

THE NGO WORLD



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Integrating Climate Action into Social Impact: A Call for NGOs

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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.

In recent years, the call for climate action has grown louder, resonating across nations and communities. The urgency to address the environmental challenges we face today is undeniable, and the social sector has a pivotal role to play in this global effort. As we continue to navigate the complex landscape of social issues, it is imperative that NGOs recognize and act upon the intersection of environmental sustainability and social responsibility.

Climate change is not just an environmental issue; it is a social one as well. The impacts of climate change disproportionately affect vulnerable communities, exacerbating existing inequalities and creating new challenges for those already struggling. Rising temperatures, extreme weather events, and shifting ecosystems are not only threats to the environment but also to the livelihoods, health, and well-being of millions of people worldwide. For NGOs dedicated to social impact, integrating climate action into their projects is not just an option—it is a necessity.

At The NGO World, we understand that achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires a holistic approach that addresses the interconnectedness of social and environmental issues. Climate action is intrinsically linked to nearly all the SDGs, from poverty eradication to health, education, and gender equality. By incorporating

climate resilience and environmental sustainability into our work, we not only protect the planet but also enhance the social outcomes of our projects.

The social sector has the unique ability to mobilize communities, raise awareness, and advocate for policies that promote environmental sustainability. NGOs can leverage their deep connections with local communities to foster a culture of environmental stewardship. This can be achieved through educational programs, community-based conservation efforts, and the promotion of sustainable practices. By empowering individuals and communities to take climate action, we can create a ripple effect that extends far beyond our immediate projects.

Moreover, NGOs must lead by example by adopting sustainable practices within their own operations. From reducing carbon footprints to implementing green procurement policies, there are numerous ways organizations can demonstrate their commitment to climate action. By doing so, we not only contribute to the fight against climate change but also inspire others in the social sector to follow suit.

The intersection of climate action and social responsibility presents both challenges and opportunities. It requires NGOs to think creatively and collaboratively, integrating

environmental considerations into every aspect of their work. This may involve rethinking project designs, building new partnerships, or advocating for systemic change at local, national, and global levels.

As we move forward, let us remember that our mission to create a better world for all cannot be achieved without addressing the pressing issue of climate change. By integrating climate action into our projects, we can ensure that our efforts to build a more just and equitable world are sustainable and resilient in the face of environmental challenges.

In conclusion, the time for action is now. NGOs must embrace their role as both social and environmental advocates, working tirelessly to bridge the gap between climate action and social responsibility. The future of our planet and the well-being of generations to come depend on it.

This editorial underscores the critical need for NGOs to integrate climate action into their social projects, reflecting on the importance of addressing environmental sustainability in conjunction with social impact.

Zafar Iqbal

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UNDP and key stakeholders pave Pakistan's path to a low-emission future

2 3 July 2024 - Islamabad: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pakistan, the German development cooperation and UNICEF in close collaboration with the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment Coordination and Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives hosted a workshop on Pakistan's long-term vision for Low Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS). Attended by around 250 representatives from the public, private, academic, and

development sectors, the workshop progressed towards the declaration of a joint LT-LEDS work plan by the Government of Pakistan, UNDP, GIZ and UNICEF, signifying a unified approach to creating a roadmap for achieving a decarbonized economy in Pakistan.

The workshop commenced with remarks from Dr. Samuel Rizk, Resident Representative UNDP Pakistan, who highlighted UNDP's role in assisting government agencies in formulating climate policies and the significance of developing a robust LT-LEDS

framework to achieve a low-carbon future. Ms. Mellisa Corkum, Acting UNICEF Representative in Pakistan, also solidified UNICEF's commitment to working alongside partner organizations to ensure a just transition to a decarbonized economy.

Key representatives from the government appreciated the importance of this initiative. Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam, Coordinator to the PM on Climate Change graced the event with her presence and emphasized the need

for public-private collaboration to achieve Pakistan's net-zero goal.

Ms. Estefania Luraschi of the 2050 Pathways Platform outlined the strategic process for Pakistan's Long-Term Vision, setting a comprehensive framework for sustainable development. Moreover, to equip stakeholders with practical strategic planning skills to explore pathways to achieve net-zero emissions, and scenario modelling session facilitated by the Millennium Institute.

The workshop featured a panel discussion on 'Strategic Pathways to Decarbonization' that discussed decarbonization, low emission development and just transition. Engaging key stakeholders in

Pakistan, it concluded with actionable recommendations for a resilient and inclusive green economy. Moreover, a gender-responsive dialogue on the 'Role of Women in a Just Transition to Low-Emission Development' highlighted the critical role of women's leadership in driving LT-LEDS, showcasing stories of successful green entrepreneurs and their contributions to sustainable livelihoods and climate solutions.

In closing remarks, Mr. Wolfgang Hesse, Cluster Coordinator for the Energy and Climate Change Cluster at GIZ Pakistan, reiterated Germany's commitment to support the Pakistani Government in addressing climate change by fulfilling its obligations under the

Paris Agreement, promoting a just energy transition, and ensuring a sustainable future for the country.

UNDP's Global Climate Promise Initiative and Climate Resilience Programme, the German development cooperation and UNICEF are committed to supporting the Government of Pakistan in formulating the LT-LEDS strategy alongside providing policy and implementation support at national and sub-national levels. This collaborative effort marks a significant step towards a more sustainable and decarbonized future for Pakistan.

Source: <https://www.undp.org/pakistan/press-releases/undp-and-key-stakeholders-pave-pakistans-path-low-emission-future>

Germany's shutdown of Islamic center violates 'fundamental human rights': NGO

An Iran-based international NGO has strongly condemned Germany's closure of the Islamic Center Hamburg (IZH) as a clear breach of international treaties, as well as human rights and freedom of religion, expression, and assembly.

In a statement on Friday, the Ahl Al-Bayt World Assembly urged German authorities to reverse the controversial ban on the center.

The statement was issued one day after the German Interior Ministry said it had banned the IZH, better known for its Blue Mosque or Imam Ali Mosque, and its affiliated organizations across the country for promoting what it called "Islamist-extremist, totalitarian ideology."

The ministry said 53 of the IZH's

premises had been searched in eight German states, acting on a court order.

Ahl Al-Bayt World Assembly said it "strongly condemns the measure that contradicts freedom of religion and fundamental human rights."

It described the IZH as one of the most important religious, scientific and cultural centers in Germany, which has for over 60 years acted "competently" in the fields of introducing religious and Islamic teachings, as well as promoting dialogue and peaceful coexistence while rejecting extremism, discord, and violence.

"Bringing the charge of promoting extremism against the center, which has been a barrier against extremism, and religious Takfirism and conflicts, is baseless from a humanitarian point of view," noted the NGO.

"Shutting down such a center that promotes peaceful approaches will have a negative impact on the social cohesion and coexistence of followers of religions in Germany," it added.

The NGO further expressed grave concern and protested against the violation of religious, social, and legal rights of Muslims in Germany.

It urged the German government to prevent the repetition of such illegal moves, warning that they will spawn violence and Islamophobia in Europe and the entire world.

German authorities should take urgent action towards changing their current approach and protecting the rights of Muslims, the Ahl Al-Bayt World

Assembly emphasized, adding that it expects international authorities, including the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to act decisively in order to protect human rights across the world, including in Germany.

Source: <https://www.prestv.ir/Detail/2024/07/26/730083/AhlBayt-Assembly-Germany-ban-Islamic-Center-Hamburg>



Austrian NGO warns of fraud scams during global IT outages

Watchlist Internet, an Austrian NGO, warns of fraud scams during global IT outages.

As the organization announced in a press release on Tuesday, criminals are using IT outages, such as those caused by CrowdStrike, to make fake calls and emails.

The NGO recommends not installing unknown programs or disclosing personal data.

Last Friday, July 19, a faulty update to the CrowdStrike Falcon Sensor software from Microsoft put thousands of Windows devices worldwide out of action.

The glitch caused widespread disruption at airports, almost paralyzing air traffic in many places. Supermarkets, banks, hospitals, television stations and other facilities were also affected.

Even though the errors have since been rectified, criminals are still

using the IT problems as a pretext, according to Watchlist Internet.

The criminals pretend to be customer service employees from CrowdStrike or Microsoft and call phone numbers at random, according to the NGO.

In their calls, they claim that the device is affected by the "CrowdStrike incident" and that further action is required.

The person on the phone then offers their help to solve the problem together, the NGO continues.

In reality, according to Watchlist Internet, the criminals try to access the system under this pretext and install malware.

Subsequently, access data to various accounts as well as bank and credit card details are stolen.

Watchlist Internet advises affected users to end the call immediately and hang up.

According to the organization, neither Microsoft nor CrowdStrike call personally to solve IT problems.

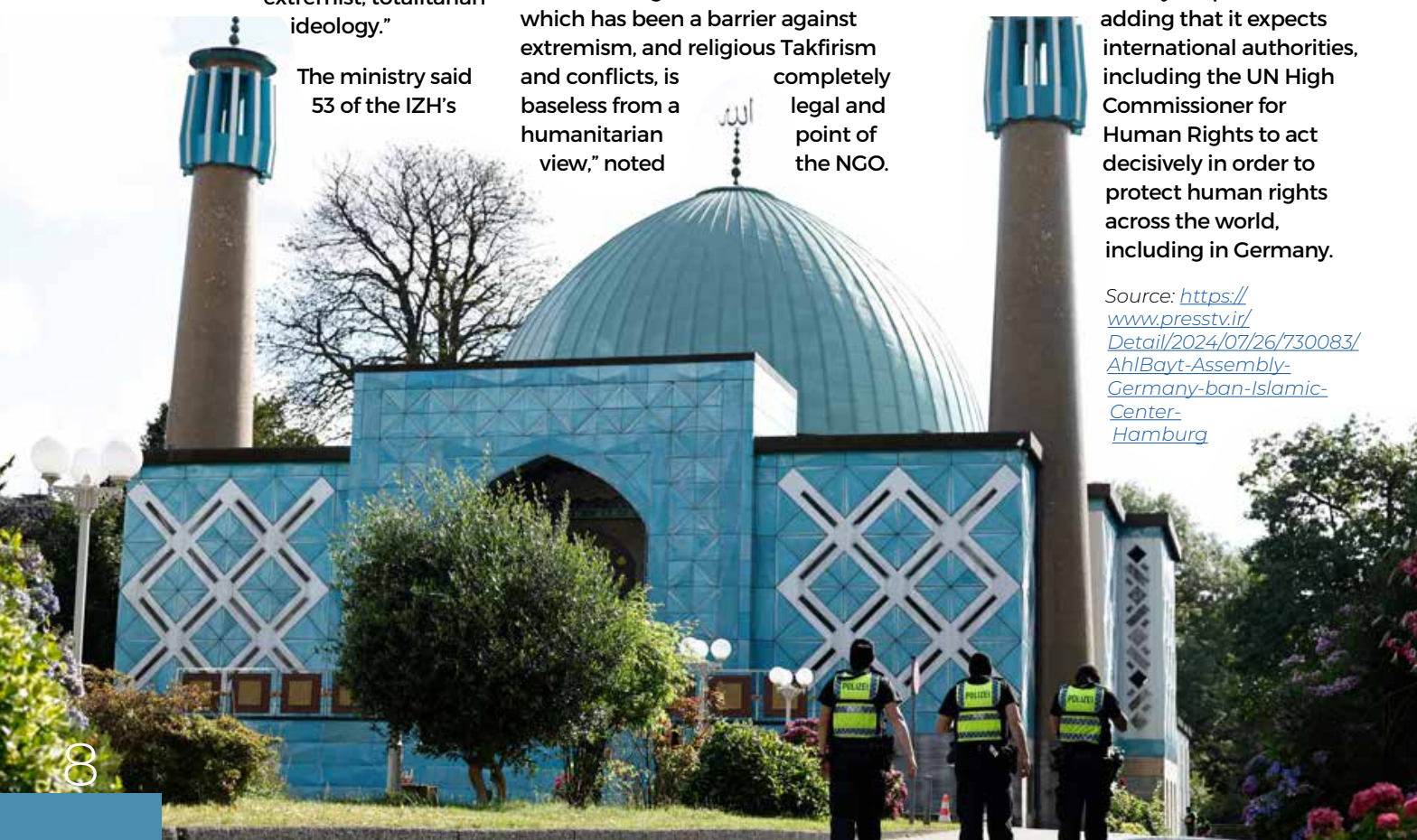
The organization also assumes that cyber criminals will also send phishing emails in the name of Microsoft or CrowdStrike.

In such a case, the organization recommends first checking the sender's address and points out that phishing emails can often be recognized by an implausible email address.

In addition, a link in an email is always suspicious, Watchlist Internet continues. The NGO strongly advises against clicking on these links.

Computer users should also be careful with attachments, Watchlist Internet recommends, and advises scanning them with an antivirus program beforehand.

Source: <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/austrian-ngo-warns-of-fraud-scams-during-global-it-outages/3283312>



We're not promoting same-sex relationship in Niger State - NGO

Nuhu-Aken'Ov said the NGO's doors were opened to persons with inquiries about its activities to avoid being, misunderstood and misjudged by the public.



An NGO, The International Centre for Sexual Reproductive Rights (INCRESE) says it is not promoting gay or lesbianism in Niger.

The NGO was reacting to a recent social post by an individual that it promotes gay and lesbianism activities in the state.

Dorothy Nuhu-Aken'Ova, Executive Director and Founder of INCRESE made the clarification at a press briefing in Minna on Saturday.

The report was authored by an individual who was not conversant with the activities of the NGO linking it to anti-cultural and religious practices.

She described the report as a falsehood, adding that the NGO's activities were in line with Nigeria's constitution and was not doing anything contrary to the law from inception in 2000 to date.

Nuhu-Aken'Ova disclosed that the organisation has been forced to close down its office after threats to

the lives of its staff members.

She said the NGO's activities were on rendering assistance to victims of violence such as Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Violence Against Persons (VAMP) and helping in the retention of girls in school.

She added that the organisation also gives assistance to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and mentors young people with low esteem to make informed decisions.

Nuhu Aken'Ova disclosed that the organisation had received international recognition from "Girls Not Brides" and was listed among the top three best projects in the world working to keep girls in school.

"INCRESE has been listed as number three in the world that is working to keep children in school, it has also been working to reduce the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and protection of human rights," she said.

She added that the organisation also prioritises helping marginalised and disadvantaged groups of people through the promotion

of social justice, equity, and inclusiveness.

Nuhu Aken'Ova disclosed that about 3000 people have benefited from the services of INCRESE across the country, among which 1000 were from Niger.

She said that the organisation was in partnership with the Ministries of Health, Education, Women's Affairs, Police, Human Rights Commission, Child Rights Commission and Parent-Teacher Associations.

She reiterated the NGO's commitment to serve humanity respecting the ethics of the profession and being guided by the constitution, and regional and international legal instruments, to which Nigeria was.

Nuhu-Aken'Ov said the NGO's doors were opened to persons with inquiries about its activities to avoid being, misunderstood and misjudged by the public.

Source: <https://www.pulse.ng/news/local/were-not-promoting-same-sex-relationship-in-niger-state-ngo/s1j00j8>

AZERBAIJAN NATIONAL NGO FORUM LAUNCHES COP29 NGO COALITION WITH 108 MEMBERS FROM 30 COUNTRIES

The Azerbaijan National NGO Forum has launched the "COP29 NGO Coalition," an initiative aimed at fostering global cooperation among NGOs for the upcoming COP29 conference.

The coalition, already comprising 108 foreign NGOs from 30 countries including Nigeria, marks a significant step in the collaboration between local and international NGOs on such a large scale in Azerbaijan.

In preparation for COP29, the "COP29 NGO Coalition" held a hybrid meeting via Zoom on Thursday July 18, 2024 to discuss ideas and explore cooperation opportunities in detail.

Ramil Iskandarli, Chairman of the Board of the Azerbaijan National NGO Forum, highlighted the enthusiasm from foreign NGOs and the substantial participation from the forum's members in establishing this cooperation.

"Everyone is trying to contribute to this process as much as possible," he said.

Iskandarli explained that there are three groups of organizations with observer status at the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): the United Nations System and its Specialized Agencies, Intergovernmental Organizations, and NGOs.

"Currently, 3631 NGOs have observer status with the UNFCCC, with about

90% united in nine Constituencies, including environmental groups, business and industry, women and gender, research and academic institutions, farming and agriculture, labor unions, youth and children groups, local governments and municipal authorities, and indigenous populations," he said.

The Azerbaijan National NGO Forum aims to establish close cooperation with these nine Constituencies and their Informal Groups.

"Thirty-six NGOs in the COP29 NGO Coalition are members of the Constituencies, and NGOs from five out of the nine Constituencies are included in the Coalition," Iskandarli noted.

He emphasized that this collaboration ensures inclusivity, with 68 foreign NGOs from developing countries participating in the Coalition.

Iskandarli also discussed the grant competition for NGOs announced by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan and the Agency for State Support to Non-Governmental Organizations.

The competition, titled "International Initiatives related to COP29," prioritizes partnerships with foreign organizations from developing countries, particularly Least Developed States and Small Island Developing States.

He praised Azerbaijan's inclusive approach, stating, "Azerbaijan not



only speaks words but also offers financial assistance to the states in this category within its capacity."

Iskandarli also mentioned Azerbaijan's strong defense of the interests of developing countries during its Chairmanship of the Non-Aligned Movement, which laid the groundwork for these efforts.

The Azerbaijan National NGO Forum plans to prepare an appeal to the COP29 Presidency to organize a meeting of Constituency representatives with the Forum during the "Pre-COP29" event in October in Baku.

"As representatives of the Host Country's civil society, we want to hear their voices as well. We hope that our appeal will not go unanswered and will produce results," Iskandarli concluded.

Source: https://dareakogun.com/azerbaijan-national-ngo-forum-launches-cop29-ngo-coalition-with-108-members-from-30-countries/#google_vignette

EU: Scrap problematic draft of 'foreign influence' directive

ARTICLE 19 is deeply concerned about the European Commission's proposed [Directive on interest representation services on behalf of third countries \(the Directive\)](#) and its potential impact on a range of human rights in the EU and beyond. As it stands, the Directive could have a serious impact on the rights to freedom of association and freedom of expression and shrink civic space in the EU. Moreover, it could cause geopolitical damage within the EU and mar the legitimacy of the EU's external actions promoting democracy and human rights.

The Directive is an attempt by the European Commission (the Commission) to address efforts by state actors outside the EU to undermine democracy in Europe.

The current draft Directive requires non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in EU countries to register if they conduct 'interest representation' for and receive funding from third countries, disclose information on their funding and activities to the authorities, and keep records of said activities under penalty of sanctions. While the legislator holds that the proposal does not follow the [Russian 'foreign agents' model](#), the adoption of a conceptually similar law – even if less restrictive – would undermine the EU's ability to criticise countries like [Hungary](#) or [Georgia](#) when they try to adopt similar legislation.

While ARTICLE 19 shares the Commission's concerns about the possible impact of 'foreign interference' on democracy and the information space in the EU and beyond, we firmly believe that the proposed Directive is the wrong instrument to address them. In particular, we are concerned that the proposed Directive:

- Creates unnecessary administrative burdens for NGOs operating in the EU, leading to difficulty attracting and receiving funding and stigmatising civil society. The Directive is likely to create a chilling effect on the ability of NGOs to engage with non-EU state donors, limiting their funding opportunities and potentially stifling criticism by NGOs of EU policy.
- Fails to meet international human rights standards on

freedoms of association and expression. The Directive vaguely defines the concept of 'interest representation' as an overbroad list of NGO activities without linking them to the specific threshold of 'foreign influence'. Furthermore, the proposed text does not pursue any legitimate aim and imposes disproportionate and unnecessary sanctions for NGOs.

- Will potentially negatively affect media freedoms in the EU. While the Directive, in principle, excludes the media from its scope, it contains ambiguous language as to its application to media service providers. Moreover, in practice, many NGOs perform journalistic functions by informing the public on issues of public interest and will be directly affected by the new rules. The questions of

ownership transparency and independence of the media are already regulated by the European Media Freedom Act. In contrast, the Directive risks stigmatising those organisations that receive foreign funding for their activities in public interest, including activities of journalistic nature.

- Fails to tackle the root of the problem as it focuses on already transparent civil society organisations rather than covert influence in policymaking. The focus should be put on foreign state influence operations, rather than lawful activities of NGOs, which may or may not receive funding from outside the EU. Legitimate concerns of unlawful activity should be addressed by applying existing legislation and law enforcement frameworks, particularly laws on money laundering, espionage, tax

evasion, political lobbying and electoral integrity.

Finally, ARTICLE 19 is worried that if adopted in its current form, the Directive will encourage undemocratic states to impose restrictions on NGOs that receive foreign funding. We are aware that a number of legislative proposals of similar nature have been recently proposed or already adopted in Europe and Central Asia, following the model of [the Russian 'foreign agents' law](#). While the Directive falls short of the level of sanctions and restrictions imposed by Russian legislation, it follows the same model of discriminatory and stigmatising regulatory requirements for NGOs that receive foreign funding. Adoption of a similar legal regime at the EU level would further embolden these States to proceed with these proposals and enforce problematic rules against NGOs.

Source: <https://www.article19.org/resources/eu-scrap-problematic-draft-of-foreign-influence-directive/>

Stories of the Volunteers: Calming the Storm-A Chinese NGO Goes International

When one side is in difficulty, support from all directions' is a simple and sincere impulse of the Chinese people. In today's world, China's international humanitarian aid organizations are playing an increasingly important role. Wang Ke, co-founder of Beijing Pinglan Public Welfare Foundation, and Instructor Zhou will share with us the international responsibilities of the foundation as a Chinese non-governmental volunteer force.

Source: <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2024-07-23/Calming-the-Storm-A-Chinese-NGO-Goes-International-1vsSp4n4MWA/p.html>



From IDS to founding an award-winning social enterprise

Mina Chiang studied for an [MA in Development Studies](#) in 2017, with a [scholarship](#) from Rotary International in her home country, Taiwan. She has since founded the [Humanity Research Consultancy \(HRC\)](#), an award-winning social enterprise that works to end modern slavery and human trafficking.

In 2024 Mina became the youngest ever recipient of the Taiwan National Tsing Hua University (NTHU) 25th 2024 Alumni Award, and one of only nine women of the 88 awardees.

Mina was also shortlisted for the 2023 Great British Entrepreneur Awards & Community under the category of Global Entrepreneur of the Year.

Studying at IDS

Scholarships are not innovative or fancy but are one of the oldest and effective ways to make changes to people's lives and to achieve social mobility. My mum didn't go to university and my dad accessed higher education through the military system. My family's financial situation meant I could never have studied abroad without a scholarship, and I still had student debts from my bachelor's degree. But my desire for knowledge and a bigger world meant I was determined to find funding.

I wanted to study at IDS as it doesn't just teach, but also is a thinktank and works directly on projects that shape our world. I loved that my classmates were from around 50 different countries. My research ability clearly improved through the MA - without the experience at IDS, I would not have been



able to establish HRC. The most important thing I gained from the course was the understanding of the international development industry. Studying the MA helps you to see beyond charitable organisations' sporadic acts - to how the international development sector is trying to solve major global problems like poverty, and its limitations and merits.

Pioneering work to combat modern slavery

I wanted to get involved in combatting modern slavery because I believe it is unacceptable for human beings to exploit others in this way in our modern world. I was frustrated by seeing how many projects fly international researchers and consultants in and out, but local people have minimum or no role. Because so many young professionals from the global South struggle to access work opportunities, I wanted to try and address that. I also believe that working with locals who speak the languages and understand the culturally context, are crucial in effectively combating modern slavery.

HRC specialises in working predominantly with researchers

from the global South. Major organisations such as Oxfam, Plan International, United States Institute for Peace (USIP) and Winrock International have commissioned HRC research.

We are a small organisation, but we achieve a lot! In the twelve months I am particularly proud of our pioneering work combatting the scamming compounds located in Southeast Asia, becoming one of the leading actors in this area. We exposed the crime, analysed the issue, provided intelligence to law enforcement bodies, conducted victim rescue and support, and raised global awareness. As a result, we are seeing major changes - people's lives being saved and criminals arrested. I am extremely proud of my team for our hard work and dedication.

My hope for the future of HRC is that we go from strength to strength - continuing to be extremely effective and having high impact. I'd like to see us become a recognisable brand when it comes to countering human trafficking and engaging professionals from the global South.

Source: <https://www.ids.ac.uk/opinions/from-ids-to-founding-an-award-winning-social-enterprise/>



NGO Advocates Amputees Access Prosthetic Limbs

Awalk to raise funds and awareness for people who have been disabled by amputation has taken place in Abuja.

The walk also focused on the challenges amputees face in their daily lives as well as the financial burden in getting prosthetic limbs.

This 3km charity walk through the streets of the nation's capital city is happening to not only raise funds but to also create significant awareness on the need for adequate inclusion for persons with disabilities.

Irene is the organiser of this annual hit the street event, she says it is simply to help support amputees with prosthetic limbs like herself.

She tells us the urge to do this comes from her own life's story as a bilateral amputee.

Chinyere is also taking part in this walk, she speaks on how her life changed after an accident.

Amputees and supporters are on this walk to raise funds and to also highlight their challenges and the need for a more disability friendly environment.

The average age of the Nigerian amputee is 33 years with an estimated prevalence of extremity amputation in Nigeria at 1.6 per 100,000.

As they take hit the street for this walk, they say they will continue to seek for government's support in ensuring that every public facility is inclusive and the lives of those they can support with a prosthetic limb will be met.

Source: <https://www.tvcnews.tv/2024/07/ngo-advocates-amputees-access-prosthetic-limbs/>



Cisco NGO Partner Simprints To Advance Ethical, Inclusive AI for Face Recognition Biometrics

In 2021, Cisco published a blog post on Simprints' touchless, facial biometric ID technology. See how Simprints is now working to open-source this solution and assemble inclusive and ethical AI training datasets with support from Cisco's Global Impact Grant program.

The case for biometric identification

Safe, reliable, and portable forms of ID are necessary to access critical services like healthcare and humanitarian aid. But an estimated 850 million people globally lack formal ID, making it challenging for governments, international development organizations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to ensure essential services and resources reach their target populations. To address this problem, nonprofit Simprints has developed a new kind of technology for good: biometric ID, with privacy at its core. Simprints' biometric solutions give people a safe digital

identity and ensure every vaccine, every dollar, and every public good not only reaches those who need them most, but does so accurately, efficiently, and equitably. [Research](#) shows a digital biometric registry is 12.5 percent more accurate and can be searched three times faster than paper records. And, biometrically tracking reliable health data over time can play a vital role in assessing the success of campaigns like immunization series.

Cisco began supporting Simprints in 2018 as part of our [One Billion Lives](#) goal—an ambitious mission to change one billion individual lives through social impact investments. That year Simprints started testing mobile phone camera-based facial biometrics as an alternative to their existing fingerprint biometric solution, making identification all the more accessible. Operating facial biometrics on Android phones (used commonly in low-resource and last-mile humanitarian contexts) removes the need to produce and distribute separate

hardware, thereby cutting costs and increasing scalability. Now, our latest Global Impact Grant is helping Simprints advance their ethical, inclusive face recognition AI and make it open source.

Ethical inclusive AI for face recognition

Face recognition is already widely incorporated into everyday technology, seen in cell phones, security cameras, and even used to tag friends in social media posts. But a 2019 National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) that many commercial face recognition solutions exhibit bias; mis-identifying African and Asian faces up to 100 times more than Caucasian faces. This bias, rather than an issue with the technology itself, is a byproduct of training AI matching algorithms with datasets that are predominantly male and Caucasian.

Simprints aims to reduce bias in their face recognition models through rigorous training and testing on diverse data sets. They are also exploring the application of training datasets with synthetically-generated face images, an innovative approach that enables countless variations on characteristics like skin color, hair style, facial features, and facial expressions. In using a synthetic dataset, there is no need to capture and retain personally identifiable information (PII) from real individuals, helping to further maintain data privacy. To foster trust and confidence among their partners and users, Simprints strictly adheres to policies such as the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and continuously explores and researches state-of-the-art methods in biometric template protection to ensure subjects are shielded from

potential harm or misuse of their biometric data.

Impact across geographies

Simprints' solutions have been used by humanitarian organizations working in Nigeria, Somalia and Kenya to prevent fraud and ensure that cash and aid distribution programs reach the intended recipients. Simprints has also partnered with various international Ministries of Health including Ethiopia, Uganda, Ghana, Bangladesh, and Rajasthan, and continues to explore expansion into new geographies. In Ethiopia, they are engaged in the groundbreaking roll-out of the electronic community health information system (eCHIS), through which patients are registered and identified by Simprints' fingerprint scanners. In rural Uganda, Simprints is expanding the capacity of frontline community health workers to effectively deliver vaccines that fight infectious diseases such as COVID-19, HPV, hepatitis B, and tetanus. In Ghana, their groundbreaking technology is already improving access to critical maternal and vaccine services in 30 health centers, with a plan to scale reach across 500,000 children by 2025.

Why open source?

Some technology is so valuable, it's worth gifting to humanity for the greater good. This is why with support from more than 30 organizations, including governments, researchers, and privacy experts, Simprints has embarked on a journey to make their biometric solutions fully open source. With a mission to transform the way the world fights poverty, Simprints is making their code available to the world and inviting

developers, partners, advocates, and all those passionate about addressing global challenges to join their collaborative community. By going open source, and integrating with the leading data collection platforms that serve nearly 50% of the world's population, Simprints envisions to increase their impact tenfold and empower teams to reach 20 million people with healthcare and humanitarian aid.

“We value the ongoing support of Cisco enormously as we continue our journey to becoming a digital public good.

The latest Global Impact Grant is game-changing for us. This new funding enables our team to accelerate the integration of ethical AI into our platforms and supports our move to open source. Together with Cisco, we're amplifying the impact of our biometric tools, helping ensure thousands more people across the world can access life-saving health and aid.” —Toby Norman, Simprints CEO

Source: https://www.csrwire.com/press_releases/806706-cisco-ngo-partner-simprints-advance-ethical-inclusive-ai-face-recognition

ITALY: NGO Condemns Abuse of Migration-related Detention and ‘Punitive Conditions’ in Detention Centres — Another Search and Rescue Ship Detained for Changing Port of Debarkation — Judge Frees Search and Rescue Ship and Dismisses Legitimacy of Libyan Coast Guard — Decrease in Arrivals and Renewed Concerns About Asylum Accommodation — 33 Migrants Freed from Slave-Like Working Conditions and Shocking Attack Against Migrant Women on Italy-France Border

A new [statement](#) by Amnesty International has highlighted the lack of dignity and liberty that exists for people seeking asylum in Italy. The organisation has also criticised conditions in detention centres in the country for falling below international standards. “These conditions violate people’s right to dignity and must be improved by the Italian authorities. Plans to build new centers in Italy, combined with the introduction of mandatory border procedures under the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum and the upcoming implementation of the Italy-Albania agreement, make action ever more urgent to prevent further violations of international law that will affect an increasing number of people,” it noted. “Detention should be a measure of last resort. However, at the centers we visited, we met individuals who should never have been detained: those with serious mental issues or seeking asylum due to their sexual orientation or political activism, but who come from countries Italy has arbitrarily defined as safe,” said Deputy Regional Director for Europe, Dinushika Dissanayake.

The NGO search and rescue (SAR) ship the MV Louise Michel has been impounded by Italian authorities. The ship, which was funded by the UK artist Banksy, was impounded on 3 July after rescuing 37 people from the Mediterranean. In a [statement](#) on Instagram, Banksy noted that 17 of the people who were rescued were unaccompanied children and he described the Italian authorities’ action as “vile and unacceptable”. The 20-day detention resulted from a decision to change the port of disembarkation. According to the ship’s crew, they were originally ordered to take their passengers to the port of Pozzallo on the island of Sicily. However, as poor weather had been forecast, they decided to seek

- Amnesty International has issued a statement in which it denounces the abuse of migration-related detention and conditions in detention centres that it claims deprive people of liberty and dignity.
- The NGO search and rescue ship the MV Louise Michel has been impounded by the authorities for allegedly ignoring an order about the port of disembarkation.
- A judge has ruled that the detention of the Humanity 1 ship was unlawful and that neither the Libyan Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre nor the Libyan Coast Guard can be considered as legitimate search and rescue actors in the Mediterranean.
- The Ministry of the Interior has reported a 60% decrease in the number of irregular arrivals in the first six months of 2024 compared to the same period in 2023, while NGOs have renewed their concerns about the ‘Shelter and Integration System’ (SAI).
- Police have freed 33 Indian farmworkers from slave-like working conditions and are searching for a truck driver who was recorded attacking a group of women who had smuggled aboard his truck.

shelter overnight near to the island of Lampedusa and, during the night, they were given permission to disembark their passengers there. However, they were later informed that the ship would be detained for failure to comply with the original order to sail to Sicily. “Everybody has the right to a safe place. And nobody’s safety should be compromised for political games or strategies,” the NGO [said](#) in a statement posted on X.

Elsewhere, the detention of the Humanity 1 SAR ship was permanently [cancelled](#) by a judge in Crotona. In March, Humanity 1, which is operated by the German NGO SOS Humanity, was intercepted by the Libyan Coast Guard and detained in Italy for ignoring its instructions. The judge also found that the Libyan Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre and the Libyan Coast Guard could not be considered as legitimate SAR actors in the Mediterranean. “For years we have seen a continuous

criminalisation of the activities of non-governmental search and rescue organisations and a profound manipulation of the facts. Instead, the judgement based on the events of March confirms that the Libyan authorities are not carrying out search and rescue operations,” [said](#) SOS Humanity’s lawyer, Cristina Laura Cecchini.

According to the Ministry of the Interior, irregular arrivals in Italy fell by 60% in the first six months of 2024 compared to the same period in 2023 (approximately 25,000 down from more than 62,000). Commenting on the reduction, Minister of the Interior Matteo Piantedosi [said](#) that it was “certainly due to the government’s action to combat shameful migrant trafficking while enforcing stricter migration rules, complemented by encouraging data on the forced repatriation of those who have no right to stay in Italy”.

In its latest [report](#) on the ‘Shelter

ITALY

and Integration System' (SAI), the National Association of Italian Municipalities (ANCI) has revealed that it had more than 54,000 beneficiaries in 2023. According to the latest update to the Asylum Information Database (AIDA) [country report](#) on Italy, access to the SAI is only granted to asylum seekers who have been identified as vulnerable, and to those who have entered Italy through resettlement or humanitarian admission programmes. The report's authors also noted that SAI projects are implemented at the discretion of local municipalities and unevenly distributed throughout the country. "As a direct consequence, the number of places in the ordinary reception system is largely insufficient when compared to the existing needs, therefore access to the reception system for all those entitled to it, is a utopia," they wrote.

On 13 July, police [freed](#) 33 Indian farmworkers from slave-like conditions in Verona province and arrested several gangmasters. According to the police, the alleged abusers brought their fellow countrymen to Italy on seasonal work permits for which they were charged € 17,000. The farmworkers were reportedly working seven days a week for 10-12 hours a day for just € 4 per hour. On 11 July, two other [arrests](#) were made in relation to the exploitation of and violence against foreign farm workers in the vineyards of the Langhe area (Piedmont). Video evidence shows one of the accused threatening workers with an iron rod. These latest arrests follow the [death](#) of another Indian farmworker, Satnam Sign, who died on 19 June after he was mutilated by machinery in a field near Latina (Lazio) and left on the street by his employers.

Police are [looking](#) for a man who was recorded beating a group of women who he had found hidden aboard his truck. The women were reportedly attempting to cross the Italian-French border close to Ventimiglia and had been loaded onto the truck by smugglers while the driver was taking a break. In the video, the driver is seen to be removing women from the truck and hitting them "with the hardware end of a cargo strap".

Source: <https://ecre.org/italy-ngo-condemns-abuse-of-migration-related-detention-and-punitive-conditions-in-detention-centres-%E2%80%95-another-search-and-rescue-ship-detained-for-changing-port-of-debarkati/>



S. Sudan: German NGO donates Euros 200,000 for Sudanese refugees

July 18, 2024 (JUBA) – A German non-governmental organization has donated 200,000 Euros meant to support refugees and host communities in South Sudan.

Malteser International said it responded to the dire humanitarian situation worsened my more than a year of conflict between rival forces in Sudan.

"The situation is particularly dire in the northern border regions of South Sudan. Over the past few weeks, our emergency aid team assessed conditions in the village of Renk and a refugee camp near the capital, Juba. In Renk, people are living in overcrowded shelters that barely protect them from the rain. They literally lack everything. Many children are suffering from

severe conjunctivitis," said Mathis Biermann, Malteser International's Country Officer for South Sudan.

The conflict in Sudan has raged on for more than a year, with a growing number of people fleeing hunger and violence and seeking refuge in South Sudan.

South Sudan, according to the United Nations, currently hosts more than 740,000 individuals who have crossed the border into South Sudan since the war began.

In addition, however, the world's youngest nation has 2 million internally displaced persons due to conflict, insecurity and the impact of climate change.

The German NGO said it plans, in the coming weeks, to build about 100 latrines, set up hand-washing

stations and distribute hygiene articles and drinking water.

Cash assistance, it further said, would be provided to around 600 particularly vulnerable families. In total, it added, around 5,000 households will be aided.

"We are eager to build new accommodations for the refugees, but we urgently need donations to make this possible," stressed Biermann.

Operational in South Sudan since 1996, Malteser International mainly runs projects focused on nutrition, water, sanitation & hygiene (WASH) and health.

Source: https://sudantribune.com/article288434/#google_vignette



Kenya investigates 16 civil society groups over alleged protest funding

The US Ford Foundation is at the centre of a government probe into whether funding was used to facilitate anti-government protests.

The Kenyan authorities are investigating 16 local civil society groups over allegations that they received funding from the Ford Foundation – a private American foundation with the stated goal of advancing human welfare – to facilitate anti-government protests that have been causing chaos in Kenya since early June.

According to Mwambu Mabonga, the head of the Public Benefit Regulatory Authority, most of the civil society organisations accused of receiving foreign funding are

not properly registered and are therefore operating illegally. The regulator announced on Monday that it has asked the Directorate of Criminal Investigations to conduct a probe into the matter.

“Out of the 16 listed organisations, only three are registered,” he said in a statement, further accusing the groups of not filing their annual returns within three months after the end of their financial year, in accordance with the NGO Act.

In a letter dated 18 July to the Ford Foundation, the Kenyan

government, through Foreign Affairs PS Korir Sing’oei, raised concerns that the foundation was funding the NGOs, stating that the funds had been used to pay and facilitate protesters.

“Furnish us with reports from your grantees detailing the activities carried out, the cost, and their beneficiaries,” he wrote in the letter.

Furthermore, Sing’oei wrote that civil society groups, including Mzalendo Trust, the Kenya Human Rights Commission, and Africa Uncensored Limited, received up to \$5.78m from the Ford Foundation between April 2023 and May 2024 to influence the internal political process in Kenya through the local NGOs.

Source: <https://www.theafricareport.com/356392/kenya-broad-based-cabinet-whos-in-and-whos-out/>

Welfare gets a bad name, but not all social sector spend is unproductive



Prasanna Tantri

Most Budget analyses these days assume that capital expenditure by the govt represents high-quality spending that is going to have a multiplier impact on the GDP, whereas revenue expenditure is low-quality without any long-term benefits. In this context, it is important to ask whether social spending is indeed wasteful. This column will argue that carefully targeted social sector spending that addresses either a govt or market failure has the potential to boost our national income significantly.

Let’s start with access to credit. The World Bank Findex database says that the majority of Indians do not have access to formal credit. The reason this is a market and a govt failure is that it is not that most Indians are not credit-worthy. Bankers are unable to lend to them due to frictions such as lack of information, poor enforcement of contracts and regulatory hurdles. The long-run solution is to address these problems by strengthening credit infrastructure and improving contract enforcement. However, there is a case for govt intervention in the short run.

The PM SVANidhi scheme, which incentivises banks to lend to street

vendors by offering govt guarantees, is one such scheme. In a recent study, we found that more than 90% of the beneficiaries had no prior bank loan. We also found that the rate of return earned by street vendors on the incremental investment exceeded 100% a year.

To understand how such a high rate of return is possible, consider the following three real-world examples.

1. A fish vendor used to have leftover fish every day, and a significant part of it was wasted. With the SVANidhi loan, she procured the working capital (gas stove, utensils, raw materials) required to make fish pakodas. She now uses the leftover fish to make fish pakodas in the evening.
2. A saree vendor who sells sarees on a manual cart (pushing it close to 15 kms a day!) has now bought a second one using the SVANidhi loan. He and his wife are now running two manual carts, reaching different villages simultaneously. Their business has nearly doubled.
3. A seller of plastic toys is now able to exploit seasonal opportunities that arise. These opportunities include selling school bags, diyas ahead of festivals, raincoats, summer clothes, etc. He had the required space but no access to capital. SVANidhi solved this.

All three cases represent significant additions to GDP as more output is

produced with existing resources, some of which were not used before. The multiplier effect is enormous if such efficiency sustains for a few years. For instance, in the toy vendor’s case above, we found that his value added has increased three times in the last two years. Very few infrastructure investments can create such multipliers in the short run. Given the above finding, the Budget announcement relating to the development of 100 weekly ‘haats’ or street food hubs in select cities, and help with funding such activities is a welcome move.

Another flagship social sector programme, PM Jan Arogya Yojna, showed similar results. In a recent study, this writer found that access to health insurance through Ayushman Bharat reduced loan default rates by more than 20%. It also significantly reduced out-of-pocket expenses on health and the need to maintain dormant precautionary savings. My back-of-the-envelope estimates suggest that a rupee spent on Ayushman Bharat immediately adds another Rs 1.5-3 to the GDP by preventing business failures and lost working days. It is unfortunate that the govt did not substantially increase allocation to this program.

This does not mean that any social sector spending will positively impact the GDP. Some recent studies have shown that unconditional cash transfers could lead people to prefer leisure to work, thereby reducing the overall GDP.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/toi-edit-page/welfare-gets-a-bad-name-but-not-all-social-sector-spend-is-unproductive/>

HNJobs (Recap): International Agency / NGO / Multinational Job Opportunities - HNJ Exclusive

International Agency / NGO / Multinational Job Opportunities - We (HNJ) are aware of the increasing need and high demand for jobs from International Agency, NGO (Local and international) and Multinational companies; thus, we have curated jobs done this week from these sectors:

1.) Solidarites International (SI) Job Recruitment (3 Positions)

[Click Here To View Details](#)

2.) U.S. Mission Job Recruitment (5 Positions)

[Click Here To View Details](#)

3.) Save the Children Nigeria Job Recruitment (9 Positions)

[Click Here To View Details](#)

4.) African Development Bank Group (AfDB) Job Recruitment (19 Positions)

[Click Here To View Details](#)

5.) WaterAid Nigeria Job Recruitment (4 Positions)

[Click Here To View Details](#)

6.) TechnoServe Job Recruitment (5 Positions)

[Click Here To View Details](#)

7.) British Council Job Recruitment (6 Positions)

[Click Here To View Details](#)

8.) Mercy Corps Nigeria Job Recruitment (7 Positions)

[Click Here To View Details](#)

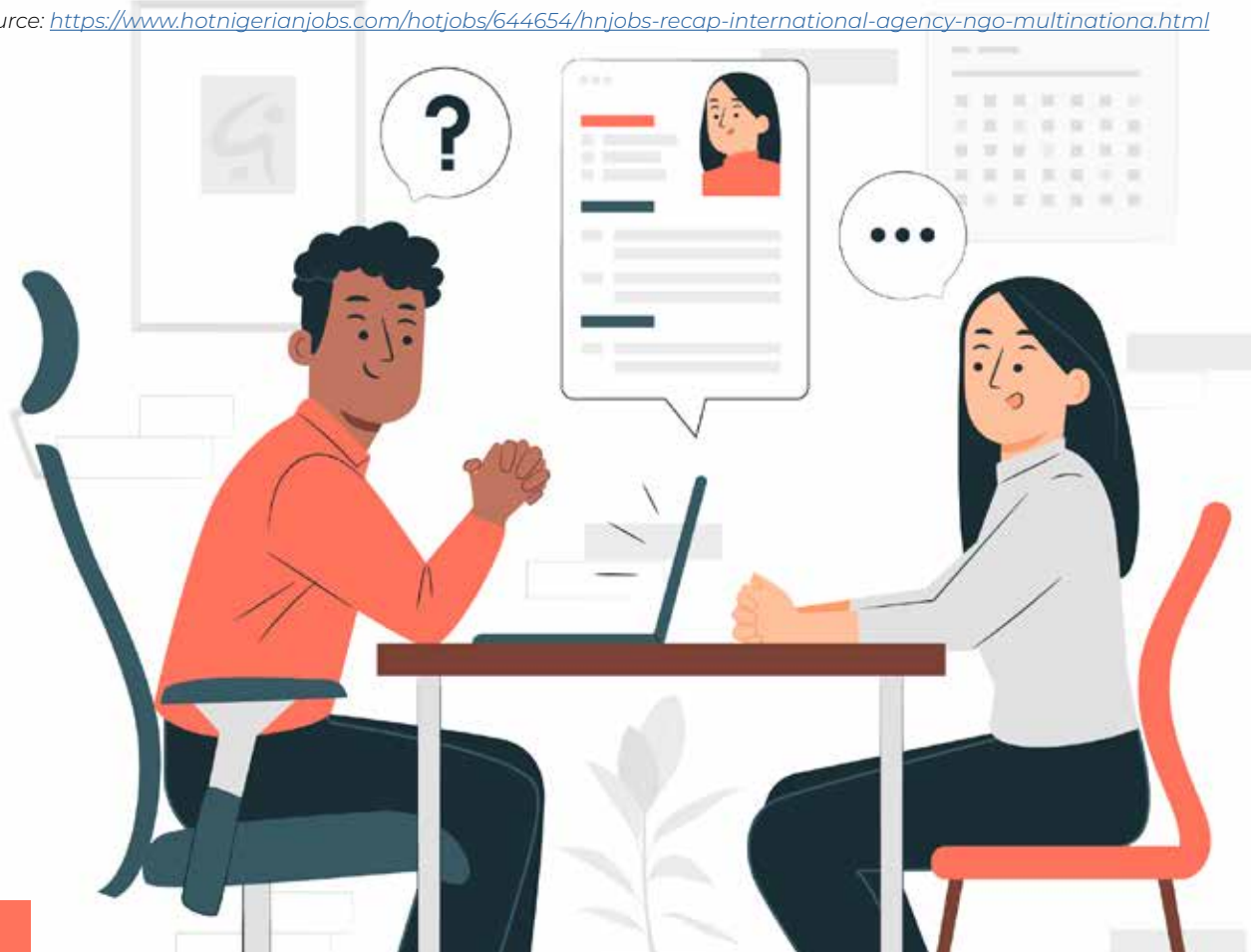
9.) Institute of Human Virology (IHVN) Job Recruitment (4 Positions)

[Click Here To View Details](#)

10.) International Finance Corporation (IFC) Job Recruitment (3 Positions)

[Click Here To View Details](#)

Source: <https://www.hotnigerianjobs.com/hotjobs/644654/hnjobs-recap-international-agency-ngo-multinationa.html>



Int'l NGO Advocates Peaceful Protest, Urges Govt To Address Citizen Grievances

The International Organization for Peacebuilding and Social Justice (PSJ) has called for a peaceful and non-violent protest in response to the planned national demonstration scheduled for August 1st to 10th.

The Executive Director of PSJ, Mr Inuwa Durkwa while addressing Journalists in Jos on Friday emphasized the importance of peaceful protests in highlighting issues and promoting social justice.

Durkwa said the protest is a justified response to the suffering caused by poor governance and urged the government to address citizen grievances instead of demonizing protesters.

According to him, the government's duty to protect citizens' rights, including the right to protest, and called on security agencies to ensure protester safety.

He expressed concern about plans to hijack the peaceful protest and turn it to violent, urging authorities to take proactive measures to prevent disruptions.

He advised protesters to remain vigilant and organized to maintain the protest's peaceful nature.

Durkwa stated the significance of protests in shaping societies for the better, citing their role in expressing discontent and demanding change. He emphasized the need

for a peaceful demonstration to collectively voice grievances against poor governance and resultant suffering.

The PSJ's added that the peaceful protest underscores the importance of promoting social justice and

accountability through non-violent means.

The NGO however call for peaceful demonstration serves as a reminder of the power of collective action in driving positive change.



Source: <https://newtelegraphng.com/intl-ngo-advocates-peaceful-protest-urges-govt-to-address-citizen-grievances/>

High-Level Political Forum places women and girls at the heart of the 2030 Agenda

Women and girls around the world are facing significant threats, from wars and conflicts to devastating climate change, widening inequalities, and pushback on their human rights and freedoms.

These threats were at the top of the agenda of the [High-Level Political Forum](#) (HLPF), the main

UN platform to assess progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This year's forum opened on 8 July 2024 under the theme of "Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient, and innovative solutions."

"Women and girls continue to face discrimination and disadvantage,"

said Amina J. Mohammed, the United Nations Deputy Secretary General, during the forum.

"Policies to support the empowerment of women and youth, and the rights of children and their social and emotional well-being, have been implemented," she added. "But we must keep our focus on women's rights at every level in every constituency across all issues."

Over the course of ten days, UN Member States, alongside civil society organizations, youth, the private sector, and international organizations, convened to review achievements, identify areas for action, and share best practices in catalyzing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in a context where only 17 per cent of targets are set to be realized at the current pace.

This year's forum specifically focused on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aimed at ending poverty and hunger, taking action on the world's climate, fostering partnerships, and building peace, justice, and strong institutions. Gender responsive policies and action are central to achieve those goals, as women and girls are disproportionately affected by poverty, hunger, climate change, conflicts, and wars, but more importantly recognized as agents of change.

Investing in women and girls and ensuring their equal access to income, productive and natural resources, as well as decision-making, leads to more prosperous economies, peaceful societies, and sustainable environments. By doing so, these investments catalyze progress towards the 2030 Agenda.

"Gender equity is a catalyst for economic growth and social cohesion," said Paula Narváez, President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). "When women have equal access to education, to employment, to decision-making, societies prosper in a more inclusive and equitable way."

UN Women introduced its [Gender Equality Accelerators](#) at an event during the HLPF, which offer a flexible framework for progress

adaptable to each country's unique needs.

The event stressed the importance of collaboration among national governments, UN agencies, civil society, and the private sector to drive accelerated action and systemic change. UN Women also shared a [booklet](#) and a [brochure](#) introducing the accelerators and showing their potential for transformational change.

UN Women also supported the launch of the first-ever [UN System-wide policy guidance on the care economy](#) at a high-level ECOSOC event in the margins of the forum. Under the leadership of Amina J. Mohammed, UN Women led the development of that policy guidance through an inter-agency effort with sister agencies UNDP, ILO, ECLAC and OHCHR.

The guidance, titled "Transforming Care Systems in the Context of the SDGs and Our Common Agenda," underscores the importance of care work for social and economic wellbeing and the need to transform care systems to achieve sustainable development and gender equality. It provides the entire UN System with common definitions, principles, analytical framework, approaches and context-specific policy options on the care economy.

At the conclusion of the forum, UN Member States adopted a Ministerial Declaration committing to advancing progress on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls across the 2030 Agenda. The commitments in that declaration include:

- Increasing investments to close the gender gap and strengthen support for institutions in relation to gender equality and

the empowerment of women at the global, regional, and national levels.

- Eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, including through the engagement of men and boys.
- Commit to redoubling efforts to resolve or prevent conflict and to support post-conflict countries, including by ensuring that women have a role in peacebuilding and state-building.
- Recognizing the importance of the participation of women in all stages of peace processes, conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding to maintain and promote international peace and security.
- Recognizing the need to make special efforts to meet nutritional needs, especially of women, and recognize that infant and young child mortality can be reduced through the improved nutritional status of women of reproductive age.
- Agreeing that women and girls must enjoy equal access to quality education, economic resources and political participation as well as equal opportunities with men and boys for employment, leadership and decision-making at all levels.

Throughout the forum, including during the [Voluntary National Reviews](#), Member States and participants also reiterated that gender equality is a catalyst to achieve the 2030 Agenda, and called for the integration of a gender perspective at all levels of policy planning and implementation, and across all SDGs.

Source: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/news/2024/07/high-level-political-forum-places-women-and-girls-at-the-heart-of-the-2030-agenda>





Empowering Pakistan's future: Prime Minister's Youth Programme event held in Pak Embassy Paris

Attendees included members of the Pakistani and French youth diaspora

The Pakistan Embassy in Paris hosted a significant event to promote the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP), focusing on youth empowerment and development. The session was delivered by the Special Representative to the Prime Minister Youth Programme, Mr. Rizwan Anwar, and Ms. Maha Jamil, who addressed the audience with inspiring insights.

The event commenced with a keynote session delivered by the Ambassador of Pakistan to France, Mr. Asim Iftikhar Ahmed. His speech underscored the importance of engaging the Pakistani youth diaspora in France and highlighted the collaborative efforts between

Pakistan and France to foster youth development.

Attendees included members of the Pakistani and French youth diaspora, as well as prominent youth leaders from both nations. The session served as a platform to discuss various initiatives under the PMYP, aimed at equipping the youth with essential skills, promoting entrepreneurship, and fostering innovation.

Mr. Rizwan Anwar and Ms. Maha Jamil elaborated on the core components of the PMYP, emphasizing the programme's commitment to education, employment, engagement, and environment. They highlighted ongoing projects, such as the Prime

Minister's Youth Laptop Program and the Skills Development Programme, which have already benefitted thousands of young individuals.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks, reaffirming the commitment to achieving the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif regarding youth development. This vision is being actively pursued under the able leadership of Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan, ensuring that the youth of Pakistan are empowered to contribute significantly to the nation's progress.

Source: <https://www.samaa.tv/2087318161-empowering-pakistan-s-future-prime-minister-s-youth-programme-event-held-in-pak-embassy-paris>



United States Government Launches Youth Entrepreneurship Hubs

Rundu – The United States Government-funded Reach Namibia project has launched the Adolescent and Youth Livelihoods and Entrepreneurship Accelerator (ALIVE) Hub at Rundu, Kavango East Region.

The ALIVE Hub initiative will equip project participants with entrepreneurial skills to establish sustainable businesses. In collaboration with the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Services (MSYNS), regional and local governments as well as private sector partners, the project will also establish an ALIVE Hub in Nkurenkuru, Kavango West Region, to provide entrepreneurial starter packs and scale youth ventures.

"The Hub space will serve as training ground where young

people can develop innovative ideas, design products or solutions, and refine them through testing and feedback," highlighted USAID Acting Country Representative, Dr. Rockefeller Herisse.

ALIVE Hubs will offer computers, printers, and other hardware as well as consulting and outreach services to rural areas. They are expected to play a pivotal role in addressing high unemployment among young people and to significantly enhance Namibia's economic development in the long term.

The Hubs will foster connections between youth and other stakeholders such as government agencies, civil society partners, private sector investors, and employers through pitch exhibitions, coaching, mentoring, training, and skills-building sessions.

They will also facilitate access to existing programs such as the MSYNS Youth Credit Schemes. The ALIVE Hubs in Rundu and Nkurenkuru are expected to serve 240 Reach Namibia beneficiaries per quarter and will extend services to general youth.

Reach Namibia provides support to youth in the country's eight most populated regions. The project is supported by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, PEPFAR, through the United States Agency for International Development, USAID, and implemented by Project Hope Namibia and Intrahealth Namibia. Reach Namibia and the ALIVE Hubs demonstrate the U.S. Government's continued commitment to providing health and economic relief to the people of Namibia.

Source: <https://na.usembassy.gov/united-states-government-launches-youth-entrepreneurship-hubs/>



Youth in Business: How Teen Entrepreneurs Are Shaping the Market

I was recently at a sports memorabilia shop with my kids and a few of my nephews as they examined baseball and football cards of their favorite players. They spent far more time looking at each card than I probably would have at their age. After they made their purchases, I found out why:

Some of them wanted to start their own business selling cards.

They're not alone in their desire to start a business. Some recent research shows many teens are interested in entrepreneurship. Here are just a few ways teen entrepreneurs are shaping the business market.

1. 75% of teens consider entrepreneurship

According to research from **Junior Achievement USA, 3 out of 4 teens are interested in starting their own businesses.** Most of the teens in the survey said it would be better to start their businesses before they turn 30.

Not only did the survey show that teens are interested in entrepreneurship, but it also highlighted the importance of young entrepreneurs wanting help to get started with their ideas. One-third of teens who want to start a business say they need a role model who's a business owner to help them.

How to do it: If you're a young entrepreneur or want to volunteer to help young entrepreneurs, joining the [Junior Achievement \(JA\)](#) organization is a great way to connect with others. With school programs and mentoring opportunities, JA can be a valuable resource.

2. They're tapping into their tech savviness

Many teen entrepreneurs use their tech abilities to launch businesses or market their products using social media. Shopify and Ownr note that some of the most popular teen businesses are website design, online content creation, e-commerce, and even social media consulting.

But if you're looking to build a large business, you may eventually need to learn some new tech, like [marketing management software](#), that can help you expand your business's reach.

3. They're solving their own unique problems

Like adult entrepreneurs, teens are solving problems for their customers, too. Shopify recently highlighted the story of a young entrepreneur in California who started a business selling small skateboards that fit into lockers. The teen started the business simply because his regular skateboard was too big for his backpack and locker!

He started by selling to his friends and promoting them on [social media](#), and his skateboard business, called Locker Board, has continued to grow since then -- even attracting the attention and an investment from billionaire Richard Branson!

How to do it: If you have a great business idea but don't know where to go from there, you may want to check out the [Biz Kids](#) website. This online resource teaches kids about business fundamentals and how to market an idea and make money from it.

4. Young entrepreneurs want to give back

JA research shows that 58% of teens would be likely to start a business if it contributes to a social need. The teen entrepreneurs even said they'd be willing to make less money in their venture if it was for a good cause.

That aligns with the sentiments of the younger generation, with research showing that 9 in 10 Gen Zers say they are passionate about social causes.

With the majority of teens having an interest in entrepreneurship and their innate desire to have a positive impact on their world, I'm excited to see what new ideas younger business owners come up with... sports memorabilia shops included.

Alert: highest cash back card we've seen now has 0% intro APR until 2025

[This credit card](#) is not just good - it's so exceptional that our experts use it personally. It features a 0% intro APR for 15 months, a cash back rate of up to 5%, and all somehow for no annual fee!

Source: <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/youth-business-teen-entrepreneurs-shaping-120017628.html>

211 people fill 2,000 vacancies: 'Ghost faculty' scam at university in Tamil Nadu

According to Anna University Vice Chancellor Dr R Velraj, the number of ghost faculties registered in affiliated colleges has risen from 191 in 2023 to 211 this year.



Shilpa Nair

A "ghost faculty" scam has been unearthed at Anna University, one of Tamil Nadu's premier educational institutions. The scam involves the fraudulent registration of faculty members, with only 211 individuals fulfilling the requirement for 2,000 full-time faculty positions.

Astonishingly, each of these individuals has been listed as faculty members at multiple colleges simultaneously.

According to Anna University Vice Chancellor Dr R Velraj, the number of ghost

faculties registered in affiliated colleges has risen from 191 in 2023 to 211 this year. The issue first surfaced when the anti-corruption NGO Arappor Iyakkam scrutinised the faculty member data available on the university's website.

During a press briefing, NGO convenor Jayaram Venkatesan detailed how several engineering colleges in Tamil Nadu were allegedly involved in malpractices during the affiliation process for the 2023-24 academic year. The NGO's analysis revealed that 352 full-time teaching faculty members were listed on the rolls of multiple colleges, with some being associated with as many as 11 institutions at once.

Engineering colleges must meet specific criteria,

such as adequate infrastructure, laboratory facilities, and a sufficient number of qualified teachers, to obtain affiliation or accreditation from Anna University and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

The NGO claimed that various colleges and professors, in collusion with Anna University and the AICTE, engaged in malpractices to falsely demonstrate compliance with these criteria, thereby compromising the quality of education.

The NGO has filed a complaint with the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC), seeking urgent intervention to protect the future of thousands of students

potentially affected by this alleged fraud.

Following the expose, the state government has directed the forming of a high-level committee to investigate the alleged ghost faculty scam. The committee, comprising members from the university, the government, and the AICTE, has been tasked with submitting a report within a week.

Anna University has also sent a detailed report to Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi, who serves as the Chancellor of state universities, and the higher education department.

When asked about potential actions against the implicated colleges and officials, Dr Velraj stated that appropriate measures, including suspension and debarring of faculty members, would be taken if they are found guilty of forgery and other related offences.

Currently, 52,500 individuals are registered as faculty members of colleges affiliated with Anna University, according to the university's website. However, the actual number of faculty members is only 50,500, with 2,000 positions filled through bogus registrations. Dr Velraj emphasised that the transparency of publishing details online led to the discovery of these irregularities.

Source: <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/tamil-nadu/story/ghost-faculty-scam-uncovered-tamil-nadu-anna-university-2572466-2024-07-27>



CSR: Educate Girls organises Shiksha Rath campaign to spread awareness about education at the grassroots level

Educate Girls, a leading non-profit organisation, committed to raising awareness about the importance of educating girl children, organised a Shiksha Rath campaign in Uttar Pradesh's Sahason village in Bahadurpur block in Prayagraj.

The Shiksha Rath, a van equipped with posters and banners, aims to spread awareness about the benefits of educating girls in rural areas. The Shiksha Rath, which is a part of the enrolment campaign by Educate Girls was held with the goal of encouraging more parents to enrol their girl children into schools.

This Shiksha Rath was organised in partnership with the village head, village educational institutions, and volunteers. With carefully curated street plays, awareness rallies, speeches, and interactive demonstrations, it awakened the spirit of education among village residents.

Source: <https://thecsrjournal.in/corporate-social-responsibility-csr-news-educate-girls-ngo-organises-shiksha-rath-campaign-to-spread-awareness-about-education-at-the-grassroots-level/>

On this occasion, Block Education Officer Rakesh Yadav said, "Education is the foundation of progress of any society. The purpose of Shiksha Rath is to spread the message of education to everyone in the village and motivate children to go to school. The Shiksha Rath campaign by Educate Girls does commendable work. I am sure that with this effort, more and more girl children will enrol in schools."

Highlighting the organisation's efforts in collaboration with the District Administration and the District Education Center, the State Operations Head of Educate Girls, Nitin Kumar Jha, said, "Educate Girls is creating awareness about the importance of enrolling girls in school amongst every community in the village. We hope to be able to enrol as many girls as possible in school this year."

District Coordinator Rajeev Tripathi was present at the occasion along with Abhinav Dubey, Dashrath Sharma, Pushpendra Singh, Narendra Patel, Pankaj Singh and Shashi Prakash from Educate Girls.

Education Cannot Wait Announces US\$2 Million First Emergency Response Grant in Gaza

The human suffering in Gaza has taken an unprecedented toll on children and adolescents living amidst this soul-shattering experience that no child should have to endure. In support of global efforts to provide girls and boys with access to quality educational opportunities and mental health services, Education Cannot Wait (ECW) announced today a US\$2 million First Emergency Response grant in Gaza. Total ECW funding in the State of Palestine is approximately US\$36 million.

The fast-acting 12-month grant will be delivered by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) through its ongoing [Better Learning Programme in Palestine](#), which aims to improve learning conditions for children and adolescents in Gaza.

Since early October 2023, 625,000 children enrolled in schools across Gaza have had no access to education, and more than 370 schools have sustained damage from attacks, according to the United Nations.

Even before the start of the recent unprecedented hostilities, an estimated 800,000 children in Gaza – three-quarters of its entire child population – had already been identified as needing mental health and psychosocial support.

“2.2 million Palestinians in Gaza are in the midst of an epic humanitarian catastrophe, facing inhumane conditions. There is unprecedented violence in modern times, starvation, famine and



disease. Desperation and scarcity have led to a total breakdown of the lives of children and adolescents. Today, we are calling on world leaders to support diplomatic efforts to ensure the unconditional release of all hostages now, create a lasting ceasefire, provide safe and unimpeded access for humanitarian aid, ensure full adherence to international humanitarian law by all parties to the conflict, and a realization of a political and peaceful solution. Meanwhile, by investing in a minimum continuation of learning, and mental health and psychosocial support for the children and adolescents of Gaza, we are trying to do what we possibly can to mitigate their suffering and bring whatever hope we can to these young people,” said Yasmine Sherif, Executive Director of Education Cannot Wait, the Global Fund for Education in Emergencies and Protracted Crises within the United Nations.

United Nations reports indicate that grave human rights and humanitarian law violations against children are rampant in Gaza. Hundreds of girls and boys are

reportedly being killed or injured every day. “Right now, the Gaza Strip is the most dangerous place in the world to be a child,” according to UNICEF.

“The children of Gaza continue to face unimaginable horrors. It has taken an appalling toll on young people, many of whom have lived through numerous previous conflicts, many thousands dead, injured and orphaned. This grant from ECW will enable the first steps in restoring mental health and learning services. But it represents a drop in an ocean of needs in Gaza. The children and young people who have suffered during this unprecedented conflict must not be forgotten – they will need sustained support for years to come, and NRC will do all it can to provide this. We call on funders to prioritise children in Gaza in order to protect their futures,” said Jan Egeland, NRC’s Secretary General.

Read more at: <https://www.educationcannotwait.org/news-stories/press-releases/education-cannot-wait-announces-us2-million-first-emergency-response-3>

Reduce Risk – Increase Safety III: best project proposals selected

Selected best proposals within the public call for financing projects of civil society organizations aimed at improving the protection of women from violence committed with firearms

Belgrade, 23.7.2024 - Thanks to the United Nations’ Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap Multi – Partner Trust Fund, projects of 4 civil society organizations have been selected for support in the total amount of nearly 100 000 USD to improve community safety, by enhancing the protection of women from firearms-enabled violence.

The proposals were received based on a [public call](#) for financing projects of civil society organizations aimed at improving the safety of the community and society as a whole, by increasing the security and enhancing protection of women whose family members have access to firearms.

A total of 12 project proposals were received under the call, open from 20 May 2024 to 30 June 2024. In accordance with the UNDP guidelines for low value grants, after the comprehensive review of all received project proposals by the Grant Selection Committee, proposals of the following 4 organizations were recommended to be awarded with a grant:

Source: <https://www.undp.org/serbia/news/reduce-risk-increase-safety-iii-best-project-proposals-selected>

No.	Organization name	Project title
1.	Association of Citizens “Women’s Center Uzice”	Let’s Recognize Firearm Misuse Risks on Time
2.	Association of women’s non-governmental organizations “Women against Violence Network”	A Firearm in the House is Not a Trophy but a Danger
3.	Human Rights Committee Vranje	Preventing Firearms Misuse in Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence and Enhancing Safety in the Pcinj District
4.	Zrenjanin Educational Center	Preventing firearms misuse in cases of domestic violence in rural Banat communities

This activity is part of the project „[Reduce Risk – Increase Safety III](#)“, implemented by UNDP to reduce the risk of firearms misuse for domestic violence and suicide and enhance community response to firearms - related crises and trauma. The project is implemented with the financial support provided by Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, France, the United Kingdom and Norway, as well as with the overall support by the European Union, through the United Nations’ Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap Multi – Partner Trust Fund.

UN Launches First-ever System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation

STORY HIGHLIGHTS:

- **The Strategy's goal is to enhance UN system-wide coordination and delivery of water and sanitation priorities, to support countries in their efforts to accelerate progress on national plans, internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, the realization of human rights, and transformative solutions to current and future challenges for the benefit of all people and the planet.**
- **It aims to fully operationalize inter-agency coordination and to leverage UN development system reforms and upscaled water and sanitation action to provide more strategic, effective, coherent, and efficient support to Member States.**

The UN has launched the first-ever UN System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation, which aligns the UN system's work "towards a world with accessible, available and sustainably managed water and sanitation for all people and the planet." It outlines a system-wide holistic approach to work on the interrelated cross-sectoral aspects of water and sanitation.

The Strategy's goal is to enhance UN system-wide coordination and delivery of water and sanitation priorities, to support countries in their efforts to accelerate progress on national plans, internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, the realization of human rights, and transformative solutions to current and future challenges for the benefit of all people and the planet. It aims to fully operationalize inter-agency coordination and to leverage UN development system reforms

and upscaled water and sanitation action to provide more strategic, effective, coherent, and efficient support to Member States.

The 68-page Strategy identifies five entry points for collaborative action on water and sanitation:

- Lead and inspire collective action on water and sanitation;
- Engage better for countries by leveraging whole-of-UN system support and by mobilizing stakeholders and partnerships for water and sanitation;
- Align UN system support for the integration of water and sanitation issues across sectors and mainstreaming into intergovernmental processes;
- Accelerate progress and transformational change by unifying UN system support

through the five SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation) global accelerators – financing, data and information, capacity development, innovation, and governance; and

- Account for progress through joint review and learning.

For each entry point, the Strategy highlights the desired outcomes and outputs.

UN-Water developed the Strategy in response to UN General Assembly (UNGA) [resolution 77/334](#) of 14 September 2023, which requested the Secretary-General to present a UN System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation in consultation with Member States before the end of the 78th session. The UN-Water Chair led the process, as requested by the Secretary-General. The Strategy was approved by the High-Level Committee on Programmes during its 47th session and endorsed by the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination during its first regular session of 2024.

The Strategy was [launched](#) at the fourth annual SDG 6 Special Event on 16 July 2024, held in the margins of the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework [Country Acceleration Case Studies](#) from [Cambodia](#), the [Czech Republic](#), and [Jordan](#) were also launched.

[Publication: [United Nations System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation](#)] [\[Publication Landing Page\]](#)

Source: <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/un-launches-first-ever-system-wide-strategy-for-water-and-sanitation/>



New Joint UN report calls for urgent action to build peaceful, just, and inclusive societies to prevent risks to all Sustainable Development Goals

New York - The latest [UN Global Progress Report on Sustainable Development Goal \(SDG\) 16 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions](#) - was launched today, and reveals concerning data that threatens to undermine future progress on all SDGs.

The world is far from peaceful, with a 72 per cent increase in conflict-related civilian deaths to 33,400 lives in 2023 compared to 2022. Governments are failing to protect the rights of all people to live a life free from fear and violence. Violent crime is on the rise, and organized crime is an increasing threat to peace and development, destroying peoples' lives and communities. Peace remains a lofty goal when, as the report finds, discrimination is widespread, corruption is pervasive, governance is not inclusive, and people are not able to access justice.

The new report, entitled [Global Progress Report on SDG 16 Indicators: At the Crossroads: Breakdown or Breakthrough for Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions](#) was launched during the High-Level Political Forum at UN Headquarters by the UN Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed. The second UN

progress report on SDG 16 was jointly produced by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) together with six other entities.

"SDG 16 is a crucial enabler of all SDGs," stated UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed. "This new report shows that we need to urgently scale-up action on the SDGs to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies, leaving no one behind."

With only 17 per cent of the SDGs targets on track and over one-third stalling or regressing, the new report calls for action by governments and all stakeholders to accelerate progress on SDG 16 or risk failing all the SDGs.

The joint UN report uses regional and global data to assess internationally agreed SDG 16 indicators to enable governments to adjust or develop policy solutions to meet SDG 16 targets. Even with increased data availability in recent years, the UN report calls for more investment in improving data from more countries to strengthen evidence-based research to support

policy implementation to help progress on SDG 16.

Quotes from Principals of UN Agencies

UNDP - "Far too many people around the world endure daily insecurity, injustice, and violence. Behind these stark statistics lie powerful human stories of dreams and potential lost, of suffering and despair," said Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator. "Understanding and interpreting these new data and trends is vital to building strong, inclusive, and responsive institutions that can deliver justice and establish a stable foundation where every individual, everywhere, can realize a future defined by peace, dignity, opportunity, and hope."

UNODC - "The latest SDG16 report reflects alarming realities of crime and violence that are impacting people everywhere", stated Ghada Waly, Executive Director of UNODC. "Organized crime is claiming lives and violence is ravaging communities, while corruption and illicit financial flows enable criminality and erode trust. These intertwined threats and challenges are seriously undermining peace, security, and development around the world, and the most vulnerable are the first to suffer. Using the findings of this report as a rallying call, we must step up global action and cooperation to promote justice and

the rule of law, to protect women, children, and the vulnerable, and to support effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions that enjoy the trust of the public."

OHCHR - "Human rights are intrinsic to the 2030 Agenda. And the right to peace is at the heart of human rights and development - a right that has been violated with increasing brutality as laid bare by this report," said UN Human Rights Chief Volker Türk. "The data we have managed to gather also indicates that at least one journalist, human rights defender or trade unionist is killed or disappeared every single day across the world. This is deeply alarming and underscores the urgent need to take measures to protect civic space and safeguard fundamental freedoms."

Key Findings of the Report:

Unprecedented Rise of Conflict-Related deaths: Civilian deaths in armed conflict surged to 33,400 in 2023 - an increase of 72 per cent compared to 2022. Women represented 36 per cent of the casualties, and children represented 31 per cent. These figures represent the highest proportion of women and children casualties since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Increasing Killing of Journalists, Human Rights Defenders, and Trade Unionists: The number of journalists and media workers killed across the world in 2023 doubled to 40 individuals, compared to 20 killed in 2021 and 28 killed in 2022.

More journalists were killed in conflict-affected countries in 2023 when compared to 2022.

Organized crime poses a significant obstacle to peace and development, accounting for 22 per cent of global homicides in 2021, particularly in the Americas, where it accounted for 50 per cent of homicides.

Disturbingly high Levels of Violence against Women:

An estimated 48,800 women and girls were killed globally by their intimate partners or family members in 2022. The total number of female victims of homicide stood at 88,000 in 2022, the highest yearly number recorded in the past 20 years.

Gender equality not reached in most parts of the world: Women's representation in public institutions varied with some - high income-countries achieved gender parity while women were significantly underrepresented in public service roles in low-income countries.

Countries are failing to prevent violence against children. Almost 8 in 10 children aged under 14 years of age were subjected to violent discipline at home. More than one-third of detected victims of trafficking in persons were children.

Widespread discrimination: one in six people globally experience discrimination based on any grounds. Among both women and men, racial discrimination, rooted in factors such as ethnicity, colour or language, is among the most common grounds. Persons with disability face discrimination almost twice as frequently.

Source: <https://www.undp.org/press-releases/new-joint-un-report-calls-urgent-action-build-peaceful-just-and-inclusive-societies-prevent-risks-all-sustainable-development-goals>



Integrating Renewable Energy in Flood Recovery

In response to the devastation caused by the 2022 floods in Sindh, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, UNDP, with support from development partners, has worked towards catalyzing recovery in the affected regions.

Pakistan's energy sector relies heavily on fossil fuels, with approximately 63 percent of energy generated from them during the FY 2022-23, making the country particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. The country's energy sector faces a severe and immediate threat from climate change, with extreme weather events, fluctuating temperatures, and shifts in precipitation patterns disrupting traditional energy supply chains. This susceptibility leads to supply disruptions, price fluctuations, and increased operational costs, affecting not only the power sector but also the entire economy. To address these challenges and align with global climate objectives, transitioning towards a low-carbon and climate-resilient power sector is crucial.

Pakistan's heavy dependence on fossil fuels, notably coal and natural gas, has led to a substantial carbon footprint. To reduce the vulnerability of Pakistan's power sector, it is essential to transition to a diverse array of resilient energy sources, including renewable energy and distributed generation. This shift towards renewable energy and green technologies within the power sector is pivotal for curbing greenhouse gas emissions and adhering to international obligations like the Paris Agreement. Embracing renewable energy diminishes reliance on fossil fuels, thereby decreasing susceptibility to supply disruptions and price fluctuations, and bolstering energy security. Additionally, distributed generation enhances local resilience and minimizes transmission losses.

The floods of 2022 inflicted significant damage on Pakistan's power sector, impacting both generation and distribution

capacities of the country's power infrastructure. The Post Disaster Needs Assessment, a comprehensive assessment supported by the UN, EU, and the Asian Development Bank, and facilitated by UNDP and the World Bank, assessed the damages at PKR 17.4 billion (USD 81 million). However, the human impact is greatly magnified due to the critical need for clean and accessible energy, especially in the aftermath of major disasters.

These energy sector damages underscore the absence of institutional mechanisms and arrangements for effective risk management and climate resilience aimed at reducing vulnerabilities to the impacts of natural disasters and climate change.

Through its flagship Flood Recovery Programme, following the 2022 floods, UNDP has intensified efforts to integrate renewable energy into the recovery process through various initiatives.

In Pakistan, women constitute a significant portion of energy users and beneficiaries, both in domestic and productive activities. They are disproportionately affected by the lack of clean and accessible energy, particularly in rural areas.

In response to the devastation caused by floods in Sindh, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, UNDP, with support by development partners including the Government of Japan, delivered a comprehensive assistance package aimed at catalyzing recovery in the affected regions. Alongside community restoration, livelihoods recovery, and health and hygiene interventions, UNDP

distributed household-level solar solutions to 2,200 affected households, providing them access to uninterrupted renewable energy.

The kit, comprising of a solar panel, battery, fan, and bulbs, delivers lighting and cooling to affected households, many of which are not connected to the national electricity grid. This provision of cooling and lighting is essential for the well-being and productivity of the affected households.

Through its flagship Flood Recovery Programme, following the 2022 floods, UNDP has intensified efforts to integrate renewable energy into the recovery process through various initiatives. One example is the inclusion of household solar kits as part of the support provided to flood-affected individuals. UNDP is exploring the possibility of providing solar solutions as part of its reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts, which may encompass residences, schools, healthcare facilities, or government offices.

These essential measures aimed at transitioning to renewable energy can serve as a model for promoting environmental sustainability in the recovery and reconstruction process, as well as ensuring long-term viability in Pakistan's energy sector.

Source: <https://www.undp.org/pakistan/news/integrating-renewable-energy-flood-recovery>



The Italian G7 Presidency and UNDP launch first public report on the co-design of the AI Hub for Sustainable Development

Rome - During last month's G7 Leaders Summit, the Italian G7 Presidency affirmed its commitment to establish an 'AI Hub for Sustainable Development' in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Today's release of the first public report on the co-design of the hub lays out initial suggestions and consolidated feedback from local AI ecosystems in Africa.

Africa is at the threshold of a powerful Artificial Intelligence (AI) revolution. Driven by a youthful population, dynamic tech ecosystems, and increasing connectivity, there is an enormous potential to develop and scale local solutions tailored to African contexts. To realize this potential for inclusive economic growth, collaborative effort is needed to

propel responsible AI development across the continent.

As affirmed in the [G7 Leaders' Declaration](#), the hub aims to enable multi-stakeholder partnerships to support local AI digital ecosystems, strengthen capacities to advance AI for sustainable development, and complement existing initiatives including the AI for Development Donors Partnership.

The report highlights that the core foundations underpinning AI's potential for sustainable development include data pipelines, green computational power, and talent. Accelerating responsible private sector innovation and partnerships in these areas is one of the hub's primary goals. The hub will operate in tandem with governments and local ecosystems to ensure

close collaboration with partners working on AI governance and its application locally.

As the Italian G7 Presidency gears up to strengthen the 'Digital Development: Growing Together' agenda - a core priority of the G7 in 2024 with a focus on Africa - a new era of collective action has become possible. The hub highlights Italy's commitment to a partnership-based approach to collaborating with African nations and aims to foster equal cooperation and mutual benefits.

Working alongside the G7, UNDP will continue to serve as a platform to foster new partnerships and investment from both the public and private sectors to ensure that AI is a catalyst for positive change across countries.

Source: <https://www.undp.org/news/italian-g7-presidency-and-undp-launch-first-public-report-co-design-ai-hub-sustainable-development>



'Education, Health City projects to be launched soon'

LAHORE: The first Education and Health City will be launched in the provincial capital soon and these projects will help a lot in the promotion of business activities related to the education and health sectors.

Lahore Development Authority (LDA) Director General Tahir Farooq said this while chairing an important meeting on Thursday. The ongoing development works of Lahore Development Authority City, Structural Plan Roads and Iqbal Sector were reviewed in the meeting.

Lahore Development Authority City's Project Director Usman Nazar

and Director Hafeezullah briefed the meeting. In the meeting, a briefing was given on the proposed plan for Education City spanning over 350 kanals and Health City spanning over 200 kanals.

Lahore Development Authority DC Tahir Farooq directed to handover possession of three more blocks in Lahore Development Authority City. He instructed that the possession of over 1,000 plots in "B, D, and E" blocks of Jinnah Sector should be given within the next two weeks.

He also emphasised that all facilities should be provided for home construction in blocks where plot possession has already been given. LDA DC directed the officials

concerned to ensure the recovery from allottees who have not yet paid their development charges.

Additional DG Housing, Additional DG Headquarters, Chief Metropolitan Planning, Chief Town Planner I, Chief Town Planner II, Director LDA City, Project Director LDA City, Director LAC, Deputy Director Finance and relevant officers attended the meeting.

Source: <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1210975-education-health-city-projects-to-be-launched-soon>

Regional fora aim to increase country ambition ahead of next round of climate plans

Nairobi, 23 July 2024— As record temperatures and unprecedented impacts of climate change continue to affect billions of people across the planet, the United Nations and partners have announced a series of regional meetings aimed at increasing ambition in the next round of climate pledges under the Paris Agreement.

In 2025, countries are required to submit new Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). These plans are known as NDCs 3.0. In these NDCs, countries are encouraged to set 2035 ambitious, economy-wide emission reduction targets that align with limiting global warming to 1.5°C and increase resilience to climate impacts.

“To provide climate justice for all and preserve a livable planet, greenhouse gas emissions must fall dramatically and efforts to adapt to climate impacts must be stepped up,” said Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). “However, greenhouse gas emissions are not falling, global temperatures are hitting new highs and vulnerable populations are suffering. NDCs 3.0 must match the moment we face and be far more ambitious.”

To help countries shape the next round of their climate pledges under the Paris Agreement, UNEP, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the NDC Partnership, in collaboration with the UNFCCC Secretariat (UN Climate

Change), are organizing NDCs 3.0 Regional Fora.

“Parties have agreed to the ratchet mechanism under Paris because it’s a powerful tool for progress and they recognize the importance of staying proactive in the face of climate change,” said Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. “We cannot afford to be stagnant: submitting new Nationally Determined Contributions is not just a reporting requirement, but a vital commitment to safeguarding our planet’s future for future generations. The NDCs 3.0 Regional Fora will support all Parties to deliver on their commitments.”

The schedule for the NDCs 3.0 Regional Fora taking place in 2024 has been set as follows:

- Regional Forum for the Pacific, from 12 to 16 August 2024 hosted by the government of Samoa in Apia
- Regional Forum for Latin America and the Caribbean, from 27 to 29 August 2024 hosted by the government of Colombia in Bogota
- Regional for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, from 3 to 5 September hosted by the government of Türkiye in Istanbul
- Regional Forum for the Middle East and North Africa, from 23 to 25 September 2024 hosted by the government of Tunisia in Tunis
- Regional Forum for Asia, from 30 September to 2 October in Bangkok, Thailand
- Regional Forum for Africa, from 7 to 9 October 2024 hosted by the government of Rwanda in Kigali

These Fora will be closed-doors

events, targeting government officials responsible for NDCs revisions from all countries in each region. Inclusivity and equal-representation will be ensured through the invitation of selected resources spokespeople from youth and other under-represented and marginalized groups

What NDCs 3.0 need to achieve

[UNEP’s Emissions Gap Report 2023](#) found that current NDCs put the world on track for a global temperature rise of 2.5-2.9°C. While emissions are projected to stabilize after 2030, they still don’t decline rapidly enough to meet scientific targets according to [the 2023 NDC Synthesis Report](#). For a 1.5°C pathway, reductions to global greenhouse gas emissions of 42 per cent are needed by 2030.

Meanwhile, [UNEP’s Adaptation Gap Report 2023](#) found that the adaptation finance gap is US\$194-366 billion per year. Urgent country-driven adaptation, backed by appropriate finance, is urgently needed.

The Fora will use insights from COP28 and [the Global Stocktake](#) to focus on mitigation options, adaptation solutions and inclusion of super pollutants (short-lived non-CO2 pollutants), such as methane and black carbon in the NDCs.

Participants, invited from government ministries engaged in NDC development and implementation, will engage in peer-learning, explore innovative financing models and share how to develop policy roadmaps that lead to implementation. The Fora will be a place to discuss how ambitious sectoral targets can lead to transformational change and investment plans.

Climate change is also a major driver of nature and biodiversity

loss, with nature loss driving climate change. The sources of climate change are often the same as the sources of pollution and waste, hence the crises are interlinked and the solutions should be integrated.

The Fora will then encourage countries to consider the co-benefits of climate action and share examples on how to align climate targets with other international commitments on nature, pollution and sustainable development in their NDCs.

NDCs 3.0 Regional Fora will be organized in collaboration with other partners, including the UNEP-convened Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), the United Nations REDD programme, and the German Development Cooperation (GIZ), as well as regional partners including the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and the United Nations Economic, Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA) and the Asian Development Bank.

Source: <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/regional-fora-aim-increase-country-ambition-ahead-next-round-climate>



COP 29 Incoming Presidency Paints Its Vision for 2024 UN Climate Conference

STORY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Themed, ‘In Solidarity for a Green World,’ the President Designate’s letter describes the 2024 UN Climate Change Conference as “a litmus test” for the Paris Agreement, global climate action, and cooperation, with a new collective quantified goal on climate finance as its “centerpiece”.
- Among “principles of action,” the letter emphasizes the latest science and the outcomes of the first Global Stocktake, engagement of global, regional, national, and subnational groups, a “holistic view” of sustainable development, and “an inclusive process that delivers inclusive outcomes”.

UNFCCC COP 29 President Designate Mukhtar Babayev, Azerbaijan’s Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources, has published a letter presenting the incoming Presidency’s vision “to enhance ambition and enable action” and outlining pathways to turn this vision into reality. The letter highlights key “calendar moments” and identifies collaborative networks for complementary action.

Themed, ‘In Solidarity for a Green World,’ the [letter](#) describes the 2024 UN Climate Change Conference in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November, as “a litmus test” for the Paris Agreement, global climate action, and cooperation, with a new collective quantified goal (NCQG) on climate finance as its “centerpiece.” Among “principles of action,” the letter emphasizes the latest science and the outcomes of the [first Global Stocktake](#) (GST), engagement of global, regional, national, and subnational groups, a “holistic view” of sustainable development, and “an inclusive process that delivers inclusive outcomes.”

According to the letter, the two mutually reinforcing pillars of the COP 29 Presidency’s vision are:

- **Enhancing ambition**, by setting out clear plans to keep the 1.5°C temperature goal within reach while leaving no one behind through ambitious, comprehensive, and robust nationally determined contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) and through “wider engagement in international cooperation”; and
- **Enabling action** through the means of implementation and support, including by agreeing a fair and ambitious NCQG on climate finance and finalizing the operationalisation of Article 6 (cooperative implementation).

The President Designate contends that progress on the two pillars will help support action on finance, trade and investment, energy, biodiversity, sustainable agriculture, water, science, technology and innovation, sustainable

urbanization, and health, among other global priorities.

The Presidency’s milestones outlined in the letter include a heads-of-delegation-level retreat in Azerbaijan from 26-27 July, the appointment of a ministerial pair for the NCQG negotiations (Denmark and Egypt), and a high-level energy dialogue during the 79th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) and the New York Climate Week. During COP 29, the Presidency will convene the World Leaders Climate Action Summit, leader-level dialogues on key topics, and thematic days to platform new initiatives, celebrate successes, and share best practices.

The letter further lays out pathways to delivery on: finance and the NCQG; Article 6; loss and damage; NDCs and mitigation; NAPs and adaptation; BTRs and transparency; and collaborative networks for complementary action. [Publication: [In Solidarity for a Green World](#)] [[The Road to Baku](#)] [[Host Country Website](#)] [[SDG Knowledge Hub Story on Roadmap to Mission 1.5°C](#)]

Source: <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/cop-29-incoming-presidency-paints-its-vision-for-2024-un-climate-conference/>



The heat is on: We must rise to the challenge of rising temperatures, urges UN chief

The UN chief on Thursday issued an urgent call to action to better protect billions around the world exposed to crippling effects of extreme heat, as global temperature rise continues unabated.

The [appeal](#) comes against the backdrop of [record temperatures](#) and [deadly heatwaves](#) – from the United States to Africa’s Sahel and Europe to the Middle East – that have [killed several hundred people](#) this summer.

During the Hajj, for instance, scorching heat claimed over 1,300 pilgrim lives.

“Billions of people are facing an extreme heat epidemic – wilting under increasingly deadly heatwaves, with temperatures topping 50 degrees Celsius around the world. That is 122 degrees Fahrenheit – halfway to boiling,” [Secretary-General António Guterres](#) said at a [press conference](#) at UN Headquarters in New York.

“The message is clear: the heat is on. Extreme heat is having an extreme impact on people and planet. The world must rise to the challenge of rising temperatures.”

Protect the most vulnerable

The UN chief highlighted that while “crippling heat is everywhere”, [it does not affect everyone equally](#).

Those most at risk include the urban poor, pregnant women, children, older persons, those with disabilities, the sick, and the displaced, who often live in substandard housing without access to cooling.

According to UN estimates, heat-related deaths for people over 65 years of age increased by about 85 per cent over the past two decades,

while 25 per cent of all children today are exposed to frequent heatwaves and by 2050, that could rise to almost 100 per cent.

“We must respond by massively increasing access to low-carbon cooling, expanding passive cooling – such as natural solutions and urban design and cleaning up cooling technologies while boosting their efficiency,” Mr. Guterres said, calling for scaling up of finances to protect communities from “climate chaos”.

Protect workers

Mr. Guterres also underscored the need to step up protections for workers.

Over 70 per cent of the global workforce, or 2.4 billion people, are at substantial risk of extreme heat, according to new report from the UN International Labour Organization ([ILO](#)).

The situation is particularly dire in the Africa and Arab regions, where more than 90 per cent and 80 per cent of workers are exposed, respectively. In [Asia and the Pacific](#) – the world’s most populous region – that figure is three in four workers (75 per cent).

In addition, heat stress at work is projected to cost the global economy \$2.4 trillion by 2030, up from \$280 billion in the mid-1990s.

“We need measures to protect workers, grounded in human rights,” Mr. Guterres stressed.

“And we must ensure that laws and regulations reflect the reality of extreme heat today – and are enforced.”

Boost resilience

He also underscored the need to strengthen resilience of economies and societies, citing impacts such as infrastructure damage, crop failures, and increased pressure on water supplies, health systems, and electricity grids.

Cities are particularly vulnerable, experiencing heating at twice the global average rate.

To address these challenges, Mr. Guterres called for comprehensive and tailored action plans based on scientific data are essential for countries, cities and sectors.

“We need a concerted effort to heatproof economies, critical sectors and the built environment.”

Fight the disease

The UN chief reiterated that it is crucial to recognize the myriad symptoms beyond extreme heat, such as hurricanes, floods, droughts, wildfires and rising sea levels.

The core issue is the reliance on fossil fuels and climate inaction, he stated, stressing that governments, especially G20 nations, the private sector, cities and regions, must urgently adopt climate action plans to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C.

Alongside, countries must urgently phase-out fossil fuels and end new coal projects.

“They must act as though our future depends on it – because it does.”

Source: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/07/1152496>



Turkish health care team provides dental care to 5,000 in Burundi

A Turkish health care team, in collaboration with the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA) and the Friends of All Africa Association (TADD), provided dental treatment to approximately 5,000 people in Burundi.

Cüneyd Tiryaki, the TADD Ankara representative and head of the delegation to Burundi, told Anadolu Agency (AA) that they conducted dental treatments, including extractions and fillings, for about 5,000 people in Burundi, one of Africa's poorest countries.

Expressing their satisfaction with providing free health care services to Burundians through the organization supported by TİKA and the Turkish Embassy in Bujumbura, and contributing to closer ties between the two countries' peoples, Tiryaki thanked Burundi's first lady and founding president of the Bonne Action Umugiraneza Foundation, Angeline Ndayishimiye, and foundation members for their support in ensuring the smooth organization of the event.

Tiryaki also shared that the TADD team was the first Turkish NGO to go to Uganda for a "health care mission."

Additionally, 500 sets of toothbrushes and toothpaste were distributed to those in need.

As part of the health care initiative, Burundian dentists and nurses also participated in the activities, gaining opportunities to enhance their experience and update their knowledge.

Various materials and tools used in dentistry were donated to the Bonne Action Umugiraneza Foundation, primarily for procedures like extractions, fillings and root canals.

Healthcare: NGO seeks budget line for integrated supportive supervision in Sokoto

SHE-Alert Care Foundation (SHE-ALERT), an NGO, has called for the creation of a budget line for Integrated Supportive Supervision (ISS) in Sokoto State's 2025 appropriation.

Mrs Blessing Gidado, the Executive Director of SHE-ALERT, made the call at a media roundtable organised by the foundation in Sokoto.

Gidado said that the initiative, anchored by the Better Life Restoration Initiative (BERI), aimed at achieving the USAID-funded five-year Health System Strengthening Cluster project in the state.

She said the project, implemented by Palladium in collaboration with Nigeria Resource Partners (RPS), is titled "Improved Quality Healthcare Service Delivery through ISS."

"This intervention facilitates quality improvement by ensuring adequate oversight as well as skills and knowledge transfer to healthcare service providers," Gidado said.

She noted that domestic financial support for ISS in Sokoto was inadequate, leading to a high dependency on donor funding.

"Over the years, many health programmes have been heavily



funded by donors supporting ISS activities on tuberculosis (TB) and HIV, among others.

"Although donor support is important, it is mostly unsustainable and has debilitating effects on ISS continuity," she said.

According to her, supervisory activities are conducted more in facilities that receive the basic healthcare provision fund and other interventions.

"This is leaving out the remaining health clinics and health posts, especially those located in hard-to-reach communities," she observed.

She identified the non-inclusion of private sector partners in funding and supporting ISS activities as a significant factor robbing the state of valuable resources.

Gidado advocated for the establishment of a Technical Working Group to support ISS activities, saying: "The group's nonexistence in the state is having a negative impact on the project activities."

She observed that adequate supervision of all Primary Healthcare Centers (PHCs) in the state would guarantee quality service delivery.

The five-year scale project, which commenced in October 2020, is being implemented in four states including Sokoto, Bauchi, Kebbi and Ebonyi States respectively.

Source: <https://tribuneonline.ng.com/healthcare-ngo-seeks-budget-line-for-integrated-supportive-supervision-in-sokoto/>



Chennai-based NGO reunites mentally-ill man with his family after 15 months

The volunteers at the NGO provided occupational therapy, individual and group counselling to Vali.

GUNTUR: It was a joyous and emotional moment for the Sheikh family in Karampudi village of Palnadu district, as Sheikh Vali, a 43-year-old mentally-ill patient who had been missing for the past 15 months, was reunited with them on Friday.

A distressed, half-naked man was seen wandering on the streets of Ayapakkam in Tamil Nadu. His clothes were torn, his face was covered with dirt and he had no idea what his name was or where he came from. Jacob and his team from Udavum Karangal (Helping Hands), a non-profit organisation in Tamil Nadu, found Vali in this condition after receiving a phone call from a good samaritan in Ayapakkam. They took him to their Dignity Home for mentally-ill male patients in Thiruverkadu, Chennai

and provided him warm meals and clean clothes.

The volunteers at the NGO provided occupational therapy, individual and group counselling to Vali. He was offered nutritious food and was kept under the constant care of psychologists and social workers.

After one month of rehabilitation and psychiatric help, Sheikh Vali was able to identify himself. He informed the volunteers about his native place and his family members, who were then contacted. Recalling the day he received a phone call regarding Sheikh Vali, his brother-in-law Soudaguru Jani Bhasha said, "I was beyond shocked. We never thought he would be in Chennai. How he reached there is still a wonder for us."

Vali has been mentally-ill since childhood. He lost his wife during

childbirth. This aggravated his mental health condition. He was living with his sister's family and left without a word one day. His family members were shocked and searched for him everywhere. They even filed a police complaint, but in no vain.

"We were sure that he was alive, but were worried about his health and well-being. When I got the call from the Udavum Karangal team about Vali, we were elated. I went to Chennai, met him and brought him back to our village," Bhasha added.

He also thanked Udavum Karangal founder S Vidyaaakar for taking good care of Vali and reuniting him with their family. Udavum Karangal has helped over 5,500 destitute people who are mentally-ill and rehabilitated them.

30 Years of Impact: Maaedicare Charitable Foundation Announces Health for Humanity Fundraiser Ball 2024 to Support Kidney and Heart Patients in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 15, 2024 - Maaedicare Charitable Foundation, a prominent NGO headquartered in Kuala Lumpur, devoted to supporting kidney patients and advancing health awareness, is marking its 30th anniversary with a groundbreaking fundraiser.

Titled "Health for Humanity Fundraiser Ball 2024 - 30th Anniversary," the event seeks to raise essential funds to increase its services and strengthen support for kidney and heart patients throughout Malaysia.

The prestigious Fundraiser will be graced by Her Highness Dato' Seri DiRaja Tan Sri Tunku Puteri Intan Safinaz Binti Almarhum Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah, Tunku Temenggong Kedah.

Established 30 years ago, Maaedicare Charitable Foundation has played a pivotal role in offering subsidised dialysis treatments across its 11 dialysis centres in the country. Serving more than 32,000 patients, the Foundation also runs a Cardiac Diagnostic Centre, as well as provides complimentary medical screenings to encourage early prevention of



kidney and heart diseases through its two Klinik Amal Percuma.

Yang Mulia Tunku Dato' Yaacob Khyra, Chairman of Maaedicare Charitable Foundation said funds raised during the evening, would assist Maaedicare strengthen its medical facilities and provide essential renal care to its 800 dialysis patients, effectively. Ultimately, he added that the Fundraiser seeks to foster a healthier future by bridging gaps in medical services and uplifting the quality of healthcare across the country.

Tunku Dato' Yaacob emphasised deep concern regarding the accessibility of healthcare services, particularly underscoring the challenges of inadequate access to essential medication and treatment in Malaysia.

"Access to basic healthcare is a fundamental human right. Our commitment to accessible healthcare remains resolute. At Maaedicare, we firmly believe healthcare is a fundamental right for all individuals, regardless of their circumstances," he stated.

Source: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/good-news/2024/Jul/21/chennai-based-ngo-reunitesmentally-ill-man-with-his-family-after-15-months>

Source: <https://m.malaysiakini.com/announcement/712129>



NGO provides first aid training to Federal Unity School Students and Teachers

A healthcare training organization, the Embassy of Health and Wellness has empowered over 900 biology teachers and students in 112 federal unity schools across the country with skills on first aid.

The Chief Mission Director of the organization, Dr. Chiemelie Eze who made this known at the training of participants from the North Central at the Federal Technical College Orozo Abuja, called for the establishment of health clubs in schools.

The health training organized in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Health and other development partners, began in June 2024, in Lagos, covering the six geopolitical zones and concluded in the Federal Capital Territory for participants from Northcentral unity schools.

Dr. Eze pointed out the shortfall in the number of health professionals, and emphasized the need to equip people with skills to prevent avoidable deaths.

He said the program aims to train first responders, support students interested in medical careers, and position Nigeria as a hub for medical tourism.

Dr. Eze explained that participants would be tested, inducted, and monitored to track their progress.

"We focus on equipping the students, engaging them empowering them. So enabling them would involve writing examinations, because life on exam is not what delivered. Then after this examination, they shall be inducted to know that

they are now health carers and being a healthcare they can now attend to emergencies, being First Aiders and then keeping their dreams alive, getting focused until they get to the university where they shall study any of the healthcare courses and we shall make sure we watch them as they become interns in secondary school because this is one of the things we're unveiling where a student, becomes empowered and armed with information well equipped. And then during holidays, they can get to hospitals in Nigeria or Africa or the world to become interns," he maintained.

Red Cross officers Mr. Ikenna Omenikolo and Mr. Everbe Emmanuel trained participants on handling emergencies, including bleeding, burns, fractures, strains, sprains, and how to perform CPR.

Speaking on the topic, 'Managing a patient with Hypertension', a biology teacher from the Federal Government Boys College, Apo, Abuja, Mrs Louisa Nwachukwu stressed the importance of leading a healthy lifestyle and regularly checking blood pressure.

Mrs Nwachukwu cited a case where a teacher died due

to high blood pressure to highlight the seriousness of the condition.

Another teacher from the Federal Government College, Keffi, Nasarawa State, Mrs Joy Nweke advocated the establishment of health clubs in schools to promote healthy practices among young people.

"We should not just keep this information we have gotten to ourselves, if possible we should go as far as establishing health clubs in our various schools because through that we can disseminate this information to others," Mrs Nweke said.

Two of the teachers, Mr Emmanuel Effoh of Federal Government College Otobi, Benue State and Sule Musa Atase from the Federal Government Girls College, Keana, Nasarawa State promised to share what they learned with their students and colleagues.

Two students, Nosiri Nmesoma from Federal Government Girls College Omu-Aran, Kwara State, and Asadu Chinonso from the Federal Science and Technical College Otukpo, Benue State expressed optimism that with the training they received, they would be able to save lives.

Chanting the slogan of the training, "Health for All...All for Health", the participants were delighted for being part of the programme with the theme "Empowering the next generation of healthcare leaders."

Source: <https://radionigeria.gov.ng/2024/07/15/ngo-provides-first-aid-training-to-federal-unity-school-students-and-teachers/>



Meghalaya: Dy CM condemns NGO's restriction on Assam tourist vehicles

Terming the incident as unfortunate, Tynsong expressed surprise that such actions were taken by a group of people. "Law has taken its own course and won't allow such things to happen," warned the minister.

Shillong: Meghalaya Deputy Chief Minister Prestone Tynsong, who also oversees the Home Department, strongly condemned the incident where the Hynniewtrep National Youth Federation (HNYF) restricted commercial tourist vehicles with Assam registration from accessing popular tourist destinations like Dawki and Sohra.

Source: <https://www.eastmojo.com/meghalaya/2024/07/26/meghalaya-dy-cm-condemns-ngos-restriction-on-assam-tourist-vehicles/>



Prioritizing Health System Development in the Pacific: A Layered Approach



Kathryn Paik



Eileen Natuzzi

The Issue

This brief gives an overview of health challenges across the Pacific Islands region and identifies the need for development partners such as the United States to reframe their approach to health system development. The document provides several recommendations for policymakers and development organizations as they work with the Pacific to effectively meet the health needs of the region.

Increasingly alarmed by aggressive Chinese efforts to broaden a security foothold in the Pacific, the United States, along with partners such as Australia and New Zealand, has stepped up efforts in recent years to be present and responsive to the needs of the Pacific Islands—with varied levels of success. One critical area, health development, has continued to fall short—and yet, working with the Pacific to prioritize health system development could have significant and long-lasting positive effects on U.S. presence and influence in this critical region.

After decades of relative neglect, the United States faces an uphill battle to prove it is a reliable partner in the Pacific Islands region—defined for this paper as inclusive of countries and territories stretching across the Pacific Ocean from Palau to French Polynesia, exclusive of Australia and New Zealand. To combat this perception, the United States has focused on a series of high-level engagements and initiatives, as well as publishing the first-ever U.S. strategy for the Pacific: the [Pacific Partnership Strategy](#). Top initiatives have focused on climate, maritime security, and successfully concluding negotiations on the regional Tuna Treaty and three Compact of Free Association (COFA) agreements. In 2023, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) established an office in Suva, Fiji, overseeing programming across the region, and the Peace Corps returned to multiple Pacific locations. These are all essential pieces of U.S. engagement, but so too is health system strengthening, which focuses on supporting education, training and staffing up local medical personnel, establishing services that are needed in order to strengthen approaches toward all health challenges, and improving the physical infrastructure of crumbling and

vulnerable hospitals and clinics. The World Health Organization states: “A well-functioning health system working in harmony is built on having trained and motivated health workers, a well-maintained infrastructure, and a reliable supply of medicines and technologies, backed by adequate funding, strong health plans and evidence-based policies.”

The Pacific Islands region consists of [over 14 million](#) people living on thousands of islands spread out over [30 percent of the Earth’s surface](#). Despite spanning thousands of miles and hundreds of ethnicities, there is a homogeneity to the significant health challenges facing all Pacific Islands. The [Pacific Partnership for Health System Sustainability and Resilience](#) summarizes ongoing issues including difficulty with reliable transport, costly overseas medical referrals, modest and fragile economies, workforce and supply chain shortages, and extreme vulnerability to natural disasters. These factors have hampered the establishment of sustainable health systems in addition to limiting economic development.

Health programming is not always considered a top foreign policy priority, but both the immensity of health challenges in the Pacific and the cross-cutting nature of the health sector across economic, political, and security dimensions demand a more concerted effort by the United States and other development partners to effectively deliver on health.

The United States has several existing health programs in the Pacific, and numerous other partners, such as Australia, are heavily involved in health capacity building as well. And yet, many programs are siloed to address specific diseases or aimed at meeting short-term needs, instead of laying the groundwork to

strengthen the very foundation of a host nation’s health system. Coordination is not enough. There also needs to be a shift in mindset—from expatriate provision of services to local partnership collaboration—in order to enhance services. A shift toward multinational collaboration in the Pacific requires moving from temporary, news-making projects to a layered, committed approach that allows donor, host nation, and regional organizational efforts to build on one another. This report will first present an overview of the current state of health systems in the Pacific and ongoing development activities. It will then present recommendations for shifting to a more coordinated, layered approach to most effectively strengthen Pacific health systems.

Pacific Health Systems—Underfunded and Under-Resourced

Having access to sufficient healthcare is top of mind across the Pacific; health shortfalls affect every Pacific Islander, regardless of social or economic status. Despite [international focus](#) on the recent Solomon Islands election as a metric of U.S.-China competition, Solomon Islanders voted on issues much closer to home—[namely lack of healthcare and a dwindling economy](#). What Solomon Islands voters voiced this April is not unique. Limited access to essential healthcare is a region-wide problem that adversely impacts economic development and stability. The disparate, far-flung tropical geography of the Pacific region, combined with modest populations, small economies, and limited inter-island connectivity, has resulted in a unique set of health challenges that were only [further exacerbated during the Covid-19 pandemic](#).

Programs that address infectious diseases, such as malaria, dengue, and

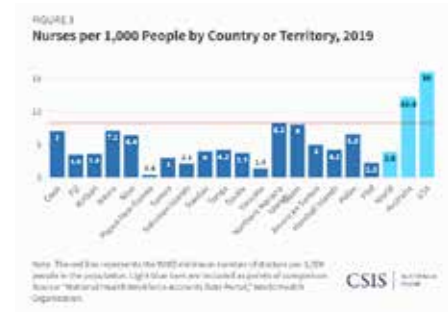
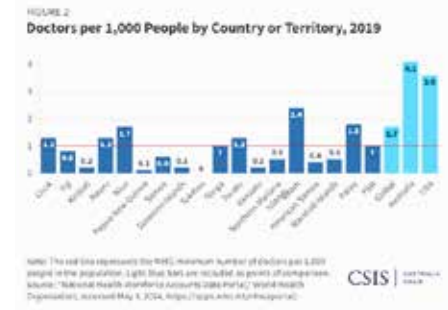
and TB, are already common in the Pacific Islands, but they do not address the leading causes of premature mortality: noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), such as cancer and diabetes. Along with obesity and mental health, these chronic diseases are responsible for upwards of [80 percent of deaths](#) in the region. The increasing incidence of [injuries and trauma](#) occurring following natural disasters, road traffic accidents, and personal injury further stresses already under-resourced regional health systems.

Health systems in the Pacific Islands are under-resourced, as evidenced by health spending per capita per year. The [Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation's \(IHME\) 2021-2022 data](#) shows that average annual health expenditure (in USD) per person in the Pacific region, excluding Australia and New Zealand, was \$583. In U.S.-affiliated territories and Freely Associated States, it was \$922; in non-affiliated Pacific Island countries, it was \$388. When contrasted with health expenditure in the United States and Australia—at \$12,012 and \$7,055 respectively—these low health expenditure rates per person are striking and reflect a reality of limited budgets, services, and access (Figure 1).

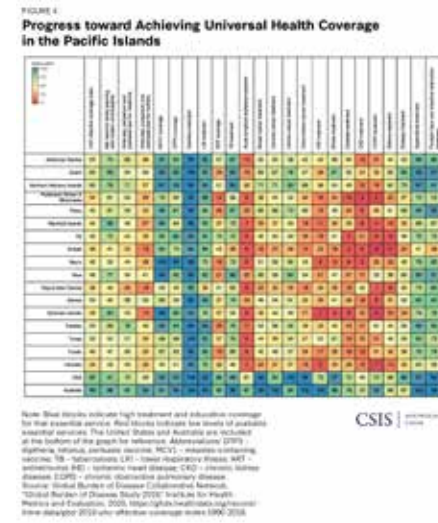


The shortage of doctors and nurses remains a critical issue in the Pacific Islands, despite a number of medical and nursing universities and schools in the region (Figures 2-3). The number of nurses in

all Pacific Island countries falls below WHO recommendations. The number of doctors in 67 percent of PICs is below WHO recommendations. A limited healthcare workforce makes it difficult to achieve universal health coverage. This is partly due to training volume, but it is also due to [external migration of both doctors and nurses](#) looking for better pay and the opportunity to work in better quality health systems.



In 2015, the United Nations introduced the [Sustainable Development Goals](#). Included in this ambitious agenda is [universal health coverage \(UHC\)](#); the goal does not refer to health insurance, but calls for all people to have “access to the full range of quality health services they need, when and where they need them, without financial hardship.” The data on [progress toward UHC](#) in the Pacific Islands region shows the region is underperforming in achieving many of the basic services needed in order to deliver UHC. This is largely due to limited essential services addressing non-communicable diseases, represented on the right side of Figure 4 below.



Adding further complexity is the region’s exceptional vulnerability to natural disasters such as cyclones, earthquakes, drought, and flooding, which not only threaten people and their food sources but also the very health system that serves them. Fifty-six percent of Pacific Island hospitals are [especially vulnerable](#) to extreme weather damage due to low-lying coastal locations, resulting in grave risk to health access for over half the Pacific population. When health clinics and dispensaries are included, [62 percent of all Pacific Island health infrastructure](#) exists in vulnerable locations. Under-resourced health systems are further hampered by natural disasters inducing the loss of services and subsequent costly repairs that [consume 1-9 percent of their annual GDP](#). In 2021, the [World Risk Report](#), an annual assessment of disaster risk from extreme natural events and negative climate change impacts for 193 countries, had 5 Pacific Island countries in its 10 most vulnerable countries worldwide.

Read more: <https://www.csis.org/analysis/prioritizing-health-system-development-pacific-layered-approach>

Adam cycles Africa in aid of mental health

Cape Town - After departing 20 days ago on a journey around Africa to spread awareness about mental health challenges, 22-year-old Adam Jacobs says it has been the interactions with others that transformed a solitary ride into one full of experiences of overwhelming kindness.

Jacobs, the creative mind behind the Chasing Adam brand, set off from Rook Cycles in Bree Street on July 6 on the cycling expedition through 34 African countries, aiming to raise R100 000 for adolescent mental health NGO Waves for Change.

Jacobs is no stranger to activism; he regularly posts motivational messages social media encouraging others to embrace an active lifestyle.

He said this journey represented something deeper.

“We all know someone who has faced mental health battles. This ride is about facing fears and overcoming hardships while drawing attention to the pressing need for mental health awareness,” he said.

Jacobs is in the Eastern Cape, delighting in every moment of his journey.

“The thing is, it’s absolutely amazing as it’s winter, which is my favourite season,” he said.

His expedition has been made all the more enriching by the generosity of strangers; and free accommodation granted by Airbnb.

But it’s not just the warmth of

hospitality that has defined Jacobs’s experience.

“Many people have opened up their hearts for me. These interactions have transformed a solitary journey into a tapestry woven with stories of human kindness,” he said.

Jacobs said his primary challenge was maintaining consistency in documenting his journey while securing reliable wi-fi access.

Jacobs recounts one defining moment that occurred while he was making his way through Strand and was faced with a blocked road.

“I was asked to take an alternative route but I refused,” Jacobs said.

His refusal was met with eventual success as authorities cleared the blockage.

This experience highlighted the importance of determination and trusting one’s instincts, he said.

Jacobs views his expedition as “a marathon and not a sprint”. This approach has not only prepared him for unforeseen hurdles but has also cultivated an openness to life’s unpredictable nature.

“Every day has been amazing; the highs and lows do come but friendliness helps when you are on your own and encourages you on the journey,” he said.

Waves for Change, the non-profit organisation Jacobs is supporting, has five surfing hubs in the Western and Eastern Cape.

Their surf therapy programmes focus on providing mental health support to children and young people from under-served communities.

Waves for Change event manager Tania Bailey said: “We are so honoured that Adam has chosen us as the beneficiary of his fund-raising effort. It costs around R10 000 a child for them to complete the full surf therapy programme and aftercare service, so that R100 000 will benefit 10 children.

Source: <https://www.iol.co.za/capeargus/news/adam-cycles-africa-in-aid-of-mental-health-459b8666-9183-451b-a693-66a513c29898>





July is Disability Pride Month. Here's what you should know.



Michael Roppolo

This month marks 34 years since the Americans with Disabilities Act was signed into law, and Disability Pride Month was officially established nearly a decade ago.

As one blind author and illustrator recently pointed out, [disability exists on a spectrum](#). And the fight for community, inclusion and acceptance is still going strong today.

In the U.S. in 2021, nearly 42.5 million people – or 13% of the population – had a disability, according to [the American Community Survey](#), conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. An estimated 1.3 billion people have a significant disability worldwide, according to [the World Health Organization](#), which is 16% of the global population, or 1 in 6 people.

When is Disability Pride Month?

[Disability Pride Month occurs annually in July](#), coinciding with the anniversary of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) being signed into law. The ADA was signed into law on July 26, 1990, by President George H.W. Bush and protects the rights of people with disabilities against employment discrimination, while fostering inclusion in society.

The goal was also to expand access to all levels of government, public establishments, transportation and communication — building on the protections afforded by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The 1973 law was the first legislation that addressed the rights of people with disabilities, but its protections only extended to employers who received federal funding.

Disability pride is also celebrated worldwide – sometimes at different months – including in the United Kingdom, South Africa and elsewhere.

What is Disability Pride Month?

Disability Pride Month was officially established in 2015 during the 25th anniversary of the ADA, with New York City hosting its first [Disability Pride Month parade](#) that year.

Celebrations honoring the landmark law began much earlier. The first disability pride events were held in Boston in 1990, the same year the civil rights law was signed. In 2004, Chicago held its first disability pride parade.

The idea of disability pride is rooted in the issue of visibility, much like

the LGBTQ and Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) pride.

Chicago's Disability Pride Parade [defines its mission in three ways](#): change “the way people think about and define ‘disability’”; break down and end the “internalized shame among people with disabilities”; and promote the belief in society that disability is a “natural and beautiful part of human diversity.”

Disability impacts all of us. Patrick Cokley, senior program officer at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, noted that [1 in 4 Americans](#) will develop a disability in their lifetime. Cokley has low vision.

“If we pretend that it's a small group we've never heard of, or a tiny population, then we do ourselves a disservice,” [he told CBS News](#) in an interview earlier this year. “We're then also leaving out all of the other myriad of people that might have hidden disabilities, have aging disabilities or acquired disabilities.”

Starting points for how to interact with people with disabilities

As a spinal stroke survivor and a late-diagnosed adult with autism, Marisa Hamamoto's lived experience highlights the intersectionality and variety of the disabled community.

She remembers her earliest experiences of feeling like she never fit in, but believes dance is a universal experience that belongs to everyone. Hamamoto founded [Infinite Flow Dance](#) in 2015, an award-winning dance company based in Los Angeles.

“Being the only Asian American growing up in my neighborhood, I got picked on at school for looking different,” she said. “Yet, you know, society – the dance world – was sending out this message that dance was only accessible to a select few.”

Her nonprofit employs disabled and nondisabled dancers with a mission to advance disability inclusion – one dance at a time.

“Stigma and discrimination has led to people not having access to education, to employment, to recreation and so many other things in life, and that is not right,” she told CBS News. “So we want to really shift that narrative.”

Part of that is education. Hamamoto's advocacy has grown over the years since founding



Infinite Flow, but she is quick to admit that she is always learning.

“It's also important not to make assumptions,” she said. “No two disabled people have the same needs.”

Disability Pride Month is important to highlight because it gives those in the disabled community a collective power, Hamamoto told CBS News.

She said the road to disability acceptance is a personal journey, but was quick to note that those with disabilities are not alone and there is strength in numbers.

“For some of us, we were born with a disability. For others, disability was acquired in the middle of life,” she said. “Disability is a big part of how we live our lives, and disability can be a strength.”

Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/july-disability-pride-month-what-to-know/>



High School Student with Disability Who Had to Sit in Audience for Graduation Files Lawsuit: ‘Humiliating’

Lawyers for the student allege that what happened on graduation day was the latest in a series of ways Lee was mistreated by the school



Brian Brant



David Chiu

A former Tennessee high school student with disabilities has sued a school board after she and two other graduating students were forced to sit with the audience rather than with their peers after a series of alleged “prejudice.”

Kennedy Lee previously told PEOPLE that she and two other graduating Greenfield High School students were relegated to the bleachers at their May 17 graduation ceremony.

“It really hurt that I was not given these same opportunities as my other classmates, and my entire high school career has not been normal,” Lee said at the time. “So I just wanted one night to be a normal student and be treated like a normal student, and that was robbed of me.”

On July 12, lawyers for Lee filed a complaint in U.S. District Court against the Weakley County Board of Education, alleging that what happened to her on graduation day was the latest in a series of “humiliating” ways Lee was mistreated by the school.

“This case involves extreme prejudice and insecurity towards persons with disabilities,” the complaint, which was obtained by PEOPLE, stated. “To the Greenfield High School administration, persons with certain neurological disabilities should be ushered away, not seen, segregated from their peers.”

According to the suit, Lee, has postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome (POTS) – a condition that “causes your heart to beat faster than normal” when transitioning from sitting down to standing up, which can cause fainting, according to the Cleveland Clinic – as well as a functional neurological disorder.

Instead of following the student’s 504 plan, which protects the rights

- Kennedy Lee has sued the Weakley County Board of Education after she and the two other graduating students from Greenfield High were forced to sit with the audience instead of with their peers during graduation
- The suit also alleged that Lee and another student with POTS spent nearly the entirety of her school day during her junior year in a “former storage closet,” as the school claimed her disability was “too much of a disruption to other students”
- “This case involves extreme prejudice and insecurity towards persons with disabilities,” read the complaint, which was obtained by PEOPLE

of students with disabilities and is supposed to remove barriers to learning, the lawsuit alleged that Lee spent much of her junior year at Greenfield High in a former storage closet, which the school cleaned out and placed cots in.

“WCS [Weakley County Schools] confined and ostracized Kennedy,” the complaint read, “and the other student with POTS, to the storage closet for all of their junior year of high school, the 2022-2023 school year, with no access to non-disabled peers, no access to extracurricular activities, no access to special classes like art or music, no access to eating lunch in the cafeteria with peers, no access to use of the library, and limited to no access to teacher instruction in the general education curriculum.”

“WCS gave Kennedy an online curriculum different from and lacking that of her non-disabled peers in the regular education classrooms,” added the complaint.

An attorney representing the school district did not respond to PEOPLE’s repeated requests for comment.

According to the lawsuit, Lee’s disability called for “reasonable accommodations” from the school, like getting additional time to complete assignments and being allowed to sit near teachers and friends, just in case she needed help.

“Rather than abide by the 504 Plan, WCS went to humiliating extremes,” the lawsuit claimed. “It put Kennedy and another student in her grade who also had POTS in a former storage closet. WCS cleaned out the closet, then placed two cot beds on each side, one for each student. The nurse sat in the closet too, at a small desk,” read the lawsuit, which included a photo of Lee in the alleged closet.

The complaint claimed these measures were put in place because the school allegedly said that her POTS disability was “too much of a disruption to other students.”

“Having suffered the prejudice and indignity of being isolated to the storage closet, and with WCS offering no other viable alternatives, Kennedy went on homebound status for the 2023-2024 school year, her senior year,” the suit added.

By graduation, the lawsuit noted that Lee had looked forward to walking on stage with her classmates during the ceremony. But as PEOPLE previously reported,



said that all district “graduation ceremonies are planned to ensure the safety of all participants.”

“Weakley County Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, disability, national origin, gender, age, political affiliation, or beliefs,” concluded the statement.

Lee previously told PEOPLE that she did consider boycotting the ceremony but decided against it.

Instead, she attended and “watched her graduating classmates file in, while she walked in separately and sat in the bleachers,” per the complaint.

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“After graduation, WCS created social media postings of the graduating class of 2024,” the suit read. “Noticeably absent, not even mentioned, were Kennedy and the other two students with disabilities. This would be the final humiliating act of segregation and exclusion that Kennedy experienced.”

In addition to “reasonable attorney’s fees and costs” as well as “compensatory damages,” Lee is seeking to train school officials and staff about “the harm of segregation, the integration mandate, and the rights to reasonable accommodation,” per the complaint.

Lee’s attorneys told PEOPLE in a statement concerning the lawsuit, “Kennedy’s disability may sometimes limit her ability to physically stand, but nobody will question her standing up to this school system.”

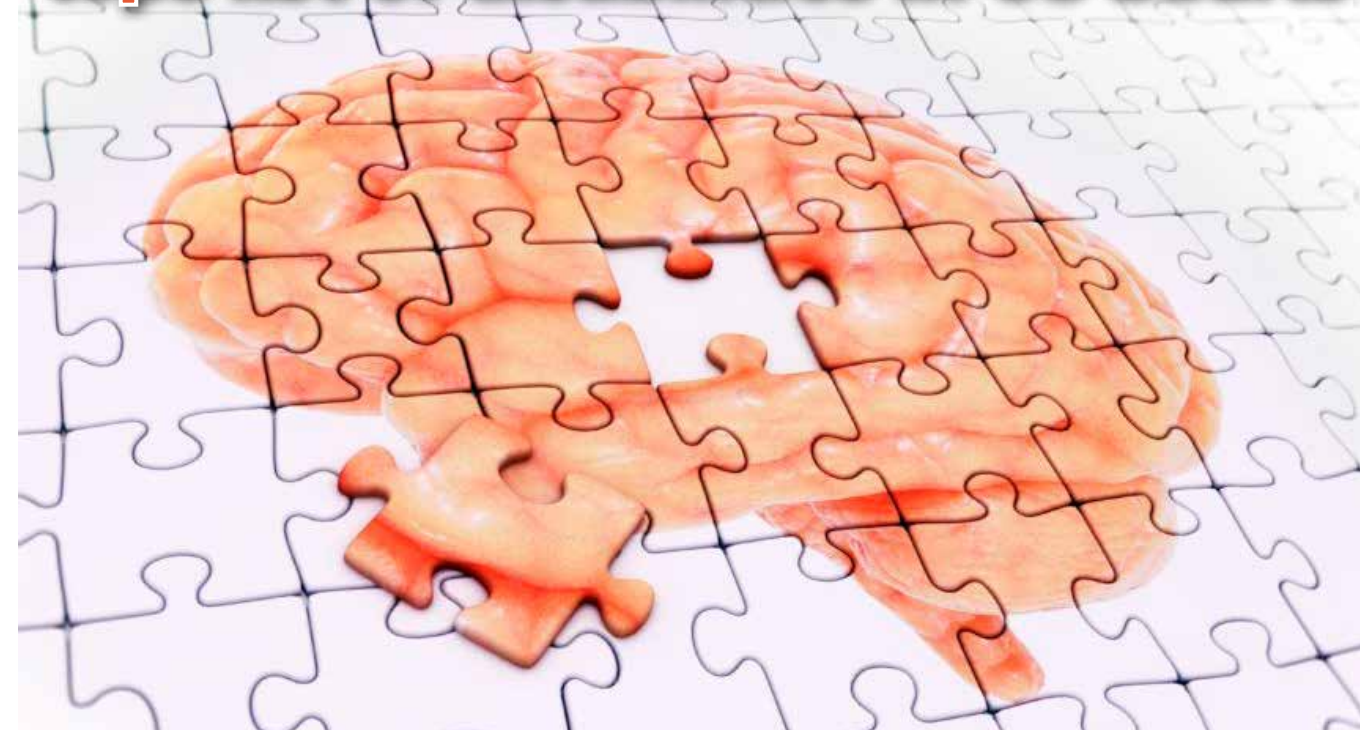
she instead sat with the audience during the official event.

“This decision targeted Kennedy’s disability,” the suit alleged. “The principal said WCS did not want Kennedy ‘falling out’ on the gym floor with someone coming down from the audience to rescue or assist her. That, the principal said, would be embarrassing for the school if posted on social media.”

The complaint alleged Lee’s mother raised the issue of graduation with the Weakley County’s Director of Schools, who reportedly “sympathized” but did not correct the principal.

In an earlier statement regarding Lee’s allegations surrounding Greenfield High’s May 17 commencement, Weakley County Director of Schools Jeff Cupples

CDC report: Cognitive disability tops list of disabilities in US adults



Cognitive disability emerged as the most prevalent disability in the United States in 2022, affecting 13.9% of adults. This is according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s annual update to the [Disability and Health Data System](#) (DHDS) released last week.

On a broader level, more than 1 in 4 adults in the United States, totaling more than 70 million people, reported having a disability in 2022, DHDS said. This comprehensive data, collected through the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), was further broken down to shed light on various aspects of disability prevalence.

- Older adults, particularly those aged 65 and above, reported a higher disability rate of 43.9% compared to other age groups.

- When examining disability status by race and ethnicity, American Indian or Alaska Native individuals and those identifying as multiracial or other races showed the highest prevalence at 38.7% each.

For the first time, the 2022 BRFSS included data on long COVID, offering insights into the relationship between disabilities and this still-prevalent health concern. For example, findings indicate that individuals with disabilities were more likely to experience long COVID symptoms compared to those without disabilities.

The CDC emphasized that while long COVID can affect anyone infected with SARS-CoV-2, certain groups face higher risks. The agency continues to recommend

vaccination as the best protection against severe COVID-19 outcomes and collaborates with various partners to better understand and address the impacts of long COVID, particularly on people with disabilities.

“These findings underscore the fact that people with disabilities are a large part of every community and population,” DHDS explained. “Many of us know, or are, someone with a disability, and disability inclusion is beneficial for all. As we commemorate the upcoming 34th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act on July 26, it’s important to remember disability is not a health outcome; it is part of the way people experience life, such as hearing, seeing, moving, processing information, and caring for oneself.”

Source: <https://people.com/high-school-student-with-disability-sat-audience-graduation-files-lawsuit-8678896>

Source: <https://www.mcknights.com/news/cdc-report-cognitive-disability-tops-list-of-disabilities-in-us-adults/>

'I was given Freedom of City but not freedom of room'



Harry Low

A woman who was given the Freedom of the City of London for her disability campaigning says it is "absurd" she was unable to collect the award on stage due to not being offered an accessible ramp.

Anna Landre has spoken to BBC London about how she was fighting back tears during the ceremony on Friday at Mansion House in the City.

Ms Landre, who describes herself as a wheelchair-using activist, researcher and consultant, said: "It's the absolute irony to be granted the Freedom of the City but not the freedom of the room. You couldn't make it up."

The City of London Corporation (CLC) said it "offered our sincerest apologies to Anna Landre for the inaccessible stage upon receiving her freedom award".

'In shock'

One of the City of London's ancient traditions, freedoms are believed to have been handed out since 1237.

They give thanks to individuals for their contribution to London or public life - or to celebrate a very significant achievement, the CLC says.

Ms Landre, who moved

to the UK three years ago after studying in Washington DC, [received the award on Friday](#) for her contribution to computer science and disability campaigning.

After being told she wouldn't be able to receive her award onstage like the other recipients, the 25-year-old said she was "in shock and trying to figure out what to do".

"Do I leave, say something, make a scene?"

"Both as a young disabled woman and someone who grew up working class, who's not British, you feel a little on edge and belittled surrounded by that pomp and circumstance."

"It's so posh and I don't want to make a scene. I spent most of the ceremony trying not to start crying and I'm usually really stoic about these things, as it happens so often.

"This was the straw that breaks the camel's back. It turned an honour into an indignity."

The 2010 Equality Act brought together many of the rights first enshrined in the 1995 Disability Discrimination Act, which made it illegal for employers and places such as shops and restaurants to discriminate against someone because they are disabled.

Despite this, such experiences are a systemic issue, according to Ms Landre.

She said: "As an activist, whenever this happens it's an opportunity to

fix it for the next person because if I don't it will happen to the next person.

"A lot of my research centres around the implementation gap.

"They really don't reflect reality on the ground so disabled people are left with this puzzle of how do we make our rights real?"

"Because this isn't a case of criminal law, you can't call the police, there isn't a disability rights line.

"The only way is to sue and it's an unbelievable burden.

"That's why we're never going to have full implementation if the only mechanism for enforcement is disabled people suing."

She added: "Inaccessibility like this has a real cost to society.

"I really think we'd benefit from an easier way to make complaints - maybe an ombudsman or some leadership from the current government on making disabled people's rights real."

"It's nice to get an apology - an admission of wrongdoing rarely happens - but I'm not convinced it won't happen again."

A CLC spokesperson said: "The City of London Corporation is fully committed to equity, diversity and inclusion and we are undertaking an urgent review to ensure accessibility at our buildings, facilities and events.

"Again, we want to make clear our unreserved apology to Anna Landre and we are making every effort to ensure this doesn't happen again."

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cp4wjvr127wo>



Disability Pride Month works to end stigma, offer support



Destiny Meilleur

Disability Pride Month is celebrated every July and is a month dedicated to celebrating those with disabilities and all they can do in spite of their conditions.

But disabilities are not always visible – so the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower program stepped up to make a symbol to help.

“Did you know there are ... upwards of 900 invisible challenges that can limit someone’s participation or accessibility,” said Clare Kumar, the regional director for the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Program.

The sunflower was chosen because it is a subtle way to indicate that a person may need some extra assistance.

For those with invisible disabilities, this can make the world of a difference.

“It’s life-changing. To be able to know that you can go into a space and that you’re going to be met with people who are trained in understanding what the sunflower means, and then we’ll offer assistance. So this concept of psychological safety and feeling like you belong – it’s incredible,” said Kumar.

Elizabeth Tikoyan designed an app called ‘Healp’ to create a community for those with chronic illness and disability.

The latest health and medical news emailed to you every Sunday.

Tikoyan feels community is the most important aspect of managing a chronic illness, reminding people they don’t have to face things alone and there is still life to live after a diagnosis.

“There are people in this world that are like the top of the creme de la creme of society that have disabilities. And there’s no shame in it. We just need people to know, like you’re not alone. You can make an amazing life with this.,” said Tikoyan.

Both companies agreed that Disability Pride Month is important to raise awareness and end the stigma.

“We need more of you to be open so that we can change the perception of society and how they see us. And if we never have you opening up about your disability, we will never be able to change the perception that we all have as a community,” said Tikoyan.

“It’s just so powerful to shift our thinking away from bias, assumptions, negativity bias, false consensus effect, all these things that help us kind of fill in blanks with inappropriate assumptions. And it’s helping us really put in the pause,” said Kumar.

The Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission said in a statement that disability is common and will affect nearly all of us at some point in our lives.

It added Disability Pride Month is an opportunity to celebrate the history, experiences and contributions of persons with disabilities. It is also a time to promote understanding about disability issues and raise awareness about the many barriers people with disabilities continue to face.

Source: <https://globalnews.ca/news/10644419/disability-pride-month-end-stigma-offer-support/>



Call for project proposals of the Small Grants Programme of the Global Environment Facility in Kazakhstan

The Small Grants Programme of the Global Environment Facility (GEF SGP) in Kazakhstan, operating under the auspices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is now accepting project applications for the grant competition as part of its seventh operational phase.

Eligibility

Applications are invited exclusively from registered Kazakhstani non-profit, non-governmental public organizations (NGOs). Proposals from government agencies, enterprises, commercial entities (LLPs, etc.), and research organizations are not eligible for consideration.

Thematic Areas

Project proposals should focus on one of the following thematic areas:

1. **Mitigation of Climate Change Impacts**
2. **Reducing Land Degradation Processes**

Geographic Focus

Project activities should target measures to reduce negative impacts on steppe, semi-desert, or desert ecosystems. Eligible geographic areas include rural and suburban regions of Kostanay, Akmola, Karaganda, Ulytau, Kyzylorda, Almaty, Zhetysu,

Turkestan, East Kazakhstan, and Abay. Projects cannot be implemented in regional centers or the cities of Shymkent, Astana, and Almaty.

Community Impact

Projects must incorporate mechanisms and activities to enhance the well-being of local communities, including women, youth, and vulnerable groups, and actively involve them in project implementation. Collaborative projects involving network partnerships with multiple NGOs are encouraged.

Grant Details

Maximum Funding: USD 50,000

Project Duration: Up to 15 months

Selection Priorities

Priority will be given to projects that:

1. **Geographical Scope:** Focus on the Kostanay, Ulytau, Abay, and Zhetysu regions.
2. **Climate Change Mitigation:** Promote renewable energy, energy-saving technologies, and thermal modernization.
3. **Partnerships and Cooperation:** Involve collaborations with other donors, development organizations, programs, and the private sector.

4. **Social Inclusion:** Target women, youth, and other socially vulnerable groups.

Competition Duration

The grant competition runs from **July 19 to August 18, 2024.**

Capacity Building and Support

As part of the seventh operational phase, capacity-building and advisory support are available for grant recipients. More detailed information can be found in Appendix 1.

Application Process

Interested applicants must submit their project proposals using the attached format via email to sgp.kz@undp.org. For additional details on training, project categories, eligible activities, selection criteria, and proposal format, refer to the appendices:

1. Appendix 1: [Online Training and Consultation Support](#)
2. Appendix 2: [Possible Types of Activities and Project Selection Criteria](#)
3. Appendix 3: [Project Proposal Format](#)

For further information, please contact the GEF Small Grants Program at sgp.kz@undp.org.

Source: <https://www.undp.org/kazakhstan/news/call-project-proposals-small-grants-programme-global-environment-facility-kazakhstan>

Future Pending

The Malayan tiger, *Panthera tigris jacksoni* is an iconic symbol of Malaysia's rich biodiversity and a critical component of the country's natural heritage. This subspecies of tiger is distinguished by its smaller size and darker coat compared to other tiger subspecies, and is restricted to Peninsular Malaysia. In the 1950s, it was estimated that around 3,000 tigers once roamed the vast rainforests of the Peninsular; now, fewer than 150 wild tigers remain, primarily in the Taman-Negara National Park, Belum-Temengor Forest Complex, and Endau-Rompin Forest Complex. A combination of land use change from the industrial agriculture and development era post independence, wildlife poaching, habitat loss, and prey scarcity has precipitated this decline over the years. Compounding the threats is the insufficient and fragmented financial landscape for conservation efforts. The Global Wildlife Program (GWP) Phase II project is a collaborative effort between the Malaysian Government and international bodies to reduce wildlife crime and enhance

protection of Malaysia's iconic wildlife species.

With support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is working with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (NRES) and key partners Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia (DWNP), Royal Malaysia Police (RMP), Sabah Wildlife Department (SWD) and Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) to safeguard three iconic wildlife species and their habitats within critical protected area complexes.

“NRES through the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (PERHILITAN) remains committed towards Malayan Tiger conservation with various initiatives including the implementation of GWP project involving UNDP Malaysia with USD1.5 million fund from Global Environment Facility (GEF) for Malayan Tiger conservation activities including in Kampung Cangkung and Sungai Keniyam in Pahang until 2028”

-- YB Nik Nazmi bin Nik Ahmad, Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (excerpt from Global Tiger Day 2024 speech at Biodiversity Institute in Pahang, Malaysia)

Focusing on the Malayan Tiger in Peninsular Malaysia, Bornean Orangutan in Sarawak and Bornean Banteng in Sabah, this project will contribute towards improving Malaysia's capacity to prevent, combat and investigate wildlife crimes as well as to strengthen

Source: <https://www.undp.org/nature/stories/future-pending>

the participatory management of protected area landscapes.

“The Ministry regards the GWP Malaysia project as a strategic platform to enhance key stakeholders' capacity and capability to safeguard the iconic Malayan Tiger across Malaysia's diverse geography and rich biodiversity.”

-- Biodiversity and Forestry Management Division, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability

GWP involves multi-stakeholder collaboration at national, sub-national and local scales, with specific attention paid to the engagement of indigenous communities and women; strengthened national leadership and coordination of the multi-agency response to wildlife crime; evidence-driven conservation management approaches; testing and implementation of innovative technologies and best practices that enhance capacity for cost-effective prevention and management of wildlife crime; and enterprise development, including the establishment of tourism concession models and sustainable livelihoods that enable rural communities to gain greater benefits from wildlife conservation. The project aims to directly benefit 45,000 people, of whom 2020 (47%) are women.


To protect an umbrella species such as a tiger, conservation efforts call for a holistic approach such as integrated landscape management, which requires a long-term horizon planning and appropriate allocation of resources to be able to deliver permanent

results at scale. An assessment on the [Malaysia Biodiversity Financing Needs for 2018-2025](#) estimates that ≈US\$530mon average per year is needed in order to fund biodiversity related initiatives to achieve the national biodiversity targets. An estimated \$297m is secured annually from various sources, with public funds as the primary source (67%), leaving ≈\$233m of biodiversity gap annually. Unlocking private financing for large-scale nature conservation efforts is therefore one of the opportunities that needs to be tapped on. Many existing financing mechanisms such as wildlife bonds, debt for nature swaps, and impact funds, although important, need to be complemented with new financing approaches to bridge the gaps these instruments are not able to meet.

The GWP is one source of additional funding for conservation efforts to protect the Malayan tiger, Bornean Orangutan and Bornean Banteng. However, beyond the project life, funds need to be secured to continue the work. The future of the Malayan tiger hinges on scaled-up and sustained collaborative conservation efforts, where the possibility lies in leveraging the landscape approach and appropriately designed private-sector financing. Multiple sources of financing would enable implementation of an integrated landscape management approach to reduce habitat loss, restore ecological connectivity, elevate law enforcement, promote sustainable livelihoods for local communities, encourage biodiversity friendly agriculture practices, strengthen the governance and management of natural resources, and, where needed, create suitable habitats for tiger reintroduction. These efforts will ultimately offer an integrated solution to catalyse the realisation of the sustainable development goals.

Tweets of Social Good

unicef • 1 w



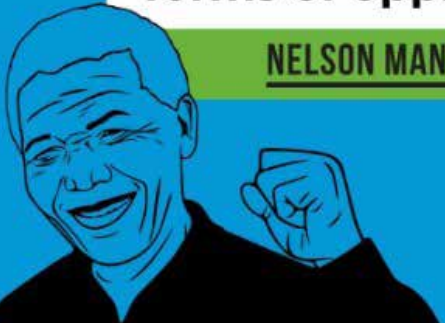
“
I don't like the life I have now.
I want to go back to the life I led before.”
Queen, 14, Haiti

unicef for every child

unwomen • 1 w

UN WOMEN

“
Freedom cannot be achieved unless the women have been emancipated from all forms of oppression.”
NELSON MANDELA



UNICEF @UNICEF • Aug 16

As poliovirus reemerges in the Gaza Strip, a crucial vaccination campaign is expected to launch at the end of this month.

@WHO and UNICEF request all parties to the conflict to implement humanitarian pauses to ensure children have access to vaccines.



Humanitarian pauses vital for critical polio vaccination campaign in the Gaza St...

Food and Agriculture Organization • 43.9K posts

Follow

6 reasons why we need to BEE grateful to our pollinators.



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Bee-ing grateful to our pollinators

Humanity & Inclusion U.S. @HI_UnitedStates • 15h

Meet Justine & Majambere, a couple living in Kyaka camp in #Uganda!

They each arrived with painful old prosthetics that made walking. After connecting with HI's teams, Justine now has a new 3D-printed prosthesis, & Majambere received crutches as he awaits his new prosthesis!



International Labour Organization • 21.7K posts

Following

Equip learners with knowledge on inclusive and respectful conduct, and on their rights against violence and harassment.



ifrc • 5 h

USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT WHERE POSSIBLE

TRY TO TRAVEL IN A GROUP

KEEP FAMILY INFORMED ABOUT YOUR JOURNEY AND LOCATION

USE A BUDDY SYSTEM TO MONITOR AND HELP EACH OTHER

WHEN TRAVELING

IF SOMETHING SEEMS SUSPICIOUS, FOLLOW YOUR INSTINCT AND TRUST YOURSELF

AGREE TO A CODE WORD WITH YOUR BUDDY AND FAMILY IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

IF YOU FEEL UNSAFE, SEEK SUPPORT FROM AID ORGANIZATIONS OR THE AUTHORITIES.

IF IN DANGER, CALL YOUR EMERGENCY NUMBER

IFRC

who • 3 h

TIPS FOR GOOD MENTAL HEALTH

Be active! Enjoy walks with your family & friends

Eat healthy

Look for professional help if you need it

Talk about your feelings with someone you trust

Get 8 hours of sleep every day



World Health Organization

Islamic Relief UK @IslamicReliefUK • Aug 16

#Afghanistan continues to struggle with one of the world's largest and most complex humanitarian crises.

Without rapid efforts to increase diplomatic engagement and long-term sustainable funding, Afghans will be left to suffer for years to come.



Three Years On: Afghans are Paying the Price for the World's Neglect | Islamic Re...

From islamic-relief.org.uk

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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editor@thengoworld.com