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The Spirit of Sacrifice: How Qurbani Supports the Needy Worldwide

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In accordance with our mission to provide a platform for showcasing exceptional work on humanitarian issues and development, "The NGO World" magazine collects material from various sources, including social media pages of NGOs, development projects, UN agencies, and other related pages. We aim to bring attention to the remarkable efforts and initiatives undertaken by these organizations to create positive change in communities around the world. It is important to note that the content presented in our articles is based on publicly available information and may have been sourced from these organizations' official social media platforms or websites. We always strive to ensure accuracy and integrity in our reporting. To maintain transparency and give credit to the original sources, we include the relevant source links at the end of every article. "The NGO World" does not claim ownership of the content provided by these organizations and acknowledges their valuable contributions to the field of humanitarian work and development.

Every year, during the Islamic month of Dhul Hijjah, Muslims around the world partake in the ritual of Qurbani, or sacrifice. This tradition commemorates the Prophet Ibrahim's (Abraham) unwavering devotion to God, as demonstrated by his willingness to sacrifice his son Ismail (Ishmael) upon God's command. This act of faith is honored by the slaughtering of an animal, typically a goat, sheep, cow, or camel. At least one-third of the meat from the sacrificed animal must be distributed to the poor and vulnerable, embodying the essence of charity and community spirit in Islam.

The Historical and Religious Significance of Qurbani

The origins of Qurbani trace back to a profound episode involving Prophet Ibrahim. In a dream, he saw God commanding him to sacrifice his beloved son, Ismail. Committed to his faith, Ibrahim prepared to fulfill the divine order. However, God intervened at the last moment, replacing Ismail with a ram. This act of divine intervention highlighted Ibrahim's piety and devotion, and it is this spirit of obedience and sacrifice that Muslims around the world remember and emulate during Eid al-Adha, the Festival of Sacrifice.

Eid al-Adha is celebrated on the tenth day of Dhul Hijjah, the twelfth month of the Islamic lunar calendar. This period also coincides with the Hajj pilgrimage, where millions of Muslims travel to Mecca to perform sacred rites. The festival spans four days, from the tenth to the thirteenth of Dhul Hijjah, and is marked by communal prayers, feasting, and the distribution of Qurbani meat to the less fortunate.

The Relevance of Qurbani to Needy Communities

The practice of Qurbani extends beyond its religious symbolism, serving as a vital source of sustenance for millions of needy individuals worldwide. Organizations and charities across the globe undertake Qurbani projects, ensuring that eligible animals are slaughtered and their meat distributed to those in need. This charitable distribution is crucial, as for many recipients, meat is a luxury they rarely afford.

The Qurbani meat thus becomes a significant dietary supplement, providing essential nutrition to families who might otherwise go without.

Impact on Local Economies and Communities

The process of conducting Qurbani also has economic implications. By purchasing animals from local suppliers, organizations contribute to the local economy, supporting farmers and traders within the community. This practice not only ensures that the Qurbani is performed according to Islamic guidelines but also fosters economic stability and growth in the region.

Each meat packet, containing an average of 3-4 kilograms of meat, is designed to provide a family of four with enough food for about a week. This thoughtful distribution ensures that the benefits of Qurbani are maximized, reaching the most vulnerable segments of society, including widows, orphans, refugees, and the elderly or disabled.

Guidelines from The NGO World

The NGO World, a prominent platform in the realm of humanitarian aid, emphasizes the importance of responsibility and ethical conduct in carrying out Qurbani. Charity workers

are urged to view this practice as not only a religious obligation but also a profound message of humanity. Key guidelines from The NGO World include:

Quality and Freshness: The meat distributed should be fresh, though it can be frozen or canned depending on logistical considerations such as cost, availability, and access.

Local Sourcing: Animals should be purchased from local suppliers to support and benefit the local economy.

Equitable Distribution: Meat packets should be of a standard size, typically around three kilograms, ensuring fair distribution to all recipient families.

Targeted Beneficiaries: Priority should be given to the most vulnerable groups, including widowed women, orphaned children, refugees, and the poor, elderly, or disabled.

By adhering to these guidelines, charity workers can ensure that the practice of Qurbani not only honors religious traditions but also maximizes its humanitarian impact, bringing hope and sustenance to those in need.

In conclusion, Qurbani is more than a ritualistic act; it is a powerful expression of faith, charity, and community. It serves as a reminder of Prophet Ibrahim's devotion, a source of support for needy communities, and a boost to local economies. Through careful and compassionate implementation, Qurbani can continue to make a profound difference in the lives of millions around the world.

Warm regards,

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Your Story, Our Platform: The NGO World Welcomes Your Contributions



East County nonprofit provides clothes, connections to foster children



Lesley Dwyer

Kim and Alex Peralta have fostered 35 children over the past six years.

The Bradenton couple, who are both 41 years old, have four biological children and four adopted children. The children's ages range from 19 months to 19 years old.

Support from The Twig, which stands for The Way to Inspire and Give, makes it all a little less daunting for the family.

"Knowing that they're walking alongside us and the four kids that we've adopted is amazing," Kim Peralta said. "It definitely makes it easier. Even for fostering, it makes it easier for us to say 'yes' because we know we're not doing it all alone."

The Peraltas now bring the kids to The Twig on State Road 64, but before that location opened in 2021, they used to drive to Venice, where the original store is located.

The Twig is a nonprofit set up like a retail clothing store where children in foster care can shop for free.

Ellie Peralta is 4 years old. She was placed with the Peraltas as an infant straight out of the neonatal intensive care unit and has since been adopted by the family.

"Ellie is a little girl who loves everything pink and 'Frozen,' so she'll go through looking and whatever she finds, she always comes out with such a huge smile on her face," Kim Peralta said. "She's always greeted by Lindsay (the program coordinator). Lindsay knows all of our kids by name, so it's like an extended family."

While The Twig was designed for children in foster care, those who are adopted remain eligible for services. Children who age out of foster care are also eligible to shop until they're 21 years old if enrolled in Twig Connects.

Twig Connects is a program held on-site once a month. The kids are fed a meal while learning life skills like how to create a budget or file taxes.

"We serve around 400 children every single month between both of our locations," Director of Development Nicole Britton said. "We've opened up some more shopping days to be able to serve this many kids. The first three Saturdays of every month, we're open in both of our locations, and the foster families don't have to make appointments."

The Twig also offers shopping appointments on Wednesday for kids who struggle with crowds or have been placed with a new family early in the week, so that they don't have to wait until Saturday.

The kids can shop once a month. Each child leaves with about 10 items, which typically include underwear, socks, accessories, a couple of outfits, a pair of shoes and a book.

About 4,000 items are given away each month, and most of the items are donated by community members. The Twig applies for grants and holds fundraisers, but Britton said the nonprofit has a lot of extremely committed monthly donors.

"We have people who will shop off of our wishlist that's on our website and have things sent straight to us, and we have people that just love to go out shopping," she said. "Not everybody can be a foster parent,

said they're looking for more. Volunteering opportunities include helping out on shopping days and sorting the donations.

Donations can be made on the second Tuesday of every month from 4-6 p.m. The Twig also accepts hand-me-downs, but the condition must be like new.

While The Twig offers a steady connection for these children and their foster families outside of the material items, Britton said the shopping goes a long way to make them feel valued and seen. A faded top with stains on it isn't going to have that same effect.

"We do a [sneaker drive over the summer](#) to make sure that we have all kinds of sneakers before school starts," Britton said. "There was a teen girl who put on a pair of Nikes,



but everybody can do something. So for some people, buying sneakers or pajamas is their something."

The Twig operates with the help of about 100 volunteers, but Britton

and then she sat down on the floor and cried because she said, 'I never thought I'd have a pair of shoes like this.'"

Source: <https://www.youobserver.com/news/2024/may/26/nonprofit-clothes-foster-children/>

Sri Lanka proposes legislation to monitor NGO spending

The government is set to introduce the Non-Governmental Organisations (Registration and Supervision) Bill to Parliament, aiming to regulate the spending and activities of NGOs. These organizations, funded by foreign sources for initiatives like gender rights and democratic governance, are currently registered as guaranteed companies under the Registrar of Companies.

Several prominent NGOs, funded by various foreign sources for initiatives such as gender rights, human rights, and democratic governance, are registered merely as guaranteed companies under the Registrar of Companies. According to a senior source, this registration status has prevented the National NGO Secretariat from monitoring their expenses and activities effectively.

Last year, NGOs registered with the Secretariat received funding amounting to as much as £82.5 million. The source noted that an even larger sum is likely to have

been spent by other significant NGOs funded by sources in some powerful countries.

To address these concerns, the proposed Non-Governmental Organisations (Registration and Supervision) Bill, which is now in its final stage before being presented in Parliament for enactment, aims to establish a proper mechanism for overseeing the spending and activities of such NGOs.

The NGOs in question are currently registered as guaranteed companies under the Registrar of Companies. The source explained, "The NGO Secretariat has no supervision on their spending on various projects. That is why we have called for the enactment of the new law."

These leading NGOs, which have previously protested against the

proposed legislation, engaged with the Colombo-based diplomatic community. Subsequently, the U.S. State Department submitted observations to be incorporated into the new bill.

According to the Public Security Ministry, these observations, along with input from NGOs and other civil society organisations, have been referred to the Legal Draftsman's Department for consideration in the development of the new bill.



Source: <https://www.gg2.net/sri-lanka-proposes-legislation-to-monitor-ngo-spending/>

Blink Offers Free Platform Access for Non-Profit Organizations with "Blink for Everyone" Program

BOSTON, May 28, 2024--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Blink, the leading employee engagement superapp, today announced the formal launch of "Blink for Everyone," a program offering non-profit organizations access to its platform free of charge. This initiative builds on Blink's commitment to support non-profits with the essential tools they need to stay connected and engaged, especially during transitional times.

Meta's decision to pivot away from Workplace has left many non-profits facing increased costs or a loss of critical connectivity. Blink for Everyone addresses this gap by offering a mobile-first, unified platform that enhances communication and collaboration among team members.

"Non-profits are essential to society and our communities, and we want to enhance their impact by offering access to an all-one-one people engagement platform," said Sean Nolan, CEO and founder of Blink. "With the closure of Meta's Workplace for Good, many organizations are searching for alternatives. Blink for Everyone is our commitment to help non-profits continue their vital work without the burden of additional costs. We believe in equality of access, where every worker, whether desk-based or deskless, has the tools they need to thrive."



Non-profit organizations using Blink have already reported significant improvements in their operations and employee engagement.

"Blink has significantly enhanced our organizational communication with its intuitive interface, leading to a positive shift within our workforce," said a representative from St. Amant. "Since adopting Blink, our dispersed teams have become more informed and connected, fostering a sense of unity and collaboration."

Chris Lawley, board member, Destiny Rescue remarked, "Blink has revolutionized how we connect, communicate and collaborate as an organization. As a globally dispersed team, we were struggling with keeping our teams connected in real-time. Blink's support for non-profit organizations allowed us to adopt their world-class technology

without a license fee. Important information is now being shared seamlessly across continents, making our operations safer and more efficient."

Blink features and benefits

- **Two-way communications:** augmented with an integrated activity feed and a centralized resource Hub.
- **Mobile-first approach:** a single application for all company-focused interactions, ensuring accessibility for all employees.
- **Seamless experience:** Facilitates smooth communication and engagement across the entire workplace.
- **Scalability and Configurability:** Easily scales and supports organizations of all sizes, ensuring flexibility and adaptability.

Blink's mission is "connect everyone, so everyone thrives." This initiative reflects Blink's commitment to ensuring that all organizations, regardless of their size or budget, have access to the best tools for communication and engagement.

Non-profits interested in Blink for Everyone can register their interest on [Blink's website](#).

Source: <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/blink-offers-free-platform-access-125800988.html>

Joint NGO Statement on Farm Bill Proposal

May 22, 2024 – As major implementing partners of Food for Peace Title II and other U.S. international food aid programs, Catholic Relief Services, CARE, Mercy Corps, Save the Children, and World Vision oppose the House Agriculture Committee Majority’s Farm Bill proposal for Food for Peace within Title III. Its provisions would effectively end our work to address the root causes of global hunger and malnutrition and seriously compromise humanitarian food aid programs. We are facing unprecedented levels of food insecurity, which disproportionately affect women and children. We cannot afford a Farm Bill that endangers the life-saving work of Food for Peace.

As implementers, we know that the new spending directives included in this bill would

drastically change Food for Peace, subverting the program’s mandate to build resilience and undoing 20 years of measured, bipartisan improvements. The Chairman’s proposal would result in Food for Peace reaching 2.3 million fewer people. At a time of rising hunger and malnutrition, this is unacceptable. Specifically, the bill:

- **Requires that at least half of the Food for Peace budget be spent on the purchase of U.S. commodities and ocean freight:** U.S. commodities have always been central to Food for Peace. The Chairman’s proposal, however, would not leave enough funding for American food to be transported beyond foreign ports, tracked, or distributed to children and families in need. This would also leave more people vulnerable to hunger and malnutrition

by effectively ending critical programs that are working to address the underlying causes of food insecurity and malnutrition by building resilience.

- **Creates new earmarks on humanitarian programs:** We strongly support ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTFs) as a life-saving tool in the fight against severe acute malnutrition. We implement this tool in our programs, where necessary, and appreciate that we already have authorities to procure RUTF as needed. However, mandating RUTF procurement in Food for Peace is the wrong approach. It sets a dangerous precedent to earmark humanitarian assistance for specific commodities, modalities, and producers, reducing implementing partners’ ability to choose what is the best response

for the communities where they work, in situations where time is critical. Mandating spending on one modality also limits funds for programs that help prevent malnutrition in the first place and protect against relapse.

- **Shifts decision-making authority away from USAID:** By disrupting the current structure that strikes the right balance between USAID and USDA’s expertise, this proposal would add time and bureaucracy to processes that are working to save lives in fast-changing humanitarian situations. In his May 10th [letter](#), Chairman Thompson expressed his intention to “do no harm” in his Farm Bill. We share this goal and urge the Chairman to preserve the full range of tools necessary to effectively implement Food for Peace. This is critical to fulfill the program’s mandate to fight hunger now and, ultimately, eliminate hunger. We look forward to working with the Chairman and his staff as the Farm Bill moves forward.

Quotes from participating NGOs below.

“U.S. commodities are critical to our nation’s international food assistance programs; they are frequently necessary, but rarely sufficient. A sole focus on donated U.S. food distribution will not help farmers provide for their own families or participate in functioning local markets. Farm Bill supported food assistance programs must respond to market conditions and ensure communities’ progress on the journey of self-reliance.”

Bill O’Keefe, Executive Vice President, Catholic Relief Services

“US leadership fighting global hunger is at stake in this Farm Bill. We cannot hamstring our global anti-hunger programs by spending directives from Washington – we must listen to what local communities need, pay attention to the unique circumstances of women and girls, and use all available tools to stop hunger. These proposed earmarks will render Food for Peace virtually inoperable.”

Ritu Sharma, Vice President of U.S. Programs and Policy Advocacy, CARE

“The proposed changes to Food for Peace Title II outlined in the House bill would threaten our ability to carry out life-saving and resilience-building work in tandem. As a major implementer of Food for Peace-funded non-emergency programs, which invest in developing local food systems to promote resilience and save communities and donors from costlier humanitarian interventions in the long-run, we will continue to work with Congress to ensure these programs are protected and not gutted, as the current House proposal would do.”

Kate Phillips-Barrasso, Vice President for Global Policy and Advocacy, Mercy Corps

“As a Food for Peace implementer in six countries across Sub-Saharan Africa, we know what it takes to implement quality programs that are fighting hunger and building resilience. We know the Chairman and American farmers share our commitment to ensuring children around the world have access to nutritious food. Unfortunately, this bill would wreak havoc on both emergency and long-term Food for Peace programs that strengthen self-reliance.”

Christy Gleason, Vice President for Policy, Advocacy, and Campaigns, Save the Children

“As part of our mission to reach the most vulnerable, World Vision is proud to implement Food for Peace Title II programs. At a time when global hunger is on the rise, we know that key food security accounts like Food for Peace are most effective when resources can be tailored to the contexts in which we work. Government mandates as included in the House Agriculture Majority’s proposal, limit resources and take a one-size-fits all approach to ending hunger. As Farm Bill negotiations continue, we will work to increase the impact of Food for Peace and the food security programs authorized in this bill.”

Robert Zachritz, Vice President of Advocacy, World Vision

Source: <https://www.care.org/news-and-stories/press-releases/joint-ngo-statement-on-farm-bill-proposal/>

Melinda Resigns from Gates Foundation, Gets \$12.5 Billion to Set Up Own NGO

Melinda French Gates announced yesterday she would resign as co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation that she has helped lead since 2000.

As part of her separation agreement from former husband Bill Gates, French Gates said she will receive an additional \$12.5 billion for her charitable work. French Gates said she plans to focus her giving on groups that focus on women and families.

"This is not a decision I came to lightly," she said in a statement posted on X. "I am immensely proud of the foundation that Bill and I built together and of the extraordinary work it is doing to address inequities around the world," CNN reported.

French Gates said she plans to leave the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation on June 7, and she will share more about her future charitable plans in the near future.

"Under the terms of my agreement with Bill, in leaving the foundation, I will have an additional \$12.5 billion to commit to my work on behalf of women and families," she said in a post Monday on LinkedIn. "I'll be sharing more about what that will look like in the near future," she stated.

"This is a critical moment for women and girls in the US and around the world – and those fighting to protect and advance equality are in urgent need of support," she said.

The organisation will change its name to the Gates Foundation, and

Bill Gates will become the sole chair, the foundation's Chief Executive, Mark Suzman, announced yesterday.

"I am sorry to see Melinda leave, but I am sure she will have a huge impact in her future philanthropic work," wrote Bill Gates in a separate statement Monday, also posted on X.

"Looking ahead, I remain fully committed to the Foundation's work across all our strategies, and to realising the opportunities we have to continue improving the lives of millions around the world," he stressed.

In a post on LinkedIn, Bill Gates said that "Melinda has been instrumental in shaping our strategies and initiatives, significantly impacting global health and gender equality."

French Gates' exit had been telegraphed for several years. Bill Gates and French Gates announced their divorce in May 2021. They said at the time they would allow themselves a kind of trial period through 2023 to determine if they could continue working with one another to oversee their massive charitable foundation.

Suzman announced in July 2021 a contingency plan "to ensure the continuity of the foundation's work."

"If after two years either decides they cannot continue to work together as co-chairs, French Gates will resign her position as co-chair and trustee," Suzman said.

Bill Gates will remain in control and, essentially, buy French Gates out of the foundation, Suzman said at the time. French Gates would receive

"personal resources" from Gates for her own philanthropic work – resources that would be "completely separate from the foundation's endowment."

Three years after her divorce from Microsoft founder Bill Gates, she plans to embark on her own philanthropic venture.

She was serving as co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which has spent nearly \$54 billion since 2000 fighting "poverty, disease, and inequity" around the world, according to its website.



A former product manager at Microsoft, French Gates spearheaded work at the Gates Foundation that focused on women's issues, including empowerment.

But she has said she felt her husband's shadow looming over the foundation's work: In a 2006 interview with the Wall Street Journal, as French Gates began to take a more public role at the foundation, she acknowledged that the public erroneously "thought the foundation was really Bill," The New York Times noted.

Source: <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2024/05/14/melinda-resigns-from-gates-foundation-gets-12-5-billion-to-set-up-own-ngo/>

NGOs look to move away from grant-funding model for international development

FAITH-based NGOs are looking to move from awarding grants to other means of funding international development, including loans and investment funds, but are held back by concern over reputational risk, a new study suggests.

A discussion paper by Christian Aid explored the interest in alternative funding of 25 faith-based NGOs in Europe and North America. It found that there was overwhelming interest in other mechanisms for funding development rather than just traditional grant-giving, but that many have not yet begun to offer grant alternatives.

Damage to the charity's reputation in the eyes of its supporters was

identified as a risk holding some back, owing to concerns that supporters might misunderstand alternative funding mechanisms as profiteering.

The director of international programmes at Christian Aid, Ojobo Ode Atuluku, said: "The risk is you are jumping into bed with strange bedfellows. They have different characteristics. You don't know whether you can maintain your stand, your values, your ideologies and principles, or whether you will be co-opted."

Many NGOs also simply did not have the capacity or the staff expertise to allow them to get involved in other means of funding, the paper said.

One respondent said: "Faith-inspired organisations are used to looking beyond 'markets' to reach those left behind or ignored. They operate from a place of scarcity, not the abundance that is common in the more commercial world. Finding a third way is critical."

About 60 per cent of faith-based agencies are already exploring other means of funding projects, although these alternative mechanisms represent only a small amount of their funding.

The advantages of other mechanisms include longer-term sustainability and an end to dependency on grant aid for some communities; greater autonomy for the recipient and a challenge to the perception of a "paternalistic donor"; and increased impact, through access to different categories of donor funds.

The paper concluded that the advantages of offering other finance options were significant, and that the risks were not "insurmountable".

The global-partnerships director for the Lutheran World Federation, Dr Matthias Braeunlich, said: "For many NGOs, the gut reaction to profit is: 'What? We're going to make profits on people's backs?' But, when you explain you are creating a model that is profitable because otherwise the money is just gone, their mindset changes."

The CEO of Stewardship, Stewart McCulloch, said: "A small profit reinvested regularly is something that can give huge amounts of leverage. Quite often a grant is given once, whereas with an investment, every pound could be used 20, 30, 40, 50 times."

Source: <https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2024/31-may/news/world/ngos-look-to-move-away-from-grant-funding-model-for-international-development>



How NGOs Are a Part of the Fight Against Global Poverty

ROCKHILL, South Carolina – Poverty is an ever-present issue in current times. The goal to lower poverty worldwide is an issue that has yet to be solved. Nevertheless, the solutions targeting poverty often involve major support from governments with lots of resources, including foreign aid. Although donations like these are common in the fight against poverty, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) are just as important in ending global poverty.

What Are Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs)?

As defined by Britannica, NGOs are agencies that are usually not majorly

affiliated with the government to provide services or advocate for certain policies. Many popular nongovernmental organizations do such important work. Some examples include organizations like Feeding America, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Habitat for Humanity. NGOs like these are an important part of ending the poverty issue.

Why Are They Important?

When thinking about the importance of NGOs, an aspect that stands out is the connection between these agencies and larger humanitarian aid groups. During the [World Food Programme's](#) annual consultation in 2022, the group

spoke about the importance of connecting with NGOs around the world. The group works with more than 1,000 nonprofits and mentions that without their help, much of the food and resources would not reach the people who need them.

These particular organizations often have a particularly unique aspect of localization. Grassroots organizations especially work with people locally in their area. In situations like these, the smaller NGOs take aid from larger global organizations and work to distribute it to people within the community.

NGOs also work at a social service level. These organizations work to alleviate any problems that are present in the community to make living conditions easier. This alleviation can come in different forms, including schools, shelter and food. The implementation of social services tackles important issues that help end poverty. By giving these communities things like education, homes and food, poverty is less likely to continue in a given area. The importance of NGOs is not just talk; there are many instances where the work of NGOs helps entire communities.

Who Are the NGOs Helping?

In 2018, the University of Illinois conducted a study on the [effects of NGOs in eradicating poverty](#) in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. In Cambodia, the help of an NGO called CIDSE brought new programs to the area. The organization is a large group of catholic development groups in Europe and North America.

The NGO worked to establish land development programs in

Cambodia to help grow crops and food. The program developed farming techniques for people within foreign villages. In addition to this, the program also taught some residents in the Ratana Kiri province land management skills so that they could use them to gain ownership of their land.

In Laos, NGOs helped many residents. The organization World Education boosted certain neighborhoods economically. The group, through its poor neighborhood initiative, gave micro-enterprise assets to more than 400 homes, which roughly translates to more than 2,000 people in total. This addition helped the people in the community tremendously.

In the southern part of the globe, NGOs work just as well. In countries like Ghana, nonprofit initiatives have long-standing relationships with citizens. [A report by the National Library of Medicine](#) details Ghana's relationship with one such organization, World Vision Ghana. World Vision of Ghana is a nonprofit that has been present in the country for around 45 years. In this report, the impacts of this group were studied and data found that around 53% of residents benefited from water and sanitation with the help of this program. Residents in certain areas of Ghana also benefited from educational help, with around 30% of the respondents agreeing with the statement.

Interview With Tom Burger

There are also spaces where NGOs help much smaller communities in the small communities of Rockhill, SC, U.S. A small organization called Pilgrims Inn helps the community of York County. The program has been present in the community for 43 years and has helped many residents restart their lives.

"The main mission is to help the most vulnerable citizens in our community, typically women and women with children who are struggling with homelessness and poverty and any of its forms. That obviously includes food scarcity, shelter, child care or just life skills; we're trying to be in that position to help in all those areas," said Tom Burger in an interview with The Borgen Project.

Burger is the community resource manager at Pilgrims Inn and has worked there for two years. Pilgrims Inn features numerous programs that are set to help people in need in the fight against global poverty. These programs include a food pantry, shelter for women and children and daycare for lower-income families. The shelter mainly focuses on women and children because, as Burger describes, they are the "most vulnerable" people when it comes to the effects of poverty.

Pilgrims Inn's food pantry serves around 500 families a month. The pantry gives out different types of necessary food for those who are struggling in terms of food security. The organization's daycare does receive some help from the government in terms of lowering expenses. However, it mostly operates as a social service organization that works to end poverty and homelessness. The help of the government in the daycare center allows for payments for the center to be at the most \$100. This price works to help lower-income families in the area.

The Future

[NGOs](#) are an integral part of the fight against global poverty. With the number of these groups steadily growing, many more solutions to poverty are likely to come.

Source: <https://www.borgenmagazine.com/fight-against-global-poverty/>

Small town nonprofit's social model for community sustainability

MELROSE, Fla. – The Melrose Center is a 501(c)3 non-profit, dedicated to fostering community in the greater Melrose area. It is a community cafe open five days a week, Tuesday through Friday, from 8 a.m. -1 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. They have live local music performances 2-3 times a week on Thursdays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and the first and third Friday of every month in the evenings.

Melrose straddles four counties – Alachua, Putnam, Clay, and Bradford. The Melrose Center is a

community staple and has brought so many people together.

The Melrose Center is built on the idea that inclusion and diversity is a community strength. That people deserve access to healthcare they can afford, access to healthy food and nutrition, and social connectedness. The development of community economic stability that is geared towards helping people in the community offset the rising cost of living, with the ultimate goal of creating a space where people can age in place.

As part of their community values and initiatives, the center holds health fairs in the mornings on the first Friday of every month from 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., providing FREE healthcare evaluations for diabetes and cholesterol, access to a

pediatrician and general physician, and referrals to UF's Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD). All free of charge regardless of insurance status. People from all four counties come to access these services. The first Friday of every month from 6-8 p.m., the center and their partner gallery Studios of Melrose, participate in the Melrose Art Walk, which brings music, food, and art together, providing social connectedness and nutrition as part of the non-profit's core values.

All sales from the Melrose Center and Art Gallery fund the community initiatives and help keep the doors open!

Source: <https://alachuachronicle.com/small-town-nonprofits-social-model-for-community-sustainability/>

CEO Views: Changemakers Wanted

As May ends and I celebrate another birthday, I'm reflecting on a season of new beginnings. Many of my friends have children who are graduating this month. For young people, commencement can be a time of hope and enthusiasm – as well as uncertainty – about the future. It's a time to not only celebrate accomplishments, but also think about next steps.

If you or a young person in your life is wondering what those next steps look like, I encourage you to consider the charitable sector.

I'm passionate about getting more young people involved in nonprofits and philanthropy. This is a sector where you can build your entire career, with many opportunities to grow and lead. It's a sector where you can make both a living and a meaningful contribution to society. The next generation is full of changemakers, and our sector needs their passion and innovation.

My own work in the social sector began at age 14, as I led efforts to convert a vacant lot and abandoned home into a community center in Roosevelt, New York. For eight years, I worked to bring power back into our neighborhoods as a community organizer. This early experience shaped my career and instilled in me a deep commitment to social change.

Volunteering is another way to gain experience and learn more about the charitable sector. As a young person, I volunteered at my local food

pantry and registered Americans to vote. This experience brought me even deeper into the community, and it helped me understand the vast complexity of people's lives and contexts.

Volunteering allows you to develop empathy, hone your skills, and find your purpose. And, as a volunteer, you give back by helping your neighbors, serving your community, and providing your expertise. Volunteering is a critical form of engagement with nonprofits that strengthens the nonprofit workforce. Independent Sector members VolunteerMatch and Points of Light are two great resources where you can find volunteer opportunities and nonprofits in your local community.

Other Independent Sector members are involving young people in the charitable sector through service and civic engagement. Service Year Alliance works to engage young people in year-long, paid service programs, providing real-world experience at nonprofits and public organizations. Young Invincibles and America's Promise Alliance are nonprofits that empower young people to drive social and policy change through education, training, and collective action.

In fact, as a young person, you may have already participated in one of the many high-impact nonprofits that support youth development. Independent Sector members like the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, the YMCA of the USA, and KABOOM! provide safe spaces and programs across the nation for kids to play, learn, grow, and thrive.

The beauty of the charitable sector is that there are many paths to

getting involved, and many paths to contributing to civil society. And a career in the nonprofit sector is an opportunity for you to choose a path that not only makes money, but that also helps you feel deeply fulfilled.

Additionally, working in the nonprofit sector can help you alleviate student debt through the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program. PSLF forgives the remaining balance on Direct Loans after 10 years of qualifying payments for those who work full-time for a qualifying employer – including many nonprofits. It's a key incentive for joining and staying in the nonprofit sector, and it helps the sector attract, retain, and invest in its workforce.

At Independent Sector, we're committed to making nonprofit work even better. The federal government currently provides for-profit employers with tax credits for offering benefits like retirement plans, paid family leave, and child care for their workers. Many nonprofits give good benefits to their employees, but they're left out of this federal incentive. That's why we're advocating for policymakers to extend federal business tax credits to nonprofit employers, so that nonprofits receive fair treatment, and so that the sector becomes an even better place to work.

As we celebrate this season of graduation and new beginnings, let's bring the next generation into the nonprofit workforce. If you already work in the charitable sector, talk to a young person about your experience. Pass this article and resources along to a recent graduate thinking about their next steps.

Together, we can inspire a new generation of nonprofit leaders and changemakers, working to build a healthy and just nation where all people thrive.

Source: <https://independentsector.org/blog/ceo-views-changemakers-wanted/>

Will Facebook Support Of Nonprofits Continue To Wither?



David Hessekiel

Meta's [recent announcement](#) that it is shutting down fundraising tools in much of Europe on July 1 is a sad continuation of the social media giant's declining support of nonprofit organizations.

Last year [the company ended its generous policy](#) of covering donation processing fees for nonprofits in the US, UK, Canada and Australia.

More than \$8 billion has been raised on Facebook and Instagram from more than 100 million donors worldwide in the intervening years, according to the company.

Speaking off the record, executives that have helped nonprofits benefit from Facebook fundraising tools wonder whether Meta will eventually also shut those down in the US, UK and other markets.

It's a sad state of affairs compared to the many exciting developments that nonprofits have taken advantage of since Facebook began testing a "Donate Now" button with 19 charities in 2013.

Facebook fundraising tools expanded over the years to include things such as birthday fundraisers, matching donations, personal fundraisers and challenges (which were extremely popular during the pandemic).

New offerings and product enhancements were announced at events such as the 2017 Facebook Social Good Forum and the company often fielded significant contingents at fundraising and social impact-oriented conferences.

For some years, the company also trumpeted its enthusiasm for its social media fundraising tools by running promotions such as donating \$5 to each birthday fundraiser and matching donations on Giving Tuesday.

How one explains the motivation behind many of these moves depends in part on the analyst's degree of cynicism. For many years, Naomi Gleit, the company's third longest-serving employee, oversaw these and other efforts at the intersection of cause and commerce from her position as vice president of social good.

In a December 2017 interview with [Business Insider](#), Gleit dismissed allegations that the social good unit had been created to counteract criticism that Facebook was linked to the spreading of misinformation.

She told Business Insider that "Your goal and the way that we measure your success is positive, real-world actions.' There's no business KPI [key performance indicator]. There's no brand sentiment metric. There are no dollars, outside of dollars raised for charity."

Whatever the true motivation, the Social Good unit did not escape the impact of massive layoffs at Meta in 2022.

Nonprofits in the US, UK and other countries still served by Facebook fundraising will be watching closely to see whether the company reinvigorates its support of them or continues to cut back.



Source: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidhessekiel/2024/05/23/will-facebook-support-of-nonprofits-continue-to-wither/?sh=7f511ca02b32>

Community Foundation, United Way, partner with Volusia County Women Who Care

The organizations have established a new donor-advised fund to provide grants to local charities.

The Community Foundation and United Way of Volusia-Flagler Counties are excited to announce a partnership with the Volusia County Women Who Care to establish a donor-advised fund.

Teresa Smith founded Volusia County Women Who Care in 2017 to create a community where women come together to impact the lives of those in need by streamlining fundraising for local charities. Each quarter VCWWC invites three nonprofits to present their organization's mission and the membership selects one recipient of the evening's donations.

"The VCWWC Community Partner Impact Grants aim to further our mission of positively impacting Volusia County by supporting the nonprofit community. This fund will help amplify the collective impact of our membership – and provide more support in our community," Smith said.

Thanks to the establishment of the new fund, all organizations that present at the quarterly meetings will now receive a grant. The Volusia County Women Who Care Community Impact Fund will provide mini-grants to both organizations not selected for the major award.

"We are thrilled to be working with Volusia County Women Who



Care because this partnership exemplifies the power of women in philanthropy and the opportunity to leverage multiple partners for more impactful grant-making," said Courtney Edgcomb, president and CEO of the Community Foundation and United Way of Volusia-Flagler Counties.

Another Community Foundation advisor, Cydney Reagan, decided to partake in the impact by matching the \$1,000 donation from her donor advised fund. Reagan, a local real estate broker and philanthropist, uses her Donor Advised Fund to support Volusia County and the surrounding areas

and currently has her own nonprofit called Community For A Cause, specializing in helping locals in emergency situations.

"When I realized that the mini-grants were coming directly from the new fund, I immediately looked at my philanthropic advisor, Tiffany Joubert, for confirmation that I could match the mini-grant from my own DAF – the Reagan Family Fund," Reagan said. "This is the whole purpose of the community coming together, right? So, we can support one another and make a difference."

Source: <https://www.observerlocalnews.com/news/2024/may/26/community-foundation-united-way-partner-with-volusia-county-women-who-care/>

20m out-of-school children: NGO holds book reading competition for Lagos students

A Non-governmental Organisation, Youth with a vision foundation, organised a book reading competition aimed at improving the reading culture of students in Lagos and Nigeria.

“Ultimately, we envision a collaborative effort involving the government, teachers, parents, NGOs like ours, and students themselves to promote a culture of reading and lifelong learning in Nigeria.”

will be able to champion and drive improvement in education.

Currently, our budget allocation reveals a mismatch between our priorities and the value we place on education.

The competition involved 20 schools where students have been given a task to read the book ‘Readers are Leaders’ and give a summary of it.

Speaking during the event, the

Chief Executive Officer of Youth With A Vision Foundation, Dr Elvis Ukpaka, urged government to equip libraries and motivate teachers so as to revive the reading culture among Nigerian youths.

Ukpaka also called for a well-funded and well-equipped libraries, fair compensation for teachers, and the provision of quality books in public schools.

He said: “Firstly, we urge the government to take an active role in promoting reading culture. We advocate well-funded and well-equipped libraries, fair compensation for teachers, and the provision of quality books in public schools.

“Additionally, we encourage teachers to be avid readers themselves, setting an example for their students. We also believe that parents have a vital role to play in fostering a love for reading in their children.



Also speaking, the Chairman of Coscharis Group, Dr Cosmas Maduka, said without reading there could not be good leadership.

Maduka, who stressed the need to increase the budget allocation to education, said: “You can’t give what you don’t have. So when we find a leader who is also a reader, they

“A small percentage of our budget is dedicated to education, reflecting a lack of understanding and prioritisation of education among our people.”

Source: <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2024/05/20m-out-of-school-children-ngo-holds-book-reading-competition-for-lagos-students/>



The Hispanic Alliance, an organization based in the Upstate, announced May 23 it received a \$25,000 grant from the [Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina](#), a ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System.

The nonprofit will use the funds to expand advocacy and leadership development efforts of its Student DREAMers Alliance fellowship, which works to empower and amplify the voices of young immigrants in their junior and senior years of high school. SDA has cohorts in both Greenville and Charleston and has 194 current and alumni members.

“Our continued partnership with the Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina is pivotal in driving systemic change and championing equitable communities throughout South Carolina,” said Adela Mendoza, executive director of the Hispanic Alliance. “Together, we are creating a region where every individual, regardless of their background, has the opportunity to thrive and contribute to a more inclusive and prosperous future for us all.”

In this cycle of funding, the Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina awarded 94 grants totaling over \$1.3 million to nonprofits across the state.

Hispanic Alliance receives \$25K from Sisters of Charity Foundation of SC

Source: <https://greenvillejournal.com/community/hispanic-alliance-receives-5k-from-sisters-of-charity-foundation-of-sc/>

Kerala | NGO moots changes in extreme poverty eradication schemes

Multidimensional poverty has fallen drastically in state, but CSES study calls for special focus on

Kunjammu, an 85-year-old cancer survivor, was forced out of her home in Idukki district eight years ago, and had to relocate to Kochi. Despite challenges, she makes ends meet by selling inexpensive plastic pens and seeking alms at traffic signals. At night, she finds refuge in a destitute home where she receives her daily meals.

Kunjammu has three sons and a daughter, but she is unaware of their whereabouts. She says her family abandoned her after she was diagnosed with cancer eight years ago, but she has successfully managed to cheat death.

Even though the Kerala government has made substantial progress in reducing the presence of beggars from the streets with the help of its poverty alleviation programme, more needs to be done to help impoverished people like Kunjammu and many who remain unidentified.

A recent study has called for significant changes in the state's poverty alleviation programmes with a special focus on mental health-based vulnerabilities of the rural poor.

Least impoverished state

Data released by NITI Aayog on the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) in 2021 shows Kerala as the least impoverished state in India.

Merely 0.7 per cent of the population falls under the category of multidimensional poverty, considering various factors like child and adolescent mortality, maternal health, education levels, housing conditions, access to sanitation, availability of clean drinking water, and electricity.

While poverty defines the lack of money, multidimensional poverty measures how people suffer from multiple disadvantages – poor

health, malnutrition, lack of clean water or electricity, poor quality of work, low levels of education and so on.

The NITI Aayog report highlights Kerala's Kottayam as the nation's least impoverished district, boasting an absolute poverty rate of zero. These statistics underscore Kerala's commendable efforts in alleviating poverty.

Poverty reduction

According to the NITI Aayog MPI, only 0.55 per cent of Kerala's population falls into the category of multidimensional poverty, while at the national level, the corresponding figure is 14.96 per cent.

With overall poverty levels showing significant reduction, Kerala has directed its efforts towards addressing extreme poverty by implementing customised solutions.

In the past 15 to 20 years, the presence of beggars, mostly from the state, on the streets of Kerala, has also significantly decreased, with almost none of them visible now apart from the migrant population who are suspected to have fallen prey to the 'begging mafia' operated by criminal gangs.

State govt schemes

Kerala's Local Self Government Department has identified 64,006 households, with 103,099 members, which meet the criteria for extreme poverty.

At present, there are two state government schemes to address the issue of extreme poverty – the Agathi Rahitha Keralam (Destitute Free Kerala, or DFK), launched under Kudumbashree (the poverty eradication and women empowerment programme implemented by the State Poverty Eradication Mission) covering 1.5 lakh families, and the Extreme Poverty Eradication Programme (EPEP), covering these 64,006 households.

However, a study conducted by the Centre for Socio-economic and Environmental Studies (CSES) has called for major changes in the state's extreme poverty eradication programmes. One of the significant aspects of the study is its focus on the mental health-based vulnerability of the rural poor.

The CSES is an independent, non-profit NGO promoting policy and action oriented research, consultancy and training programmes, according to its website.

Mental illness issues

Charity workers from Thrissur recalled an incident in which a family of three, consisting of an elderly couple and their intellectually disabled son, in a

tribal hamlet on the Kerala-Tamil Nadu border, were starving for days until they were rescued. While both the parents fell sick, the son was unable to grasp the severity of the situation, leaving the family in dire poverty for days until caregivers located them.

"One-fourth of the extreme poor households have a member with mental illness. This high proportion is mainly due to the inclusion of mental illness as a criterion for identifying extreme poor households," reads the report.

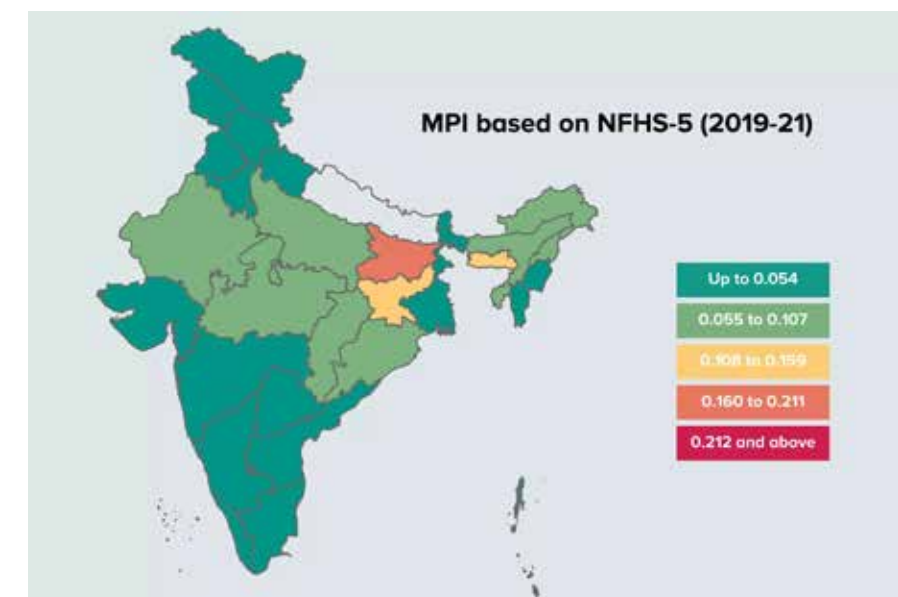
"The challenges include the inadequacy of healthcare and the stigma associated with acknowledging mental health issues, leading to delayed care-seeking and worsening conditions. The study also highlights the gap in addressing mental health issues within existing

The study was conducted by CSES researchers Athul SC., Dr N Ajith Kumar, Dr Parvathy Sunaina, Nagarajan R Durai and Bibin Thambi.

Early identification is key

While the state government's initiatives for eradicating extreme poverty are laudable, the study says it is important to recognise that both extreme poverty and vulnerability are dynamic in nature and are often intertwined. One may fall into extreme poverty and experience different dimensions of vulnerability due to a single shock or multiple shocks and continued stress.

The present programmes for eradication of extreme poverty, both EPEP and DFK, target only those identified as extreme poor. It is important to focus on early identification of people at risk of falling into extreme poverty and address their issues. This calls for a



programs like DFK and the new EPEP, emphasising on the importance of incorporating measures to address mental health concerns within the healthcare components of these programs," it adds.

new component in the programme to eradicate extreme poverty targeting such households.

"The study is primarily based on extensive field work in three gram

panchayats which were chosen to capture geographical diversity and ensure representation of different marginalised groups. These are – Panamaram in North Kerala which has a significant presence of tribal population; Alappad in South Kerala which has a sizable fishermen population; and Asamannoor, a peri-urban area located in central Kerala,” Athul SG, one of the researchers who conducted the study, told The.

Merger of programmes

The study suggests the integration of DFK and EPEP into a single programme. An assessment of beneficiary households of DFK should be initiated, and households continuing in extreme poverty should be included in the common programme, it says.

EPEP is planned to be completed in 2026. The study points out that the complexity of issues necessitates the continuation of the programme even after 2026, focusing on strategies to prevent households from relapsing into extreme poverty and to prevent new households from slipping into it.

“This research wasn’t aimed at assessing or evaluating the said government schemes; rather, we explored the vulnerabilities of the subjects and whether the government overlooked any aspects,” said Ajith Kumar of CSES.

Focus on caregivers

“As far as cases like Kunjamma are concerned, if she had been residing

in her own village or town, the EPEP would have identified her,” said Ajith Kumar. “Identifying individuals becomes challenging when they relocate, particularly to large urban areas.”

“As researchers, we haven’t delved into the issue of inclusion or exclusion, but rather focused on certain criterion to identify the impoverished people. People who have mental health were found one of the most vulnerable groups. As a practical solution, we suggest involving retired healthcare professionals to provide home-based care for this vulnerable group,” he added.

The study also emphasises the need to support caregivers in the family, predominantly women, who face stress and limited employment opportunities.

Source: <https://thefederal.com/category/states/south/kerala/kerala-prepares-action-calendar-to-prevent-nipah-outbreak-which-haunted-state-in-the-past-124660?infinitescroll=1>

NGO seeks partnership to establish Craniofacial hospital

The Executive Director of a Non-Governmental Organization, Cleft and Facial deformity Foundation, Dr. Seidu Bello, has called for the establishment of a Special Craniofacial Hospital for the treatment of cleft and facial deformity.

Dr. Bello made the call at the 28th free [cleft and craniofacial Surgery outreach](#) in Keffi, Nasarawa State.

Dr. Bello said through effective collaboration with well-meaning Nigerians, the Special Hospital would serve as a reference center

where patients within and outside the country can access Services.

The Chief Medical Director of Federal Medical Center Keffi, Dr. Yahaya Baba, who commended the gesture of the NGO, promised to continue to collaborate with the Organization for more people to access treatment.

The Chief Executive Officer, TY Danjuma Foundation, Mr Gima Forje, a major partner in the program, urged those with any form of facial deformity to make themselves available for care through the Foundation’s activities.



Mrs Ijioma Duru, who spoke on behalf of the beneficiaries, thanked the NGO for the gesture, urging Government to collaborate with them to enable more patients participate in the Programme.

Source: <https://radionigeria.gov.ng/2024/05/16/ngo-seeks-partnership-to-establish-facial-hospital/>

NGO advocates global citizenship education for Nigerians

Blessing Oluchukwu Awamba, founder of Change a Child Community Initiative, a non-governmental organisation, has said excellent reading and writing skills are not enough to create a sustainable community, stressing that students in Nigeria must be taught global citizenship education.

Awamba, who spoke in Lagos at a workshop themed: ‘Peace, Sustainability and I,’ tasked parents with supporting children interested in transforming their communities, saying the proof of quality education in the global age was learning for sustainable development.

She said it was important for children to learn about diversity, and mutual respect for people and their environment, adding that it would shape their worldview and create a sustainable future for Nigeria. According to her, a changed child can positively change his community.

Awamba said: “Students have to learn not just reading and writing, numeracy or literacy, they have to also learn how to be responsible members of the community. The entire essence of this event is for the pupils present to learn beyond the classroom.

“It is for them to learn how they can be responsible, not just for them, but the community at large. They have to learn to actively contribute to their community’s development, like our slogan. When one child is changed, that child can change the community.

“When one community is changed, the community can change the entire world. After this training, we believe that these children will go back to their streets to influence them. They will influence Ajegunle

“We chose children because they would learn for themselves and influence their peers. Acquiring this knowledge at a young age shapes how they view the world.



as a whole, and from Ajegunle to Nigeria. From there to the global community.”

On the objective of the event, the founder of the NGO said it was to bring children together, especially those from a marginalised community like Ajegunle.

“To bring them together and discuss how our collective actions affect the community. We brought them together to let them know how important they are individually and collectively and how important their voices are to peace and sustainability in our community. We have chosen children because they are the future. If we speak to people who are 50 and 60, they do not have such a long time to pass on that knowledge.

“They are learning about diversity and mutual respect for people and their environment. It would shape the way they see the world, thus making for a sustainable future for Nigeria,” Awamba said.

On her advice to parents, she said: “They should ensure that their kids are not just learning how to read and how to write. Reading and writing are very important, but that is not what quality education is all about.

“Quality education includes learning for sustainable development, and global citizenship education. Education has to lead towards a goal, and what is that goal? Sustainable development.”

Source: <https://businessday.ng/news/article/ngo-advocates-global-citizenship-education-for-nigerians/>

92 NGOs urgently call for the re-establishment of telecommunications infrastructure across Sudan

Khartoum, Sudan, May 15, 2024 – In the midst of the devastating humanitarian crisis that is fast deteriorating in Sudan, we, representing 92 humanitarian, civil society, human rights organizations and members of the #KeepItOn coalition, urgently appeal for the re-establishment of telecommunications infrastructure across the entire country.

Sudan has become the world's worst displacement crisis and is on the brink of becoming the world's worst hunger crisis. In total, more than half of Sudan's population – nearly 25 million people – need humanitarian aid. Over a year of relentless warfare and indiscriminate violence have destroyed homes, towns, livelihoods and critical civilian infrastructure.

Indiscriminate attacks and disruption of telecommunications by warring parties have severely affected civilians' ability to cope with the effects of the war, as well as aid workers' capacity to deliver essential services, with local responders most severely impacted. Both sides have consistently used targeted attacks on telecommunication infrastructure or the imposition of bureaucratic

restrictions (such as the banning of the importation and use of certain satellite-internet devices), severely impacting civilian populations.

When available, internet access has been instrumental in assisting civilians share and receive critical and often lifesaving information, including about safe areas and routes. Civilians also use the internet to access cash and bank transfers—often receiving support from relatives living overseas—which for many has become a lifeline, allowing them to purchase the most basic necessities, such as food and water. Local aid groups, who have been the first and main responders in most conflict-affected parts of the country, rely heavily on telecommunications to reach vulnerable communities and receive funding for their lifesaving activities. In areas where formal telecommunication is barely functioning, both civilians and local responders, such as Emergency Response Rooms (ERRs), often connect through informal Starlink internet cafes. Humanitarian organizations also rely on functional telecommunications to coordinate and deliver relief efforts safely, particularly to provide cash assistance into the most remote areas.

A nationwide telecommunication shutdown in February 2024 left almost 30 million Sudanese¹ without access to the internet or telephone calls for more than a

month. Across the country, those experiencing the horrors of war have been separated from and unable to contact their families and loved ones. While some levels of services were restored in the east of the country, large swathes of territory remain disconnected from the network providers, such as Zain, MTN and Sudani – namely the Darfur region, and parts of Khartoum and the Kordofans. The same areas are also the most exposed to conflict and risk of famine, making the consequences of telecommunications blackout even more life-threatening. In some areas cut-off from broader telecommunications, the only available service has been via satellite connectivity devices such as Starlink. While the cost of satellite services is prohibitive to most civilians and there are significant restrictions on the importation of satellite equipment, such services remain critical for both international humanitarian organizations and local responders to remain operational in Sudan. While there remain valid concerns around the use of this technology—and other telecommunications systems—by the parties to the conflict, the potential shutdown of Starlink (as announced in April 2024) would have a disproportionate impact on civilians and the aid organizations who are trying to reach them.

- We call upon all stakeholders to ensure the uninterrupted provision of telecommunication services in Sudan. Any shutdown of telecommunication services is a violation of human rights and may be considered to be a collective punishment that will not only isolate individuals from their support networks but also exacerbate the already dire economic situation facing millions.
- Telecommunications infrastructure must be

considered as critical civilian infrastructure. As such, parties to the conflict must refrain from attacking, destroying, damaging, or otherwise rendering inoperable telecommunications infrastructure, facilitate the rehabilitation of damaged systems, and ensure telecommunication services are accessible to all, regardless of where they live. In addition, they should lift restrictions on all satellite-internet and actively facilitate the importation of satellite-internet devices.

- All service providers able to ensure connectivity in Sudan must immediately ensure that access to the internet remains accessible without interruption or additional cost increases. This includes diversifying the means to access the internet, such as solutions based on satellite (including, though not limited to, Starlink) and WiMAX technology, or the use of e-SIMs near the country's borders.
- Development donors and financial institutions should support the development of the telecommunication sector in the longer term, by promoting decentralized infrastructure and reducing barriers for smaller businesses to enter the telecommunications market.
- The United Nations, through the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster, must urgently increase emergency telecommunication capacity in Darfur and the Kordofans, and provide access to the services to all humanitarian actors, including expanding its services to civilians until other options become available.

Signatories:

1. Access Now
2. Action Against Hunger

3. ADRA
4. African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies
5. African Freedom of Expression Exchange (AFEX)
6. Africa Media and Information Technology Initiative (AfriMITI)
7. African Middle Eastern Leadership Project (AMEL)
8. AfricTivistes
9. AISPO
10. Almostagball for Enlightenment and Development Organization (AEDO)
11. Bloggers Association of Kenya (BAKE)
12. Blueprint for Free Speech
13. CAFOD
14. CARE
15. Center for Advancement of Rights and Democracy (CARD Ethiopia)
16. Coalition for Darfur Women Human Rights Defenders
17. Collaboration on International ICT Policy for East and Southern Africa (CIPESA)
18. Computech Institute
19. Connect Rurals

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| 20. Cooperazione Internazionale | 45. Kijiji Yeetu | 70. Regional Coalition for Women Human Rights Defenders in Southwest Asia and North Africa |
| 21. Danish Refugee Council | 46. LastMile4D | 71. Rights for Peace |
| 22. Digital Grassroots (DIGRA) | 47. Life campaign to abolish the death sentence in Kurdistan | 72. Saferworld |
| 23. Digital Rights Kashmir | 48. LM International | 73. Solidarites International |
| 24. Digital Rights Lab - Sudan | 49. Medair | 74. Southeast Asia Freedom of Expression Network (SAFEnet) |
| 25. EMERGENCY NGO | 50. Media Diversity Institute - Armenia | 75. Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa (SIHA) |
| 26. Fikra for Studies and Development | 51. Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) | 76. Sudanese American Public Affairs Association |
| 27. Free Press Unlimited | 52. Mercy Corps | 77. Sudan Human Rights Network |
| 28. Global Digital Inclusion Partnership (GDIP) | 53. Miaan Group | 78. Sudan Peace & Security Monitor |
| 29. Global Programming Overseas | 54. Nobel Women's Initiative | 79. Sudan Women Rights Action |
| 30. Guardians Organization | 55. Nonviolent Peaceforce | 80. The Circle |
| 31. Hopes & Actions Foundation | 56. Nora Center for Combating Sexual Violence | 81. The Tor Project |
| 32. Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust | 57. Norwegian Church Aid | 82. Tomorrow's Smile Organization |
| 33. Humanity for Development & Prosperity Organization | 58. Norwegian Refugee Council | 83. Ubunteam |
| 34. Human Rights Journalists Network Nigeria | 59. ONG Women Be Free | 84. United Nations Association - UK |
| 35. International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute | 60. OONI (Open Observatory of Network Interference) | 85. US-Educated Sudanese Association (USESAs) |
| 36. International Press Institute | 61. OpenNet Africa | 86. Voices for Interactive Choice and Empowerment (VOICE) |
| 37. International Rescue Committee | 62. Organization of the Justice Campaign | 87. Waging Peace |
| 38. International Medical Committee | 63. PAEMA | 88. Women's International Peace Centre |
| 39. Intersos | 64. Paradigm Initiative | 89. World Vision International |
| 40. Islamic Relief Worldwide | 65. PEN America | 90. YODET |
| 41. JCA-NET(Japan) | 66. Plan International | 91. Youths and Environmental Advocacy Centre (YEAC-Nigeria) |
| 42. Jonction | 67. Premiere Urgence International | 92. Zaina Foundation |
| 43. Kandoo | 68. Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Public Witness | |
| 44. KICTANet | 69. Refugees International | |

Source: <https://www.rescue.org/press-release/92-ngos-urgently-call-re-establishment-telecommunications-infrastructure-across-sudan>



NGOs to need prior approval for activities in Kohistan

MANSEHRA: Lower Kohistan district administration on Friday asked the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to get prior official approval for executing projects in the district.

Deputy Lower Kohistan Commissioner Bashir Khan told reporters the administration wanted NGOs to carry out work keeping in view the local culture and traditions. He said a ban had been imposed on the free mobility of the NGO workers' and the transfer of the two Education Department officials from the district was recommended.

The deputy commissioner said religious scholars had put

forward three demands after the schoolchildren danced at a ceremony in connection with the enrolment drive earlier this week. The official said he met ulema and told them that their demands would be met. He said action was taken later accordingly. He said the mega energy projects were being executed here and nobody could be allowed to challenge local culture and traditions unjustly. MANSEHRA: Lower Kohistan district administration on Friday asked the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to get prior official approval for executing projects in the district.

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Source: <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1192939-ngos-to-need-prior-approval-for-activities-in-kohistan> <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1192939-ngos-to-need-prior-approval-for-activities-in-kohistan>



The NGOs used the occasion to ask the government to ensure effective financing of district NGOs monitoring committees (DNMCs)

The Government and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) on Wednesday (May 29, 2024) convened the inaugural Talk to Your Regulator summit to harmonise operations.



Nelson Kiva

The NGOs used the occasion to ask the government to ensure effective financing of district NGOs monitoring committees (DNMCs).

The committees, among others, are mandated to do background checks and evaluations of NGOs before they are cleared for operation permits by the National Non-Government Organisations (NGO) Bureau.

They are chaired by the district internal security officers (DISOs).

At the talk arranged by the Defenders Protection Initiative, with support from the Germany Development Co-operation (GIZ), European Union, and Civic Advisory Hub, at Kampala Serena Hotel, some members of the civil society fraternity, through a report, claimed that the committees ask to be funded before executing their mandate.

The summit was, among others, graced by representatives from the Financial Intelligence Authority (FIA), Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA), Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) and the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA).

Funding challenges

Reviewing study findings titled: Cultivating Trust to Improve Not-For-Profit Organisations (NPO) Sector Governance in Uganda: 2024 A National NPO Regulatory Authorities Survey, Dr James Nkuubi, a research fellow at Civic Advisory Hub, highlighted that the DNMCs clearly face financial challenges to effectively undertake their statutory obligations.

The committees convene periodically to receive, consider, and recommend NGOs/CBOs related businesses.

"These challenges have exposed the DNMCs to vulnerability to the extent that they seek financial assistance from the entities they are mandated to monitor and supervise. The NGOs/CBOs, expectedly interpret this as corruption," Nkuubi said.

While quoting a survey participant from Gulu district, Nkuubi added that sometimes NGOs and CBOs at the district have often been asked to fund the DNMCs sittings, and yet it is not the mandate of the NGOs to do that.

"In West Nile [region], unless you finance the DNMC, they will not sit," one of the male survey participants was quoted telling the survey.

The DNMCs were commenced by the Government in March 2016 after the NGO Act was passed and commenced by the internal affairs minister on March 14, 2026.

However, the Government is currently in the process of reforming the Act though it was temporarily

halted pending rationalisation of state agencies.

A lot need to be done

The executive director of the National Bureau for NGOs, Stephen Okello, admitted that these committees lacked enough funds while others lacked knowledge of what they are supposed to do.

"I agree that there is a lot that needs to be done with these committees even before you give them the money, you need to build their capacity on what they are supposed to do. If you start by giving them the money, as it is being requested, you are going to give to individuals who do not understand the right thing to do," Okello said.

According to welfare and community services KCCA, Godwin Gumisiriza, ruled out any tendencies of asking for money from NGOs at City Hall before being issued with the recommendation letter to the NGO Bureau for the issuance of the permit of operation.

"Daily, we receive a number of applications at the City Hall and at the Divisions level and we ensure that we visit the ground to eliminate briefcase NGOs," he said.

Why the series started

Yona Wanjala, the Defenders Protection Initiative team leader, said what encouraged them to start the Talk to Your Regulator series that climaxed into the inaugural summit was to create trust between the NGOs and the regulators.

"We had a study and discovered that there was a gap in compliance. That's why we started to bridge the knowledge gap agenda by talking to regulators. There was a trust

deficit between regulators which among others affected compliance," Wanjala said.

The head of the Germany Development Cooperation, Alicia Van Den Boom, officiating as the chief guest revealed the Germany and the European Union commitment to supporting government and civil society initiatives that ensure effective service of the people.

"For Germany and the European Union (EU), thinking is very important. Dialogue is crucial for the functioning of the state," she said.

NGOs also expressed fears of tough government scrutiny, intimidation, and harassment, and the country braces for the next general elections.

However, according to Lazarus Mukasa, the deputy executive director at FIA, their role is to facilitate the NGOs to grow but not intimidate.

"That's why we have not sanctioned any NGO for not complying as expected," he said.

He noted that their study has since established that many NGOs/CBOs were at low risk of being used as conduits to finance terrorism save for a few especially those that run the Madrasa programmes which are coded as high risk.

According to Mukasa, they have since signed a memorandum of understanding with the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda (IRCU) to address some of such gaps.

Source: https://www.newvision.co.ug/category/news/govt-ngos-hold-summit-to-streamline-operation-NV_189053

Join Global Fund Developing Country NGO (DCNGO) Delegation 2024 For Young Leaders

Call for Membership to join the Developing Country NGO Delegation to the Board of The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Apply below.

WHEN IS APPLICATION DEADLINE:

31st May, 2024. CAT.

Tell Me About Award:

The DCNGO Delegation, a constituency of the Global Fund Board, works to strengthen the meaningful engagement of civil society actors, organizations and networks in developing countries to contribute towards achieving a world free of the burden of AIDS, TB and malaria with better, equitable health and rights for all.

The DCNGO Delegation represents the perspectives of Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) implementers in recipient countries. The DCNGO Delegation often works alongside and closely with the Developed Country NGO Delegation and the Communities Delegation. The DCNGO Delegation aims to contribute to and influence Global Fund policies and practices to ensure that continually and appropriately respond to the needs of people living with or affected by HIV, TB, malaria and the NGOs and community-based organizations (CBOs) providing services and support to address these diseases.

The Delegation is a team of volunteers and are seeking to expand its team with two suitable candidates from Central Asia and Southern Africa capable of representing diverse NGOs and CBOs responding to HIV, TB and malaria on the Global Fund Board.

The Delegation is underpinned by the following guiding values:

- **ACCOUNTABILITY** to our constituency the Global Fund mission and the Delegation itself;
- **TRANSPARENCY** concerning representation and decision-making processes;
- **INCLUSIVENESS** in internal and external consultation as well as representation;
- **Effective and clear sensitive COMMUNICATION** both within and external to the Delegation;
- Working in **PARTNERSHIP** with other Board Delegations and relevant stakeholders;
- Upholding **DIVERSITY** of the Delegation and its constituencies;
- **Respect for the DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES** of the Delegation;
- **Demonstrable commitment to PROFESSIONALISM and TEAMWORK**;

- **EQUITY** in contribution and support to the work of the Delegation.

TYPE:

Grant

Who Can Apply?

- Under the age of 30 years old
- Evidence of living in a developing (lower income) country, in the following regions: Central Asia or Southern Africa.
- Possess understanding of the scope of work of the Global Fund its partners and its processes
- Linked to the national grant in your country – either directly or having a solid understanding of what's happening in your country linked to the Global Fund grant.
- Belonging to a NGO, CBO, FBO, community network, etc. that works with the Global Fund – this could mean the following: Representing civil society or communities on the CCM or actively engaging with the CCM and national Global Fund processes; acting as a civil society or Community Principal Recipient (PR); Sub Recipient (SR) or a sub-sub recipient (SSR).
- Have minimum 3 years of experience in front-line NGO work in 1 or more of the 3 disease areas (HIV, TB and malaria)
- Ability and capacity to communicate and network effectively and broadly (must have functioning communications linkages such as: Internet, telephone, computer and email)
- Be culturally competent in

communicating with diverse peoples & groups. Skills in communication, finance and management procedures are an added advantage.

- Possess diplomatic and strategic political skills including capacity to think and work strategically and independently.
- Must demonstrate ability to work in written and spoken English (additional languages (French, Spanish and What else the Global Fund uses) are greatly desired and welcomed).

HOW ARE APPLICANTS SELECTED?

This call specifically focuses on young people – key considerations we are looking for include expertise, qualities and capacities:

- In one or more of the three diseases (HIV, TB and Malaria). Preference will be given to candidates with strong expertise in TB or malaria expertise
- Sustainability, Transitioning and Co-Financing
- Health systems strengthening (HSS) as well as community systems strengthening (CSS)
- Key populations in all their diversity and gender
- Fundraising ability noting we are seeking to fundraise for the constituency.

The Delegation operates in English so this is essential. Linguists, who possess strong working competencies in the other languages of the Global Fund (French, Spanish, Russian) are encouraged to apply.

WHICH COUNTRIES ARE ELIGIBLE?

Young people under 30 from the following regions are invited to apply: The Developing Country NGO (DCNGO) Delegation is seeking applications from young people under the age of 30 years old from the following regions where there are gaps in Delegation representation. In each region if you meet the criteria and live in one of these countries where the Global Fund has active grants then please apply:

- Central Asia: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.
- Southern Africa: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

HOW MANY AWARDS?

Not specified

What Is The Benefit Of Award?

The term of office is for a period of three (3) years (2024 – 2026), with the possibility of renewal for one term. Membership is subject to an annual performance evaluation. The new members will form part of the existing delegation members, democratically led by a leadership team (a Board Member (BM), an Alternate Board Member (ABM), and a Constituency Focal Point (CFP) (ex-officio) who all live and work in developing countries that receive money from the Global Fund.

HOW LONG WILL AWARD LAST?

Three years from 2024 – 2026

How To Apply:

Apply via link below

[Visit Award Webpage for Details](#)



Firm Partners Alumni To Drive Youth Entrepreneurship

Mentor Intro Africa, one of the frontline mentorship platforms dedicated to mentor professionals and entrepreneurs, has announced a partnership with Covenant University Alumni Association (CUALA) to empower young Nigerians.

The collaboration, which is slated to kick off in May 2024, marks a revolutionary step in empowering aspiring and young individuals with mentorship opportunities to foster personal and professional growth.

According to the statement, the programme will “include unlimited

access to mentors across various industries, the opportunity to obtain mentorship certificates to bolster credibility in personal applications, and access to specialised cohorts for tailored guidance.

“Members would have exclusive access to a curated newsletter featuring both local and

foreign training opportunities in collaboration with partner educational institutions.

“This ensures that individuals are equipped with the latest knowledge and skills to thrive in their chosen fields,” the statement further explained.

Source: <https://dailytrust.com/firm-partners-alumni-to-drive-youth-entrepreneurship/>



EBRD offers support to young entrepreneurs and SMEs in Uzbekistan

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is supporting micro, small and medium-sized businesses and improving access to finance for young entrepreneurs in [Uzbekistan](#) by providing a financial package of up to US\$ 20 million (€18.8 million) to a major private lender, [Ipak Yuli Bank](#).

The package consists of a US\$ 10 million loan under the EBRD’s Youth in Business (YiB) programme and a US\$ 10 million loan earmarked for supporting small businesses in Uzbekistan. Ipak Yuli Bank has become the latest financial institution in the country to join the YiB, which is designed to boost youth entrepreneurship and employment in Central Asia.

Source: <https://www.ebrd.com/news/2024/ebrd-offers-support-to-young-entrepreneurs-and-smes-in-uzbekistan.html>

- The EBRD offers a financial package of US\$ 20 million to Uzbekistan’s Ipak Yuli Bank
- Loan of US\$ 10 million is provided under the EBRD’s Youth in Business programme
- US\$ 10 million will be channelled to support local SMEs

In addition to financial support, eligible small firms will be able to develop their entrepreneurial skills through training, advisory services and networking opportunities provided by the Bank’s [Advice for Small Businesses](#) programme.

Uzbekistan is the leading recipient of EBRD funding in Central Asia for the fourth year in a row. To date, the Bank has invested around €4.44 billion in 154 projects across the country, with most of those funds supporting private entrepreneurship.



UN entrepreneurship forum focuses on innovation and growth

The fifth edition of the World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum got underway on Tuesday in Bahrain's capital, Manama, with a key focus on Arab and African regions.

The theme this year is fostering innovation and growth in order to achieve the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Delegates at the United Nations forum will discuss urgent issues including poverty, inequality, climate change, peace, and justice.

It aims to empower entrepreneurial leaders who can build a brighter

future and achieve sustainable development for all.

"The private sector has a critical role to play when it comes to economic development. And SME's, especially in the developing world, play a critical role in terms of value addition, in terms of job creation," said Fatou Haidara, Deputy Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

Haidara said the challenges the world was facing today could not be tackled by one entity along, but that a collective effort was needed.

"It shows the importance of

[this] gathering, not only for the private sector, but for all actors, policymakers, academia, investment and financial institutions, to come together to see how we can accelerate implementation of SDGs," she said.

Collaborators include the League of Arab States, the Union of Arab Chambers, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, the Shenzhen Federation for Entrepreneurship Promotion, alongside various local, regional, and international entities.

The forum ends on 16 May.

Source: <https://www.africanews.com/2024/05/15/un-entrepreneurship-forum-focuses-on-innovation-and-growth/>



Nonprofit Mission Meow Invests in Kittensnatchers to Save and Improve the Lives of Cats in Philadelphia, PA

Kittensnatchers is set to receive a \$5,350 grant from New Jersey nonprofit Mission Meow in support of their lifesaving work for cats in Philadelphia, PA.

Philadelphia, PA, May 26, 2024 --(PR.com)-- Kittensnatchers is set to receive a \$5,350 grant from New Jersey nonprofit Mission Meow in support of their lifesaving work for cats in Philadelphia, PA.

Mission Meow is dedicated to supporting feline-centric nonprofits through a unique funding model. Each month, Mission Meow gathers donations from a diverse range of businesses and awards substantial quarterly grants to deserving organizations committed to the welfare and betterment of cats. Their goal is to amplify the impact of nonprofits that provide care, protection, and advocacy for cats, ensuring they have the resources

needed to thrive and expand their vital services.

"Our investment in KittenSnatchers is part of more than \$15,000 in grants recently announced by Mission Meow to empower local cat-centric organizations across the country as part of our commitment to create meaningful change," said Sally Williams, founder of Mission Meow. "Our unique strategy transforms everyday business into extraordinary support for feline welfare, weaving generosity through the fabric of the community to uplift the lives of cats everywhere."

"This generous \$5,350 investment from Mission Meow will greatly enhance our ability to save more

vulnerable cats and kittens by providing essential medical care and improving their chances of survival. Additionally, it will enable us to reduce emergency care costs by allowing us to offer supportive care at home," said Kat Ferge, President of Kittensnatchers.

Kittensnatchers is dedicated to rescuing street cats, offering personal support to fosters, and prioritizing the greater good of each cat's health and happiness. Our mission is to provide comprehensive dental and medical care for cats prior to adoption, ensure the well-being of sick cats, and find suitable placements for those needing socialization.

Source: <https://www.pr.com/press-release/912486>

World Bank Announces New Strategy to Promote Green, Resilient and Inclusive Development in Jamaica

Washington, D.C., May 2, 2024 - The World Bank Group's Board of Directors endorsed a new strategic partnership for Jamaica today. This new plan for the 2024-2027 period focuses on advancing green, resilient, and inclusive development, while also supporting the government's efforts toward debt reduction and fiscal resilience under three priorities: boosting human capital, creating higher-quality jobs, and strengthening resilience to shocks.

This strategy comes at a crucial time when Jamaica - building on ten years of effective macroeconomic management and fiscal consolidation - is focused on achieving a higher economic growth rate.

Jamaica has achieved significant progress in bringing its public debt down from 147 percent of Gross Domestic Product to 72.2 percent in the last 10 years. The sound foundation presents opportunities for productivity enhancements by fostering technological adoption and innovation, improving human capital outcomes, strengthening the business environment and improving the investment climate. Improving connectivity costs, labor skill mismatches and shortages, and bolstering public safety will be key to fostering an environment for economic expansion and prosperity.

"It is important for Jamaica to continue strengthening

macroeconomic stability and fiscal sustainability while, at the same time, ensuring that economic expansion is given all possible support. The new Country Partnership Framework will be instrumental to realizing this objective," said Nigel Clarke, Jamaica's Minister of Finance and the Public Service. "The Framework reaffirms the long-term partnership between Jamaica and the World Bank, underlining mutual commitment to advancing sustainable development and growth."



The strategy foresees investments of US \$550 million in the next four years, outlining a comprehensive plan of technical and financial assistance, targeting: improving access to quality secondary education, boosting social protection coverage, strengthening the business environment and access to finance, increasing access to agricultural markets, strengthening disaster risk management, and improving Jamaica's response to economic shocks.

"We will continue supporting the country in its efforts to improve the quality of life of its people, especially for the most vulnerable populations. The new Country Partnership Framework will also aim to strengthen resilience to climate and economic shocks, ultimately fostering

a more robust development trajectory for the nation." said Lilia Burunciuc, World Bank Country Director for the Caribbean.

Building on ongoing World Bank Group work in Jamaica, the plan proposes new commitments in the prioritized areas. The recently approved [Jamaican Education Project](#) will support the implementation of the human capital development pillar. The project aims to improve teaching practices, learning conditions and the use of information for better decision-making within

the education system. The Social Protection for Increased Resilience and Opportunity (SPIRO) Project (P178582) will support the establishment and implementation of an unemployment insurance benefit, expand, and strengthen employment services, develop an integrated social protection information system, and conduct capacity building on adaptive social protection.

The strategy was prepared based on a comprehensive analysis of the country's development challenges, and in consultation with the government, private sector, civil society, and development partners.

Source: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2024/05/01/world-bank-announces-new-strategy-to-promote-green-resilient-and-inclusive-development-in-jamaica>

PAHO and German Development Agency GIZ sign agreement to advance regional health priorities, with special focus on digital transformation

Geneva, Switzerland, 28 May 2024 (PAHO) - The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and German Development Agency GIZ this week signed an agreement to drive the digital transformation of the health sector and improve health outcomes for millions of people in the Region of the Americas.

The agreement was signed during the 77th World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland and foresees activities to strengthen countries capacities by integrating digital health into national e-governance systems, enhancing connectivity, and using digital approaches for more equitable access. Activities will focus on actions that promote global digital health technical standards, quality assurance of related software, and their adaptation and localization at regional and national levels.

It also foresees work to support One Health approaches to pandemic prevention and control, among others, and to address cross-sectoral issues impacting health, such as climate change, poverty, migration, public infrastructure, good governance, gender, social equity and research and evidence generation.

"We welcome this partnership with GIZ to expedite the transformation of health systems in our region," PAHO Director Jarbas Barbosa said. "This collaboration marks

Source: <https://www.paho.org/en/news/30-5-2024-paho-and-german-development-agency-giz-sign-agreement-advance-regional-health>



an important step forward in advancing digital health and innovation across the Americas."

PAHO and the Government of Germany have cooperated in several areas in the past, including to support strategies to improve vaccination records and disease surveillance in vulnerable and indigenous populations in countries in the region.

"The agreement underscores our joint commitment to leveraging digital technologies to enhance healthcare accessibility, efficiency, and equity," Tessa Lenneman, GIZ Project Leader at Digital Innovation in Pandemic Control (DIPC), said. "By combining PAHO's extensive regional expertise with GIZ's strategic implementation capabilities, we aim to transform

healthcare systems and improve health outcomes for millions."

PAHO is the specialized international health agency for the Inter-American system and serves as the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for the Americas. The organization works with countries throughout the region to improve and protect people's health.

GIZ is an enterprise owned by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany that provides services in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development. GIZ has over 50 years of experience in a wide variety of areas, including economic development and employment, energy and the environment, and peace and security.



Irish NGOs supporting integration of asylum seekers to get €2.5m in govt funding

Over 50 organisations are set to receive the funding for projects supporting International Protection applicants

Over 50 not-for-profit organisations are set to receive €2.5 million for projects supporting International Protection applicants.

The Minister of State for Community Development, Integration and Charities, Joe O'Brien, today (May 29) confirmed news that €2,496,790 in funding will be allocated under the International Protection Integration Fund 2024.

The fund helps community-based organisations to support the integration of International Protection applicants (IPAs) at local and national level.

It's not the only government fund promoting integration, as three other sets of integration supports were announced this year by the minister, including the National Integration Fund (NIF), the Asylum Migrant Integration Fund (AMIF),

and the Community Integration Fund (CIF).

Minister O'Brien has doubled the fund compared to 2023 when awards of €1.2 million were given out.

Speaking about the news, he said, "I am pleased to be able today to announce another in a series of integration specific funding announcements aimed at supporting local communities to successfully welcome new arrivals in a way that works with and for

those arriving and the communities welcoming them.

"The efforts that are being undertaken in communities throughout Ireland to work positively for successful integration are inspiring and it was apt that I made today's announcement at The Wheel's Annual Summit where representatives from the Community and Voluntary sector - and indeed a number of the successful projects under this fund - were present."

Applications to the fund were submitted under nine themes, including employment, educational awareness, language, civic and legal supports, health and wellbeing, intercultural awareness, children and young people, transportation, and LGBTQI+.

The highest allocations of €100,000 were issued to a number of organisations including Business in the Community Ireland for EPIC (Employment for People from Immigrant Communities) training, wellbeing programmes for women displaced by war and persecution at Donegal Women's Centre, and for integration support workers at the New Horizon Athlone Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Group.

According to the European Migration Network (EMN), immigration to Ireland has risen significantly over the last number of years.

Source: <https://www.tipperarylive.ie/news/national-news/1514167/irish-ngos-supporting-integration-of-asylum-seekers-to-get-2-5m-in-govt-funding.html>

Over 141,000 immigrants came to Ireland between April 2022 and April 2023, marking a 31% increase from the year to April 2022.

Although emigration also continues to increase (with 64,000 emigrants between April 2022 and April 2023), there has been a 50% increase in net migration (77,600) compared to the year before.

Additionally, a total of 13,651 applications for international protection were made in 2022, marking a "significant" increase from previous years.

It marks a 415% increase from 2021 and a 186% increase from 2019, the last comparable year before Covid-19 travel restrictions, and the highest number of asylum applications on record in Ireland.

The top three countries of origin for IPAs were Georgia, Algeria and Somalia, with applications for international protection in Ireland accounting for 1.3% of the EU total.

Algeria and Georgia are both considered to be "safe countries" by the Department of Justice and the Irish government.

Today's news comes following weeks of government criticism after IPAs set up tents by the Grand Canal in Dublin due to a lack of State accommodation.

Department Of Social Development Finally Releases Funds For Ngos

Many people living with disabilities are relieved as, after long delays, NGOs caring for them started receiving their funding this week. This comes after prolonged delays by the Gauteng Department of Social Development in announcing the results of funding allocations and awarding contracts to successful applicants.

People living with disabilities had faced the prospect of losing their homes and places of shelter due to uncertainty over whether their respective organisations received funding or not.

MEC of Social Development Mbali Hlophe stated that the delays were caused by technical upgrades, which have now been resolved, and the first batch of payments has been released.

"We needed to re-engineer the system to ensure a swift process for payments. The treasury has come on board to assist us, and payments started as soon as yesterday. We have committed to this, and the treasury has allowed our department to make daily payments instead of weekly," said Hlophe.

Hlophe further mentioned, "We understand the inconveniences caused by the delays and are working hard to provide feedback to the organisations."

She urged NGOs to acquire compliance certificates, demonstrating their capacity to care for the vulnerable. "The department had a two-day session with various NGOs to understand the challenges related to payment delays. We indicated that there will be quarterly meetings to ensure swift communication between the department and the beneficiaries," Hlophe added.

Source: <https://power987.co.za/featured/department-of-social-development-finally-releases-funds-for-ngos/>

Melinda French Gates to donate \$1 billion to these women and girls organizations

\$250 million is to be awarded to organizations working to improve women's mental and physical health worldwide.

Melinda French Gates announced Tuesday that she plans to [donate \\$1 billion](#) over the next two years to organizations supporting women and girls around the world. French Gates [will leave the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#), which she co-founded with her ex-husband [Bill Gates](#), next week and [receive \\$12.5 billion](#) from Gates as part of their divorce agreement.

The donations will be made through her Pivotal Ventures group. Here is how Pivotal says it will be divided:

— \$200 million to existing U.S. nonprofits supporting women and girls: Center for Reproductive Rights, Collaborative for Gender + Reproductive Equity, Collective Future Fund, Community Change, Institute for Women's Policy Research, MomsRising Education Fund, Ms. Foundation for Women, National Domestic Workers Alliance, National Partnership for Women & Families, National Women's Law Center, New America, The 19th, Roosevelt Institute, States United Democracy Center, Time's Up Legal Defense Fund, and Washington Center for Equitable Growth.

— \$240 million, in \$20 million grants to each of these global leaders: Dr. Alfiee Breland-Noble, founder of The AAKOMA Project; Olympic gold medalist Allyson Felix; filmmaker Ava DuVernay; Crystal Echo Hawk, founder of IllumiNative; Gary

Barker, founder of Equimundo; Center for Masculinities and Social Justice; Hauwa Ojeifo, founder of She Writes Woman; former New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern; Nobel Peace Laureate Leymah Roberta Gbowee; M. V. Lee Badgett, founding partner of Koppa; The LGBTI+ Economic Power Lab; Richard V. Reeves, founding president of the American Institute for Boys and Men; Sabrina Habib, co-founder and CEO of Kidogo; and Shabana Basij-Rasikh, co-founder of the School of Leadership Afghanistan.

— \$250 million to be awarded to organizations working to improve women's mental and physical health

worldwide, selected through an open call with Lever for Change this fall.

Source: <https://www.fastcompany.com/91132138/melinda-french-gates-1-billion-initiative-support-women-girls>



Cox Charities Makes \$10,000 Grants to Each of Ten San Diego Nonprofits



Chris Jennewein

Ten San Diego County nonprofit organizations were surprised with \$10,000 grants from [Cox Charities](#) this week for local programs that support K-12 education, digital equity, conservation and sustainability, and military and veterans.

Cox Charities is a philanthropic foundation led and funded by [Cox Communications](#) employees and supported by the company.

The 2024 San Diego Cox Charities community grant recipients and their programs are:

- [Alpha Project](#) – Its Permanent Supportive Housing program for veterans provides residents with emergency rental assistance, food, transportation, household supplies, and medical equipment such as wheelchairs, walkers, and power chairs.
- [Cyber Seniors](#) – Digital training workshops in English and Spanish for older adults that include basic technology training, as well as practical knowledge on how to use technology to connect to friends, family and the community.
- [Downtown San Diego Partnership Foundation](#) – The O-Lot Digital Resource Hub in downtown San Diego will close the digital divide for clients temporarily living in a safe



sleeping site and invest in their future by providing access to critical resources to help end their homelessness.

- [Experience Nature Unplugged](#) – Through outdoor classrooms and nature-inspired STEAM activities, the nonprofit empowers tweens and teens to use technology intentionally to build community, reduce loneliness and inspire confidence in outdoor settings.
- [Forever Balboa Park](#) – Expansion of volunteer programs to maintain and enhance Balboa Park for all visitors, and recruit and train 100 tree maintenance corps volunteers who will help maintain new biodiversity gardens and exterior gardens around the restored Botanical Building.
- [Healthy Day Partners](#) – The Straight 2 The Plate Mobile Garden Classroom helps food insecure individuals and families grow their own healthy food and become less reliant on food donations by providing

gardening workshops in underserved communities.

- [Living Coast Discovery Center](#) – The grant will provide field trips to the center for schools with high poverty levels so that students can explore a nature reserve, interact with wildlife and participate in hand-on STEAM activities.
- [Mama's Kitchen](#) – The grant will fund meals for 360 critically ill veterans in San Diego County. Meals are home-delivered and medically tailored to improve the quality of life for critically ill veterans and their families.
- [San Diego Children's Discovery Museum](#) – The grant will enable the museum to provide 525 scholarships for younger students from under-resourced communities in San Diego County to participate in STEM educational workshops.
- [TERI Inc.](#) – The grant will enable the nonprofit to double its capacity for neurodiverse students to participate in its STEM programs and robotics.

Source: <https://timesofsandiego.com/life/2024/05/27/cox-charities-makes-10000-grants-to-each-of-ten-san-diego-nonprofits/>



Digital Innovation—Key to Unlocking Sustainable Development

The 2030 deadline for achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is fast approaching. We need fresh, bold ideas if we are to attain sustainable development for all. It is clear that the “business as usual” approach is not working and will not work, and time is running out.

Digital tools have the potential to accelerate human progress, but those who are not online are most at risk of being left behind. And until they are connected, they won't be part of today's digital and knowledge society. According to the [latest International Telecommunication Union \(ITU\)](#) data, 5.4 billion people use the Internet worldwide. That means 2.6 billion people remain offline, unable to benefit from digital innovation or its potential uses. The

gap between the digital haves and have-nots is further widened by the rapid evolution of technology.

There is a need for innovative thinking. This is key to unlocking new possibilities, enabling individuals and organizations to find creative solutions to complex problems, and driving sustainable growth.

So, how can digital innovation support sustainable development, especially in the countries and regions where the digital divide is most severe?

Digital innovation can help bring more people online in a way that contributes to advancing sustainable development and digital transformation. The design and development of low-cost technologies and devices that are accessible to all people will

be a game changer. And there are already many examples of innovative, human-centric digital solutions around the world.

The digital transformation of communities helps to fulfil national development ambitions.

In a remote village in Pakistan, a ninth-grade student can now study science subjects through online classes thanks to the “[Smart Village](#)” project implemented by ITU. “We never had this opportunity in the past”, the student said, regarding her digital access.

Another example is the “[Be He@lthy, Be Mobile](#)” project, jointly implemented by ITU and the World Health Organization, which made possible the use of digital messages for targeted education on myopia—a leading cause of vision impairment

projected to impact 3.36 billion people by 2030—and its prevention.

In Papua New Guinea, Joseph, a farmer and teacher, attended [digital skills and e-commerce training](#) sessions organized by ITU and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Inspired by the courses, he set up an e-marketplace to sell his crop of choice, turmeric.

In [Burundi](#), [Ethiopia](#) and Haiti, ITU and the [Enhanced Integrated Framework](#) launched a cooperative project to enhance the digital ecosystem and build digital skills for the economic empowerment of women. One of the young women who benefited from the project told me, “You digitalized my business, and now I am participating at both the New York and Cape Town fashion fairs. My business is booming”.

ITU works to close the digital innovation divide—where technology is changing faster than policy can adapt—and transform countries into thriving and competitive digital economies. We do this in partnership with our 193 member States, more than 1,000 companies, organizations and research institutions participating as ITU sector members, and a growing array of other stakeholders. Cooperation is in our DNA.

The [2022 World Telecommunication Development Conference](#) adopted Resolution 90, which highlights the importance of fostering tech-centric entrepreneurship and digital innovation ecosystems for sustainable digital development. This support is vital to creating a thriving environment for entrepreneurship and digital innovation that helps achieve all 17 SDGs.

At ITU, we focus on the development of recommendations to support national policies for start-ups, digital innovation and

digital transformation, as well as capacity-building workshops and the [ITU Academy](#)—the main online gateway to ITU capacity-development activities.

I have been working tirelessly on this important mandate, recognizing that innovation and entrepreneurship are the backbone of our member States' economies, and that they offer a unique opportunity to accelerate progress towards an equitable digital future.

In January 2023, in one of my first acts as Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau, I launched the [Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development](#), with the mission to bridge the digital innovation divide, increase innovation capacities, and forge and promote forward-thinking approaches to scaling up digital innovation for development. This marked a significant step in enhancing the capability of our member States to adapt to the rapidly evolving digital landscape—especially developing countries.

The Innovation Alliance promises to strengthen international knowledge exchange and make South-South and North-South cooperation on digital innovation a reality. Through the Alliance, we have established [17 ITU Acceleration Centres](#) around the world to serve all countries by providing a platform for policy experimentation, research and open technology innovation, scaling up innovation, driving entrepreneurship for economic growth and igniting creativity and talent.

As part of the same initiative, we established the [Digital Innovation Board](#), composed of prominent personalities with broad experience in digital innovation. Serving in their personal capacity, they provide strategic guidance, expertise and advocacy to help build critical local

enablers and foster innovation and entrepreneurship in digital development.

Last year, in New Delhi, India, I inaugurated the [ITU Global Innovation Centre](#), which serves as a gateway for regional best practices in innovation and promoting technology and sustainable development in South Asia.

Our series of national [Digital Innovation Profiles](#) offers strategies and recommendations for accelerating digital transformation, helping governments gain a clearer understanding of the digital ecosystem in their countries to foster innovation and translate the results offered by innovation into meaningful benefits for citizens.

One of the side events at our [Global Symposium for Regulators](#), to be held from 1 to 4 July in Uganda, will provide young innovators a unique opportunity to showcase their innovative solutions and projects.

As we mark [World Telecommunication and Information Society Day](#) on 17 May, this year's theme of “Digital Innovation for Sustainable Development” underlines the need to keep digital innovation at the heart of sustainable development ambitions worldwide. There is no better time to emphasize the importance of digital innovation. Building a sustainable future demands innovative thinking and action, especially in the digital world.

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2024 is a chance to discuss how digital innovation can help connect everyone and unlock sustainable prosperity for all. It is also an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that connectivity is universal, meaningful and affordable for all, with a view to making sustainable digital transformation a global reality.

Source: <https://www.un.org/en/un-chronicle/digital-innovation%E2%80%94key-unlocking-sustainable-development%C2%A0>



Sustainable development through intelligent tools

Service delivery can be enhanced with the help of artificial intelligence

The fourth industrial revolution brought about fundamental changes to how people are expected to live and work. The world has seen rapid shifts in trends and the widespread adoption of artificial intelligence is an important aspect in this regard.

Many tasks that had previously been carried out by humans are now being automated by the AI in developed nations. In developing countries, gig economies are on the rise.

A lot of tasks that the AI can carry out do not exist in these regions. Hence, it makes more sense to adopt an alternative approach

and utilise the AI to address development challenges in various sectors of the country, such as education, health, governance and business.

The incorporation of AI into the education system of developing countries, such as Pakistan is important to better equip future generations for the competitive job markets. The recent announcement by Google to set up 50 AI-equipped smart schools in the federal capital in collaboration with a local partner is a promising move that will set a trend for incorporating the AI in schools.

While the private sector schools will face little to no difficulty in

such a transition, the public sector institutes might lack the capacity to take up such initiatives on their own. This will create gaps in the education sector instead of making it an inclusive one. Hence, it is important that the government and its development partners collaborate on this. In this regard, public-private partnerships can be beneficial for less-privileged students studying in public sector institutions.

Pakistan must also look towards China as an example since the Chinese have mapped out a comprehensive AI strategy for education. They have also started using the AI in classrooms.

The health sector in developing nations like Pakistan has immense room for improvement with the help of the AI. While the AI has been used for some aspects such as disease modelling analysis to help tackle the Covid-19 pandemic in the country, there are other areas in the sector that can greatly benefit from the latest innovations and technologies.

Chatbots that use AI technology have been developed in Kenya that answer questions about sexual and reproductive health while ensuring confidentiality of the users, thereby reducing the need for consultation with human doctors. Sexual and reproductive health is a taboo topic in Pakistan as well.

Many women in the country find it difficult to seek such information as they are either not allowed to visit doctors regarding such issues or specialists, especially female ones,

are not available. Having chatbots can bring about improvement in the sexual and reproductive health of men as well as women in Pakistan. This will, in turn, lead to the use of AI in other segments of the health sector as well.

Pakistan faces multifaceted challenges pertaining to governance. One of those is empowering the local governments for development work at the grassroots level. Leveraging AI technologies has the potential to transform the governance landscape of the country. Automating administrative tasks such as data collection can help free up local government officials and allow them to engage in others matters.

Service delivery can also be enhanced with the help of the AI, which will, in turn, lead to more sustainable cities. This includes use of AI-powered chatbots to provide information to citizens and address their grievances in a timely manner and alert LG officials regarding urgent matters that require their attention. AI-powered mechanisms could also be used for tasks like waste management and collection. There are successful models in this regards that can be studied for inspiration. These include the Intelligent Government Master Plan in South Korea and the UAE National Strategy for AI 2031.

The business sector entities, particularly the SME and startup ecosystems, have great potential when it comes to bringing about a positive impact on the economy with the help of AI. Pakistan is an emerging market for various AI-based startups.

As opposed to conventional businesses, startups that involve AI-based technologies are more

sustainable. A report published by Deutsche Welle in Germany recently declared Pakistan Asia's big tech startup market. Some AI-based startups operating successfully in Pakistan are Orbit, Aqua Agro and eListGuy. However, access to data is a major barrier due to the trust deficit between public and private sectors.

Consequently, many data-driven startups are unable to thrive in the country. There is a great need for the government to introduce policies that make the environment conducive for tech-based startups in Pakistan. In this regard, relevant public sector entities, such as the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, the Competition Commission of Pakistan, the Federal Investigation Agency and Bureau of Statistics need to play proactive roles.

The use of artificial intelligence to ensure sustainable development in various sectors is the need of the hour. While many institutions in the private sector have been seen to take a proactive approach and incorporate the AI in their operations, a more holistic approach is needed for systemic changes.

It is also important for the government to maintain liaisons with its development partners and introduce development projects that use the AI to overcome the current and future challenges. The advantages and benefits of using the AI for sustainable development outweigh the risks and drawbacks.



How do taxes drive the Sustainable Development Goals?

UNDP's Tax for SDGs Initiative launches its 2023 Annual Report



Thomas Beloe



Ahtesham Khan

Tax revenue remains the most sustainable source of income for governments and plays a crucial role in financing the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#). It diminishes the need for international assistance and contributes to the repayment of burdensome debt, ultimately strengthening a country's ability to withstand external shocks.

In 2022, UNDP, in partnership with the Governments of Finland and Norway, launched the [Tax for SDGs Initiative](#) with the aim to help countries enhance domestic resource mobilization and advance their progress towards the SDGs. Under the Initiative, taxation is considered both a tool for revenue collection and a policy instrument to encourage sustainable growth strategies and influence behaviour towards desired outcomes related to climate, nature, well-being and governance.

In 2023, Tax for SDGs made significant headway, signing a total of 22 Country Engagement Plans (CEPs). Through the CEPs, the Tax for SDGs supports governments in addressing tax avoidance, tax evasion and other illicit financial flows, particularly through technical assistance and cooperation facilitation. It also supports them in aligning their tax and fiscal policies with the SDGs and incorporates perspectives from developing countries into regional and international discussions about taxation.

Additionally, Tax for SDGs has launched the draft [SDG Taxation Framework \(STF\) \(Diagnostics\)](#), a tool designed to help national governments assess and align their tax systems with the SDGs effectively. The draft STF (Diagnostics) was piloted in nine focus countries (Armenia, Bhutan, Djibouti, Nigeria, Sri Lanka,

Tanzania, Togo, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe) for selected SDGs based on countries' priorities. Over 1,500 personnel from 74 government entities have been trained and reported capacity enhancement.

In the words of Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator: "The success of the Tax for SDGs Initiative is a testament to the collaborative efforts among nations, international organizations, academia and civil society. Together, we have exchanged best practices, knowledge and lessons learned, creating a community dedicated to enacting real change."

"The success of the Tax for SDGs Initiative is a testament to the collaborative efforts among nations, international organizations, academia and civil society."

Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator

The Tax for SDGs Initiative includes the joint OECD/UNDP [Tax Inspectors Without Borders \(TIWB\)](#) initiative, which operates 59 ongoing programmes across Africa, Asia and the Pacific, the Arab States, Europe and Central Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean. It is a unique approach to capacity building that deploys experts to developing country tax administrations to provide practical, hands-on assistance on current audit cases and related international tax issues.

With support from international partners and countries, including France, India and Italy, TIWB has secured in 2023, US\$230 million in additional tax revenue collected by developing countries and \$1.11 billion in additional tax revenue

assessed, totalling \$2.30 billion collected and \$6.05 billion assessed overall since its launch in 2015.

To facilitate the inclusion of developing countries in global tax discussions, the Tax for SDGs Initiative held several events. These included a [session](#) with the World Health Organization during the UN General Assembly in September and the second [2023 Dialogue on Tax and SDGs](#), which convened 400 policymakers from 61 countries, including 14 ministers, alongside tax officials, diplomats and thought leaders from 48 organizations. These discussions enhanced

understanding of the connections between taxation and the SDGs, fostered peer-to-peer exchange, developed interdisciplinary tax approaches, and explored innovative tax measures for sustainable development.

Moreover, the Initiative organized missions, workshops and a national dialogue with parliamentarians, youth, researchers and taxpayers to assist tax authorities in capacity building and implementing SDG-aligned policies.

[Marcos Neto](#), in his opening speech at the 2024 ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum side event on Tax for SDGs, emphasized the work of the Initiative: "By building on the success of the Tax for SDGs Initiative, we aim to provide countries with



the tools and expertise needed to align their tax and budget policies with sustainable development objectives.”

Tax for SDGs achieved significant progress across regions. In Africa, it launched Country Engagement Plans and Tax Inspectors Without Borders programmes, emphasizing digitalization and policy integration such as Tax and Gender Initiatives. In Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, Tax for SDGs facilitated the implementation of key legislative reforms in Armenia and Uzbekistan. The Arab States, with the support of the Initiative, improved digital tax administration and climate-related tax policies, notably in Lebanon and Egypt. Tax for SDGs also initiated programmes in Peru and Saint Lucia and contributed to digitization reforms in Honduras. In the Asia-Pacific region, fiscal policies were strengthened, and taxpayer trust was built through strategic

partnerships. This impactful work highlights the keen interest of governments in collaborating with UNDP to create policies that finance sustainable growth and advance the implementation of the SDGs.

UNDP remains committed to collaborating with partners and donors to advance initiatives such as Tax for SDGs. As Bjørg Sandkjær, State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, mentioned at the Finance for Development Forum: “We greatly appreciate the partnership with UNDP and other partners within the Tax for SDGs Initiative. I believe that the report showcases some impressive achievements, and hopefully, this Initiative will expand to other territories, with new partners joining us.”

UNDP Tax for SDGs will continue working with governments to strengthen domestic resource mobilization for financing the SDGs, while also enhancing the capacity of tax administrations to tackle tax avoidance, tax evasion and other illicit financial flows.

Contact Tax for SDGs at taxforsdgs@undp.org, and follow the [UNDP Sustainable Finance Hub on X](#).

Source: <https://www.undp.org/blog/how-do-taxes-drive-sustainable-development-goals>



Making a difference

Engaging with these bright minds was truly inspiring. Their enthusiasm and curiosity remind us of the importance of investing in education and community outreach to foster a generation that is not only aware of global challenges but also motivated to act.

Together, we discussed the significance of each SDG, shared practical ways they can make a difference, and encouraged them to be proactive in their communities. It's heartening to see their eagerness to learn and commitment to becoming agents of change.

Let's continue to support and empower our youth to lead us towards a sustainable and prosperous future!

The Gloria Oyeyiola

#SDGs #EducationForAll

D1S1656	TPOX	D2S441	D2S1338	D3S1358						
15 17	8 11	11 14	23 24	16 17	AA	GG	GG	GA	AG	AA
FGA	D5S818	CSF1PO	D6S1043	D7S820	rs876724	rs1109037	rs993934	rs12997453	rs907100	rs13576
21 22	7 9	12 12	10 18	8 12	CT	GG	TC	GG	CC	AA
D9S1122	D16S9248	TH01	rs1361205	rs2399332	rs1355366	rs6444724	rs2046361	rs27984		
12 13	13 15	9 9	14 17	19	TG	AA	AA	TT	AT	TT
PGI3	D16S509	D17S1301	D18S51	D19S21	rs9811238	rs1979255	rs717302	rs159606	rs13182883	rs251934
11 18	11 12	12 12			GG	GC	AA	AG	GG	TT
D7S1511	rs338882	rs13218440	rs1336071	rs214955	rs727811	rs695544				
28 30	CT	GA	GG	GA	CA	CT				
DXS10076	rs917118	rs321198	rs737681	rs763869	rs10092491	rs2056271				
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Scientists find a likely cause of many unexplained cases of intellectual disability: A genetic disorder

Many neurodevelopmental issues have no known cause. But new research points to mutations in a single gene as a contributing factor to a relatively large share of cases.



Aria Bendix

A newly identified neurodevelopmental disorder may explain tens of thousands of cases of intellectual disability whose cause was previously unknown, according to a new study.

The research, [published Friday](#) in the journal *Nature Medicine*, investigates the effects of mutations in the gene RNU4-2, which is found in all animals, plants and fungi.

The gene plays an important role in gene splicing — the process of cutting out portions of genetic material and stitching others together. Ernest Turro, the new study's senior author and an associate professor of genetics and genomic science at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, said that in theory, mutations in the RNU4-2 gene could disrupt that splicing process, ultimately leading

to abnormal brain development and intellectual disability.

This type of disability is characterized by significant limitations to a person's ability to learn, reason, problem-solve, communicate or socialize, and it is often indicated by a low IQ. People with the disorder might also have seizures, motor delays, small heads, short stature or low muscle mass, according to the research.

The researchers hope that genetic tests for intellectual disabilities in children can quickly be updated to screen for the mutations.

"A considerable number of families will finally be able to have a genetic diagnosis," Turro said.

Dr. Hakon Hakonarson, director of the Center for Applied Genomics at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, who was not involved in the study, said that because most cases of intellectual disability don't have a known cause, the findings could "explain a good number of cases that are currently unexplained."

The study estimates that up to 1 in 20,000 young people might have the condition. Researchers don't know about the life expectancy associated with the disorder, so they have not estimated its prevalence among older adults, but Turro said some people with the genetic mutation have lived into adulthood.

The estimate suggests that the condition is slightly less common than Rett syndrome, a genetic disorder that causes babies to rapidly lose coordination, speech and mobility and affects about 1 in 10,000 female infants.

But Dr. Jeffrey Gruen, a professor of pediatrics and genetics at Yale School of Medicine who

was not part of the research, said mutations in the RNU4-2 gene may turn out to be less common than the study suggests. He also questioned whether everyone with the mutations would have obvious learning or developmental issues.

"There are probably tens of thousands of people around the world that carry this, but does it cause intellectual disability in those tens of thousands? I don't know," he said. Gruen added, however, that the discovery is significant.

Hakonarson said the mutations probably cause at least some symptoms.

"The likelihood that this is disease-causing with these variants — which are not seen, by the way, in healthy people — is almost 100%," he said.

The findings are based on data from the National Genomic Research Library, which contains information about the genomes — the entirety of a person's genetic code — of people in the U.K. The study looked at the genomes of more than 77,000 participants.

Historically, studies of neurodevelopmental disorders have only looked at a small portion of the genome — specifically, so-called coding genes that are involved in the production of proteins. Of the 1,427 genes linked to intellectual disability, all but nine are coding genes.

Instead, Turro and his research team looked at noncoding genes — which don't produce proteins — in about 5,500 people with intellectual disabilities. Mutations in the RNU4-2 gene were strongly associated with that group, compared with around 46,000 people who did not have intellectual disabilities.

"There's no question this paper is going to provoke a lot of studies now," Hakonarson said. "People are going to go hunting for additional genes, because there's a lot of noncoding RNA genes."

The mutations in the RNU4-2 gene seem to occur at random, so they most likely can't be passed from parent to child. For that reason, getting a diagnosis could be a comfort to parents who want to have more children, Turro said.

The researchers said it will be quite some time before they figure out whether the disorder can be treated with drugs or gene therapy.

"These are an extremely tough group of disorders to tackle therapeutically," Andrew Mumford, a co-author of the study and research director of the South West England NHS Genomic Medicine Service, said on a call with reporters.

But even without an available treatment, he added, families often benefit from having a diagnosis.

"It helps them come to terms with the impact," he said. "Being able to tell someone, 'Yes, we have found the cause of development disorder in your child' is incredibly powerful."

Gruen said the discovery could also help connect families whose children have the same genetic condition so they can share stories and offer support.

"You could get some idea of what the future holds for them," Gruen said. "Is this something that could be remediated? Can we expect there to be language? Can we expect there to be motor issues? That's also very, very important to know."

Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/genetic-disorder-may-cause-intellectual-disability-rcna154470>



CM Punjab starts providing disability aids & enrolment drive for out of school special children

Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif announced to establish 300 Special Education School as Centre of Excellence across Punjab. She attended the special education ceremony for the provision of hearing aid and launching of enrolment campaign.

The CM left her seat and sat among the special children. She held a special child in her lap. She visited a stall being established with the cooperation of UNICEF and GPE for the hearing aid. She monitored a medical test of the children deprived of their hearing ability. She also inspected the handicrafts and paintings of the special children. The students of Special Education Sargodha presented CM Maryam

Nawaz Sharif a painting and a sketch. She expressed her affection with the children for making a painting and a sketch. She formally launched enrolment campaign of out of school special children.

The Chief Minister gave hearing aid instruments to Mehwish Mumtaz, Muhammad Hammad, Ghulam Farid, Farman Ali and Ume Emain.

The Special Children recited Holy Quran and Naat-e-Rasool SAW and female children deprived of eye-sight presented national anthem and a national song. UNICEF representative Abdullah Fadil and Secretary Special Education also addressed the ceremony. CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif asked the

special children to sit on the stage before her speech. She instead of standing before a traditional dais addressed the ceremony by sitting among the children. Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif while addressing the ceremony of Special Education said, "They are my dear children, all are my heroes. I express my gratitude to UNICEF, GPE and Special Education on giving hearing aids and also commend them. I am heartily pleased to meet the special children. I am going to launch provision of wheel chair project soon. If the children are provided hearing aid and eye glasses then they can come to public school from a special school. I am highly indebted on being given immense love from these children.

Source: <https://pakobserver.net/cm-punjab-starts-providing-disability-aids-enrolment-drive-for-out-of-school-special-children/>



Türkiye delivers electric wheelchairs to disabled people in Pakistan

Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) hands over 20 wheelchairs to local charity in southern port city of Karachi

Türkiye's state-run aid organization Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) on Saturday provided electric wheelchairs to disabled people in Karachi, Pakistan's southern port city and capital of Sindh province.

At a ceremony to help empower physically and mentally challenged children and adults, 20 latest electric wheelchairs were handed over to a local charity, Darul Sukun.

Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan Mehmet Pacaci, Sindh Health Minister Azra Fazal Pechuho, Turkish Consul General in Karachi Cemal Sangu, TIKA Karachi head Halil Ibrahim Basaran and others attended the ceremony.

Addressing the ceremony, Pacaci said Türkiye will continue to assist in different sectors.

He noted that relations between the two countries could be traced even before the establishment of the Republic of Türkiye and Pakistan.

He said whether it was the 2022 floods in Pakistan or the earthquakes in Türkiye in Feb. 2023, the two countries stood together and helped one other.

"Pakistan showed up extending brotherly arm to the earthquake-affected Türkiye and saved 28 lives, similarly, Türkiye sent 13 goodwill trains to Pakistan after 2022 floods," he added.

Türkiye will continue to support Pakistan through TIKA, he pledged.

Pechuho, in her remarks, expressed gratitude to TIKA for its "steady" efforts in Sindh's health sector development.

She said the Sindh government appreciates Türkiye and TIKA's support for Pakistan's development and will support and facilitate such causes by whatever means necessary.

Basaran, for his part, said in addition to development projects, TIKA works

on projects that improve the lives of disabled people in various nations throughout the world.

TIKA contributes to improve the quality of life of "our disabled Pakistani brothers and sisters by carrying out similar projects in Pakistan."

"AS TIKA, we are so pleased to hand over 20 electronic wheelchairs to Darul Sukun. I believe that these wheelchairs will affect the daily lives of these beautiful special people positively," he added.

Earlier, in his welcome speech, Darul Sukun CEO Savio Pereira said, "This gift of motorized wheelchairs from the heart of Turkish people is a dream come true for these children and we hope this ties we form with Türkiye will strengthen more due to mutual brotherhood we share."

Source: <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/turkiye-delivers-electric-wheelchairs-to-disabled-people-in-pakistan/3230486>

Education nonprofit to expand focus to climate and green jobs

Education NGO, EDC, has launched a new vision to meet ‘interconnected challenges’ in a rapidly changing world.



Sophie Edwards

EDC, a global education NGO, has launched a new strategy, name, and logo as it seeks to work more on cross-cutting actions across education, climate change, health, and workforce development to meet the needs of a rapidly changing world.

The America-based nonprofit was founded in 1958 by a group of physicists from the [Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#) who were concerned about the way science was being taught in United States schools. This led to the development of a pioneering inquiry-based approach to teaching science in schools, which was translated to countries in Africa through the African Primary Science Program in the 1960s.

Since then, the organization, whose revenue totaled [\\$200.7 million in 2023](#) and was formerly known as the Education Development Center, has

grown to work on education, nutrition, and skills projects across 80 countries, including foundational literacy, suicide prevention, and HIV prevention.

Last year, EDC also absorbed the Education Commission, author of the influential 2016 [Learning Generation report](#) on the need to increase financing for education which led to the creation of the [International Finance Facility for Education](#).

The commission’s former head, Liesbet Steer, became EDC’s new CEO but [stepped down](#) in May.

Now, the NGO, which has a staff of around 1,400, half of which work on international programs and half on the U.S., is changing again to meet “today’s interconnected challenges which need interconnected solutions,” Siobhan Murphy, EDC’s interim president and CEO, told Devex.

Describing the [new strategic vision](#), launched today, she said: “The impetus for the new strategy is a combination of our evolution as an organization and frankly a response to what’s going on in the world.”

Four goals make up the heart of the strategy: Ensuring children have access to quality education and care;

equipping people with the ‘green skills’ and resilience to prosper in a rapidly changing world; helping teachers and education systems meet the evolving needs of learners; and fostering well-being through safe environments and quality health care, especially around mental health.

Building on its work in basic education, one of the nonprofit’s spotlight initiatives includes developing a global primary grade science program to investigate, understand, and respond to climate change, as well as ‘green skilling’ the future workforce.

“In basic education, foundational skills are critically important and



we’re excited about introducing science into the conversation because of the importance of developing critical thinking skills and scientific methods, especially now given climate change and giving people the necessary ingredients to understand and act on what’s happening,” Nancy Devine, director of EDC’s international development division, told Devex.

“We are also working in youth and workforce development with a particular focus on ‘greening’ our programs and also ‘future proof skills,’ so that people aren’t pigeon-holed into a particular vocation but can transfer those skills into the ever-changing world of work,” Devine added.

Under the new plan, EDC will make its “commitment to partnerships and equity much more visible,” according to Murphy.

“We’ve always done a lot of work on people with disabilities and girls and women but we want to call it out more explicitly,” she said.

Meanwhile, “partnerships are such through lines to the work we do,” Murphy said, before going on to add: “It’s always been there but we want to make that much more visible.”

EDC also plans to focus more on impact as part of the new strategy.

“What we’re trying to move into is how will we know and understand above a project level whether we are advancing these Sustainable Development Goals,” Murphy explained.

That involves looking at the data the organization is collecting and figuring out what else is needed to see whether “we’ve contributed to moving the needle here,” she said.

The revamp includes a simplified name and a new logo that recalls the NGO’s famous ‘pattern blocks,’ a mathematics education tool launched in 1963 that is still used in elementary schools around the world today.

Source: <https://www.devex.com/news/education-nonprofit-to-expand-focus-to-climate-and-green-jobs-107617>

We want to reintroduce school debate -NGO

The Imo State University (IMSU), Owerri has won the South East zonal debate competition organised by Yiaga Africa in partnership with the National Universities Commission (NUC) and will represent the zone in the national finals.

This is just as Senior Communications officer of Yiaga Africa; Mr Mark Amaze disclosed that the aim of the all Nigeria universities debate is to reintroduce debates, which is a platform for young Nigerians to express their thoughts and ideas about Nigeria of their dreams.

According to him, plans are underway to reintroduce debating in the secondary schools in the country.

shape minds, drive change, and inspire young people to take action towards realizing their vision for Nigeria.

He further disclosed that the debate is modelled around the British parliamentary system of debating, with each debaters alternating between the head of government, head of opposition, deputy head of government, and deputy head of opposition.

“And therefore there is opening government, opening opposition, closing government and closing opposition,” he stated.

At the end of the competitive debate, Okolie Ugochukwu and Osuji Noel Oziomachukwu of Imo State University emerged winners of the Southeast zone thus qualified for the national



The competition organized by Yiaga Africa in partnership with the NUC and All Nigerians Debating Council (ANDC), aims to provide a platform for young people to express their thoughts and ideas about the Nigeria of their dreams.

Amaze, said the debate competition is designed to

event, while Austin Kelachukwu and Mba Evelyn Ugochinyere of Federal University of Technology Owerri, who came second will slug it out with the runners up from the South South and South West and the winner will proceed to the finals.

Source: <https://sunnewsonline.com/we-want-to-reintroduce-school-debate-ngo-2/>



NGO empowers 45 female graduates with digital skills to bridge gender gap

In furtherance of its commitment to bridging the gender gap in the technology space in Nigeria, a non-profit organisation, Webfala Digital Skills for All Initiative (WDSFAI) has partnered Wipro Technologies Nigeria to train 45 unemployed female graduates in Kwara State in digital skills.

Tagged 'Keeping Female in STEM 2024', the programme is designed to provide the participants with a four-month intensive training in either Software Development (Backend), Cybersecurity or Data Science.

Speaking at the orientation programme for the participants on Wednesday in Ilorin, the

Kwara State capital, the executive director of WDSFAI, Nafisat Bakare revealed that 990 applications were received and only 300 applicants were shortlisted for interview and screening, while 45 applicants were selected to take part in the training.

She further disclosed that after the training, the participants would take professional certification examinations in their respective fields and thereafter proceed on a three-month internship at various tech companies in the country, adding that the seven-month journey will not only enhance the participants' employability skills but also pave the way for their personal and professional growth.

Bakare, who said that women in many parts of the world continue to face systemic barriers and discrimination in accessing

education and pursuing careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, STEM, noting that there was an urgent need for initiatives like ours to promote gender equality and empower females in STEM.

She added: "By providing unemployed female graduates with training in either cybersecurity, software development (backend), or data science, we are not only addressing the gender gap in STEM fields but also empowering women to take their rightful place as leaders and innovators in the technology sector.

"This programme is not just about teaching technical skills; it is about instilling confidence, fostering resilience, and nurturing talent. Together with our partners, we are not only changing individual

lives but also transforming communities and societies."

In his presentation as a guest lecturer at the event, the CEO of Plat Technologies Limited, Taofik Abdulkareem, who lamented that women were largely underrepresented in STEM, called for more women participation in STEM activities.

According to him, "We can't leave only men in the STEM fields because the inclusion of girls and women in STEM will bring about diversity in STEM activities. By bringing more women, we would not limit ourselves in achievable possibilities but unlock new avenues. We need more women in STEM so that they can be made visible for other women to emulate".

Earlier in his remark, the Director, Wipro Technologies Nigeria, Abimbola Taiwo, congratulated the participants and enjoined them to seize the opportunity provided by the training programme to learn new digital skills to become employable in the digital industry.

"Remember that the skills you acquire here will not only open doors for you but also empower you to make a meaningful difference in the world," he added.

Source: <https://businessday.ng/news/article/ngo-empowers-45-female-graduates-with-digital-skills-to-bridge-gender-gap/>

NGO donates N50m instructional materials to 17 Kaduna primary schools



An nongovernmental organisation under the auspices of Pyxera Global Rayuwa Project has distributed instruction materials worth N50 million to 17 primary schools in Kudan local government area of Kaduna state as intervention.

Speaking at the distribution of the materials, education specialist, Mr Ezekiel Enejo Omale, said his organisation was committed to educational development in Kaduna, particularly Kudan local government area.

He said the intervention was aimed at enhancing sound and quality education in the area by laying solid foundation for education at basic level.

Source: <https://blueprint.ng/ngo-donates-n50m-instructional-materials-to-17-kaduna-primary-schools/>

Omale pointed out that no fewer than 12,000 and 5,000 teachers and pupils were targeted beneficiaries.

In his remarks, the projects director, Dr Victor Unamma, said the project was handling the intervention in Katsina and Kaduna states, adding that "in Kaduna state, only Kudan local government is selected."

The educationist thanked the local government chairman, traditional and other stakeholders for immense support for the exercise.

"I want to call on the head teachers and the stakeholders to make sure the materials reach the beneficiary schools only and beneficiaries should reciprocate the gesture by using the materials judiciously," he said.

Chief of Party, Maternal and Newborn Health Project – Indonesia

Project HOPE is an international NGO of engaged employees and volunteers who work in more than 25 countries, responding to the world's most pressing global health challenges. Throughout our 60-year legacy, Project HOPE has treated millions of patients and provided more than \$3 billion worth of medicines to local health care organizations around the world. We have helped build hundreds of health programs from the ground up and responded to humanitarian crises worldwide.

Code of Conduct

It is our shared responsibility and obligation to treat each other with respect, take affirmative steps to prevent matters involving Sexual Exploitation & Abuse and Trafficking in Persons, and to disclose all potential and actual violations of our Code of Conduct, which may include Conflicts of Interest, Fraud, Corruption, Discrimination or Harassment. Together we can reinforce a ***culture of respect, integrity, accountability, and transparency.***

POSITION SUMMARY:

Project HOPE seeks a **Chief of Party (COP)** to provide vision, leadership, and direction to ensure the strategic, programmatic, technical, and financial integrity of an upcoming USAID Maternal and Newborn Health (MNH) Flagship project in Indonesia, a five-year, \$50-\$99.99-million-dollar activity.

The MNH Flagship will assist the Government of Indonesia (GOI) in reducing preventable maternal and newborn mortality and achieving the SDG 2030 targets by focusing on strengthening the quality of care and enhancing equity.

The COP will oversee the implementation of the entirety of this activity, be the primary point of contact for USAID, provide strategic technical vision, and ensure ethical and excellent management of the activity, its staff, and consortium members. The COP will liaise with USAID, relevant GOI officials, health and development donors, and other implementing partners to cultivate open, productive, and collaborative relationships that support the implementation of this activity. The COP will be expected to identify issues and risks related to program implementation in a timely manner, suggest appropriate program adjustments, and ensure that systems are in place to mitigate the risk of fraud, waste, and abuse. The proposed COP candidate must fulfill the requirements detailed below.

This position will be based in Indonesia. Indonesian nationals are strongly encouraged to apply. It is anticipated to begin in mid 2025.

This position is contingent upon award.

PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Develop and maintain strong

working relationships and alliances with USAID, the Indonesian Government Ministries, other USC implementing partners, private sector partners and other key stakeholders in Indonesia to maximize resources and avoid duplication of effort

- Provide leadership and strategic direction to ensure the programmatic and financial integrity of the integrated health project and to achieve rapid and sustained project goals, objectives, and targets
- Oversee the project's operational, financial, and administrative priorities; direct the planning and budgeting processes; design and oversee an annual project cycle in accordance with USAID's annual planning cycles
- Ensure compliance with the project results and oversight of project activities to achieve the stated objectives
- Ensure the development of strong M&E mechanisms, program monitoring tools and efficient systems to ensure high quality implementation
- Represent Project HOPE's interests and present progress, achievements and lessons learned to key Indonesian stakeholders including USAID and implementing partners in public and professional circles through meetings, conferences, and presentations
- Provide technical leadership in the design, analysis, and synthesis of interventions
- Develop strategic plans, annual and quarterly work plans, and overall management of the program in line with USAID guidelines to achieve project objectives

- Ensure the quality and sustainability of interventions within Government health facilities particularly in the areas of MNH and capacity building of district staff and national partners
- Participate in relevant technical advisory groups with counterparts and partner institutions
- Lead the annual work planning process in close collaboration with USAID, Indonesia Government Ministries, project team, and project partners
- Oversee preparation of periodic project reports to donor
- Mentor, support, supervise, and manage a team of highly qualified staff and align their efforts to ensure rapid and sustainable results

- Provide guidance, in collaboration with key staff, to subcontractors and subgrantees and coordinate activities with other agencies
- Manage multiple project partners
- Write and/or review technical components of materials and publications related to integrated health and its development
- Ensure resources for project implementation are available
- Work with finance and project staff to develop and track project budgets and ensure project is implemented in budget
- Work with Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) staff to develop M&E frameworks and effectively



track data and results and establish a culture of data for decision making

- Work closely with Project HOPE home office staff to ensure effective, timely and coordinated project implementation
- Ensure compliance with USAID operational policies and regulations
- Other duties as assigned.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Master's degree or other advanced degree (PhD, MD) in a relevant field such as public health; development studies; social sciences or management; and other relevant fields
- Minimum of ten years' progressive experience in a senior role managing large, complex, and integrated programs of similar scope and dollar value
- USAID experience required
- Proven ability to work collaboratively with foreign governments, various ministries, development partners, the private sector, and community organizations to advance health and well-being
- Demonstrated experience in successfully leading and managing multi-disciplinary teams to achieve project results in a fast-paced and complex environment
- Excellent interpersonal, writing, oral, and English language skills. Additional fluency in Bahasa Indonesian language is preferred

- In-depth knowledge of USAID projects, regulations, compliance, and reporting
- Demonstrated outstanding leadership, strategic thinking, organizational, team-building, and representational skills
- Previous experience working in Indonesia, with intimate understanding of local health systems and maternal and newborn health
- Ability to work in a complex environment with multiple tasks, short deadlines, and intense pressure to perform
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office applications, including TEAMS and PowerBi
- Ability to travel nationally

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Previous experience working on and/or technical expertise in maternal and newborn health
- Recent experience working with government counterparts in different capacities
- Familiarity with relevant Indonesian stakeholders (Ministries, donors, private sector, civil society and other)

PHYSICAL DEMANDS AND WORK ENVIRONMENT:

The physical demands and work environment characteristics described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodation may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

Physical demands:

- While performing the duties of this job, the employee must be mobile in an office environment and able to use standard office equipment.
- Must be able to communicate in verbal and written form and must be able to travel internationally.
- Project HOPE employees may be required to travel or work in countries where working conditions are classified as "hardship."

Work environment:

Typical office environment with exposure to a minimal noise level.

Emergency deployments may be in resource-deprived environments with austere living conditions.

Travel for extended periods may be by air and/or other modes of transportation.

While international travel is not a regular part of every job, programmatic needs may require it intermittently.

Project HOPE employees may be required to travel or work in countries where working conditions are classified as "hardship"

Source: <https://reliefweb.int/job/4061467/chief-party-maternal-and-newborn-health-project-indonesia>

APIN Public Health Initiatives

APIN Public Health Initiatives, an NGO, says there is need to create awareness on the link between HIV and hypertension.

Dr Abiodun Isah, Technical Officer, Clinical Services, APIN, spoke with newsmen on Thursday in Abuja in commemoration of the World 2024 World Hypertension Day.

Isah highlighted the increased risk of non-communicable disease complications associated with HIV.

He said there was need to integrate HIV and non-communicable disease services to improve care for those living with HIV.

According to him, early detection and proactive management will mitigate the adverse health outcomes of hypertension and HIV/AIDS.

"Regular blood pressure monitoring is a critical component of HIV management because of the impact of factors like diet and lifestyle on blood pressure levels."

Isah said that as Nigeria battled with the dual burden of HIV/AIDS and hypertension, the integration of care for both conditions emerged as a pressing need.

He highlighted the importance of expanding access to healthcare services for the effective management of chronic diseases, acknowledging the limitations of a healthcare system primarily structured for acute infections.

"With a significant number of people living with HIV in APIN's care experiencing Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) such as hypertension, diabetes, renal diseases, cervical cancer, and mental health issues, we are strengthening the HIV-NCD service integration programme.

"Currently supporting 308,497 active people living with HIV across 423 health facilities in Nigeria, APIN aims to address the interconnected health challenges faced by this population."

Isah said the impact of HIV infection on the cardiovascular system underscored its potential to heighten susceptibility to hypertension-induced end-organ damage, including cerebrovascular accidents (stroke), nephropathy (kidney damage) and myocardial infarction.

He said there was significant risk factor associated with hypertension among people living with HIV and how it could contribute to challenges in HIV drug therapy, adherence, morbidity and mortality.

"Despite advancements in HIV treatment, disparities persist in monitoring and managing cardiovascular risk factors among individuals with HIV.

"Challenges to adequate care include fragmented healthcare systems, limited awareness of cardiovascular risks, and prevailing socio-economic factors."

He said that APIN was committed to continuously monitoring and evaluating the integration of HIV and NCD services to ensure the delivery of high-quality care.

"As APIN expands its HIV-

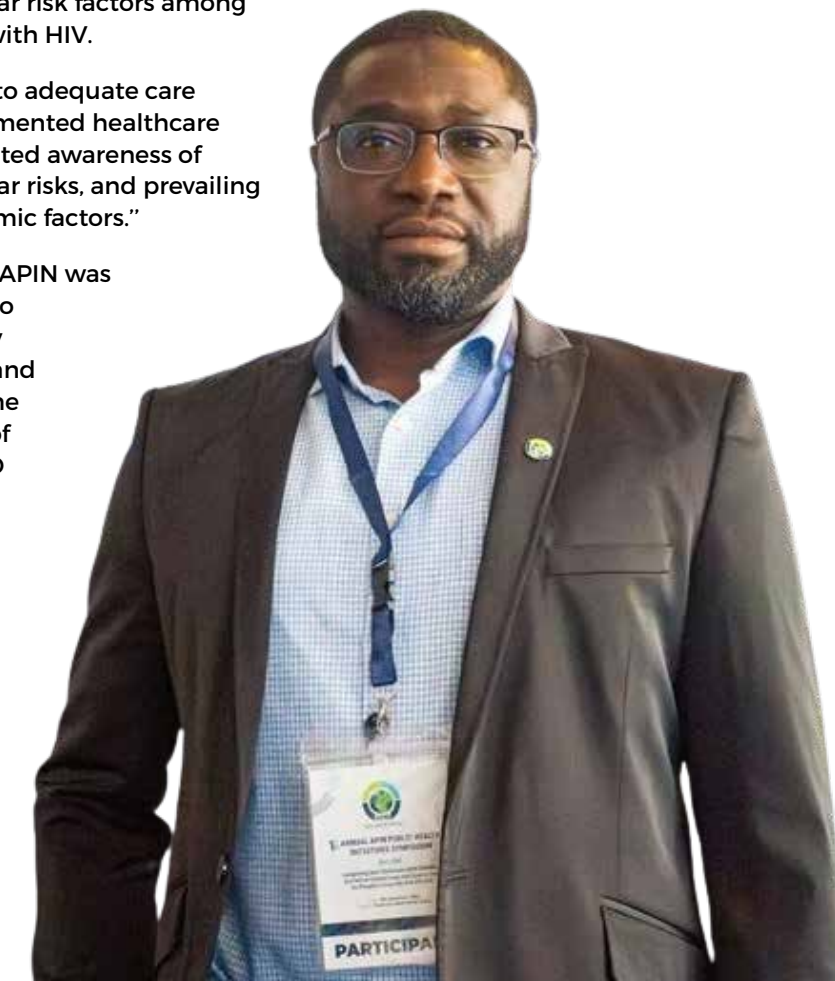
NCD integration programme across supported health facilities and states in Nigeria, individuals living with HIV can expect improved access to comprehensive care that prioritises their overall well-being.

"This initiative demonstrates APIN's dedication to promoting health equity and enhancing the quality of life for people living with HIV in Nigeria and beyond," he said.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the World Hypertension Day is observed on May 17 annually.

The theme for this year's commemoration is "Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer!" (NAN) (www.nannews.ng)

Source: <https://nannews.ng/2024/05/16/2024-world-hypertension-day-ngo-raises-awareness-on-hiv-hypertension-link/>





Empowering children in Armenia through mental health support

With the support of USAID, UNICEF offers crucial psychological support sessions to children across Armenia in cooperation with the Parenting School NGO.

Last September, Mariam, 8, was on her way to school when shelling began. Despite being just kilometres away, Mariam was only able to reunite with her mother later that evening.

“My friend and I went into the shelter. She told me, ‘Mariam, don’t cry, this is only a movie,’”

recalls the young girl.

Despite the horrors unfolding around her, Mariam gathered her resolve and began to weave a fairy tale for her neighbour’s one-year-old child. Storytelling helped drown out the sound of explosions.

“When my mom finally arrived and I saw her, I was relieved,” says Mariam.

The escalation of hostilities in September 2023 forced 30,000 children to seek refuge in Armenia.

Many families had to start from scratch, having fled their homes with just the basics. In response to the influx of refugees to Armenia, UNICEF and partners provided mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS), reaching more than 24,000 children, adolescents and caregivers.

“For tens of thousands of people, displacement marks the beginning of a post-traumatic period, rife with incomprehensible emotions, suppressed feelings and hurdles that must be overcome to move forward. That’s why UNICEF, with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and in collaboration with the Parenting School NGO, offers mental health and psychosocial support services to children and

caregivers affected by the conflict. We are reaching children with one-on-one support and group sessions in Yerevan, Aragatsotn, Armavir, Ararat and Kotayk regions to help them heal and recover,”

says Victoria Ohanyan, UNICEF Access to Justice Officer.

Through the support sessions, Mariam received a set of guides and books to further help her at home and reinforce what the sessions have addressed. She particularly loves one story about a canary (‘Deghdzanik’ in Armenian - read here), which she sees as a mirror of her family’s journey.

Through the support sessions, Mariam received a set of guides and books to further help her at home and reinforce what the sessions have addressed. She particularly loves one story about a canary

(‘Deghdzanik’ in Armenian - read here), which she sees as a mirror of her family’s journey.

“My favourite fairy tale is ‘Deghdzanik’. I relate to her because, like me, she was content living happily in her homeland before the storms arrived. Like me, she had to flee her city, but now she’s making new friends and singing again,”

says Mariam.

Mariam’s mother, Christine, has seen her daughter’s demeanour transformed.

“She used to sit by the window, lost in thought. Now, she’s out in the yard, making friends. She has become close with our neighbour’s daughter and spends much time with her new friends after school.”

says Christine.

“This box was given to me during the sessions to jot down all the happy moments and stash them inside,” adds Mariam. “And in this book, I’ve written down where or with whom I find solace during sad moments.”

Mariam hopes to attend the sessions again, having relished the fun and fulfilling activities. During the sessions, children and youth take part in games, express their emotions through drawing, enact situations and connect with peers who have experienced similar situations. There are four age groups, with each group following a tailored programme developed to accommodate age-specific needs.

“In February and March, we worked with 206 parents, children and teenagers,”

says Anna Velitsyan, head of the Parenting School NGO. “The aim was to stabilise the emotional expressions, cultivate self-regulation skills, encourage the discovery and utilisation of internal resources, and fortify mechanisms for coping with challenging situations. Children receive manuals covering various topics of self-support and self-regulation in Armenian, along with therapeutic fairy tales.”

“These books help with strategies to overcome various challenges and cope with emotions. I don’t read them daily, but knowing they’re on my desk comforts me. I refer to them when needed, going over what I have discussed during my sessions.”

she says.

The Parenting School’s Anna Velitsyan has seen the effectiveness of group sessions, which often lead children to seek further assistance from individual psychologists. These specialists often receive thank you cards during their final sessions.

“Undoubtedly, addressing deep-seated issues requires more than five meetings,” says Anna. “However, the topics covered, practical exercises and skills acquired provide a solid foundation for children to attain stability and self-confidence. Moreover, the materials and manuals provided at the course’s conclusion contain numerous techniques to help individuals navigate emotional turmoil and find inner strength to progress.”

Twelve-year-old Nina also took part in the sessions. When she and her family first fled to Armenia, she felt a need to sleep next to Barsik, her fluffy grey cat. Now, after attending the sessions, she is able to sleep alone.

“At first, when I felt sad, I would cry and look at photos, which only made me more upset,” says Nina. “But during the sessions, we learned an interesting breathing exercise. I try to practice it whenever I need to pour out my emotions.”

Adolescence can already be challenging, even without the added burden of displacement.

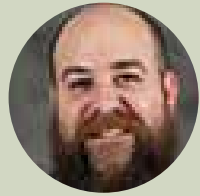
“My mom mentioned this course – five sessions in total – and I reluctantly agreed to participate,” says Nina. “However, I soon realised I wanted to see a psychologist and delve deeper into some of the issues.”

Nina now attends individual counselling sessions, where she has learned to better cope with and control bouts of aggression or indifference, and difficulty to express her emotions. The guidebooks and resources provided by UNICEF and partners have helped to further reinforce her growth to effectively communicate her feelings.

The stories of Nina, Mariam, and other refugee children and adolescents extend beyond mere statistics, underscoring the depth of their emotions and their resilience in starting anew, akin to Deghdzanik’s journey, and inspiring others to do the same.

Through critical interventions spanning child protection, mental health, nutrition, education, cash assistance, and social protection, UNICEF continues to deliver results that positively impact the lives of children across Armenia.

'Music of the Heart' showcases nonprofit's music therapy clients



Patrick Varine

Katie Harrill has seen what music can do for people's social and emotional states.

As the supervisor of the Creative Arts Program and one of many music therapists at Wesley Family Services, Harrill has extensively worked with clients across various developmental stages. Despite the program's inception 23 years ago, she holds a hint of regret for not initiating the recital until 14 years ago.

Reflecting on this, she said, "I wish I'd launched the recital 23 years ago, right when we kick-started the program."

Harrill, a Monroeville native, will join proud parents, family and friends June 2 at Duquesne University's Mary Pappert School of Music for the annual "Music of the Heart" recital.

It celebrates not just the joy of music, but the work Wesley clients have done using it to help overcome social, emotional and cognitive disabilities.

Robyn DiDolce, 20, of Penn Hills will get a chance to show off that work.

DiDolce, who said she has loved music her whole life, discovered drums and guitar through Wesley's creative arts program.

"I can play 'Hey There Delilah,'" she said. "I like to dance to music."

She'll get a chance to sing the song — written by one of her favorite bands, the Plain White T's — at the recital.

"Knowing Robyn, she'll probably also pull out her guitar to strum along," Harrill said. "That's part of what makes the recital great. We do practice the songs, but things happen in the moment and we go with the flow."

DiDolce receives music therapy at Wesley's Monroeville location. The program also operates out of its

Bridgeville and Wexford offices, as well as in many school districts and external organizations.

The company has branches throughout Western Pennsylvania, including in New Kensington, Tarentum and Greensburg. A location formerly was in Penn Hills, where DiDolce lives at a group home operated by Murrysville nonprofit [Creative Dialogues](#).

"We have a really good working relationship with Katie," said Allison Dailey, director of operations at Creative Dialogues. "She works with several of our clients."

"It's a great fit for Robyn, and it's a great creative outlet. We've seen her really come out of her shell and be more open to meeting new people."

Overall, Wesley Family Services provides behavioral health care and therapeutic support for [more than 20,000 people of all ages in Western Pennsylvania](#).

Harrill, a Monroeville native, established the creative arts program after obtaining her bachelor's degree in music and psychology from Allegheny College and completing a music therapy equivalency program at Duquesne University.

"It's just an incredibly rewarding experience," she said of the recitals. "It's a testament to our clients' growth and transformation. It's really rewarding for anyone who sees it."

Source: <https://triblive.com/local/westmoreland/music-of-the-heart-showcases-nonprofits-music-therapy-clients/>



NGOs stress increase in WASH budget

Allocation to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector should be increased in the national budget of the fiscal year 2024-25 proportionately to the growth of the annual development programme, according to representatives of local and international NGOs, said a press release.

They came up with the observation at a press conference jointly organised by WaterAid, PPRC, FANSA, FSM Network, Sanitation and Water for All at the National Press Club on Thursday.

They said that despite the increase in allocation to WASH sector in recent years, various types of disparities remained.

According to NGO activists, three types of disparities could be observed in this sector, including rural-urban disparity, inter-urban disparity and less attention to

some areas that are hard to reach, especially in the haor areas.

They mentioned all disparities needed to be eliminated and allocation to WASH sector should be proportional to the size of the ADP growth.

At the press conference, economist and PPRC executive chairman Hossain Zillur Rahman said that the sixth goal of Sustainable Development Goals is to ensure safe drinking water and sanitation for all. To ensure the timely achievement of these targets, the annual development programme growth rate and allocation to the WASH sector should also be aligned with the development budget.

He said that it was important to give priority to regional disparities and the involvement of the concerned communities in the allocation of ADP in the national budget for the fiscal year 2024-25.

Source: <https://www.newagebd.net/post/country/236185/ngos-stress-increase-in-wash-budget>





World Menstrual Hygiene Day: Lagos, NGO Distributes 20,000 Sanitary Pads

Lagos State Government in partnership with a non-governmental organisation, Vcare for Development Foundation (VCDF), is set to distribute over 20,000 sanitary pads to female students across secondary schools in the state.

This is contained in a statement issued by the Director, Public Affairs at the Lagos State Ministry of Health, Tunbosun Ogunbanwo.

Special Adviser to the Governor on Health, Dr (Mrs.) Kemi Ogunyemi disclosed this during a press briefing to commemorate World Menstrual Hygiene Day 2024.

During the briefing held at the Conference Room of the Lagos State Ministry of Information and Strategy, Dr Ogunyemi emphasised that menstrual hygiene is a public

health issue that affects the health, wellbeing, and dignity of women and girls globally and must be regarded as a fundamental right for women and adolescent girls.

Dr Ogunyemi further explained that the 2024 World Menstrual Hygiene Day celebration, themed 'Together for a Period Friendly World,' is an annual global day of awareness and action to promote good menstrual health among women and adolescent girls.

The special Adviser added that the celebration aims to create a Lagos where the importance of menstrual hygiene is understood, and the stigma and taboos surrounding menstruation are eradicated.

She noted that the event, held annually on May 28, is significant because the '28' represents the average 28-day menstrual cycle, and the 5th month signifies an average of five days of menstrual flow.

"The World Menstrual Hygiene Day is a global campaign uniting governments, NGOs, private organisations, individuals, and the media to promote good menstrual health and hygiene."

"The choice of May 28 is intentional and unique, symbolising the 28-day menstrual cycle and the five-day menstrual flow," she said.

Ogunyemi elaborated that the Lagos State Government, in collaboration with Vcare for Development Foundation, is commemorating the 2024 World Menstrual Hygiene Day with a week-long series of activities from May 29 to June 5.

According to her, these activities aim to reach at least 500,000 female students across the state with menstrual health information and distribute over 20,000 sanitary pads to female students in secondary schools.

She emphasised the state government's commitment to ensuring that every menstruating female student has access to the necessary resources, information, and facilities to manage her menstruation hygienically.

"Stating that, research indicates that many menstruating students stay home during their periods due to a lack of access to menstrual products and pain relief.

"As a government, we are responsible for ensuring that every menstruating female has access to the necessary resources, information, and facilities to manage her menstruation hygienically."

"This includes access to affordable and quality menstrual products, clean and safe sanitary facilities, and education to dispel myths and misconceptions surrounding menstruation.

Speaking in the same vein, the Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Ministry of Health, Dr. Olusegun Ogboye noted that the state government prioritises social inclusion, gender equality, and youth empowerment.

"He added that Lagos continues to lead in implementing interventions to positively influence the menstrual health and hygiene of girls and women in the state.

"As we know, reproductive health rights, gender equality, and youth empowerment resonate strongly in the T.H.E.M.E.S Plus agenda of this administration, ensuring the inclusion of all citizens regardless of their social or gender status," he said.

He urged all stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society, and individuals, to join the state government in advancing menstrual hygiene to ensure that every woman and girl can manage her menstruation safely, hygienically and with pride.

In his remarks, the National Programme Manager, VCDF, Mr James Odey stated that his organisation is keen in ensuring that adolescent girls remain in school as statistics shows that most out of school children are girls with issues around menstruation.

"Our interest is to ensure that our girls remain in school and ensure that they are able to take care of themselves and the awareness we create is that they help their own peer group as well.

"We are all aware of the statistics of girls and children who are out of school and when we disaggregate that we discover that those who are most affected are the girls and it is not unconnected with issues around menstruation". He said.

He, however, assured that Vcare for Development Foundation will not relent in its collaborative efforts in ensuring that adolescent girls and women have access to proper menstrual hygiene practices.

Source: <https://newtelegraphng.com/world-menstrual-hygiene-day-lagos-ngo-distributes-20000-sanitary-pads/>

World No Tobacco Day 2024

31 May

Turkmenistan and UNDP expand collaboration to strengthen the country's healthcare system

Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. May 3, 2024. Today, The Ministry of Health and Medical Industry of Turkmenistan (MoHMI) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed a landmark agreement for a new project "Procurement of health products for the control of infectious diseases in 2024-2025". This multi-year initiative, with a budget exceeding \$34 million fully financed by the Government of Turkmenistan, represents a strong commitment to strengthening the country's healthcare system.

The project's primary aim is to guarantee universal access to high-quality services for tuberculosis (TB) and other infectious diseases throughout Turkmenistan by:

- Securing uninterrupted and high-quality medications and equipment for TB, HIV, reproductive health, skin diseases, safe blood transfusion,

and viral hepatitis C services;

- Enhancing healthcare workers capacity;
- Supporting a smooth transition for the TB project funded by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and absorbing the activities previously covered by the Global Fund, guaranteeing the program's quality, continuity, and long-term sustainability within Turkmenistan by transitioning it to domestic funding by the end of 2027.

The current project will scale up the achievements of the previous years and will continue supplies of tests and medicines for communicable diseases. In addition to treatment, the project will introduce new technologies, improve infection control measures, provide technical assistance, and maintenance support.

"Investing in health is fundamental to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals," noted Mr. Tomica Paovic, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Turkmenistan. "At UNDP, we are committed to working alongside the Government of Turkmenistan and development partners to ensure healthy lives and well-being for all. Through a multi-sectoral approach that emphasizes human rights and gender equality, we support a wide range of medical services critical for achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in Turkmenistan".

UNDP and the MoHMI have been cooperating in public health over years, but most notably - since 2010 when UNDP country office was nominated as Principal Recipient of the TB grant from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria. Specifically for control of infectious diseases, UNDP and MOHMI have been collaborating since 2016 and implemented four projects with total funding \$35 million.

Source: <https://www.undp.org/turkmenistan/press-releases/turkmenistan-and-undp-expand-collaboration-strengthen-countrys-healthcare-system>

World No Tobacco Day 2024 will give a platform to young people across the world, who are urging governments to shield them from predatory tobacco marketing tactics. The industry targets youth for a lifetime of profits, creating a new wave of addiction. Children are using e-cigarettes at rates higher than adults in all regions and globally an estimated 37 million youth aged 13-15 years use tobacco.

Source: <https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-no-tobacco-day/2024>

Innovation in agriculture vital for economic development of Pakistan

LAHORE – “Continuous innovation and development within the agricultural sector are vital for the economic development and sustainability of Pakistan”, said Zafar Masud, President & CEO of the Bank of Punjab.

Speaking at the ZarZaraat start-up competition at Pakistan Agricultural Coalition’s Agri-Connections 2024, he said that agriculture, as a sector, holds the key to prosperity, food security, and the socioeconomic uplift of rural communities.

RemoteWell, an IT device that offers wireless switching, scheduling, and controlling of watering systems of farms, Godaam Technologies, which aims to reinvent warehousing by digitalizing site availability and booking, and Digitt+ an Agri-fintech that aims to enhance financial inclusion and sustainable agriculture by

leveraging innovative technology came out as the Top Ideas of the ZarZaraat start-up competition.

Maria Saleem of Fatima Group explained that 35 applications were received from various agri companies and shortlisted to seven which were then judged by a jury under the chairmanship of Yawar Ali of Nestle Pakistan.

The three companies shortlisted by the jury, Digitt+, Godaam Technologies, and RemoteWell, were invited to pitch in front of a group of investors representing various entities.

Each finalist got a chance to explain their product/service in front of this panel to raise investment for their venture and also received cash prizes sponsored by The Bank of Punjab.

Zafar Masud elaborated that the Bank of Punjab is also evaluating to support the shortlisted companies through concessional

financing under the Punjab Rozgar and the PM’s Youth Business & Agricultural Loans schemes.

He also stressed the importance of giving the ZarZaraat platform to Agric companies to come and pitch their ideas and raise investments while giving examples of successful startups around the world which are transforming the global agriculture sector, such as Kiva, Hello Tractor in Africa, and Bigbasket in India, and others.

Navid Goraya, Chief Investment Officer of Karandaz, an investment platform of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, announced that each finalist will get one day of counselling and advice from Karandaz experts to improve their business models and financability.

Source: <https://pakobserver.net/innovation-in-agriculture-vital-for-economic-development-of-pakistan/>



AI in Charge: Shaping Policy Making and Agrifood Systems Governance—A Vision, Exodus, or an Opportunity?

On 14 May, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) hosted a thought-provoking webinar exploring the potential role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in shaping the future of agrifood systems governance. For this event, titled “AI in Charge’ of policy making and agrifood systems governance: Utopia, Exodus, or an Opportunity?”, FAO has partnered with Harvard’s HUPFI programme to mentor a team tackling AI in agrifood systems and its associated policy and governance challenges.

The webinar highlighted the growing importance of AI in the agricultural domain, with the European Partnership “Agriculture of Data” aiming to effectively deploy data technologies such as AI to address challenges in the sector. However, the partnership also acknowledges the need to guide short-, medium, and long-term strategies for the development and consolidation of new data analysis technologies, while considering the social and ethical impact of AI integration in agriculture.

As the international community works towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, the webinar emphasized the crucial role of AI in transforming food and agriculture for sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda calls for bold, transformational change to create a more inclusive, fair, sustainable, and



resilient world, free of hunger and extreme poverty.

The webinar provided a platform to share insights on the potential of AI in agrifood systems governance, exploring the opportunities, challenges, and ethical considerations. Participants discussed the role of AI in policy dialogue, evidence-based decision-making, and the implementation of sustainable agricultural practices.

Whether AI will lead to a utopian future, an exodus from traditional

governance structures, or an opportunity for transformative change remains to be seen, but the discussion underscored the need for a thoughtful and responsible approach to AI integration in the agricultural sector.

Please watch the recording of the webinar [here](#). This webinar is part of the ‘Policy frontiers, fuelling agrifood innovation agenda’ series, you can find all the webinars of the series [here](#).

Source: <https://www.fao.org/e-agriculture/news/ai-charge-shaping-policy-making-and-agrifood-systems-governance%E2%80%94A-vision-exodus-or-opportunity>

20 NGOs Urge Government to Intervene for Release of Over 200 Moroccans Detained in Myanmar

The complaints allege that more than two hundred Moroccans are being detained under dire conditions, suffering from torture, malnutrition, lack of medical care, and forced labor.



Jihane Rahhou

Rabat - Twenty Moroccan human rights organizations have appealed to Moroccan officials to urgently intervene to secure the release of over 200 young Moroccan citizens reportedly detained in Myanmar.

The detainees are believed to be held in a camp near the Thai-Chinese border. The Moroccan Coalition of Human Rights Organizations, a group comprising twenty associations and rights groups, received alarming complaints from the Committee of Families of Human Trafficking Victims in Myanmar.

According to converging news reports, the complaints allege that more than two hundred Moroccans are being detained under dire conditions, suffering from torture, malnutrition, lack of medical care, and forced labor. They are also reportedly being exploited in online fraud schemes by Chinese gangs.

Despite numerous complaints filed with various Moroccan authorities, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and African Cooperation, the Moroccan Embassy in Thailand, the General Directorate of National Security, and the National Human Rights Council, the families still await the return of their loved ones.

While the Public Prosecution Office in Casablanca has acknowledged the situation and initiated an investigation, little progress has been made in the case.

Some families have resorted to personal efforts, securing the release of one Moroccan woman and three men through various means, including the intervention of international humanitarian organizations and paying ransoms to the captors.

In response to the situation, the families staged two protests on May 16. The first protest took place outside the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and African Cooperation in the Capital Rabat, and the second in front of the Chinese Embassy in Rabat.

In addition, a press conference was held at the Moroccan Association for Human Rights headquarters to amplify their call for urgent action.

The Moroccan Coalition of Human Rights Organizations highlighted that these young Moroccans are victims of inadequate public policies that fail to provide sufficient employment opportunities, leading them into vulnerable situations.

The coalition has urged officials to maintain communication with the affected families and provide updates that might alleviate their anxiety and distress.

The joint letter from the human rights organizations was addressed to several key figures, including the

Minister of Foreign Affairs and African Cooperation, the Minister Delegate in charge of Human Rights, the President of the National Human Rights Council, the Attorney General, and the Director General of National Security.

The letters were also sent to the Chinese and Thai embassies in Rabat, urging them to press their respective governments to help secure the release of the detained Moroccans.

ILO promotes decent work for waste pickers in Türkiye

Istanbul (ILO News) - In a concerted effort to bolster the formalization and inclusivity of waste management practices within Türkiye's green economy sector, officials from the International Labour Organization (ILO) Office for Türkiye have initiated a series of crucial engagements with waste pickers. These interventions encompass a range of activities, including meetings, technical advisory sessions, and training sessions.

The role of waste management in maintaining public health, preserving the environment, and enhancing resource efficiency cannot be overstated. Informal waste pickers have been playing a pivotal role in collecting, sorting, and recycling waste, thus significantly contributing to public health, sanitation, and environmental conservation at local, national, and international levels. Despite their essential contributions, workers in the informal economy, such as those

in waste management, often lack social protection and formal recognition. Operating without access to financial services or representation, they face various risks, and transitioning from informality to formality is a slow and challenging process.

Recognizing cooperatives as pathways to formalization, the ILO Office for Türkiye has facilitated engagement between informal economy workers and relevant stakeholders. By strengthening collective representation, securing jobs and incomes, and facilitating access to basic services and social protection, cooperatives offer a means of transitioning workers, including waste pickers, into the formal economy.

The Association of Recycling Workers in İstanbul formed KATİK (1) Social Cooperative

As a significant development, the Association of Recycling Workers in

Istanbul has established the KATİK Social Cooperative as of 7th of May 2024. This cooperative, formed with the support and collaboration of the ILO, aims to represent and comprise vulnerable groups, including Syrians under Temporary Protection, within the waste management sector through acceleration of green jobs incentives. Negotiations involving Green Economy Officer Ebru Okutan, Livelihoods Officer Ayşe Turunç Kankal, and various stakeholders have laid the groundwork for the cooperative's establishment, including discussions with municipal authorities, academic experts, and association representatives.

The establishment of KATİK Social Cooperative marks a milestone in efforts to promote decent work and sustainable livelihoods, particularly among Syrians under Temporary Protection and host communities. By responding to members' economic, social and cultural needs, providing formal job opportunities, ensuring occupational safety and health measures, and extending social security benefits to its members, including refugees, fighting against child labour,

and cooperating with municipalities, the cooperative seeks to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and foster social cohesion while increasing their contribution to protect the environment and to combat climate change.

Aligned with the 2024 International Day of Cooperatives theme, which emphasizes "Cooperatives Building a Better Future for All," the formation of KATİK Cooperative represents a tangible step towards realizing this vision. With technical and financial support from the ILO, the cooperative is poised to create formal employment opportunities for both host community members and Syrians under Temporary Protection in İstanbul, ultimately contributing to a more inclusive and sustainable future.

The technical and financial support are carried out through the gift of the United States Government and cooperation by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration under the Supporting Resilience and Social Cohesion with Decent Livelihood Opportunities Project.

Source: <https://www.ilo.org/resource/news/ilo-promotes-decent-work-waste-pickers-turkiye>



2024 Statement by members of the NGO Working Group on the Protection of Civilians

This year marks both the 25th anniversary of the UN Security Council's adoption of the protection of civilians (POC) in armed conflict agenda, and the 75th anniversary of the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

Rather than an opportunity to mark progress in strengthening POC in conflict, the Security Council must reckon with the reality of the shocking civilian toll of armed conflict. Despite significant effort and investment, including UN Security Council resolutions enshrining the Protection of Civilians as a global priority, 2024 has been characterised by the continued erosion of compliance with international laws and standards, in particular international humanitarian law (IHL) and international human rights law (IHRL). A widening gap between legal obligations and practice now threatens 25 years of progress and leaves civilians in conflicts around the world vulnerable to the devastating consequences of these wars. The disproportionately high impact of armed conflict on women, children, people with disabilities, older people, and other potentially marginalised groups is now the norm rather than the exception.

Today, civilians continue to suffer the tragic effects of war across numerous contexts, including those with UN peace operations or where missions are in the process of drawdown or withdrawal. Warring parties - including state and non-state actors - continue to kill, maim and cause life-long psychological wounds to

civilians, use sexual violence and starvation as weapons of war, and destroy critical civilian infrastructure, the environment, livelihoods and education. As conflict is increasingly fought in urban areas, the levels of harm to civilians and damage to civilian infrastructure increases exponentially, especially when parties to conflict use explosive weapons in populated areas (EWIPA). In all cases, the physical, psychological and reverberating effects of violence often continue to impact civilian lives and livelihoods for generations after the conflict has ended.

We are standing at the threshold, witnessing a deliberate undermining of the collective commitments established to limit the barbarity of war, combined with a lack of accountability when international laws and standards are disregarded. In addition, survivors are often left without justice or redress. If this accountability gap is not addressed urgently, we risk barreling further down a path of no return.

As NGOs working in conflict zones around the world, while we seek to strengthen rules and mechanisms to prevent and address civilian harm in armed conflict, the scale of harm and humanitarian need is now far outpacing our ability to respond. Reversing the tide is not only a legal and moral responsibility but is central to maintaining international peace and security and to making progress on essential shared global goals.

The world has changed considerably in the last 25 years. Armed conflicts

have become increasingly complex, urbanised, and asymmetric. Meanwhile, emerging threats such as the use of new technologies and artificial intelligence, mis- and disinformation, and the presence of non-state security actors, including private military and security companies, as well as climate change, continue to change the way armed conflict is fought and the nature and scale of risks to civilians in conflict. A re-commitment to POC is more urgent than ever.

This responsibility to prevent and end armed conflicts, regulate how they are fought and hold the perpetrators of violations accountable sits with armed actors, states and with the bodies designed to maintain international peace and security - all of which are currently failing in their duties. States must not only respect their own legal obligations and commitments, they should also use their leverage to ensure that all parties to a conflict, and those supporting them, respect international norms and standards, including POC. Those with power must ensure all civilians, including humanitarians, journalists, human rights defenders and peacebuilders, are not a target.

Major arms exporting States have a role to play in encouraging compliance with these international norms and standards. By ending the supply of weapons, ammunition, and parts and components to contexts where there might be an overriding risk of the commission of violations of IHL and IHRL, States will not only fulfil

their obligations under the Geneva Conventions and international customary law to ensure respect for IHL, but also contribute to preventing the suffering of civilians.

Ahead of this year's UN Security Council Open Debate on the Protection of Civilians, we collectively urge UN Security Council members, the UN Secretary-General, and all UN Member States to take full advantage of the opportunity of these important anniversaries to inject renewed urgency into ensuring the implementation of international laws and standards, and UNSC Resolutions, for the protection of civilians in armed conflict.

We urge these priority actions:

1. At the national level, states must take meaningful action to improve civilian protection in conflict.

This should include reinforcing guidance, policies, strategies, legislation and mechanisms at the national level to strengthen protection of civilians; building commitments to POC and international law into global military partnerships, ensuring arms transfers do not occur when there is an overriding risk they might contribute to serious IHL or IHRL violations; using national systems or the legal principle of universal jurisdiction to prosecute those committing abuses and violations of IHL; endorsing initiatives aimed at strengthening civilian protection in conflict including the EWIPA Political Declaration and Safe Schools Declaration; and engaging with communities, civil society and local peacebuilders as key partners in strengthening POC, promoting the value of locally-led protection for effective and sustainable POC outcomes and recognising the agency of civilians and local communities in their own protection.

1. At the global level, states must take urgent steps to end impunity and promote accountability.

This should include commitment from P5 members to support the proposal to suspend the veto in the UN Security Council in cases of mass atrocities; criminal prosecutions for IHL violations in international courts; ensuring current and future peace operations in all their forms have the guidance, budget and resources to meaningfully strengthen POC; and strengthen the international mechanisms for holding both state and non-state actors accountable for violations, including against children under the Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC) agenda, and for violations under the Council's Women Peace and Security resolutions, particularly including conflict related sexual violence. Further we recommend the creation of a working group comprised of current and former Council members to develop a set of proposals in consultation with civil society on how to improve implementation of UNSC Resolutions related to POC - a first step should be agreement to implement a 6-month follow up discussion on the SG's Annual Protection of Civilians Report to look at progress made and gaps that remain on challenges outlined in the report.

1. States should recommit to POC in the face of emerging challenges.

This should include ensuring IHL, IHRL and POC are prioritised as core tenets of global multilateral governance in the forthcoming Pact for the Future; strengthening and implementing legal accountability mechanisms and other safeguards around the use of new technologies in armed conflict, a treaty to prohibit and regulate autonomous weapons systems by 2026 as recommended by the UNSG in the New Agenda

for Peace; strengthening and implementing international, regional and national legal and regulatory frameworks governing Private Military and Security Companies, including mechanisms for transparency, oversight, accountability and redress for civilian harm; and establishing an Environment, Peace, and Security (EPS) agenda to better protect civilians from conflict-linked environmental harm and the impacts of the environment-climate-conflict nexus.

Signed by,

Action Against Hunger

Amnesty International

Article 36

CARE

Center for Civilians in Conflict

Concern Worldwide

Control Arms

Global Center for the Responsibility to Protect

Human Rights Watch

Humanitarian Policy Group / ODI

International Network on Explosive Weapons (INEW)

International Rescue Committee

Legal Action Worldwide

Nonviolent Peace Force

Norwegian Refugee Council

PAX

Plan International

Save the Children

Watchlist for Children and Armed Conflict

World Vision

PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Strengthening the Evidence-base for Achieving Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies

Meeting the global targets for peace, justice and strong institutions as agreed to in Agenda 2030 requires partnerships and multi-stakeholder approaches, underpinned by a shared evidence-base for action. The Centre contributes to this important evidence base by generating research, data and insights to support more informed policy choices and decisions. A robust evidence-base on governance challenges enables countries to identify structural bottlenecks that prevent them from achieving sustainable development and enables policymakers to design responses better tailored to people's priorities and rights.

Research and innovation to unlock the potential of SDG 16

The Centre generates data-informed insights on peace, justice and strong institutions. The Centre's flagship report produced together with other UN agencies - [Global progress report on Sustainable Development Goal 16 indicators: A wake-up call for action on peace, justice and inclusion](#) is launched each year providing the latest analysis of data available on SDG 16 indicators. As countries seek to meet the goals and targets of Agenda 2030, they are increasingly recognising the

relevance of SDG 16 as an enabler and accelerator of all SDGs.

The Centre also works with research partners to advance much needed understanding of the interlinkages between SDG 16 and other SDGs through the 'Connections that Matter' series that researches connections between promoting peace, justice and strong institutions and ending poverty and inequality (SDGs 1 & 10), the sustainable use of the oceans (SDG 14) and climate action (SDG 13).

A wide range of actors are working to close the data gaps on SDG 16 through partnerships, technological innovations, taking advantage of digital opportunities, and developing new data collection tools and methodologies. The Centre engages in a broad range of initiatives in collaboration with partners to support these efforts.

Accelerating efforts in SDG 16 Monitoring and Reporting

UNDP is a custodian of four global SDG indicators tracking global progress on key areas of governance such as people's satisfaction with public services (SDG 16.6.2); the levels of diversity and inclusion in public

institutions such as the public service and the judiciary (SDG 16.7.1); and the responsiveness of government to people (SDG 16.7.2). UNDP is also co-custodian (with UNODC and OHCHR) of an indicator on access to dispute resolution mechanisms (16.3.3).

Our responsibility as a custodian for these indicators entails methodological development, strengthening Member States' statistical capacity to produce the data for the indicators, collecting the data from Member States and reporting it to the [global SDG database](#) and to the [UN Secretary-General's annual SDG report](#).

The Global Policy Centre for Governance in partnership with other UN agencies supports Member States to increase the availability of high-quality data through the [SDG 16 Survey](#). The survey is being used by an increasing number of countries in all regions to measure progress on many of the survey-based indicators under SDG 16, more specifically, on access to justice, corruption, discrimination, governance,

violence, and human rights. Regional trainings in partnership with other stakeholders, are provided to countries to strengthen national technical capacities and facilitate cross-country learning.

Promoting methodologies, instruments and standards for Governance Statistics

In a landmark decision, the UN Statistical Commission in 2023, recognized governance statistics as a standalone domain of statistical activities. The Global Policy Centre for Governance has been at the forefront in supporting this achievement through promoting global discussion, advocacy and technical efforts on the measurement of the quality of governance with official statistics. UNDP is the lead UN entity supporting the [Praia Group on Governance Statistics](#), which includes National Statistics Offices from all regions, UN agencies, and experts from civil society. The Praia Group is mandated to develop high-quality measurement instruments on key sub-domains of governance statistics including [Non-Discrimination and Equality and Participation in Political and Public Affairs](#).

Source: <https://www.undp.org/policy-centre/governance/peace-justice-and-strong-institutions>

Over dozen international NGOs urge UN to act for implementation of ICC orders on Rafah

'Immediate action is required to uphold international law and ensure the Government of Israel meets its obligations as mandated by the ICJ,' joint statement says

More than a dozen international NGOs on Monday called on the UN to "enforce" the International Court of Justice's orders for Israel to end military action in Rafah, southern Gaza Strip.

The "NGOs urgently call on all permanent and elected members of the UN Security Council to enforce the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) orders regarding Israel's actions in Rafah, Gaza," a joint statement said.

"Immediate action is required to uphold international law and ensure the Government of Israel meets its obligations as mandated by the ICJ," it added.

The statement came following Sunday's attack in Rafah, which killed dozens of civilians.

It said that the ICJ has determined that Israel's military operations in Rafah have "created a catastrophic humanitarian situation, in line with the repeated predictions and warnings of the humanitarian community in the build up to the offensive."

"The Court has ordered an immediate halt to military operations in Rafah, the opening of the Rafah border crossing for unhindered humanitarian relief, and access for UN fact finding bodies to investigate potential violations of the Genocide Convention," the joint statement said.



It further said that since the hostilities began, Gaza has faced unprecedented destruction and suffering as "over 35,800 Palestinians have been killed and 80,200 injured since 7 October 2023, according to the Ministry of Health in Gaza."

"More than 800,000 people have been displaced from Rafah since 6 May 2024, with thousands living among rubble without essential services," it added.

"Food distributions in Rafah have been suspended due to severe supply shortages and insecurity, worsening the humanitarian crisis," the statement also said.

The NGOs said that "despite the ICJ's order for Israel to halt military operations, the bloodshed has

continued, with recent attacks on a displacement camp near UN aid facilities in Rafah reportedly killing dozens of people, including children, and injuring many more."

They said: "Failure to comply with these orders may prompt South Africa to address the issue to the Security Council, which has the authority under the UN Charter to enforce the ICJ's binding decision.

"We call on the UN Security Council to take decisive action to ensure the ICJ's orders are implemented, allowing humanitarian aid to reach those in need and enabling thorough investigations into violations of international law. The Security Council must act now to uphold justice, protect human rights, and maintain international peace and security. Failure to do

so would further compromise the conditions to sustain human life in Gaza and would undermine global trust in the primacy of international law."

The signatory NGOs are ActionAid, Action Corps, Avaaz, Care, DanChurchAid, Danish Refugee Council, Democratic Socialists of America, Humanity & Inclusion - Handicap International (HI), Médecins du Monde France, Spain and Switzerland, Medical Aid for Palestinians, Mennonite Central Committee, Middle East Children's Alliance, Norwegian Church Aid, Norwegian People's Aid, Norwegian Refugee Council, Oxfam, Plan International, Premiere Urgence Internationale and War Child Alliance.

At least 35 people were killed and dozens injured as Israel targeted a camp for displaced people and houses in the southern Gaza city of Rafah on Sunday, said medical sources and officials.

The attack occurred near the logistics base of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) in Tal al-Sultan, said the Gaza Media Office.

Israel has killed more than 36,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip since a cross-border attack by Hamas on Oct. 7 last year.

The military campaign has turned much of the enclave of 2.3 million people into ruins, leaving most civilians homeless and at risk of famine.

The attack came despite a ruling by the International Court of Justice that ordered Israel to halt its offensive in Rafah, where over a million Palestinians had sought refuge from the war before it was invaded on May 6.

Source: <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/over-dozen-international-ngos-urge-un-to-act-for-implementation-of-icc-orders-on-rafah/3232074>

Leading foreign-funded NGOs spending unchecked

*** Registered only as guaranteed companies under Registrar of Companies**

*** NGO Secretariat in the lurch in access to monitor their activities**

*** Proposed bill to ensure proper check on them**



Kelum Bandara

These NGOs had been registered as guaranteed companies under the Registrar of Companies.

"The NGO Secretariat has no supervision on their spending on various projects. That is why we have called for the enactment of the new law," the source said.

A number of leading NGOs funded by various foreign sources for projects such as gender rights, human rights and democratic governance have been registered only as guaranteed companies under the registrar of Companies leaving the National NGO Secretariat in the lurch in having a check on their expenses and activities, a top source said.

The NGOs registered with the Secretariat received as much as Rs.33 billion in funding last year.

According to the source, even a bigger amount should have been spent by other key NGOs funded by sources in some powerful countries.

The source said, the proposed Non-governmental Organizations (Registration and Supervision) Bill 'which is now in the final stage to be presented in Parliament for enactment will provide for the establishment of a proper check on spending and activities of such NGOs.

Source: <https://www.dailymirror.lk/top-story/Leading-foreign-funded-NGOs-spending-unchecked/155-283214>

These leading NGOs which protested the proposed piece of legislation engaged with the Colombo-based diplomatic community earlier. After that, the U.S. State Department also sent some observations to be incorporated in the new bill.



These observations, along with those of the NGOs and other civil society organizations, were referred to the Legal Draftsman's Department for consideration in evolving the new bill, according to the Public Security Ministry.

USAID Grant Opportunities for NGOs in Education, Health, Agriculture, Water Sanitation, and More

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is currently providing grants to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) across the world. These grants aim to bolster NGOs operating across diverse sectors such as education, health, agriculture, water and sanitation, and other areas of development. If your NGO is engaged in any of these sectors, check out this listing and apply for these grants to make a positive impact.

USAID Integrated Health Systems Strengthening Program

Deadline: 06-Jul-2024

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is seeking applications for a Cooperative Agreement from qualified entities to implement the Integrated Health Systems Strengthening (IHSS) program... [\[more\]](#)

USAID Development Innovation Ventures (DIV) Program

Deadline: 31-Oct-24

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is inviting applications for the Development Innovation Ventures (DIV) program... [\[more\]](#)

Climate Gender Equity Fund (CGEF) – Apply Now!

Deadline: 17-May-2024

Submissions are now open for the Climate Gender Equity Fund to increase access to finance for

gender-responsive, women led, and women-benefiting climate solutions, with a preference for those that address the inextricable linkage between climate, gender, and health... [\[more\]](#)

CFPs: ATI Partnerships in Africa Trade and Investment in the Market Systems Activity

Deadline: 31-Jul-24

Proposals are encouraged for the Africa Trade and Investment (ATI) Partnerships in Africa Trade and Investment in the Market Systems Activity... [\[more\]](#)

Call for Applications: GH Social and Behavior Change (SBC) Activity

Deadline: 29-May-24

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is seeking applications for a cooperative agreement from qualified entities to implement the GH Social and Behavior Change (SBC) Activity... [\[more\]](#)

USAID inviting Applications for Global Resilience against Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis Program

Deadline: 31-May-24

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is currently inviting applications for the Global Resilience against Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis program to support USAID TB countries to improve DR-TB detection, treatment, and prevention through the development and implementation of innovative

approaches and practices, and the provision of specialized technical assistance to the local partners and National TB programs... [\[more\]](#)

USAID: Promoting Impact and Learning with Cost-Effectiveness Evidence (US)

Deadline: 04-Jun-2024

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is seeking applications from all eligible organizations to implement the project, Promoting Impact and Learning with Promoting Impact and Learning with Cost-Effectiveness Evidence (PILCEE)... [\[more\]](#)

USAID: Libya Engagement with Voters for Equitable Representation (EVER)

Deadline: 28-May-2024

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is seeking applications from qualified U.S. and non-U.S. organizations for a cooperative agreement to fund a program entitled Engagement with Voters for Equitable Representation (EVER)... [\[more\]](#)

Call for Applications: Strengthening Civic Engagement in Kazakhstan

Deadline: 07-Jun-24

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is seeking applications for a Cooperative Agreement from qualified entities to implement the Strengthening Civic Engagement in

Kazakhstan... [\[more\]](#)

Galing Pook Awards 2024 – Philippines

Deadline: 28-Jun-24

Applications are now open for the Galing Pook Awards that promotes innovation, sustainability, citizen empowerment, and excellence at the local level... [\[more\]](#)

NOFO: Integrated Community Health Activity (Burundi)

Deadline: 20-May-2024

The United States Agency for International Development Mission in Burundi (USAID/Burundi) is seeking applications for a cooperative agreement from qualified entities to implement the USAID Integrated Community Health Activity... [\[more\]](#)

NOFO: Community Mobilization Initiatives to End Tuberculosis (Cambodia)

Deadline: 05/06/24

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is seeking applications for a cooperative agreement from qualified entities to implement the Community Mobilization Initiatives to End Tuberculosis 2 (COMMIT 2) program... [\[more\]](#)

NOFO: Kenya Digital Health Ecosystem Program

Deadline: 20-May-2024

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is seeking applications for a cooperative agreement from qualified entities to implement the Kenya Digital Health Ecosystem Activity... [\[more\]](#)

Countering Trafficking in Persons and Support to Vulnerable

Source: <https://www2.fundsforngos.org/listing/usa-id-grant-opportunities-for-ngos-in-education-health-agriculture-water-sanitation-and-more/>

Populations Activity (Ukraine)

Deadline: 17-May-24

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is seeking applications for a Cooperative Agreement for funding of an activity entitled "Countering Trafficking in Persons and Support to Vulnerable Populations (CTIP/V) Activity"... [\[more\]](#)

USAID Grants for Malaria Elimination & Community Health in Senegal

Deadline: 28-Jun-24

The Senegal USAID-Dakar is offering grants for Malaria Elimination, Community Health and Strengthening Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health Care (MNCH) activities in Senegal... [\[more\]](#)

Call for Applications: Annual Program Statement for Civil Society in Action Armenia

Deadline: 30-Sep-24

Civil Society in Action/Counterpart International, in partnership with Urban Foundation for Sustainable Development through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), is issuing APS for civil society organizations... [\[more\]](#)

USAID Grant Competition "Cybersecurity of Critical Infrastructure of Ukraine" Project

Deadline: 30-Sep-24

The USAID Cybersecurity for Critical Infrastructure in Ukraine Activity is seeking applications to propose creative and effective initiatives and solutions to strengthen the national preparedness, cybersecurity vulnerabilities and critical infrastructure (CI) of Ukraine in the cybersecurity sector... [\[more\]](#)

CFAs: Urban Health Activity to enhance Health System Resilience (Uganda)

Deadline: 20-May-24

The Uganda USAID-Kampala has announced submissions for Urban Health Activity to enhance health system resilience and improve the survival and well-being of the residents of Kampala city, Mukono, and Wakiso districts... [\[more\]](#)

USAID Grant Opportunity for Advancing HIV Epidemic Control in the DR Congo

Deadline: 06-Jun-24

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is seeking applications for a Fixed Amount Award (FAA) cooperative agreement from qualified entities to implement the USAID Kitumaini 2030 activity... [\[more\]](#)



Establishing the Link: Climate Change and Decreasing Life Expectancy

Climate change poses an urgent threat to global public health, amplifying existing humanitarian crises and significantly affecting human well-being. Urgent action is imperative to mitigate the health consequences of climate change, including reducing carbon emissions, strengthening health systems, and promoting health equity. Failure to act swiftly will lead to further loss of life and hinder progress in global health and development.

Climate and Health

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the frequency and severity of climate-related disasters, ranging from heatwaves to extreme weather events, are increasing, resulting in higher mortality rates and the spread of diseases.

A 2024 study published in PLOS Climate highlights the link between rising temperatures and reduced life expectancy. The study reveals that for every degree Celsius increase in temperature, life expectancy declines, on average, by approximately 0.44 years. This underscores the significant health risks associated with global warming, with vulnerable populations, particularly marginalized and low-income communities, and those with limited access to healthcare, bearing the brunt of these impacts. Furthermore, the study challenges the notion that economic development can mitigate the health impacts of climate change, suggesting that climate variables affect health outcomes independently of economic growth.

Extreme Temperatures and Pollution Impact Human Health

A 2023 study highlights the

alarming correlation between extreme temperatures and over half a million stroke deaths annually, a trend that has been globally increasing since 1990. Vulnerability to these temperature-related strokes is found to be higher in countries with a lower Socio-Demographic Index (SDI). The study identifies Western Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, Southeast Asia, North Africa and the Middle East as regions experiencing the most significant impact from high temperature-related strokes, with projected rises in stroke deaths linked to climate change-induced temperature increases.

The severity of this health crisis is further exacerbated by existing environmental challenges, particularly air pollution. A recent report sheds light on the impact of air pollution on life expectancy in South Asia, which is home to four of the five most polluted countries globally. Residents in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan face an average loss of five years of life due to air pollution, with particulate pollution increasing by 9.7% from 2013 to 2021. This rise correlates with an additional six months' reduction in life expectancy for inhabitants of the region.

Addressing these interconnected health challenges requires urgent global action and multi-level interventions to reduce emissions and improve air quality.

The Intersection of Economic Growth and Public Health

A collaborative paper between US universities and the National Bureau of Economic Research published in 2016 found evidence from 200 years of data that challenges the conventional notion of economic

growth as a marker of progress. The paper highlights the adverse effects of economic growth on public health and underscores the need to prioritize public health in economic policymaking. The study indicates increased mortality rates during economic upswings due to heightened pollution levels associated with industrial activity. Children, especially vulnerable, are disproportionately affected by environmental degradation.

Managing the adverse health effects of economic growth is crucial, with countries with robust social safety nets better equipped to mitigate health risks associated with economic fluctuations. Addressing inequality is also paramount, as marginalized populations often bear the brunt of the negative health impacts of economic growth.

Where Do We Go From Here?

Despite the daunting challenges posed by climate change, there is cause for optimism.

The international community is increasingly recognizing the limitations of economic growth as a sole measure of progress and prosperity. Initiatives such as the May 2023 UN Secretary-General's policy brief advocate for comprehensive wealth metrics that consider economic, social, and environmental well-being (find here a comprehensive summary by the IISD). This paradigm shift in policymaking prioritizes human well-being and planetary sustainability over narrow economic indicators.

Organizations like the World Health Organization (WHO) are taking decisive action to address the health impacts of climate change through strategies focusing on emissions reduction, resilient health systems, and health protection. Collaborative efforts, exemplified by partnerships like the Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH), demonstrate a collective commitment to addressing the intersection of climate change and health. Additionally, the global initiative to achieve net-zero emissions offers hope for a sustainable future, with over 140 countries, 9,000 companies, 1,000 cities, 1,000 educational institutions, and 600 financial institutions uniting to reach this goal.

Although current commitments may not fully meet the requirements, the increasing awareness and collaboration among governments, businesses, and civil society demonstrate a step towards a more environmentally responsible and equitable future.

Conclusion

Climate change is a formidable challenge to global public health and necessitates urgent action. Recognizing the interdependence of economic, social, and environmental well-being and prioritizing health equity and sustainability enables the world to comprehend and address climate change more comprehensively and holistically. Through efforts at the international, national, and community levels, we can safeguard human lives and build a healthier, more resilient future for all.

Source: <https://earth.org/establishing-the-link-climate-change-and-decreasing-life-expectancy/>



Op-Ed: Bridging the Gap Between Research and Action to Combat Ocean Plastic Pollution

The crisis of plastic pollution in our oceans has reached alarming levels, with devastating impacts on marine life, ecosystems, and human health. At UOCEAN 2050, we aim to halt the influx of plastic waste into our oceans and restore the health of marine environments worldwide with isolated communities and underserved countries. However, one significant challenge we face is the disconnect between academic research and actionable solutions. Universities, despite being hubs of innovation and knowledge, often find themselves trapped in a cycle of research funding that rarely translates into real-world impact. This issue is at the core of why I am speaking at Times Higher Education's Global Sustainable Development Congress in Thailand

on 12 June, hoping to spark a transformation in how academia addresses ocean plastics.

The Academic Research Loop

Universities are engines of groundbreaking research, but their contributions to solving practical problems like ocean plastics often remain theoretical. The primary reason is the entrenched cycle of research funding. Academics secure grants to conduct studies, far more than conservation organisations can attain to actually do the work needed, they then publish their findings in prestigious journals, and apply for more funding to continue their research. This loop can result in significant knowledge generation but leaves little room for

the application of this knowledge in real-world scenarios.

This cycle not only limits the impact of academic research but also perpetuates a system where innovative solutions fail to reach organizations on the frontlines of combating plastic pollution. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and grassroots movements are critical players in the fight against ocean plastics. However, they often lack access to the latest research or the resources to implement scientific findings effectively.

Bridging the Gap: From Knowledge to Action

At UOCEAN 2050, we believe that the key to addressing ocean plastics lies in bridging the gap between research

and action. Universities must play a more proactive role in ensuring that their research leads to tangible solutions. This can be achieved through several approaches:

- **Partnerships with NGOs and Industry:** Universities should establish stronger collaborations with NGOs and industry partners. These partnerships can facilitate the transfer of knowledge and technologies from academic settings to practical applications in the field. For example, researchers developing biodegradable plastics could work directly with manufacturers and NGOs to ensure their innovations are adopted and scaled.
- **Interdisciplinary Research Centers:** Creating interdisciplinary research centers focused on ocean plastics can foster a collaborative environment where scientists, community members, engineers, and social scientists work together on holistic solutions. These centers can act as incubators for new ideas that are immediately tested and refined in real-world settings.
- **Community Engagement and Education:** Universities should engage with local communities and educate them about the impact of plastic pollution and sustainable practices. By involving communities and the public in research and solution development, universities can ensure that their work is grounded in the realities of those most affected by the crisis. This is what we have finally done in Leicester, UK, where our first community driven Plastic Prevention Barrier, funded by private companies, cleared by councils and monitored by the university as a scientific observatory, is being installed.

The Role of the Global Sustainable Development Congress

Speaking at Times Higher Education's Global Sustainable Development Congress provides a unique platform to advocate for these changes. The congress brings together thought leaders, policymakers, and academics from around the world, creating an ideal environment to discuss and promote actionable solutions to global challenges.

My objective at the congress is to highlight the urgent need for universities to move beyond the research funding loop and embrace a more impactful role in addressing ocean plastics. By sharing UOCEAN 2050's experiences and successes, I aim to inspire other institutions to adopt similar strategies. For instance, our collaborations with NGOs have led to the successful implementation of plastic collection and recycling programs in several coastal communities, demonstrating the power of combining research with action.

The congress is an opportunity to forge new partnerships and networks that can amplify our efforts. Engaging with other delegates can help us identify best practices, innovative technologies, and funding opportunities that align with our mission. It is also a chance to advocate for policy changes that support the translation of academic research into practical solutions.

A Call to Action

The fight against ocean plastics requires a concerted effort from all sectors of society, including academia. Universities have the potential to be at the forefront of this battle, but only if they break free from the constraints of the research funding loop. By prioritizing partnerships, interdisciplinary approaches, and community engagement, academic institutions can transform their research into powerful tools for change.

As I prepare to speak at the Global Sustainable Development Congress, my hope is to ignite a sense of urgency, diversification and possibility among attendees.



I believe we can create a future where our oceans are free from plastic pollution, and where academic research is seamlessly integrated into the NGO global effort to protect and preserve our planet.

UOCEAN 2050 is committed to leading this charge, and we invite universities, NGOs, industry partners, and policymakers to join us in turning knowledge into action. The health of our oceans and the future of our planet depend on it.

Source: <https://earth.org/op-ed-bridging-the-gap-between-research-and-action-to-combat-ocean-plastic-pollution/>

Climate change education bills die in Rhode Island



Glenn Branch

A pair of identical climate change education bills were “held for further study” by their respective committees in the Rhode Island legislature and are thus presumably dead.

[House Bill 7496](#) (PDF) and [Senate Bill 2356](#) (PDF) would have appropriated funds to support “a grant program to promote and enhance climate change and ocean protection programs for youth.” In fiscal year 2024, \$250,000 would have been appropriated; in subsequent years, the legislature would have decided the amount.

Four similar bills [introduced](#) in 2023 attempted to appropriate \$500,000 yearly for such a grant program; these bills all died in committee, as NCSE previously [reported](#).

Source: <https://ncse.ngo/climate-change-education-bills-die-rhode-island-2>

PM: Non-transparency of NGOs funding creates fertile ground for constant instability which is unacceptable

“It is important now to get over the small difficulties, the small turbulence this year, during these weeks, to calm down the country in the long run,” – Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Kobakhidze said in an interview with “Imedis Kvira”.

According to the head of the government, “the non-transparency of non-governmental organizations’ funding creates a fertile ground for constant instability, which is categorically unacceptable.”

“I understand that there is an agitation, including among donors, and nobody is happy about transparency. Therefore, this pressure has its specific subjective-



objective reason, so I would say, they don’t like transparency, although this is a sign for us that specific forces wanted to continue

working this way with this country, which is categorically unacceptable for us,” said the Prime Minister.

Source: <https://itv.ge/lang/en/news/pm-non-transparency-of-ngos-funding-creates-fertile-ground-for-constant-instability-which-is-unacceptable/>

Nonprofits urging lawmakers to bring back the Charitable Giving Tax Credit

LANSING, Mich. (WILX) - Michigan nonprofit leaders are urging lawmakers to bring back the charitable giving tax credit.

The credit was gotten rid of back in 2011 because of budget cuts, with research showing a drop in nonprofit donations.

Now bipartisan legislation is waiting in the

state house and senate to bring back the charitable tax credit.

Nonprofits are still recovering from the pandemic and the high cost of inflation is affecting donations now.

It is medium and low-income families that are hurt the most. Aggregate giving remaining fairly high, but

that is among large donations. The middle and lower-income donations are what build up over time and build habits for the long term. That’s what this tax credit is targeted for,” said Kyle Caldwell the President, and Council of Michigan Foundations.

The bills would provide a 50 percent tax credit for endowed funds at local community foundations. The nonprofit leaders also want lawmakers to put the tax credit in this year’s budget.

Source: <https://www.wilx.com/2024/05/23/nonprofits-urging-lawmakers-bring-back-charitable-giving-tax-credit/>

Tweets of Social Good

UNICEF 59.4K posts Following

Take measures to protect adolescent girls during health emergencies and provide them with resources to ensure their futures are secure.

Do you agree?



"When health emergencies interrupt education and learning services, many girls often come back to school pregnant. Or worse, they would not come back at all because they have been married off."

Miriam, 17, Zambia

unicef for every child

UNICEF and 2 others

unwomen • 4 d

Rafah is burning.

We need an immediate ceasefire.

UN WOMEN

handicap_international_fr • 1w



72 000 personnes ont été sensibilisées aux risques explosifs.

TIKA @tika_english1 - May 24

TIKA organized a program in the Herat province of #Afghanistan for Disability Week

During the program, the difficulties faced by disabled individuals were discussed, and ideas were shared to raise awareness in this field.


@DailySabah
dailysabah.com/turkiye/tika-c...



Food and Agriculture Organization 43.7K posts Follow

Register bit.ly/3wT9qXw

International Day Of POTATO



Harvesting diversity, feeding hope

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FAO

International Fund for Agricultural Develop 41K posts Follow

IFAD is there to help communities adapt.

Djibouti

"Our village is hosting people displaced from Ethiopia by desertification due to climate change"

Said Mahmoud

IFAD | FIDA

ilo.org • 1w



The impact of agrochemicals on workers

Swipe right to learn the facts

Islamic Relief UK @IslamicReliefUK - May 31

#Sudan | Thanks to your generous support, we've reached 400 women and girls in Al-Jazirah state, with dignity kits. Alhamdulillah

Please continue supporting our life-saving work: iruk.co/sudan



Your Story, Our Platform: The NGO World Welcomes Your Contributions

Unleash Your Impact: The NGO World Awaits Your Input

At "The NGO World" magazine, we believe in the power of collective knowledge and shared experiences. We invite our valued readers to become contributors and actively participate in shaping the content of our magazine. Your insights, stories, and perspectives are essential in fostering a sense of community and driving positive change.

If you have a compelling story related to humanitarian work, development initiatives, or social impact that aligns with the diverse sections we cover, we encourage you to share it with us. Whether it's a firsthand account of your involvement in an NGO project, an innovative solution you've come across, or an issue you're passionate about, we want to hear from you.

By actively engaging with "The NGO World," you play a crucial role in expanding our community's knowledge and fostering a deeper understanding of the challenges and solutions within the humanitarian and development sectors.

Together, we can amplify the voices of those working toward positive change and inspire others to make a difference. We look forward to receiving your contributions and continuing our shared mission of creating a better world.

Please send your content submissions via email:

editor@thengoworld.com

ensuring that your submission aligns with one of the sections provided below.

Sections of Magazine:

Here's an expanded list of potential sections for the magazine "The NGO World" to cover a wide range of topics related to humanitarian work, development, and social impact:

Featured NGO Spotlight: Highlighting the work of a specific NGO, sharing their success stories, challenges, and impact.

Global Development News: Covering the latest developments in international development, policy changes, and global issues.

Local Initiatives: Showcasing grassroots projects and initiatives making a difference in local communities

NGO Innovations: Exploring innovative approaches and technologies used by NGOs to address pressing issues.

Humanitarian Crises: In-depth coverage of ongoing humanitarian crises and the response efforts.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Articles focusing on progress and challenges related to achieving the UN's SDGs.

Women Empowerment: Stories of women-led initiatives and efforts to empower women and girls

Youth Engagement: Highlighting the role of youth in driving social change and their involvement in NGOs.

Environment and Conservation: Covering environmental issues, conservation efforts, and climate change initiatives.

Education for All: Articles on educational programs, access to quality education, and innovative teaching methods.

Health and Well-being: Discussing healthcare initiatives, disease prevention, and public health campaigns.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR): Examining the CSR efforts of businesses and their impact on communities.

Refugee and Migration Issues: Coverage of refugee crises, resettlement programs, and the experiences of displaced people.

Tech for Good: Exploring how technology is used for humanitarian purposes, from apps to drones.

NGO Profiles: Brief profiles of various NGOs, their missions, and achievements.

Volunteer Stories: Personal accounts from volunteers who have contributed to NGOs and their experiences.

Funding and Grants: Updates on available funding opportunities for NGOs and how to apply.

Policy and Advocacy: Discussions on policy changes affecting NGOs and their advocacy efforts.

Impact Assessment: Articles on measuring and evaluating the impact of NGO projects and programs.

Partnerships and Collaborations: Exploring successful partnerships between NGOs, governments, and businesses.

Disaster Response and Preparedness: Coverage of disaster relief efforts, preparedness strategies, and recovery stories.

Microfinance and Economic Empowerment: Exploring initiatives that empower communities economically.

Indigenous Rights and Cultural Preservation: Articles on efforts to protect and preserve indigenous cultures and traditions.

Human Rights and Social Justice: Discussions on human rights issues, social justice movements, and advocacy work.

Arts and Culture for Change: Showcasing how art and culture are used as tools for social change and awareness.

Inspirational Interviews: Exclusive interviews with prominent figures in the humanitarian and development sectors, sharing their insights, experiences, and visions for positive change.

Philanthropy and Impactful Giving: Exploring the impact of philanthropic efforts, featuring interviews with philanthropists and discussions on effective giving strategies.

NGO Leadership and Management: Articles on leadership skills, management practices, and organizational development within the NGO sector, providing insights for NGO professionals and leaders

These sections offer a comprehensive view of the multifaceted work being done in the realm of humanitarianism, development, and social impact.

Submit your stories for upcoming edition & for queries, suggestion, feedback

editor@thengoworld.com



LIVE FOR OTHERS

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