in line with obligations to international humanitarian law.

"We kindly request that these commitments now translate into action, and for all currently pending visa applications to be issued. Thank you for your dedication to supporting humanitarian efforts that directly improves the lives of people affected by war," concluded the statement.

According to the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR), more than 730,000 people have fled Sudan for neighbouring countries since fighting broke out on April 15.



## Chairman Senat Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani Commends Pakistan Humanitarian Forum's (PHF) Extraordinary Efforts at Annual Report 2022 Launch Event



**C**hairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, graced the "Pakistan Humanitarian Forum's Annual Report 2022 Launch Event" at Marriot Hotel Islamabad as the Chief Guest on Wednesday.

During his address at the ceremony, Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani extended his heartfelt appreciation for the remarkable efforts of the Pakistan Humanitarian Forum (PHF) in organizing such an important event. He emphasized the pivotal role of humanitarian and development works in Pakistan, acknowledging PHF's exceptional contributions to providing relief and rehabilitation to those affected, especially after the devastating floods in Pakistan.

Chairman Senate also praised PHF for its efforts in creating a platform that enables various organizations to come together and serve the people of Pakistan. He assured PHF of the Senate of Pakistan's cooperation, ensuring a strong partnership

## Desist from functioning as government institutions or agencies - Gender Ministry warns NGOs

The Ministry of Gender and Social Protection has cautioned Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) working in the Human trafficking sector, to desist from functioning as government institutions or agencies.

It said the attempts by some of them to replicate government institutions thereby assuming positions of authority to resolve human trafficking issues is illegal and must be stopped, adding NGOs must be conscious of their role and rather support the government to achieve national targets.

Deputy sector minister, Francisca Oteng Mensah, said this at the launch of this year's commemoration of World against Human Trafficking, also known as the Blue day, in Accra.

She said Ghana is still confronted with a situation where young girls who migrate to Gulf countries for greener pastures get trafficked, molested and exploited.

"Let me again re-emphasize the fact that, NGOs working in the field of human trafficking should desist from attempting to create replicate government institutions making it seem like they have the powers to do so. You should understand your role as non-profit making organization by following the standard operating processes laid down for you to support government agencies achieved set targets and goals".

She said to prevent, protect and punish offenders of human trafficking, Ghana has signed international treaties including passage of the Human Trafficking Prohibition Regulations including

the development of the Human Trafficking National Plan of Action, which covers 2022 to 2026.

"As a form of highlight to prevent, protect and punish offenders of human trafficking, Ghana signed the Palermo Protocol in 2000 and ratified in 2012. It is evidenced that, several legislations have been enacted which mainly are the Human Trafficking Act of 2005, Act 694 and it's amendments as well as passage of the Human Trafficking Prohibition Regulations in 2015.

The ministry has developed the Human Trafficking National Plan of Action, NPA, 2022-2026, which is a



comprehensive document to support the effective implementation of the HT Act of 2005, Act 694. The Plan of Action covers all the thematic areas, prevention, protection, prosecution and partnership".

Madam Oteng Mensah commended stakeholders in the tourism industry for their enormous support and contribution towards eliminating human trafficking and all forms of exploitation.

In a speech read on his behalf, Country Director of EU delegation in Ghana, Serge Akpalou, stated commemoration of the day

presents an opportunity for especially international partners to reaffirm new commitment in the fight against human trafficking.

He pledged commitment of the EU to support Ghana in its quest to end the human trafficking menace.

"In commemorating the UN day, against human trafficking, we join the ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection, and all donors to reaffirm the new commitment in the fight against human trafficking. We reiterate the importance of our collaboration with the ministry.

Mr. Akpalou, challenged countries to enact laws that punishes persons who knowingly use services provided from victims of trafficking"

"Countries must also make sure that a person knowingly using services provided from victims of Trafficking can face sanctions. This will present an important step in the fight against human trafficking. Sexual exploitation".

The Vice President of the Ghana Journalists Association, Linda Asante Agyei, encouraged media houses and practitioners to develop interest in human trafficking to educate the masses.

"By writing an article or broadcasting an item focusing on Human trafficking, the media is not only educating the public but also shining light on an issue typically shrouded in darkness. However, some journalists and media outlets are not really aware of the trafficking phenomenon or do not have sufficient understanding of the dimensions of the problem as a result some media coverages confuse the issues with others such as migration or such as migrant smuggling".



## Pune: Spread Happiness Foundation Steps Into Jharkhand, Collaborates with Local NGOs To Assist Tribal And Migrant Workers

Pune, 17th July 2023: Spread Happiness Foundation, a prominent Pune-based NGO, has taken a significant step towards improving the lives of tribal and migrant laborers by initiating a collaboration with local NGOs in Jharkhand. The organization's Founder and Chief Functionary, Soumya Ranjan Mahapatra, recently met with various NGOs and tribal groups in the region to discuss critical issues such as healthcare, education, labor rights, and citizen rights.

During his meetings, Mahapatra listened attentively to the concerns and aspirations of the community. Inspired by their shared vision for positive change, the youth group and NGOs expressed their eagerness to work together towards the betterment of the community, particularly in improving the health, education, and citizen rights of the tribal population.

To launch this collaborative effort, Spread Happiness Foundation joined hands with the local NGO, Never Dying Foundation, to organize a health camp and blood donation drive in Adityapur Emli Chowk. The event witnessed an overwhelming response, with over 100 individuals coming forward to avail health check-ups and participate in blood donation activities. The Chairman of Never Dying Foundation, Abhaya Sathapathy, expressed keen interest in future collaboration with Spread Happiness Foundation to further contribute to the welfare of the community.

The success of the camp was a result of the collective efforts of numerous individuals from different social organizations, including Sima Satpathy, Sanjay Uday Satpathy, Girdhari Kaibarto, Abhinash, Sikandar, Lalin, Bobby Kaibarto, Meera Tiwari, Arjeet Sarkar, Mousami Mallick, Binod Sathapathy, Jeli, Sedesana, and Janmejaya, who

all came together to lend a helping hand.

At the conclusion of the interaction, Mahapatra expressed his deep appreciation for the power of genuine connections and the impact they can have on the lives of others. He emphasized the importance of extending support and knowledge to empower individuals and create positive change. The experience also highlighted the significance of spreading awareness and advocating for the rights and opportunities available to those who may be unaware of them.

The Collaborative effort between Spread Happiness Foundation, local NGOs, and tribal groups in Jharkhand aims to continue spreading happiness and working tirelessly to uplift communities and make a long-lasting difference in the lives of tribal and migrant laborers.

Source: <https://www.punekarnews.in/pune-spread-happiness-foundation-steps-into-jharkhand-collaborates-with-local-ngos-to-assist-tribal-and-migrant-workers/>

# Why ICRC acts more like paper tiger?



Qabil Ashirov

As is known, every year millions of dollars are transferred to NGOs, independent, neutral organisations through donor organizations, governments, and donations from ordinary people to fight with different difficulties that people encounter throughout the world. However, in return for these donations, the results of the activities of NGOs do not meet expectations, and here poses a question - why?

A book written by Graham Hancock provides the answer to this question with one phrase - the Lords of Poverty. The book sheds light on

the inefficient activities of NGOs, the money frittered away by the employees of NGOs, and how the employees use dire situations around the world to draw water to their own mills. Besides the book, there are thousands of articles, documentary footage, and investigations that criticize the activities of not only NGOs but independent organisations that are operated neutrally in conflict-affected areas. Any person working in such organisations can make out very soon that the employees of them are made up of people who cannot sell their capabilities, so these people consider their organisation as their shrines and unequivocally accept the organisation's dogmas.

So, smuggling forbidden products through the Lachin border checkpoint by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

can confuse many naive ones in the West but not Azerbaijanis, because it is not the first time that ICRC frustrates Azerbaijanis. At the beginning of the 1990s, when international organizations including IRC stepped into Azerbaijan first time, the expectations of Azerbaijanis from the organizations were big. At that time, Azerbaijan had just got its independence, and simultaneously Armenia attacked the country. The newly independent country tried to cope with several problems such as economic crisis, refugees, and so on. At that time, many in Azerbaijan believed that those organizations would do something to restore peace and dignity in the region. However, later it found out that all these organizations are good for nothing. Only filling their pockets was on their real agenda. Strictly speaking, these organizations neither solved the occupation, nor

the fate of refugees living through many ordeals.

Take the fate of missing Azerbaijanis during the first Karabakh War, for example. According to the official reports, about 4,354 people have gone missing. Firudun Sadigov, head of the Working Group of the State Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Prisoners of War, Hostages, and Missing Persons, says at the end of 2008, the fate of about 170 people was clarified and it became clear that they were alive. They were from Shusha, and its surrounding villages, Kalbajar, and Lachin. In general, from 2004 to 2008, the fate of about 800 people was determined. Some were dead, while their burial places were identified. Regarding the issue, the Azerbaijani side appealed the Red Cross several times, but no answer has been provided so far by the organization.

ICRC proved to be a paper tiger in the issue. After the 44-day war, several mass graves were found in the liberated territories, including Edilli village of Khojavand districts .

Besides, during the first Karabakh War, the employees of the Red Cross met with 54 POWs. At that time they were alive and they were illegally imprisoned by the Armenian side. The family of these people believed and expected that the Armenian side would release them because the world-famous humanitarian organization ICRC met with them and nobody would dare to touch them. But later, it found out that all of them were killed. Azerbaijan managed to get only the corpses of 17 of them.

Moreover, despite the ICRC created the DNA database in 2014, it did not do any good for the work of our missing Azerbaijan. This is an

indication of the ICRC's indifferent approach to the fate of the missing Azerbaijanis.

During Armenia's military aggression against Azerbaijan, Armenia grossly violated many international legal norms. Civilians were taken hostages and in many cases, they were killed. After unimaginable tortures were given to captives and hostages, they were killed and their bodies were not even presented to the Azerbaijani side in order to remove the traces of torture. The Armenian side has been reluctant to cooperate in finding the missing Azerbaijani citizens.

All of the above mentioned proved to be that all organizations including ICRC in Azerbaijan are paper tigers. Unfortunately, paper tiger, i.e. the relevant international organisation do not comply with their duties and cannot reassure Armenia to cooperate.

Source: <https://www.azernews.az/analysis/212767.html>

# Empowering Local NGOs for Sustainable Impact

## Embracing Localisation through Skills Development

As the landscape of development and humanitarian action shifts towards localisation, local NGOs are presented with a unique opportunity to drive positive change in their communities. With increasing donor emphasis on local ownership and capacity-building, it has become essential for local NGOs to up-skill and leverage their deep

of their communities. This knowledge empowers NGOs to develop context-specific strategies, ensuring that interventions are culturally appropriate, inclusive, and responsive to local realities.

### 2. Strengthened Partnerships:

Building skills enables local NGOs to establish stronger partnerships

Donors are increasingly recognizing the importance of supporting local NGOs directly. By investing in skills development, local NGOs can enhance their ability to secure funding for their programs and projects. Effective proposal writing, outcome measurement, and financial management skills enable local NGOs to demonstrate their organizational competence and attract financial resources.

### 4. Context-Specific Expertise:

Local NGOs possess invaluable expertise and deep contextual knowledge that international actors often lack. Skills development allows local NGOs to refine and amplify this expertise, ensuring that their interventions are grounded in local realities and community-led solutions. This strengthens the effectiveness, relevance, and sustainability of development and humanitarian efforts.

### 5. Increased Local Ownership:

Through skills development, local NGOs can empower their staff and community members to take ownership of development initiatives. By building local capacities, organizations ensure that decisions, project management, and implementation are driven by those with an intimate understanding of the local context, culture, and needs. This fosters greater sustainability and fosters a sense of ownership among community members.

with donors, international NGOs, and other stakeholders. With enhanced capacities, local NGOs can contribute as equal partners in development and humanitarian initiatives, collaborating on equal footing to address local challenges and drive sustainable solutions.

### 3. Improved Fundraising opportunities:

understanding of local contexts. Here's how skills development can help local NGOs truly embrace localisation and make a lasting impact:

### 1. Enhanced Community Engagement:

By investing in skills development, local NGOs can better understand the nuanced needs and dynamics

Source: <https://mzninternational.com/2023/07/21/empowering-local-ngos-for-sustainable-impact/>

### 6. Effective Advocacy and Representation:

Skills development equips local NGOs with the tools to effectively advocate for the needs and rights of their communities. By enhancing skills in policy analysis, communication, and advocacy techniques, local NGOs can amplify their voices and represent the interests of their communities at local, national, and international levels.

### 7. Sustainable Impact:

Ultimately, skills development enables local NGOs to create sustainable and transformative change within their communities. By embracing localisation, upskilling, and leveraging their unique strengths, local NGOs can drive development and humanitarian action that truly reflects the needs and aspirations of the communities they serve.

Embrace the power of skills development to unlock the full potential of your local NGO and achieve sustainable impact. By investing in capacity-building, local NGOs can spearhead locally-led development efforts, foster community ownership, and make a lasting difference in the lives of the people they serve.

Together, let us embrace localisation and create a future where local NGOs are at the forefront of driving positive change. Take the first step towards strengthening your individual skills and organisation knowledge with our classroom-based training in how to write winning proposals, ensure NGO financial sustainability, and master project budgets. Empower your local NGO, drive sustainable impact, and embrace localisation with our skills development training.

## Nonprofit Association of the Midlands Helps Organizations Help People, Anne Hindery Explains How on KIOS-FM



KIOS | By Mike Hogan

Nonprofit Association of the Midlands (NAM) helps nonprofits help their communities. There are thousands of nonprofits in the area – each trying to make a difference on their own. NAM brings them together so that each member can benefit from their collective strength.

One of the recent issues that has come to light for nonprofits has garnered a lot of NAM's attention. With an economic downturn and the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, nonprofits are faced with a giant hurdle when it comes to funding critical community programs – how to successfully fundraise when individuals, foundations and corporations are less likely to

donate. In 2021, overall national giving remained flat from 2020, according to Giving USA.

Anne Hindery is the CEO of NAM. She joined Mike Hogan on KIOS-FM to discuss some of the ways in which NAM is giving the tools to combat this donation shortfall to area nonprofits. The Nonprofit Association of the Midlands' annual Fundraising Palooza on Wednesday, July 19 is more important than ever before. This professional development event is designed to help fundraisers and grant writers effectively spotlight their nonprofit's enriching programs. The all-day event will be held Wednesday, July 19 at the Scott Conference Center (6459 Pine Street).

Fundraising Palooza will share critical skills and best practices from local industry experts on topics such as fundraising during an economic downturn; grant-writing; creating evaluation plans; building a board that will fundraise; and the impact of video storytelling.

Source: <https://www.kios.org/live-and-local/2023-07-17/nonprofit-association-of-the-midlands-helps-organizations-help-people-anne-hindery-explains-how-on-kios-fm>

# The Inspiring Efforts of West Papua's Local NGOs and Social Enterprises



Local NGOs act as a forum that accommodates, processes, manages, and implements all community aspirations in various fields, especially in parts the government often neglects.

Local NGOs and Social Enterprises have an important role in assisting the community in order to help establish welfare in the region. Thus, these organizations bring positive benefits to the locals and help the government in performing the region's development.

However, in order to be able to perform their roles optimally, NGOs in West Papua should be legally registered, so both the government and the society can monitor their programs and activities.

## The Important Role of NGOs in West Papua

Non-governmental organizations and social enterprises play an essential role in developing the West Papua community due to their contribution. They engage in many forms of social

issues to help the government and society to find the right solutions.<sup>[1]</sup>

The following are some of their roles:

### 1. Provide Advocacy to the Government

Some NGOs will try to influence certain government development policies to favor the indigenous and marginalized societies with more benefits.

### 2. Engage and Hold Various Programs

Generally, with their donors' funds, NGOs will provide building centers as training places to empower the locals. They will also conduct capacity-building courses to increase the locals' knowledge and skills.

### 3. Disseminate Information

There are some areas within the community that the government can't reach, so NGOs help disseminate information such as policies and programs from the government.

### 4. Facilitate Dialogue

This is important because NGOs can facilitate communication from the government to the people and vice versa. Foker LSM Papua is an example of an NGO that performs this role in West Papua.

## Inspiring West Papua NGOs and Social Enterprises

The following NGOs have proven their hard work in order to benefit West Papua society in their respective fields:

### 1. Papua Forest Watch

As the name depicts, this NGO works actively on forestry and environmental issues and strengthens the West Papuan indigenous. Established on 3rd April 2012 in Jayapura, Papua Forest Watch has the following vision:

Establishing West Papua Indigenous welfare and sovereignty in managing the forest and natural resources done in fair and sustainable ways derived

from the cultural values as well as environmentally-friendly innovative technologies. [2]

### 2. Yayasan Econusa

This NGO focuses on sustainable management of eastern Indonesia's natural resources, especially ones in West Papua and Maluku while striving for the best with the local communities. Econusa has proven its hard work for the locals due to many of its strategies and activities within the region.

### 3. Bentara Papua

Bentara Papua is a local LSM Papua organization of which members derive from various backgrounds such as socio-economic, management, forestry, and communication.

Source: <https://westpapuadiary.com/local-ngos-and-social-enterprise/?amp=1>

This local NGO has done so much for the locals, including assisting young Papuan in Solol village, Raja Ampat, in processing coconut into coconut oil and pure one,

### 4. Lembaga Masyarakat Adat (LMA) Papua

The mission and vision of this local NGO is to establish a peaceful West Papua. They try to always participate in finding solutions for issues in the region. The Indonesian vice president, K.H. Ma'ruf Amin, appreciated this NGO due to their involvement in keeping West Papua for their participation in maintaining the integrity of Indonesia.

The vice president also emphasized that the government has a strong commitment to the welfare of West

Papua. He later said that it is done through some policy regulations such as increasing the special autonomy (Otsus) funds, expansion of New Autonomous Regions (DOB as well as backing Orang Asli Papua (OAP)).<sup>[3]</sup>

## The Takeaway

The role of NGOs and social enterprises in the community's welfare is significant, so the government must work hand-in-hand to establish the desired course. However, both the government and society should be cautious with certain NGOs with indecent missions and visions.

That is why good two-way communication is needed to help both the government and in local NGOs and social Enterprises reach the best possible result for the benefit of society.

## City accepting relief funding applications for nonprofits impacted by pandemic

HONOLULU (HawaiiNewsNow) - The city is accepting applications for a second portion of COVID-19 relief funds for Honolulu nonprofit organizations.

The program is for organizations financially impacted by the pandemic.

Nonprofits may be eligible to receive up to \$100,000 through the program.

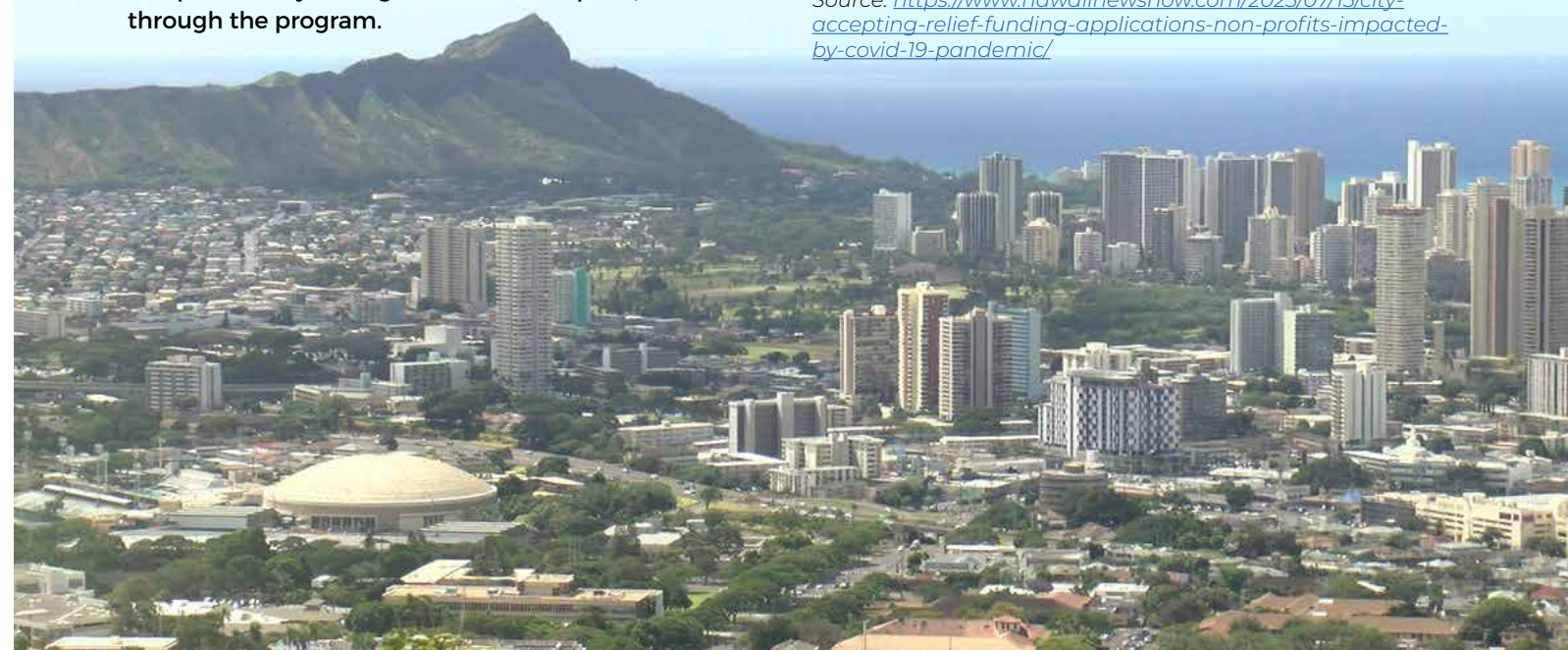
The money is awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Back in December, the city distributed more than \$4 million in the first phase of the relief efforts.

The second wave includes \$10 million.

The application window is open until Aug. 25.

Source: <https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2023/07/15/city-accepting-relief-funding-applications-non-profits-impacted-by-covid-19-pandemic/>





# Maximising Impact: a Transformational Workshop for The NGO World Professionals



Zafar Iqbal

The ten-day (10-20 July 2023 in Islamabad Pakistan) extensive training program titled "Maximising Impact: a Transformational workshop for The NGO World professionals" was designed with a comprehensive set of objectives to enhance the skills and capabilities of the senior management and supervisory staff. Throughout the workshop, participants were exposed to a diverse range of topics delivered by seasoned trainers, enabling them to broaden their knowledge

and perspectives. The content covered crucial areas such as the training cycle, team building, ethics and morality at the workplace, strategic planning, fundraising, change-making, wellness at the workplace, awareness and self-management, project management, communication, and social mobilization, among many others.

The primary objective of the training was to equip the NGO World professionals with the necessary tools and insights to maximize the impact of their work. By fostering a culture of continuous learning and knowledge sharing, the workshop aimed to empower the staff to become more effective leaders and change-makers within

their respective roles. Participants were encouraged to critically reflect on their practices and identify innovative solutions to overcome challenges faced in their projects and initiatives.

As a result of the training, the outcomes were remarkable. Participants gained a deeper understanding of the NGO World's mission and vision, fostering a stronger sense of commitment and alignment towards the organization's goals. The shared experience during the workshop also enhanced team dynamics, improving collaboration and synergy among senior management and supervisory staff. Furthermore, the training instilled a heightened sense of ethical consciousness,

promoting a positive and inclusive work environment that values integrity and respect.

The focus on strategic planning and fundraising equipped participants with the skills to develop more efficient and sustainable projects, enabling The NGO World to broaden its impact and reach. Additionally, the emphasis on wellness at the workplace and self-management contributed to a healthier and more motivated workforce, fostering higher productivity and employee satisfaction.

Overall, "Maximising Impact" proved to be a transformational workshop that not only bolstered the capabilities of The NGO World professionals but also played a pivotal role in driving the organization towards greater success and social change.



# Helen Bader Institute for Nonprofit Management hosting statewide conference

**Inaugural Wisconsin Nonprofit Summit: Together to take place July 27-28 at Brookfield Conference Center**



Cara Spoto

Twenty-two years after establishing the state's first nonprofit academic center, the Helen Bader Institute for Nonprofit Management at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee is about to bring nonprofit leaders from across Wisconsin together for a two-day conference.

Dubbed the Wisconsin Nonprofit Summit: Together, the inaugural event will take place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on July 27 and 28 at the Brookfield Conference Center.

The event would be one of the first and largest nonprofit events to be held in the state in many years, said Bryce Lord, associate director of the Helen Bader Institute for Nonprofit Management.

With a mission focused on improving the leadership and effectiveness of nonprofit organizations through education, research, and service, HBI is hoping the event will eventually become an annual resource for nonprofit leaders, especially those located outside areas with robust nonprofit networks.

In addition to featuring speakers from all over the country, including former NFL athlete-turned entrepreneur, Jacob Brown and celebrated volunteer engagement expert Tobi Johnson, the event will offer a number of ways to attend.

Attendees can attend in-person, virtually or both, so it is

truly a "hybrid" conference, Lord explained.

"At HBI we are always trying to find the best way to provide some services, and professional development to nonprofits and so we thought why not give it a whirl," Lord said. "We wanted to figure out the best way to reach the state-wide nonprofit community, not just southeastern Wisconsin. We find that many organizations outside of Madison or north of the Fox Valley, don't really get any sort of support. We are trying to figure out the best way to manage that, and this was one way we thought we might help ... We have hosted speakers and workshops, but this is the first time we are doing a big, statewide conference."

The summit's in-person capacity is 300 people, and as of Thursday afternoon, July 13, there were 20-25 in-person tickets available for purchase. There are an unlimited number of virtual tickets available.

HBI is also still looking for a few volunteers for the conference,

who can attend for free if their [application](#) is accepted.

## Filling a void

While HBI's resources have always been available to nonprofits able to access them, Lord said nonprofits from outside the region are increasingly reaching out to HBI for guidance as other resources and professional associations have disappeared.

"There are nonprofits all over the state - something like 36,000. In the past five or six years we have been getting connected with organizations outside of our traditional service area," Lord said. "The last state nonprofit association - (the Wisconsin Nonprofit Association) - folded about eight years ago, so there isn't any all-encompassing organization to support nonprofits across the state."

The closure of the Nonprofit Center for Milwaukee, which occurred around the same time, Lord said, has also resulted in more nonprofits looking to HBI for assistance.

"When (the WNA folded), we started looking beyond southeastern Wisconsin to see what we could do to provide services to the rest of the state. We have done some travelling. We've been to La Crosse. We've up to the Fox Valley, offering presentations and development opportunities," he said. "But when we started to think a little more broadly, holding a statewide summit like this seemed like a really good solution."

Lord noted that many states have associations that provide education, professional development, and advocacy for the nonprofit sector not just at the state level but connecting to the National Council for Nonprofits in D.C., but for some reason efforts to form such

associations in Wisconsin haven't lasted very long.

UWM used to host a conference every couple of years that focused on urban-facing entities, but the university stopped holding the event about 10 years ago as a result of budget cuts, he said.

"We were part of trying to get (the Wisconsin Nonprofit Association) off the ground, so we've always had that umbrella in mind. But, obviously, being part of UWM, we can't take on the advocacy piece - there's a conflict of interest there," Lord said. "But we asked ourselves, what else does a state association do that we might be able to take on, and a lot of that has turned out to be education and professional development."

## Goals

With education and professional development in mind, this month's summit is likely to have something for everyone, especially those folks looking to improve their volunteer engagement and retention efforts.

"Tobi Johnson is considered to be guru in the world of volunteer management," Lord said. "When I mention her name to volunteer managers that I meet, their eyes light up."

Other speakers will focus on financial stability, management, leadership, marketing, and communications, but a lot of what HBI hopes to achieve with the summit is providing networking opportunities, especially for nonprofits that may be working on the same mission but in different areas of the state.

The goal is for the summit to become an annual event, Lord said, one that will eventually travel to other places in the state.

Source: <https://biztimes.com/helen-bader-institute-for-nonprofit-management-hosting-statewide-conference/>



## NGOs step in to rescue dogs in flood-hit Noida, Delhi

New Delhi, Jul 15 (PTI) As the Yamuna breached its banks and water overflowed onto the streets of Delhi, endangering lives and damaging property in low-lying areas, the aim of all first responders was to rescue as many people as possible.

In many cases, however, animals -- stray dogs, cows, bulls and cats -- were left behind to sink or swim.

While the National Disaster Response Force stepped in to rescue more than 900 animals, from the flood-affected areas of Delhi and Noida during the last few days, two NGOs also evacuated to safety more than 400 dogs.

Friendicoes and Noida-based House of Stray Animals conducted operations in various parts of the city and rescued hundreds of dogs trapped in low-lying areas hit by a rise in the Yamuna's water level.

After wreaking havoc on lives and livelihoods in parts of Delhi, the swollen Yamuna started receding on Saturday morning, albeit at a pace of a few centimetres per hour.

However, it continues to flow over two metres above the danger mark of 205.33 metres.

Source: <https://www.msn.com/en-in/news/India/ngos-step-in-to-rescue-dogs-in-flood-hit-noida-delhi/or-AA1dU7bo>



## Spanish NGO rescues 73 irregular migrants in Mediterranean

Number of irregular migrants who have reached Italy by sea since start of year has reached 86,132

The Spanish non-governmental organization Open Arms said Monday that a total of 73 irregular migrants who had set off from Libya on two boats were rescued a few days ago.

"Now they are safe on board the #OpenArms, which is heading towards the port of Naples, designated by the Italian authorities for their disembarkation," it said in a statement on Twitter.

"The Mediterranean is in charge of reminding us that there is a reality a few kilometers from our homes that EU governments and institutions do not want to see: that of thousands of people who risk their lives at sea to flee violence, abuse and poverty," it added.

The number of irregular migrants who have reached Italy by sea since the beginning of the year has reached 86,132.

In the irregular migration flow towards Europe, the Central Mediterranean route has stood out as one of the heavily trafficked paths in recent years.

On this route, irregular migrants who send distress calls at sea are often rescued by European-based civil society organizations.

These NGOs sometimes face difficulties in disembarking the rescued migrants due to the refusal of European Union member states to provide a "safe harbor."

Usually, the first landfall in Europe for irregular migrants who manage to cross the Mediterranean or those who are rescued is Lampedusa Island, the closest land mass of Italy to North Africa.

Every year, a significant number of irregular migrants lose their lives while attempting to cross the Mediterranean due to their boats capsizing or being stranded in overcrowded boats without enough water.

Anadolu Agency website contains only a portion of the news stories offered to subscribers in the AA News Broadcasting System (HAS), and in summarized form. Please contact us for subscription options.

Source: <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/spanish-ngo-rescues-73-irregular-migrants-in-mediterranean/2953488>

## EU-Tunisia deal would disregard human rights, say Italian migrant NGOs



**Italy's main asylum and migration coalition expressed its opposition to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the European Union and Tunisia. The Asylum and Migration Table has also issued a call for the Italian Parliament and the European one to "firmly condemn" the planned cooperation.**

The Asylum and Migration Table, which is comprised of dozens of national organizations operating in migrant advocacy in Italy, said that the MOU signed on between the EU and Tunisia on MOU signed on July 16 would be "to the detriment of the respect of international law, human rights, and the dignity of the persons migrating."

In a press release dated 20 July, the coalition said that by entering this coalition, the EU would "once again finance an undemocratic regime," referring to the autocratic leadership of Tunisian President Kais Saied.

Members of the Asylum and Migration Table include ActionAid, Amnesty International Italy, the International Rescue Committee Italy, Doctors Without Borders, Oxfam Italy, Refugees Welcome Italy and many other NGOs.

**Dirty deals between the EU and autocratic governments**

The Asylum and Migration Table compared the MOU to the 2016 deal signed between the EU and Turkey to help set migration flows into the bloc, as well as to the EU's ongoing financial support of authorities in Libya.

"Just like it already happened with Erdogan's Turkey and with the militia in Libya, the EU, in the attempt to contain arrivals on Italian and European coasts, finances a regime that has effectively erased democratic safeguards internally.

"And the EU does this without placing any conditionality

concerning respecting fundamental human rights beyond the usual wording that sounds like a purely stylistic exercise," the group said.

**No respect for human rights**

The Asylum and Migration Table highlighted further that Saied had "dissolved the Parliament, has launched a true manhunt aimed at foreigners coming from sub-Saharan Africa, and has illegally deported hundreds of persons in transit for Europe to the border with Libya and Algeria."

"This caused the death of many, including women and children, and has resulted in the violation of the same international rights that the MOU invokes," the organization stressed, claiming further that "none of these issues appear to have been taken into consideration by the Italian Premier, Giorgia Meloni, and by the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen."

Source: <https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/50569/eutunisia-deal-would-disregard-human-rights-say-italian-migrant-ngos>





## Applications Open for 2024 Asia Foundation Development Fellows

**A**pplications are now open for the 2024 Asia Foundation Development Fellows: Emerging Leadership for Asia's Future Program.

The Asia Foundation is searching for its ninth cohort of highly talented Development Fellows. [Applications will be open through August 28, 2023.](#)

Launched in 2014, The Asia Foundation Development Fellows program brings together a group of young emerging leaders from across the region who are deeply committed to building an inclusive Asia-Pacific region and securing lasting change on the ground.

This yearlong career advancement program takes on a multifaceted approach to leadership development which includes two intensive in-person modules, one in Asia-Pacific and a second in the United States, as well as year-round support through mentorship, coaching, and a flexible grant. The in-person coursework explores fellows' leadership styles, helps fellows effectively articulate their stories, and develops their problem-solving and critical thinking approaches.

The 2024 program will commence in February with a two-week Leadership Training Program and study tour in Cambodia, where fellows dive into authentic leadership and meet with

development practitioners to understand the mechanics of change on the ground. A flexible professional development award of US \$5,000 will be provided to each fellow for use throughout the Fellowship year. Additionally, fellows are matched with mentors tailored to their background and professional interests and have access to a fixed number of one-on-one executive coaching sessions with a professional leadership coach. The program will conclude with visits to San Francisco and Washington, D.C., for a two-week Leadership Dialogue and Exchange program, visiting innovative organizations while continuing to examine their authentic leadership journey.

Source: <https://asiafoundation.org/2023/07/09/applications-open-for-2024-asia-foundation-development-fellows/>

## NGO Nonprofit Management Internships in Nepal

**N**GO Management internship in Nepal is a management and research program which will help you to understand the core process of NGO operation and management system through practical approaches. Also, the aim of the program is to help enhance your NGO career; giving you a platform which gives you very practical and professional experiences for NGO Managements work where you can develop yourself as a successful, suitable and confident candidate for entering into the vast world of NGOs / INGOs.

In our programs, we will give you an opportunity to see how the grassroots level NGOs are functioning; like their funding strategies, program designing, implementing and evaluation process. You can learn these all things, by meeting the NGO Management / Operation teams and its beneficiaries too. Also, in this process we give you an



opportunity for conducting research on successful NGO operation / management processes, interacting with NGOs stakeholders and its beneficiaries, to get insight into the successful NGO Management / operation process.

### As an intern in this program, your activities will be:

- Learning the process of successful NGO management & operations.
- Visiting projects, meeting and interacting with NGO stakeholders and beneficiaries.
- Conducting research on NGO management / operations.
- Participating in various trainings & seminars conducted by different NGOs / INGOs.
- Helping partner NGOs to develop programs, implementing strategies, proposal and report writings.

### Fast Facts about the Program:

Program Duration	2 weeks - 12 weeks.
Accommodation and Meals	You will be staying with local host families & will be provided 3 meals a day according to Nepali menu.
Working Time	Flexible; 6 - 8 hours a day / 5 - 6 days in a week, all other time is free.
Training & Support	In-country orientation, Pre-departure helpdesk, Local in-country team and 24hr emergency support & services are provided.

Source: <https://www.indra-foundation.org/ngo-management-internship-in-nepal.php>

## Volunteer opportunities available at local organizations

**W**eber Human Services is looking for people who can help Northern Utah nonprofits. For more information on volunteer opportunities or to post an opportunity for your organization, call 801-625-3777 or 801-778-6897.

If you are interested in volunteering and do not see what interests you please call us as we have many more opportunities available and will help you find what interests you and best uses your skills. If your organization is in need of volunteers, please give us a call.



- Catholic Community Services has volunteering opportunities in the food pantry: setting up, distributing groceries to clients, stocking shelves, cleaning up and assisting with other daily projects, Tuesday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. They also need a few more regular volunteers to help in the food pantry on Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Looking to put a little extra money in your pocket? The Senior Companion Program is looking for individuals 55 and older who are living on moderate to low income to serve as companions and friends to homebound individuals in the community. Mileage, training and a small monthly stipend are available. On SSDI? Don't worry, the stipend does not affect your benefits!
- AARP Virtual Trivia volunteer needed to help facilitate Fun & Fulfillment virtual trivia games on Thursday nights. If any AARP volunteers are looking for opportunities to participate in a fun and engaging program on a recurring basis, contact us for more information.

- Volunteers needed for Ogden ReStore. Volunteer at Habitat for Humanity's nonprofit home-improvement thrift store to accept donated items, maintain sales floor, price merchandise, assist customers and operate the register.
- Do you love talking about birds? Or interacting with people in natural spaces? Then being a Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge volunteer might be the position for you! They have different volunteering opportunities.
- If you love animals, you will love volunteering at the Safe Haven Sanctuary. We are in great need of volunteers at our cat sanctuary just west of Brigham City. Volunteering involves doing daily chores for the cats, loving them, scooping litter boxes, watering, feeding, cleaning, etc. We would need you to commit to two or three hours on whatever day you choose; the time of day is flexible, whatever suits your schedule.
- Farr West Senior Center is looking for a Zumba instructor for Wednesday mornings.

- Meals on Wheels of Weber County needs volunteers to assist drivers by running meals from vehicle to door of clients. Must be able to lift 50 pounds and in good physical condition. Must be able to enter and exit the vehicles 40-60 times per route. Outside work (exposure to all weather conditions).
- Are you feeling lonely and 55 years or older? Would you like someone to call you weekly to visit with you? If you would be interested in having someone call you, then contact us.
- Do you know how to use sign language? Fluent in other languages? Hill Aerospace Museum is looking for individuals who can be on call for groups and individuals who need this service while attending the museum.
- Ogden American Legion Post 9 is seeking volunteers for its honor guard. Members perform military funeral honors, flag retirement ceremonies, post colors at events and Eagle Scout court of honors. Training will be provided and assistance is available for uniform purchase.

- The Circles program through OWCAP is looking for community members to volunteer as allies and help community members break the circle of poverty. Allies are community members who want to be in a supportive, befriending relationship with an individual or family enrolled in the Circles program.
- The Heritage Park Care Center in Roy is looking for someone to volunteer once or twice a week for two hours in their thrift shop.
- YCC is looking for volunteers to do yard work around their facility. Hours may vary.
- The American Red Cross is in need of volunteers in your area! We have many positions available, but two of our most needed are blood donor ambassadors and disaster volunteers! Blood donor ambassadors volunteer at blood drives and help to check in the blood donors for their appointments. Disaster volunteers can be boots on the ground in person and respond to disasters big and small or help us in a virtual capacity by being a duty officer or a Recovery Team member.
- Washington Terrace Senior Center is looking for volunteers in the kitchen, Monday-Friday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. They are also looking for a ceramic teacher to work Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m. to noon.
- Brigham City Meals on Wheels is looking for drivers to deliver meals to clients Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Bear River Valley Hospital is looking for volunteers to manage the information desk. They would help with giving directions and wheelchair assistance. Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9 a.m. to noon or Monday and Wednesday noon to 3 p.m.
- Brigham Senior Center is looking for an activities volunteer to teach exercise classes.
- Onstage Ogden is looking for volunteers to help usher at concerts, staff our info and kids craft booths at summer festivals and markets, and set up for our golf tournament. Shifts last three to five hours and most work is outside under a tent, sitting down. Volunteers are recruited via email.
- The Hill AFB Thrift Shop is seeking volunteers for various positions in the shop who are willing to help on either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Please stop by and inquire within if you are interested in any of the Thrift Shop opportunities or contact the shop with any questions.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters are looking for volunteers. For more details, visit their site at bbbsu.org, click on Be a Big, then on drop down click on Get Started. You will need to read and complete each step.
- The Foster Grandparent Program and RSVP Grandparent Programs in Weber, Davis, Morgan and Box Elder counties are looking for individuals 55 years of age or older to volunteer as reading tutors to elementary school children who have fallen behind their class. Volunteers are placed at a school close to home and can serve between two to 20 hours per week. Monthly stipend and mileage reimbursements are available to those who qualify.
- Inspiration Home Health and Hospice is looking for volunteers to be companions with hospice patients.
- A Center for Grieving Children is in need of volunteers. We are a nonprofit organization that works with children, teens and their families who are experiencing loss because of death, divorce or separation. We train all new volunteers. Volunteers needed to work in the office, make lessons for children, and clean.
- Davis County area is in need of Meals on Wheels volunteers — drivers and runners. Monday through Friday, hours may vary based on route; routes are about two hours, 10 a.m. to noon. Volunteer one shift a week or as a sub if you cannot commit to a steady schedule.
- Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is looking for individuals 55 years of age or older to volunteer in local nonprofit organizations such as food banks, shelters, housing complexes, senior centers, wildlife centers, historical museums, schools and more. Mileage reimbursement allowed.
- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) give a child a voice and change their story. Must be over 21 and able to pass a background check.
- The Weber County Sport Shooting Complex is looking for volunteers for the following positions: Range safety office and range reception/cashier. Volunteers need not be certified but must have a basic knowledge of firearms, firearm safety and must take a four-hour class. Individuals must pass a background check and volunteer a minimum of eight hours per month. Training provided.
- Golden Hours is looking for a volunteer to help in its thrift store.

Source: <https://www.standard.net/news/local/2023/jul/15/volunteer-opportunities-available-at-local-organizations/>

## The Asia Foundation Selects William P. Fuller Fellows in Peacebuilding

The Asia Foundation announces the 2023 class of [William P. Fuller Fellows in Peacebuilding](#). The three fellows from Afghanistan, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka are emerging peacebuilding leaders committed to advancing their knowledge and skills.

The evolving complexity of subnational conflicts in the 21st century requires significant investment in an emerging generation of leaders to innovate and drive solutions for peace. The William P. Fuller Fellowship in Peacebuilding is dedicated to the professional development of the next generation of leaders committed to addressing conflict and peacebuilding in Asia and the Pacific. The Foundation's Board of Trustees first established the program in 2004 to honor William P. Fuller's 15-year tenure as president of The Asia Foundation. This tribute reflects the organization's long-standing commitment to the field and Fuller's concern for furthering the professional development of young Asians with the leadership potential and professional commitment to advance their knowledge on managing subnational conflicts.

The 2023 program is the first in-person cohort of the William P. Fuller Fellowship in Peacebuilding. Following a redesign, this revamped program renews the Foundation's commitment to furthering peacebuilding efforts in the Asia-Pacific region by supporting three fellows instead of one individual each year. The small cohort model supports the development of a professional network and close

collaboration, and the new program structure emphasizes network-building between fellows and the global peacebuilding community and works to support and elevate the fellows' development and work.

Each fellow will receive a \$5,000 grant to support their individually tailored projects or advance professional goals. The program year will include extended engagement with the Foundation's Leadership & Exchange programs unit and the



Conflict & Fragility programs. The heart of the program is a 12-day Study Tour and Peacebuilding Exchange in the San Francisco Bay Area, New York, and Washington D.C.

Fuller Fellows are early or mid-career professionals with demonstrated leadership in peacebuilding who actively promote peace through research, advocacy, policymaking, or other realms bridging knowledge and implementation.

### Meet the 2023 Fellows:

**Nan San Nwe (Myanmar)** has

spent the last decade engaging in conflict-sensitive work, protection, and humanitarian interventions. Her research focuses on Conflict Transformation, Conflict Sensitivity, Social Cohesion, peace journalism, and humanitarianism with the Ethnic Nationalities Affairs Center in Chiang Mai, Thailand, which strives to foster sustainable peace within ethnic minority regions of Myanmar. In addition to her work focusing on local governance, gender, and minority rights, Nan San Nwe teaches young people civic education focusing on Peace and Conflict. Her previous roles include serving as a conflict specialist for the UNOPS Access to Health Fund project, a Business and Peace Program coordinator with American Friends Service Committee, a senior protection field officer for the ICRC, and a joint coordinator with the Shan Human Rights Foundation. Her research, practical work, and education efforts emphasize the importance of tackling root causes and taking transformative approaches to achieve sustainable peace. She is a member of the Shan ethnic group.

**Shruthi De Visser (Sri Lanka)** is a peacebuilding and gender researcher and activist with ten years of peacebuilding experience at the grassroots level. She currently heads the Sri Lanka team as project coordinator for Everyday Peace Indicators and manages ongoing research on how reconciliation is defined within local communities. She has worked in government and the nonprofit sector, researching Transitional Justice mechanisms and their relevance to Sri Lanka, peacebuilding, and gender issues. She has studied and advocated

for gender inclusiveness in transitional justice and peacebuilding initiatives in Sri Lanka. In academia, Shruthi has focused her writings on the experiences of the Northern Tamil Women in Sri Lanka within a postwar context.

**Maryam Rayed (Afghanistan)** is a passionate peacebuilder and an advocate for women's empowerment, strongly focusing on bottom-up democracy promotion, power distribution, and peaceful community development. Her expertise lies in supporting grassroots organizations, fostering freedom of speech, and advancing human rights. As the founding director of Afghanistan's Women Think Tank, Rayed leads impactful grassroots research and advocacy efforts, creating a secure platform for women's meaningful participation in political and social spheres within rural Afghanistan. With a robust community mobilization, subnational governance, and peacebuilding background, she has held leadership positions in key government organizations, including the Ministry of Peace and Rural Development, and local governance bodies.

The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives and expanding opportunities across Asia and the Pacific. Informed by decades of experience and deep local expertise, our work across the region is focused on good governance, women's empowerment and gender equality, inclusive economic growth, environment and climate action, and regional and international relations.

## Baghbaan Ambassador Programme

### Enable Dreams through Baghbaan

With the vision to make The Citizens Foundation a household name, so that no child is left behind. TCF Baghbaan program invites individuals to become a part of the TCF family by volunteering to transform the lives of the underprivileged children of Pakistan through raising awareness about the organization and encouraging donors to contribute to the mission. The program will give you an opportunity to meet likeminded, compassionate and altruistic people during this journey and learn the joy of giving back to the society.

Under the Baghbaan program, by only dedicating 2-4 hours of your valuable time per week, you can create such a powerful impact for a brighter and educated Pakistan. Your time and dedication will help TCF in raising awareness about its

Source: <https://www.tcf.org.pk/volunteer-programmes/baghbaan-ambassador-programme/>



### THE CITIZENS FOUNDATION

work and tap into your existing social and professional networks to drive people to donate and significantly transform the lives of these children and their families for years to come. Volunteers form the backbone of the Baghbaan program and we cannot create an impact in these less privileged communities without your support. The program will provide you all the professional fundraising guidelines and trainings to assist you in your journey to make agents of positive change.

The TCF Baghbaan Team welcomes you to be a part of the TCF volunteer family and change the lives of millions of children in Pakistan. We can do this together with you!



# Temperatures off the charts, but more records imminent: WMO

**G**lobal sea surface temperatures reached a record high in May, June, and July – and the warming El Niño weather pattern is only just getting started – experts at the UN World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said on Monday.

Alarm bells have been rung at the UN agency in particular because of an “unprecedented peak” in sea surface temperatures in the North Atlantic.

“The first week of July...could be considered as the warmest period or the warmest week ever recorded”, with a global average temperature close to 17.24 degrees Celsius on 7 July, said Omar Baddour, Chief of Climate Monitoring at [WMO](#).

## Unprecedented is new normal

The WMO expert added that daily June temperatures in the North Atlantic had been “dramatically high” compared to usual readings, while Antarctic sea ice levels reached their lowest extent for June since satellite observations began.

At a shocking 17 per cent below average, this year’s readings broke the June 2022 record by a substantial margin and represented “a really dramatic drop in the sea ice extent in the Antarctica” – some 2.6 million square kilometers of lost sea ice.

Source: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/07/1138512>

Michael Sparrow, Chief of WMO’s World Climate Research Programme, highlighted that “it really is completely unprecedented” seeing this kind of reduction in sea ice around the Antarctic.

“The Antarctic region is normally thought of being relatively stable; it is much colder than the Arctic. We’re used to seeing these big reductions in the sea ice in the Arctic, but not in the Antarctic.”

## A marine heatwave

Beyond Antarctica, the UN agency warned that the “marine heatwave” would also impact fisheries distribution and ocean ecosystems, with knock-on effects on the climate.

It is not only the surface temperature of the water, but the whole ocean is becoming warmer and absorbing energy that will remain there for hundreds of years, explained WMO.

“When you have a tropical cyclone, everything is affected in the shores, including fisheries, but also including inland,” said Mr. Baddour. “With heavy precipitation that could lead to casualties, displacement of populations, and so on. So, if we say

that it is a dramatic change, that also means a dramatic likelihood of extreme weather and climate events.”

## El Niño effect

Just last week, WMO announced the onset of El Niño, characterized by a warming of the Pacific Ocean. Combined with the human-induced greenhouse gas effect, the weather pattern is expected to make one of the next five years the warmest on record.

The WMO officials told journalists in Geneva that “we are in uncharted territory, and we can expect more records to fall as El Niño develops further”, with impacts extending into 2024.

“During an El Niño year, you get higher temperatures in the atmosphere as well because heat is moving from the oceans to the atmosphere,” said Mr. Sparrow.

“We are actually at the beginning of that process, so El Niño hasn’t had as much of an effect as it is going to later in the year. So, we’re seeing these high temperatures in the North Atlantic...despite the fact that El Niño hasn’t really got going yet.”

According to the WMO’s Mr. Baddour, the warmest year is expected to be post-2023, when El Niño is expected to pick up. A record year in 2024 is likely, if the strength of El Niño continues to develop in line with forecasts.

## July 2023 is the hottest month ever recorded in human history

**T**he World Meteorological Organization and the European Commission’s Copernicus Climate

Change Service are releasing official data confirming that July 2023 is the hottest month ever recorded in human history.

We don’t have to wait for the end of the month to know this. Short of a mini-Ice Age over the next days, July 2023 will shatter records across the board.

For the entire planet, it is a disaster.

And for scientists, it is unequivocal – humans are to blame.

Extreme weather is becoming the new normal.

Source: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/undrr/>

All countries must respond and protect their people from the searing heat, fatal floods, storms, droughts, and raging fires that result.

Those countries on the frontlines -- who have done the least to cause the crisis and have the least resources to deal with it -- must have the support they need to do so.

It is time for a global surge in adaptation investment to save millions of lives from climate [carnage.]

That requires unprecedented coordination around the priorities and plans of vulnerable developing countries.

Developed countries must present a clear and credible roadmap to double adaptation finance by 2025 as a first step towards devoting at least half of all climate finance to adaptation.

Every person on earth must be covered by an early warning system by 2027 – by implementing the Action Plan we launched last year.

We can still stop the worst.

But to do so we must turn a year of burning heat into a year of burning ambition.

Excerpts from UN Secretary-General António Guterres’ remarks to the press

ANTÓNIO GUTERRES

United Nations Secretary-General



“

The era of global warming has ended; the era of global boiling has arrived.”



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## UNDP to support African countries with data on credit ratings methodologies

**T**he United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) says it will focus on improving transparency of the credit ratings methodologies to lower costs of borrowing in Africa.

In a webinar, Raymond Gilpin, Chief Economist, Africa Bureau, UNDP, New York, said this in his remarks delivered at the United Nations University on Friday.

The webinar was tagged "Lowering the Cost of Borrowing in Africa", UNDP Policy Recommendation.

According to an analysis by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), \$1.3 trillion dollars will need to be invested in the continent each year to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

However, African countries cannot cover these investments with income from trade and grant aid and the continent is estimated to be short of \$200 billion dollars each year to achieve the SDGs.

Furthermore, the major credit rating agencies determine the creditworthiness of African borrowing

countries, each of which determines the amount of interest a country pays on its debt and the amount of money that flows into the borrowing country.

The three major credit ratings agencies are: FitchRatings, Moody's, and Standard & Poor's.

Gilpin said the agencies were acting with inadequate data on African countries to rate them.

The economist also said the UNDP and its partners would focus on improving transparency of the credit ratings methodologies, so it was clear to the African countries and clearer to investors.

Moreso, he said they would adopt standardised alternative ratings. "This is not to replace the big three credit ratings, because that would not be very wise.

"European countries did something similar when in the wake of the global financial crisis, and a number of European countries were rated poorly because of that effect.

"And the European Commission believed that it was because there was inadequate data and some

opaqueness, so there were requirements that were put to address that to make sure that the ratings reflected actual risks and not just a panic after the financial institutions.

"So that is what we want to do in the African case as well, not create a new institution that is going to replace, but in it be able to complement what there is, so there will be a better picture of what risk actually looks like."

Gilpin said most African countries understood how to deal with multilateral institutions, like the International Monetary Fund, but were not aware of how to deal with credit ratings institutions.

He said most of them did not have the technical expertise or understood the process well.

"We want to support them so that they would be able to be better players in this process, and then, in this context, we believe that much more should be done to support African countries before, during and after the ratings agencies."

The UNDP representative also said the organisation would assist African countries with a data platform that had traditional and non-traditional data sources like the one used by trading economics.

"We also want this data platform to have the methodologies of all the credit ratings agencies, so African countries could see how they are rated, why they are rated, and so on," and make this data platform available to all African countries, development partners, credit ratings agencies, because we want to close the data availability gap.

"This is something we have already started working on."

He also said the UNDP would establish a group of advisors to make available to African countries when the credit ratings process is ongoing.

"In our conversations with some of the credit ratings agencies, they made it clear to us that because of a lack of capacity in African countries, there is not so much constructive feedback to the initial drafts of the ratings, and at times, it takes much longer, and they have a timeline after, I think it is two months, and they have to publish.

"If we are able to support the African countries, then they will be able to do the analysis, and maybe from domestic and other sources, close certain data gaps."

The economist said assisting African countries with data and establishing a group of advisors were the immediate things the UNDP could do for now.

"In that context, lowering the costs of borrowing is a development imperative in Africa," he said.

## Saudi Fund for Development's CEO meets UN delegation

**Manzi given a tour of a photo exhibition highlighting SFD's development projects in underdeveloped countries**



**R**YADH: Sultan bin Abdulrahman Al-Marshad, the CEO of the Saudi Fund for Development, on Sunday met Barbara Manzi, the regional director for Arab states at the UN Development Coordination Office, and her accompanying delegation, in Riyadh, the Saudi Press Agency reported.

The two parties discussed the SFD's operations with international organizations, the role of the DCO in Arab countries, and ways to develop donor-beneficiary ties.

Manzi was given a tour of a photo exhibition at the SFD's headquarters that highlights the fund's most prominent development projects and programs in underdeveloped countries.

The SFD has implemented more than 700 development projects and programs in 88 countries since its operations began in 1975.

Source: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2342831/saudi-arabia>

## Boost global action and ambition to reach SDGs, urges new UN campaign

**The United Nations kicked off a new campaign on Wednesday to turbocharge the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the roadmap for people and planet adopted by world leaders in 2015.**

Ahead of the critical [SDG Summit](#) in September, the campaign will amplify an urgent call for ambitious new action, showcase the Goals as the blueprint for sustainable progress globally, and mobilize people everywhere around this shared agenda for our common future.

### Crisis multiplier

Halfway towards the 2030 deadline, the promise of the SDGs is in danger. For the first time in decades, progress on development has gone into reverse due to the combined impact of climate disasters, conflict, economic downturn, and lingering [COVID-19](#) effects.

The SDG Summit will bring world leaders together at UN Headquarters in New York on 18-19 September to reaffirm their collective commitments to the Goals and the promise to leave no one behind.

It's being billed as a defining moment to urgently put the world back on track to achieving the SDGs.

### Getting everyone on board

One core campaign component is the call for individual action worldwide on the SDGs through the UN's [ActNow](#) initiative.

"We want to get everyone on board for the SDGs", said Nanette Braun, Director of Campaigns in the UN Department for Global Communications. "Our hope is that decision-makers and individual citizens alike will **feel inspired to join the conversation and contribute** to achieving the Goals with **new resolve and ambition.**"

Starting today, in a **major digital activation** across platforms and countries worldwide, the UN campaign aims to re-energize the conversation about the Goals.

### Stellar circle of supporters

A curated group of

high-profile influencers from entertainment, sports and beyond, the [Circle of Supporters](#), will mobilize their social media communities with a combined reach of more than 80 million globally.

Some of the names lending their support are Grammy award winner Ciara, Academy Award winner Michael Douglas, and former captain of the Argentinian national football team, Javier Zanetti.

From advocating for public transport, to fundraising for schools or speaking up for equality, the platform lists steps that everyone can take to accelerate progress on the SDGs and create better lives on a healthier planet for all.

Source: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/07/1138362>

## Global Conference Examines Benefits of Synergistic Action on Climate, SDGs

**T**he UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the UNFCCC Secretariat convened the Fourth Global Conference on Strengthening Synergies between the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda. The Conference assessed progress made against recommendations from the previous conferences. Its outcomes will feed into the SDG Summit in September and the UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP 28) later this year.

According to the Earth Negotiations Bulletin (ENB) summary of the meeting, the Conference featured high-level speakers who underscored the co-benefits of synergistic action.

Opening the Conference, Li Junhua, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, DESA, drew attention to Group of 7 (G7) and Group of 20 (G20) outcomes related to synergies. Simon Stiell, UNFCCC Executive Secretary, noted opportunities presented by the Food Systems Stocktaking Moment, the SDG Summit, and the UN Secretary-General's Climate Ambition Summit.

UN General Assembly (UNGA) President Csaba Kőrösi said disregarding obvious synergies wastes time and money and called for breaking down barriers between policymakers and the scientific community.

A panel discussion on policy options for the way forward, emphasized that synergies between the Paris Agreement on climate change and the SDGs inform the host government's approach to COP 28 and its four priorities: fast-tracking

the energy transition; fixing climate finance; focusing on lives and livelihoods; and inclusivity and stakeholder engagement.

Speakers also highlighted:

- opportunities for Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) to enhance transparency and accountability in government and private sector action;
- the importance of a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach; and
- action at the national and multilateral levels.

Kazuhiko Takeuchi, President, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), reported on progress in implementing the recommendations of the Third Global Synergies Conference. He called for enhanced integrative planning and for forging links between Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), and Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).

Parallel discussions focused on:

- delivering a just transition, including through inclusive decision making and by ensuring all stakeholders are at the table;
- climate action as an avenue for social and economic change, highlighting the need for inclusive processes, bottom-up and sectoral approaches, and early warning systems for disaster avoidance and preparedness; and
- finance and partnerships, including the need to upscale financing mechanisms, leverage existing mechanisms, redefine how banks measure and manage risk, and harness blended and private finance.

The Fourth Global Conference convened on 16 July 2023 in New York, US, as a special event of the 2023 session of the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

Source: <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/global-conference-examines-benefits-of-synergistic-action-on-climate-sdgs/>



# The EU's Voluntary Review reaffirms commitment to delivering the Sustainable Development Goals at home and around the world

The European Union has presented at the United Nations in New York its first **Voluntary Review on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**. The review underlines the EU's unequivocal commitment to the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It provides an overview of how EU internal and external actions are contributing to delivering on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) both within the EU and in partner countries around the world. It takes stock of the progress achieved, reflects on lessons learnt, and considers how to advance the 2030 Agenda further at EU level.

The European Commission is implementing the 2030 Agenda through a 'whole-of-government' approach, integrating the SDGs into all proposals, policies and strategies. Since 2020, the Commission's annual work programmes have put the SDGs at the heart of EU policymaking. They are reflected in particular in flagship initiatives such as the [European Green Deal](#) and [NextGenerationEU](#). These involve large amounts of funding, for example through the Recovery and Resilience Facility to support reforms and investments that concretely contribute to making progress on SDGs. The European Commission has also integrated the SDGs in the European Semester, the EU's framework for economic and fiscal policy coordination.

The EU institutions, national,

regional and local level governments, social partners and civil society all have an important role in delivering the SDGs.

## Delivering on the SDGs in the European Union

According to most recent data from Eurostat, the EU has made progress on delivery across a majority of the SDGs, although this progress has not always been even. The EU has performed best on ensuring decent work and economic growth, reducing poverty and fostering peace, security, and inclusive societies and institutions.



On education and training (SDG 4), the EU has made significant progress in early childhood education, reducing the numbers of early school leavers, promoting apprenticeships schemes in vocational education and training (VET) and increasing tertiary educational attainment.

On decent work for all and economic growth (SDG 8), the EU economy saw strong and continuous growth between 2014 and 2019. Over 14.5 million jobs were created in this period. The positive trend faltered in 2020 because of

the COVID-19 pandemic, but the EU economy, boosted by Europe's recovery plan, bounced back strongly in 2021 and 2022. This was also seen in the labour market, with the EU's employment rate reaching a record high of 74.6%.

To make decisive progress on climate action (SDG 13), the EU has recently agreed on a renewed regulatory and policy framework underpinning a higher climate ambition.

To tackle discrimination (SDG 10 and SDG 16), the Commission has adopted the EU anti-racism action plan, the EU Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion and participation, the LGBTIQ equality strategy, the EU strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life and the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030.

To contribute to the peaceful and inclusive societies (SDG 16), the Commission has set out a new Security Union Strategy which seeks to tackle violence, abuse and trafficking, organised crime and terrorism.

However, external shocks have strained the post-pandemic recovery and progress on sustainable development in the EU and globally. Progress on delivering the SDGs slowed down from 2020 as a consequence of the multiple crises, sometimes leading to a reversal in progress. More progress is needed on many SDGs, in particular on those related to climate action and the protection and

**Eradicating poverty, leaving no one behind and fighting discrimination and inequalities around the world are major priorities for Europe. We are determined to work with all our partners to achieve improvements. The Summit in New York in September must chart a way for a fairer and more sustainable world. We owe this to our future generations.**

**Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission**

sustainable use of natural resources. Accelerating the implementation of the SDGs is more urgent than ever, with a particular focus on persons in vulnerable situations.

## Supporting partners deliver SDGs around the world

Eradicating poverty, tackling discrimination and inequalities, and leaving no one behind are at the centre of the EU's international partnerships. To that end, the EU's external action is targeted in a way that contributes to the SDGs; the EU helps drive growth and sustainable development with its international partners, including through its trade and economic agreements. As the largest single multilateral donor of Official Development Assistance (ODA) in the world, the EU is channelling its financing to those most in need. In 2022, the EU and its Member States provided €92.8 billion in ODA according to the preliminary OECD figures. This accounts for 43% of all ODA provided. To tackle the global food crisis, exacerbated by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the EU and Member States acting together as Team Europe have provided comprehensive response to global

food insecurity by mobilising around €18 billion for 2021-2024, of which €7 billion in grants were disbursed in 2022, half of this for Africa and the Middle East, the most affected regions.

Through its international partnerships, the EU pursues progress towards the SDGs together with EU priorities, such as supporting the twin green and digital transitions. Since December 2021, the EU has been rolling out Global Gateway, its strategy for mobilising sustainable investments in infrastructure and enabling environment in partner countries. Global Gateway will directly contribute to progress on a range of interlinked SDGs, notably through investment in transport, energy and digitalisation infrastructure, as well as health and education. In a Team Europe approach, the EU and its Member States aim to mobilise up to €300 billion by 2027 in public and private investments to bridge the SDG financing gap.

At least 20% of the €79.5 billion budget under the Neighbourhood Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe will contribute until 2027 to human development and the principle of leaving no one behind, targeting people living in the poorest and most vulnerable situations and crisis contexts, notably on health (SDG 3), education (SDG 4), social protection (SDG 1) and gender equality (SDG 5). Education is essential for eradicating poverty and achieving the SDGs. The EU is paying special attention to improving access to quality education and skills training, including for girls, the poorest children and children with disabilities. The share of funding for education will increase from 7% to at least 10% of the EU's international partnerships budget.

To underline the EU's commitment to the SDGs, inclusive

multilateralism and leaving no one behind, Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jutta Urpilainen, made two new funding announcements at the High-level Political Forum today. The EU will contribute €30 million to the Digital transformation Window of the Joint SDG Fund for its implementation phase 2022-2025. In addition, the Commissioner announced funding of €5 million to the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Multi-Partner Trust Fund.

## Lessons learnt and looking ahead

Several valuable lessons learnt provide the basis for renewed

**The EU Voluntary Review presented today highlights how we are integrating the SDGs into our policymaking. This is visible in all major EU initiatives, from the European Green Deal to NextGenerationEU. In spite of the shocks caused by COVID-19 and Russia's brutal war of aggression against Ukraine, the EU has continued to make progress towards the SDGs. We have advanced on ensuring decent work and economic growth; reducing poverty; and fostering peace, security and inclusive societies and institutions. At the same time, we cannot be complacent: we face rising inequalities, the climate emergency is worsening and we need to protect and ensure the sustainable use of natural resources. Our determination to progress decisively towards the SDGs is unwavering.**

**Paolo Gentiloni, Commissioner for Economy**

actions to accelerate the SDGs implementation within the EU and in its international partnerships. Looking ahead:

- the EU renews its commitment to ensure, in line with the revised Better Regulation framework, that its legislative proposals continue to deliver on the SDGs.
- the EU will deploy additional efforts to improve the information on SDGs implementation across all relevant Union programmes.
- the EU will keep on delivering concrete improvements to SDGs monitoring, notably by addressing external spillovers and better integrating SDGs in its main reports.
- the EU will continue to actively integrate the SDGs in the implementation of Global Gateway flagships and sustainable infrastructure investments, while stepping up efforts to mobilise private sector mobilisation in support of the SDGs.
- the EU will make greater effort to address inequalities across its external actions.
- the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions will continue playing a key role as platforms to regularly exchange with stakeholders on SDGs implementation.

## Background

Voluntary reviews on the implementation of the SDGs are the central accountability instrument agreed by all countries in the 2030 Agenda. They aim at facilitating the sharing of success-stories, best practises, and discussions on outstanding challenges, as well as lessons learnt - all with a view of accelerating the implementation of

**In the times on geopolitical turmoil, addressing global challenges requires strong partnerships of equals. Global Gateway embodies this notion. Through Global Gateway flagships, the EU is supporting putting the SDGs back on track in partner countries. The EU Voluntary Review shows that Global Gateway contributes to several SDGs and is facilitating new, sustainable growth benefitting people on planet. I am committed in ensuring that the SDGs are fully integrated in the design of all Global Gateway actions and progress is closely monitored. I recently launched the Inequality Marker, which we will deploy in measuring impact our actions have in inequalities in particular.**

**Jutta Urpilainen,  
Commissioner for  
International Partnerships.**

the 2030 Agenda.

The voluntary reviews form the basis for the regular reviews by the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) under the auspices of United Nations Economic and Social Council. All the 27 EU Member States have submitted national voluntary reviews to the United Nations.

### For more information

[EU's first-ever Voluntary Review on progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda](#)

[Sustainable Development Goals website](#)

[NextGenerationEU](#)

Source: [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_23\\_3801](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_3801)

# Halfway to 2030, world 'nowhere near' reaching Global Goals, UN warns

**The world is "woefully off track" to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the 2030 deadline, top United Nations officials said on Monday, as ministers and policy makers gathered in New York to examine how countries can get back on track and make the transformative development agenda a reality.**

[UN Secretary-General António Guterres said](#) that while ambition, urgency and solidarity have been lacking to overcome the myriad challenges, many countries are now staring into "a financial abyss", strangling the resources needed to realize the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).

"The annual SDG funding gap has risen from \$2.5 trillion before the pandemic to an estimated \$4.2 trillion [...] Governments are drowning in debt - with developing countries facing sky-high borrowing costs. And 52 nations are in default or close to it - with no effective system of debt relief in sight," he said.

## Make 2023 count

Mr. Guterres called on countries to "make 2023 count" and to lay the

foundations now for coordinated efforts to get the SDGs on track, referring to key meetings on food security, climate action, health, and sustainable development later this year.

He urged them to come to the SDG Summit, in September, with clear plans and pledges to strengthen action in their countries to 2030.

"We need ambitious national commitments and interventions to reduce poverty and inequality by 2027 and 2030. And clear policies, investment plans and partnerships to drive progress across major SDG transitions," the UN chief said.

"Above all, we need the SDG Summit to send a clear message from world leaders through a strong political declaration," he added, underscoring the need for civil society, businesses, and others "to throw their weight behind the goals" and strengthen "the global movement to deliver".

## Good news and bad news

Also speaking on Monday, Lachezera Stoeva, President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), [highlighted](#) the importance of innovation, technology, and high-impact

partnerships between governments, civil society, private sector and academia in driving "meaningful change".

"We are halfway to 2030 and yet nowhere near to achieving the SDGs. The bad news is we've lost seven years. The good news is, we still have seven years and victories is within our reach," she said.

Ms. Stoeva also underlined the need to tailor SDG implementation to local conditions and priorities, ensuring local governments and communities take ownership of the Goals, mobilize sufficient financial resources and attract investments.

They must also foster partnerships with a diverse range of stakeholders, including young people.

"Inclusion and participation are keys to successful SDG implementation," she highlighted.

## Keep the promise

For his part, Csaba Kőrösi, President of the General Assembly, [expressed hope](#) that the SDG Summit will result in "supercharging and accelerating" implementation of the SDGs.

"The SDG Summit itself should breathe a new life into the sustainability transformation,"

he highlighted, urging all to be courageous, ambitious and focused on a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable future.

"Let us keep the promise of the 2030 Agenda: the promise we have made to our eight billion stakeholders. Let us transform the world. Let us save the world," he concluded.

## Central global platform for sustainable development

The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development is the central global platform for follow-up and review of the [2030 Agenda](#) and SDGs, the [blueprint adopted in 2015](#) by all 193 United Nations Member States for peace and prosperity for people and the planet.

The HLPF is [convened annually](#) by the Economic and Social Council for about two weeks, including a ministerial segment of three days, to undertake a comprehensive review of select [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#). This year, the Forum reviews SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11 and 17. It also prepares for the [SDG Summit](#), which will be held on 18 and 19 September 2023 in New York.

Source: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/07/1138777>



## Providing Crucial Momentum to Upcoming Summit, Economic and Social Council Remains ‘the Mothership’ for Sustainable Development, Deputy Secretary-General Says

Following are UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed’s remarks at the closing of the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council, in New York today:

The topics and issues on the agenda of the Economic and Social Council are clearly more pertinent and pressing than ever. From financing to technology, from youth to women, and from developing in transition settings to the role of the United Nations development system, the Economic and Social Council remains the United Nations mothership for sustainable development.

Today, we heard all about the many challenges that countries continue to face in advancing the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals). The data is sobering. The Special Edition of the SDG progress report paints a stark picture that progress on the SDGs has stalled on many fronts and even regressed on some targets.

Inequality is persistent, and even rising in many parts of the world. The COVID-19 pandemic painfully exposed the gaps in international cooperation and solidarity – gaps that linger to this day. Meanwhile, tomorrow’s problems are becoming apparent today.

Behind the headlines, people are suffering from hunger, deep poverty, lack of opportunity and insecurity in a world of great uncertainty. Climate change is morphing from a distant threat to a drumbeat of disaster. Uncertainty and climate chaos confront small island developing States

and African countries wracked by intense weather events.

With the smoke from distant Canadian wildfires choking New York City, with heat waves in Greece, Italy and Spain leading to temperatures of over 110 degrees Fahrenheit, the reality of a deeply interlinked world cannot be ignored.

But against the odds, we also see some progress being made, giving us hope for the future and underscoring the importance of focusing on these areas of greatest impact. Individuals, communities, Governments and societies are moving towards a more just, sustainable and prosperous future.



# United Nations

We are seeing the commitment to leaving no one behind and reaching the furthest behind first being turned into concrete policy prescriptions and action

on the ground. The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs have embedded themselves into the mainstream, finding their place in the curricula of schools, in boardroom discussions, and in Cabinet meetings. Local and regional governments, always closest to the people they serve, have wholeheartedly embraced the SDGs.

Young people, too, are in a hurry to make a difference. They will inherit the progress – or lack of progress – we achieve here today. Their engagement in the implementation of the SDGs is not merely a choice; it is an imperative.

The Economic and Social Council Youth Forum brought into intergovernmental discussions the

energy, passion and insights of youth from around the world. However, more needs to be done to integrate their voices and the challenges and opportunities of the new youth office into the work of the United Nations.

The Economic and Social Council and its various functional commissions can help lead the way, and the Secretary-General is committed to supporting this essential effort. At the same time, the operational activities segment of this gathering highlighted the work on the ground of the new generation of resident coordinators. We must continue our efforts to build and adequately resource an agile and responsive resident coordinator system. Only then can it be equipped to help programme countries deal with the multidimensional crises that they each face.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the long and protracted recovery, the United Nations development system continues to work with countries for the long haul. But we must also recognize that today’s global challenges demand a holistic and integrated approach across all that we do, both inside the United Nations and with our partners around the world.

Our success also depends on looking to the long-term impacts of our work. Short-termism and “quick wins” are not sufficient. A truly sustainable future means cultivating a culture that values long-term vision, planning and a commitment to true, lasting transformation. In particular, this requires investing in comprehensive research, robust data analysis that we need, and strategic foresight.

The investments in data collection for the SDGs are beginning to pay dividends. But more can be done, especially by deploying new technologies and strengthening national data ecosystems to overcome barriers and deficits, even in low-resource environments. By embracing evidence-based policymaking and robust planning frameworks, we can navigate the challenges of today while we try to safeguard the needs and interests of future generations.

The SDG Summit is fast approaching. The Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions have provided crucial momentum in the preparation for the Summit. Equally, there will be a critical role to play in the follow-

up process after the Summit to accelerate momentum on SDG implementation as we head towards 2030.

An ambitious draft of the political declaration is nearing the finish line. Member States are moving the needle on critical topics, especially financing for the SDGs. This is progress but it is not enough.

The SDG Summit and related development meetings of the high-level week must also be a rallying point for action and a pivot towards the transformation that we need. The Secretary-General has called on Member States to come to the Summit with commitments for national SDG transformation.

The Summit must help build durable bridges between the work we do here and the thinkers, innovators, and doers – and the public – beyond these walls. The United Nations system has prepared a set of 12 high impact initiatives that showcase transitions across six areas and five means of implementation that are critical to achieving the SDGs. We are inviting Member States and other interested actors to join and help move the needle in these areas, which are not new to any of us.

As this high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council draws to a close, let us draw on the lessons and ideas exchanged, with renewed focus on implementation. It was deeply encouraging these past two weeks to see 39 countries join the ranks of those presenting reviews of their efforts to advance the SDGs and to see the European Union present its own voluntary reviews – a hallmark of its abiding commitment to the 2030 Agenda.

It was equally encouraging to see the business sector and other communities coming together and to see civil society and youth in these halls once again – full of the commitment, energy and determination upon which SDG success depends.

I hope that we can move forward from here with conviction – to secure the breakthroughs needed during this critical year to deliver a better, more sustainable future that every person, everywhere, needs and deserves. And let’s give our leaders the clear and unambiguous expectations that we have of them and solutions they will need to deliver on the promises of the 2030 Agenda.

Source: <https://press.un.org/en/2023/dsgsm1860.doc.htm>



# Big science' can achieve SDGs, says global science council

The influential Paris-based International Science Council has called for a 'big science' approach to speed up unacceptably sluggish progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. "There is an urgency to act," it said at the United Nations high-level forum on sustainable development, held in New York this week.

The Council proposes that a 'big science' approach should be applied widely and locally for rapid effect – especially in the Global South – and should be accompanied by a new funding model that surpasses current national science funding systems, in a new report

titled *Flipping the Science Model: A roadmap to science missions for sustainability*.

"A global collective investment of US\$1 billion per annum, which is not even 1% of global annual R&D investment, would significantly accelerate the progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda," the report stated.

The report was produced by a global commission of the International Science Council (ISC), chaired by Helen Clark, former prime minister of New Zealand, and former director-general of UNESCO Irina Bokova. [The Council](#) is an international NGO that unites

scientific bodies across the social and natural sciences.

With seven years to go for UN Agenda 2030, only 12% of the SDGs are on track. Progress is weak for half of the goals, and the world has stalled or gone into reverse on more than 30% of the SDGs, says the UN.

"Progress on the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda is unacceptably slow. There are many political, policy and framing reasons why this is the case, but it is also clear that science could play a much stronger role," write Clark and Bokova in the preface of [the report](#).

The Council calls new approaches to practicing science a 'mission

science for sustainability': "Solutions-focused, time-bound, substantial at scale, and ambitious in the intended impact, this approach emphasises the need for science to directly engage with society, policy-makers, civil society, funders, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders – with the aim to co-design and co-implement interventions leading to urgent action locally and globally."

## Ramp up science investment – UN

An official endorsement of the report comes, in the forward, from Ambassador Csaba Krösi, current president of the UN General Assembly, who welcomed it and said he looked forward to seeing Council missions deliver solutions on the ground.

A similar call to that of the ISC was issued by Maria-Francesca Spatolisano, assistant secretary-general for policy coordination and inter-agency affairs in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

To speed up delivery of the SDGs, investment in science and technology must be ramped up, along with knowledge transfers from North to South and through South-South collaboration, she said in her opening remarks at the [UN Higher Education Sustainability Initiative Global Forum](#) on 17 July.

As did the Council, it held a side event at the [UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2023](#), convened from 10 to 19 July to support the mid-term review of the SDGs and the 2023 SDG Summit in September.

Progress towards the SDGs has been uneven, but recent multiple and closely interlinked crises – including the COVID-19 pandemic, intensifying climate change, biodiversity crisis,

growing inequalities, ongoing conflicts and civil unrest – "have left us unquestionably off track in achieving these goals", Spatolisano said.

"With only seven years left to make the SDG a reality, making good use of scientific knowledge, technology and innovation is essential." In particular, sustainability science is needed that draws on all scientific disciplines, including the social sciences and humanities, in a problem solving approach, continued Spatolisano.

Far greater investment from the scientific and engineering communities, governments and other funding bodies was needed, "including to bridge the highly uneven global distribution of scientific capacity and access to knowledge.

"It is alarming that over 60% of total scientific literature and most research and development are carried out in high income countries," she said. Much more knowledge transfer is needed so that every country has the science and technology to respond to its needs and priorities.

## Flipping the Science Model

Sir Peter Gluckman, an internationally recognised biomedical scientist from New Zealand and president of the International Science Council, said disappointing progress on the SDGs could not be excused by COVID-19 and conflict.

"There is a manifest gap between words and action," he said in an 18 July [media release](#) from the University of Auckland, where he heads Koi T: The Centre for Informed Futures.

"There is a large gap between technical risk assessments and how

policy-makers and politicians react. We have seen this in almost every aspect of the Agenda – from climate change to issues in mental health. We need to close that gap."

Clark and Bokova write in *Flipping the Science Model* that the ISC previously explored why science does not make a greater contribution, through a wide consultative process and in a report, *Unleashing Science*. "The Council highlighted the need for new ways of doing science, making the knowledge actionable, less siloed and truly engaged with stakeholders."

Subsequent recognition within the science community of the need for structural changes to make science more actionable, prompted the ISC to establish the Global Commission on Science Missions for Sustainability in 2021, that Clark and Bokova chair.

The commission concurred with *Unleashing Science* on the "necessity and urgency to develop a new funding approach. This approach should encompass both transnational and national efforts to support actionable and engaged research that surpasses the limitations of the predominantly national-based funding models currently in place", they write.

"Further, unless funders accept the need to transform their funding instruments to promote transdisciplinary stakeholder-engaged research, science will continue to be under-exploited in addressing the challenges of the 2030 Agenda."

According to Clark and Bokova, the commission sought practical solutions. It identified "a long-term need for a global transdisciplinary research process that properly brings communities, policy-makers and science together and across the global divides".

Recognising the need for immediate action, the commission also proposes pilot activities to demonstrate the value and need for a 'big science' approach, taken locally for effect.

"Just as the global community has used 'big science' approaches to build infrastructure like CERN and the Square Kilometer Array, a similar mindset should be applied, particularly in the Global South, to address sustainable development challenges."

### The Council's key messages

Flipping the Science Model offers 10 key messages. The first is to fund and undertake science for the SDGs differently.

Secondly: "This requires an additional mechanism beyond the traditional science model, which is predominantly characterised by intense competition, an absence of trustful relationships with stakeholders, and siloed science funding. We propose a model that encourages science to cater directly to societal needs," the report says.

"This can be achieved by co-creating actionable knowledge and finding solutions tailored to the intricate sustainability issues identified by both local and global stakeholders. The commission advocates for the co-design of research and action to be the standard practice in sustainability science. This approach requires an inclusive collaboration among a wide array of stakeholders, making it the new norm."

Thirdly, the new mechanism is mission-led science. Though it is urgently needed, sustainability science must be "strongly anchored in advancing novel theories, methods, and fundamental new concepts". This would demand

continued investments in basic sciences, both as disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches and with a focus on practical outcomes.

Fourth, the commission calls for "a new model for scaling up investment in science to strongly and sustainably support transdisciplinary and engaged mission science for sustainability, with the potential to drive inclusive, intergenerational well-being of both people and our planetary life support systems".

Having supported big science approaches in basic science and infrastructure, it was time for the global community to invest in human infrastructure. Here, it proposes a global collective investment of US\$1 billion per annum.

Fifth, international financial institutions and philanthropic science funders are urged to redesign how they interact with the science sector and civil society, to mobilise mission science around creative solutions. Sixth, it invites UN organisations and donor funders "to support and mainstream mission and transdisciplinary science as an ambitious but pragmatic framework for action".

Seventh, the commission calls for countries and the multilateral system to develop processes to accelerate the uptake of actionable knowledge to inform policy and its integration into decision-making.

The eighth message proposes that new forms of science could be achieved through "a network of Regional Sustainability Hubs that will be able to identify and tackle these challenges with urgency and at scale". With enough funding and time, the hubs would ensure that sustainability science "fit-for-purpose, inclusive and results-driven".

Message nine recommends the "urgent support of pilot projects to demonstrate the validity and effectiveness of this new paradigm for global science", while the final message says the commission's proposals should "be seen as an evolution of basic and applied research using traditional modalities, responding to the critical need for a new, currently unrecognised and largely unfunded modality of producing actionable knowledge".

### Not a threat to traditional science

Gluckman, stressed that a different way of doing science needs its own institutional arrangements, in the University of Auckland statement.

"This is not at the expense of traditional science, which is needed. But we need actionable knowledge applied now and this requires a very different way of funding and doing science."

He says that while science is a global activity, most science is funded at the national level and less than 2% of the global research budget goes to transnational activity.

"The global community can find billions for a 'big science' approach to build telescopes. Why can it not find a billion to fund the kind of research and properly engage communities and stakeholders that is desperately needed to address complex, wicked problems?" he asks.

"The world must use science more wisely and create systems to do so, or else the ambitions of 2015 will increasingly be replaced with despair. Working with science can shift us towards a more optimistic future," Gluckman says.

## Pakistan leads way in embracing SDGs as development agenda, UN told

**UNITED NATIONS:** Pakistan's Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Zahid Durrani, delivered a speech at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), a UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) event, showcasing the country's significant progress in integrating sustainable development into its national policies and aligning legislative agendas with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Durrani emphasized Pakistan's commitment to Agenda 2030 for SDGs and the relentless efforts to strengthen parliamentary institutions.

Durrani highlighted that parliaments play a crucial role in representing the aspirations of the people and are essential for legislative, oversight, and policy review functions for the state.

Pakistan stands as a pioneer, having adopted the SDGs as its national development agenda in 2016 through a resolution passed by the National Assembly. To ensure effective implementation, the country has established a Parliamentary Task Force responsible for strategizing, legislating, and overseeing SDG efforts.

The progress towards SDGs is meticulously monitored by 20 sub-groups formed within the Parliament.

During the session focused on SDG 6, which aims to ensure access to water and sanitation for all, National Assembly member Shazia Marri emphasized the global water crisis.



Marri pointed out that 2 billion people worldwide lack safely managed drinking water, and 3.6 billion people lack safely managed sanitation.

Pakistan, being one of the most water-stressed countries, is heavily reliant on the Indus River and its tributaries for its food and agriculture production, making the implementation of the Indus Waters Treaty vital. She mentioned the 'Living Indus' project, aimed at rehabilitating the Indus irrigation system and aquifers, and the establishment of a Standing Committee on Water Resources to oversee the project.

In another session focused on 'Beyond GDP: Measuring and Valuing What Matters to People and the Planet,' Senator Quratulain Marri addressed the limitations of GDP as the sole measure of a nation's economy and overall wealth.

She stressed the need to consider additional factors, such as income distribution, environmental impact, and social protection, when evaluating a nation's progress on sustainable development. She supported the UN Secretary-General's call for developing measures that complement or go beyond GDP to refine the definition of development.

Pakistan's commitment to sustainable development and its efforts in incorporating the SDGs into its policies and legislative framework were well-received during the UN forum.

The country's dedication to addressing crucial challenges, including water scarcity, underscores the importance of global collaboration and innovative approaches to achieving the SDGs by 2030.

# Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): the EU's progress report

On 19 July, the European Union (EU) will present its [Voluntary Review](#) to the United Nations in New York, alongside the reviews of 38 other countries. This [document](#) provides an update on the EU's "moderate" progress, despite several strong points.

The EU reiterates that "all of its actions and policies contribute to the implementation of the SDGs." The ["European Green Deal"](#), adopted in 2020 with the aim of making the continent climate-neutral by 2050, is **linked to 12 of the 17 SDGs**.

What the EU presents as its "added value" is also tied into its efforts to finance sustainable development elsewhere in the world, as well as its external actions in favor of multilateralism, human rights, and sustainable development, in partnership with the UN and other stakeholders. The EU distinguishes itself as the **world's leading source of public climate finance**, with a contribution of EUR 23 billion in 2021, out of the EUR 84 billion per year promised in 2015 by developed countries to developing countries under the Paris Climate Agreement.

## Moderate progress

Within European borders, the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, rising inequalities, climate change, and increased levels of environmental degradation act as brakes on progress toward the SDGs. "While the EU has made progress on a broad majority of the SDGs, this **progress has not always been equal**," the review notes. "Progress is needed, particularly on the SDGs related to the **protection and sustainable use of natural resources**."

The report indicates "**moderate progress** on SDG 2 on sustainable agriculture, SDG 6 on water, SDG 7 on energy, SDG 11 on sustainable cities, SDG 12 on consumption and production, and SDG 14 on the oceans. Additional advances are expected in the coming years on SDG 13, which relates to climate action, and SDG 15 on terrestrial biodiversity."

## Positive trends: poverty, renewable energy, employment

Several positive trends are highlighted in the review. SDG 1 on **eradicating poverty is on track to be achieved by the EU in 2030**, if the declines recorded in recent years continue. The proportion of the European population at risk of poverty or social exclusion has decreased from 24% to 21.7% between 2015 and 2021 – that is, 95.4 million people in 2021, compared to 105 million in 2015.

The share of **renewable energies** in energy consumption (SDG 7), which increased from 17.5% to 21.8% between 2015 and 2021, is **expected to exceed the target of 32% set for 2030**. European legislators have raised it, setting new targets at 42.5% by the same deadline.

**The target of SDG 8 on employment, 78% of the working-age population (20-64 years) is expected to be achieved.** This rate has increased from 68.5% to 74.6% between 2015 and 2022. Other EU strengths, well known, are confirmed by the review. Access to drinking water is nearly universal, the region is ranked by Transparency International among the least corrupt in the world, while

high-speed Internet covers more than two-thirds of households, compared to a quarter in 2016.

## Mixed results on household waste and biodiversity

There are more ambivalent outcomes with SDG 11 on sustainable cities: instead of a reduction, the **EU has seen household waste treated by municipalities increase by 25 kg per year per inhabitant** since 2015 (for an average of 505 kg of waste per year per inhabitant in 2020). Despite this increase, significant progress is being made in recycling waste, which has increased from 27.3% in 2000 to 49.6% in 2021, with a target of 60% by 2030.

Progress and setbacks also mark environmental defense. Protected areas have increased from 19.7% to 26.4% of the EU's land area between 2015 and 2021 – an increase that reflects above all better statistical data, the review specifies. The target of 30% of the land surface devoted to protected areas, set by SDG 15 on "life on land", should be achieved in 2030. **Losses in biodiversity nevertheless persist**, particularly among pollinating insects. One in three species of bees and butterflies is in decline, and one in ten is threatened with extinction.

## Among the weak points, organic farming and mental health

Among the points for improvement, the review paints a clear picture. The **EU has seen the areas devoted to organic farming increase by 55.6%** between 2012

and 2020. They **now correspond to 9.1% of arable land** – compared to a target of 25% set by SDG 2 on eradicating hunger, food security, and sustainable agriculture.

In terms of health and well-being (SDG 3), the EU remains confronted with serious challenges, as **one in six Europeans is affected by mental health problems**, with a supply of care lower than the demand.

necessary to reach the target of an equal employment rate of 78% for both men and women in 2030. The **participation of women in the digital transformation remains low: they represent only 19% of the workforce in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)**, against a target of 50% in 2030 which seems out of reach, as only one in three graduates in science, technology, engineering, and

mathematics is a woman. "This can affect the way computer

solutions are designed and deployed," says the EU's review.

The targets set for **rail transport** by SDG 9 (industry, innovation, infrastructure) are on track to be achieved for passenger traffic on the high-speed network, but not for **freight traffic**. The amount of freight moved by train has only increased by 2.4% between 2015 and 2019, while the EU would like to see it double by 2050.

This presentation will inform the discussions of the next [SDG Summit](#), which will take place on 18 and 19 September in New York, as well as the [Summit of the Future](#) in 2024.

Source: <https://unric.org/en/sustainable-development-goals-sdgs-the-eus-progress-report/>



Episodes of depression among young people more than doubled in 2022, and nearly half of young people have problems accessing mental health care.

## Too few women in ICT and too little freight in trains

The **share of women in the labor market** continues to increase (69.4% of women aged 20-64, compared to 80% of men), in line with SDG 5 on gender equality. A greater effort will nevertheless be



## A strong outcome at COP28 Is Crucial for Climate Action and the SDGs

**U**N Climate Change News, 17 July 2023 - Ministers and high-level representatives from government, business and civil society from 140 countries pushed for integrated and accelerated action on climate and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at a key event in New York City on Sunday.

Delegates met for the Fourth Global Conference on Strengthening Synergies Between the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The conference was co-convened by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and UN Climate Change, as a special event of the 2023 UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

Warning that the prospects for achieving every one of the 17 SDGs are impacted by climate change, UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell said in his opening remarks:

“This must be the year we course-correct. A strong outcome at COP 28 will support both climate action and the sustainability agenda.”

“Finance is key for both agendas. Delivering the longstanding goal of 100 billion dollars of climate finance a year would support sustainable development and climate action,” he added.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) aligning climate and SDG actions can yield long-term co-benefits including a gain of 43 trillion dollars in economic output by 2070.

In his welcoming remarks, Li Junhua, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, outlined the enormous challenges the world faces.

He noted that halfway to the deadline for the 2030 Agenda, only 12 percent of the SDG targets are on track. This is compounded by the fact that the climate crisis is worsening, as emissions continue to rise with catastrophic impacts, including heat waves, droughts, flooding and wildfires.

Speaking on behalf of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Mr. Li urged a Rescue Plan for People and Planet, and called for “unprecedented ambition and action,” including an SDG Stimulus of at least USD 500 billion per year to be mobilized between now and 2030.

“Maximizing synergies between climate action and the SDGs has never been more critical,” he said.

### Dialogue and Recommendations

A number of participants noted that political momentum is building for integrated solutions to the climate and SDGs crises, and that both the G7 and G20 had recently recognized the importance of pursuing these synergies.

Engagement by many stakeholders is also growing, with more dialogues being held in connection with Regional Climate Weeks and other climate and SDG processes.

Others noted that, while awareness is growing, this has not yet translated into synergistic action on the ground, and that there was a need to break down the silos among those who work on climate and SDG issues.

The Conference recommended the following actions to keep driving the “win-win” integration and acceleration of these two key agendas:

- **Renew leadership and political commitment** to speed up action on both the SDGs and Paris Agreement goals, using upcoming milestones such as the SDG Summit, the Climate Ambition Summit, and the first global stocktake under the Paris Agreement;
- **Continue deepening the evidence base** and analytical work related to synergies and trade-offs across sectors, building on the report being prepared by the Expert Group, to be launched in September 2023;
- **Ensure integration of just transitions** in countries’

national climate plans and development strategies;

- **Take into account social equity** and the empowerment of vulnerable groups in prioritizing financial and technical support to enable just transitions;
- **Strengthen multi-stakeholder cooperation** and dialogue at all levels, including through this annual conference on synergies as well as UNFCCC Regional Climate Weeks; and
- **Leverage the full range of intergovernmental processes** on SDGs and climate to enhance integrated approaches and synergistic action.

### More information about the conference

The Fourth Global Conference on Strengthening Synergies Between the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development had a thematic focus on Delivering a just transition through climate and SDG synergies.

The Conference heard preliminary reflections from an Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergies which was launched in response to the critical need to deepen the evidence-base on this topic, on the recommendation of the third global synergies conference in Tokyo, 2022.

The Group, composed of fourteen experts from diverse backgrounds, is expected to launch its report in September 2023.

The full summary of outcomes, statements, videos and other documentation can be found on the [Conference website](#).

Source: <https://unfccc.int/news/a-strong-outcome-at-cop28-is-crucial-for-climate-action-and-the-sdgs>

## First head of Social Work Department appointed

**W**u Hansheng has become the first head of the Social Work Department of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, a news report showed.

The new department under the Communist Party of China Central Committee was unveiled in March. It is tasked with leading work in fields such as promoting voluntary services, training social workers, responding to public complaints, managing industrial associations and administrating grassroots communities.

The Legal Daily reported on Friday that as the head of the department, Wu hosted the closing session of a seminar held for provincial and minister-level officials on works to handle public complaints.

Wu, 60, became the deputy Party secretary of the State Organs Works Committee of the CPC Central Committee who is in charge of routine duties in 2022.

In 2020, he was appointed as the leader of discipline inspection and supervision team sent by CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection and the National Supervisory Commission to the Organization Department of the CPC Central Committee.

He was also the former Party chief of Yingkou city, Liaoning province and head of the Organization Department of the CPC Shanxi Provincial Committee.

Source: <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202307/08/WS64a916c5a310bf8a75d6e033.html>

## UAE Delegation and NYC Mayor explore joint collaboration opportunities to advance UN SDGs

During the meeting, which was held at the Central New York City Hall, the UAE delegation showcased its extensive experience in community enablement initiatives

**O**n the sidelines of the United Nations High-Level Political Forum (UN HLPF) on Sustainable Development, convened by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the UAE government delegation engaged in a productive discussion with New York City Mayor Eric Adams. The main focus of the meeting was to explore opportunities for joint collaboration and the exchange of expertise in the field of sustainable cities and community enablement, with the aim of accelerating the achievement of UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

During the meeting, which was held at the Central New York City Hall, the UAE delegation showcased its extensive experience in community enablement initiatives, which has made a significant cross-border development impact. Additionally, they emphasized their involvement in large-scale sustainable development projects in developing countries, alongside experience exchange programs focusing on best government practices with a special consideration for future generations.

The UAE delegation presented their comprehensive approach to achieving the UN SDGs 2030, both at the local and global levels. They provided a comprehensive overview of the impactful projects implemented by the Mohammed



Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives across more than 100 countries. Additionally, the delegation highlighted the significant contributions of the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, which has been providing financing aid and soft loan-based development programs since 1971, with a particular focus on supporting climate-vulnerable communities.

Moreover, the UAE representatives shared the remarkable milestones of the Government Experience Exchange Program, which was initiated by the UAE government in 2018. This program has played a pivotal role in providing over 30 million hours of work and training, demonstrating the UAE's commitment to fostering sustainable development and empowering communities through practical initiatives.

The former state senator gained insights into the UAE's exemplary model of cooperation, innovation, and ongoing development across

various sectors such as policies, legislation, infrastructure, services, and government plans, all geared towards a sustainable future. The UAE delegation provided a thorough explanation of their mechanisms for activating SDG17, which centers on fostering partnerships and sharing the UAE's successful models with other nations.

During the meeting, Mayor Adams provided a comprehensive briefing on his initiatives to promote economic growth in New York City, as well as outlined his strategies for enhancing safety and public health within the city, highlighting the importance of laying strong foundations for a resilient future.

The UAE delegation extended a cordial invitation to NYC Mayor Eric Adams to attend several major international events organized by the UAE, including the highly anticipated World Government Summit.

## Qatar's financial assistance reinforces progress on SDGs

Doha, Qatar: Qatar's commitment to sustainable development is poised to advance progress on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) both domestically and internationally.

In an exclusive interview with The Peninsula, Sheba George, Youth Ambassador to the Youth Assembly at the United Nations (UN) said "Qatar is actively spearheading sustainable development efforts, both domestically and globally," adding that Qatar's National Vision 2030 plan will bolster the country's economy into a knowledge-based one with a strong emphasis on sustainable development.

George highlighted Qatar's commitment to the SDGs by noting several of the country's cross-sectoral initiatives in sustainable development.

Regarding energy, she stated, "As a major natural gas and oil producer, Qatar recognises the importance of shifting towards renewable energy sources and has developed an ambitious Energy Transition Plan to increase the share of its renewable energy by 2030, thereby contributing to SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and SDG 13 (Climate Action)."

The UN Youth Ambassador underscored Qatar's efforts as a coastal nation to enhance the protection of marine ecosystems, stating "Qatar has undertaken innovative legislative and monitoring measures to tackle pollution and preserve marine areas, in alignment with SDG 14 (Life Below Water)." With regards to SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), she noted that Qatar has achieved remarkable levels of health and security measures domestically.

The official stressed that Qatar also supports the advancement of SDGs globally through its role as a donor government. Remarking the country's provision of Official Development Assistance (ODA), George stated "Qatar provides significant volumes of ODA financing for socio-economic development in low- and middle-income countries."

Drawing attention to Qatar's financial support of global development efforts, George outlined that Qatar's ODA has steadily increased in the past years, reaching up to \$820m (QR2.9bn) in 2022.

She also commended Qatar's notable efforts in enabling humanitarian response and the provision of essential services to people affected by humanitarian crises,

particularly in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

Looking ahead at her role as a Youth Ambassador at the 28th Youth Assembly session, which will be held in mid-August at the UN head quarters in New York, George discussed the role of youth in supporting the advancement of the SDGs.

"Youth have undeniably emerged as a major force for sustainable development. Around the world, youth's impassioned calls for justice, their creative solutions for change, and their valiant confrontations of inequality have been instrumental in driving progress on the SDGs. Moreover, with a staggering population of 1.8 billion individuals, today's youth, who represent the largest youth generation in history, have an unparalleled opportunity to shape the trajectory of the world," she said. However, the official notes that youth constantly grapples in having their voices heard, opinions valued, and presence acknowledged. She stated that "At the forefront of challenges is the prevailing skepticism about youth's impact. Youth voices are often dismissed as mere echoes of inexperience and ignored in the corridors of power." She also accentuated that the current lack of strong institutional and financial support can prevent "meaningful youth participation" in sustainable development efforts.

The Youth Ambassador stressed that world leaders must come forward to remove systematic barriers to youth engagement. She underscored the critical role that governments can play in promoting youth engagement in decision-making processes, facilitating youth involvement in public and private sectors, and supporting youth-led initiatives.

George expounded that "As the world struggles with complex global issues, it is imperative to nurture the potential of determined young changemakers and bring all hands on board to support global development efforts."

According to a recent report by the Planning and Statistics Authority (PSA), Qatar has achieved a milestone of 82 percent of the 2030 SDG indicators, reflecting the country's steadfast commitment to the UN SDGs.



Source: <https://www.zawya.com/en/economy/gcc/uae-delegation-and-nyc-mayor-explore-joint-collaboration-opportunities-to-advance-un-sdgs-rderoaeq>

Source: <https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/23/07/2023/qatars-financial-assistance-reinforces-progress-on-sdgs>

# Poverty eradication key to achieving SDGs

The “International Conference on China and the World: Towards Building a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind” was held in Beijing on July 5. Scholars from home and abroad exchanged their views on issues of poverty eradication and South-South cooperation at a symposium.

Wei Houkai, director of the Rural Development Institute at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said that China had formulated two Outlines of poverty alleviation and development in China’s rural areas in 2001 and 2011, rolled out the targeted poverty alleviation strategy in 2013, and put forward in 2015 to win the battle against poverty. By the end of 2020, the rural poor population below China’s current poverty line had been lifted out of poverty.

He noted the two bottom lines for the Chinese government to comprehensively promote rural

vitalization, one is to ensure food security and the other is to prevent large-scale relapse into poverty.

“With a good start, the rural revitalization strategy successfully completed the tasks of the first phase from 2018 to 2022,” he said.

Nie Fengying, vice director of the Agriculture Information Institute at Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, said that China has met the poverty eradication target of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ten years ahead of schedule, while contributing 70 percent of the global poverty reduction.

China’s successful practice in eliminating extreme poverty has offered important references and experience for the world, especially for the Global South.

Muhammad Asif Noor, director of Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies in Pakistan, said that China’s

commitment to poverty eradication is reflected in all aspects of its policies, with the well-being and social security of the people at the center, including social assistance programs; health care reform; and efforts to improve access to housing, clean water, and sanitation.

Charles Onunaiju, director of the Center for China Studies in Nigeria, pointed out that the policy also needs to mobilize social and economic resources, and to involve individuals in this cause.

“China once had a large scale of poverty population, but these people were actively mobilized and took the initiative to get rid of poverty. Africa should learn from China in this regard,” he added.

Source: <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202307/08/WS64a94d71a310bf8a75d6e058.html>



# Pakistan to achieve SDGs at all costs: PM’s aide

**RAWALPINDI:** Convener for the Parliamentary Task Force on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Special Assistant to Prime Minister Romina Khurshid Alam said Pakistan’s commitment to achieve the SDGs will be fulfilled at all costs.

She said the SDGs secretariat will take lead in learning from China to address multiple challenges being faced by Pakistan, especially poverty alleviation, economic development and climate change events.

She was speaking at the launch of the ‘Understanding China Fellowship Programme’ under the auspices of Asian Institute of Eco-civilisation Research and Development (AIERD) in collaboration with Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University here on Friday.

She pledged that the government was playing its role to cement Pakistan-China ties and the current parliament was focusing on how to gear up industrial development in the country which was linked to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

She said the government was taking confidence-building measures, therefore, the concept of building a China-Pakistan community of shared destiny had once again echoed in both the countries.

Zahid Latif, Chairman AIERD, said it will continue to strengthen relations between China and Pakistan through introducing academic programmes like

‘Understanding China Fellowship’ for the youth especially students of higher learning institutions.

Dr Azam Khan, a professor at the university, talked about the salient features of the programme and said the participants of the programme will be imparted education and training on Chinese model of growth and development, and the current Chinese leaderships’ concept of shared democracy.

He hoped that after learning through national and international scholars, the participants of the programme will suggest a way forward to our policymakers on how to achieve the path of development and sustainability in these crucial and sensitive times.

Shakeel Ahmed Ramay, Chief Executive Officer AIERD, said to make relationship between China and Pakistan fruitful and sustainable, it was necessary to instill the spirit of brotherhood and friendship in the next generation and this programme was a first step in this regard.

He said under the programme Pakistani youth will be made aware of how China had developed its economy, agriculture technology, industry, trade, infrastructure from scratch after Green Revolution in 1949.

He said the programme will acquaint the participants with the Chinese success stories and how Pakistan can benefit from it.

Source: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1764744/pakistan-to-achieve-sdgs-at-all-costs-pms-aide>



## Fatmata Jalloh

Fatmata lives with her husband and 5 children in Rowal Village, in the Kaffu Bulum Chiefdom of northern Sierra Leone. During the pandemic, she and her husband couldn’t physically get to their farm due to lockdown. Her children couldn’t go to school to benefit from its feeding programme. With nothing to eat, she and her family were forced to eat the seeds they had set aside for the 2021 planting season.

Luckily, Fatmata and her village received assistance from IFAD and our COVID recovery fund, which aims to help vulnerable farmers – and women in particular – bounce back from the pandemic. Now Fatmata’s farm is doing great – and what’s more, she was elected chairperson of the women farmers’ group she helped create

©IFAD/Fatmata Jalloh

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/100064441732395/posts/pfbid0ZLfv4c7o5DoJNYNVLwZnP7JQxtZhBSeEd9V2ynwE3wF7Gd4wYxswTuifmiYKdBl/?mibextid=Nif5oz>

# HLPF 2023 Reviews SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11, and 17, Begins Discussion of VNRs

The first week of the 2023 session of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) included reviews of progress on the five Goals undergoing in-depth review this year, as well as consideration of the interlinkages with other SDGs. Countries also began presentations of their voluntary national reviews (VNRs). A townhall discussion was held on 10 July on overcoming the crises the world currently faces, driving transformation for the SDGs, and leaving no one behind.

Among other inputs, the special edition of the UN Secretary-General's report titled, '[Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Towards](#)

[a Rescue Plan for People and Planet](#),' and the [Global Sustainable Development Report \(GSDR\) 2023](#) informed the discussions.

During week one, thematic sessions focused on locally-driven transformation, considered stakeholder perspectives, and discussed challenges specific to small island developing States (SIDS) and middle-income countries (MICs), as well as to African countries, least developed countries (LDCs), and landlocked developing countries (LLDCs).

The Report on the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP) [was also introduced](#).

On 10 July, [governments focused on](#) SDG 17 (partnerships for the Goals), which is reviewed every year. Delegates discussed financing crisis response and investing in the SDGs, and the role of science, technology, and innovation (STI) in triggering transformation and sustaining a science-driven recovery.

On finance, Jason Rosario Braganza, African Forum and Network on Debt and Development, highlighted rising public debt and increasing poverty "because debt servicing is prioritized above addressing crises or improving socioeconomic conditions." Country representatives discussed, among other issues, the need for reform of multilateral financial institutions (MFIs), ways to secure additional pledges beyond

the USD 100 million climate finance target; and the need for new ideas on how to stem "financial leakages."

With respect to STI, delegates considered messages from the 2023 Multistakeholder Forum on Science, Technology, and Innovation ([STI Forum](#)). They called for, inter alia: STI for SDGs roadmaps; efforts to counter science skepticism; the reorganization of STI infrastructure around major societal challenges; and the possible contribution of nuclear power and neutron fusion energy to net-zero transitions.

On 11 July, SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation) [underwent in-depth review](#). Jaap Sloopmaker, Vice Minister, Infrastructure and Water Management, the Netherlands, reported the UN 2023 Water Conference produced a [concrete action agenda](#), one-fourth of which, he said, could be considered "game changing."

Many lauded the outcomes of the recent [UN 2023 Water Conference](#) and welcomed the appointment of a Special Envoy, noting "it would raise the profile of water issues in the UN system." Calls were also heard for: a UN system-wide water strategy; launching a process towards a UN Water Convention; establishing regional science and technology centers to strengthen knowledge sharing; and strengthening the inclusion of local communities and authorities in multilateral processes.

On 12 July, [governments reviewed](#) global progress on SDGs 7 (affordable and clean energy) and 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure).

On SDG 7, Damilola Ogunbiyi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All, and Co-Chair, UN Energy, noted lagging progress towards SDG 7, but said "we have

the opportunity and obligation to reverse this trend." She stressed that "energy is linked to achieving two-thirds of the 169 SDG targets," and underscored its crucial role in sustainable development.

Delegates focused on: the need for democratization and diversification; the creation of new jobs in the green energy sector; the need for safeguards against greenwashing; and the need to promote energy efficiency and manage energy demand, among other issues. They also stressed the need to recognize and respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples in achieving a just energy transition, and strengthen multilateral cooperation and scale up support to ensure adequate, predictable, sustainable, and fit-for-purpose finance.

On SDG 9, speakers "underlined the breadth of sectors that require integrated, optimized, and innovative infrastructure, from transport to broadband to food production." Many acknowledged "the central role of the private sector in driving innovative and resilient infrastructure development, with governments' parallel role in creating enabling environments."

Among key takeaways from the discussions, delegates highlighted the role of "governance innovation" to realize transformations on the supply and demand sides, and "the need to be aware of both risks and opportunities, including how a fast-changing global environment is impacting on competition and exacerbating exclusion."

On 13 July, [countries reviewed](#) SDG 11. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director, UN-Habitat, highlighted "evidence of a growing urban divide that requires rethinking how we plan and manage our human settlements." She stressed the New Urban

Agenda (NUA) provides a clear vision, targets, and commitments, and urged stakeholders to adopt high-impact solutions.

Delegates highlighted "multi-governance level strategies, programmes and partnerships," with many outlining the realized benefits of and needs for localized action. Some called for "more opportunities for local governments to participate in multilateral processes." Among numerous other recommendations, speakers suggested: upgrading informal urban settlements; mobilizing the political will to ensure equal access to basic services such as clean water, energy, and decent housing; and mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into local-level planning.

On 14 July, nine countries presented their VNRs.

Meeting under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the July session of the HLPF runs through 19 July. It is being held under the theme, 'Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels.'

In September, the HLPF will convene at the level of Heads of State and Government under the auspices of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) to carry out a comprehensive review of the state of the SDGs, respond to the impact of multiple and interlocking crises facing the world, and provide high-level political guidance on transformative and accelerated actions leading up to the 2030 deadline for achieving the SDGs. The outcome of the Summit will be a negotiated political declaration. [[Earth Negotiations Bulletin \(ENB\) Coverage on HLPF 2023](#)]

Source: <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/hlpf-2023-reviews-sdgs-6-7-9-11-and-17-begins-discussion-of-vnr/>



UNITED NATIONS

## UN Launches Renewed Global Action For Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations (UN) on Wednesday, 5 July 2023, kicked off a communications campaign to rally for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the roadmap for people and planet adopted by world leaders in 2015.

According to a statement issued by the Media Officer of the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), Dr. Olueyi Soremekun, the public mobilization comes ahead of the critical halftime Summit in September at the UN in New York. The campaign aims to amplify an urgent call for ambitious new action, showcase the Goals as the blueprint for sustainable progress globally, and galvanize the global public around this shared agenda for our common future.

At halftime toward the deadline of 2030, the promise of the SDGs is in peril. For the first time in decades,

development progress is reversing under the combined impacts of climate disasters, conflict, and economic downturn and lingering COVID-19 effects, the statement added.

The 2023 SDG Summit will gather world leaders at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 18- 19 September to reaffirm their collective commitments to the Goals and the promise to leave no one behind. This Summit is a defining moment to urgently put the world back on track to achieving the SDGs.

Starting today, in a major digital activation across platforms and countries worldwide, the UN campaign aims to re-energize the conversation about the Goals.

"We want to get everyone on board for the SDGs", Nanette Braun, Director of Campaigns in

the UN Department for Global Communications said.

Also reacting, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Matthias Schmale said "Our hope is that decision-makers and individual citizens alike will feel inspired to join the conversation and contribute to achieving the Goals with new resolve and ambition."

Building off the color wheel brand of the SDGs, the campaign uses a dynamic new visual system for its messaging to build momentum, raise awareness and mobilize accelerated action for the SDGs.

One core campaign component is the call to individual citizens to take action on the SDGs through the UN's ActNow initiative across all 17 Goals.

Source: <https://leadership.ng/un-launches-renewed-global-action-for-sustainable-development-goals/>



## National committee takes action to achieve SDGs 2030

Muscat – The first meeting of the national committee for following up on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 was held on Monday, chaired by H E Dr Said Mohammed al Saqri, Minister of Economy and Chairman of the Committee.

During the meeting, the committee focused on its key responsibilities, which include overseeing the preparation of voluntary national reports to monitor the progress of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030.

The committee also discussed the proposed methodology for preparing the second voluntary

national report, to be presented at the high-level political forum (HLPF) of the United Nations' Economic and Social Council next year. 'This demonstrates Oman's commitment to sustainable development as a crucial element of Oman Vision 2040,' the committee stated.

Furthermore, the committee examined the preliminary results of the central dashboard for tracking SDGs. This dashboard provides information on the progress made in achieving the 17 goals, their objectives, and indicators at both the national and governorate levels, with data available until 2022.

In order to ensure effective collaboration and coordination, the

committee discussed the formation of a national work team and small technical task forces. These teams will include representatives from government and private entities, civil society organizations, and the academic sector. Their collective efforts will contribute to monitoring the progress towards achieving the 17 SDGs.

It is important to note Oman will be represented by an official delegation at the high-level political forum of the United Nations' Economic and Social Council, scheduled to take place in New York City this month, the committee added.

Source: <https://www.muscatdaily.com/2023/07/11/national-committee-takes-action-to-achieve-sdgs-2030/>



## Silence Broken on Political Declaration Amid Preparations for SDG Summit

Consensus remains elusive in government efforts to agree on the political declaration of the SDG Summit as several delegations broke silence on the draft. According to the co-facilitators for consultations, the revised draft document “constitutes the best basis on which to” achieve consensus. The political declaration is expected to be adopted during the opening segment of the Summit, followed by announcements of national and global commitments to drive transformative SDG progress.

Every four years, the HLPF convenes twice: under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in July; and as the SDG Summit at the level of Heads of State and Government under the auspices of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in September.

When the HLPF convenes twice in the same year, the Forum shall adopt “[only one negotiated political declaration](#), covering the different and complementary functions of both sessions of the forum.”

### Political declaration: No consensus yet

In October 2022, UNGA President Csaba Kőrösi [appointed](#) Permanent Representative of Ireland Fergal Mythen and Permanent Representative of Qatar Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani as co-facilitators to lead consultations on the [political declaration](#) for the SDG Summit, convening from 18-19 September 2023, during the High-level Week of the 77th session of the General Assembly.

The co-facilitators conducted eight rounds of informal consultations with Member States and heard the

views of major groups and [other stakeholders](#). “[G]uided by the imperative of delivering a text that is fitting for adoption by ... Heads of State and Government,” they strove to find consensus.

[During the first week](#) of the July session of the HLPF, the co-facilitators shared with Member States a revised draft document. Describing the revised draft as “ambitious, balanced and action oriented,” the co-facilitators announced their intention to place it under a 24-hour silence procedure, from 5 p.m. on 19 July until 5 p.m. on 21 July.

[On 19 July](#), the co-facilitators circulated a “final draft,” amended following further engagement with Member States, placing it under silence procedure.

[On 21 July](#), the co-facilitators informed Member States that

“silence was broken on the draft political declaration by a number of delegations.” Having exhausted “all possible efforts within [their] mandate,” the co-facilitators submitted the text to the UNGA President as their “best effort to reach a consensus document.”

### National and global commitments to drive transformative progress

Responding to the impact of multiple and interlocking crises facing the world, the SDG Summit [is expected to](#) “mark the beginning of a new phase of accelerated progress towards the [SDGs]” and “reignite a sense of hope, optimism, and enthusiasm for the 2030 Agenda.” To this end, UN Secretary-General António Guterres urged world leaders to announce national and global commitments that will help drive SDG transformation.

National commitments [could include](#): priority transitions and areas for investment that will help maximize progress across the SDGs; a national benchmark for reducing poverty and inequality by 2027; and steps towards strengthened national planning and institutional frameworks to support progress in these areas. In addition to national commitments, countries [are encouraged](#) “to put forward time-bound global and regional commitments to strengthen international cooperation and support for developing countries, particularly the most vulnerable countries.”

To demonstrate that transformative action is possible and to mobilize and scale further leadership, investment, and support for maximum impact, the Secretary-General identified [twelve high-impact initiatives](#) that will serve as anchors of SDG acceleration going forward.

Six high-impact initiatives drive transitions in the areas of energy, biodiversity, education, social protection, food systems, and digital public infrastructure. They are:

- From Billions to Trillions: Delivering on SDG7 Through Energy Compacts;
- The Nature Transition: Valuing Biodiversity as the Foundation for Sustainable Development;
- High Impact Initiative on Transforming Education;
- Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transition;
- Food Systems Pathways; and
- Inclusive and Responsible Digital Public Infrastructure for SDGs.

Five initiatives address enablers to drive progress on the SDGs: the SDG Stimulus; fostering productive capacities and structural economic transformation through trade; SDG localization; engagement facility for public sector capacities for the future; and unleashing the data dividend for the SDGs. Eliminating violence against women appears as a cross-cutting topic.

### What to expect

[The programme](#) the UNGA President circulated on [17 July](#) describes the SDG Summit as “the centerpiece of the UN’s work in 2023 and of the General Assembly’s High-level week this September” that will provide political leadership on the implementation of the SDGs. The Summit will consist of:

- an opening segment that will adopt the political declaration;
- a ‘Setting the Stage’ segment, with the participation of stakeholders, “to provide a clear picture on what has been

achieved, where we are lagging behind, and what needs to be done to restore credibility on the promise of a sustainable transformation”;

- a plenary segment, “to hear the actions and commitments delivered on behalf of groups of States”;
- six Leaders’ Dialogues for Heads of State and Government to announce concrete national commitments to SDG transformation; and
- a closing segment.

The Leaders’ Dialogues will focus on:

- Scaling up actions on key transitions to accelerate SDG progress;
- Building resilience and leaving no one behind;
- Game-changers: Applying science, technology, innovation, and data for transformative action;
- Strengthening integrated policies and public institutions for achieving the SDGs;
- Unity and solidarity: Strengthening the multilateral system for enhanced support, cooperation, follow-up, and review; and
- Mobilizing finance and investments and the means of implementation for SDG achievement.

The Summit of the Future in 2024 will build upon the outcomes of the SDG Summit and “turbocharge the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.” [\[SDG Summit Website\]](#)

Source: <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/silence-broken-on-political-declaration-amid-preparations-for-sdg-summit/>



## Transforming food systems, key to get SDGs back on track: Mohammed

**T**he UN on Wednesday launched an initiative for accelerated transformation in food systems, with the Deputy Secretary-General highlighting key objectives to help get the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) back on track.

According to development indicators, almost half of the SDG targets are moderately or severely off track, and 37 per cent are showing no change.

"Transforming our food systems is one key to getting the world back on track and reversing these worrying trends," Amina J. Mohammed [said](#) at the closing of the UN [Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment](#), in Rome.

### Investments lacking

However, adequate funding remains a major obstacle for countries

to improve their food systems and ensure everyone can access nutritious diets.

Ms. Mohammed announced the launch of a new initiative to support needed to address the lack of resources and "turn the situation around."

The [Joint SDG Fund's Window on Food Systems](#), she added, will bring to life an investment strategy in food systems and "catalyse the rapid and system-wide action needed for food system transformation under the UN Food Systems Hub."

### Food solutions from space

Earlier today, the Deputy Secretary-General [spoke](#) at an event on the use of space technology for transforming agrifood systems, saying that the profound changes underway in outer space, especially our growing access and use of

low-earth orbit, can become game-changers for the [2030 Agenda](#).

"If we can effectively harness its potential, space technology could become among the most significant new technologies for agricultural and agri-food systems and ultimately lead to more sustainable, resilient, and efficient agri-food systems," she said.

Space technologies are already increasing the productivity and efficiency of farms – and if fully utilized, they can help farmers increase yields by more than 10 per cent, according to estimates.

Space solutions can also cut down costs by up to 20 per cent, including fertilizers, fuel and pesticides – protecting land from degradation, improving soil quality and contributing to climate action through a more sustainable use of Earth's natural resources.

## Call for including UN sustainable development goals in syllabus

**S**WAT: Educationists have stressed the need for integrating the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the system of education.

They said that the SDGs offered a holistic approach to learning, fostered real-world relevance and promoted interdisciplinary education.

They were addressing a teacher training session on sustainable development in the classroom called "Education for Global Citizenship and Sustainability" at a local college. A large number of teachers, educationists and students from different parts of Swat, Malakand, Dir and Buner participated in the training.

The speakers said that teachers of both public and private educational institutions should have knowledge of SDGs to include them in their lessons. "This will not only empower students to become agents of positive change and foster a sense of global citizenship but will also promote the professional development of teachers," said Younas Khan, a trainer.

Syed Shawal, another trainer, stated that by incorporating the SDGs into the education system, the schools might help to shape future leaders committed to establishing

partnerships and working in collaboration with many stakeholders to create a more sustainable and equitable society.

At the training session, teachers and students were given a variety of tasks covering the SDGs including quality education, gender equality, climate action, living on land, sustainable cities and communities, inexpensive and clean energy and the need to create hands-on projects with their answers.

Tauqeer Ahmad, a teacher, said that by incorporating the SDGs into the educational system, schools could play a crucial role in cultivating informed and engaged global citizens, who could understand the importance of sustainable development and take action to create a better future for all. "We have to shift our focus from the outdated syllabus and join hands with developed countries to meet the challenges of the day," he added.

Noor an eighth grader said about the training that "they had a different type of learning as their teachers involved them in the topic. "We were also introduced to the 17 SDGs of the United Nations," he added.

The students also presented their projects to the educationists and teachers at the end of the training.

Source: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1766666/call-for-including-un-sustainable-development-goals-in-syllabus>

## Agrarian communities of rural Maharashtra, engaged their farmlands in paddy farming

**A**grarian communities in many parts of rural Maharashtra, have for generations engaged their farmlands in paddy farming as a primary source of income. Some of them, for the first time, are extending their land to fruit saplings thanks to Swades' orchard program supported by committed donor partners such as [Deutsche Bank](#).

Earlier this month, [Deutsche Bank](#) employees volunteered to visit villages in the [#Sudhagad](#), [#Poladpur](#), and [#Igatpuri](#) blocks of [#Raigad](#) and [#Nashik](#) districts to plant saplings as part of the Bank's commitment to plant 50,000 fruit-bearing trees this year. These saplings promise to further augment the income of farmers in the next few years.

A big shoutout to all the volunteers who participated in the plantation activity and contributed to transforming the lands and lives of our farmers - one village at a time.



Source: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7087448446915227650/>

## How Prioritizing Workplace Safety Can Help You Meet Sustainable Development Goals

Taking steps to protect your workers can also have a large impact on the environment.

**M**ention sustainability, and most people will automatically think about preserving natural resources and protecting the environment. While those concerns are certainly part of what is commonly considered sustainable development, the concept reaches further.

The United Nation's (UN) [sustainable development goals](#) include the likes of overall health and well-being, decent work and economic growth. The goals also address industry-related topics and the need for responsible production. This is where workplace safety and sustainability overlap.

In this article, we examine how prioritizing workplace safety can help forward-thinking businesses meet sustainable development goals while also growing their profitability.

### Why Workplace Safety and Sustainable Development Goals Go Hand in Hand

It's a common misconception that sustainability is a 21st-century concept. The idea dates back over 300 years to German forestry expert Hans Carl von Carlowitz, who decreed that sustainable use of timber should be among the highest goals of forestry.

In the 1970s, another German scientist transferred the idea from the forestry industry to natural resources in general and economic development. In the 1980s, the



UN's Brundtland Commission redefined sustainability as "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." That broad definition still applies, but it has been refined since the days of the commission.

### Using Sustainability for a New Approach to Workplace Safety

Today's concept of sustainability is based mostly on our interpretation of the sustainable development goals published by the UN in 2015. These 17 goals cover workplace-related issues as well as natural resources and other considerations.

The goals have not only become part of the national conversation but they've also been adopted by businesses looking to secure their development and the future of their workforce. Aside from businesses, government organizations like OSHA have embraced the importance of sustainability.

According to OSHA, choosing to implement [sustainable practices in workplaces](#) allows businesses to approach health and safety from a new angle. Setting safety standards can take time and occasionally be too slow to protect workers from hazards, including injuries and illness. In those situations, leveraging movements like the global drive for sustainability can accomplish both goals at the same time.

## What Is a Donor Offer and How It Motivates Your Donor to Give



George Crankovic

When it comes to creating mail and email fundraising appeals, there's one fact you can't ignore.

Aside from your donors themselves (which is to say, your direct mail or email list), the offer is the single most important part of your appeal by far. It's the difference between getting a random spattering of responses from an appeal and a flood of donations.

It's not the story you use, the graphics, how long the copy is or whether the copy sounds like the executive director. It's not whether the button in your email says "give now" or "donate now." It's not whether it's your organization's 25th anniversary. It's not your nonprofit's programs, your internal teams or your Charity Navigator rating.

None of those things is as important as the offer. You can't get around it. A weak offer (or no offer) means weak fundraising results.

### What's a Donor Offer?

In the world of direct response, whether that's direct response fundraising or direct marketing, the offer is the deal. It's the quid pro quo. It's the "I'll give you this, and you give me that." It's what your prospects get and what they have to do to get it.

Let's look at an example. Say you're surfing the internet and see an ad for alligator-skin cowboy boots. The ad says, "Walk tall in exotic style. Free shipping when you order before Aug.

4." You think, "Yes, I should walk tall. And exotic style? Heck yeah. Plus, I hate to pay for shipping. Sold!"

What you get is a pair of obvious boots, plus everything that wearing them will say about you, plus free shipping. What you have to do to get it is to order before the deadline.

That's an offer. It's clear, direct and specific. If you love exotic cowboy boots, it's easy to say "yes" to this. That's what the offer does. It engages customers. And it motivates them to respond.

But that's commercial marketing. Fundraising is different, right? Some nonprofits think so. Sometimes they think they don't need an offer in their fundraising appeals. "Just tell donors what we do, and they'll give." Of course, that doesn't work. Sometimes nonprofits think fundraising is so different from commercial marketing that the concept of an offer doesn't apply. That doesn't work either. After all, fundraising is donor marketing. Other times, nonprofits think that having an offer in their fundraising will make it too transactional, too salesy or too pushy. Let's dig into that one.

### A Donor Offer Goes Beyond a Transactional Nature

The offer in fundraising isn't something you're foisting onto your donors. It's what attracts your donors to you. And it's what motivates them — without any arm twisting — to give because they want to.

Let's look at an example from direct response fundraising. The offer is "\$5 sends a good, nutritious meal to a hungry, lonely, homebound senior."

That's a strong offer, admittedly in encapsulated form. It's simple, direct and specific.

Is it transactional? Well, it asks for a donation of \$5, and in return, the nonprofit will provide a meal. So, yes, it's transactional in that sense. Then again, most fundraising is transactional in that it asks for a donation. An effective offer, though, is much more than a simple exchange of dollars.



Is it pushy or salesy? Not at all. In fact, it's engaging and motivating. Far from putting donors off, it attracts donors to the nonprofit's work. That's because a clear, simple offer like this one details the problem to be solved — hunger among seniors — and the solution — the meal provided. It tells your donor what their gift will do and why. It spells out the donation, the impact and the outcome. That's inherently motivating for donors.

### A Donor Offer Motivates Someone to Give

But there's more to it. Because an effective offer isn't one-dimensional. It includes both sides of the coin. It shows donors how they can have less of what they don't want and more of what they do want.

Source: <https://www.nonprofitpro.com/post/what-donor-offer-how-motivates-donor-give/>

## Disabled activists set to fight on in strategy court battle, despite appeal defeat

**Activists are set to fight on in the battle to force the government to listen to disabled people in drawing up a proper national disability strategy, despite the government winning its appeal in a long-running court case.**

The Court of Appeal [ruled this week](#) that the government's National Disability Strategy was not unlawful, over-turning last year's ruling by the high court.

The high court had found that ministers carried out an unlawful consultation – through a national survey – before the strategy's publication.

The appeal centred on whether the UK Disability Survey, which the government carried out early in 2021, was intended to be a consultation on a national strategy and whether it was an unlawful one.

The government argued that the survey was just an information-gathering exercise, not a consultation, and therefore it did not need to provide the information needed for disabled people to respond to it in a meaningful way.

Despite that claim, the Disability Unit's own website had listed the survey as an "Open Consultation", while it was [hosted on the unit's "Consultation Hub"](#), with the promise that responses would inform the strategy's development.

But the Court of Appeal has now ruled that the survey was not unlawful because it was not a consultation that was subject to certain legal principles – known as the Gunning criteria.

Lady Justice Elisabeth Laing, one of the three Court of Appeal judges who heard the appeal, said in this

week's ruling that the strategy "had not reached a stage at which it could conceivably have been the subject of a 'consultation' complying with the Gunning criteria".

She said the purpose of the survey "was not to enable respondents to respond to proposals (there were none) but to give the respondents to the Survey the opportunity to influence the future content of the Strategy with information and their views".

Disabled campaigners who took the case now hope to secure permission to appeal to the Supreme Court.

Because of the high court ruling, ministers had been forced to sideline much of their discredited strategy – criticised at the time of its publication in July 2021 by disabled people's organisations as "tokenistic", "rehashed" and "not fit for purpose".

They are now set to publish a new "disability action plan" in the next few weeks, which will sit alongside the strategy.

[Doug Paulley](#), one of the claimants, told Disability News Service that he believed the appeal court's ruling was wrong and "ridiculous", when the government had itself described it as an "open consultation".

But he also said it was "sad" that the serious problems with the National Disability Strategy and the survey had now been relegated to arguments about a "technicality".

He said the National Disability Strategy and the consultation had been "a travesty".

He said: "It comes down to a technicality, whether something is a consultation or just an information-gathering exercise.

"It is 18 months of fighting in court, all the money and energy on both sides, with the government fighting it when it was transparent that the whole thing was unfair... and then



they win on a technicality."

Asked for his message to the government, Paulley said: "They should deal with the core issue, which is that they should genuinely consult and involve and co-produce with disabled people and produce a National Disability Strategy that is fit for purpose and will make a positive difference to disabled people's lives."

Kamran Mallick, chief executive of [Disability Rights UK](#), said: "Whilst the court ruling is surprising, as the disability survey was not an appropriate consultation, the government should now act to take

significant and meaningful action to address the poverty and systemic inequalities faced by millions of disabled people.

"We definitely don't need both a National Disability Strategy and a Disability Action Plan.

"We need a single ambitious and transformational plan to make society inclusive and put in place the incomes and support disabled people need to be equal citizens."

Tom Pursglove, the minister for disabled people, welcomed the ruling in [a written statement](#) and said it meant both the UK Disability Survey and the National Disability Strategy had now been found to be lawful.

He said ministers now "need to take stock of what this decision means for individual National Disability Strategy commitments and evaluate how best to move forward".

He said he would update parliament in September to "set out our next steps in more detail".

He added: "The Government will also continue to move forward with our planned consultation on the Disability Action Plan over the summer.

"The Disability Action Plan and the National Disability Strategy were always intended to be complementary, with the former focusing on concrete, short-term actions deliverable in 2023/24 to improve disabled people's lives, and the latter setting out our longer-term vision, and I am delighted that we are now able to make progress on both of them."

## CBM Global Moves To Protect Rights Of Persons With Disability

CBM Global Disability Inclusion Nigeria has launched its Country Strategy Plan (CSP) to promote and protect rights of persons with disability in Nigeria.

The launch which took place in Abuja last week was aimed at broadening stakeholders' understanding of the strategic direction of CBM Global Nigeria, its goal, objectives and result areas, and also attract improved understanding of the UNCRPD, SDGs, Accessibility GO and pertinence to driving the disability agenda in Nigeria.

The plan seeks to respond to existing gaps in the country that negate the rights of persons with disabilities, hindering their ability to achieve their full potential in life.

Speaking at the event, the country director of CBM Global Nigeria, Ms. Ekaete Umoh, in her opening remarks, expressed delight on the launch.

She invited stakeholders to join efforts through collaborative actions to end the cycle of poverty and disability in Nigeria through the three-year framework.

Ekaete said Nigeria since independence had faced huge challenges that have affected its growth and development. "Despite abundance in mineral and human resources, the country has been unable to translate its potential and opportunities into inclusive growth.

"It is true that persons with disabilities are mostly affected and constitute majority of Nigeria's poor. Data from the National Population Commission puts the total number

of persons with disabilities in Nigeria at an estimated 19 million, and this puts the percentage of people with disabilities at 9.6 per cent approximately.

"Now more than ever before, the importance of this CSP launch is timely and comes at a critical juncture in the life of the organization where it has an opportunity to present itself as an effective gateway through which persons with disabilities can be mobilized and reached with programs, projects and services," she said.



Chief executive officer of CBM UK, Kirsty Smith, who was represented by the program coordinator at CBM UK, Frank Abu, expressed delight with the launch, and commended CBM Global Nigeria and stakeholders for their collaboration.

"It is important to highlight that CBM UK, is one of the 6-member association of CBM Global Disability Inclusion Federation tasked with working alongside people with disabilities in the world's poorest places to transform lives and build inclusive communities where everyone can enjoy their human rights and achieve their full potential through our vision of an inclusive world in which all people with disabilities enjoy their human rights and achieve their full potential," he said.

Source: <https://leadership.ng/cbm-global-moves-to-protect-rights-of-persons-with-disability/>

## Toronto's in-person march for Disability Pride Month is coming back this weekend



Alexandra Mae Jones  
CTVNews.ca writer

This month, many are celebrating Disability Pride Month, and for the first time since the pandemic began, the Toronto march is going to be held in person – a chance to both celebrate the way the community has endured through COVID-19, and also a way to shine a light on problems they still face, organizers say.

Organizers noted during the emergency phase of the pandemic, they still held virtual marches, and will still be including a virtual portion in this year's event.

"The virtual march and the virtual community is very much part of our community, and we encourage other people to bring virtual options back," Ariel Elofer, one of the organizers of the Toronto march, told CTV's Your Morning on Wednesday.

"But this year it's a really big deal, given the disproportionate number of deaths of disabled people during COVID. We are really coming back to make noise and be seen in a way that we were not capable of doing during COVID."

The pandemic had a devastating impact on disabled Canadians – on top of many disabled Canadians being vulnerable to the virus itself, many also struggled when they lost access to personal care workers. There are more than six million Canadians living with a disability.

Elofer said the pandemic shone a light on how society treats people with disabilities, and this march is part of making their community visible again.

"Being seen is not as simple as a ramp," Elofer, who uses a mobility device, said. "But I think we are at the point where ... it's been made very clear to us that we are disposable in a thousand different ways, and so being seen means fighting back against the narratives and the eugenics that we've seen through COVID."

The Toronto Disability Pride March started in October 2011 as part of Occupy Toronto, which was a protest against economic inequality. Over the years the march has been



held at different times, and recently, organizers decided to hold it in July to align with celebrations in the U.S.

Disability Pride Month is in July in the U.S. to commemorate the passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, a groundbreaking bill for disabled Americans.

"To honour that, countries around the world and cities around the world are now celebrating July, so we felt it fit to celebrate now in July amongst all (the) other people," Sydney Elaine Butler, one of the organizers of the Toronto march, told CTV's Your Morning.

"It's about fighting for our rights, it's about celebrating, it's a time of celebration, ... we're doing a march, but at the end we're having a celebration of joy and being like, we're here, we exist, we deserve to exist and celebrate at the same time."

Society is still inaccessible for people with disabilities in many ways, several restaurants and buildings don't have accessible

entrances or ramps for wheelchairs and mobility devices, and there are also larger structural issues, Elofer said.

"We're still fighting for our basic human rights," Elofer said. "We're still fighting for accessible, affordable housing, we're still

fighting for marriage equality, we're still fighting for anti-poverty legislation and livable benefits."

Disability benefits are delivered differently depending on the province, but activists have long pointed out that benefits are often insufficient. In many parts of the country, including in Ontario, a disabled person's benefits may be scaled back if they get married – essentially making marriage not financially viable for many people with disabilities.

Elofer added organizers want to acknowledge how intersectionality is very important to disability activism.

"Understanding that colonialism, racism, classism, those things disable people, and we're part of every single one of your communities, and we're connected to every single one of you," she said.

Butler echoed this sentiment, saying it's important for people to understand that disabled people are part of their community.

"Being seen means we're out there, we're here, we're not going away, we're part of something bigger."

At the heart of Disability Pride Month is the idea of defiance and celebration in the face of stigma, organizers said.

"It's radical to have self-love, as a disabled person, so I would say disability pride is about radical self-love and about fighting for our lives," Elofer said.

The Toronto Disability Pride March is set for Saturday, July 15, starting from Queen's Park at 1 p.m. ET and heading towards 50 Gould St. by 4 p.m. There will also be a livestream of the event.

Source: <https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/toronto-s-disability-pride-march-is-back-in-person-for-the-first-time-since-pandemic-began-1.6477367>

## President urges society, family role to address disability, rehab issues

President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday emphasized that society and the family system would have to play their due role to facilitate the lives of disabled persons as well as those needing rehabilitative care. The president, addressing the concluding ceremony of a course held by the Global Rehabilitation Leadership Institute, said the community welfare had been the basis for all religions, including Islam, Christianity and Judaism, citing the examples of holy prophets, Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) and his companions. He said at a time when the world lacked morality and humanism in its affairs, it was the society that would have to play its part, particularly for the welfare of persons with disabilities and those who could benefit from rehabilitation. Citing a research study, the president told the gathering that around 24 percent of Pakistan's population suffered mental stress, including 60-70 percent of the students. He said the situation could not be addressed at a time when the country had just 600 psychiatrists and 1,200 psychologists. In such a case, the family system could prove to be a good anchor to extend its support in the form of group therapy and stress sharing.

President Alvi said without depending on the state, the family system would have to come up to play its part as in Islamic societies the communities always promulgated laws. He stressed

the need for the Pakistani society to show compassion towards the persons with disabilities as generally, their attitude towards them was not welcoming. He said all the deprived segments of society, including women and 27 million out-of-school children, required due attention for redressal of their woes. He said the enrollment of out-of-school children could take decades if left up to the state while the Pakistani society could address the issue far earlier by utilising the already available infrastructure of mosques. The president said the children with physical disabilities should be enrolled in regular schools as it would sensitise other children towards their challenges. Besides, he said more than a state, the society would have to make efforts to ease the movement of visually impaired people. The president thanked the World Health Organisation (WHO) for extending support to Pakistan to address the issues of disability and rehabilitation. He urged the countrymen to respect their legacy of love towards humanity, environment and nature to bring a change just by investing the intellect, not money. Earlier, WHO Representative in Pakistan Palitha Mahipala spoke high of the "incredible" leadership and the role played by President Alvi towards the issues of disabilities and rehabilitation. Similarly, he also lauded the contribution and efforts by First Lady Samina Alvi on the issues, including her traveling and interactions with the people on multiple health-related issues.

Source: [https://dailytimes.com.pk/1116154/president-urges-society-family-role-to-address-disability-rehab-issues/#google\\_vignette](https://dailytimes.com.pk/1116154/president-urges-society-family-role-to-address-disability-rehab-issues/#google_vignette)

## Disability campaigners lose legal fight over Grenfell recommendation

**Campaigners have lost their High Court battle with the government over its decision not to implement evacuation plans for disabled high-rise residents.**

**C**ampaign group Claddag wanted it to be a legal requirement for escape plans to be in place for those who might not be able to get out safely in an emergency.

But a Home Office consultation found the Grenfell Tower Inquiry's recommendations would be too costly and impractical to implement.

It is pursuing an alternative idea.

In October 2019, the chairman of the Grenfell Inquiry recommended that there should be a legal requirement for owners and managers of high-rise residential buildings to prepare "Peeps" (personal emergency evacuation plans) for residents with mobility issues or visual, hearing or cognitive impairments.

In the Grenfell fire, which killed 72 people in June 2017, 41% of the tower block's disabled residents died.

- Future of Grenfell Tower still unsure six years on

- 'I want to escape a burning building not sit and wait'
- Disabled Grenfell residents 'had no escape route'

In response to the inquiry's recommendations, the Home Office launched a consultation on whether to implement the Peeps proposals.

In May 2022, the government indicated that it would not be introducing a legal requirement for Peeps amid concerns about practicality and cost.

Claddag, which was founded by two disabled tower-block residents, Sarah Rennie and Georgie Hulme, took that decision to a judicial review at the High Court in December.

During the hearing, the Home Office's legal representative argued that the government was actually still consulting on the proposals and a final decision had not yet been made.

Announcing her judgment on Friday, Mrs Justice Stacey ruled that

the government had in fact decided against implementing the Peeps recommendation, but said it was entitled to do so after weighing up the fire-

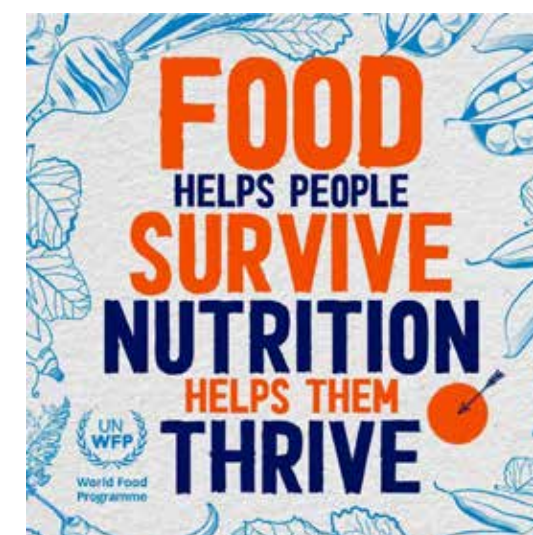
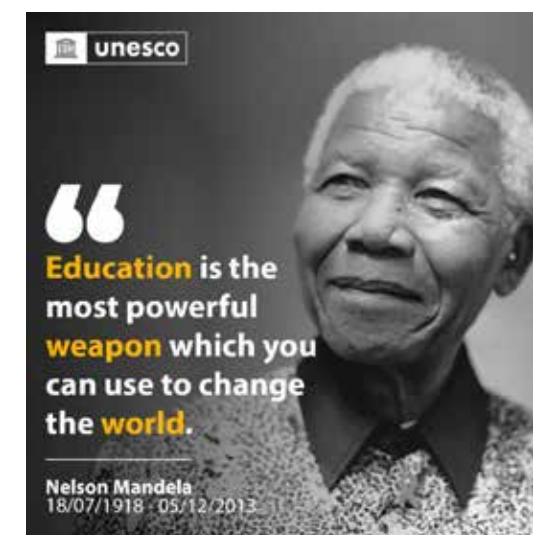
safety implications against the costs of delivering it.

In a joint-statement, Claddag's founders said the government had decided to "prioritise money over disabled people's lives" and "leave disabled and older people living in high-rise buildings without means of escape".

A Home Office spokesperson said: "We are pleased with the court's decision as it allows us to get on with delivering proposals that enhance the safety of residents whose ability to self-evacuate in an emergency may be compromised.

"We are currently analysing responses to our public consultation on Emergency Evacuation Information Sharing Plus, which is an alternative to Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans, to understand how best to achieve this."

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/disability-63839447>





## UN says climate change ‘out of control’ after likely hottest week on record

**T**he UN secretary general has said that “climate change is out of control”, as an unofficial analysis of data showed that average world temperatures in the seven days to Wednesday were the hottest week on record.

“If we persist in delaying key measures that are needed, I think we are moving into a catastrophic situation, as the last two records in temperature demonstrates,” António Guterres said, referring to the world temperature records broken on Monday and Tuesday.

The average global air temperature was **17.18C (62.9F) on Tuesday**, according to data collated by the US National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP), surpassing the **record 17.01C reached on Monday**.

For the seven-day period ending Wednesday, the daily average temperature was .04C (.08F) higher than any week in 44 years of record-keeping, according to the University of Maine’s Climate Reanalyzer data.

That metric showed that Earth’s average temperature on Wednesday remained at the record high of 17.18C.

Climate Reanalyzer uses data from the NCEP climate forecast system to provide a time series of daily mean two-metre air temperature, based on readings from surface, air balloon and satellite observations.

The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), whose figures are considered the gold standard in climate data, said on Thursday it

could not validate the unofficial numbers.

It noted that the reanalyzer uses model output data, which it called “not suitable” as substitutes for actual temperatures and climate records. The NOAA monitors global temperatures and records on a monthly and an annual basis, not daily.

“We recognise that we are in a warm period due to climate change, and combined with El Niño and hot summer conditions, we’re seeing record warm surface temperatures being recorded at many locations across the globe,” the NOAA said.

Nevertheless, scientists agree they indicate climate change is reaching uncharted territory and that the increased heat from anthropogenic

global heating combined with the [return of El Niño](#) would lead to more record-breaking temperatures.

The UN confirmed the return of El Niño, a sporadic weather pattern, on Tuesday. The last major El Niño was in 2016, which remains the hottest year on record.

“Chances are that the month of July will be the warmest ever, and with it the hottest month ever ... ‘ever’ meaning since the Eemian [interglacial period], which is indeed some 120,000 years ago,” Dr Karsten Haustein, a research fellow in atmospheric radiation at Leipzig University, said.

Various parts of the world have been experiencing heatwaves and on Thursday the EU’s climate monitoring service said the world had experienced its hottest June on record last month.

The southern US has been sweltering under an [intense heat dome](#) in recent weeks, including on the national 4 July holiday on Tuesday. In parts of China, an [enduring heatwave](#) has continued, with temperatures reaching above 35C.

Overall, one of the largest contributors to this week’s heat records is an exceptionally mild winter in the Antarctic. Parts of the continent and nearby ocean were 10-20C (18-36F) higher than averages from 1979 to 2000.

“Temperatures have been unusual over the ocean and especially around the Antarctic this week, because wind fronts over the Southern Ocean are strong pushing warm air deeper south,” said Raghu Murtugudde, professor of atmospheric, oceanic and earth system science at the University of Maryland and visiting faculty at the Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai.

Chari Vijayaraghavan, a polar explorer and educator who has visited the Arctic and Antarctic regularly for the past 10 years, said global warming is obvious at both poles and threatens the region’s wildlife as well as driving ice melt that raises sea levels.

“Warming climates might lead to increasing risks of diseases such as the avian flu spreading in the Antarctic that will have devastating consequences for penguins and other fauna in the region,” Vijayaraghavan said.

## Climate Finance for community resilience

**F**oreign Affairs Minister Nanaia Mahuta announced today the launch of the Climate Finance for Community Resilience Programme. The new programme will support inclusive, locally-led climate action in the Pacific.

“Climate change is profoundly shaping the lives of communities, impacting food security, nutrition, clean water, health, and livelihoods across our Blue Pacific Continent – Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa, and further afield,” Nanaia Mahuta said.

“This programme is a key component of Aotearoa New Zealand’s International Climate Finance Strategy Tuia te Waka a Kiwa and aims to address the impacts of climate change on vulnerable groups by enhancing community-level resilience.

“I have seen first-hand the challenges communities are facing, including on recent visits in, and to, the region. Aotearoa New Zealand is committed to working with our Pacific whanaunga so we can respond to climate change together: tātou, tātou,” Nanaia Mahuta said.

The Climate Finance for Community Resilience Programme will be delivered in partnership with Aotearoa New Zealand non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and with local Pacific and Timor-Leste civil society organisations.

The first initiative under the programme will be a \$5.5 million Manaaki Contestable Fund round for small and medium sized New Zealand NGOs that meet the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade’s requirements. Further funding will follow to larger NGOs and wider civil society groups.

“Our NGO partners and local civil society organisations bring decades of experience in delivering community-based mitigation and adaptation work. They play a critical role in bridging the gap between governments and communities and have deep and well-established relationships and networks at the community level.

“In my engagements with NGOs – both here in Aotearoa New Zealand and in our wider region – I have heard the challenges they have faced accessing climate finance to deliver community level work. I see this programme as a positive step to ensure these organisations continue to deliver impactful projects that support local communities across the Pacific,” Nanaia Mahuta said.

Source: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/climate-finance-community-resilience>

# What are nature-based solutions and how can they help us address the climate crisis?

**T**he climate crisis is dire. Sea levels are rising, increasing the risk of erosion, flooding, and extreme storms in coastal regions around the world. Heat waves are occurring with greater frequency, fanning the flames of wildfires, putting stress on wildlife habitats, and driving droughts that threaten crops and water security. Rivers are regularly hitting flood levels that once were considered very rare events. These disasters, along with other climate threats, could [displace more than a billion people within the next 30 years](#).

As the climate crisis intensifies, how can we address people's rising risk from rapid environmental change while also helping people and wildlife adapt?

Nature itself has a big role to play. Evidence increasingly suggests that **nature-based solutions**—natural systems or processes used to help achieve societal goals—could contribute mightily to minimizing climate change and its effects. In fact, research shows that nature-based solutions and the broader land sector could contribute up to 30% of the climate mitigation

needed by 2050 to meet the Paris Agreement's objective of limiting global warming.

## What are nature-based solutions?

Nature-based solutions refer to a suite of actions or policies that harness the power of nature to address some of our most pressing societal challenges, such as threats to water security, rising risk of disasters, or climate change.

These solutions involve protecting, restoring, and sustainably managing ecosystems in ways that increase their resiliency and ability to address those societal challenges, while also safeguarding biodiversity and improving human wellbeing

Take mangroves, for example. Mangrove forests along coastlines



are not only important for sustaining fisheries but also for providing protective natural barriers against erosion and strong storms. They filter water, provide valuable timber and food resources to coastal communities, and can store huge amounts of carbon. Conserving and restoring these ecosystems benefits people in coastal communities by reducing vulnerabilities and increasing their resilience to the effects of climate change.

In short, nature-based solutions can be a win-win for people and nature.

## What is the difference between conservation and nature-based solutions?

**Conservation** is the protection and preservation of the planet's biological diversity and natural resources so that they exist into the future. It includes protecting plant and animal species, habitats, ecosystems, and important ecological services against threats. Conservation can involve setting aside parks and preserves, ensuring that species have the habitat they

need to survive, or implementing laws to protect endangered plants and animals.

**Nature-based solutions**, on the other hand, encompass a wide range of approaches—from the restoration of habitats to water resource management, disaster risk reduction, and green infrastructure—to address societal problems. Nature-based solutions are based on the notion that when ecosystems are healthy and well-managed, they provide essential benefits and services to people, such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, securing safe water resources, making air safer to breathe, or providing increased food security.

## What are some examples of nature-based solutions?

### Protecting and restoring coral reefs

Healthy coral reefs dissipate wave energy, providing significant protection for low-lying communities and shorelines against flooding, storm surges, and erosion. One study found that reefs can be even more effective than human-built breakwaters at [reducing the height and energy of waves](#). As rising seas and more intense storms push tides higher and farther inland, [increasing flood risks](#) for tens of millions of people and threatening local economies, [protecting and restoring coral reefs](#) is a smarter—and potentially cheaper—approach than traditional seawalls for bolstering our coastlines.

### Keeping forests standing

[Forests are one of the best examples of nature-based solutions](#). Home to 80% of the world's terrestrial biodiversity, forests provide clean air

and water, protect against erosion and landslides, and help to regulate the climate by removing carbon from the atmosphere. Primary forests, such as the Amazon, act as significant carbon sinks, sequestering huge amounts of carbon in tree biomass and soils. By preventing deforestation and degradation, which contribute around 13% of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, we could significantly reduce carbon emissions while staving off the worst impacts of a warming planet.

### Building greener cities

Urban development replaces forests and wetlands with buildings and nonporous infrastructure. When it rains heavily, stormwater that doesn't get absorbed can cause severe flooding. That runoff then washes into streams, lakes, or rivers, where it can increase sediments, pollute drinking water, or harm wildlife. Nature-based solutions such as green roofs, rain gardens, or constructed wetlands can minimize damaging runoff by absorbing stormwater, reducing flood risks and safeguarding freshwater ecosystems. In addition, [nature-based solutions](#) keep cities cooler during the summer, support birds and other pollinators, and promote people's mental and physical health.

## Are nature-based solutions always the best option?

Protecting and restoring coral reefs and mangrove forests, preserving grasslands, and sustainably managing forests are all effective strategies for slowing the rate of climate change and mitigating disaster risk. Today, more than 130 countries have already included [nature-based solution actions](#) in their national climate plans under

the Paris Agreement. But nature-based solutions aren't always the best answer. For example, planting non-native trees to offset carbon emissions can be detrimental to biodiversity and can even reduce the availability of water, and the potential climate benefits don't outweigh the cost. It's important that we make science-driven decisions to [apply the right solution in the right place](#).

And nature-based solutions aren't the only solutions we should use to help countries, communities, or corporations adapt to climate change. "We should think of managing climate risks as being something like investing in stocks," says WWF's Jeff Opperman, Global Freshwater Lead Scientist. "It's best to invest in a diversified portfolio. If you're trying to keep a low-lying coastal community safe against the impacts of flooding, for example, it's best to not to put all your investment into just one solution, like levees," he says. "Instead, you use a range of strategies that complement one another. Nature-based solutions can be key assets in a diversified portfolio."

In other words, addressing the climate crisis means expanding our toolkit. We already know that to mitigate the impacts of climate change, we must urgently reduce our emissions on a global scale. But it's becoming clearer that nature must be at the heart of these efforts. And nature-based solutions—incorporated in a thoughtful way alongside traditional solutions and science-based targets—could be key to unleashing our potential for protecting people and wildlife.

"In a warming world, we risk seeing nature only as a threat with its forces arrayed against us" says Opperman. "By investing in nature-based solutions, we get nature on our side too."

Source: <https://www.worldwildlife.org/stories/what-are-nature-based-solutions-and-how-can-they-help-us-address-the-climate-crisis>



## Grant Proposal Development and Writing Workshops

**Funding Opportunity Number** : TASHKENT-PDS-FY23-004  
**Funding Opportunity Title** : Grant Proposal Development and Writing Workshops  
**Current Closing Date for Applications** : August 28, 2023

The U.S. Department of State's U.S. Embassy in Tashkent announces an open competition to implement workshops focused on grant proposal development and writing training for Uzbekistan's non-profit, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and associations, non-profit civil society organizations (CSOs), non-profit cultural and educational organizations and independent local media organizations as well as individuals seeking to improve their grant writing skills. These workshops would help build the capacity and ability of Uzbekistan's grass-roots organizations to assess calls for proposals for grant funding, design meaningful projects, and draft applications with achievable goals and objectives and realistic budgets.

**Project Audience(s):** civil society, including but not limited to non-profit, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and associations; civil society organizations (CSOs); non-profit cultural and educational organizations; independent local media organizations; and individuals.

**Project Goal:**  
 Strengthen the capacity of Uzbekistani NGOs, civil society, non-profit, and cultural and educational sector organizations /individuals to attract and apply for diverse funding opportunities through professional development training.

**Project Objectives:**

- Objective 1: Increase the ability of a minimum of 50 NGOs, CSOs, non-profit, cultural, and

educational organizations, as well as 150 individuals in Uzbekistan to draft competitive project proposals for funding.

- Objective 2: Increase target audiences' understanding on Design, Monitoring, and Evaluation (DM&E) concepts and the components of a strong Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP).
- Objective 3: Increase target audiences' awareness and understanding of grants proposal requirements that incorporate and align with grantor priorities.

For complete application instructions and all necessary forms, please visit: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=349489>

## Consumers Energy Foundation Gives \$500,000 to Jackson Organizations and Statewide Nonprofit Hub

JACKSON, Mich., July 17, 2023 /PRNewswire/ -- The Consumers Energy Foundation announced today [\\$500,000 in grants as part of their annual People Awards](#). This year's recipients are organizations based in Jackson and Grand Rapids that are working to provide economic security for Michigan residents.

"We are deeply grateful for the work these three organizations are doing in their communities, and across the state, to remove the barriers many still face to fulfilling basic needs," said Brandon Hofmeister, president of the Consumers Energy Foundation. "Ensuring every person in this state has access to the resources they need to live safe and healthy lives is part of our core mission, and our People Award grants give us an opportunity to fund programs we know will provide those resources."

The People Awards recipients chosen from more than 75 applicants are:

- [The Storehouse of Community Resources](#) (\$250,000), Grand Rapids
- The Storehouse acts as a one-stop-shop for [member nonprofits and schools](#) to "purchase" donated product to meet the needs of the individual communities they serve. The funding will support the development of a comprehensive technology platform that will streamline the donation, distribution and access process for member groups.



"This very generous gift is about human connection," said Carrie Good, administrator for the Jackson Friendly and John George Homes. "This will provide the elderly and vulnerable residents of our homes an opportunity to dramatically reduce loneliness and isolation by providing significant opportunities to engage with our community."

- [Jackson Friendly Home](#) and [John George Home](#) (\$125,000 each), Jackson
- The two organizations provide services for low-income elderly women and men, respectively. They will use their grants to fund facility and transportation improvements to increase comfort and access to services and improve their clients' mental and physical health.

"We extend heartfelt thanks to the Consumers Energy Foundation for their invaluable People Award grant," said Jessica Johns, co-founder and Executive Director of the Storehouse. "The technology upgrade enabled by this grant will revolutionize our product distribution and amplify our impact within our community and far

beyond, allowing us to reach more individuals and families than ever before. Together, with Consumers Energy, we embrace the power of innovation and compassion to create positive change in Michigan for those who need it most."

The People Awards are the second of three signature grant allocations in 2023 totaling \$1.5 million. The Foundation previously awarded the [Planet Awards in April](#), and will present the [Prosperity Awards](#) this fall to support nonprofit efforts that support economic development.

The [Consumers Energy Foundation](#) is the charitable arm of Consumers Energy, Michigan's largest energy provider. [The Foundation contributes to the growth and strengthening of Michigan communities by investing in what's most important – our people, our planet and Michigan's prosperity.](#) In 2022, the Consumers Energy Foundation, Consumers Energy, its employees and retirees contributed more than \$18.5 million to Michigan nonprofits.

Consumers Energy is the principal subsidiary of CMS Energy CMS -0.94% + [Free Alerts](#), providing natural gas and/or electricity to 6.7 million of the state's 10 million residents in all 68 Lower Peninsula counties.

Source: <https://www.benzinga.com/pressreleases/23/07/h33244122/consumers-energy-foundation-gives-500-000-to-jackson-organizations-and-statewide-nonprofit-hub>

## SNILD bill will allocate \$314,550 to 3 NGOs operations, funding to complete pavilions

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation passed yesterday a local bill that seeks to allocate 314,550 to three nonprofit organizations and provide funding to complete ongoing projects and for the renovation and construction of pavilions, recreational areas and public buildings in Precinct 4 on Saipan.

With all 18 SNILD members present voting “yes” during a special session, House Local Bill 23-16, Draft 1, now goes to the governor for action.

Sen. Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan) and Reps. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) and Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona (R-Saipan) were absent but excused from the session.

Reps. Joel C. Camacho (Ind-Saipan) and Malcolm J. Omar (Ind-Saipan) are co-authors of the bill.

Before the voting, House Vice Speaker Joel C. Camacho stated that he will be working with Omar to ensure that the reporting requirements are met and the funds will be made available to the nonprofit organizations.

Under the legislation, \$100,000 will be allocated for the renovation and construction of pavilions, recreational areas and the public buildings in Precinct 4. The expenditure authority shall be the Department of Public Works secretary.

A total of \$69,775 will be allocated each for the Talabwogh Stars Association and Natibu Sports Association for the operations to

conduct and facilitate (not limited to Precinct 4) sports programs, arts and culture programs, and youth activities. The expenditure authority shall be the president of the two associations.

A total of \$75,000 will be allocated to the Commonwealth Federation of Golf Association so it could establish a Junior Golf Program. The association president shall have expenditure authority.

The expenditure authorities of the funds allocated under the bill shall be responsible to report all expenses to the chairperson of the SNILD, showing the expenditure of the funds.

During the miscellaneous part of the session, Rep. Vincent Seman Aldan (Ind-Saipan) expressed concern over an apparent lack of reporting by these nonprofit organizations.

Aldan said one nonprofit organization was awarded \$50,000 in 2022 and is now asking for \$100,000 for the second phase of the same project.

“I would like to see a report that identifies how, where, [and] when the \$50,000 was spent,” said Aldan, without naming the nonprofit organization.

He recommended that any nonprofit organization that requests for any kind of budget in the future must provide the SNILD with all information on how the fund that was previously awarded was spent, and all the positive impact that funding had.

SNILD chair Rep. John Paul Sablan (Ind-Saipan) reminded delegation members that every local appropriation contains a clause that mandates nonprofit organizations



to report their expenditures after all those appropriation are depleted.

Sablan said that, as they move along, he is sure they will be getting reports on the funding that were previously appropriated to all these NGOs.

He assured that he will follow up on all those groups that previously received funding in previous legislatures and will require the same under the 23rd Legislature.

Source: <https://www.saipantribune.com/index.php/snild-bill-will-allocate-314550-to-3-ngos-operations-funding-to-complete-pavilions/>

## Chile reaffirms its support to the victims of Rome Statute crimes through contribution to the Trust Fund for Victims at the International Criminal Court

The Trust Fund for Victims (TFV) of crimes under the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC) has received a contribution of EUR 11,000 from the Government of the Republic of Chile. These funds are dedicated to the reparation programmes and other programmes for the benefit of victims that the Trust Fund for Victims implements.

Ambassador Jaime Moscoso Valenzuela affirmed that “access to justice that integrates the reparation and reconciliation of the victims must be an aspiration shared by all States. For this reason, it is important that the ICC, in its decisions and actions, have the focus on them. Chile is committed to this approach and, therefore, we consider it important that the States strengthen our support for the Trust Fund for Victims, making visible the work it carries out with its double mandate to implement the reparations to the victims ordered by ICC, as well as in their assistance work, providing them with physical, psychological and material support, as well as their families. The vital role that the Trust Fund for Victims fulfils, especially in relation to reparation and assistance to the victims of the most violent crimes, makes this Court unique, a characteristic that, in our opinion, must be preserved and strengthened.”

In receiving the contribution the Chair of the TFV Board of

Directors, Ms. Minou Tavárez Mirabal recognized “Chile’s unwavering commitment to the fight against impunity and to a rule of law based order is symbolized in the financial contribution that strengthen the Rome Statute system approach to realize the rights of victims through effective justice and reparations. On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Rome Statute, we call on all States Parties to include in its commitments to the International Criminal Court contributions to the Trust Fund for Victims.”

In 2009, Chile became the 109th State Party to the Rome Statute. It provided its first contribution to the Trust Fund for Victims on 2019, and the contribution for 2023 is the third voluntary contribution from Chile to the TFV.

The TFV relies on financial contributions to implement its programmes. Non-earmarked voluntary contributions, such as this from Chile, are important to allow the Board of Directors the flexibility to allocate the resources to programmes where it is most impactful and necessary. The TFV also welcomes contributions from States Parties’ development and cooperation funding, where possible

Since 2004, the TFV has received over EUR 47 million from 52 States Parties and individuals. In 2022, the TFV received over EUR 3,8 million in voluntary contributions. For 2023, the TFV has received or is in the



process of receiving contributions from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, New Zealand, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

With the contributions it receives, the Trust Fund for Victims is currently implementing reparation programmes for victims of crimes against humanity and war crimes in the cases of Katanga, Lubanga, Al Mahdi, and victims in urgent need in the Ntaganda case, while being involved in reparation proceedings in the Ongwen case. The TFV is also implementing other programmes for the benefit of victims through the provision of medical treatment, psychological rehabilitation, socio-economic support, education and peace building activities with collaboration from local authorities and close involvement of local communities. These programmes are currently being implemented in seven situations under the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court in the Central African Republic, Côte d’Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, Kenya, Mali and Uganda.

Source: <https://www.icc-cpi.int/news/chile-reaffirms-its-support-victims-rome-statute-crimes-through-contribution-trust-fund>



## Heaven Hill to invest \$800K in California nonprofits and infrastructure



Sylvia Goodman

**The \$800K investment from Heaven Hill, a locally owned bourbon brand, will be split between local nonprofits, sewer infrastructure improvements and more trees and shrubs.**

Heaven Hill announced an \$800,000 investment Friday in Louisville's California neighborhood. The funds will be split between long-term nonprofit partners, a new grant program, the Metropolitan Sewer District and a beautification plan.

The company has operated a distillery in California since 1999. The new investment is focused on organizations that support the community's mental health, economic development and education.

Heaven Hill co-president Allan Latts announced the company would work with five partners: food justice nonprofit Change Today Change Tomorrow, the community center Neighborhood House, workforce training program AMPED, education and job training programs at the Louisville Central Community Center and the West End School. Each will receive \$50,000 over the next five years.

Kevin Fields, CEO and president of the Louisville Central Community Centers, said he hopes other

corporations in Louisville will follow Heaven Hill's example by focusing on long-term commitments instead of one-off investments.

"Now's the time. One would say it's a long time coming but now is the time," Fields said. "Five years is a great demonstration period. As we demonstrate what impact can be made with this support over five years, then we know more [funding] is to come."

AMPED Founder and Executive Director Dave Christopher Sr. said he has been frustrated in the past with short-term commitments with too little money to make lasting change in the community — amounts he said were "just enough to fail."

"[These problems] didn't happen

just yesterday, it is not going to be fixed tomorrow. It's going to take a lot of partnerships like this," Christopher said. "You don't want us to continuously have our hands out asking you for help. What you want to do is pick organizations to give them enough to for them to become self-sustaining, so they can continue to do the work."

Heaven Hill is also establishing a formalized grant program, which will distribute \$250,000 to programs and organizations working towards improving the California neighborhood. Descendants of the California Neighborhood was the first recipient of the smaller grant program. While the grant amount isn't finalized, a spokesperson for Heaven Hill said the amount will likely be around \$10,000 for the first year.

"They are really wanting to bring the neighborhood back, wanting to help us bring the neighborhood back up until its built back to better than it used to be," said Mary Hall, the founder of the Descendants of the California Neighborhood.

Another \$300,000 will go to much-needed repairs of California's sewer systems and "beautification efforts." Metropolitan Sewer District Executive Director James Parrott said they are investing \$16.5 million to rehabilitate a 150-year-old sewer pipe under Maple Street and replace 76 catch basins in west Louisville. Parrott said the repairs will improve odor pollution in the area, especially during hot, dry weather.

The bourbon brand also plans to plant new trees and shrubs along roadsides and at Perry Elementary, just a couple blocks from the Heaven Hill Bernheim distillery.

Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg said he hoped other brands would be inspired to make similar commitments to the neighborhoods they operate in.

"We need more public-private partnerships like this, to help support our local nonprofit organizations and help support the neighborhoods that have been overlooked for far too long," Greenberg said. "We don't have any time to waste."

## US Providing \$20 Billion in Grants to Help Cut Greenhouse Gas Emissions



BILL MCCOLL

**T**he White House and the [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#) announced a pair of competitions worth \$20 billion to expand investments in new projects aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>[1]</sup>

The \$14 billion National Clean Investment Fund (NCIF) competition will provide grants to support two or three financing institutions that will partner with the private sector to provide "accessible, affordable financing for tens of thousands of clean technology projects." Officials noted at least 40% of the money will go to "low-income and disadvantaged communities."

The \$6 billion Clean Communities Investment Accelerator (CCIA) will work with the NCIF to give grants to two to seven hub nonprofit organizations. Those nonprofits will fund and give technical assistance to community lenders working to finance clean energy projects, also in low-income and disadvantaged communities.

Vice President Kamala Harris, who announced the plan along with EPA Administrator Michael Regan at Coppin State University, pointed out that the Biden Administration has set goals to cut U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030 and reach net-zero emissions by 2050. She explained that these new investments "move our nation towards achieving these goals and a cleaner, healthier future for generations to come."

The money is part of the \$27 billion Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund that was created by last year's [Inflation Reduction Act](#).

Those seeking the grants must apply to the EPA by October 12.

Source: <https://www.investopedia.com/us-providing-usd20-billion-in-grants-to-help-cut-greenhouse-gas-emissions-7561434>

Source: <https://www.lpm.org/news/2023-07-14/heaven-hill-to-invest-800k-in-california-nonprofits-and-infrastructure>



## The Ireland Funds Disburses €930,000 To Non-Profits

**T**he Ireland Funds, the global philanthropic network, has awarded €930,000 to 94 organisations in 24 counties across Ireland through its annual Heart of the Community Fund.

The funds provide critical and timely funding to a wide range of not-for-profit organisations in the form of grants made possible by philanthropic gifts and fundraising events of The Ireland Funds America, the largest of the Ireland Funds' global chapters.

Of the 94 recipients across arts & culture, community development, education, and peace & reconciliation, 62 are based in Ireland and 32 are located in Northern Ireland.

"The not-for-profit sector in Ireland is the engine on the ground delivering vital services every day, in every community. We understand the significant challenges organisations face, in particular, to meet their core costs to keep that engine going. We believe in each organisation we fund," said **Caitriona Fottrell**, CEO of the Ireland Funds.

"We believe in what they do, and how they do it. We know that by investing in them, we are positively impacting the communities they work with. The Heart of the Community Fund is supported by our events and our committed donors, and we are grateful their generosity will enable great work across the island of Ireland."

Organisations in the Republic of Ireland which will receive funding



include autism charity **AslAm**; Belvedere Youth Club; Sensational Kids CLG in Kildare, which helps provide access to diagnostic, developmental and therapeutic services to children on waiting lists; the Children's Grief Centre in Limerick and many more.

"AslAm is hugely grateful to be included in the year's Heart of the Community Fund grant round," said **Adam Harris**, CEO of AslAm.

"Since our inception in 2015, The Ireland Funds, and its donors across the world, have played a critical role in supporting the growth of our organisation, from concept to impact, and in terms of some of our most innovative programmes from our work in schools through to our Autism Information Line - this work

simply would not have been piloted, never mind scaled without this generous philanthropic support.

"In the year ahead we are working to expand the group-based supports we deliver, predominantly online and in the Dublin area, to a number of regional sites across the country and this core support from The Ireland Funds will make a critical difference as we work to cumulatively support 25,000 people by the end of 2025."

The Ireland Funds has funded non-profits in education, disability support, engagement with the arts, family support services, assisting the elderly, encouraging sustainability, mental health and community support.

## Prairie Meadows' board approves \$13 million in charitable giving grants

**P**rairie Meadows' board of directors has approved \$13 million in grants to nonprofits aligned with its mission to support arts and culture, education, economic development and human services. The three Prairie Meadows grant programs aim to strengthen and expand infrastructure and services within the community.

**The Prairie Meadows Legacy Grant** program awarded 19 grants totaling \$4 million for large-scale, signature projects in Central Iowa.

**The Prairie Meadows Community Betterment Grants** went to 234 nonprofit organizations totaling almost \$3.7 million to fund small-to-medium sized projects.

**The Prairie Meadows Youth Sports and Recreational Grant** program provided 23 grants totaling \$303,000.

In addition, the Des Moines Airport expansion project will receive a \$5 million grant.

"We are proud that we've been able to provide much-needed support in our community with these grant dollars," Prairie Meadows President and CEO Gary Palmer, said in a prepared statement. "Our goal is to be a catalyst that sparks change in our community and improves the lives of our neighbors. The success of these nonprofit organizations is what makes our community a remarkable place to live and work."

Since 1996, Prairie Meadows' community betterment contributions have provided more than \$2.1 billion to the state of Iowa.

Prairie Meadows and the Polk County Board of Supervisors will co-host a joint Community Impact Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Sept. 1 in the Meadows Event Center at Prairie Meadows. The luncheon will recognize the partnership between Prairie Meadows and Polk County that dates back to 1989 and celebrate the organizations that received grant funding from Polk County and Prairie Meadows.

Source: <https://www.businessrecord.com/prairie-meadows-board-approves-13-million-in-charitable-giving-grants/>

## Credit Union Gives \$100K to Charities

**V**alencia-based **Logix Federal Credit Union** is donating \$100,000 to five local charities. The nonprofit Community Stars, created by the bank's employees, distributed funds to **Carousel Ranch, Burbank Temporary Aid Center, Penny Lane Centers, For The Troops** and **Senior Concerns**.

"The Logix team is dedicated to the community and being a good corporate partner," said **Leticia MezaGuerrero**, the credit union's senior vice president of retail banking and loan center. "Our mission is to help our members thrive, and that also is our goal in the community - to help local nonprofit organizations succeed, giving support to those who need it most."

The charities have free rein for allocating the money to services and programs. Of the dollars distributed, the Burbank Temporary Aid Center, Penny Lane Centers and For the Troops received \$25,000 each, while Senior Concerns and Carousel Ranch both were awarded \$12,500.

"These dollars will support a full range of programs and services," said Carousel Ranch executive director **Taylor Adachi**.

Carousel Ranch is based in Santa Clarita and provides equestrian therapy to children with special needs. According to Adachi, Logix employees will work on the ranch as part of the Community Star foundation's time-off program allowing bank employees to receive paid time off for volunteering.

"In August, Logix employees will be volunteering with us, and we're thrilled to have them meet our team and see our ranch," Adachi said. "It will be their second time this year spending time making a difference with us through their Volunteer Time Off program."

The Community Stars foundation was founded in 2007 and has raised more than \$2 million for local nonprofits within Logix's area of service. This is the second year the bank has partnered with these five charities; in 2022 Community Stars donated a total \$180,000 to the nonprofit partners.

Each year the foundation board reviews charities in the community while credit union employees donate through fundraising drives and payroll deductions. Logix then matches its employees' donations.

Chartered in 1937, Logix is now the largest credit union headquartered in Los Angeles county. The bank has more than 215,000 members and \$9.7 billion in assets, and has been recognized four times on the Forbes best in-state credit unions list. Logix operates 18 branches in Los Angeles and Ventura counties.

Source: <https://www.businessrecord.com/prairie-meadows-board-approves-13-million-in-charitable-giving-grants/>

Source: <https://businessplus.ie/news/ireland-funds-e930k/>

## Valley Of The Sun United Way Announces \$9.3 Million In Grant Funding For Maricopa County Nonprofit

Valley of the Sun United Way announced today more than \$9.3 million in strategic investments of programs and services provided by 101 nonprofit organizations and schools throughout Maricopa County. In partnership with First Things First and other government support, Valley of the Sun United Way also provides nearly \$80 million to support families with affordable quality child care and strengthening literacy capacity, serving over 10,000 children statewide.

"We're proud to support and partner with so many incredible nonprofits and schools that are doing amazing and impactful work throughout our community," said Carla Vargas Jasa, president and CEO of Valley of the Sun United Way. "These partners are a fundamental and a critical component aligned to reach the bold goals of our community-driven, five-year plan for Mighty Change by 2026, which has prioritized improving outcomes in health, housing and homelessness, education and workforce development."

The community investments include Valley of the Sun United Way's recent competitive grant funding process in which \$5.8 million has been awarded to support 90 programs and services led by 67 community organizations, and additional investments in the nonprofit's Grassroots Funding initiative that supports nonprofits with annual budgets under \$250,000, as well as multi-year and transformational grants that support long-term programs like Mighty Families and Pathways to Economic Opportunity. Grant amounts had a

# MC2026

Valley of the Sun  
United Way



\$10,000 minimum and were capped at \$200,000 each.

"Forty-three organizations either received increased or new funding through our competitive grant process and more than 95,000 people throughout Maricopa County will benefit from these funded programs and services," added Vargas Jasa. "Our largest investments went to support key strategies addressing the housing and homelessness crisis, in addition to strategic supports in the areas of health, education and workforce development initiatives."

The organization's competitive grant process was open to all nonprofit organizations and schools throughout Maricopa County that submitted funding proposals aligned to Valley of the Sun United Way's impact agenda and strategies for Mighty Change, also known as MC2026. More than 230 funding applications were then reviewed by a Grant Review Panel comprised of 36 community members, subject-matter experts, Valley of the Sun United Way board members, staff and other community leaders who ensured greatest alignment, impact and viability for achieving Mighty Change. Recommendations of the Grant Review Panel were then considered and approved for funding by the Valley of the Sun United Way Board of Directors.

"We know the needs of our community are great and we're

fortunate to be able to provide these strategic investments that will help nonprofit organizations and schools deliver exceptional programs and services throughout the Valley," said John Graham, president and CEO of Sunbelt Holdings and chair of the Valley of the Sun United Way Board of Directors. "Our journey to Mighty Change is an tremendous opportunity we all have to collectively work together to improve the lives of children, families and individuals in our community and Valley of the Sun United Way is able to be the convener that is bringing together the right partners at the right time to meet our bold goals."

Recognizing that funding is just one component of addressing the needs of our community, Valley of the Sun United Way also manages a robust Gift-in-Kind Program that distributes more than \$350,000 worth of supplies to dozens of nonprofits throughout Maricopa County. The organization has also built and convenes several MC2026 Coalitions and Action Teams focused on the five-year initiative's key impact areas and other strategic initiatives. These coalitions work to align the collective, public-private efforts of companies, nonprofits, foundations, government entities and others. Community-based organizations that are interested in joining one of the MC2026 Coalitions and Actions Teams should contact Eileana Gudiño at egudino@vsuw.org.

Source: <https://glendaledailyplanet.com/lib/mdetail.php?app=Y&pop=Y&dm=Yes&l=https://glendaledailyplanet.com/valley-of-the-sun-united-way-announces-million-in-grant-funding-for-m-p2648-117.htm>

## Funding Shortages Crippling Aid Efforts in Afghanistan

Lack of donor funding is the No. 1 problem hindering humanitarian response efforts in Afghanistan, where 28 million people are in dire need of assistance, aid experts say.

Funding levels have dropped significantly since de facto Taliban authorities banned Afghan women from working for the United Nations and international NGOs, a move strongly condemned by donor countries.

"The biggest challenge actually for our organization [is] the fact that we are currently facing funding cuts that affect our ability to continue delivering on the ground," said Melissa Cornet, a humanitarian advocacy adviser with CARE, an international aid organization.

Of the \$3.2 billion funding goal the United Nations has set for Afghanistan this year, donors have provided only \$477.7 million, or

14.8%, as of July 12.

"NGOs have proven that we can work, that we can find workarounds, and that despite restrictions, we are able to reach more and more people. But what is holding us back right now is not our ability to find ways to reach these communities. It is fundamentally a lack of funding," said Samira Sayed-Rahman, the International Rescue Committee's policy and communications director.

Speaking at an event at the United States Institute of Peace on Wednesday, Cornet and Sayed-Rahman said the lack of funding was hurting Afghan NGOs and women-led organizations more than their international partners. Local NGOs implement about 70% of the U.N. projects and programs in Afghanistan.

"It's really like a double punishment," said Cornet. "On the

one hand, we have to deal with the constraints imposed by the de facto authorities, and on the others, we are not able to access new funding ... and this is having a huge impact on the ability to support Afghan women and girls." Several donors have said they remain committed to assisting the people of Afghanistan while at the same time have strongly condemned the Taliban, blaming them for creating the crisis.

The U.S. Department of State has previously told VOA: "The U.S. government remains committed to helping the Afghan people through the humanitarian and economic crisis that the Taliban created and have exacerbated with the discriminatory NGO edict." A spokesperson replied in written comments.

Source: <https://www.voanews.com/a/funding-shortages-crippling-aid-efforts-in-afghanistan/7178155.html>



# Tweets of Social Good

**Islamic Relief Worldwide** 2 d · 🌐

Over 100 days into the crisis in #Sudan, you have helped us deliver:

- ◆ Shelter
- ◆ Food aid
- ◆ Safe drinking water
- ◆ Hygiene support
- ◆ Other life-saving assistance

Your generosity makes a huge impact. Please help us continue our response.

<https://islamic-relief.org/appeals/sudan-emergency-appeal/>



**The NGO World** @thengoworld · 20 Jul

"A strong #nonprofit leader drives a sense of mission down through the organization, upward into the board and outward in to the community. He or she is willing to do whatever it takes to enable the organization to follow their mission effectively."

#theNGOworld #NGO #impact

**United Nations** @UN · 1d

No one should go hungry. Ever.

Yet, if we don't #ActNow, 670 million people will face hunger by 2030.

Find out how you can help achieve the #GlobalGoals and a #ZeroHunger world: [un.org/actnow](https://un.org/actnow)

**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** IFRC

21 h · 🌐

Because...hope is who we are 🥰. #FridayFeeling

Thank you Syrian Arab Red Crescent - الهلال الأحمر العربي السوري ❤️

**Life** Life for Relief and Development

8 h · 🌐

LIFE has recently thrown a fun day party for the orphans of Iraq. Along with gifts, they were provided with entertainment that included rides, a magic show, music, and a drawing station.

Thank you to all of our generous donors for making this event possible!



**UN Volunteers**

4 d · 🌐

Conflict, climate change, pandemics, hunger, displacement.

Never has the world seen such complex crises. Volunteers are crucial to overcoming these challenges with compassion, resilience, and unwavering dedication.

**IT TAKES A VILLAGE OF UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS**



**Education Above All Foundation** • Follow  
4 d · 🌐

"Empower yourselves with a good education, then get out there and use that education to build a country worthy of your boundless promise." - Michelle Obama

Education builds better lives, stronger communities, more resilient countries and ultimately a more equitable world for everyone.

#SDG4  
#EducateEveryChild  
#AccessToEducation




**The Citizens Foundation** Sponsored · 🌐

Change Begins with Education

**Change begins with Education**

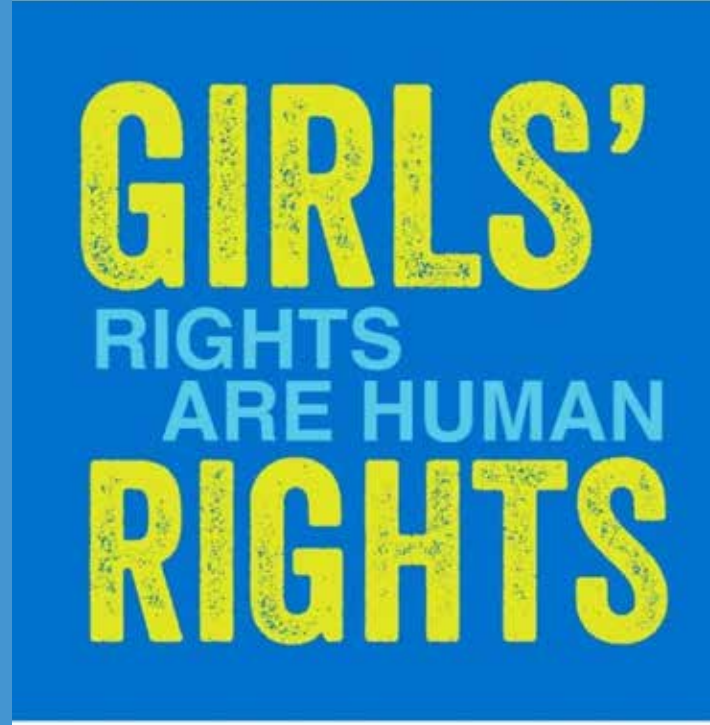
Quality education for the less privileged children



**Plan International** 1 d · 🌐

Girls' rights = human rights. It's that simple ❤️  
#GirlsRights

**GIRLS' RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS**



**FAO and the SDGs** 8,409 Tweets · Following

Imagine a world where everyone has access to food & water.

Participate in the #WorldFoodDay Poster contest to show your creativity by designing a poster of your water action for food!

bit.ly/3zk3y6Z

#WaterAction #SDGs #GlobalGoals #SDG6 #SDG2

**Enter the World Food Day Poster Contest!**



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations | SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

**UNDP Seoul Policy Centre** @UNDPSPC · Jul 28

With @SamsungMobile, @UNDP's #Generation17 seeks to inspire young generations to work together to achieve the #GlobalGoals

Director Anne Juepner introduced @UNDPSPC, sharing her aspirations for innovation, social impact & sustainable dev. with Global Young Leaders.



Ulrika Modéer and 4 others

1 19 47 3,648

**Amina J Mohammed** @AminaJM... · 1d

We come to a make-or-break turning point.

Transforming food systems is the best way forward for people and for planet. It starts here at #UNFSS2023.  
[un.org/sg/en/content/...](https://un.org/sg/en/content/...)



**Global Disability Rights Advocate** #CRPD#... @sylvain\_ob... · Jul 28

Happy to organize an advocacy workshop on **disability data** for disabled people's organizations, which aimed to build the capacity of #DPO in advocacy for #disabilitydata in order to effectively carry out evidence-based advocacy actions with key decision-makers in the DRC



Global Partnership and 9 others

2 11 21 632



FIRST  
EDITION

# PHOTO CONTEST



## YOUTH IN ACTION

**YOUTH!**

## Call for Submissions for the Youth-in-Action Photo Contest

We want to showcase young people's inspiring efforts in making a positive impact on the world

Submit your best photo that captures, in action, your or your friends' work towards creating a better future for all, such as

- Fighting climate change
- Building peace
- Strengthening civic space
- Empowering youth

...and any other relevant action to UNESCO's work!

To enter, fill out the form here <http://bitly.ws/JS6K>

- The three winners will receive recognition for their contribution to making a difference in the world by being featured
- In 3 separate posts with the photos, description, and link to the photographer social media accounts on the Facebook page
- In a Web story on UNESCO's website to announce the 3 winners and present their photos and stories

Don't miss out on this opportunity to showcase your authentic and engaging photography skills on your meaningful work!

Submission deadline: August 15th, 2023 (23:45 CEST)

Submit your stories for upcoming edition & for queries, suggestion, feedback  
**[editor@thengoworld.com](mailto:editor@thengoworld.com)**