

# THE NGO WORLD WORLD

## The NGO World's 13th Anniversary Celebration



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# Empowering Impact: Prioritizing Employee Health for Organizational Excellence

Maintaining the physical health of team members in a nonprofit and humanitarian organization is crucial for several reasons. Firstly, good physical health directly impacts energy levels, productivity, and overall performance. When team members are healthy, they can sustain their efforts and remain engaged in their work, leading to better results.

Secondly, working in the nonprofit and humanitarian sector often involves demanding situations, including physically demanding tasks, long hours, and potentially stressful environments. Being in good physical health equips team members to handle these challenges effectively and minimize burnout.

Moreover, physical health is closely linked to mental well-being. Regular exercise, proper nutrition, and sufficient sleep contribute to reducing stress, anxiety, and depression. This, in turn, enhances team members' ability to cope with the emotional toll that can arise from dealing with sensitive and distressing situations in their work.

Prioritizing physical health also promotes a positive organizational culture. When leaders show concern for their team's well-being, it fosters a sense of care and mutual support. This can lead to higher job satisfaction, increased morale, and stronger team cohesion.

Employees in nonprofit and humanitarian organizations can

face a range of health issues due to the unique nature of their work. Some common health challenges include:

**Burnout and Stress:** The emotionally demanding nature of working in these sectors can lead to burnout and high levels of stress. Employees may feel overwhelmed by the intensity of their responsibilities, which can affect their mental and physical well-being.

**Compassion Fatigue:** Continuously dealing with traumatic events, vulnerable populations, and challenging situations can lead to compassion fatigue, where employees experience emotional exhaustion and reduced empathy.

**Irregular Work Hours:** Many nonprofit and humanitarian roles involve irregular and long work hours, including responding to emergencies or being on-call, which can disrupt sleep patterns and overall well-being.

**Physical Strain:** In humanitarian settings, employees may face physical strain due to tasks like lifting heavy objects, working in challenging environments, or participating in fieldwork.

**Lack of Resources:** Limited resources and funding can lead to inadequate workplace conditions, which may contribute to stress and impact employee health.

**Exposure to Trauma:** Employees might be exposed to traumatic

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events or situations, leading to secondary trauma and affecting their mental health.

**Inadequate Self-Care:** In the midst of focusing on helping others, employees may neglect their own self-care routines, leading to neglect of their physical and mental health.

**High Emotional Demands:** Empathy and emotional engagement are critical in nonprofit and humanitarian work, but they can also lead to emotional exhaustion and mental health challenges.

### **Guidelines for Teams:**

Here are some guidelines that employees in nonprofit and humanitarian organizations can follow to maintain good health:

**Prioritize Self-Care:** Make self-care a priority by setting aside time for relaxation, hobbies, and activities that bring joy and reduce stress.

**Regular Exercise:** Engage in regular physical activity to boost energy levels, reduce stress, and maintain overall fitness. Even short walks or stretching breaks during the workday can be beneficial.

**Balanced Nutrition:** Consume a well-balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and healthy fats. Proper nutrition supports both physical and mental well-being.

**Adequate Sleep:** Aim for 7-9 hours of quality sleep each night to ensure optimal physical and mental recovery.

**Stress Management:** Practice stress-relief techniques such as deep breathing, meditation, mindfulness, or yoga to manage stress effectively.

**Regular Breaks:** Take short breaks during the workday to rest and recharge. Avoid the temptation to work continuously without breaks.

**Stay Hydrated:** Drink enough water throughout the day to stay hydrated and maintain cognitive function.

**Social Support:** Connect with colleagues, friends, and family for emotional support and a sense of community.

**Seek Help:** If you're struggling with your mental health, don't hesitate to seek professional help or counseling. Many organizations offer employee assistance programs (EAPs) that provide confidential support.

**Time Management:** Prioritize tasks, set realistic goals, and manage your time effectively to prevent feeling overwhelmed.

**Mindful Technology Use:** Limit screen time and create tech-free zones to prevent digital fatigue and improve sleep quality.

**Stay Updated:** Stay informed about health guidelines, vaccinations, and safety protocols relevant to your work environment.

Remember that maintaining good health is an ongoing effort, and it's important to adapt these guidelines to your personal preferences and circumstances. Taking care of yourself enables you to better support the causes you're passionate about in your nonprofit and humanitarian work.

### **Responsibilities of the Organisation:**

Organizations in the nonprofit and humanitarian sector can take several steps to ensure the health and well-being of their teams:

**Promote a Positive Work Culture:** Foster a culture that

values work-life balance, open communication, and mutual support. Encourage employees to take breaks and prioritize self-care.

**Provide Resources:** Offer resources such as employee assistance programs (EAPs), mental health resources, and wellness initiatives to support employees' physical and mental health needs.

**Training and Education:** Provide training on stress management, resilience, and coping strategies to help employees navigate challenging situations effectively.

**Flexible Work Arrangements:** Consider flexible work arrangements, such as remote work or flexible hours, to accommodate employees' diverse needs and promote work-life balance.

**Regular Check-ins:** Schedule regular one-on-one check-ins with team members to discuss their well-being, workload, and any challenges they might be facing.

**Healthy Physical Environment:** Create a safe and comfortable physical work environment that promotes productivity and well-being.

**Open Communication Channels:** Maintain open channels of communication where employees feel comfortable discussing their concerns, stressors, and well-being with supervisors or HR.

**Wellness Initiatives:** Organize wellness programs, workshops, and activities focused on physical health, mental well-being, and stress reduction.

**Inclusive Policies:** Implement inclusive policies that accommodate diverse needs, such as parental leave, caregiving support, and accommodations for disabilities.

**Regular Feedback:** Seek feedback from employees on their well-being, work conditions, and suggestions for improvement to continuously enhance the work environment.

**Lead by Example:** Leaders and managers should prioritize their own well-being and set an example by following healthy practices.

**Emergency Response Plans:** Develop clear plans for emergencies and challenging situations to ensure the safety and well-being of employees during humanitarian missions or crisis situations.

By taking these steps, organizations can create a supportive and healthy work environment that enables their teams to thrive and deliver impactful results in the nonprofit and humanitarian sector

### **Employees' Health, Performance and Goal:**

In the realm of nonprofit and humanitarian organizations, the symbiotic relationship between employee health, organizational performance, and the achievement of goals is undeniable. A thriving workforce is the backbone of effective impact, and prioritizing employee well-being becomes pivotal in this pursuit.

A workforce that is physically and mentally healthy is better equipped to navigate the challenges that the sector often presents. By providing resources, fostering a supportive culture, and encouraging open communication, organizations can create an environment where team members feel valued, understood, and empowered.

As employees take steps to maintain their health through

self-care, regular exercise, and stress management, they not only enhance their own performance but also contribute to the collective success of the organization. Physical vitality translates into sustained energy levels, enabling team members to deliver their best even in demanding situations. Mental well-being equips them to cope with emotional tolls, fostering resilience and empathy while safeguarding against burnout.

The accomplishment of an organization's goals is intrinsically linked to the commitment and dedication of its workforce. As organizations provide the necessary support and resources, employees become more engaged, motivated, and focused on achieving the mission. By recognizing and rewarding contributions, fostering a positive work culture, and offering opportunities for growth, organizations nurture a sense of purpose that fuels both individual and collective accomplishments.

In conclusion, the triumvirate of employee health, organizational performance, and the achievement of goals forms the cornerstone of success in nonprofit and humanitarian endeavors. It is through a holistic approach that includes physical and mental well-being, supportive environments, and opportunities for growth that organizations can ensure their teams are not only ready to face challenges but also empowered to make a lasting and meaningful impact on the communities they serve.

Warm regards,

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

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# GiveSmart and The Nonprofit Makeover Empower Nonprofit Leaders of Color

**G**iveSmart by Community Brands, the leading fundraising and donor management tech company, is thrilled to announce its new partnership with The Nonprofit Makeover, a minority-owned consulting firm dedicated to supporting the growth and success of BIPOC-led nonprofits. Together, they are expanding GiveSmart Gives Back, which now aims to empower BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) nonprofit leaders through a comprehensive training program alongside offering technology grants.

The cornerstone of this partnership is to provide BIPOC nonprofit leaders with fully funded scholarships to receive access to The Nonprofit



Makeover's acclaimed eCourse, The Nonprofit Makeover University. This immersive training tool, spanning over 50+ hours, covers a wide range of essential topics, including volunteer recruitment and sustainability, social media and website marketing, fundraising, public relations, and advocacy. Additionally, to meet the significant increase in demand for services since the onset of the pandemic, GiveSmart is also awarding technology grants for access to its fundraising and donor management suite and Services team.

**"As a tech company dedicated to making a difference, we recognize the importance of supporting BIPOC leaders in the nonprofit sector," shared Steve Greanias, GiveSmart General Manager. "By offering scholarships to The Nonprofit Makeover University and technology grants to GiveSmart, we are not only investing in the growth and development of these leaders but also empowering their staff and volunteers with nonprofit best practices. Together, we can create lasting change and a more equitable future for all."**

GiveSmart, known for its long-term commitment to nonprofit, social impact, and corporate philanthropy, is proud to continue GiveSmart Gives Back. By partnering with The Nonprofit

Makeover, GiveSmart aims to empower BIPOC nonprofit leaders by providing them with the tools they need to succeed.

"We are truly excited about reinvigorating GiveSmart Gives Back," said Kristen Faith, CEO of The Nonprofit Makeover. "Through this partnership, we aim to address the disparities and challenges faced by BIPOC nonprofit leaders. By providing them with access to our comprehensive eCourse, we hope to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in their roles and elevate their organizations to new heights."

The Nonprofit Makeover University boasts an impressive lineup of experts from various fields, including nonprofit management, marketing, communications, and fundraising. BIPOC leaders who participate in this program will gain invaluable insights, strategies, and best practices from these esteemed professionals. The eCourse's interactive format encourages collaboration, engagement, and peer-to-peer learning, fostering a vibrant community of nonprofit leaders passionate about creating positive change.

The partnership between The Nonprofit Makeover and GiveSmart signifies a powerful collaboration aimed at fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion within the nonprofit sector. Through the GiveSmart Gives Back initiative, BIPOC leaders will receive the guidance and training necessary to overcome obstacles, amplify their impact, and lead their organizations toward sustainable success.

Source: <https://www.nonprofitpro.com/article/givesmart-and-the-nonprofit-makeover-empower-bipoc-nonprofit-leaders/>

# Council For International Development Annual Conference 2023

The Council for International Development Aotearoa New Zealand (CID) is holding their Annual Conference on 20 and 21 September 2023.

This year's conference will bring together international NGOs, multilateral organisations, government departments, businesses, social enterprises, independent consultants, academics, and media, from across Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia, the Asia-Pacific region and globally.

**After having the conference predominantly online for the past few years, this year both days will be held in person. In-line with the theme, "Deeper Partnerships to Navigate Uncertain Futures", the conference aims to create a productive networking space with opportunities to forge new connections and partnerships.**

As we witness climate impacts on our doorstep, conflicts escalating, geopolitics shifting, and inequality and injustice pervading across the world, deeper and more strategic partnerships are needed. We must prioritise greater collaborations across sectors and between nations.

Discussions will explore opportunities for new and unconventional partnerships; power imbalances and barriers to equal partnerships; strategies for navigating global risks and uncertainties; and ways we can enhance collaboration across different sectors and nations.

This event will bring together a dynamic network of over 20+

speakers and presenters from across Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia, the Pacific and United States, discussing the latest developments in international development, foreign affairs and humanitarian aid.

The Pacific will feature strongly at this year's event with keynote sessions from Kanni Wignaraja, Assistant Secretary-General for United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Hon. Pat Conroy, Minister for Development and the Pacific with the Australian Government, and Distinguished Professor Dr Steven Ratuva from the University of Canterbury, among many of the highlights.

In recognition of the value of a coordinated regional approach for development, the CEO's of the peak bodies for the sector will be discussing challenges and opportunities at this year's conference. This includes Emiline Siale Illohia from Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO), Marc Purcell with Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and Peter Rudd with the Council for International Development Aotearoa New Zealand (CID).

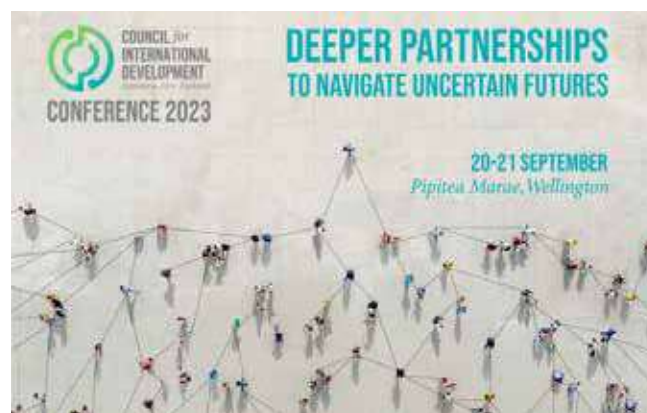
The event is supported by partner sponsors OSACO Group, Tetra Tech, StoneX, Tonkin & Taylor, Direct Impact Group, EU Delegation to New Zealand and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT).

For more information about the event, including the Official Conference Programme and registration details, visit our [website](#)

Please note, the conference is almost sold-out - strictly limited tickets available.

## The Council for International Development

The Council for International Development Aotearoa New Zealand (CID) is the peak body and umbrella organisation for the international development and humanitarian aid sector. Founded in 1985, CID is a members-based organisation with almost 90 members operating in over 190 countries including large international NGOs, business, academic institutions, research organisations, consultants, and social enterprises. CID connects, strengthens and advocates for the international NGO sector



in Aotearoa New Zealand and internationally. We connect with multi-lateral organisations, governments and other development actors across the globe. CID are a registered charity and are governed by a Board made up of member organisations. We have a long-term partnership with the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT).



## Asia Foundation CEO Laurel Miller to Address Global Leaders at G20 Ministerial Conference

Gandhinagar, India, August 1, 2023 – The Asia Foundation's President and CEO, Laurel Miller, is in Gandhinagar, India, to address the G20 Ministerial Conference on Women Empowerment from August 2-4. Miller will speak on "Women and Girls as Change-makers in Climate Resilience Action."

Miller is a champion in addressing climate challenges and advocating for the essential role women can play as leaders. The Asia Foundation works to empower women and marginalized groups across Asia and the Pacific by increasing their political voice and leadership,

improving their rights and security, and expanding opportunities for education, employment, and entrepreneurship.

**Ahead of the Ministerial Conference, Miller spoke at a side event organized by the Asian Development Bank and UN Women, "Gender Equality and Climate Change: How Can Net Zero Deliver 50/50 Gender Equality?"**

Miller addressed the importance of women's voice and leadership in global climate action and the obstacles they face saying, "As champions of women-led initiatives,

we know that, for centuries, women have played and continue to play a fundamental role as caretakers of our planet and its resources."

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.

Source: <https://asiafoundation.org/2023/08/01/asia-foundation-ceo-laurel-miller-to-address-global-leaders-at-g20-ministerial-conference/>

Source: <https://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO2308/S00258/council-for-international-development-annual-conference-2023.htm>



## The NGO World's 13<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration



Zafar Iqbal

### Introduction:

The NGO World, a dedicated organization committed to social services, celebrated its remarkable 13-year journey of impact and transformation with a special event held at its Multan office. The celebration served as a reflection on the organization's beginnings, growth, and the significant achievements it has accomplished in the field of humanitarian support, development projects, social welfare initiatives, and capacity building.

### Event Highlights:

The event was a heartwarming occasion that brought together social workers, friends, and supporters of The NGO World. The organization's humble beginnings were underscored, with a nod to the fact that the journey started with just a table and a laptop. Today, the organization boasts an impressive 1.7 million beneficiary list, a testament to its unwavering commitment to creating positive change.

### Guest of Honor:

A highlight of the celebration was the

presence of Mr. Mustafa Tutkun, who played a pivotal role in the organization's inception. His early support, providing both resources and technical assistance, was a crucial factor when the organization was in its infancy. Mr. Chairman warmly acknowledged Mr. Tutkun's steadfast contribution and invited him to share in the joy of this milestone. Mr. Tutkun, who traveled all the way from Turkiye, was



presented with a plaque as a token of appreciation for his enduring support.

### Appreciation for The NGO World:

Mr. Mustafa Tutkun's presence resonated with the sentiment shared by many during the event. He lauded the remarkable accomplishments of The NGO World and expressed his pride in witnessing the organization's growth and impact. The event provided an opportunity for various speakers to acknowledge the organization's efforts and its vital role in humanitarian initiatives, development projects, and social welfare initiatives. The collective praise showcased the significance of The NGO World's work in making a tangible difference in the lives of many.

### Conclusion:

The celebration of The NGO World's 13th anniversary was a resounding success, encapsulating the organization's journey from humble beginnings to its current status as a provider of critical social services. The event highlighted the power of collaboration, dedication, and support in driving positive change. With the continued commitment of individuals like Mr. Mustafa Tutkun and the entire NGO World team, there's no doubt that the organization's impact will continue to grow, touching the lives of countless more beneficiaries in the years to come.

### Speech by Mr. Chairman:

Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed guests, and valued team members,

Today marks a momentous occasion as we gather here at our Multan office to celebrate 13 incredible years of The NGO World's dedication to social services, humanitarian work, and development projects. It's



a privilege to stand before you and reflect on the remarkable journey we have embarked upon.

Over the years, our unwavering commitment to making a positive impact in the lives of those in need has driven us forward. From touching the lives of 1.7 million beneficiaries to fostering initiatives of welfare and tirelessly working towards networking and capacity building, our collective efforts have brought about transformative change.

As we reflect on our accomplishments, I must acknowledge the unwavering support of all our stakeholders. Your belief in our mission and your contributions have been instrumental in propelling us forward. It is through your shared vision that we have been able to amplify the reach of our initiatives and make a lasting difference.

I also want to take a moment to commend the remarkable team behind The NGO World. Your dedication, passion, and hard work have been the driving force behind our success. In particular, I'd like to extend a heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Mustafa Tutkun. His steadfast commitment and trust have enabled us to ensure the continuity of our journey.

As we celebrate today, let us remember that our work is far from over. There are still countless lives awaiting positive change, and it is our responsibility to continue pushing the boundaries of what's possible. Together, as a united force for good, we can create a brighter future for all.

Thank you for being part of this celebration and for your ongoing support. Here's to the past 13 years and to the promising years ahead.





## Celebrating 13 Years of Social Impact: Brotherhood for Social Good

On August 24th, 2023, an event of great significance took place at the Beach Luxury Hotel in Karachi. The event, titled "Brotherhood for Social Good," was organized by The NGO World, a prominent organization

dedicated to social welfare initiatives. The occasion marked the celebration of their remarkable 13-year journey in collaboration with Turkish organizations, all focused on uplifting humanity in Pakistan.

The NGO World, under the visionary leadership of Chairman Mr. Zafar Iqbal, has emerged as a beacon of hope and positive change in the landscape of social work in Pakistan. Founded in 2010, this foundation has consistently strived to create a better world by reaching out to those in need. Over the years, their efforts have touched the lives of more than 1.7 million individuals, leaving an indelible impact on society.

### A Journey of Collaborative Impact:

At the heart of the event was the narrative of collaboration and

progress. Chairman Mr. Zafar Iqbal took the stage to present the incredible 13-year journey of The NGO World Foundation. This journey, spanning from 2010 to 2023, showcased the organization's unwavering commitment to making a difference in the lives of countless people across Pakistan. The event was a testament to the enduring partnership between The NGO World and various Turkish humanitarian organizations, including Turkiye Diyanet Vakfi.

### Voices of Appreciation and Optimism:

Mr. Mustafa Tutkun, a key figure in Turkish humanitarian initiatives, expressed his happiness at witnessing the impressive growth of The NGO World. He reminisced about the organization's inception and his collaboration

with Mr. Zafar Iqbal since 2010. Mr. Khalil Ibrahim, a representative of TIKA, emphasized the pivotal role of collaboration between their organization and The NGO World in rural development projects. This sentiment was echoed by Turkish Consul General in Karachi, Mr. Cemal Sangu, who commended The NGO World's work and highlighted the longstanding friendly relationship between Pakistan and Turkey.

**A Showcase of Achievements and Unity:** The event was graced by the presence of representatives from Turkish organizations, community members, civil society advocates, and The NGO World's dedicated team. Awards were presented to honor exceptional performers, recognizing their pivotal contributions to the foundation's objectives. The occasion was made vibrant and expressive through mesmerizing tablos presented by children, symbolizing the unity and hope inherent in social progress.

**A Glimpse into the Past and Future:** A significant moment of the event was the launch of a comprehensive report detailing the impactful work accomplished by The NGO World over the span of 13 years. This report not only highlighted the organization's achievements but also outlined its vision for the future—a future where collaborative efforts continue to drive positive change for those in need.

In conclusion, the "Brotherhood for Social Good" event organized by The NGO World served as a remarkable testament to the power of collaboration, compassion, and dedication in driving positive change. With its rich history and a promising outlook, The NGO World remains committed to its mission of transforming lives and fostering a brighter future for all.



# Permanent NGO registration insufficient ground for foreign fund utilization, Karnataka HC rejects plea for release of funds from 'Dan Church Aid'

In a significant ruling, the Karnataka High Court has emphasized that possessing permanent registration under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) does not automatically authorize NGOs to access and utilize foreign funds for specific purposes.

As per reports, a single judge bench presided by Justice K S Hemalekha has stated that holding permanent registration under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) is insufficient grounds for organizations or NGOs to have funds credited to their designated savings bank accounts. The court has clarified that entities must additionally obtain clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

**According to the court's decision, a writ petition filed by Bengaluru's MANSA Centre for Development and Social Action has been dismissed. The petition sought directions to the organization's bank for the release of over Rs 29.12 lakh, received from the Denmark-based NGO 'Dan Church Aid,' which had been held aside pending resolution.**

"The object of the FCRA, 2010, is to consolidate the law to regulate the acceptance and utilisation of foreign contributions or foreign hospitality by certain individuals or associations or companies and to prohibit acceptance and utilisation

of foreign contributions or foreign hospitality for any activities detrimental to national interest and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto," the court said.

As per reports, the NGO filed a [petition requesting](#) the bank to provide compensation of Rs 10 lakhs, along with interest, to cover damages incurred.

The petitioner contended that the bank's decision to freeze the funds was arbitrary and displayed high-handedness, particularly since the received money was from various donors, not solely from 'Dan Church Aid'.



In response, the bank justified its actions, stating that the FCRA unit of the Ministry of Home Affairs had instructed it to withhold crediting the amount received from 'Dan Church Aid' into the petitioner's account until further notice. The bank cited both Section 46 of the

FCR Act, 2010, and Regulations 35(A) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, as reasons for its compliance. The Reserve Bank of India had also directed withholding the credited amount.

The Union government provided communication from the Director (Monitoring Unit), Foreigners Division (FCRA Wing), Ministry of Home Affairs, which indicated that 'Dan Church Aid' had been categorized under 'Prior Reference/Permission Category' due to field/security agency feedback/input.

Following this, the government had urged the Reserve Bank of

India (RBI) to instruct all banks and branches to seek ministry clearance before crediting funds from 'Dan Church Aid' into Indian individuals/entities' accounts.

The bench highlighted an October 31, 2013 letter from the Ministry of

Home Affairs (MHA), underscoring that the bank was directed not to credit the amount from 'Dan Church Aid' to the petitioner's account until further instructions were provided.

**The court emphasized that the enactment of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act in 1976 was prompted by foreign countries funding individuals, associations, political parties, and other entities, along with providing hospitality, necessitating regulatory measures.**

"The effects of such funding and hospitality were quite noticeable and to have control over such funding and hospitality and to regulate the acceptance and utilization of the foreign contribution or foreign hospitality, by certain persons or associations, with a view to ensure that parliamentary institutions, political associations and academic and other voluntary organisations, as well as individuals working in the important areas of national life, may function in a manner consistent with the values of a sovereign democratic republic," the bench said.

Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said, "During the last three years from 2019 to 2021, the FCRA Registration Certificates of 1,811 associations have been cancelled under section 14 of The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 (FCRA, 2010) due to violation of provisions of the FCRA, 2010."

The court emphasized that the petitioner's possession of permanent registration under the FCRA 2010 did not automatically grant the right to have amounts credited to its designated savings bank account. This process would always be subject to clearance by the Ministry of Home Affairs.



## Punjab: NIA searches NGO Khalsa Aid's premises in Patiala

Patiala : The National Investigation Agency (NIA) raided premises of Khalsa Aid, a UK-based international non-profit humanitarian organisation, on Tuesday. The reason behind the raids is not yet clear.

The raids at Rishi Colony and a house at Shera Wala Gate began at 6am and continued till afternoon.

The NIA team seized two mobile phones and documents from the residence of India head Khalsa Aid Amarpreet Singh. He has been asked to appear before agency in Delhi.

**Khalsa Aid first came on the NIA radar regarding a case registered against US-based secessionist group Sikhs for Justice in 2021 during the farmer agitation.**

The NIA registered an FIR against the SJF stating that the organisation sent foreign funds through NGOs to pro-Khalistan

elements for propaganda against the Indian government .

**Unfortunate, say NGO's India head**

The Khalsa Aid India head termed the raid unfortunate. He said raid has been conducted on the NGO which is providing aid in flood-affected areas of Punjab and Haryana.

Amarpreet said the NGO is registered since 2014 and is providing support to victims of natural and man-made disasters around the world.

He said that he is yet to speak with Ravi Singh, who is heading this international NGO.

He said that during the farmer agitation, they got notice from the NIA and the NGO gave replied to their queries.

Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/chandigarh-news/nia-raids-premises-of-uk-based-khalsa-aid-in-patiala-reason-unclear-india-head-asked-to-appear-in-delhi-101690915867806.html>



## World Humanitarian Day Exhibition Conference And Awards 2023

**N**etwork for Human and Social Development hosted "World Humanitarian Day Exhibition Conference and Awards 2023" in Pak-China Friendship Center on 20 August 2023.

Major organizations who had shared their progress during the event included The NGO World, Junior Jinnah Trust, Akhuwat Foundation, Akhuwat Cloth Bank, Rescue 1122, Chal Foundation, Pakistan Red Crescent Society, Fosters International School, REDO, HEFA Trust and National Highway and Motorway Police as well as new organizations such as Third Space, Holy Help Organization, Hunar Crafting, The Qalam School.

The chief guest for the awards was IG National Highway and Motorway Police as well as Mehwish Memon

(Dexter Consulting) and Her Excellent Madam Memon Chohan.

During the event, The Collectors' Admiralty, a project of Network for Human and Social Development, appreciated the support of Akhuwat Cloth Bank and with Sulaiman Khalid (Assistant Project Manager, Akhuwat Cloth Bank) and Adil Rauf (Regional Manager Marketing and Fundraising Akhuwat Foundation) and with them as the guests, donated two boxes of books. One of the boxes was donated to Junior Jinnah Trust and one to Holy Help Organization.

Selani Welfare also distributed wheelchairs and sewing machines during the event. They also presented a memento to Dr. Fauzia Moghees (Executive Coordinator NBSD) with the support that she

provided for humanitarian work. Junior Jinnah Trust also presented a memento to Dr. Fauzia Moghees for the same.

The organizations appreciated the efforts of Network for Human and Social Development for their constant support of humanitarian efforts.



Source: <https://nhsd.com.pk/world-humanitarian-day-exhibition-conference-and-awards-2023/>

# Making Your Company ESG Compliant For Funding

In recent years, environmental, social and governance (ESG) compliance has become an increasingly important issue for companies across all industries.

Investors, regulators, and customers alike are calling for greater transparency and accountability from businesses when it comes to ESG practices.

**ESG compliance refers to a company's adherence to environmental, social, and governance standards and regulations, as well as its efforts to report on and improve its ESG performance.**

Currently, there are a lot of international Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

who are disbursing ESG funding to companies who were compliant with ESG.

So, adopting this concept, aside the fact that, you are aiding the growth of your immediate environment, will also make your company qualify for ESG Funding.

Without just analysing the financial performance of a company, investors are more inclined towards ESG considerations. ESG is likely becoming the heart of mainstream investing as it addresses every aspect of a business – employee happiness, safety of work environment, safety of customer data, potential threats that an organisation may pose to natural bodies or climate changes.

Independent investors and financial institutions use the ESG scores as a proxy to determine the returns of the company and its risks.

The director-general of Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Lamido Yuguda, at a workshop on Sustainable Finance stated that, “the revised Nigerian Capital Market Masterplan strongly underlines the need to create awareness and actively deploy educational and advocacy campaigns to promote ESG-compliant products.”

He said that this initiative has been identified to be of high priority, demanding immediate implementation and this is one of the Securities and Exchange Commission's principal reasons for organising this workshop, in collaboration with our co-hosts, the Financial Centre for Sustainability (FC4S).

The divisional head, Capital Markets at Nigerian Exchange Limited (NGX), Jude Chiemeka, said: “companies on the exchange that demonstrate strong ESG compliance often gain access to more capital, attract a broader investor base, and can even raise capital from foreign markets.

## Benefits Of ESG For Companies

**Compliance:** the ESG disclosure report provides transparency and visibility into an enterprise's activity for its key stakeholders – consumers, investors, and NGOs. ESG becomes an important requirement if you want to maintain a social license and establish business ties and also explore investment opportunities in other countries. ESG strengthens business resilience.

**Investment:** the recent pandemic has shown businesses the value of sustainability. Investors in the new normal are looking for sustainable businesses that are mindful of the fair practices in their operations.

**Competitive Advantage:** in this dynamic business landscape, it is a high priority to stand out in the crowd, not only in offering unique products/services but also in putting your employees' and customers' happiness at the top.



A good ESG plan should include ways to improve the ethics and commitment to act in the best interests of your employees and customers.

**Cost reduction:** ESG can contribute to cost savings considerably. Imagine the cost of procuring raw materials. Creating eco-friendly products, innovating with recycling options, redesigning equipment, introducing a fleet of electrical delivery trucks or vehicles to reduce fuel consumption and carbon emissions, offering flexible working hours to employees, and so on.

# Venezuela: NGO Amnesty International denounces “systematic” political detentions

**H**ighlights: Amnesty International (AI) denounced the “arbitrary detention for political reasons” in Venezuela. The NGO evokes a “systematic attack” of the population, and calls for the release of some 300 people considered political prisoners. Amnesty International highlights the “notorious lack of independence” of Venezuela’s judiciary. The organization calls on the International Criminal Court (ICC) to include these cases in its investigation into crimes against humanity that may have been committed under the Maduro government. “The right to liberty, a fair trial, integrity and freedom from torture or ill-treatment is frequently violated by these practices,” the organization said.

On Tuesday 29 August, Amnesty International (AI) denounced the “arbitrary detention for political reasons” in Venezuela. The NGO evokes a “systematic attack” of the population, and calls for the release...

On Tuesday 29 August, Amnesty International (AI) denounced the “arbitrary detention for political reasons” in Venezuela. The NGO evokes a “systematic attack” of the population, and calls for the release of some 300 people considered political prisoners.

Members of the Special Action Force of the Venezuelan National Police (FAES) in action during a night patrol, in Barquisimeto, September 2019 (illustration image). REUTERS/Ivan Alvarado

Politically motivated arbitrary detentions in Venezuela continue to be part of a systematic and widespread attack on the people of that country “ Amnesty International writes in its new report, “Lives Under Arrest” on detentions between 2018 and 2023 in the country. “This is mainly aimed at silencing people in dissent with the government of Nicolas Maduro or for other political purposes,” she added.

The diversity of profiles of those arbitrarily detained in Venezuela shows that persecution is not only against those who think differently,” but “seeks” to “send a message of intimidation” to the relatives of those targeted, according to the report. Amnesty International highlights in particular the “notorious lack of independence” of the judiciary, “disproportionate maximum penalties”, “criminalization” of individuals by competent courts in terrorism matters.

## Detention “incomunicado”

The organization has also identified “patterns” in detentions: without warrant and often “incomunicado” with “isolation of detainees,” among others. “The right to liberty, a fair trial, integrity and freedom from torture or ill-treatment is frequently violated

by these practices,” the organization said. According to Amnesty, around 300 people are detained in Venezuela for political reasons.

In the report, the NGO cites several “emblematic” cases including that of Javier Tarazona, director of the NGO FundaRedes who was arrested in July 2021 and charged with “terrorism”. A specialist in the border area with Colombia and a critic of the government, Mr. Tarazona, a



media figure in Venezuela, warned in particular about the fighting between the Venezuelan army and Colombian armed groups on the border between the two countries. According to Amnesty International, he was “subjected to torture in the initial moments of his detention”.

The organization calls for the release of all political detainees and calls on the International Criminal Court (ICC) to include these cases in its investigation into crimes against humanity that may have been committed under the Maduro government.

Source: <https://www.tellerreport.com/news/2023-08-29-venezuela--ngo-amnesty-international-denounces-%22systematic%22-political-detentions.rkEw3dej62.html>

Source: <https://leadership.ng/making-your-company-esg-compliant-for-funding/>

## Community-Led Development: The EduSpots' Model

Community-led development is a philosophy that recognizes the agency and potential of local communities to drive change within their own contexts. This approach stands in stark contrast to the traditional top-down development strategies that often impose external solutions with limited success. One organization that embodies the spirit of community-led development is EduSpots ([www.eduspots.org](http://www.eduspots.org)), a non-governmental organization operating in Ghana. EduSpots connects, trains, and equips over 250 local volunteers to serve as catalysts for educational development in their communities. As a result, over 15,000 children in deprived communities are currently benefiting from this transformative approach. The EduSpots model, with its principles, methodologies, impacts, and global relevance, serves as an inspiring example for NGOs worldwide.

At the core of the EduSpots model lies a profound commitment to community ownership and active participation. This approach recognizes that local communities are not passive recipients of development aid but possess valuable knowledge, skills, and resources. EduSpots empowers these communities by identifying, training, and equipping local volunteers who serve as educators and mentors to children in their neighborhoods. These volunteers, often drawn from the same

community, understand the unique challenges and opportunities faced by their students, making their impact particularly profound.

The EduSpots model places a strong emphasis on technology as an enabler of education. In a world where access to educational resources can be limited, especially in remote or underserved areas, EduSpots leverages technology to



bridge this gap. EduSpots is striving hard to provide computers and tablets for Spot users to facilitate interactive sessions and to provide engaging educational content to children. This will not only makes learning enjoyable but also ensures that children are exposed to modern tools and technologies, equipping them with skills relevant to the 21st century.

Furthermore, EduSpots has established physical hubs known as 'spots' within communities.

These spaces serve as centers of educational empowerment where children can access learning materials, receive guidance from volunteers, and engage in collaborative learning with their peers. The spots are more than just physical structures; they are the heart of the community-led educational transformation that EduSpots catalyzes.

The impacts of the EduSpots' model are evident and profound. Over 15,000 children in deprived communities have experienced increased literacy rates, thanks to the efforts of community-based volunteers. By tailoring the curriculum to local needs and leveraging technology, children develop essential reading and writing skills. Beyond academic achievements, EduSpots contribute to the holistic development of children, instilling values, life skills, and a sense of aspiration. Moreover, the model fosters community engagement and empowerment, creating

a positive ripple effect within communities.

The EduSpots' model should serve as an exemplar for other non-governmental organizations across the globe. It embodies several critical lessons for community-led development: First, EduSpots showcases the importance of local empowerment. Local communities possess valuable knowledge and insights that are often overlooked. By recognizing and empowering local

individuals as agents of change, transformative outcomes can be achieved. Secondly, the model underscores the importance of contextual relevance. Solutions in development must be tailored to local realities, considering cultural norms, economic conditions, and existing capacities. EduSpots' success stems from its ability to integrate into the fabric of the communities it serves. Third, EduSpots emphasizes the power of partnerships and technology. Collaboration with various stakeholders, combined with the strategic use of technology, can enhance the reach and effectiveness of community-led initiatives. Finally, the EduSpots model highlights the necessity of long-term commitment. Community-led development is a gradual process that requires patience and sustained engagement. EduSpots' sustained commitment to its mission is a testament to the impact that long-term dedication can achieve.

The EduSpots model exemplifies the transformative potential of community-led development. By harnessing the expertise and commitment of local volunteers, integrating technology, and fostering collaborative learning spaces, EduSpots has successfully brought about positive change in the educational landscape of deprived communities in Ghana. This model's principles, methodologies, impacts, and broader implications underscore the value of community-led approaches in achieving sustainable development. As we move forward, the EduSpots model serves as an inspiring blueprint for organizations and communities striving to empower themselves from within.

## Kennebec County projects, nonprofits strengthened by foundation

More than \$73,000 in Maine Community Foundation grants aim to help strengthen nonprofit organizations and projects in Kennebec County.

The eight grants through MaineCF's Community Building Grant Program include \$68,470 recommended by the Kennebec County Committee and one additional grant totaling \$5,000 from a donor-advised fund, according to a news release from the foundation with offices in Ellsworth and Portland.

2023 Grants from the Kennebec County Committee:

- Children's Discovery Museum, to ignite curiosity and celebrate learning through hands-on programs and interactive play spaces: \$10,000;
- Emmanuel Lutheran Episcopal Church, to expand its resource department for people with low incomes in Greater Augusta: \$10,000;
- Maine Resilience Building Network, to develop a coalition of Gardiner-area community members to develop locally driven solutions for youth: \$8,470;
- Maine Society of the Children of the American Revolution, to purchase a pavilion for veterans and their families to meet outdoors and for community events: \$2,500;

- New England Music Camp Association, for musical instruction to vulnerable teens through a Learn to Own program: \$7,500;
- Project Sparrow, to expand programs that provide immediate needs such as clothing, shoes, equipment, bedding and support to foster children: \$10,000;
- Viles Arboretum, to expand its Community Agriculture Program to support people experiencing food insecurity: \$10,000; and
- Waterville Area Soup Kitchen, to provide meals for residents of the Greater Waterville area: \$10,000.

From donor-advised funds (as of April 2023):

- Betsy Ann Ross House of Hope, to provide housing, peer support, basic needs, wellness plans and group therapy to current and former female-identifying service members and their families: \$5,000.

The Kennebec County Fund is a permanent endowment that supports projects and nonprofit organizations that strengthen communities. Proposals are submitted through MaineCF's Community Building Grant Program, the foundation's largest, and are reviewed by a committee of community members.

The next proposal deadline is Feb. 15, 2024. For more information, visit [mainecf.org/communitybuilding](http://mainecf.org/communitybuilding).

Source: <https://www.centralmaine.com/2023/08/28/kennebec-county-projects-nonprofits-strengthened-by-foundation/>

Source: <https://www.modernghana.com/news/1254543/community-led-development-the-eduspots-model.html>

## Why Pakistan still struggles to overcome its stigma around disability

**The country's 14.3 million disabled people are often isolated and othered, unable to claim the same rights as their able-bodied peers**

**B**ashir is one of the last so-called 'rats of Shah Dola'. The 30 year old, who suffers from microcephaly, has lived much of his life next to the famous shrine in Gujarat, northern Pakistan, where he spends his days begging for money.

Up until recently, there had been other 'chuhars,' or rats, at the shrine, all of whom were similarly distinguished by their abnormally small and disfigured heads – the result of microcephaly, a rare neurological disorder that inhibits brain development.

Many visitors made sure to fill the beggars' bowls with coins, fearing that the green-cloaked 'rat people' were capable of blessing or cursing them.

Bashir does not begrudge his life. If anything, he gives thanks for the generosity of others. "Why would anyone mistreat me? Everyday, I simply receive whatever God has written for me that day."

Yet despite being revered as divine creatures, the 'chuhars' have no real place in society and are instead stripped of their dignity and pushed to the periphery, out of sight and out of mind.

In Pakistan, some 14.3 million people live with a disability. Right from birth, these individuals are often

isolated and othered, unable to

claim rights to the same resources as their able-bodied peers. In a country where accessibility is rare and acceptance even rarer, these people find themselves with little support.

**"Differently-abled people in Pakistan are stigmatised and treated as a blessing or curse from God. Pakistani society is deeply influenced by social-religious beliefs, and for the masses, the core reasoning lies within the religious context," says Anees Shakil, a clinical psychologist at DHQ Hospital in Mandi Bahuddin, a city close to Gujarat.**

"A child born with a profound disability like Down syndrome or microcephaly is often considered a curse from God for the family's perceived wrongdoings. Unfortunately, it is a common practice in Pakistan to abandon such children at different religious temples."

**'It is our society who is disabled'**

Life at the Shah Dola shrine is said to have been even more exploitative in the near past. Couples attempting to conceive used to visit the shrine to be blessed with fertility. But the legend surrounding saint Shah Dola stated



that their prayers would only be answered on one condition – that the couple donate their first child to the shrine.

**It's been alleged that the children left behind were subsequently made to wear iron caps on their heads, which gave them artificial microcephaly and stunted brain development. Devoid of education and unable to see their parents, the children were then put to work as the begging 'rats' of the shrine.**

The administrators of the shrine have strongly denied all these claims and sometime around the 1960s, the government supposedly took action and banned families leaving newborns at the shrine, although many still persisted.

These taboos prevail despite the existence of organisations and institutions that over the decades have attempted to provide education, counselling and even jobs and resources to disabled and neurodivergent children and adults in Pakistan.

At Dar Ul Sukun, a care home in Karachi for abandoned children with disabilities, staff recently welcomed a six-month-old baby with a cleft palate who had been abandoned at the hospital by his parents.

Most families who turn their back on a child do so because of economic pressures, an inability to provide full-time care, and social stigmas that will later affect their other children, staff say.

"To have a special child and to look after a special child is a full-time job. For middle class families, where both parents are working and who have other children going to school, they can't afford a full-time carer for one child so they leave them here," says CEO Savio Pereira.

"One father said that they live in an apartment building and due to his child's habit of being very loud in the middle of the night he

was getting complaints from his neighbours, so he couldn't take care of him any longer."

But 34-year-old Cookie, who is the head of reception and public relations officer at Dar Ul Sukun, is an example of the life any disabled individual can aspire to when given the right care.

When Cookie was born without a scalp, her parents abandoned her at Dar Ul Sukun. Over the course of her life, she visited Australia for five separate surgeries, and then with the help of the centre enrolled at a Catholic school in Karachi. Now, she regularly speaks on behalf of the Dar Ul Sukun at various public and private events.

**"I'm very proud to work at Dar Ul Sukun. They helped me get the surgeries I needed and go to school. Even when I went to school, I struggled with acceptance but eventually I did find it," Cookie says.**

Ujala Centre is another organisation that has been fighting to improve the rights of disabled people in Pakistan. Established in 1984, it provides education to children





aged three and upwards, along with vocational training for adults, therapies and even family counselling.

**Currently a small school centre in Karachi, Ujala is working on launching a much bigger facility that will include other services such as postnatal care for babies born with disabilities, hostel facilities for abandoned children and those who need extra care, and both traditional and vocational education.**

“First, we help the parents of the students – the first thing is bringing parents on the same page through family group therapy, and then partnering with schools for internship programmes,” says Hammad Aslam, general secretary at Ujala.

“At a larger level, we engage with the government on making policies and laws such as the 2018 disability act.”

But disability activists like Zia Khan, who is from Muslim Bagh, a town in the district of Balochistan, believe that special schools aren’t nearly enough.

“We need to create inclusive education, because that’s the start of an inclusive society. Giving a wheelchair to a charity isn’t enough. You can’t put children in special schools because then they’ll never be fully accepted in society later on,” he says.

Khan, who got polio as a child, says that after he started working on disability rights and mobilised his community through social media, he made sure to involve other disabled and neurodivergent people within the organisation’s



leadership roles to ensure that they’re at the forefront of making decisions as well.

**Maheen Taimur, founder of Lahore Autism Centre has a similar approach. Speaking of her son Feroz, who has autism, Taimur says: “I’ve been very open about Feroz, and it’s very clear to most of my son Ali’s friends parents that if you invite Ali you invite all three of us, so that way Ali knows he has to include Feroz and now his friends do to.”**

Khan has a completely different perspective on how society can be more inclusive, and hopes to challenge the misguided perception that it is people with disabilities who are lacking something.

“It is our society who is disabled, a society that cuts down trees, and neglects the poor and needy. People with disabilities need to be involved in social work because they know what is needed, but until the government steps up these will only be small scale efforts.”

Source: <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/global-health/science-and-disease/why-pakistan-still-struggles-to-overcome-disability-stigma/>



## KSrelief continues humanitarian work in Yemen and Lebanon

**R**YADH: The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSrelief) continues with its aid involvement in Yemen and Lebanon.

In Yemen, KSrelief provided a range of medical services in July to 348 Yemeni individuals who lost their limbs due to the conflict.

The Prosthetic Limbs and Rehabilitation Center project in Marib Governorate provided various

medical services to citizens who had lost their limbs. Amputations on civilians have been a prominent feature of the war in Yemen, with many requiring assistance from KSrelief after suffering injuries from bomb explosions and landmines.

To date, the center has assisted a total of 1,307 Yemeni citizens, with KSrelief manufacturing and fitting the prostheses of victims.

In Lebanon, the ambulance service operated by the Subul Al-Salam Social Association in Miniyeh district conducted 82 emergency missions in the past week, serving both refugees and the local host community.

The ambulance service is part of the KSrelief project aimed at enhancing service provision and emergency transport in refugee-populated areas of northern Lebanon.

Source: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2362261/saudi-arabia>

## Government failing disabled people, human rights watchdog warns

The UK government has been accused by a human rights watchdog of making "slow progress" in improving the lives of disabled people.



The Equality and Human Rights Commission said some recommendations made by a United Nations inquiry in 2016 had not been delivered.

The UN called for changes after investigating the rights of disabled people in the UK.

The government said it was already making reforms and acting.

In a new report submitted to the UN, the EHRC warns that many disabled people continue to face discrimination in the UK, and the situation continues to worsen, particularly in light of current cost-of-living pressures.

The report assesses the extent to which the previous UN recommendations from 2016 have been implemented.

The EHRC said, despite limited progress in certain areas, "we are disappointed to see no progress against some other recommendations".

"While commitments to address some issues have been made, actions have been delayed or don't go far enough," the human rights watchdog says.

**The report found there had been no progress in monitoring the impact of welfare reforms or access to justice for disabled people. Its report also found gaps in "meaningful engagement" between governments and disabled people across many parts of the UK.**

It said there continued to be a disproportionate number of disabled people living on low incomes or in poverty with some facing long waits for decisions on eligibility for benefits.

Kishwer Falkner, chairwoman of the EHRC, urged the UK and Welsh governments "to address the problems faced by disabled people and take action to address the UN's recommendations from 2016".

"Disabled people must be treated with dignity, respect, and

fairness," Ms Falkner said. "The recommendations made years ago must be addressed if the lives of disabled people are to improve."

A government spokesperson said it was reforming the health and disability benefits system and was investing £2bn to support sick and disabled people back into work.

"Last month we launched a consultation on our new Disability Action Plan, which is part of this government's commitment to creating a society that works for everyone," the spokesperson said.

"Significant work is already being taken forward including reforming the health and disability benefits system, boosting disability benefits by 10.1%, investing £2bn to support sick and disabled people back into work, and helping the most vulnerable with record financial support worth around £3,300 per household.

"We remain committed to making our society a more inclusive and accessible place for all disabled people."

## President directs EOBI to apologize to security guard with disability

**Applicant was denied entry to EOBI premises where he had gone for pensionary benefits**

President Dr Arif Alvi has directed the Employees Old-Age Benefits Institution (EOBI) to apologize to a retired security guard with a disability, who was denied entry into the premises of EOBI when he went there to pursue his pension benefits case. Dr Alvi said that he, as the President of Pakistan, apologized to the citizen and also asked the EOBI to look into their unfriendly and anti-poor practices.

The president gave these remarks while deciding upon a representation filed by EOBI against the decision of the Wafaqi Mohtasib directing the Chairman of EOBI to consider the case of Mr Iftikhar Hussain (the complainant) in the light of relevant rules and regulations.

The complainant is a security guard working with a private security agency and during his service, he met with an accident in 2008, had his leg fractured, and became disabled. He approached the EOBI for pension but was declined payment of pension or grant on the ground that his total insurable employment was less than 15 years and he was only entitled to the old-age grant.

Feeling aggrieved, he approached Wafaqi Mohtasib, which directed EOBI to consider his case. The EOBI then filed a representation with the President against Mohtasib's decision.

The president in his decision expressed displeasure that the complainant, a simple labourer (security guard), had to spend years looking for justice,

which was shameful and reflected poorly on EOBI. "The complainant has also narrated that years were spent as his filed was misplaced and was only found after Sifarish", he added. He expressed dismay over the fact that when the differently-abled guard went to EOBI's office to pursue his case, he was not granted audience by the concerned offices, and was only allowed to enter the premises after the intervention of a retired officer. The president concluded that since EOBI's representative had assured during the hearing of the case that his grievance would be considered in accordance with the law, the order of the Mohtasib was modified to the extent that instead of referring the matter to Chairman EOBI, it may be placed before the Adjudicating Authority of EOBI for disposal of the matter within 30 days.



## HI unveils its new institutional campaign

### Demonstrating HI's long-term commitment

This new campaign, called *After the news*, reminds us that there's more to disasters than meets the eye. A long-term response is required to help people return to as normal a life as possible, build their resilience, and foster integrated and sustainable development.

From the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia to the Rwandan genocide, and from the tsunami in Southeast Asia to the earthquake in Haiti and the war in Syria, for over 40 years, HI has worked alongside people with disabilities and vulnerable populations, taking action and taking notice to meet their basic needs, improve their living conditions and promote respect for their dignity and fundamental rights. The increase in the number and scale of conflicts and natural disasters around the world can make it seem like we are living through a never-ending series of crises, and we sometimes forget

their lasting consequences for affected populations.

**According to Sylvain Ogier, Director of Communication at HI: "We wanted the campaign to get people thinking. It highlights the contrast between the overexposure of a crisis for a given period and the often-forgotten long-term response that follows."**

### Bringing a concept to life through innovation

For the past five years, the Strike agency's talented teams have benefited HI with advice and support on advocacy to stop the bombing of civilians. The agency developed its concept around the observation that, as conflicts and crises grow in number and intensity, the public has resigned itself to living in a world where tension is the norm. HI's mission to work alongside the most excluded and vulnerable people

acts as a counterbalance to these developments.

Jérôme Gonfond, chairman of Strike, explains: "At Strike, we've been working with HI since our agency was founded, alongside many other NGOs that combat social inequality and work to protect the environment, among other issues. We are therefore particularly aware of the notion of a convergence of crises. Every day, rolling-news channels report fresh disasters, which are increasingly interlinked. Unfortunately, these crises do not go away when the news cycle moves on. This campaign aims to shed light on HI's role, which is to assist victims over the long term and to put in place the infrastructure to enable the most vulnerable to continue with their lives."

The film was made by Canadian director Olivier Staub, who worked with HI on the NGO's previous institutional campaign: *Be a Lifeline* to the most vulnerable. He is best known for his cinematic style and sense of storytelling, and he has

won numerous awards for his work on major advertising campaigns.

*After the news* is also technologically groundbreaking. It was produced using real-time 3D technology developed for the videogame and film industries. A first in HI's history!

The DUST teams were chosen to produce and shoot the film, while the technical side, including pre-production for the 3D sets, special effects, and post-production, were handled by Digital District; the film was shot entirely in virtual production using an LED wall. The print version was produced by photographer Samuel Guigues with the support of the FEEL GOOD retouching studio.

Victor Simonet, producer at Dust: "We naturally opted for virtual production on an LED wall because we could use this technology to create the locations we wanted in 3D without having to travel, and also to borrow the direct light produced by the screen to naturally integrate the actors and actual sets, without having to do everything in post-production."

The *After the news* campaign will be available across media platforms (TV, cinema, press inserts, posters, and digital and social media) from August 2023 in all HI network countries: Germany, Belgium, Canada, the United States, France, Luxembourg, the United Kingdom and Switzerland.

## Camp held to issue Special CNICs, disability certificates



NOWPDP and the Sindh Government collaborated to process Special CNICs and disability certificates for persons with disabilities in Karachi, Sindh in an SCNIC Camp held at the NOWPDP Office. Persons with disabilities attended this highly anticipated camp to acquire their new Disability Certificates and Special CNICs.

The SCNIC camp was made fully accessible with assistive devices and sign language interpreters. Tools like the one-window SCNIC Camps are significant in speeding up the otherwise lengthy and tedious process of getting Special CNICs and disability certificates. All relevant governmental departments and people like SPDPA, NADRA, and medical doctors come under one roof together to facilitate persons with disabilities in getting this important document which is synonymous with their identity.

According to the WHO, 16 percent of a country's population consists of persons with disabilities. While this

leads to the conclusion that a large number of persons with disabilities inhabit Pakistan, a rather small number is officially reported.

This is owing to an array of reasons including persons with disabilities either unaware of the process or unable to participate in the long process.

Executive Director of NOWPDP, Omair Ahmad said, "Identity is a basic human right and we are grateful to be a part of NOWPDP's journey in achieving this for hundreds of persons with disabilities."

Moreover, he also deemed that all the relevant stakeholders - persons with disabilities, NOWPDP, and the government - coming together to get a viable outcome was supremely important in paving the way to a more inclusive Pakistan. NOWPDP pledges to continue working on Shanakht for persons with disabilities through monumental SCNIC Camps.

Source: <https://pakobserver.net/camp-held-to-issue-special-cnics-disability-certificates/>

Source: <https://www.hi.org/en/news/handicap-international-unveils-its-new-institutional-campaign->

# UNHCR helps Indigenous Venezuelans to stay on their lands

**The Pemón people are the guardians of an immense nature reserve in southeastern Venezuela. But poverty is pushing many off their traditional lands.**

**T**he cluster of cabins at the far end of San Francisco de Paraitepuy was once something of a Tower of Babel, abuzz with conversations in Spanish, Portuguese, French, Italian, and English, as well as the local Indigenous language, Pemón.

Tucked alongside Mount Roraima – the iconic, flat-topped, sandstone mountain in southeastern Venezuela’s remote Gran Sabana region – the village of Paraitepuy was long a bustling base camp for the hikers who flocked from across the world to one of South America’s largest national parks. The mountain was also the main source of income for the village’s 560-odd inhabitants, with many of the men serving as sherpas for the

steady stream of visitors.

But now, the cabins stand empty, echoing only with the whistling of the wind.

The crisis in Venezuela led to a precipitous drop in tourism, and the remaining trickle of visitors largely dried up during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**“Everything came to a stop, and people had to seek out other ways of meeting their basic needs,” said Florencio Ayuso, 53, the “capitán,” or chief of Paraitepuy, one of the dozens of Indigenous Pemón communities that dot the Gran Sabana.**

Given the lack of remaining livelihood options in the region, which also has little in the way of infrastructure such as hospitals and

high schools, villages across the Gran Sabana are shrinking. Their inhabitants are leaving to seek better lives in distant cities, abroad, or in the thousands of wildcat gold mines that are wreaking environmental havoc on this once-pristine landscape.

The threat of hunger is a major driver of displacement, according to “Capitana” Lisa Henrito, chief of the village of Maurak. Despite it being a large and relatively prosperous indigenous settlement in the Gran Sabana, she said that parents from Maurak often set out for the mines when they find themselves unable to feed their children.

“Everyone is going to the mines,” said Lisa, 49, who is one of a substantial number of female chiefs among the Pemón. “Families are being destroyed because fathers go to the mines, fall in love with another woman, and forget their families. Women are going to the mines and leaving their children.”

## Threatened traditions

And while it might sometimes provide a quick – if fleeting – fix to acute poverty, mining is also a dangerous occupation. The collapse of wildcat mines is a



common occurrence, and mining communities are rife with dengue and sexually transmitted infections, as well as alcoholism, violence, and drug abuse.

**Mining also poses a major threat to ancestral ways of life. Mercury from the mines poisons waterways, robbing Pemón communities of both fish and drinking water and imperilling the small-scale subsistence farms, or “conucos”, that have been the backbone of Indigenous livelihoods going back centuries. It is also compromising tourism, one of the region’s only other economic motors.**

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is working with Indigenous communities throughout the Gran Sabana to help prevent displacement and allow residents to stay on their lands, thus protecting traditional ways of life and the region’s unique ecosystem. As well as providing families with food aid and such basic goods as hammocks, mosquito nets, farming tools, and solar-powered lamps, UNHCR is helping improve daily life in communities by rehabilitating and

stocking local first aid clinics and installing solar streetlights.

The agency is also working closely with authorities to solve the chronic problem of missing documentation. Because of the sheer distance from most villages to the Gran Sabana’s only hospital, in the border city of Santa Elena de Uairén, a few kilometers from Brazil, women often give birth at home – meaning that their children are often not officially registered. This leads to problems that ripple out over an entire lifetime, complicating even simple tasks, such as registering for school.

“We have been working with 40 Indigenous villages throughout the Gran Sabana to try to provide basic services that were lacking, so that people don’t have to leave their lands to seek those services. By helping make villages safer and easier places to live, we are aiming to maintain these guardians of the land on their lands,” said Jerome Seregni, head of UNHCR’s Ciudad Guayana Field Office which covers eastern Venezuela.

## Community ties

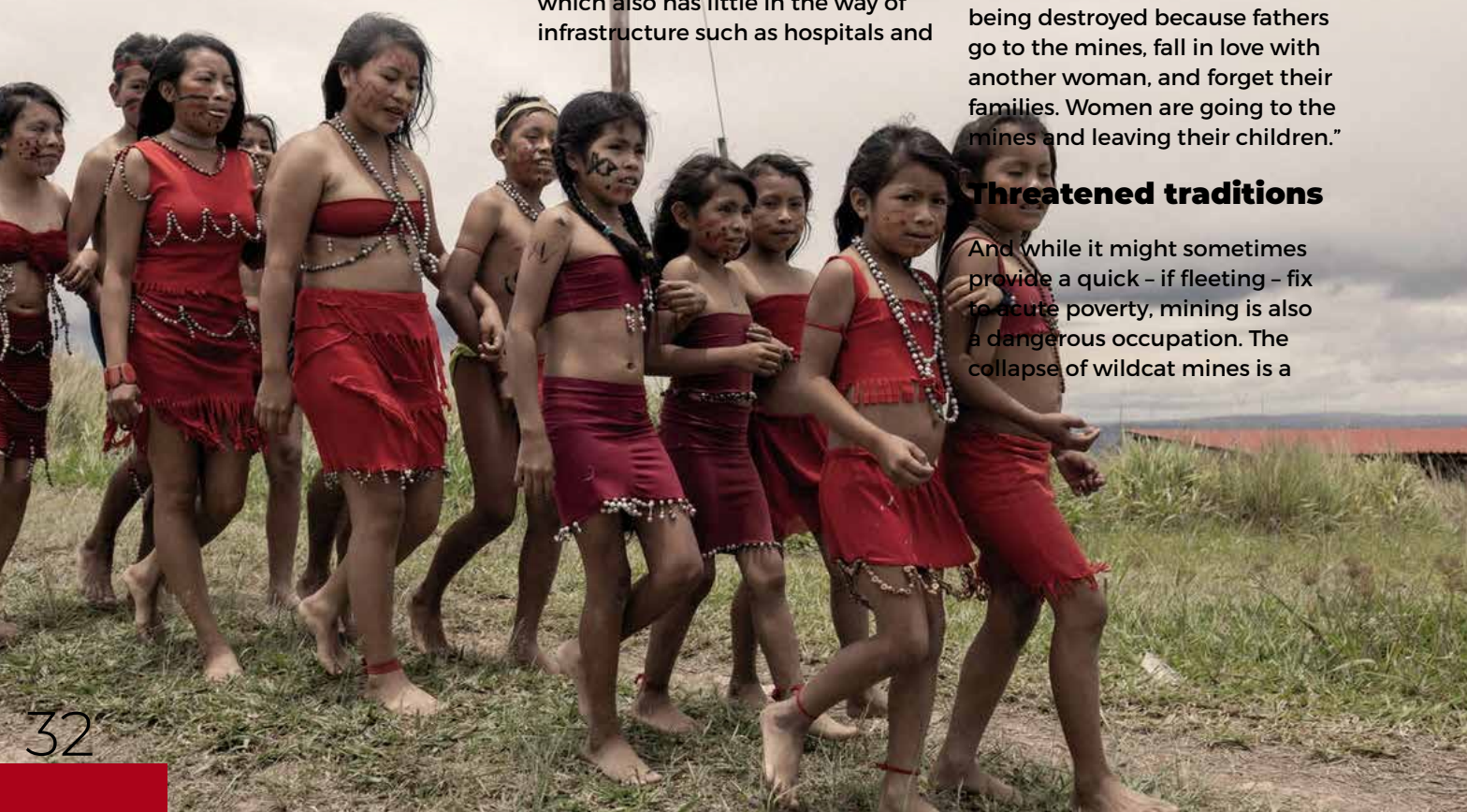
In the tiny hamlet of Würuüpo, residents have taken the conscious

decision to dissuade community members from decamping to the mines, cities, or other countries. This involves strengthening already-tight community ties to support one another and ensure no one falls through the cracks. Leaders have also worked hard to convince young people that the many risks of mining are not worth the short-term gain and that the traditional conuco subsistence farms are a better bet in the long term, bearing fruit year after year.

**“We’re trying to teach our kids about our roots so that they don’t fall for this bad example and don’t join those who are harming nature,” said Würuüpo’s chief, Karina Benavides, 37, as fellow residents used fire to clear a small plot near the village to plant manioc, one of the Pemón’s staple crops. “Farming is our mine... Nature sustains us, it keeps us alive, and we do it no harm.”**

Fourteen-year-old Gregory da Silva, one of the boys clearing the plot in Würuüpo, echoed “Capitana” Karina’s sentiment, saying that the money from mining “gets spent right away.”

“With farming, on the other hand, you harvest a crop, and when you sow some of that, more grows.”





## Displaced Haitians Face Greater Risks in Improvised Sites

**G**eneva/Port-au-Prince – Almost half of the internally displaced persons in Haiti’s capital have had to leave their temporary accommodations in host communities and now reside in vulnerable conditions in improvised sites, nearly doubling the figure from the end of 2022 and showing a trend of growing fatigue in host communities and families.

This finding, among others from the latest Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), highlights the increasing dangers for Haiti’s displaced and a worrying deterioration of the social fabric of a country hit by gang violence and disasters.

“I have five children, and after being displaced I was staying with my sister,” a Haitian mother told DTM interviewers.

“It was already very difficult for my sister, who didn’t have much space and had three children she could barely feed. My children started arguing over food and sometimes over small things. So, my sister couldn’t take it anymore, and neither could I. I was forced to come and live here in this campsite.”

**Previous IOM data shows that the majority of the displaced persons sought safety with friends and family in other communities. When hosting displaced people, communities have to share their limited resources with them. As the crisis drags on, their capacity is eroding.**

In addition, high levels of insecurity are creating a climate of mistrust between certain host communities and displaced populations, thus

deteriorating social cohesion. This situation is causing the displaced persons to leave the relative safety of these homes for improvised displacement sites where they are exposed to additional risks, including communal violence, sexual and gender-based violence, discrimination, and outright abuse.

“Providing assistance to host families and contributing to their increased resilience is crucial as they are first responders to the crisis,” said Philippe Branchat, IOM’s Chief of Mission in Haiti.

“Yet, with nearly half of the country’s population, almost 5.2 million people, in desperate need and only 25 per cent of Haiti’s Humanitarian Response Plan funded, IOM fervently appeals for increased international assistance for both immediate and long-term solutions.”

Source: <https://www.iom.int/news/displaced-haitians-face-greater-risks-improvised-sites>

On the immediate side, IOM and its partners provide shelter, personal hygiene items, solar lamps, kitchen sets and other essential articles and conduct water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions in sites. Beyond this, the organization assists Haiti’s government in restoring basic public services, to reestablishing trust between citizens and towards state institutions.

The conditions in improvised sites are extremely dire. More than half of them don’t have latrines, and where they exist, they fall far below basic hygiene standards – a particularly concerning situation given Haiti’s recurrent cholera outbreaks.

**Generalized violence is the main driver of displacement for the nearly 200,000 internally displaced persons in Haiti. Although the highest concentration of displaced individuals lives in the Metropolitan Area of Port-au-Prince, other regions are starting to experience pressure. Tensions and fears are further heightened by the “Bwa Kalé”, a vigilante movement known for indiscriminate lynchings, undermining community solidarity.**

Additionally, over 100,000 Haitians have been forcibly returned from neighboring countries so far in 2023, many lacking proper IDs, complicating their reintegration. Notably, of the interviewed repatriated migrants, 22 percent had been previously displaced within Haiti. This highlights the need for sustainable, long-term solutions to internal displacement. While immediate life-saving assistance is critical for internally displaced people and host communities, accelerating progress in addressing the root causes of displacement has become ever more urgent.



## Pakistani NGO Extends a Helping Hand: 30 Tons of Relief Goods Reach Kabul

**I**slamabad , (Parliament Times) : In a remarkable demonstration of solidarity and humanitarian spirit, Pakistani NGO SHARP and Effendi Consortium of NGO’s undertook a significant relief effort by sending 30 tons of relief goods to Kabul on August 24th, 2023. This compassionate initiative, spearheaded by Chairman SHARP Mr.Banuri and Chairman Effendi Consortium of NGOs, Brigadier (Rtd) Azam Effendi, underscores the unwavering commitment of Pakistan’s civil society to support their neighbors in times of need.

The relief goods, which included essential items such as life-saving medicines, food supplies, surgical equipment, wheelchairs, elbow sticks, folding walkers, lab test kits, and blankets, were transported to Kabul via a dedicated charter flight. Air Bridge Relief International provided the chartered aircraft services along with medical aid. The gesture of brotherhood and humanitarian assistance embodied in this endeavor is a reflection of the deep-rooted ties between the people of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

SHARP Pakistan, a registered NGO renowned for its philanthropic

work, collaborated closely with the Effendi Group to ensure the seamless execution of this relief mission. The Effendi Group, well-known for its contributions to humanitarian causes, provided a comprehensive list of essential relief items that were deemed crucial for the well-being of the Afghan population. Mr.Effendi, expressed his heartfelt sentiments regarding the mission, stating, “At times of crisis, borders become inconsequential in the face of shared humanity. Our organization is privileged to be able to extend a helping hand to our Afghan brothers and sisters. We firmly believe that through collective efforts, we can alleviate suffering and contribute positively to the lives of those in need.”

This collaborative effort highlights the power of bilateral relationship both countries share and emphasizes the significance of non-governmental organizations in addressing regional and global challenges. As the relief goods reached Kabul, they not only embodied material aid but also carried with them a message of hope, unity, and unwavering solidarity.

Source: <https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/08/28/pakistani-ngo-extends-a-helping-hand-30-tons-of-relief-goods-reach-kabul/>

# Hope for Pemba community as they gain recognition as Kenyan citizens

**Barke Hamisi always felt she was a Kenyan, until her first encounter with the stigma of statelessness. Nearly three decades later, she can finally say, "I belong."**



A gentle breeze fans a row of colourful clothes drying on a line behind Barke Hamisi, 29, and her two younger sisters, Sharifa and Nuru, as they sit outside their stone house preparing 'sambusas' - a popular Swahili delicacy. They look like any regular family as they chat and laugh among themselves.

But from an early age, Barke's life was shrouded in uncertainty because she was part of the stateless Pemba community in the southern coastal region of Kenya. Her positive outlook on life was shattered at a young age.

"I never thought I was different from the rest of my classmates until I got to Grade 3 when I would constantly

be told 'You are a Pemba', and that's what stuck in my head," she recalls. "People would say that Pambas are not Kenyans, so I wondered, who am I?"

## Over a century of statelessness

For many years, she wondered why it had to be this way for her people when this was the only home they had ever known.

"We have struggled with statelessness for over a century," says Barke. "I don't know a lot about my great grandparents, but I know my grandfather was born and raised in Kenya, as was my grandmother, my father, and mother."

**In Kenya, there are an estimated 7,000 Pemba people. It is believed that they entered Kenya from Zanzibar before independence in 1963 and settled on a 10-mile coastal strip where they took up fishing as their main economic activity. When Kenya became a republic in 1964, the Pambas were neither registered as an indigenous tribe nor recognized as Kenyan citizens.**

In eastern Africa, an estimated 103,000 people are stateless or at risk of statelessness. In 2014, UNHCR launched the #IBelong Campaign

to End Statelessness. Without a nationality or legal identity, stateless people like the Pemba are unable to exercise their rights, or access healthcare, education, or formal employment. They often feel excluded from society.

Barke was determined to do something to change this and to fight against statelessness even before she fully grasped what it meant. She became a community volunteer for the Pemba community to empower them to join in the fight for their recognition as Kenyans.

"It was not an easy job, but we eventually succeeded," she says. "My people were scared to engage the government so they would never admit to being Pemba for fear of being arrested."

## An advocate for the Pemba

Due to her efforts towards ending statelessness for her community, she was appointed as the community secretary for the Pemba Community of Kenya after which she decided to become a paralegal to further educate her people and bring about change.

"Being a paralegal was a plus for me as I felt more empowered to advocate for the Pemba. When the Pemba elders decided to form the Pemba Community of Kenya, I saw a chance to play a vital role in changing how we were viewed," she explains.

She started working with the HAKI Centre, a non-governmental human rights organization that works together with UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, in Kilifi and Kwale counties in Kenya's coastal region, advocating for the rights of stateless communities.

Following years of advocacy by the HAKI Centre, with UNHCR's support, the Kenyan government announced in December 2022 that it would

begin the process of recognizing the Pemba as Kenyan citizens. The Pemba are among 16 groups of Swahili-speaking coastal people that were recognized in January as one of Kenya's ethnic communities.

Barke's work now includes making door-to-door visits, and taking part in radio talk shows and community forums with Pemba leaders to share information about how community members can apply for birth certificates - the first step in acquiring citizenship.

Barke has managed to educate women from her community about the importance of birth certificates and often walks miles to remote villages to distribute birth certificates and prevent children from becoming stateless.

"I feel very happy when we issue mothers with their children's birth certificates because I know that's the end of their troubles in accessing services like healthcare for their children," she says. "I am happy because their rights will no longer be violated."

**"Barke is a hero in our community. We call her HAKI Centre as she walks through the streets," says Jamila Mohamed, one of the women that Barke has assisted with the birth registration of her children.**

Barke's sister, Sharifa, agrees. "Everyone in this community sees her as a hero for her bravery and efforts towards helping the Pemba get recognition as Kenyans."

Andrew Ochola, the HAKI Centre's Programmes Manager in Mombasa explains that the centre also conducts trainings for civil registration officers to help them understand statelessness, the rights of stateless people, and how to handle their registration, especially birth registration.

## A brighter future

He adds that while it seems insurmountable, statelessness is solvable if the affected communities, civil society organizations, and actors like UNHCR work together to address it. The "key element" is political goodwill.

A ceremony on 28 July 2023 marked the conclusion of the registration process for all 7,000 members of the Pemba community.

Speaking at the ceremony, UNHCR's Kenya representative, Caroline Van Buren said Kenya is setting precedents for other countries to follow in efforts to end statelessness.

"Today's ceremony is a further example of Kenya's commitment to addressing statelessness and finding lasting solutions for those without a nationality," she said. "Resolving statelessness is not only a human rights issue but also a tool to promote the collective development of a society. It ensures that no one is left behind and that everyone feels included and is able to access basic services such as education, healthcare, and employment, thereby contributing to the economic development of the country."

Now that the shroud of uncertainty has been lifted, Barke sees a brighter future, full of endless possibilities both for her and her community. She can now apply for funding to pursue a degree in business management. One day, she hopes to run her own business that will provide people with employment.

"There is a rebirth in the community," she says with a big smile. "We feel like we are in a different world where we can nurture and achieve our dreams which had been long forgotten."

Source: <https://www.unhcr.org/news/stories/hope-pemba-community-they-gain-recognition-kenyan-citizens>



## Conservatives hope key legal case can bring Biden migrant parole policies ‘tumbling down’

**T**he Biden administration is facing a significant legal challenge to a key border policy that allows 30,000 nationals from four countries to fly in and be paroled into the U.S. each month as part of the administration's efforts to tackle the ongoing crisis at the southern border – with the conservative plaintiffs in the case believing a win could bring down other Biden policies in its wake.

Arguments began Thursday in a case challenging a Homeland Security policy expanded in January to allow up to 30,000 Cuban, Haitian, Nicaraguan and Venezuelan (CHNV) nationals into the U.S. each month. Those brought in, who are not present at the border, are flown in and paroled, and allowed to apply for work permits if they meet certain conditions such as having a sponsor and passing background checks.

**Twenty GOP-led states are suing to block the policy, claiming that it represents an abuse of parole – which is set out by Congress to be used on a “case-by-case” basis for “urgent humanitarian need or significant public benefit.”**

The administration says it is confident that its use of parole is legal, and has pointed to past uses of parole for Vietnamese refugees in the 1970s, and more recently Ukrainian nationals last year. It also says the processes are necessary as “difficult for DHS to remove to their home countries.”

The expanded parole pathways have been part of the administration's strategy to tackle the ongoing crisis that has hammered the border since 2021. That strategy has seen a number of legal pathways opened

up while the administration says it has increased consequences for illegal entry since the end of Title 42 on May 11 and introduced an asylum restriction for some illegal immigrants that is also [facing legal challenges](#). It says the expanded pathways encourage people to use them as an alternative to entering illegally. [In July](#) it said the program had yielded “positive results” and pointed to a drop in illegal encounters at the border from those nationalities.

In its filing, the administration warned that without the CHNV process and others in place to encourage migrants to use lawful routes “there will be a significant surge in migration at the southwest border – the precise outcome that Plaintiffs allegedly seek to avoid.”

The 20 GOP-led states are partnering with America First Legal, former Trump White House adviser Stephen Miller's group, which has already

won a number of victories in court challenging Biden initiatives. Miller, in an interview with Fox News Digital, said the administration is abusing the parole authority to create what he described as a form of amnesty for would-be illegal immigrants.

**“America First Legal is partnering with Texas and 19 other states in what we regard as one of the most important, not just immigration cases, but one of the most important lawsuits in American history. Because if Biden prevails then, in effect, the border is gone forever,” he said.**

Miller said the administration has “gone past just catch-and-release to actively importing would-be illegal immigrants with the goal of making them into future citizens.”

“And so I would say it's as if the Biden administration created a brand-new visa program for



illegals that was never authorized, funded or in any way established by Congress,” he said.

The case lands in favorable courtroom territory for the plaintiffs. Judge Drew Tipton, a Trump nominee who in 2021 shut down



the administration's reduced interior enforcement priorities. CBS News reported this week that the administration [is bracing](#) for the program to be blocked.

But should the CHNV program be shut down, it could have a knock-on effect on other related policies. Specifically, the administration has also used parole to bring in up to 1,450 migrants a day at the

**“If we prevail on the merits, as we are confident that we must, it creates the possibility that the whole entire artifice of Biden's parole scheme could come tumbling down,” he said.**

He warns, however, that if it remains in place, there is no upward limit to the number of people it could be expanded to.

“If you accept the preposterous notion that Biden has the authority to do this, which he clearly does not, then there's no limit on the number of illegal immigrants that he can mint into legal immigrants through parole,” he said.

The case comes as the border has seen an increase in numbers in July, with over 180,000 encounters. Republicans have blamed the ongoing crisis on the Biden administration's policies, while the administration has called for Congress to approve more funding and pass an immigration reform bill – legislation that Republicans have rejected due to its inclusion of a pathway to citizenship for millions of [illegal immigrants](#).

border itself if they have made an appointment by the [CBP One app](#).

While this case does not target those paroles specifically, Miller believes it could lead to that program being declared unlawful as well.

Source: <https://news.yahoo.com/conservatives-hope-key-legal-case-220419050.html?guccounter=1>

## Sustainable Peace and Prosperity for All

Statement delivered at side event for the 2023 Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee



Asako Okai

Honorable Oishi Kengo,  
Governor of Nagasaki  
Prefecture,

Honorable Yuzaki Hidehiko,  
Governor of Hiroshima Prefecture,

Excellencies, esteemed panelists,  
and distinguished delegates,

I thank the organizers for inviting  
the United Nations Development  
Programme (UNDP) for this  
important side event highlighting the  
interconnectedness between peace  
and sustainable development.

Also, a note of appreciation for the  
excellent and important work of

Hiroshima Organization for Global  
Peace. Hope's work is making  
important inroads to incorporate the  
concept of "elimination of nuclear  
weapons" into the post-Agenda 2030.

As the United Nations lead agency  
on international development,  
UNDP works in 170 countries and  
territories to eradicate poverty  
and reduce inequality. We help  
countries to achieve the Sustainable  
Development Goals.

**UNDP's work is grounded  
in the understanding  
that security, peace  
and sustainability are  
interconnected and  
mutually reinforcing.**

We support conflict prevention,  
help address the root causes of  
tensions and violence, empower  
marginalized groups, promote  
social inclusion, improve  
community security, enhance  
governance and rule of law, and

ensure political security and human  
rights protection.

Let me offer a few observations on  
the topic of today's discussion.

First, this discussion could not come  
at a more appropriate time- as is  
the need to act.

We are living through a troubled  
time: unprecedented geopolitical  
fracture, deep divisions amongst  
major powers, worrying trends  
towards militarization, and a set  
of emerging risks and polycrisis  
such as health and climate crisis,  
irregular transitions, interstate  
conflict, declines in human  
development and human security.

Here we are, three decades since  
the end of the Cold War, speculating  
on the renewed threat of nuclear  
conflict.

And cultural polarization threatens  
to distract political and policy

discourse away from the sort of just,  
fair, and inclusive societies where no  
one is left behind. The Sustainable  
Development Goals are well off-track  
with only seven years remaining.

In short, faltering, or failed  
multilateralism is rendering our  
world rudderless.

It is urgent, therefore, that  
multilateralism be strengthened to  
foster dialogue and collaboration  
over Global Goals and that new  
approaches and solutions be  
pursued to tackle conflict to ensure  
sustainable peace.

Second, the United Nations  
is prioritizing comprehensive  
approaches over securitized  
responses with a political strategy  
at its core in the [New Agenda for  
Peace](#), launched last week.

**The New Agenda for  
Peace is one of the UN  
Secretary-General's Policy  
Briefs arising from his 'Our  
Common Agenda' report.  
It is framed around the  
core principles of trust,  
solidarity, and universality  
that are foundations of the  
UN Charter and of a stable  
world. It presents twelve  
concrete sets of proposals  
for action, in five priority  
areas.**

Areas 1 and 2 are particularly  
relevant for today's discussion.

First one focuses on addressing  
strategic risks and geopolitical  
divisions at the global level,  
including the elimination of nuclear  
weapons; and

Second on preventing conflict  
and violence and sustaining peace  
within countries by accelerating  
the implementation of the 2030  
Agenda for Sustainable Development  
to address the underlying drivers  
of violence and insecurity and the  
interlinkages between climate, peace  
and security.

And my third observations is that  
traditional policy interventions  
and solutions to advance human  
security must factor in the shifting  
context of new planetary reality.

In recent years, rapid planetary  
change and social changes have  
exacerbated existing threats and  
created new threats across areas,  
as diverse as, digital technologies,  
climate change and biodiversity  
loss, inequalities, violent conflict,  
and the ability of healthcare  
systems to confront new challenges.

The pursuit of economic growth  
has neglected our embeddedness  
in nature, leading to new health  
threats, increased food insecurity  
and more frequent disasters, among  
many others.

UNDP's Special Report in 2022  
entitled, "New threats to human  
security in the Anthropocene:  
Demanding greater solidarity" finds,  
despite people on average living  
longer, healthier, and wealthier lives,  
these advances have not succeeded  
in increasing people's sense of  
security. Human security is about  
living free from want, free from  
fear and free from indignity. And  
the report found that 6 in 7 people  
worldwide feel insecure. From rich  
countries to poor countries, people's  
sense of safety and security is at a  
lowest level in most countries.

A new approach to understanding  
human security and to development,  
an approach centered around the  
restoration of our planet and global  
solidarity, is therefore required.  
This will require multilateral action  
from Governments, UN entities,  
non-governmental actors and  
policymakers to overhaul our  
institutions and policies to consider  
the interdependence not just  
between people, but between people  
and planet.

There are five fundamental  
principles that encompass the  
human security approach and  
differentiate its impact from

simply working together. These are:  
people-centred, comprehensive,  
context-specific and prevention-  
oriented responses that strengthen  
the protection, empowerment  
and solidarity of all people and  
all communities. And agency of  
people at its core, people's ability  
to make one's own choices and to  
participate in a collective decision  
making.

I would now like to propose three  
directions of change underpinning  
the need for a new approach to  
promote sustainable peace and  
prosperity for all.

First, and foremost, the international  
community must invest in human  
development as means to pre-empt  
crisis and conflict.

Prevention saves lives and  
safeguards development gains, and  
it is cost effective.

However, international community is  
not investing enough in prevention.  
One reason being many conflict-  
affected countries are under  
politically estranged situations where  
'standard' development approaches  
and instruments are either difficult  
to apply or prohibited. Look at  
Afghanistan and Myanmar where the  
de facto authorities clearly exercise  
a limiting control on the potential  
to apply traditional development  
approaches.

But the reality is that almost half  
of the people living in fragile and  
conflict-affected situations are in  
such a situation.

We do not have the luxury to wait  
until conditions on the ground  
improve, political bottlenecks  
are resolved, or even legitimacy  
is restored before we engage on  
development and peace. This  
wait and see attitude made most  
conflicts protracted.

Regardless of the political context,  
we must continue to engage  
as feasible to prevent conflict

expansion and to promote the longer-term vision of sustainable development.

And that's exactly what UNDP is doing be it in Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, or Yemen.

Second, we need to double down on our efforts on climate action, in particular to address the interlinkages between climate, peace, and security.

The effects of climate create uneven consequences. Climate change is one of the world's greatest injustices, therefore, potentially exacerbating the risks of instability, especially where conflict already dominates. The most vulnerable communities bear the brunt of a crisis that they did not create. We need to recognise that climate, peace and security as political priority and ensure that climate action and peacebuilding reinforce each other.

For example, currently climate financing is not reaching and reflecting the needs of conflict affected and fragile contexts. At the same time peacebuilding efforts do not calibrate enough climate vulnerability and risks. Conflict-affected and fragile contexts need investments in climate action, adaptation and access to energy.

Failure to tackle head-on the challenges posed by climate change, will have devastating effects, for the planet as well as development, human rights and our shared peacebuilding objectives.

And third, our stock of solutions must be expanded beyond considering the security of individuals and communities, to also consider the interdependence among people, and between people and planet, and to enhance trust and solidarity.

Building on the Special Report on Human Security, in 2022 UNDP's

Source: <https://www.undp.org/speeches/sustainable-peace-and-prosperity-all>

flagship Human Development Report featured "Uncertain Times, Unsettled Lives" arguing that a new "uncertainty complex" is emerging, impeding human development and unsettling lives the world over. Uncertainty complex consists of i) dangerous planetary change of the Anthropocene, ii) intensifying polarization, and iii) societal transformation, like artificial intelligence.

**There are no policy panaceas, no one-size-fits-all approaches. But some policies do form the building blocks for countries and communities as they navigate today's uncertainty complex towards more hopeful futures. We believe that we need to: invest, insure and innovate—the Three I's.**

This year's Human Development Report will deep-dive into why people don't trust one another, to explore ways to enhance global solidarity.

Despite all the reversal in indicators for peace and human development, there is promise, too—an opportunity to reimagine our futures, to renew and adapt our institutions and to craft new stories. The choice is ours.

In my view, pathways for peace and prosperity are clear. But the humanity is not doing what we should be doing. But together, we possess the power to transform our world. United in purpose, and through investing in multilateralism, we can advance peace and security, restore faith in our institutions, and pave the way for a just, equitable, and prosperous future that leaves no one behind.

Let us rise to the challenge and shape the world we envision.



## UN Pak launches dialogue campaign ahead of SDG summit

**A**head of the International Summit on Sustainable Development Goals in New York next month, the United Nations has launched a dialogue campaign in Pakistan to discuss development priorities across the country.

The UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan, Julien Harneis said these dialogues will help the UN agencies better understand which development issues local leaders see as their priorities outside the federal and provincial capitals.

Under the campaign, the UN office in Islamabad will engage more than one thousand local leaders, living in 12 major cities outside the federal and provincial capitals, to discuss the development priorities.

During the dialogue, the participants will discuss the development challenges that impede economic and social progress in these districts.

Source: <https://www.radio.gov.pk/24-08-2023/un-pak-launches-dialogue-campaign-ahead-of-sdg-summit>



## '2030 agenda will become a broken promise' — UN calls for urgent actions on achieving SDGs

**M**atthias Schmale, United Nations (UN) resident and humanitarian coordinator in Nigeria, says it will be a "broken promise" to vulnerable individuals if the sustainable development goals (SDGs) agenda is not achieved by 2030.

Speaking on Monday at the national conference on Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, Schmale said Nigeria needs to take urgent actions as more populations are tackling poverty and unemployment.

NAN reports that the event was organised by the Lagos State University Centre for the actualisation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (LASU-SDG) in collaboration with the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC).

"The 2030 agenda will become no more than a broken promise to the world's most vulnerable people despite these many challenges," he said.

**"Africa remains a continent of hope and Nigeria a country of hope, because the long-term structural endowments of Africa are strong. Africa also is the best investment proposition of the 21st century."**

Schmale said the UN is looking forward to new initiatives introduced by the Nigerian government on achieving SDGs in the next global summit to be held in New York.

"The outcomes from this conference will undoubtedly support

collective rescue efforts and lay the groundwork for Nigeria's preparation for next month's global SDGs summit in New York," he added.

"The UN and Nigeria hope that it will be possible for the Nigerian government to announce further initiatives in New York aimed at creating a social impact friendly environment."

In July 2022, the UN warned that Nigeria was not making progress on plans to achieve SDGs by 2030.

But the federal government, in reaction, said Nigeria was on track to achieve the UN SDGs by 2030.

Source: <https://www.thecable.ng/2030-agenda-will-become-a-broken-promise-un-calls-for-urgent-actions-on-achieving-sdgs>

## Counterpart International uses inclusivity to help communities around the world

**Counterpart International, an NGO that partners with local organizations around the world to build inclusive, sustainable communities shares how they work with communities around the world.**

Washington D.C., Aug. 16, 2023 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Counterpart

International, an NGO that partners with local organizations around the world to build inclusive, sustainable communities, is revealing how they have built a culture within the organization that is used to successfully work with their partners in forging positive change.

Counterpart International builds locally based partnerships between citizens, government, civil society, and the private sector in the areas of food security, democracy, rights and governance, women's empowerment, and climate resiliency. The partnerships give the organization the ability to work directly with community members and governmental bodies in the regions they work in. They often work as facilitators, bringing community and government members together to build positive change.

The organization was founded in 1965 by Betty Silverstein and Stan Hosie with the goal of helping communities in the South Pacific countries. Together, Silverstein and Hosie worked to change the perception that in order to help communities there needs to be

massive amounts of international funding and government assistance from foreign countries.

Counterpart International was founded on the belief that creating local ownership and building problem-solving capabilities at the



local level is the best way to create positive change for communities in need around the world that will have a lasting impact.

When Dr. Ann Hudock, the current President and CEO of Counterpart International, started working at the organization, she made it her priority to focus on the culture

within Counterpart International to ensure the people working there felt valued and were having their hard work seen. Hudock says when she began working at Counterpart International, the organization was facing challenges.

"When I first started, Counterpart had been trying to keep up with the massive amount of growth it had been experiencing," says Hudock.

"But then the award that fueled that growth ended and we needed to retool our work to be competitive for winning new work. We invested in new business processes and engaging technical experts who could inform and refresh our tools and approaches."

To bring Counterpart International back into the forefront of the international development community, Hudock invested in industry convenings to share experiences helping communities in need. The organization moved its Virginia offices to downtown DC to enable access to donors and partners. Hudock and her team refined the methods that had been in place in the organization throughout its history in order to rebuild the success of Counterpart International. Hudock wasn't alone in her aspirations for change. She says she has a dedicated senior leadership team that has helped grow the organization and

keep her on track with developing changes within the organization.

Counterpart International further embraced change when they began to prioritize psychological safety following an attack by the Taliban on one of their offices in Afghanistan. The traumatic event affected those who survived the attack. Hudock and the leadership team knew they had to create a workplace culture that would embrace the mental well-being of everyone who is a part of Counterpart International.

The organization began discussions around well-being as well as diversity, equity, and inclusion training as part of their mission to provide psychological safety. Hudock says...

**"When we started implementing the tools to ensure psychological safety within Counterpart International it became not just something for the people who work in the organization but also a way for us to provide those same services and tools to the communities we work with,"**

As Counterpart International continues to build a positive and nurturing culture within the organization that is projected into the communities they serve, the organization will continue to raise resources. Hudock says the team at Counterpart International is seeking to raise unrestricted resources, which is funding that isn't tied to a grant. According to Hudock, they are seeking these types of unrestricted resources in order to work with more partners that align with their mission and vision.

"We want to build a movement and group of people who believe in the mission of Counterpart, so we can work together and help communities around the world work through the challenges they face," says Hudock.

## 'Fulfil commitment to achieve SDGs'



Speakers at an event organised by the UNFPA have called for more initiatives aimed at safe motherhood and reproductive rights by prioritising economic development and inclusiveness to achieve Sustainable Development Goals. During the programme organised by the UNFPA here today, they also laid emphasis on fulfilment of the commitments regarding population and development for achieving the SDGs. Under gender equality, Goal-5 of SDGs, Nepal has pledged to end all forms of discrimination against women and girls everywhere as well as to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls. As Nepal is fulfilling its commitments to end child marriage and forced marriage among other ill practices prevailing in the country, thereby becoming effortful to achieve the SDGs, it is understood that Nepal needs to scale up its efforts such as awareness drive and developmental endeavours towards achieving the SDGs by 2030, speakers viewed.

Chief of the Department of Population Studies at Tribhuvan University Prof Yogendra Bahadur Gurung said, "Although infant mortality rate, maternal mortality rate and child marriage rate has come down significantly in Nepal as per the latest census in 2021, we need to step up our efforts and work more actively to achieve the SDGs within the stipulated time." Stating that challenges to human security are mounting lately due to urban or Tarai-centric migration, he said we should pay attention to this. According to him, Nepal has recently reached the stage of achieving its target of reducing population growth rate that was envisaged since the third five-year periodic plan. UNFPA Representative for Nepal, Won Young Hong suggested that Nepal focus on economic development and advance social development. She argued that economic development was important for public health rights and equality.

Source: <https://thehimalayantimes.com/kathmandu/fulfil-commitment-to-achieve-sdgs>

Source: <https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2023/08/16/2726775/0/en/Counterpart-International-uses-inclusivity-to-help-communities-around-the-world.html>

# MNCU tackles SDG 2030 goal



**K**UALA LUMPUR: The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation's (Unesco) journey towards realising the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) may be affected following signs of slower progress after the Covid-19 pandemic, especially in economic growth, women's and communities' empowerment, environmental conservation, creative industries and education.

This is based on findings reported in the SDGs Special Edition Report published by the United Nations, which was shared in the Malaysian National Commission for Unesco's (MNCU) Network Dialogue held in Cyberjaya earlier this month.

The MNCU Network Dialogue 2023 saw some 300 participants from 12 countries gathered in an annual session to discuss matters related to education and lifelong learning, namely its challenges, the exchange and sharing of knowledge, and finding the best mechanisms and framework to achieve the SDGs 2030.

The programme, which was officiated by Education Ministry secretary-general Datuk Indera Nik Nasarudin Mohd Zawawi, who is also MNCU vice-president, highlighted best practices and significant initiatives implemented by Malaysia, Unesco, affiliated institutions and partners worldwide.

**“The 17 SDGs were developed to maximise international cooperation to assist in the implementation of strategies and improving the living conditions of people.**

“Despite the slow recovery from the pandemic, we are now facing stable growth, but improvements proposed have become fragile thanks to extreme climate change, instability and crises in certain regions,” he says, quoting the OECD Economic Outlook report for June 2023.

“We need global commitment to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs. Education, in its various forms, can help break poverty's cycles, provide opportunities

to reskill and upskill, mitigate challenges, and make humanity resistant to challenges. Together, we are committed to a better future.”

In line with this year's theme, “Sustainable Development Goals: Safeguarding Future Generations”, Nasaruddin says, the ministry is focusing on improving the country's education via seven thrusts that revolve around effective and transparent communication between the ministry and schools, and emphasising human dignity, or karamah insaniah from a young age.

“Then comes addressing poverty among schoolchildren, reducing school dropouts, and increasing literacy skills to bridge the education gap.

“The ministry has also put strong emphasis on the welfare of teachers and the effectiveness of education delivery.”

Nasaruddin says the ministry has also embarked on efforts to renovate and upgrade run-down schools, and increase the digital capability in schools.

“Education does not necessarily need to be limited to classrooms and lecture halls. It can be done through various channels, methods and venues to accommodate the educational purposes and demands of all levels of communities.

“This is called lifelong learning. Unesco has described lifelong learning as consisting of non-limitation on age groups, all levels of education, learning modalities, learning spaces, and that lifelong learning can be conducted for diverse goals.”

MNCU secretary-general Mohd Daud Mohd Arif, at the closing of the event, says learning losses and a lack of investment in education will likely impact around 84 million children worldwide who will be out of school by the targeted year.

He says the SDGs 2023 report that was published in July this year predicts that 300 million schoolchildren or youth globally will be unable to master literacy skills and that only one in six countries will achieve the universal secondary school completion target if nothing is done to address it.

“In 2022, 23.5 per cent or 289 million young people will not be in education, employment or training, with young women being twice as likely to be in that category compared with young men.”



Source: <https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2023/08/948239/mncu-tackles-sdg-2030-goal>

Apart from the disparities shown and highlighted by the pandemic, he says, the forecasts that have been analysed – exacerbated by current challenges such as volatile global economic growth, the energy crisis, extreme climate change and inflation – are “very alarming”.

synthesised based on evidence and findings, as well as incorporating inclusive feedback from stakeholders and target groups. All these will be facilitated through lifelong learning.”

Discussions and presentations at the dialogue also touched on the



**“MNCU believes that a strong amalgamation of top-down and bottom-up approaches will ensure the best results, interlinked through expertise from various fields with common goals.**

“This is what we believe, and this is what we encourage and hope to nurture in all our collaborative programmes. Strategic partnerships between parties and expertise in imparting knowledge and skills to all will bear the best of fruits, to be enjoyed by our people.”

Daud says these measures can only be achieved through cooperation between policymakers, academicians, civil societies, teaching professionals, non-governmental organisations, civil society organisations, international and regional organisations, the private sector, and youth.

“Concrete, doable and multidisciplinary solutions must be

assistance and support from Unesco and on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), including its components in developing an inclusive educational framework for communities related to geoparks, environment, indigenous communities, artificial intelligence, rural community empowerment through digital learning, enabling women to pursue professional careers without comprising their motherhood, as well as the development of the animation industry in Malaysia and the creative industry in Indonesian heritage sites.

Present were Unesco Multisectoral Regional Office (Jakarta) director Maki Katsuno-Hayashikawa, Education Ministry's deputy secretaries-general Ramzi Mansor (management) and Wan Hashim Wan Rahim (planning and development), and Unesco Multisectoral Regional Office (Jakarta) head of education Dr Mee Young Choi.

# Harnessing the Power of Data for Progress on the SDGs

**W**ith more than two-thirds of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) off-track, high-quality, timely data to measure and monitor progress is more important than ever before. And to collect and produce this data, strong national statistical systems are needed. However, the SDGs present a complicated monitoring challenge for national governments.

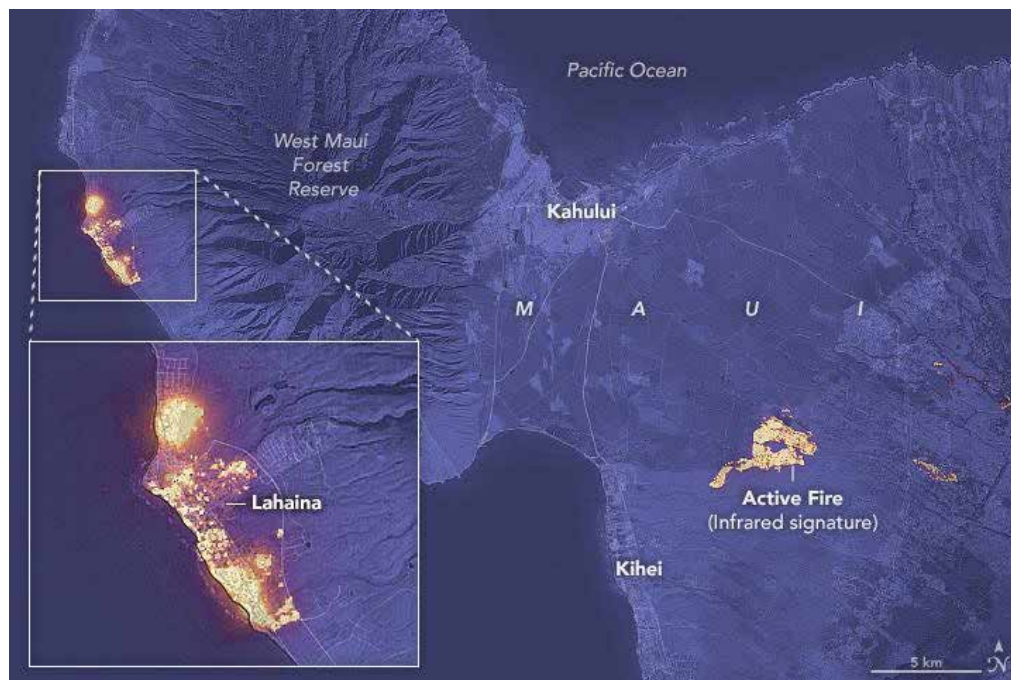
**Traditional data sources, such as official censuses and surveys, are often outdated and/or lacking data, which creates gaps in SDG reporting. As such, non-traditional data sources, including big data, citizen science, and Earth observation (EO) are becoming increasingly important to complement official statistics.**

Adopting these innovative data sources will improve SDG monitoring, reporting, and progress, and will lead to better informed, data-driven decision making.

## The State of SDG Data

The 17 SDGs include 231 indicators for tracking progress across 169 targets. While data exists for many of these indicators as reflected in the United Nations' 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Report, which highlights that the number of indicators with good country coverage has increased from 36% in 2016 to 66% in 2022, many gaps still remain.

Currently, National Statistics Offices (NSOs) play a vital role



in data collection, coordination, validation, and quality assurance for SDG monitoring. However, they face increasing demands for data from users while simultaneously contending with declining budgets and rising data collection costs.

More broadly, these data gaps are the result of a plethora of economic, social, and political factors, including limited financing, resources, and capacity, as well as climate change, conflict, the lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and policy issues.

Timeliness and disaggregation are also key areas of concern according to the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Report. For example, less than 30% of the latest available data is produced between 2022 and 2023, while over half of the latest data comes from between 2020 and 2021.

These data gaps affect countries of all income levels, and capacity building to collect and produce this data is critical. In order to bridge these gaps, innovative data sources like big data, citizen science, and EO are needed to provide more reliable and timely data for sustainable development monitoring, reporting, and implementation.

## Filling Data Gaps With Non-Traditional Data Sources and Methods

Non-traditional data sources, especially big data, citizen science, and EO, are being more frequently used to improve data gaps. Big data, or large volumes of high velocity, complex, and variable data, can improve the timeliness and relevance of SDG indicators without compromising their impartiality and methodological soundness.

It encompasses different types of data like administrative, commercial, sensor, tracking or mobile phone data, and behavioral or opinion data. Countries using big data can improve the granularity of their official estimates while reducing production costs and respondent burden.

For example, mobile phone data was used during the COVID-19 pandemic to help governments track populations' mobility and migration patterns. Ghana used mobile phone data to help deliver mobility insights and determine the efficacy of its lockdown measures, while South Korea used smartphone data in several of its cities to track individuals infected with the virus and map their contacts.

These examples illustrate how mobile phone data can be utilized more broadly to monitor SDG indicator 10.7.2, the number of countries with policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people.

Since mobile phones are used by large parts of the population around the world, mobile phone data has the potential to fill several data gaps. As a result, nearly 80% of NSOs consider mobile phone data a priority in the years ahead.

Citizen science is another non-traditional source of data that offers great promise for SDG data. For instance, recent research demonstrates that citizen science data is already contributing to or could contribute to the monitoring of around 33% of the SDG indicators. This innovative approach can provide a cost-effective mechanism for collecting data on the SDGs while increasing community awareness and engagement on relevant issues.

For example, the Ghana Statistical Service was struggling to provide continuous data related to the monitoring of marine litter. To address this issue, they partnered with key stakeholders to use citizen science to monitor SDG 14.1.1b, the indicator related to floating plastic debris density.

As part of the Data for Now initiative, this project aimed to close the data gaps related to marine litter by incorporating citizen science data with national statistics and as a result, Ghana became the first country to report on this SDG indicator using citizen science data.

**EO data also has an important role to play in improving data coverage and granularity. According to a recent study, existing EO systems could generate data for 33 SDG indicators across 14 goals. Fortunately, over the past few years, technological advancements along with new technologies, such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS), image processing, and satellite imagery have led to a drastic increase in available EO data.**

For example, satellite imagery is becoming increasingly important in disaster response and recovery. The recent wildfires on the Hawaiian island of Maui have become the deadliest US wildfires in more than a century, with 115 confirmed fatalities and over 1,000 people still missing as of August 23. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Earth Applied Sciences Disasters program has been working closely with stakeholders, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the World Central Kitchen,

and the Pacific Disaster Center, to support response and recovery efforts. Using EO data, like maps and satellite imagery, state officials have been able to estimate that nearly 3,000 homes and businesses have been destroyed or damaged as a result of the wildfires, totalling to USD \$6 billion in losses.

Responders have also been able to use these maps to determine where to best allocate their resources for response efforts and humanitarian relief. This crisis demonstrates the value of satellite imagery to track the spread of wildfires, assess the damage, and help coordinate relief efforts, and how EO can be used to support SDG indicators such as 1.5.2 (direct economic loss attributed to disasters) and 13.1.1 (number of deaths, missing persons, and directly affected persons attributed to disasters).

## The Way Forward

Non-traditional data sources are being employed to complement national statistics. Governments should continue to invest in these innovative approaches to improve access to high-quality, timely data for decision-making on sustainable development, leading to more accurate SDG reporting and monitoring and increased progress on the 2030 Agenda.

As we near the midpoint of Agenda 2030, by harnessing the power of non-traditional data, national governments can create better-informed decision-making that can drive effective, efficient, and responsible actions towards achieving the SDGs.

**Disclaimer: Views Expressed are Author's Own. Geospatial World May or May Not Endorse it**

Source: <https://www.geospatialworld.net/prime/prime-opinion/harnessing-power-data-progress-sdgs/>



## Accelerate progress on Sustainable Development Goal 8

**At the start of SDG 8-month, ILO Director-General, Gilbert F. Houngbo, warns that without concerted action on the social, economic and environmental targets Goal 8 covers, humanity risks being locked in a cycle of crisis and conflict on a forever damaged planet.**

In 2015 the global community agreed 17 goals to improve the lives of all people by 2030 and to protect the planet.

Goal number 8, on sustainable economic growth and decent work for all, brings together social, economic, and environmental targets.

These need to be addressed simultaneously if we are to succeed in our collective aims.

A world with social justice for all, equitable growth and a just transition to greener economies is possible.

It will take bold political leadership and commitment from all countries.

Without such collective action, humanity risks being locked in a cycle of crisis and conflict on a forever-damaged planet.

The SDG Summit in September is a vital moment for the international

community to give SDG 8 and the other 16 Goals the boost they need.

The ILO is promoting key initiatives at the Summit including the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions and the Global Coalition for Social Justice.

A better future is within our reach. We all have a role to play in shaping that future, and we must all step up to the challenge.

Source: [https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/how-the-ilo-works/ilo-director-general/statements-and-speeches/WCMS\\_888990/lang-en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/how-the-ilo-works/ilo-director-general/statements-and-speeches/WCMS_888990/lang-en/index.htm)

## Violence against aid workers shows no respite: UN

**A total of 62 humanitarian aid workers have died this year around the world, the United Nations said Thursday as it prepared to mark 20 years since a devastating attack on the UN headquarters in Baghdad.**

The UN observes World Humanitarian Day on August 19 each year as it remembers the suicide bombing, which claimed 22 lives, including that of Sergio Vieira de Mello, then the UN high commissioner for human rights and the head of the UN mission in that country.

Besides the 62 deaths this year in the world's conflict zones, another 84 aid workers were wounded and 34 were kidnapped, according to the Aid Worker Security Database, compiled by the consulting firm Humanitarian Outcomes. The fatality figure for all of 2022 was 116.

**For several years running South Sudan has been the world's most dangerous place for aid workers. As of August 10, there had been 40 attacks on humanitarian staffers there with 22 lives lost, said the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.**

Next on the list was Sudan to the north, with 17 attacks on aid workers and 19 deaths so far this year. Such high figures had not been seen since the Darfur conflict from 2006 to 2009.

Other countries where humanitarian workers died include the Central African Republic, Mali, Somalia, Ukraine and Yemen.

"The risks we face are beyond human comprehension," states a

report compiled by NGOs including Doctors of the World, Action Against Hunger and Handicap International, with help from the European Union.

Every year more than 90 percent of the people who die in attacks on aid workers are locals, according to the International NGO Safety Organization.

This year World Humanitarian Day marks 20 years since the bombing

"World Humanitarian Day and the Canal Hotel bombing will always be an occasion of mixed and still raw emotions for me and many others," said the UN's humanitarian chief, Martin Griffiths.

"Every year, nearly six times more aid workers are killed in the line of duty than were killed on that dark day in Baghdad, and they are overwhelmingly local aid workers," he added.



in Baghdad against the Canal Hotel, which was serving as the UN headquarters in the Iraqi capital.

That 2003 blast, carried out amid the chaos of the US-led invasion that ousted Saddam Hussein, killed 22 people, including the Brazilian Vieira de Mello, and wounded around 150 local and international aid workers.

"Impunity for these crimes is a scar on our collective conscience."

As upheavals around the world have grown, the United Nations says it is working to help nearly 250 million people living in crisis areas. That is 10 times more than in 2003.

Source: <https://arynews.tv/violence-against-aid-workers-shows-no-respite-un/>



## What are the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals?

The United Nations set the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as an urgent call to action for both developing and developed countries



Lucy Buchholz

In 2015, the United Nations Member States set the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, consisting of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which act as a blueprint for

peace and prosperity across the globe.

Each goal acts as an urgent call to action for both developed and developing countries, to overcome social and economic inequalities, while also tackling climate change.

### When were the UN's SDGs founded and implemented?

The SDGs took more than a decade to build, with work from various countries, the UN and specifically

the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA).

The first milestone took place at Rio de Janeiro's Earth Summit in 1992 when more than 178 countries adopted a comprehensive plan of action to build a global partnership for sustainable development to improve human lives and protect the environment – known as Agenda 21.

Soon after, in 2000, the Millennium Declaration was adopted by Member

States unanimously to share the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which aimed to reduce extreme poverty by 2015.

Over the years, even more milestones were reached, including the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the launch of the "The Future We Want" document.

**In January 2015, the General Assembly began the idea of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with 17 SDGs at its core. This was a landmark year, where several key policies were set, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (March 2015), the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development (July 2015), and Paris Agreement on Climate Change )**

Now, the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) in the UNDESA supports the SDGs, specifically relating to water, energy, climate, oceans, and technology, to name a few.

### What are the United Nations' SDGs?

Goal 1: To end poverty in all its forms everywhere

Goal 2: To end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Goal 3: To ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages

Goal 4: To ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities

Goal 5: To achieve gender equality and empower women and girls

Goal 6: To ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Goal 7: To ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Goal 8: To promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

## Why Well-Meaning NGOs Sometimes Do More Harm than Good

**Studies of aid groups in Ghana and Uganda show why it's so important to coordinate with local governments and institutions.**

Erika Deserranno noticed a pattern during her years doing research in Uganda: when a nongovernmental organization (NGO) arrived in a village, workers in the local government often shifted to new jobs with the NGO, which invariably paid much more.

She found herself wondering what the implications of this move might be. On the one hand, it was plausible that by offering such high pay, NGOs incentivized workers to perform better, improving life for the individuals they serve while allowing local governments to direct scarce resources elsewhere. Alternatively, it was also possible that those NGOs were siphoning talent away from government services that citizens depend on, but without improving those services.

Deserranno, an associate professor of managerial economics and decision sciences at Kellogg, decided to take a closer look at the impact of NGOs' entry into small, low-income, rural villages. She partnered on the research project with Nancy Qian, a professor of managerial economics and decision sciences at Kellogg, who had heard similar stories of global aid "crowding out" local services during her time in Rwanda.

Read more at

<https://insight.kellogg.northwestern.edu/article/international-aid-development-ngos-crowding-out-government>

Source: <https://sustainabilitymag.com/articles/what-are-the-united-nations-sustainable-development-goals>

# Targets designed in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals will not be achieved in communities such as Pós-Balsa in Brazil

Quality of life, access to clean water, basic sanitation, decent living conditions, and good education remain far from the reality of the population.



Louis Edoa

In October 2016, with the sanction, by the President of the Republic, of Decree No. 8.892 of October 27, 2016, Brazil officially adopted the 2030 Agenda together with other UN member states, with the aim of achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which cover social, economic, and environmental objectives for a better life for all. SDG fulfillment depends on actions by governments at all levels, civil society, the private sector, and

all citizens. However, while it is clear that some communities and locations in the world will reach most if not all, of the SDGs by 2030, others will continue to live in precarious situations. This is the case of the Pós-Balsa community in the municipality of São Bernardo do Campo, located in the Metropolitan Region of São Paulo.

With a population of approximately 20,000 inhabitants, representing around 2.5% of the municipality's population, the Pós-Balsa community is socially excluded and relegated to social invisibility. Residents have no access to the basic social rights described and defended by the SDGs, and also present in the Brazilian Federal Constitution, which guarantees

decent living conditions such as basic sanitation, access to health, quality education, drinking water, and quality food. Every day, it's necessary to face precarious public transport, irregular housing, poor quality of the health system, and a disastrous educational system. Even though most of the region has only access to the ferry, which often suffers from technical problems, forcing residents to wait in line for up to 3 hours to get to other regions of the city to work, study, go to the doctor, the bank, or the supermarket.

The community is located in the Billings Dam basin, which makes the region an area of preservation and protection of water sources, requiring special care and attention

from authorities at different levels (municipal, state, and federal). However, because it is located in this area, the community is abandoned, and the population is made invisible.

This situation experienced by the community goes against the commitment assumed to promote the 17 SDGs. For, from the eradication of poverty, which is the most painful point in the life of the community's population, to Goal 17, partnerships in favor of the goals, none of them is presently implemented in the region. No health service brings well-being to the population, education is of poor quality, lack of basic sanitation, and clean water, a factor that directly interferes with the environment, as sewage is disposed of in the open.

Another finding is that the majority of the population is composed of black people (black and brown), indigenous people, women (often single mothers), poor people, or descendants, a sample of Brazilian minorities, excluded, marginalized, and constantly under-represented in the corridors of power. Also, due to a lack of education, we have a population of workers who end up gathering around jobs such as house or street cleaners, doormen, salespeople, store attendants, waiters, etc.

## Community mobilization

Despite all the difficulties they face, residents of the community are looking for ways to improve their conditions and preserve the environment they regard as their home. This led them to join forces and create the Post-Balsa Solidarity Committee, which seeks to bring together in communion and solidarity the various entities and citizens of the region. Its purpose is to fight for the recognition and representation of the community, promoting actions

of dialogue and solidarity, human well-being, and environmental protection in a network, in addition to democratically seeking improvements for the community and engaging in dialogue with the government to that end.

**Based on the conviction that responsible social coexistence is possible, the guarantee of people's basic rights and environmental protection throughout the Pós-Balsa region, the Committee accepts divergent points of view but seeks to converge towards consensus through reasoning and enlightened dialogue. It is also open to partnerships with the public authorities and the private sector, but it is by nature a civil society movement. One of its struggles is non-discrimination, whether due to skin color, religion, sexual orientation, gender, origin, being physically or mentally disabled, ideological convictions, or any other reason.**

## Challenges of achieving the SDGs in Brazil

Despite presenting some important advances in the implementation of the SDGs, Brazil's actions are insufficient to achieve the goals within the stipulated timeframe. The strategy adopted by the country has many restrictions, such as failures in the coordination of institutions and deficiency in inclusion and transparency. Furthermore, Brazil entered the stage of implementation of the goals at a time marked by economic recession and political instability. However, the country is considered a reference in good practices related to the consolidation of the Millennium Development

Goals (MDGs), which preceded the SDGs. However, as the challenges in the public sector persist, this creates doubts about the expected achievement of the SDGs by 2030.

In the Pós-Balsa community, the biggest challenges to fulfilling the SDGs are the increase in poverty, and lack of government investment in areas such as health



and education. As it is a Watershed Protection area, insufficient investments in the environmental area, as well as the decrease in inspection, had negative consequences and compromised the entire SDG 9. Another challenge is inequalities, the drop in public investments in all social areas: health, education, social assistance, culture, science, and technology point to an increase in social inequalities.

Faced with so many challenges, it is not possible to expect only government measures. It is important that everyone contributes to lower rates, improve the environment, and adopt measures that help achieve global goals. The Pós-Balsa community so well that it barely understood that it could help in actions such as preserving the environment, and promoting voluntary actions that collaborate with vulnerable people, because everyone can be part of this movement.

Source: <https://katoikos.world/dialogue/targets-designed-in-the-17-sustainable-development-goals-will-not-be-achieved-in-communities-such-as-pos-balsa-in-brazil.html>

## UNDP Statement on the launch of the new Global Biodiversity Framework Fund

**T**oday, an important step towards collective ambition to scale financing for biodiversity has been taken in Vancouver. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) commends the Global Environment Facility for the swift creation of a dedicated financing mechanism for worldwide nature conservation, the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund.

The new Fund is a critical component in the effort to expand conservation and restoration in the context of the SDG agenda at the required scale. UNDP calls on governments, philanthropic organizations, and private sector to capitalize the Fund. The global community has a stake for this fund to succeed.

UNDP also welcomes the Fund's strong emphasis on supporting actions by indigenous people, women and local communities,

recognizing their critical role in implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework.

As part of efforts to place nature at the very heart of economic and development thinking and doing, UNDP will support countries to accelerate three transformational shifts:

Resetting the narratives and behaviors that determine how we value nature;

Systemic economic shifts to flows of finance from nature-negative to nature-positive outcomes; and,

Ensuring that nature-based solutions feature prominently in inclusive and sustainable development policies.

"For three decades, UNDP has been a proud partner of the Global Environment Facility and community of environmental action that it has fostered in every

corner of the globe," said UNDP Administrator, Achim Steiner. "Through the bold UNDP Nature Pledge, we are supporting over 140 countries to reach their ambitious targets under the historic Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework while connecting the dots between people, nature, livelihoods, sustainable development, and human rights."

"The new Global Biodiversity Framework Fund will be critical for delivering on the goals and targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework. It now needs contributions from both public and private sources to set off a chain reaction of new, momentous action on ecosystems and biodiversity so that all countries and communities can play their part in restoring the delicate equilibrium between people and our natural world. There is no possibility of sustainable development without functioning ecosystems."

## UN to strengthen collaboration on facilitating journalists in covering its activities

**T**he United Nations (UN) Pakistan Office and the Karachi Press Club (KPC) have agreed to enhance collaboration in information-sharing, capacity-building and facilitating journalists reporting on social and development issues.

During a visit by UN officials to the KPC on Monday, Julien Harneis, the resident coordinator of the United Nations in Pakistan, and Karachi Press Club Secretary Shoaib Ahmed decided to work together for betterment of Pakistani journalists.

Harneis was accompanied by Catherine Weibel, country director of the UN Information Centre in Islamabad, and other senior staff members. Saeed Sarbazi, president, and Shoaib Ahmed, secretary of the press club, welcomed the UN delegation and provided them with an overview of the club's history and activities.

Sarbazi emphasized that as the largest club in the country, the KPC upholds high values and standards while promoting freedom of the press. He also highlighted the club's role in providing a secure space for political and social activists to freely express their views. "We have always stood against any restrictions on freedom of the media," he added.

Shoaib Ahmed informed the delegation about the facilities and services the press club offers to its

members and working journalists. He also highlighted the challenges faced by media professionals in covering events and happenings at the national and international levels, particularly in conflict zones. He urged the UN delegation to provide maximum support in this regard. In response to the offer to host joint activities, the UN delegation agreed to strengthen collaboration on facilitating journalists' coverage of UN activities. This includes providing accreditation for international events, sharing information on various UN agencies' work, and organizing joint workshops and seminars.

Harneis emphasized that the press is an important partner of the UN in improving development indicators in Pakistan. He expressed his

pleasure in visiting the KPC and stated that press clubs and journalists can play a crucial role in raising questions that draw the attention of authorities to address chronic problems such as the lack of education and health facilities.

Catherine said that she would soon get in touch with the KPC to work out the details of collaboration. As a token of appreciation, the KPC president and secretary presented the shield and ajrak, a traditional gift, to the visiting guests.

Earlier, Julien Harneis and Katherine also addressed a press conference, highlighting the UN's work in Pakistan



Source: <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1104768-un-to-strengthen-collaboration-on-facilitating-journalists-in-covering-its-activities>



## Time to Act for SDG 8: Decent work for all



**S**ustainable Development Goal 8 on Decent Work for All is the only SDG that brings together social, economic and environmental targets. It has an impact on all other Agenda 2030 goals. What will it take to ensure it is achieved?

The world of work is undergoing profound changes. Self-driving cars, medicine-delivering drones, generative artificial intelligence that augments human creativity, overheating megacities. These things were once the stuff of science fiction. Today they are the technological, demographic, and climate-change-related forces reshaping the way we work.

What we don't know is whether these forces will change our world of work for better or worse. This uncertainty is increased because the changes are occurring at a time of enormous existing challenges.

**Inequalities are reaching unprecedented levels. Global employment growth will be only 1.0 per cent in 2023, less than half that of 2022. Global unemployment is expected to rise by around three million in 2023 to 208 million. The cost-of-living crisis is pushing more people into poverty, including working poverty. The most vulnerable workers include 200 million people living in absolute poverty and two billion in the informal economy, where they frequently lack legal rights or social protection.**

This global picture also hides significant geographic imbalances. For example, in low-income countries, employment is not expected to recover to pre-pandemic levels this year. In those regions where unemployment is now below pre-crisis levels, our analysis shows this is mainly because of a shift into the informal economy, which probably postpones rather than resolves workers' problems.

So, what can be done? How can we ensure these currents of change lead us to the more equitable, sustainable, prosperous, peaceful future that UN Member States committed to when they adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015? This will be among the key questions to be

addressed at the SDG Summit in New York in September.

This is where Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8 plays a crucial role. SDG 8 seeks inclusive and sustainable economic growth and full and productive employment – in other words, decent work for all. But its impact goes beyond that, because it is the only SDG that brings together social, economic and environmental targets. In that sense, it can be seen as a 'multiplier goal' of the entire sustainable development agenda, since it will have a positive impact on other goals, if achieved.

As with all the goals, making good on the promise of SDG 8 will require us to restore faith in multilateralism and global cooperation. In a globalized economy, developing countries cannot be expected to act alone. We need international solidarity if we want to make a practical difference. Building universal social protection systems is an example. These can alleviate poverty, reduce vulnerability and inequalities, and help to manage conflicts and social tensions. To achieve this target, humanitarian assistance must be directed so that it supports social protection systems and reinforces state capacity.

A reorganized and rebalanced approach to globalization is essential. While concerns about automation's impact on job losses are valid, technological progress can also create new job opportunities in emerging markets. But we must ensure that the benefits are felt by everyone along these supply chains.

To bring all the components of this approach together we must have

clear and transparent policies and actions and ensure that they are seen as fair. That's why the ILO is calling for a Global Coalition for Social Justice.

**The Coalition will bring together ILO constituents, UN and other multilateral bodies, global financial institutions, the private sector, civil society, and other partners. This wide range of views and expertise will help to ensure that policies reflect all facets of the issues we face – economic, social and environmental – and so achieve broad acceptance.**

The Coalition will also build on the work of the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions. Both are based on a solid human rights foundation, with a strong link to international labour standards and the promotion of social dialogue. While the Coalition will bring a broad range of opinions and experiences together, the Accelerator will help to channel investments from a wide range of sources – national, international, public, and private – into the extension of social protection, and into job creation, including in the green, digital, and care economies.

We know that the world of work will be different for the next generation, this is inevitable. It is up to us how we shape that change. SDG 8, with its focus on decent work for all, can direct us towards a more human-centered future that is more equitable, dignified, productive, and humane.

Source: [https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS\\_889316/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_889316/lang--en/index.htm)



## Vital Role of Corporations to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030



Anand Nichani

To create a positive change in today's world, it is essential to turn the concept of sustainable development into a reality for the global population. The environment is facing significant damage as pollution levels and ecological degradation have reached an unprecedented scale. The pursuit of human development has taken a severe toll on the natural world. To address this issue, The United Nations established the Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 as a global initiative aimed at eradicating poverty, safeguarding the environment, and promoting peace and prosperity for all people by 2030.

Achieving these goals requires collective action and collaboration from all sectors of society, including the private sector. Similarly, corporations have a unique opportunity and responsibility to contribute to this cause by utilising their resources, expertise, and influence to create positive social and environmental impact.

Some of the effective ways corporates can undertake to achieve the SDG goals by 2030 are:

### Adopting & Integrating SDGs into business strategy

Corporations have the potential to adopt sustainable business practices that not only reduce their environmental footprint but also promote social and economic development. This encompasses reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting the use of renewable energy, enhancing resource efficiency, embracing circular economy practices, and investing in the well-being of their employees and local communities. By prioritising sustainability, corporations can contribute to a cleaner, healthier planet while simultaneously creating

value for all stakeholders involved.

**Integrating SDGs into core business strategies, operations, and decision-making processes is a feasible step for corporations. This involves setting targets and key performance indicators (KPIs) that are aligned with the SDGs and regularly tracking and reporting progress. By aligning their business goals with the SDGs, corporations can generate value for their stakeholders and contribute to the betterment of society as a whole.**

A further aspect involves prioritising the development of products and services that promote sustainable development and are in line with the SDGs.

### Engagement in social impact initiatives

Engaging in social impact initiatives is a way to address critical social challenges. Corporations can drive positive social change by investing in initiatives that address critical social issues such as education, health, gender equality, and poverty reduction. These investments not only create significant social impact but also contribute to long-term business success.

### Unite and work together with stakeholders

The successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals demands the participation of all stakeholders. Thus, it becomes imperative for corporations to unite and work

together with stakeholders such as governments, civil society organisations, and other businesses to achieve the SDGs. By pooling their resources and expertise, corporations and stakeholders can create a more significant impact towards achieving the SDGs through multi-stakeholder initiatives, public-private partnerships, and industry collaborations.

### It's Now or Never

The future is our responsibility, and every one of us must contribute and take accountability. To prevent further environmental degradation, it is high time to invest in sustainable development projects such as renewable energy, water management, waste management

that involve various aspects of an organisation. For instance, the energy a company uses to power ones' manufacturing plants can be obtained from renewable energy sources. Vacuum-packed technology in the transportation of products is another aspect that has considerably lower emissions of polluting substances. An additional element is the implementation of a virtuous loop that enables over 95% of the special waste generated to be recycled and reused rather than being disposed off.

To sum up, corporations play a crucial role in achieving the SDGs by integrating them into their business strategy, adopting sustainable practices, engaging in social impact initiatives, promoting responsible conduct, collaborating with stakeholders, and measuring



and sustainable agriculture and work towards reducing carbon footprint. Corporations can actively contribute by initiating business policies that aim to optimise production by reducing costs and energy waste with a series of concrete commitments

and reporting their impact. The private sector has a unique opportunity and responsibility to lead the way in creating positive social and environmental impact for a more sustainable future.

Source: <https://thecsrjournal.in/vital-role-of-corporations-to-achieve-sustainable-development-goals-sdgs-2030-magniflex-india/>



## Why farmers' organizations matter: Your questions answered

**O**n their own, many small-scale farmers don't have adequate access to markets, inputs, finance, and information.

But when they come together to form [farmers' organizations](#), that's when they find strength in numbers.

### What are farmers' organizations?

Farmers' organizations are autonomous membership-based organizations of small-scale rural producers, including cooperatives and unions. From grassroots to global movements, they all share one common goal: furthering their

members' interests by giving them a voice.

They can be organized by geography, as in [Paraguay](#) where local women [formed an association](#) to sell their produce in the capital over 235km away, and by commodity type, like the rice farmers union in [Burkina Faso](#) (UNERIZ) which collaborated with IFAD to help its members [learn sustainable farming techniques, like agroecology](#).

### How do farmers' organizations help rural producers?

For some crops, only [6.5 percent of the price](#) goes to small-scale

farmers and workers. Farmers' organizations help to redress this imbalance by:

- Improving access to inputs and knowledge. In upland [Laos](#), pig farmer collectives teach members how to prevent the spread of swine flu.
- Sharing resources and expensive equipment. In [Peru](#), [the indigenous Kichwa people share technical assistance](#) through the Alima Cacao Cooperative.
- Connecting producers to finance through community savings and rural finance institutions, like [FO4ACP](#) in the [Democratic Republic of the Congo](#).

- Linking farmers to markets and buyers. In [Rwanda](#), the FO4ACP-supported Ingabo Syndicate linked 15,000 cassava farmers to a cassava processor.
- Advocating for their interests. In [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), farmers organisation [worked with policymakers](#) to unlock subsidies for gherkin growers.
- Managing natural resources fairly and sustainably. Local community groups in [Nepal](#) [manage river](#) catchment areas to conserve water.

Crucially, as part of a collective, small-scale producer can do things that would otherwise be prohibitively expensive, laborious or time-consuming.

### What challenges do farmers' organizations face?

Like individual smallholders, the biggest challenge for farmers' organisations is access to finance. This makes it harder for them to provide services to their members. The issue is particularly acute in Africa, where [70 per cent](#) of farmers' organizations report that less than half their financing needs are met, compared to 30 per cent in South-East Asia.

Marketing products is also complex as they must negotiate commercial partnerships, have strong market access and build value chains, all while adapting to climate change.

Luckily, all these challenges are surmountable, especially with support from IFAD.

### How does IFAD support farmers' organizations?

IFAD partners with farmers' organizations so they can

develop into stable, accountable organizations in which members thrive.

To set fairer prices, IFAD supports farmers' organizations to increase their bargaining power, comply with quality standards, broker partnerships and develop dialogue with other organizations in the value chain.

In [Sri Lanka](#), [SPEnDP](#) set up a collection centre for fruits and vegetables so farmers could supply the country's biggest supermarket chain, equipped with an electronic display of the day's wholesale prices.

IFAD also provides training and support, from fishers [processing the catch](#) to get better prices in the [Philippines](#), to women's groups in [Nigeria](#) using the [GALS methodology](#) to [convince men](#) to support their businesses.

Since 2005, IFAD has been meeting with farmers' organizations and Member States at the [Farmers Forum](#)

to discuss issues like food systems transformation and climate change.

### What's next for farmers' organizations?

IFAD is committed to continue working with farmers' organizations. As crucial partners in our work towards equitable and effective food systems, we are building their capacity in rural development and amplifying their voices.

As equal partners, we look to the farmers' organizations themselves to understand their priorities, like climate finance and fair prices.



Source: <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/-/why-farmers-organizations-matter-your-questions-answered>



## COP28 President's 'hypocritical' oil firm failing to acknowledge full extent of their carbon footprint

**The fossil fuel giant run by the president of the forthcoming UN climate summit – Sultan Al-Jaber – last month reported only a fraction of its carbon pollution, despite him saying companies need to “attack all emissions”, according to new analysis.**

Taking into account emissions from burning the oil and gas it produces, Al-Jaber's company, the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), produced 14 times more emissions last year than it reported.

As president of COP28, Sultan Al-Jaber is charged with shepherding nations closer towards policies that will limit global heating to 1.5 Celsius above pre-industrial levels, largely through sweeping cuts in greenhouse gas emissions.

Al-Jaber's appointment as the UAE's climate tsar has alarmed environmental groups as well as US and EU lawmakers.

In a first, ADNOC last month disclosed the emissions from producing its oil and gas for last year. These emissions – known as Scope 1 and 2 – amounted to 24

million tonnes of CO2 equivalent in 2022, according to the company.

Greeting the announcement, the state-run Abu Dhabi media office heralded ADNOC's disclosed emissions as an “industry-leading low carbon intensity achievement.”

Scope 1 and 2 emissions do not include pollution released when fossil fuels like oil and gas are burned for energy. These – known as Scope 3 – typically make up the vast majority of an oil company's carbon footprint. Although most oil and gas majors do not traditionally track Scope 3, some such as BP

and Chevron do include Scope 3 reductions in their climate targets.

Analysis of production data from Rystad Energy shows that ADNOC in 2022 produced over 650 million barrels of oil – enough to power China's oil demand for six weeks – and over 40 billion cubic metres of gas.

Emissions from those products alone are calculated to just over 340 million tonnes of CO2 – more than the UK produces each year, and 14.1 times higher than the emissions the ADNOC disclosed this week.

Al-Jaber, who has called for nations to be “brutally honest” with each other during COP28, told senior officials from China, the EU and Canada that country and company emissions reductions plans must include “all emissions, everywhere. (Scope) 1, 2, and 3.”

**“This is a classic case of hypocritical fossil fuel firms saying one thing and doing another,” said Patrick Galey, senior investigator at Global Witness. “Sultan Al-Jaber is on one hand asking companies to include all emissions in their climate strategies, while his firm is patting itself on the back for disclosing only a tiny fraction of its true climate impact.”**

“Fossil fuels account for 90 percent of the carbon emissions that are heating the planet and inflicting misery and loss on millions of people. The climate doesn't respond to clever accounting,” said Galey.

“While conceding publicly that a liveable future means cutting all emissions, Al-Jaber's firm is refusing to acknowledge the vast majority of its products' emissions as its own.”

Al-Jaber and ADNOC have been plagued by controversy since he was appointed as COP28 president in January. The company recently brought forward a planned production capacity increase from 4 million to 5 million barrels a day, prompting criticism from green groups.

**ADNOC says it plans to invest \$15 billion in low-carbon energy by 2030, and Al-Jaber has consistently stressed that energy companies have a key role to play in helping the world achieve the emissions cuts needed to limit global heating to 1.5 Celsius – the goal outlined in the 2015 Paris climate agreement.**

Al-Jaber, who is also head of renewable energy firm Masdar, told an energy conference in Houston in March that the energy sector needed to address its Scope 3 emissions.

“Making a dent in the climate crisis is not just about decarbonizing oil and gas operations... the oil and gas industry has the capacity and the resources to help everyone address scope 3,” he said.

### Methodology

- The data on ADNOC's oil and gas emissions for 2022 was sourced from energy business intelligence agency Rystad Energy's UCube database. UCube is an integrated field-by-field database of the global upstream oil and gas market, covering the time span from 1900 to 2100. Rystad's data is widely referenced by major oil and gas companies, the media and

international bodies such as the IEA.

- Using Rystad we ascertained that ADNOC produced 653.103 million barrels of oil equivalent in 2022, and 42.47363 billion cubic metres of gas
- UCube takes into account oil and gas demand to project asset-level supply. Projections are based on data sources including company reporting (e.g., earnings and profits reporting) and policies, government sources, energy service reporting, energy agencies and academic research and news articles. Where reported data is unavailable, data is modelled based on the above sources and supported by a comprehensive database of global oil and gas fields.

- We sourced the data of production from 2022. The data includes all assets that are currently producing, those under development (assets for which development has been approved but production has not yet started), and discovery (assets where discoveries have been made, but are not yet in a phase of further development). We did not include Rystad's undiscovered life cycle category, which covers assets where discoveries have not yet been made.

- The data covers only crude oil and gas production, not NGL and condensate, making these conservative production estimates. Please note that the carbon emissions relate to end-use emissions only; it does not include the upstream emissions that arise from oil and gas production.

Source: <https://www.globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/fossil-gas/cop28-presidents-oil-firm-failing-to-acknowledge-full-extent-of-their-carbon-footprint/>



## Public education on children with disability stressed

**T**ANZANIA, Dar es Salaam  
**MORE EDUCATION** and awareness is needed to parents and relatives of children living with mental disabilities to save them from sexual and physical abuses they encounter within their homes and communities in general.

Bibie Abdallah, parent of a child living with Down Syndrome condition told reporters at a press conference organised by Strategic Alternative Learning Techniques (SALT) held in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday that, majority of families which have children who have mental disabilities do not believe that those children are trainable and that they can improve their conditions with the help of medicine, encouragement and therapy.

Source: <https://dailynews.co.tz/public-education-on-children-with-disability-stressed/>

“Through raising my own child, I have learnt that these children with mental disability can be transferred from their hopeless state to productive state only if there is joint efforts between the parents or guardians and respective community where the child is living”, she said.

SALT Director, Rebecca Lebi said SALT Vocational Training Centre was established in 2019 in Mbezi Makabe, Dar es Salaam with the aim of enhancing the quality of life to children and youth with mental challenges by equipping them with productive skills.

She added, “currently we have a total of 40 children at the centre who we have been trained and they are now able to produce these products that you see which include

snacks, shampoos, petroleum jelly and others which are now sold at the supermarkets”, she stated.

Ms Lebi added that the organisation is in the process of expanding the services due to the increasing number of children who need to be brought at the centre, pointing out there are at the moment 451 children who need to be joined at the centre.

“We already have an area of 9 acres for constructing more buildings and we have organised charitable walk event which will take place on the 24th of September at the Green Oysterbay Grounds in Dar es Salaam and we will also sell 10,000 t- shirts at 35,000/- each to raise sum of 765m/- which will make us meet our goals of being able to accommodate large number of children,” she explained.



## Alleviating Urban Poverty Through Livelihood Generation

**P**UNE, INDIA, Aug 30 (IPS) - In a bid to tackle the complexities of urban poverty, the Government of Bihar's Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (BRLPS) has launched Satat Jeevikoparjan Yojana Shahari (SJY Urban). The program will include a time-bound series of multifaceted interventions addressing food security, social inclusion, and sustainable economic livelihoods to enable participating households to achieve a better standard of living.

As part of this program, BRLPS has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with BRAC International, which will serve as a thought partner to the Government of Bihar for the project development and also is building a consortium of partners to support the government in its implementation. Project

Source: <https://www.globalissues.org/news/2023/08/30/34603>

Concern International (PCI), for example, is taking on management responsibilities and will also host thematic workshops across departments and with civil society experts to support inclusive learning and dialogue.

Mobile Creches will create a community cadre of childcare providers who will support maternal and child health. They have a 50-year-old history of providing childcare support, maternal and nutritional health, and WASH training to urban women in the slums of Delhi, Mumbai, and Pune. Quicksand will support the learning process to consolidate the design through ethnographic methods, prototyping, and other design elements. These learnings will help inform the project about the fabric of each respective urban

community and provide a feedback loop once the rollout starts.

SJY Urban was inspired by the existing rural programme. Satat Jeevikoparjan Yojana (SJY), locally known as JEEVIKA, the largest government-led Graduation programme in the world, which has reached over 150,000 households as of early 2023 and is still expanding. SJY Urban is modelled on the rural programme's six basic modules: 1) Building up the aspirations and confidence of households; 2) Financial Inclusion; 3) Improvement of Health, Nutrition, and Sanitation; 4) Social Development; 5) Livelihood generation; and 6) Government Convergence.

While taking inspiration from JEEVIKA, the Urban Programme will be adapted to respond to the unique challenges people in poverty face within the urban context.



## Panic in Bahawalpur as Sutlej breaches dykes

- **Standing crops submerged**
- **175 relief camps set up**
- **480 villages affected so far**

BAHAWALPUR/LAHORE: Panic gripped Bahawalpur and adjacent areas as a number of zamindara (private) protective dykes could not withstand the strong Sutlej water currents that inundated three main villages on the outskirts of town.

Sunday's peak discharge in Sutlej at Empress bridge was 130,000 cusecs which flooded settlements of Weaslan, Sahlan and Lal De Goth. Their residents had been evacuated along with their livestock well before the breaches occurred. But their standing crops have been submerged over a vast area.

Since these villages are close to the city, there is concern among the general public about the possible flooding but officials said the situation was under control.

After learning about breaches in the morning, Deputy Commissioner Zaher Anwar Jappa visited the affected areas and supervised the strengthening of dykes being done through heavy machinery. He said efforts were on to protect other rural and urban areas along the swollen river.

He added that the evacuated people were being looked after at relief and medical camps.

Flood has also affected Lodhran district's Kahrur Pucca tehsil situated along the other side of the river.

Meanwhile, flood level at Islam Headworks and Ganda Singh Wala in Sutlej River reduced to medium on Sunday while evacuations continued in vulnerable areas of Punjab.

A day ago, Sutlej flew in high flood at two points as dams built on the river on the Indian side neared their maximum capacity. Given the situation, several district administrations of the Punjab were directed to take prompt measures to ensure complete evacuation from all villages and settlements along the river. But as of 2pm (on Sunday), the Flood Forecasting Division said the flood level had fallen to medium at the two spots following a decrease in the flow of water. It had previously forecast sustained high flood levels at the two points for the next 24 hours.

The FFD also reported that the Indus River was in low flood at Taunsa, Chashma and Guddu headworks at 12pm.

A statement issued by the PDMA spokesperson said the authority was closely monitoring the situation and relief measures were under way in the affected districts.

The spokesperson said 970 people were rescued in Bahawalnagar, Kasur, Okara, Pakpattan, Lodhran, Vehari and Bahawalpur from August 23 to 26; 32,000 people benefited from medical camps established in the above-mentioned districts; 175 relief camps were set up in the affected areas; and rations were distributed among 300 flood-affected families.

The spokesperson added that 21,000 heads of cattle were moved to safe places from affected areas.

As of today, 480 villages remain affected by the flood situation in Punjab, he added.

Punjab Relief Commissioner Nabil Javed said life was returning to normal and the displaced people would return to their homes soon too.

Farooq Ahmad, Rescue 1122's spokesperson in Punjab, also provided updates on the emergency service's rescue and evacuation operations.

In a statement, Mr Ahmad said 425 boats and 1,660 personnel were part of rescue efforts. He added that in the last 24 hours, 6,725 people were evacuated, 937 people were transported and 1,021 animals were moved to safe places in the districts of Okara, Vehari, Kasur, Pakpattan and Bahawalnagar.

### Relief efforts

Meanwhile, Radio Pakistan reported that the Pakistan Army's rescue and relief efforts were continuing in low-lying areas inundated by floodwaters.

The report said army troops were engaged in distributing free rations, carrying out rescue operations and running free medical camps for flood-affected people in Khairpur Tammy Wali, Hasilpur and Bahawalnagar.

It added that the army, with the help of the local administration, moved people to safer places from flood-hit areas of Mailsi, Chishtian, Minchanabad, Vehari, Pakpattan, Hasilpur, Arifwala and Head Sulaimanki.

Source: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1772630/panic-in-bahawalpur-as-sutlej-breaches-dykes>



## Health conditions worsen as displacement from Sudan conflict exceeds 4 million

**G**ENEVA – With more than 4 million people now forcibly displaced by the Sudan crisis, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is deeply worried about [deteriorating health conditions](#) across the country, including in refugee camps as well as at border entry points and transit centres in neighbouring countries, where people forced to flee are arriving.

The situation inside Sudan, where UNHCR teams are present, is untenable as needs far outweigh what is humanly possible to deliver with available resources. In White Nile state, a lack of essential medicines, staff and supplies is severely hampering health and nutrition services in all 10 refugee camps, where over 144,000 newly displaced refugees from Khartoum have arrived since the conflict started, joining thousands of South Sudanese refugees and the local communities who access the same clinics. Mental health and

psychosocial support services are also virtually nonexistent.

**As many families have been on the move for weeks – with very little food or medicine – rising malnutrition rates, disease outbreaks and related deaths continue to be observed. Between 15 May and 17 July, over 300 deaths, mainly among children under 5 years, were reported due to measles and malnutrition. If funding for life-saving health programmes continues to be delayed, this figure will likely increase.**

Chronic shortages in health staff, as well as attacks on personnel as reported by the World Health Organization, have significantly compromised the quality of health care across the country. Analysis by UNHCR teams in White Nile shows

that there are at least 70 patients per clinician per day, above what is medically recommended, and a clear demonstration of services being stretched thin. Ruptured supply chains have meant that medicine and other supplies are running low for hundreds of thousands of people in desperate need.

In addition, more cholera and malaria cases are expected in the coming months due to flooding from the continuing rains and inadequate sanitation facilities.

Across borders, the situation is equally grim. The health and nutrition status of those arriving from Sudan has deteriorated sharply since the conflict started in April and continues to worsen. Underfunding severely hampers the response in South Sudan, where 57 children, the majority under 5 years old, have died from measles and malnutrition in Renk. Of these, 15 died in the last week.

Similarly, in Chad, only 17 mobile clinics are operational across 15 locations at the border sites and refugee camps where people are arriving. Over 2,400 wounded refugees and returnees have so far arrived, requiring urgent medical attention, with approximately 130 casualties admitted daily in June.

**Together with health partners and government authorities, UNHCR is making efforts to scale up the response. Humanitarian agencies have deployed additional staff and volunteers in the camps, border entry points and transit centres to support with malnutrition screening and other services. Teams are also providing medical kits, increasing measles vaccinations for children and rehabilitating existing facilities while setting up new ones. Additionally, we are doing all we can to quickly relocate new arrivals from border entry points and transit centres to avoid overcrowding and curb the spread of deadly diseases. However, we need more donor support to save lives.**

Over [4 million people](#) have been forced to flee within Sudan and into neighbouring countries since the start of the conflict. This includes nearly 700,000 refugees and asylum-seekers who fled to neighboring countries, and 195,000 South Sudanese forced to return to South Sudan. Within Sudan, over 3.2 million people have been internally displaced, including more than 187,000 refugees already residing in the country at the start of the crisis.

More funds are desperately needed to support the provision of health care and other life-saving aid. Of the US\$566 million required by UNHCR and other partners for the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) to provide assistance in countries neighbouring Sudan, just 29 per cent has been received. The inter-agency response inside Sudan is only 24 per cent funded.

## Training Providers to Trust Rapid Malaria Test Results Could Improve Outcomes

**“There’s much less trust in the negative rapid diagnostic test result than there is in the positive one,” says CCP researcher Kathryn Sugg.**

**D**istrust among health care providers in the Democratic Republic of Congo of rapid diagnostic tests for malaria needs to be combatted to ensure that people aren’t being over-treated, that antimalarials aren’t overused and that people with fevers and negative malaria tests are properly treated for what is wrong with them.

These findings come from Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs researchers asked to uncover the reasons for an over-reporting of positive malaria cases in the country. There’s a discrepancy between test positivity rates reported from health facilities to a national database, and data collected from mechanical Deki readers, which automatically interpret and transmit rapid test results to DRC health officials. Measure Malaria, a project sponsored by the U.S. President’s Malaria Initiative (PMI), found over-reporting of positive rapid test results of 27 percent to 118 percent, depending on the province, in 2022.

To gain a greater understanding of the situation, CCP interviewed more than 200 health providers and community members.

CCP’s Kathryn Sugg, a research officer on the Breakthrough ACTION project who worked on this study, says that while people should quickly go to a health facility to be tested for malaria when they or their children have fevers, some just assume the fever is malaria and instead of getting tested, they go to pharmacists or traditional healers for antimalarial medications directly. Others, assuming they have malaria, won’t believe the accuracy of a negative test and insist on getting antimalarials anyway.

Read more at

<https://ccp.jhu.edu/2023/08/28/malaria-drc-rapid-diagnostic-test/>

Source: <https://www.unhcr.org/news/briefing-notes/health-conditions-worsen-displacement-sudan-conflict-exceeds-4-million>

## International NGO advise Nigerians on regular eye check twice annually

An international non-governmental organisation, Sightsavers, has advised Nigerians to carry out regular eye check-ups at least every six months to prevent visual impairment.

The Country Director of the organisation, Dr Sunday Isiyaku, gave the advice on Thursday at a two-day media partners capacity meeting in Keffi, Nassarawa State

Sightsavers, an international non-governmental organisation that works with partners in developing countries to treat and prevent avoidable blindness, and promote equality for people with visual impairments and other disabilities.

He noted with concern the number of persons suffering from visual impairments in the country, stressing the need for the government and other stakeholders to collate data for accurate cases and medical solutions.

"It is mandatory to screen your eyes every six months to enable early diagnosis of eye problems.

"And with that, they will be able to detect any problem and commence treatment where necessary to prevent it from deteriorating," he added.

According to Isiyaku, the organisation recently donated new health equipment to Kwara State, to enhance the capacity and effectiveness of eye care services and help improve early diagnosis of eye issues in local communities.

"In 2020 in Nigeria, there were an estimated 24 million people with



vision losses and without concerted efforts, these numbers could increase.

"We are partnering with Kwara government to bolster eye care services in the region through provision of state-of-the-art tools that will support medical professionals to provide quality eye care services.

"The equipment includes diagnostic tools, surgical instruments and specialised technology to help with early detection, diagnosis and treatment of eye health issues," he said.

Isiyaku highlighted the importance of good eye health, which he said creates a ripple effect across education, well-being, economics and health outcomes.

"Sightsavers' vision is of a world where no one is blind from avoidable

causes, and we are committed to supporting individuals with visual impairments to access the support they need," he said.

Ms Palma Ileya, a media practitioner with Pilot Newspaper, said the media engagement had provided an avenue for journalists to interact and strategise on advocacy to improve eye health care in the country.

Speaking also, Mr Israel Shosimi, a reporter with Aso Radio and Television, said the engagement had also created awareness amongst journalists to hold policy makers, governments and other stakeholders accountable for actions that will promote health and well-being.

NAN reports that the media engagement had in attendant participants from various media organisations.

## FUNDING

# Funding

## More Taxpayer Funding for NGOs that Assist Illegal Aliens Amid Border Crisis

This week, the Department of Homeland Security announced another tranche of funding through the Shelter and Services Program (SSP) for nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), states and local governments that will assist illegal aliens at the border. The funding, which comes through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), is geared specifically toward non-federal entities that provide food, clothing, shelter, and other services to migrants who have recently entered and are awaiting immigration proceedings. Congress specifically stated that the funding could not be used for border security. For fiscal year 2023, DHS will provide \$363.8 million of taxpayer dollars through this program, although it's unclear how the money is actually spent by the NGOs and local governments.

In this week's tranche of funding, DHS has allocated \$77 million to 53 entities, with El Paso County

and Catholic Charities of San Diego receiving the most at around \$13 million each. The recent funding builds on the first tranche released in June when DHS doled out over \$291 million dollars through SSP. In June, the New York Office of Management and Budget received over \$104 million, or 36% of the funding. In total, DHS has used SSP and the Emergency Food and Shelter Program-Humanitarian Awards (EFSP-H) to grant more than \$770 million of taxpayer funding to NGOs this fiscal year. DHS [stated that](#), "supporting communities is a critical component of DHS's efforts to manage encounters at the Southwest Border in a safe, orderly, and humane manner."

While the Department lists the 53 entities that received funding this week, it does not provide specific details on how they will spend the dollars or how many individuals will benefit. The funding may be used for shelter (including housekeeping), food (including cookware and

containers), transportation (including to communities away from the border), acute medical care (such as health screenings and over-the-counter medicines), administrative expenses (such as IT and language services), and renovations or repairs to existing facilities. DHS noted revisions to SSP that would "expand the cap for both hotels/motels and airfare to 10 percent of the total funding requested by the applicant. In addition, DHS will also allow for recipients to apply for a waiver for those caps based on operational need."

As [noted previously by FAIR](#), the DHS Office of Inspector General (OIG) released a scathing report earlier this year following an audit of funds appropriated to FEMA to provide "humanitarian relief to families and individuals encountered by [DHS]." The OIG found that the funds were mismanaged on multiple occasions and grantees violated the terms of the program.

## Oxfam Intermon Fair Trade has helped more than 37,000 people in Latin America, Africa and Asia in 2022

40% of the cooperatives that NGOs work with are run by women



Mia Thompson

A total of 37,490 people (29% of them women) from different countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia improved their living conditions during the 2022-2023 financial year through fair trade actions implemented by Oxfam Intermon, the organization said.

The NGO also noted that consumer purchases from Oxfam Intermon through its network of stores in Spain, department stores and online store amounted to €11.5 million.

This type of trade advocates the promotion of ethical and sustainable commercial production and distribution practices, which is why Oxfam Intermon is making positive changes in areas as diverse as climate, women's rights, decent income or strengthening communities and groups.

Regarding climate change, the NGO explained that it is working on projects to reduce the carbon footprint in Guatemala and Uganda, where solar cookers have also been implemented. Thus, 74% of producer organizations that cooperate with NGOs have obtained a membership certificate and 34% follow the circular economy model.

With regard to women's rights, 42% of the boards of directors of productive organizations are

women, and 40% of them hold the position of CEO. In addition, 87% of organizations implemented gender equality programmes, which strengthened their participation and development.

On issues of community and group strengthening, the NGO reports that more than 34,000 people, including 30% women, are members of cooperatives and have benefited from community organizing.

According to a study by the NGO, it is estimated that with a total purchase of €4,825,395 this year from producer groups, a fair and stable income for a year was provided to 2,670 people, allowing communities to live with dignity and sustainable development.

In terms of overall impact, Oxfam Intermon has achieved a dual impact: access to decent work in the countries in which they operate, and consumers' commitment to responsible consumption. In addition, 679 people, 85% of whom are women, have joined their store network as volunteers to support these initiatives.

### You help their communities and families

Among those who have seen their living conditions improve is Jennifer Katieba, from Uganda, who participated in savings groups and used the credits to set up a business to produce charcoal and efficient

stoves, avoiding deforestation and benefiting the entire village.

Another case is that of Anima Mondal, from India, who works in the production of leather bags and has seen a significant improvement in her quality of life, by providing a stable income for her family and ensuring that her daughter receives a proper education.

The NGO announced that, for the next fiscal year 2023-2024, it is already working on developing a new project that includes the implementation of solar cookers with volcanic stones and a small fan, taking advantage of the energy generated from solar panels for a more efficient and effective life, sustainable use.



Source: <https://www.sundayvision.co.ug/oxfam-intermon-fair-trade-has-helped-more-than-37000-people-in-latin-america-africa-and-asia-in-2022/>



## At long last, there is real hope for peace in Yemen

The international community owes it to long-suffering Yemenis to not let the current momentum go the way of previous flurries of hope.



Andrew Gilmour



Calum Humphreys

**M**ustn't jinx anything by talking about it too loudly. But for the first time in years, Yemen – scene of one of the cruelest conflicts and humanitarian tragedies in recent decades – offers some real grounds for hope.

While the Yemenis must decide on their own political future, the international community owes it to them to do whatever is possible to support the current momentum – before it goes the way of previous flurries of optimism.

Despite [formally elapsing](#) last October, the UN-brokered truce, which began in April 2022, is largely holding. This was a major step. The agreement led to reduced violence and improved humanitarian access throughout Yemen. But the resumption of full-scale violence remains a real possibility. All sides need to transform this truce into a permanent and comprehensive ceasefire with monitoring arrangements.

This will take time. But there are 21.6 million Yemenis in desperate need

of humanitarian assistance, which has to be continued. Strengthening the ability of local authorities to provide basic services is one way of doing this.

Saudi Arabia and Ansar Allah, also known as the Houthis, are [now talking directly](#) and increasingly openly. Two high-level Saudi-Omani delegations visited Sanaa earlier this year. Such meetings, aimed at achieving a Saudi-Houthi modus vivendi, must also gradually involve the perspectives of others. Simultaneously, Riyadh has to ensure these discussions don't [undermine](#) talks between the internationally recognised government of Yemen, represented by the Presidential Leadership Council (PLC), and Ansar Allah.

Parallel dialogues continue on the parameters of a roadmap to advance the peace process among a range of Yemeni, regional and international actors. Here, coordination with the UN Special Envoy is key. Consultations with a broad spectrum of actors, including women, youth and civil society, must feed into the peace process so that international action can contribute to the conditions necessary for inclusive intra-Yemeni political dialogue.

Across the region, other positive signs are also emerging. Saudi-Iranian talks in Baghdad and Muscat led to the China-brokered [Trilateral Statement](#) in March this year. With [embassies reopening](#) and President Ebrahim Raisi of Iran even considering an invitation from Saudi King Salman to Riyadh, careful handling could see the beginning of a detente between Saudi Arabia and Iran. While both sides remain sceptical of the other, such reconciliation could yield many fruits, not just for Yemen but also for maritime security, economic cooperation, Lebanon and Iraq.

Two developments offer further grounds for optimism about building confidence. In April, a large prisoner exchange was brokered by the UN Special Envoy Hans Grundberg and the Red Cross, leading to a welcome domino effect of more [prisoner deals](#). Secondly, efforts are finally underway to [make safe](#) the rusting ship [FSO Safer](#), following an agreement between the PLC and the Houthis, which could avert an environmental catastrophe four times bigger than the Exxon Valdez.

requires a coordinated approach among all key actors both to develop a viable way forward and then to persuade all parties to stick to it. Reactivating coordination formats and developing innovative means of sitting together are needed.

For peace to last, only the Yemenis themselves – not external actors claiming to act on their behalf – can decide on their political future. That may sound glaringly obvious, but it is surprising how often this fact appears to be overlooked. Given the



Additionally, flights from Sanaa have slowly been increasing since the first commercial plane in six years left the Yemeni capital in May 2022, while Hajj pilgrims departed [Sanaa airport for Jeddah](#) in June for the first time since 2016. These agreements on compassionate and technical grounds should provide the foundation for exchanges on trickier political issues.

But there is a long way to go before these encouraging signs are transformed into a comprehensive resolution of the conflict. This

untold misery suffered in Yemen over the past nine years, history will judge the international community harshly if it fails to capitalise on the recent positive trends.

This is vital mainly for Yemenis and their neighbours. But it's also in the interests of Western countries who need to convince other regions that the invasion of Ukraine has not cast all other crises on the back burner. Moving fast, before momentum is lost, is as essential as doing it in ways that include all the main Yemeni parties.

Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2023/8/1/at-long-last-there-is-real-hope-for-peace-in-yemen>

# Youth leaders are shaping UNDP's support for energy governance

**E**nergy governance plays a pivotal role in shaping the energy landscape of the 21st century. With pressing challenges like climate change, clean energy, and the need for sustainable development, effective energy governance becomes essential. However, traditional energy decision-making structures often lack inclusivity, sidelining the voices of those who will inherit the consequences of current energy policies—the young people, in all their diversity.

Young people are among the most affected by climate change and energy inequalities, giving them a vested interest in finding solutions. Their fresh perspectives, innovative ideas often coupled with a digital savviness, can inject a much-needed dynamism into traditional systems.

There is also evidence indicating a lack of green skills among young people, which is a focus of this [International Youth Day](#). This skills gap poses a barrier for their involvement in a workforce transitioning towards a green economy and its governance. If the current trends continue, it is projected that over [60 percent of young people may lack the necessary skills](#) to excel in a green economy by 2030.

By equipping young people with technology, policy, and governance expertise relevant to the energy transition, they become instrumental in driving innovative solutions and shaping and implementing effective energy policies. Their knowledge and active engagement can lead to inclusive and forward-thinking strategies, enabling a smoother transition towards a fairer, cleaner, and more resilient energy future.

Earlier this year, UNDP [convened experts](#) to shape its energy governance work. Acknowledging the importance of youth participation, UNDP actively supports youth-led initiatives and invited six young leaders to join the External Advisory Group on Energy Governance. By empowering and engaging young leaders, providing resources and platforms, and involving them in co-creating the energy governance program, UNDP is paving the way for an inclusive, sustainable, and equitable energy future.

Meet four incredible young leaders from Côte d'Ivoire, India, Portugal, and Nigeria who are part of [UNDP's External Advisory Group on Energy Governance](#) and co-creating the energy future together.



**Fatoumata Diarrassouba Amoussou**

*the entrepreneur*

Fatoumata is from Côte d'Ivoire and Co-Founder/Managing Partner at Afrik'Energy Connect Inc., a pan-African company aiming to increase energy access in rural and peri-urban areas of West Africa by providing affordable climate smart technology to households and communities not connected to the grid.

As a fervent advocate of SDG 7, Fatoumata believes that the green transition presents an invaluable opportunity for youth in her home country, who represent more than 75% of the Ivorian population. The lack of awareness in local communities on the importance of green skills towards achieving the energy transition remains a major challenge to the development of green skills in the country.

In her own words; "she leverages from her involvement within the UNDP Advisory Group for energy governance to gain valuable insights from the expertise and experience of other members and be better equipped to make a positive impact within her community".



**Subrahmanyam Pulipaka**

*the solar expert*

Engineer by degree, entrepreneur by passion and policy advocate by profession, Subrahmanyam Pulipaka (widely known as Subbu), 29, is the youngest Chief Executive Officer of National Solar Energy Federation of India, one of the largest solar energy Industry associations in the world.

Subbu believes that in India where youth constitute 65 percent of the population, imparting green skills to young people isn't a necessity but a requirement. "It's not just to make them employable," he says, "but most importantly to have them as the Energy Transition Foot Soldiers to achieve India's ambitious yet pragmatic clean energy targets."

Subbu, who is also one of the Governing Council members of India's Skill Council for Green Jobs, is a strong proponent of youth taking active roles in energy governance and confidently believes that "Youth energy is the strongest source of energy discovered by mankind".



**Nevin Alija**

*the lawyer*

Nevin is one of the co-founders and member of the Implementation Team of Women in Energy - Mulheres na Energia Portugal. She is also a Vice-Chair of the Distribution Committee at Eurogas and European Affairs Manager at Floene Energias, the leading gas distribution group in Portugal.

She says; "2023 is the European Year of Skills, as promoted by the European Union, and we clearly see that there is deficit of employees with the necessary skills for the challenges posed by the energy transition".

"Prioritizing investments in upskilling and reskilling, as well as equipping the new generations with essential tools, is crucial for ensuring a sustainable energy future. Companies have a responsibility to invest in young professionals to unleash their potential, while governments must harness their contributions to drive the upcoming twin transition effectively".



**David Arinze**

*the global changemaker*

David Arinze is a renewable energy professional who leads the US African Development Foundation off-grid energy portfolio in Nigeria where he provides technical assistance.

He recognizes that; "Energy access is the oxygen which powers sectors such as education, health, agriculture, and industries. Its direct relation to liberating the poor and improving lives and livelihoods makes it not just a goal to be accomplished but a hope for a better future to be delivered".

"Promoting youth participation in green skills acquisition and training is crucial to the fruition of SDG 7. As students, young career professionals, and entrepreneurs, they exemplify resilience, passion and solutions that are essential in making meaningful contributions to address this challenge of clean energy access locally and globally."

# A JEDI Framework For Your Organization's Intercultural Development



Daniel Pascoe Aguilar

The diversity of perspectives, experiences, ideas and skills in our communities and organizations—including our higher education institutions—bring power to direly needed solutions and innovation. Diversity also contributes to the survival and development of society, our nations and the planet.

We must do everything in our power as individuals and organizations to value, pursue and leverage diversity, dialogue and collaborative problem-solving and creation as a means to our collective intelligence, interdisciplinary thinking, effective decision-making, performance

enhancement and social justice contribution to our community and society overall.

As an important place to start, I recommend teams and organizations consider a justice, equity, diversity and inclusion (JEDI) framework to help guide and support the intercultural development of both their individual members as well as their overall team or organization.

A team or organization in which its members are eager and ready to engage in their intercultural development quickly becomes frustrated if leadership does not value or is not intentionally supportive of JEDI work. On the other hand, leadership attempting to facilitate an organizational, intercultural development agenda with a workforce that does not value, feel informed or

ready to engage in intercultural development could turn JEDI efforts into compliance. I recommend the JEDI MAP Framework, which is broken into three elements: mindset, approach and procedures/policies. Based on JEDI models and strategies I have found meaningful, as part of the efforts of the Center for Social Justice, I have had the opportunity to introduce this framework to all stakeholder groups of Excelsior University.

## Mindset

The framework starts with the exploration of the mindset with which we perceive and interact with differences. Using Dr. [Milton Bennett's Developmental Model of Intercultural Sensitivity \(DMIS\)](#), this stage can help us, as individual members of our teams and organizations, to challenge our assumptions.

Three observations about the DMIS are important to highlight.

1. First, the model itself helps us assess where we are in our individual intercultural development and how we could attempt to transition into a more ethnorelative or interculturally sensitive stage of our development.
2. Second, the framework defines intercultural sensitivity in the simplest terms: how we perceive and interact with difference—any difference. It's important to observe that intercultural sensitivity has been one of humankind's greatest challenges, taking us to a horrific number of historical instances of genocide due to our fear of difference, particularly difference we cannot understand. John Powell talks about our tendency to "other" differences and thus fear them, and Dr. Bennett talks about our struggle to see the humanity in others, particularly those different from us.
3. Third, and probably most important, is its premise: that, as human beings, we have the tendency to think of ourselves and our experiences and perspectives as highly complex, while we tend to assume that the experiences and perspectives of others—particularly those we struggle to understand—are less complex than ours, subsequently often simplifying them. As an application of this, I recommend reflecting regularly on the following questions and exploring behavioral responses to address your findings.

- Have you ever felt that you have been perceived as less complex than others?

- Have you ever witnessed someone being perceived as less complex than others?
- Have you ever realized that you have perceived somebody as less complex than you?

## Approach

Once we have challenged our mindsets and assumptions, the second element of the JEDI MAP Framework is modifying our behavior in our interactions with others. For this purpose, the framework also includes an approach based on Fred L. Casmir's [Third Culture Building](#), which argues that when we interact with one another, there are two different cultures at play. No matter how closely we work with each other or how similar our experiences or perspectives are, we should assume that our cultures are different.

If we pay attention to the research on the impact that leveraging the diversity of perspectives, ideas and skills around us brings to our decision-making and performance, we should invest time in eliciting and learning about what matters to each other. This helps us learn about each other's inclusion and equity needs to set the necessary values and expectations, which allows all insights to surface for the effectiveness of the work at hand. Unfortunately, this is often missed due to our pressure to produce, making us think that engaging in this type of dialogue is too costly or peripheral to our task.

Our cultural differences are highly complex. Consider what the dimensions of identity—under which we operate and that to some extent define us—mean to us, how they intersect with each other, and what they bring to our perception of and interaction with each other. For

this purpose, I recommend identity models like Abes, Jones & McEwen's [Model of Multiple Dimensions of Identity](#).

No wonder identity and diversity often feel overwhelming. No wonder interacting with others is often challenging, particularly when doing so with those different from us. We should never assume that we know enough about the other, their motivations, their needs and the way to include their perspective and ideas into our communication and collaboration.

I thus recommend asking the questions below as you engage in collaboration with a colleague.

- What could you share with your colleague to help them learn more about what matters to you, both in your work at hand and in your collaboration with them?
- What questions could you ask your colleague to learn more about what matters to them about the work at hand and their collaboration with you?
- What attitudes or behaviors could you request from them for your collaboration and relationship to be more inclusive and productive?
- What attitudes and behaviors could you change for your collaboration and relationship to be more inclusive and productive?

## Procedures/Policies

The third element of the framework—procedures/policies—refers to how we should scale our JEDI efforts structurally, at team and organizational levels, since most often, we are not interacting one-on-one. I will discuss this further in my next article.

Source: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbesnonprofitcouncil/2023/08/28/a-jedi-framework-for-your-organizations-intercultural-development/?sh=3b7980cd3c09>

# Tweets of Social Good

UNESCO #Education #Sciences #Culture reposted  
**United Nations** @UN · 21h  
 Gaining a deeper understanding of major historical events can help foster greater respect & tolerance.

Wednesday's #RememberSlavery Day is an opportunity to learn about one of the darkest chapters in human history.

More from @UNESCO: [unesco.org/en/days/slave-...](https://unesco.org/en/days/slave-...)



**23 August**  
 International Day  
 for the Remembrance  
 of the Slave Trade &  
 its Abolition

SDGs reposted  
**UN Volunteers** @UNVolunteers · Aug 8  
 Use your social media platforms to promote the #SDGs! Building awareness and engagement around the SDGs promotes greater understanding and action towards creating a sustainable future.



7 100 246 10.1K

**The Citizens Foundation** @TCFPak · Aug 19  
 As our children return to school, they step back into their creative spaces!

This is the portrayal of a TCF School captured through the perspective and artistic strokes of one of our talented students!

#ChangeBeginsWithEducation



3 6 544

UNESCO #Education #Sciences #Culture ... @UNES... · 21h  
 Racism is the wound left by slavery on our societies.

Let the memory & history be forces for dialogue, tolerance & mutual understanding.

August 23 is International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade & its Abolitions

[on.unesco.org/2z9FPYr](https://on.unesco.org/2z9FPYr) #RememberSlavery

**“**  
 It is time to abolish human exploitation once and for all, and to recognize the equal and unconditional dignity of each and every individual.  
**”**

Audrey Azoulay  
 UNESCO Director-General



**USAID** @USAID · Aug 23  
 Does your USAID project or activity use digital tools to catalyze locally led development? See if you qualify for the 2023 #DigiAwards! Learn more and apply by August 25th:



usa.gov  
 2023 Digital Development Awards | Basic Page | U.S. Agency for Inter...  
 The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is working toward a future where digital technology promotes inclusive growth, ...

4 12 27 4,627

**UN Office on Drugs & Crime** @UNODC · Aug 26  
 The use of innovative technologies can help keep corruption in check by

- ◆ Simplifying administrative procedures
- ◆ Boosting transparency in the distribution of public funds & awarding contracts

The public sector stands #UnitedAgainstCorruption by using new technology #UNCAC20



1 11 17 2,069

**United Nations** @UN · 23h  
 The climate crisis is a child rights crisis.

The UN Committee on Child Rights has now published clear guidance specifying what countries must do to uphold children's rights to a clean, healthy & sustainable environment.



unicef.org  
 UN Committee on the Rights of the Child calls on states to take action in first guidance on...

**UN Development** @UNDP · Aug 23  
 Women's rights are a win-win for biodiversity.

Join women leaders and advocates at the #GEFAssembly2023 for a side event to rethink our relationship with nature by exploring the role of #GenderEquality.

23 August  
 1pm Vancouver  
 RSVP now: [bit.ly/3sdgWKd](https://bit.ly/3sdgWKd)



7th GEF Assembly Side-Event  
**A WIN-WIN FOR GENDER AND BIODIVERSITY**  
 Transforming women's rights and gender equality to achieve the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF)

13.00 to 14.45 hours  
 Wednesday, 23 August 2023  
 CBD Room, 301  
 Vancouver, Courtenay Centre, Canada  
 Panel discussion in English  
 Interpretation in Spanish & French

W4B Gender & Digital Dividends UN Women SwedBio IUCN WWF UN Women

Global Environment Facility (GEF) and 8 others

UN Development reposted  
**UNDP Syria** @UndpSyria · 18h  
 Meet Aya, the Iron Woman of #Aleppo! Through @UNDP's support, she mastered the craft of welding, challenging gender norms in a male-dominated field. Her aspiration to open "Iron Woman" workshop reflects her determination & the limitless potential of women [bit.ly/3E6o4KX](https://bit.ly/3E6o4KX)



UN Development and 8 others

5 23 4,067



UN Girls' Education Initiative @UNGEI · Aug 22

Violence is happening against women & girls, in our societies, in homes. If we do not speak out against it, it may trickle down to schools too.

#Education has the power to break that cycle.

Are you with us? Learn more [ungei.org/publication/sc...](https://ungei.org/publication/sc...)

#EndSRGBV

1 17 25 1,343

UN Girls' Education Initiative @UNGEI · Aug 17

"Through #education, we shall become architects of change, building a nation where every girl's potential can thrive."

2 years after de facto authorities takeover of #Afghanistan, @EduCannotWait launches a campaign to lift #AfghanGirlsVoices globally!

[bit.ly/afghangirlsvoi...](https://bit.ly/afghangirlsvoi...)

@EduCannotWait #LetAfghanGirlsLearn

30 53 1,436

United Nations @UN · Aug 18

Friday marks five years since the passing of former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who has been regarded by so many as a guiding force for good.

Today and every day, we remember him. [un.org/sg/en/formersg...](https://un.org/sg/en/formersg...)

1,260

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency @Refugees · Aug 26

Advocate for the inclusion of refugees into national health systems.

27 50 122 13.9K

UNICEF @UNICEF · 12h

Children have lost their homes, their loved ones - and some have also lost their lives to the wildfires in Greece.

UNICEF is working with partners on the ground to meet the needs of impacted families.

unicef.org

Children in need of support as wildfires rage across Greece

2 36 98 24.3K

USAID @USAID · Aug 22

We want to hear from you! Give us your feedback on what it's like to partner with USAID

Work with USAID @WorkwithUSAID · Aug 3

Our Partner Survey is Open !! Please give us your feedback on how we can improve @USAID's partnership experience by taking #WorkwithUSAID's Partner Experience Survey. The survey will close August 31: [workwithusaid.org/survey](https://workwithusaid.org/survey) #Partnership #Feedback

1 7 21 6,293

Muhammad Yunus @Yunus\_Centre · Aug 29

175 global leaders including 104 Nobel Laureates wrote an Open Letter to Bangladesh Prime Minister

Click here to find the full letter: [protectyunus.wordpress.com/2023/08/27/glo...](https://protectyunus.wordpress.com/2023/08/27/glo...)

#JusticeForYunus #EndPersecution #NobelLaureatesUnite #GlobalLeaders #MuhammadYunus

protectyunus.wordpress.com

Global Leaders and Nobel Laureates Call for Endin... For the last 13 years, the government of Bangladesh under Prime Minister Sheikh Hasin has been ...

101 108 858 16.8K

UN Development @UNDP · 7h

Women play a vital role in managing biological resources.

At the same time, they are disproportionately affected by biodiversity loss.

We're at the #GEFassembly2023 to put gender at the heart of biodiversity governance and to promote women's leadership and decision-making.

UNDP Climate and Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Bill Clinton @BillClinton · Aug 21

Disaster response in the face of our climate crisis. Expanding public health infrastructure. Building an economy that works for everyone.

The @ClintonGlobal community knows how to choose hope and keep going — and we'll be convening these global leaders at #CGI2023. Learn more:

Clinton Global Initiative @ClintonGlobal · Aug 21

What does it take to move forward in the face of today's daunting challenges?

At #CGI2023, we're convening leaders to act now, find new partners, and maintain momentum to make a positive difference in people's lives. [clintonglobal.org/2023](https://clintonglobal.org/2023)

200 138 614 208.4K



# Live for Others!



Submit your stories for upcoming edition &  
for queries, suggestion, feedback

[editor@thengoworld.com](mailto:editor@thengoworld.com)