

# THE NGO WORLD



## Strengthening Nonprofits Through People-Centric Culture



**Empowering small NGOs to improve their safeguarding processes...**

**20**

**The Role of Community-Based Associations in Social Protection: Jordan as a Case Study**

**36**

**From the HLPF 2024 to the Summit of the Future: will countries do what it takes to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

**72**

**FID: Innovations in Food and Agriculture**

**92**

# Strengthening Nonprofits Through People-Centric Culture

CHIEF EDITOR:

**ZAFAR IQBAL**

PUBLICATION:

**THE NGO WORLD FOUNDATION**

DESIGNED BY:

**A.J COMMUNICATIONS**

**DISCLAIMER:**

*Disclaimer:*

*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 the dynamic world of nonprofit organizations, where the focus is on driving social impact and addressing pressing humanitarian needs, the foundation of long-term success often lies in one vital, yet sometimes overlooked, resource: people. As nonprofits strive to meet the challenges of limited resources, growing demands, and evolving societal expectations, investing in people and cultivating a strong, people-centric work culture becomes essential for sustained organizational growth.

At The NGO World, we believe that the heart of any impactful nonprofit is its people—those who dedicate their lives to social good, work tirelessly in the field, and commit their expertise to making a difference. However, to truly unlock their potential, it's not enough to merely employ passionate individuals. We must create a culture that values, empowers, and invests in them.

**Building a People-Centric Culture**

A people-centric culture begins with recognizing that the well-being and development of staff are integral to the mission. This culture involves fostering an environment where everyone, from frontline workers to leadership, feels valued, heard, and supported. In nonprofits, where emotional labor is high and challenges are complex, such an environment not only helps retain talent but also enhances creativity,

innovation, and dedication—qualities critical for addressing the multifaceted issues nonprofits face today.

Moreover, in a people-centric work culture, employees are given opportunities to learn and grow. Continuous professional development, mentorship, and leadership training should be embedded in the organizational framework, helping staff to enhance their skills and align them with the evolving needs of the communities they serve. When individuals feel that their growth is prioritized, they are more likely to stay engaged and motivated, reducing turnover and preserving institutional knowledge.

**The Role of Culture in Organizational Growth**

Investing in people doesn't stop with internal culture; it also extends to external relationships with the communities we serve. Nonprofits thrive when they embrace diversity, equity, and inclusion, not only within their teams but also in their approach to community engagement. By nurturing a culture that respects and uplifts diverse perspectives, organizations can better understand the needs of the populations they aim to support, ensuring that solutions are both relevant and impactful.

Furthermore, building a collaborative, mission-driven culture enhances the nonprofit's ability to foster

partnerships and attract funding. Donors and partners are more likely to support organizations that demonstrate strong internal values, transparency, and a commitment to building capacity—elements that stem directly from a healthy organizational culture.

**Investing in People: A Strategic Priority**

At The NGO World, we have seen firsthand how investing in people transforms not only our organization but also the communities we serve. From capacity-building workshops to wellness initiatives, we continue to prioritize the development and well-being of our team members. Our commitment to creating an environment of trust, respect, and shared purpose drives our mission forward, allowing us to deliver impactful and sustainable solutions.

As we look to the future, we encourage all nonprofit leaders to make people and culture a strategic priority. By doing so, we build resilient organizations that can navigate challenges, innovate, and ultimately, expand the scale and scope of our social impact.

Let us remember that investing in people is not a cost—it is an investment in the mission itself.

**Zafar Iqbal**

Editor-in-Chief, The NGO World

For queries, suggestion & feedback  
[editor@thengoworld.com](mailto:editor@thengoworld.com)

# IN THIS ISSUE...

## PHILANTHROPY & NONPROFITS

Wellness for the Nonprofit Community  
Local foundations host cohort in support of new nonprofits  
GO-NGO collaborative efforts to alleviate poverty stressed  
Make AI Work For Your Nonprofit: 6 Common Mistakes To Avoid  
Why Non-Profits Need Even Better IT than Commercial Enterprises  
UK aid spend may hit 17-year low, charities warn  
Pravika Foundation Wins 'Iconic NGO of the Year' for Reshma Rajan's Leadership and Impact  
Empower Uganda NGO Leadership Program  
Empower Uganda is among  
A church is a church, not an NGO, says President Museveni  
Home Ministry extends validity of FCRA registration for NGOs till December 31  
Empowering small NGOs to improve their safeguarding processes through skills mapping exercises

## SOCIAL SECTOR

Upward social mobility lower in civil society than the UK overall  
The Role of Community-Based Associations in Social Protection: Jordan as a Case Study

## FUNDS & GRANTS

Foreign NGOs receive \$1.2b in 5 years

## HUMAN RIGHTS

Shifting power to save lives: how the new UK government can become a champion for global partnerships and local leadership in crisis response  
HRC57: Key issues on the agenda of the September 2024 session  
European Court of Human Rights: Hungarian antiimmigration law restricts NGOs

Foreign NGOs issue statement advocating for inclusivity in COP29 at Summit of Future [PHOTOS]

Sahrawi Red Crescent calls for urgent assistance to respond to floods in the Sahrawi refugee camps (Press Release)

Blackbaud, Microsoft to Bring Cloud Technology, AI and Analytics to Nonprofits

Strengthening Cooperation Between Local Authorities and NGOs Through The ReLOaD2: Relevant Steps To European Integration

Case study: The importance of investing in people and culture

Student group helps nonprofits improve operations and tell their stories

Non-governmental organizations are the initiators of many good ideas and practices

Understanding Caledon's Amazing Not-for-profits: ecoCaledon

Aria CFO Services unveil true cost guidelines to foster greater trust and transparency in the social sector

Strengthening social welfare in Nepal

U.S. Nonprofit Hospitals Received More than \$37 Billion in Total Tax Benefits in 2021

Parliament Speaker claims "politically affiliated" NGOs "pose threat" to Georgia's democracy

Project HOPE & NGOs Call for a Humanitarian Reset in Gaza

Hundreds of unions, NGOs in Spain call for general strike in solidarity with Palestine

## HEALTH

Dr. Raheela Khalid: A Remarkable Journey in Burn Wound Care and Healthcare Advocacy  
100 benefit from NGO's free Hepatitis B screening in Osun

NGO reiterates commitment to accelerate maternal, child health in Bauchi  
World Governments, NGOs Announce \$350m Investments in Sexual and Reproductive Health Services

## PWD

Disability rights activist pushes government to let him participate in society  
Celebration as NGO distribute wheelchairs, to construct home for the elderly in Abuja  
Anger at care cost increase for disabled people

Call for enhancement of disability inclusion  
From Passion to Purpose: My Path to Inclusion at UNDP Pakistan  
NGO Urged To Organise More Career Carnivals - Ahmad Zahid

## EDUCATION

Beyond academics: Kofi A. Tawiah Foundation provides character education training to educators

## DISASTER RELIEF

5 Ways to Make Disaster- Relief Donations Personal and Impactful

## SDGs

From the HLPF 2024 to the Summit of the Future: will countries do what it takes to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030  
2026 UN Water Conference

Civil Society Organizations: Key to Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - Princess Adejoke Orelope Adefulire  
Pakistan drops to 137th place in SDGs Index 2024

## YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Stepping up youth employability for jobs and better life chances  
The Power of Entrepreneurship to Own Your Future

NGOs in youth empowerment  
Young artist wants to promote digital painting entrepreneurship

## WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Expediting the Digital Trade Integration of Pakistan and Central Asian Economies

## ENVIRONMENT

Plastic pollution: NGO trains, empowers 500 women in FCT

NGO Provide Grants For women Towards Waste To Wealth

## AGRICULTURE

FID: Innovations in Food and Agriculture

## INTERNATIONAL DAY

International Day of Charity 2024: History, How to Celebrate, Theme, etc.

## SENIOR CITIZENS

Centre asks NGOs to raise awareness on senior citizens' rights during IDOP celebrations

## SUBMIT YOUR STORIES

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

# Wellness for the Nonprofit Community

**W**ho takes care of the caretakers? Many professionals in nonprofits and fundraising have spent the majority of their careers in these fields, working alongside selfless individuals who choose roles where they know the job will be more challenging and the pay lower, in exchange for the opportunity to help others. However, many have also witnessed colleagues burn out and transition to non-fundraising positions or move to different organizations in search of something less intense. As time passes, it becomes more apparent: who is taking care of the caretakers while they care for the community?

**This sentiment is not uncommon among fundraisers. According to the [Chronicle of Philanthropy](#), 30% of fundraisers in 2019 reported they planned to leave the profession altogether—before the pandemic made everything even harder. Many fundraisers have transitioned from direct fundraising to consulting or support services, rather than staying in the career until retirement. For those observing this trend, fundraising often doesn't seem like a career for the long term; it feels like a Plan B is necessary for the day burnout finally takes its toll.**

Philadelphia-based fundraiser Alex Hoffmaster, currently the Chief

Development Officer at Horizons National, observed a related trend. He noted, "I was fascinated when I would go to annual conferences and see that people I only saw once a year at that conference were in different jobs each time." This observation led to his 2020 doctoral dissertation: *A Phenomenological Study of Employee Retention in Professional Fundraising Roles at Nonprofit Organizations*.

Hoffmaster shared that, among the 25 fundraisers he interviewed in the Philadelphia area, issues like burnout, retention, overall well-being, pride in their work, and commitment levels were consistent themes. He also described the challenge of advancing to leadership roles in fundraising, noting that it's especially difficult for colleagues of color because philanthropy and fundraising remain predominantly white fields.

The issue of burnout goes beyond fundraisers. A 2024 survey by *The Chronicle* also [surveyed nonprofit CEOs in 2024](#), a third of which report they are likely to leave their position within

two years. The [Center for Effective Philanthropy](#) (CEP) echoed this concern, with 75% of nonprofit leaders in their 2024 State of Nonprofits report citing staff burnout as a significant obstacle to serving their communities. Moreover, half

of those leaders expressed growing concern about their own burnout compared to the previous year.

Burnout is pervasive across all levels of nonprofit work. The National Council of Nonprofits' [2023 survey](#) revealed that 74.6% of nonprofits have current staff vacancies, and 51.7% reported more vacancies now than before the pandemic. These vacancies result in the loss of institutional knowledge and increased workload for remaining staff, leading to even greater burnout.

The impact of burnout is not limited to employees.

According to the same survey, 28.1% of nonprofits reported longer waiting lists for services. This demonstrates how a lack of employee wellness can negatively affect the community—burnout leads to vacancies, vacancies result in delayed services, and the community ultimately suffers. This cycle then perpetuates further burnout.

So, how can nonprofits better care for their employees and, by extension, the communities they serve? The National Council of Nonprofits' survey suggested that small changes could lead to significant improvements. Salary increases (66%), remote work options (57.7%), and enhanced benefits (40.9%) were among the most common suggestions. While two of these require financial support, offering remote work could be a low- or no-cost solution for nonprofits looking to mitigate burnout. Another no-cost option is notifying employees about their eligibility for Public Service Loan Forgiveness.

One innovative solution to burnout that nonprofits are piloting is the [4 Day Week Global](#) program, which helps organizations pilot reduced-hour work weeks. In 2022, the Montana Nonprofit Association participated and eventually adopted a permanent four-day work week, allowing employees to maintain 100% of their pay for 80% of the hours—so long as the organization maintained full productivity.

More resource-intensive solutions include bonuses, DEI training, career advancement opportunities, and mental health and wellness programs. This is where philanthropic partners can make a meaningful impact by

providing support to their grantees.

**Shanée Garner, Founding Executive Director of Lift Every Voice Philly (LEV), offers an example of how such collaboration can make a difference. She explains, "...wellness grants exemplify how foundation partners can help us live out our values. This kind of collaboration fosters greater alignment across our work. LEV has used wellness funds from the Fels Fund to provide staff vacation bonuses, organize staff retreats (like beach houses with food and all the amenities), and support professional development. To date, we haven't had to decline a single staff-driven request for professional development or coaching. Feedback from exit interviews and staff surveys consistently highlights the positive impact of this support and access to coaching." She goes on to express gratitude for Shanell Ransom's leadership in helping birth a practical and aligned way to strengthen the sector.**

[Fels Fund](#) provides every grantee partner awarded a general operating grant with an additional grant for Leadership Development and Wellness of \$10,000 per year they are funded.

While Fels is one of a few local foundations in Philadelphia that currently offer wellness grants or funding opportunities, there are promising examples outside the city. [Phila Engaged Giving](#) highlighted foundations like The Boston Foundation, Allstate Foundation, and Imago Dei Fund as leaders in supporting nonprofit worker wellness.

Source: <https://generocity.org/philly/2024/09/25/wellness-for-the-nonprofit-community/>

# Local foundations host cohort in support of new nonprofits



Jacob Sloan

**K**ANSAS CITY, Mo. — Kansas City G.I.F.T. and the Health Forward Foundation are hosting a 16-week cohort aimed at helping new nonprofit organizations.

On Wednesday, September 25, the cohort was practicing the pitches they'll make to leaders from GEHA and KC People's Fund as they wrap up their cohort next week.

Brandon Calloway, the Founder and CEO of Kansas City G.I.F.T. says that a successful nonprofit is built on some of the same principles that any other business is built on.

"Each and everything from fundraising to annual planning, strategic planning, board recruitment," he said.

He is one of the instructors of the cohort, lending his advice from starting Kansas City G.I.F.T.

"There are a lot of nonprofits doing massively impactful work that you have never heard about," he said.

"Looking at those grassroots level nonprofits that are really in the trenches doing the work, they are making massive change."

One of the participants is LaNee Bridewell, who started Athvantage, a program that invests in youth sports to increase access to a college education for kids in the urban core of Kansas City.

**"I don't want to play in a soccer game and I'm playing against students who are fully dressed in a uniform and I'm playing in a white t shirt," Bridewell said.**

"That's very discouraging. And what does that say to me about my value as a student?"

She says that the program helped her to focus her efforts.

"This has really helped me just clarify my thoughts. It's given me very clear steps, but it's also

given me the confidence and the mentorship that I needed to really take that next step," she said.

Shelly Foster has attended other cohorts at KC G.I.F.T., but in this one, she's focusing on her nonprofit Infinity Housing Group.

Her work focuses on foster children, as she's been a foster parent for more than 15 years and has housed more than 160 children. She saw a need to help foster children transition to being self-sufficient.

"We need housing when they start to age out of foster care. A lot of our girls need financial literacy. They need cooking classes, they need sewing classes, they need life skills," she said.

She says that the cohort has given her the confidence to keep working towards her goal.

"Keep pushing, keep your dream alive, keep moving forward, there's going to be obstacles is not going to be easy. And if this is what your dream is, you've got to keep going."

Source: <https://fox4kc.com/business/local-foundations-host-cohort-in-support-of-new-non-profits/>

# GO-NGO collaborative efforts to alleviate poverty stressed

**R**AJSHAHI, Sept 4, 2024 (BSS) - Collaborative efforts of all the government and non-government entities concerned can be the best way of alleviating poverty in the region, particularly in its rural areas.

Utmost emphasis should be given on reaching all the services, including health and education, to the marginalized families so that they can derive total benefits of those.

Administrative officials and development activists came up with the observation while addressing a function to mark the closure of the 16 years journey of Paba Area Programme of World Vision at Paba Upazila Parishad Hall room in the district today.

**Commissioner of Rajshahi division Dr Dewan Muhammad Humayun Kabir addressed the function as chief guest, while National Director of World Vision Suresh Bartlet and its Deputy Director Jenny Mildred spoke as special guests with Upazila Nirbahi Officer Abu Saleh Muhammad Hasnat in the chair.**

Upazila Engineer Mokbul Hossain, Project implementation Officer Abu Bashir, Statistics Officer Motahar Hossain and Youth Development Officer Jahurul Islaml also spoke on the occasion.

Commissioner Humayun Kabir said all the development organizations should work for bringing positive changes to the life of poor and distressed population besides establishing justice and peace everywhere in the society.

He, however, praised the role of the world vision in terms of generating awareness on various issues, particularly health, education, disaster management, economic development and agriculture, in the rural areas.

The meeting was told that the services of the world vision reached to 2,26,717 people in the Paba Upazila during the last 16 years.

Source: <https://www.bssnews.net/district/207727>





# Make AI Work For Your Nonprofit: 6 Common Mistakes To Avoid



Raviraj Hegde

**N**onprofit organizations are all too familiar with overwhelming workloads and limited resources. Increasingly, organizations are turning to artificial intelligence (AI) as a cost-effective way to automate manual tasks, enhance operational efficiency and surface data-driven insights. According to a recent [Salesforce survey](#) of nonprofits, though only 12% of respondents are using AI today, 65% are open to using it and say they need to learn more.

Despite AI's exponential potential, not all implementations are successful. Below are six common mistakes that can seriously undermine AI's effectiveness in a nonprofit organization. To set yourself up for success and maximize ROI, read on.

## Common Mistake #1: Lack Of Clear Goals

One critical mistake I see some nonprofits make when implementing AI is not having well-defined goals. There are

thousands of AI tools available today, so it's important to go into the procurement process with a clear use case in mind. A practical objective would be "Increase donor retention by 15% over the next year by using AI to personalize reminder emails." In contrast, an unclear goal would be to "Improve fundraising efforts with AI." The former provides a specific target and method, while the latter lacks direction.

Use the SMART framework to set actionable goals:

- **Specific:** Define precise outcomes.
- **Measurable:** Establish criteria for tracking progress.
- **Achievable:** Set realistic targets.
- **Relevant:** Ensure goals align with your mission.
- **Time-Bound:** Set deadlines for achieving goals.

## Common Mistake #2: Not Measuring Performance

Setting goals is one thing, but measuring results is another. Set a reminder to review performance metrics to make sure your AI tool is making a positive impact. You can estimate the time and cost savings by outsourcing tasks to AI. If generating a list of the top 10 donors last month typically takes one of your staff members 30 minutes, but AI can complete this task in 10 seconds, you're freeing up significant time for team members to focus on higher-value activities.

To effectively measure performance, consider these steps:

- **Establish Baselines:** Benchmark current performance, like time spent on specific tasks or giving amounts. Set quantitative goals for improvement.

- **Track AI Impact:** Monitor how AI tools influence these metrics.
- **Cost-Benefit Analysis:** Calculate the time and cost savings generated by AI and compare them to the investment in these tools.

## Common Mistake #3: Ineffective Online Donation Forms

Consumers expect an easy checkout process. The same holds true when making charitable donations. Poorly designed donation forms often reduce conversion rates. Using an industry-specific fundraising platform can help you customize assets and improve performance.

Artificial intelligence and machine-learning applications can provide insights into user behavior and donation page performance. Data might reveal that donors are abandoning the checkout process after being asked to fill in too many fields. Shortening the form and breaking it up into multiple pages could solve this problem.

To ensure donation forms are effective, consider:

- **Optimizing For Mobile:** Ensure forms are mobile-responsive: [25% of donations](#) are made on mobile devices.
- **Offering Multiple Payment Options:** Support a wide variety of traditional and modern payment methods to match donor preferences.
- **Analyzing And Iterating:** Use AI/ML tools to analyze donation form performance and continuously make data-driven improvements.

## Common Mistake #4: Poor Data Quality And Management

Data is the lifeblood of artificial intelligence. An algorithm's effectiveness hinges on the completeness and quality of the data it ingests. Making decisions based on incorrect AI-generated conclusions is very problematic. If your database is filled with old contact information, AI tools may misidentify donors, wasting time on ineffective outreach that could harm donor relationships.

Here are some best practices for maintaining high-quality data:

- **Regular Audits:** Review your donor data and fix outdated or incomplete information. Regularly audit algorithms for bias.
- **Standardize Data Entry:** Implement consistent data entry protocols to ensure uniformity.
- **Use Automation:** Consider leveraging tools that automatically clean and update data.

## Common Mistake #5: Losing The Personal Touch

Donor relationships are at the heart of nonprofit fundraising. The best donor engagement strategies blend technology with personal interactions. For example, you could ask AI to generate a list of loyal donors who haven't donated yet this year; then you can reach out with a handwritten note or phone call.

To balance AI and personal touch, consider these tips:

- **Segment And Personalize:** Use AI to segment your donor base and tailor messages based on preferences and history.
- **Automate Routine Tasks:** Let AI handle basic communications like event reminders and donation receipts.

- **Monitor Output:** Regularly review AI-generated content to ensure it sounds like your organization, editing as necessary.

### Common Mistake #6: Underestimating Training And Adoption

It's easy to get excited about AI and want to jump right in. While generative AI (GenAI) is becoming widely accessible and embedded into software, it's still important for users to receive proper training on any AI solution to utilize it safely and effectively. Whoever is harnessing it on a daily basis—whether it's development leaders

or volunteers—should go through product onboarding and stay up-to-date on the latest features.

To ensure all users successfully adopt AI, consider the following:

- **Comprehensive Training Programs:** Stakeholders should run training sessions, ensuring everyone understands how to use the AI tool safely and effectively.
- **Continuous Learning:** Encourage ongoing education and provide resources to employees so they're aware of the latest AI advancements and best practices.

- **Feedback Loops:** Establish mechanisms for staff to provide feedback on the AI tools they're using, supporting continuous improvement and addressing any usability issues.

### Conclusion

Incorporating AI into nonprofit fundraising can significantly enhance efficiency and effectiveness, but common mistakes can derail outcomes. To maximize AI's potential to raise more money with less manual effort, keep these six common mistakes in mind.

Source: <https://www.forbes.com/councils/forbesbusinessdevelopmentcouncil/2024/09/25/make-ai-work-for-your-nonprofit-6-common-mistakes-to-avoid/>

## Why Non-Profits Need Even Better IT than Commercial Enterprises

**Far from being analogue or paper-based, today's charitable organizations have unique challenges to their operating models and their people demand state-of-the-art systems.**

**N**on-profit organizations are often viewed as being distinct from their commercial peers. In fact, they experience many of the same challenges and opportunities, as well as some that are unique to them. Just like businesses they have to scramble for every point of differentiation, strain for operational efficiencies. At the same time, they must be creative and innovative to succeed against their many rival recipients for acts of giving. In this article, I want to draw on a lifetime of personal experience supporting non-profits and working in the technology sector to outline how non-profits can make optimal use of IT.

### Three key factors are transparency, traceability and governance

One non-negotiable hygiene factor here is transparency and traceability. Non-profits live or die on trust and they win that trust via forensic standards of document management and auditability. They must make it absolutely clear how they are conducting themselves.

They must state why they are raising funds and what they plan to do with those funds. If a donor wants to specifically name a project, country, or region for their giving, they must respect that wish and

demonstrate that they are acting on that instruction.

Often, there may be tax implications that they must acknowledge. Clear communication is critical, and information sources and disclosures must be available and easy to discover. Having this transparency creates a virtuous circle where people feel more comfortable about working with them and thus, they enhance their brands. Technology can help by providing robust records of transactions that can be surfaced to whoever needs to access them. The ability of the Cloud to facilitate this end-to-end visibility is one of the many advantages online platforms offer to non-profits.

They must also have very high standards of governance because any criticism of the way they are run will divert donors to another cause. Often these are global concerns so they have complex operating models that must encompass various languages, legal structures and tax regimes.

Collaboration is also important to them as they will frequently need to cooperate with other organizations. Again, cloud systems can afford the necessary scale, global reach, and scope for collaboration.

### Going digital

Similarly, the digitization of payments makes it easier to see what has been donated for both parties. Digitized payments are booming in the non-profit sector, and [during the Covid pandemic, online giving grew by 12.1%](#) compared to a rise of 4.1% for overall giving. Smart non-profits are doing everything to automate what were paper-based processes.

It's encouraging to see non-profits invest in digital transformation generally. A Unit4 [study](#) of non-profits points to 86% aiming to complete moves to [cloud ERP](#) over the ensuing two years.

### Even tougher than business

However, IT needs to do more than just provide a system of record. Many of the people who work in non-profits are ambitious individuals who want to change the world. Indeed, they often come from a technologically enabled segment or even the tech sector itself. They demand modern systems, and any remnants of legacy infrastructure will make them harder to hire and certainly harder to retain.

It is also important to note some of the ways that the non-profit sector differs from the commercial world. Non-profits are eager to funnel as much of their income as possible



to their stated goals, so they cannot tolerate huge overheads. That means they must be even more efficient than a commercial organization. Running a non-profit is like running a commercial company but with very limited funds and often very strong and demanding boards replete with talent and experience from the business world.

**This is a highly competitive sector capable of attracting very smart people on the ground and in executive positions. Some of the most successful, wealthy people, from Bill Gates to Warren Buffett, work directly or indirectly in the non-profit sector today. They often demand that non-profits' infrastructures be just as capable and resilient as those of the enterprises that they owned.**

Nonprofits must also deal with spikes and troughs in their income streams. They must also accommodate part-time workers, people who work atypical working weeks, or those who give their time freely. So, they need financial management and HR IT systems that can scale up and down. Again, this nonlinear, unpredictable characteristic requires an IT infrastructure that is agile, scalable, and robust.

### Getting ahead

Innovation is coming more to the forefront as non-profits invest in live-streaming events, apps and other digital experiences that make them stand out from the crowd. That crowd is very large and still growing, with [research suggesting](#) there are 3.87 million non-profit associations active in the European Union, and the [US has almost two million](#).

However, some barriers remain with the Unit4 study, noting that 75% say internal factors are the biggest issue. The top four barriers include user reluctance to change (75%), information residing in silos across the organisation (73%), integration issues (72%) and resistance to change or investment among the leadership team (70%). Those barriers are understandable and familiar but need to be hurdled.

[The non-profit sector](#) is a remarkable force for good in society, but it has to be supported by systems that are just as good as those enjoyed by the private sector. We need to dispel the myth that charities cannot excel in operations and enable them to get on with addressing the many challenges that the world faces today.

Source: <https://www.enterprisetimes.co.uk/2024/09/25/why-non-profits-need-even-better-it-than-commercial-enterprises/>



## UK aid spend may hit 17-year low, charities warn



James Landale

**M**ore than 120 international charities have warned UK aid spending will fall to its lowest level since 2007 unless the government takes urgent actions in next month's Budget.

They fear Chancellor Rachel Reeves will slash more than £2bn from overseas development assistance (ODA) spending during what is expected to be a cost-cutting budget.

In a letter to the prime minister, leaders of development and

humanitarian groups warned against the trend of diverting large amounts of foreign aid to support refugees and asylum seekers in the UK.

Signatories including ActionAid UK and Oxfam GB warned the government would "enacting damaging cuts to life-saving humanitarian and development programmes".

The focus of the charities' concerns are the billions of pounds of foreign aid the government is spending supporting refugees and asylum seekers in the UK. This is allowed under international rules but has increased significantly recently.

Over the past two years the Conservatives added an additional £2.5bn to the foreign aid budget as a top-up to compensate for the

money being spent on hotels in Britain.

But that funding ended in April, and the charities say the Treasury has no plans to renew it.

They say that means overall UK aid spending would fall back from its current level this year of 0.58% of national income (GNI) to 0.5% - currently estimated to be £13bn a year.

Labour promised in its election manifesto to return aid spending to 0.7% of GNI "as soon as fiscal circumstances allow".

But with so much aid money being spent in the UK, the charities estimate the amount actually being spent on bilateral humanitarian and development needs overseas

this year will fall to about 0.36% of national income.

The charities say they want the government to keep spending 0.58% of GNI on aid and set out plans for how it will in time increase that to the long-term target of 0.7%

### 'Life-saving' aid budget

The letter has been signed by the UK's biggest non-governmental organisations (NGO) such as Care International UK, International Rescue Committee UK and Save the Children UK.

In the letter charity bosses said: "As leaders of the UK's development and humanitarian sector, we are deeply concerned that the spending plans the new government has inherited from the previous government will slash UK aid programmes to levels not seen since 2007 including under recent Conservative governments.

the indication is that we want to get back to that 0.7% as quickly as possible, and of course is a discussion that I am continuing to have with colleagues in the Treasury".

A Foreign Office spokesperson said: "This government's development goal is to create a world free from poverty on a liveable planet.

"Our development spending is crucial to achieving our ambition and we are committed to restoring ODA spending to 0.7% of GNI as soon as the fiscal circumstances allow."

Labour MP Sarah Champion, the re-elected chair of the International Development Select Committee, said: "The reckless spending of the UK aid budget to pay for extortionate hotel bills for this vulnerable group in the UK not only mismanages taxpayer money but also deprives millions of marginalised people around the world of the vital humanitarian

support they need to stay safe in their own countries.

"In the short term, we need the UK government to top up the UK aid budget to cover these additional costs, so we don't see further cuts to programmes."

Romilly Greenhill, CEO of Bond, the UK network for NGOs, said: "We are deeply concerned that more cuts to the UK aid budget are on the way.

"The government must urgently act in the autumn budget to provide additional funding for vital humanitarian support and services for millions of marginalised people worldwide."

Halima Begum, CEO of Oxfam GB, said: "With the world facing crucial challenges such as climate change and a growing food insecurity crisis, the new government must restore the UK aid budget."

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cq8xwv4pe52o>

**"If these spending plans are not adjusted in the Budget in October, your government will be enacting damaging cuts to life-saving humanitarian and development programmes and leaving itself empty-handed at these global moments, at a time when it is trying to demonstrate to the world that it is once again a reliable global development partner."**

At a speech in west London on Tuesday, Foreign Secretary David Lammy said the accommodation bill for asylum seekers in the UK was "huge" as a result of a climate-fuelled migration crisis.

"We are absolutely determined to turn that system around," he said.

"It is not going to be something that we can do overnight. But



# Pravika Foundation Wins 'Iconic NGO of the Year' for Reshma Rajan's Leadership and Impact

**M**umbai (Maharashtra) [India], September 13: Reshma Rajan, leader of Pravika Foundation, has been honored with the "Iconic NGO of the Year" award by Universal Eminence. This prestigious accolade highlights her visionary leadership and the significant impact of Pravika Foundation. Universal Eminence is renowned for recognizing excellence across various sectors, and their award underscores the strides Pravika Foundation has made in social change.

The "Iconic NGO of the Year" award is among Universal Eminence's most esteemed honors, given to NGOs that demonstrate exceptional leadership, innovation, and community impact. This recognition reflects Pravika Foundation's achievements under Reshma Rajan's guidance. The foundation has consistently focused

on critical social issues, including education, healthcare, women's empowerment, and sustainable development. Its innovative programs have provided countless individuals with essential resources to improve their quality of life.

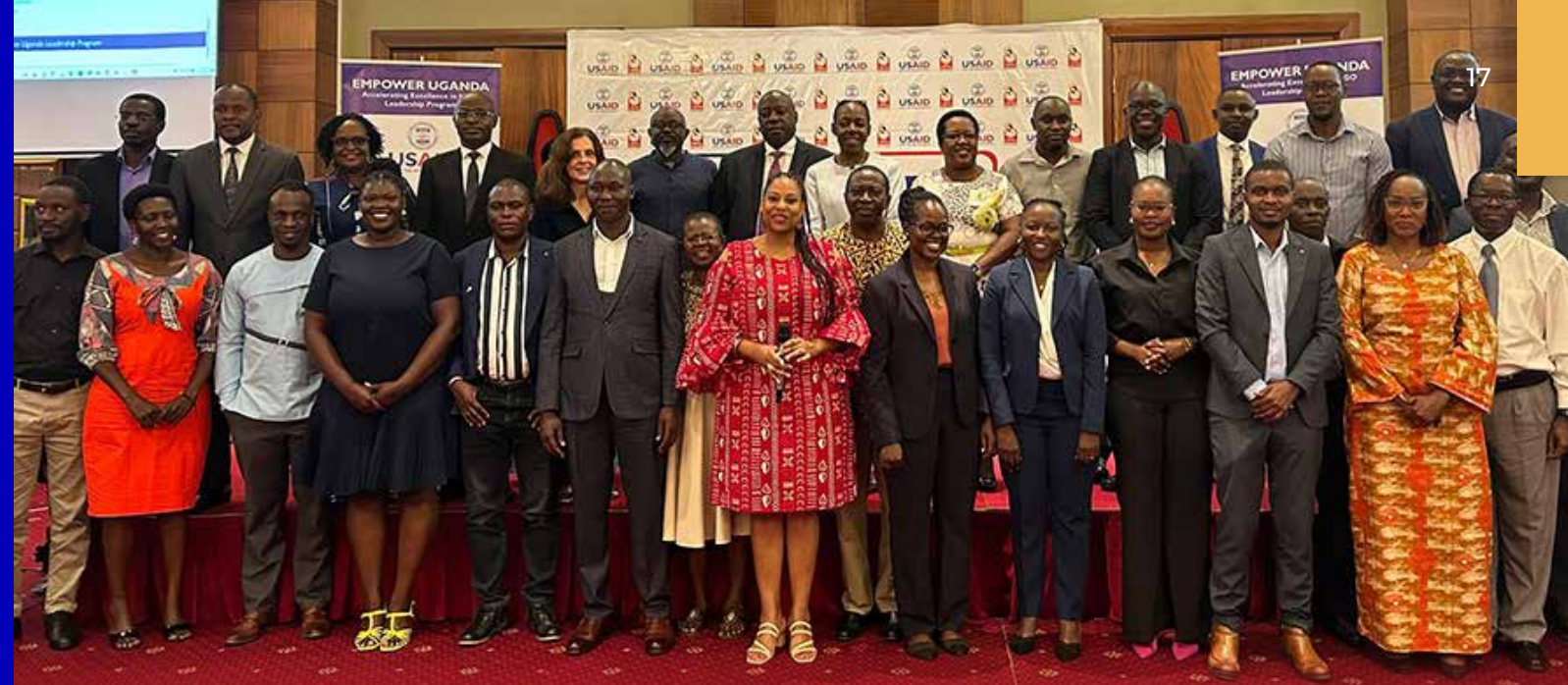
Receiving this award is a significant moment of pride for Pravika Foundation and a powerful affirmation of its mission. It serves as a motivation to continue its work with even greater dedication. The accolade also underscores the importance of collaboration, recognizing the collective efforts of the foundation's team, partners, and supporters who share Reshma Rajan's commitment to making a difference.

The award from Universal Eminence is both an honor and a responsibility, reminding Pravika Foundation of the importance of its work and the lives it continues

to impact. As the organization celebrates this achievement, it also reflects on the future. Reshma Rajan and her team remain committed to expanding their reach and effecting lasting change. This recognition is a testament to their enduring impact and will drive them to continue their important work with renewed energy and purpose.

In summary, the "Iconic NGO of the Year" award from Universal Eminence is a significant acknowledgment of Reshma Rajan's leadership and Pravika Foundation's transformative work. It highlights the foundation's dedication to social betterment and motivates them to continue their mission of improving lives and fostering positive change in society.

Source: <https://up18news.com/pravika-foundation-wins-iconic-ngo-of-the-year-for-reshma-rajan-leadership-and-impact/>



## Empower Uganda NGO Leadership Program

**Empower Uganda is among the first leadership programs specifically tailored for Uganda's NGO sector, setting a new standard for capacity building.**



Nicholas Kajoba

**U**SAID/US Mission Director, Daniele Nyirandutiye, has launched the Empower Uganda Non-Government Organization (NGO) Leadership Program.

The event, held recently at Sheraton Hotel, was attended by NGO executive directors, CSOs, and educationists.

The USAID/Uganda Civil Society Strengthening Activity supports the Empower Uganda NGO Leadership Program, which will provide training and leadership empowerment to several NGO executive directors in partnership with Uganda Management Institute (UMI).

USAID/US Mission Director, Daniele Nyirandutiye, stated that the leadership program initiative is poised to redefine leadership within the NGO sector, equipping directors and leaders with strategies and innovative tools to amplify their impact at a time when effective leadership is more critical.

"Empower Uganda is more than a training program—it's a catalyst for change. By fostering innovation and building resilient leadership, the program aims to enhance the effectiveness of NGOs working within Uganda's dynamic civil society," she said.

She noted that the launch comes at a crucial time when NGOs are navigating complex challenges and increasing demands for accountability and impact.

"With a unique blend of in-depth workshops, hands-on project

work, and one-on-one mentorship, participants will gain the skills and connections necessary to tackle pressing issues and strengthen their communities," Nyirandutiye said.

Empower Uganda is among the first leadership programs specifically tailored for Uganda's NGO sector, setting a new standard for capacity building.

Director General of Uganda Management Institute (UMI), James Nkata, in his speech, said that NGOs face challenges, from funding constraints to governance issues, and this program addresses the urgent need for strong and adaptive leadership.

"By empowering NGO leaders, the program directly contributes to the development of a more robust civil society, ultimately benefiting the wider Ugandan population," he said.

Source: [https://www.newvision.co.ug/category/education/usaidus-mission-director-launches-empower-uga-NV\\_196696](https://www.newvision.co.ug/category/education/usaidus-mission-director-launches-empower-uga-NV_196696)

# A church is a church, not an NGO, says President Museveni

**K**aliro, Uganda | By Michael Wandati | President Yoweri Museveni has promised to tackle the challenge of registering new churches as Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs).

He assured religious leaders that the issue will be addressed to ensure smoother registration processes for churches seeking official recognition as NGOs.

"The issue of periodic registration of new churches as NGOs, we are going to resolve it. A church is a church, not an NGO," President Museveni made the commitment during the Universal Church Mega Youth Crusade, which was organized by Prophet David Isanga, the spiritual leader of the Universal Apostles Fellowship Church of Righteousness in Kaliro district.

The President's pledge followed Isanga's request to have the registration scrapped.

"For long this Church has been registering as a Nongovernmental Organization yet this is the only Indigenous Church founded by typical Ugandans; it is unique in its calling and I

think even the rest of the world is looking forward to seeing it through that the Church of Righteousness propagates to their countries," Prophet Isanga said.

We therefore request you that these taxes in the name of registering us as NGOs or companies limited by guarantee every after five years be scrapped," Prophet Isanga added.

President Museveni contributed Shs 100 million to the Church SACCO. Richard Todwong, the Secretary General of the National Resistance Movement (NRM), mentioned that Bishop David Isanga had personally invited them to the crusade to witness God's decree over President Museveni's leadership and the blessings for the people of Uganda.

"Indeed, we can confirm and attest to the fact that your generosity and leadership to the people of Uganda has seen Ugandans in their various capacities excel including the Church," Todwong said.

Todwong also informed the

President that the Church members had pledged their support for the NRM government. Additionally, President Museveni reiterated his encouragement for the people of Busoga to adopt the 4-acre Model farming method.

He emphasized that following this advice would help them generate wealth and improve their economic conditions.

"When I was coming here from where I landed, I was looking through the homesteads, and I saw that you need to do something about homestead incomes with "ekibaro" in this area," President Museveni said.

Kaliro, Uganda | By Michael Wandati | President Yoweri Museveni has promised to tackle the challenge of registering new churches as Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs).

He assured religious leaders that the issue will be addressed to ensure smoother registration processes for churches seeking official recognition as NGOs.

"The issue of periodic registration of new churches as NGOs, we are going to resolve it. A church is a church, not an NGO," President Museveni made the commitment during the Universal Church Mega Youth Crusade, which was organized by Prophet David Isanga, the spiritual leader of the Universal Apostles Fellowship Church of Righteousness in Kaliro district.

The President's pledge followed

Isanga's request to have the registration scrapped.

"For long this Church has been registering as a Nongovernmental Organization yet this is the only Indigenous Church founded by typical Ugandans; it is unique in its calling and I think even the rest of the world is looking forward to seeing it through that the Church of Righteousness propagates to their countries," Prophet Isanga said.

We therefore request you that these taxes in the name of registering us as NGOs or companies limited by guarantee every after five years be scrapped," Prophet Isanga added.

President Museveni contributed Shs 100 million to the Church SACCO. Richard Todwong, the Secretary General of the National Resistance Movement (NRM), mentioned that Bishop David Isanga had personally invited them to the crusade to witness God's decree over President Museveni's leadership and the blessings for the people of Uganda.

"Indeed, we can confirm and attest to the fact that your generosity and leadership to the people of Uganda has seen Ugandans in their various capacities excel including the Church," Todwong said.

Todwong also informed the President that the Church members had pledged their support for the NRM government. Additionally, President Museveni reiterated his encouragement for the people of Busoga to adopt the 4-acre Model farming method.

He emphasized that following this advice would help them generate wealth and improve their economic conditions.

"When I was coming here from where I landed, I was looking through the homesteads, and I saw that you need to do something about homestead incomes with "ekibaro" in this area," President Museveni said.

Source: <https://www.dispatch.ug/2024/09/09/a-church-is-a-church-not-an-ngo-says-president-museveni/>

## Home Ministry extends validity of FCRA registration for NGOs till December 31

**N**ew Delhi: The Union home ministry has extended the validity of FCRA registration for non-governmental organisations with pending renewal applications until December 31. The notice cautioned NGOs whose renewal application has been either denied or their FCRA licence cancelled from receiving or utilising foreign grants.

In a public notice, the ministry said the validity of the registration of those FCRA entities whose validity had been extended till September 29 and whose renewal application is pending, will stand extended up to December 31 or till the date of disposal of renewal application, whichever is earlier.

It also said the validity of those entities whose five-year validity period expire by October 1 to December 31, but have applied for renewal before expiry of the validity period, will stand extended up to December 31 or till the disposal of the application, whichever is earlier.

This is the 11th time that the MHA has granted extension to NGOs following passing of [FCRA Amendment Act, 2020](#). According to sources, several prominent NGOs have lost their FCRA licences in the latest round of scrutiny while 281 new FCRA registration licences have been issued to NGOs in the last nine months. These include Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's Meer Foundation, Olympian [Abhinav Bindra Foundation](#) and Vedanta-backed [Cairn Foundation](#), among others.

The ministry last month cautioned NGOs that the interest earned on fixed deposits or profits made from investments in financial instruments by using foreign funding should be credited to FCRA utilisation accounts and not transferred to other bank accounts.

MHA officials said NGOs can apply for licences with definite purposes such as cultural, economic, educational, religious or social programmes.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/home-ministry-extends-validity-of-fcra-registration-for-ngos-till-december-31/articleshow/113792258.cms?from=mdr>



# Empowering small NGOs to improve their safeguarding processes through skills mapping exercises

**Safeguarding is a crucial function for any organisation regardless of size.**

In our pursuit to support all development sector organisations to strengthen their safeguarding practices, Bond's Safeguarding Steering Group listened to small NGOs in February 2023 to understand the [challenges they face in relation to safeguarding](#). We subsequently hosted five skills mapping sessions to support the small NGOs and local partners to address these challenges.

## What were the key learnings from the skills mapping sessions?

In these sessions, participants delved into the intricacies of safeguarding, gaining valuable insights that are crucial for effective

implementation of a consistent safeguarding approach. In quick feedback surveys from each of the sessions, 100% of attendees improved their knowledge on the topic as a result of attendance.

Here is a summary of what we learned. You will find a recording of each session below each summary.

## How to embed safeguarding culture within an organisation

- There are many myths and assumptions of safe organisational culture, a lot of which result from organisations deeming themselves to have a positive culture when, in

fact, they are settling for the minimum standards.

- It is the responsibility of every staff member in an organisation to create a positive safeguarding culture as everyone has the right to be treated with dignity and care.
- There are many resources available to support with creating a positive safeguarding culture within an organisation, including Bond's own tools ([Leadership tool](#) / [Culture tool](#)).

## Being incident ready – what do you need?

- Is what is being reported to you a potential criminal offence in the country that you are working in? And is it safe to report the incident to the police? Ensuring that you have a Safeguarding country map (aka referral pathways ) for the country/ countries that you are working in will support you in being able to make a quick and informed decision. These should be updated once a year.
- When choosing investigators, remember that investigations are not a competitive area for NGOs. If you asked to speak with an NGO that works in the same area as you with higher capacity to access their expertise in the local context, they will be highly likely to oblige. Remember – If you don't ask, you don't get.

## Safeguarding practitioners' emotional wellbeing

- Be aware of your team's ability to support each other, considering what each team member has going on, to establish how to best support one another.

- Safeguarding professionals deserve compassion.
- Understand what staff from global majority-based organisations actually want in terms of emotional support – experiences in the session ranged from a discussion-based retreat to a day at the beach. Listening to local staff is essential – they know their culture best.

## Tailoring training using existing resources

- Get attendees on board with safeguarding by giving them tools to understand safeguarding. This will help address comments such as: "I am in finance, why do I need to attend safeguarding training?" from the outset.
- A pre and post survey will give you the evidence of learning that you need.
- Safeguarding training should be fun – safeguarding is a serious topic, but that doesn't mean that we can't have fun.
- Using visual tools and aids can help to engage and get attendees to think deeper about safeguarding.
- Taking a trauma informed approach in training helps acknowledge that events have a range of adverse effects on individuals. [There are videos out there to support facilitators with this.](#)

## How to convert what NGOs are already doing on safeguarding into written compliance

- It's easy in a conventional and mistrustful way to assume that

the fault lies with the partner. Instead of assessing the partners we should be assessing the partnership.

- What do both parties bring to the partnership? What are our strengths and weaknesses and where do we both need training and support?
- It's not about assessing partners – it's about assessing and managing the partnership as a collective.

Please reach out to [safeguarding@bond.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@bond.org.uk) if you require written transcripts of the sessions to support accessibility.

## Continued support for small NGOs

The journey does not end with the conclusion of these sessions. Instead, it marks the beginning of our sustained support to small organisations in developing their safeguarding processes within Bond's safeguarding work.

Our commitment to advancing safeguarding practices within small NGOs remains unwavering. The skills mapping exercises have been a catalyst for change, equipping safeguarding professionals with base knowledge and the tools necessary to navigate the complex landscape of preventing sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment in our sector.

By making the recorded sessions accessible, we are ensuring that the benefits extend beyond the confines of a live event, reaching professionals committed to making a change to keep people safe internationally.

Source: <https://www.bond.org.uk/news/2024/09/empowering-small-ngos-to-improve-their-safeguarding-processes-through-skills-mapping-exercises/>

# Foreign NGOs issue statement advocating for inclusivity in COP29 at Summit of Future [PHOTOS]



Fatima Latifova

A group of foreign NGOs and civil society representatives participating in the "Summit of the Future," held at the UN Headquarters in New York from September 20-24, 2024, issued a statement highlighting Azerbaijan's significant contribution to the global fight against climate change as the host of COP29 and advocating for inclusivity, Azernews reports. Representatives from 44 NGOs across 22 countries signed the statement.

The letter reads:

"As we approach COP29, it is vital to prioritize inclusivity in our discussions and actions. Ensuring the meaningful participation of all voices in decision-making processes is essential for advancing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. While climate change affects us all, its impacts disproportionately harm marginalized communities, indigenous peoples, and vulnerable nations. Therefore, their voices must not only be heard but actively shape policies and solutions. This includes enhancing the representation of youth, women, and frontline communities.

Civil society organizations play a crucial role in amplifying these voices. We call on negotiators to prioritize inclusivity at COP29 and ensure that solutions are both just and equitable. These solutions must also be urgent and actionable, reflecting the dire nature of the climate crisis.

We stand in solidarity with

communities worldwide who are struggling with the impacts of climate change, often with limited resources to adapt. As civil society representatives, international organizations, and climate justice activists, we are ready to support the COP29 presidency in promoting a diverse, inclusive, and gender-positive agenda. Additionally, we commit to partnering with local civil society organizations before, during, and after COP29 to ensure the voices of vulnerable groups and other key stakeholders, including girls, are central to the conversation.

Now is the time for decisive action, and we to collaborate with all stakeholders to turn our commitments into concrete results. Let us build a future that respects the people and our planet for

that women and to the climate for decisive stand ready with all to turn into concrete us build a future that rights of all protects generations to come.

Some NGO participants of the "Summit of the Future":

- Grove Harris, "Temple of Understanding" - USA;
- Prof. Husna Ahmad, "Global One 2015" - United Kingdom;
- Jean-Paul NGUEYA, "Jeunesse du Monde en Action" - France;
- Gordon Rattray, "European Disability Forum" - Belgium;
- Phumlani Magagula, "GreenShift Initiative" - Eswatini;
- Abdullah Nawab, "Belt and Road Initiative For Sustainable Development" - ("BRISD") - Pakistan;
- Aytakin Asgarova, "IndiGenius Global" - USA;
- Clare Jagunna, "Hands lifting hearts initiative" - Canada;
- Fred Sullivan, "Man Up Campaign US, Inc." - USA;
- Alena Maslova, "Dobrosphera" - Kyrgyzstan;
- Maria Jose Lubertino Beltran, "Asociacion Ciudadana por los Derechos Humanos- Red de defensoras del Ambiente y el Buen Vivir" - Argentina;
- Stephen, "United Social Welfare Society" - Pakistan;
- Alan Jarandilla Nuñez, "IYAFP" - Bolivia;
- Mahamat Abdelkerim Abbas, "International helping for the young" - Chad;
- Qaiser Nawab, "THE" Society International (Together for Health and Education) - Pakistan;
- Mohamed Abderraheman cheikh, "Green Mauritania Youth Network" - ("GreeM") - Mauritania;
- Carmen Capriles, "Reacción Climática" - Bolivia;
- Dr. Mohammad Shakeel Ahmed, "Global Strategic Institute for Sustainable Development"- "GSISD" - Pakistan;
- Hawa Sidibe, "Association du Développement et de la Promotion de Droits de l'Homme" - Mauritanie;
- Ann. Makena Kobia, "Pan. African Climate Justice Alliance" - Kenya;
- Aniedi Ene Inyang, "Enemas Foundation" - Nigeria;
- Michael Kakande, "Resilient40" ("R40") - Uganda;
- Aynalem Getie Gismie Lem "The Environment and Development Society of Ethiopia" - Ethiopia;
- Edith Achamukong Lum, "Sustainable Fingers" - Cameroon & Netherlands;
- Lola Ibrahim, "Women Against Violence and Exploitation WAVE Foundation" - Nigeria;
- Erick Mutua Mbeva, "GCCIAFRICA" - Kenya;
- Qaiser Nawab, "Youth for Climate Pakistan" - "COP in My City" - Pakistan;
- Hassan Abdilahi, "MOAD" - Somalia;
- Naomi Jepchumba Kurgat Endorois "Indigenous Women Empowerment Network" - Kenya;
- Cynthia Buluebiere Bright Gbolekekro "Women Empowerment and Development Organization" - ("GWEDO") - Nigeria;
- Waqas Ahmad, "International Islamic University Islamabad" - Pakistan;
- June Bartuin, "Indigenous Peoples' for Peace and Climate Justice" - Kenya;
- Andin Ntali, "University of Buea" - Cameroon;
- Nathan Kipchumba, "Kimajani Green Afrique" - Kenya;
- Kunlomia Kaspa Bobga, "Green Globe Organisation" - Cameroon;
- Jules Cesar Redombina-Ogandaga, "AGRI'PROTECT" - Gabon;
- Steven Dereck Chinsendenji, "Hope Givers Foundation" - Malawi;
- Adan Abdi Baraka, "Mandera" - Kenya;
- Ndeye Fatou NDIAYE, "Carbone Guinee" - Senegal;
- Francisca Belie Elangwe, "Green And Better World" - Cameroon;
- Jackline sekento lankas, "Kenya Network of women and girls with disability" - Kenya;
- Zoneziwoh Mbongulo-Wondieh, "Women for a Change" - Cameroon;
- Thulisile Maziya, "Sinatsisa Lubombo Women and girls Empowerment organization" - Eswatini;
- Florence Ntisai, "Indigenous Women Council" - Kenya;

September 20-24, 2024, "Summit of the Future" | New York, USA"

Source: <https://www.azernews.az/nation/231756.html>

## Sahrawi Red Crescent calls for urgent assistance to respond to floods in the Sahrawi refugee camps (Press Release)

**D**akhla refugee camp (Sahrawi Republic) 24 September 2024 (SPS)-

The Sahrawi Red Crescent issued an urgent appeal to the international community, UN and specialized NGOs to urgently assist in adequately responding to the situation created by the heavy rainfall and floods that stroke the Sahrawi refugee camps these past couple of days.

Following is the full text of the Press Release issued today:

### PRESS RELEASE - 2

#### WSRC APPEALS FOR URGENT ASSISTANCE IN RESPONSE TO FLOODING EMERGENCY IN DAKHLA REFUGEE CAMP - SAHARAWI REFUGEE CAMPS

**Dakhla Refugee Camps, September 24, 2024-** The Western Sahara Red Crescent (WSRC) urgently calls on donors, United Nations agencies, and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide immediate support in response to a severe flooding emergency that has devastated the Dakhla refugee camps - Tindouf, Southwest Algeria.

The flooding, caused by intense seasonal rains that began on Thursday, September 19, 2024, escalated with heavy and intermittent precipitation, resulting in widespread damage as the rains peaked on the night of September 22 into September 23. The disaster has already displaced approximately 520 families, 27% of these families have completely lost



their homes and will need a total reconstruction, a figure expected to rise significantly in the coming days.

WSRC, in coordination with other humanitarian entities, swiftly activated its emergency response protocols. Tents and essential shelter items are being distributed to those affected, but the current response capacity is insufficient to address the escalating crisis. With Dakhla camp now officially declared a disaster zone, the WSRC urgently requests the involvement of the entire humanitarian community to ensure that the needs of displaced families are met.

The immediate priorities include:

Emergency shelter and non-food items for displaced families.

Food assistance and potable water supplies to ensure basic sustenance.

Health services to prevent disease outbreaks in the aftermath of the flooding.

Sanitation and hygiene supplies to prevent waterborne diseases.

WSRC emphasizes that without the timely involvement and coordinated efforts of international partners, the situation risks deteriorating rapidly. WSRC is committed to providing regular updates to all stakeholders as the situation develops and needs evolve.

WSRC extends heartfelt thanks to all humanitarian actors already on the ground and reiterates the critical importance of urgent action from the wider international community.

Source: <https://www.spsrasd.info/en/2024/09/24/5276.html>

## Blackbaud, Microsoft to Bring Cloud Technology, AI and Analytics to Nonprofits

**B**lackbaud and Microsoft announced plans to enhance the value provided to the nonprofit and education markets. Blackbaud customers will soon benefit from deeper integration of Microsoft AI and analytics into software that is purpose-built for the unique business operations of social impact organizations – without the need for costly customizations.

Underpinned by Microsoft technologies, Blackbaud's donor management software, Blackbaud CRM and Blackbaud Raiser's Edge NXT, are engineered using a comprehensive fundraising data model. These purpose-built, powerful solutions are proven to enhance data understanding and consistency, helping social impact organizations manage complex fundraising operations and ultimately increase the number of donors, gifts, and amounts raised. By integrating Microsoft Fabric in its architecture to unify data sources, Blackbaud can enable new capabilities like comprehensive productivity dashboards designed for the unique needs of their customers. These dashboards, personalized by role, are designed to enable every user to focus on and prioritize their next actions and critical tasks.

These capabilities build upon the productivity increases that thousands of Blackbaud customers are already realizing as they use Blackbaud's Microsoft Power Platform connectors, available on

the Blackbaud Marketplace, to extend and enhance their solutions. Blackbaud is a producer of Microsoft-certified Power Platform connectors, and its customers use this rich Microsoft toolset to create custom apps, automate workflows, build dashboards, and fine-tune reporting for their Blackbaud solutions, helping them save time and ultimately raise more funds for their world-changing organizations.

**“A tremendous opportunity exists for our two companies to collaborate on ways to help social impact organizations use AI and automation to address key operational and financial challenges,” said Sudip Datta, Chief Product Officer, Blackbaud. “As a longstanding Microsoft partner and leader in the nonprofit technology space, we’re committed to making sure our customers have access to the latest innovation within a connected ecosystem purpose-built for the social impact sector. We’re excited to be leveraging Microsoft Azure OpenAI Service and Microsoft Fabric within our solutions, helping social impact organizations accelerate impact.”**

“Microsoft is committed to empowering social good organizations with the technology

and tools they need to achieve more impact,” said Justin Spelhaug, Corporate Vice President of Microsoft's Tech for Social Impact, part of Microsoft Philanthropies. “We are grateful for the collaboration with Blackbaud who has been a pioneer in applying AI and cloud technologies to the social sector. Together, we are enabling social impact organizations to transform their operations, optimize their resources and amplify their outcomes.”

Blackbaud and Microsoft have a long history and shared commitment to the social impact space, rooted in Blackbaud's early adoption of Microsoft Azure as a critical foundation for many of its core products and ongoing adoption of new Azure capabilities. Blackbaud's financial management software Blackbaud Financial Edge NXT will soon leverage the Microsoft Azure AI Document Intelligence service for invoice and receipt scanning automation. This marriage of Blackbaud's financial management software with Microsoft technology will allow organizations to automate their entire payables process, from start to finish, directly within Financial Edge NXT. Blackbaud also leverages Microsoft AI Services to bring many aspects of their Intelligence for Good strategy to life, making AI powerful, accessible, and responsible for social impact, such as in Blackbaud Impact Edge, the company's new data and storytelling solution that's currently under development.

Source: <https://www.nonprofitpro.com/article/blackbaud-microsoft-to-bring-cloud-technology-ai-and-analytics-to-nonprofits/>



## Strengthening Cooperation Between Local Authorities and NGOs Through The ReLOaD2: Relevant Steps To European Integration

**T**he final ReLOaD2 Regional conference in Podgorica, dedicated to strengthening cooperation between local authorities and civil society, gathered more than one hundred representatives of ministries, local governments, and civil society organizations (CSOs) from the Western Balkans, as well as representatives of the European Union.

Opening the conference, Minister of Public Administration of Montenegro, Marash Dukaj stated that the capacity of non-governmental organizations must

be utilized because only this way we can become a society that belongs to the European Union.

**“Their expertise can significantly help local authorities develop appropriate local policies to the satisfaction of citizens and this refers to the whole region as well. I am especially pleased with initiatives such as the ReLOaD2 programme. Therefore, this is an opportunity to thank the European Union for encouraging good practices**

**with concrete actions, but also to local governments for their active participation in this project.”**

*Marash Dukaj, Minister of Public Administration*

Yngve Engstrom, Head of the Cooperation Sector in the Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro, added that this is a long-term process.

**“Transparent criteria for the use of public funds strengthen partnerships at the local level and**

**improve the quality of necessary reforms for the EU accession process and ReLOaD2 has made impressive achievements in this regard.”**

*Yngve Engstrom, Head of the Cooperation Sector in the Delegation of the EU to Montenegro*

The ReLOaD2 programme, financed by the European Union with 12.63 million euros and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), includes 62 local governments across the Western Balkans. Over the past four years, more than 470 NGO projects have been implemented, benefiting over 70,000 citizens in the region. Activities are carried out in various sectors identified by local authorities as important priorities, bringing the region closer to meeting transparency conditions for EU accession.

One of projects was implemented by NGO ORO from Danilovgrad and Union of the Blind Persons from Podgorica, who demonstrated part of their project with short choreography for the conference participants.

Marko Savićević from the NGO ORO says they chose to partner to ensure the proactive participation of children and young people with disabilities, while also enriching the cultural life of the central region with unique performances of traditional songs.

**“Thanks to ReLOaD2, we not only gained new educators, folklore performers, and high-quality music production, but also learned how to write complex projects and implement them properly. I am extremely excited about the new phase of ReLOaD programme, and**

**similar initiatives in the community.”**

*Marko Savićević, NGO ORO*

Enrica Chiozza, Head of Sector at Neighbourhood and Enlargement negotiations (DG NEAR), European Commission, stated that cooperation between municipalities and local organizations forms the foundation for sustainable growth and development across the Western Balkans.

**“It is essential to harness the momentum for enlargement ensuring that the democratisation process is inclusive and truly representative. By encouraging local level initiatives like Reload CSO and local governments can create a more dynamic and responsive system that fosters genuine progress across the region.”**

*Enrica Chiozza, Head of Sector at Neighbourhood and Enlargement negotiations (DG NEAR), European Commission*

A strong focus on youth involvement was also a central theme of the Final ReLOaD2 Regional Conference. Recognizing the crucial role of young people in shaping the future of the Western Balkans, the ReLOaD2 programme has implemented a series of activities aimed at empowering youth and making smaller communities more attractive places to live. These initiatives included training programs, internships, grants for youth-led actions, and support for entrepreneurial ideas. The program's efforts to engage youth have created significant opportunities for their involvement in local governance and community-building, contributing to the overall development of the region.

UNDP Resident Representative in Montenegro, Ekaterina Paniklova, highlighted the importance of empowered and informed young people for strong local communities.

**“I will remind you of the concerning results that more than half of the youth in the Western Balkans see themselves abroad in the next ten years. In this regard, through this program, a series of activities with young people have been designed to make smaller communities more desirable places to trainings, internship programs, grants for actions, and business ideas. ReLOaD2 has created many good practices and examples of youth involvement, which we hope to transfer to the next phase of the program.”**

*Ekaterina Paniklova, UNDP Resident Representative in Montenegro*

The conference summarized these successes and provided thematic discussions aimed at recommendations for improving accountability and efficiency at the local and regional levels, with an emphasis on continuing with enhancing communication and knowledge exchange. The main recommendations reiterated the need for continuation of support to the Western Balkans countries and territories in improving government transparency and collaboration with civil society as relevant requests for EU accession process.

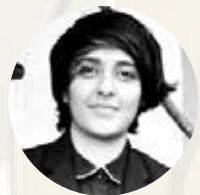
Source: <https://www.undp.org/montenegro/press-releases/strengthening-cooperation-between-local-authorities-and-ngos-through-reload2-relevant-steps-european-integration>

# Case study: The importance of investing in people and culture

**Building a people-centric work culture leads to organisational growth for nonprofits. Makkala Jagriti's experience in effective internal capacity building shows how.**



Saba Kohli Dave



Devanshi Vaid

**B**etween 2017 and 2024, [Makkala Jagriti \(MJ\)](#)—a nonprofit based in Karnataka—grew from a team of 30 to 150 people. Their presence scaled from working in five districts to working in 13. And the number of children they engaged with increased from 10,000 to 30,000.

How?

According to [Sunayana Chatrapathy](#), MJ's CEO, a large part of this growth can be attributed to the nonprofit's investment in people and culture.

MJ believes that investing in their team members and developing a culture where employees feel heard can strengthen organisational health, and therefore impact. This case study highlights their journey in building a people-centric organisation with a focus on democratic decision-making. It explores their reasons behind, and strategies for, promoting a value-centric organisational culture, the challenges they faced in doing so,

and why they persisted.

## Tracing MJ's journey

According to Sunayana, MJ's culture "has always been very people-centric, inclusive, and empowering. However, for the first few years, the practices for fostering a people-centric culture were unwritten and informal."

With a small team, new initiatives were often spontaneous, driven by immediate needs or new opportunities. For instance, when MJ partnered with an organisation specialising in personal safety, they recognised the need for capacity building in this area and promptly organised training for the entire team. Similarly, if the leadership met with potential partners or collaborators, they were able to swiftly decide on capacity-building collaborations. And lastly, the entire team would meet much more frequently—at least once a month—for sharing, review, and reflection.

This changed in 2017, when the nonprofit began to grow rapidly.

The expansion was not just in terms of the number of people, but also in the number of programmes and districts covered, and the depth of these programmes. Ensuring everyone's participation and voice in this period of growth required careful planning and deliberations. The logistics for team meetings became more complex, with greater reliance on everyone's availability.

As such, the organisation's leadership set out to formalise some of their

practices. This involved creating an annual plan for people development and capacity building, standardising processes such as performance reviews and learning practices, and creating an extended leadership team. Here's what this looked like in practice.

## 1. Articulating organisational culture

Articulating and practising organisational culture is extremely important as the organisation grows. This can be achieved by using communication tools—such as posters and presentations—as well as by engaging in dialogue and reflection. Articulating values involves emphasising them during the induction process, reiterating them during annual meetings, and encouraging programme leaders to consciously integrate them into their respective forums.

In events such as annual or mid-year team meetings, MJ creates experiential sessions where team members understand and internalise the organisation's vision, mission, and values through creative expression via songs, poetry, theatre, and art, among others. Experience, reflect, think, and act—Sunayana highlights that sessions with team members follow this cycle for a better learning experience. And lastly, leaders role-model MJ's values in their daily interactions with team members and other stakeholders.

## 2. Strengthening leadership

Makkala Jagriti's leadership team plays a crucial role as custodians of its culture. Significant investment has been made in the team's development through personal effectiveness trainings for managers and coordinators, with active involvement from board members.

Entrusting the leadership to uphold MJ's people-centric culture is a distinctive approach. Joy Srinivasan, MJ's founder, consciously stepped back from her executive position, entrusting the nonprofit to others while assuming a mentoring role. This demonstrated immense trust in the leadership, which has developed role models within the organisation at different levels.

## 3. Building for democratic decision-making

To promote democratic decision-making, Makkala Jagriti created an Extended Leadership Team (XLT), comprising representatives from all programmes and functions. Organisational policies, programme challenges, and best practices are discussed within this forum. This has led to collaborative decisions such as the implementation of a simplified leave policy, upgrading of the child protection policy, and adoption of cross-learning best practices from various programmes and functions.

Input from everyone—from the facilitators who work on the field to the coordinators and from the managers to the executive leadership—is included while making the organisational strategy at the annual team meeting. This process fosters a sense of ownership, buy-in, and motivation across the team, making it more likely for the strategy to be successfully implemented. Sunayana highlights, "MJ runs a programme in government schools that focuses on the holistic development of children through the SPICE model, which covers social,

physical, intellectual, creative, and emotional and ethical development. Initially, the programme was designed to serve all children. However, facilitators strongly felt that the foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) aspect of the programme should be targeted only at children who are below grade level. This idea was discussed and debated. Ultimately, the strategy was adjusted."

## 4. Calendarising capacity-building events

As the nonprofit scaled up, MJ moved from building the capacity of their workforce sporadically to a well-planned annual calendar of capacity-building activities, such as annual and mid-year team trainings, exposure visits, well-being events, trainings for personal effectiveness, and annual team meetings. This shift is ensuring that all employees, regardless of their position or location, have access to continuous development opportunities. Additionally, there are ongoing efforts to assess training needs as per different roles in the organisation. Sunayana elaborates, "If something is not working, there is a need to build capacity in that area. We assess these needs regularly in different ways—through surveys, reviews, discussions, meetings, and so on."

A recent initiative undertaken has been to map the technical skills and attitudinal aspects required for all job roles, which will lead to an even more effective capacity-building plan and calendar for the organisation. Additionally, MJ is building Leadership and dDevelopment as a separate, dedicated function to focus on.

## 5. Focusing on strengths

The introduction of the strengths philosophy in 2021 has been an interesting milestone in the nonprofit's people development journey. Leaders and mid-level

team members took the [Gallup Strengths Finder](#) test and underwent a consistent learning and reflection process for more than a year. Sunayana says that this was a game changer: "We learned that, for incredible performance, it was much better not to fix people's weaknesses, but to identify their strengths and build on them." Focusing on strengths was pivotal for MJ in many ways. Firstly, it provided an opportunity for individuals to understand themselves better through the lens of their unique qualities, encouraging them to nurture these qualities and excel in their roles. Secondly, it facilitated a deeper understanding and acceptance of differences—whether in execution, strategic thinking, relationship building, or other areas. This insight enabled managers to collaborate more effectively by complementing one another's strengths.

## Challenges along the way

Unsurprisingly, Makkala Jagriti has also faced many challenges in maintaining a people-centric culture as they grow. Sunayana points out that while this kind of culture has more benefits than negatives, it is sometimes a double-edged sword.

[Rohit Shetti](#), deputy director of programmes at MJ, says, "Some practices that we had from the beginning are becoming more challenging as we grow. For instance, organising full team meetings has become increasingly difficult with our expansion to 150 people. Initially, we held these meetings monthly, then quarterly, then semi-annually, and now we organise them just once a year. While these meetings were valuable for team bonding and fostering a sense of belonging, the logistics and resources required have made it tough to maintain this frequency. To address this, we have shifted to more regular virtual connections."

Source: <https://idronline.org/article/leadership-talent/case-study-the-importance-of-investing-in-people-and-culture/>

## Student group helps nonprofits improve operations and tell their stories

Members of the Business Analytics Student Experience program are putting their skills to the test by working on real-world data projects for nonprofit organizations. Now in its third year, the student group, known familiarly as BASE in the College of Business and Economics, offers vital support to local groups. The program began in the fall of 2022 after a student approached Christie Fuller, professor of information technology management, with the idea of starting a student data analytics group.

"Students come to us wanting hands-on experience, and they get it," Fuller said. "They learn how to meet with clients, communicate effectively and work through the kind of unstructured problems they will face in the real world. This generation is very community-minded. Our students love that they can help nonprofits while gaining critical experience." Typical tasks include using an agency's available data and building visualizations for employees, clients and potential donors and training agency staff to interpret their data and keep it current.

What began as a small venture with 10 students has grown to include over 30 participants, with each academic year seeing an increase in projects. In the 2024-2025 school year, the group

expects to complete 10 to 12 projects, up from nine the previous year. This fall, students will work on a project with Boda Girls, a nonprofit in Kenya, in addition to local partners like Jannus, Downtown Boise Foundation and the Boise Bicycle Project.

**Travis Dart, a senior majoring in supply chain management and information technology management, originally from Lodi, California, spent six years in the Navy before starting his studies at Boise State. He has been part of the BASE program for three semesters. "BASE has been a huge opportunity for me," Dart said. "Not only has it helped build my resume, but it's also given me life experience and references that will be invaluable when I graduate. Plus, I've learned so much about working with data, something I want to continue doing in my future career."**

Dart's first project involved helping Faces of Hope, a local organization supporting survivors of abuse and violence, by cleaning duplicate data. He then worked with the Idaho Crisis and Suicide Hotline to develop two dashboards: one for internal

statistics, such as daily call volumes and reasons, and another simplified version for public use. His most recent project with Ronald McDonald House involved creating a volunteer dashboard to visualize data for generating reports. "It was a big shift from working with spreadsheets full of numbers to providing easy-to-read graphs," Dart said.

Stephanie Meredith, volunteer manager at Ronald McDonald House, described partnering with Boise State as a "win-win." Nonprofits often lack the budget for data analysis, and students bring both their skills and fresh perspectives. "I've loved getting to know the students," Meredith said. "Some have put in extra hours or checked back in. They care about us, and they know we care about them."

Fuller said that BASE has brought in Boise State alums to act as mentors for some of its projects, increasing student networking opportunities. While the program attracts mainly analytics majors and those pursuing analytics certificates, it is open to all students.

"Just bring a willingness to learn," Fuller said.

Shelly Moore, a lecturer in the Information Technology Supply Chain Management department, co-advises the group. Learn more on the

Source: <https://www.boisestate.edu/news/2024/09/26/student-group-helps-nonprofits-improve-operations-and-tell-their-stories/>

## Non-governmental organizations are the initiators of many good ideas and practices

**I hope that, as a municipality, in the time ahead we will be able to support even more organizations, programs and projects, convinced that this is one of the most important steps towards the true prosperity of our city," Vuković said.**

"By improving the cooperation between local self-government and non-governmental organizations, we jointly strengthen local democracy and build the foundations of the desired socio-economic development", said the President of the Municipal Assembly (SO) Nikšić, Nemanja Vuković, at the extended meeting of the Council for Cooperation of Local Self-Government and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO).

In addition to permanent members, representatives of numerous NGOs also attended the meeting and working breakfast.

"You are the initiators of many good ideas and practices, a corrective

factor and a generator of necessary reforms. Therefore, your role in the creation of public policies is of inestimable importance. I hope that, as a municipality, in the time ahead we will be able to support even more organizations, programs and projects, convinced that this is one of the most important steps towards the true prosperity of our city," said Vuković.

He pointed out that only inclusive, partnership work of institutions and NGOs can lead to rapid and effective changes in society.

As stated in the press release, the representatives of the non-governmental sector expressed their satisfaction with the cooperation

with the Municipality so far, noting that they had a reliable partner in the local self-government during the implementation of numerous projects and initiatives.

"They also emphasized the expectation that in the future some joint projects will be realized in order to improve the quality of life of all citizens, as well as proposals for improving cooperation between local self-government and the non-governmental sector," the press release states.

The meeting was also attended by the secretary of the Nikšić Municipal Assembly, Ivana Šljukić.

Source: <https://en.vijesti.me/news-b/society/725708/NGOs-are-the-initiators-of-many-good-ideas-and-practices>





## Understanding Caledon's Amazing Not-for-profits: ecoCaledon



Patti Foley

Charities and nonprofits play huge roles in our communities. They improve our lives and fill gaps in the services we rely on. When we strengthen them, we strengthen the very fabric of our lives. Yet sometimes folks don't realize they are there, or what they do, until they need them.

[JustSayinCaledon.com](https://justsayincaledon.com) is on a mission to raise awareness for the charities and nonprofits that are pivotal to the Caledon community. Our eighth story in this series features:

### ecoCaledon

At ecoCaledon we spoke with Lucrezia Chiappetta, co-chair.

### In a nutshell what does ecoCaledon do?

We are ecoCaledon, a local nonprofit organization dedicated to driving climate action in the Town of Caledon.

Together with our partners, we strive to educate residents about environmental issues, empower our community to take both individual and collective action, advocate for stronger policies and bold climate initiatives, and collaborate with others working toward sustainable solutions.

### Are there any particular programs you want to emphasize?

We are already experiencing the local impacts of climate change, and we must adapt to these changes while working to prevent future

damage. At ecoCaledon, changing behaviour is at the core of everything we do, because solving the climate crisis ultimately depends on transforming human actions.

Our goal at ecoCaledon is to make behaviour change as easy and fun as possible, so people can live healthier, more sustainable lives. By seeing the collective impact of individual actions, our community will realize that small personal changes can lead to extraordinary results.

ecoCaledon is actively working across several key climate action areas: food and agriculture, waste reduction, energy conservation and retrofits, sustainable transportation and advocacy. If you're interested, we invite you to get in touch to learn more!

### What sort of challenges are the nonprofit sector and organizations like ecoCaledon currently facing?

In 2024, environmental nonprofits face a variety of challenges, including:

Securing consistent funding. Donors, grants, and government contributions can fluctuate and with economic uncertainties and competing social causes, nonprofits like ecoCaledon struggle to maintain financial stability.

Furthermore, with the overwhelming nature of climate news, many people experience "climate fatigue," becoming apathetic or overwhelmed. Motivating individuals to take action in the face of such a daunting issue is a significant challenge.

### What would you like the public to know about how they can help?

This climate haiku says it all!

It's warming.

it's bad.

it's us.

we're sure.

we can fix it!

-Dr. Kim Nicholas

We are confronting one of the greatest challenges in human history: the climate crisis. Future generations will look back on this moment and ask what we did to secure a safe and healthy world for them.

To inspire more people to take climate action and help build climate-resilient communities, we need to focus on areas where individuals can make a direct impact. Building awareness around climate change from a global perspective can feel overwhelming and intimidating. We want our community to see that addressing climate change is something they can tackle—both individually and as a community.

Source: <https://justsayincaledon.com/understanding-caledons-amazing-not-for-profits-ecocaledon/>

### How can folks reach out to you?

Email Us [info@ecocaledon.org](mailto:info@ecocaledon.org)

Visit our [Website ecocaledon.org](https://www.ecocaledon.org)

Follow us on Instagram @ [ecocaledon](https://www.instagram.com/ecocaledon)

Follow us on Facebook @ [ecoCaledonOrg](https://www.facebook.com/ecocaledonorg)

Follow us on Twitter @ecoCaledon

"I like to envision the whole world as a jigsaw puzzle..."

If you look at the whole picture, it is overwhelming and terrifying, but if you work on your little part of the jigsaw and know that people all over the world are working on their little bits, that's what will give you hope"

- Jane Goodall





## Upward social mobility lower in civil society than the UK overall

The gender pay gap was also higher than the UK average, new figures show



Emily Harle

Upward social mobility is lower in civil society than in the UK overall, government figures show.

In civil society, upward social mobility – the proportion of those in higher-class occupations from less advantaged backgrounds – was just 22.5 per cent in 2020, compared with the UK's overall rate of 26.5 per cent, new figures from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport have found.

This was also lower than in DCMS sectors overall, which recorded 23.2 per cent in upward social mobility.

The DCMS' economic estimates, which compare economic measures for DCMS sectors over the past 10 years, found that in 2020, about 55 per cent of filled jobs in civil society were held by people from more advantaged backgrounds.

This was higher than the UK average of nearly 47 per cent, but similar to the DCMS sector average of just under 55 per cent.

People from less advantaged backgrounds held nearly 26 per cent of filled jobs in civil society, while about 19 per cent of the jobs were held by people from unknown backgrounds.

**Sarah Atkinson, chief executive of the Social Mobility Foundation, said that while it was positive to see DCMS publishing socioeconomic background data, it was “depressing” to see civil society rank lower than other sectors in upward social mobility.**

Atkinson said: “This unfortunately chimes with the experience of many working class people that it’s hard to get in, get on and feel confident they belong in the charity sector.

“Underrepresentation of people from working class backgrounds is a problem across our society, but we’re seeing more action to change in some traditionally elite sectors like law and banking.”

She added that charities could enter the organisation’s social mobility employer index to receive expert feedback on their social mobility standing.

**“We stand ready to support any organisation who wants to take the first steps on the journey to improving social mobility.”**

The figures show that in 2020, 900,000 jobs were occupied in the civil society sector, a growth of nearly 21 per cent since 2011.

This was about 10 percentage points higher than the growth experienced by the UK overall, which grew by nearly 11 per cent over the same period.

The report adds that compared with the UK average, people working in civil society in 2020 were much more likely to be female, more likely to be disabled but slightly less likely to be from an ethnic minority group.

The proportion of filled jobs in civil society held by people with disabilities increased “substantially” between 2011 and 2020, the report adds. The proportion of roles held by people from ethnic minority backgrounds also rose, while the proportion held by women decreased over the same period.

The report also provides earnings estimates for DCMS sectors, finding that in 2021, the median annual earnings for civil society were £24,778 – 21 per cent lower than DCMS sectors overall.

The median annual gross pay for civil society roles was highest in London, at £31,936, followed by the east of England at £25,754. The south west recorded the lowest rate of median annual earnings, at £22,041.

The report also found that in 2021, the gender pay gap for civil society was higher than for the whole of the UK economy. Civil society recorded a nearly 21 per cent pay gap, compared with the UK average of just over 15 per cent.

**Sarah Elliot, chief executive of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, said: “This report highlights there are clearly still barriers for people from less advantaged backgrounds that stop or prevent them choosing our sector for their career.**

“At NCVO, we believe it’s important our sector’s workforce is as diverse, inclusive and representative of the communities we serve as possible.”

Elliot said the sector needed to make sure that it offered competitive pay but also comprehensive benefits, such as flexible working patterns, hybrid and remote working, apprenticeship programmes and clear career development pathways.

“Having strong people and wellbeing strategies in place, created with their EDI principles in mind, will help charity leaders feel confident they can recruit and retain the very best talent, from all backgrounds,” she said.

Source: <https://www.thirdsector.co.uk/upward-social-mobility-lower-civil-society-uk-overall/management/article/1890308>



# The Role of Community-Based Associations in Social Protection: Jordan as a Case Study

## Introduction

In Jordan, the contributory and non-contributory social protection systems are some of the most important tools of the state and society for promoting social cohesion and addressing the risks that people face in their lives, such as sickness, death, old age, disability, and unemployment. The legislative structure in Jordan attempts to organize the work of all parties concerned with social protection through social security laws and national relief funds, in addition to regulating the roles,

objectives, competencies, scope, and governance of charitable associations, which are one of the tools of civil society, to enhance the country's social protection and strengthen its resilience to risks.

This paper discusses the role of cooperatives and community-based associations in Jordan in strengthening the social protection system, examining the positive aspects and challenges through research questions based on the following key questions: Are these associations effective, efficient, and able to fulfill their vision, mission,

and goals, or are they ineffective and suffering from issues and challenges that make their role marginal and ineffective? Does the existence of these associations and their encouragement by the state harm the official social protection system, and encourage people to evade the official social protection system and contribution payments given the existence of other forms of protection; and does this result in the state abdicating its responsibilities to these other entities, regardless of whether they create or reproduce negative phenomena and dynamics?

This paper emphasizes that reaching a scientific judgment on the NGO sector, in general, requires a comprehensive study of a representative sample of all sectors and types of these associations, taking into account their size, the scope of their work, sources and amount of funding, work strategies, outreach, and other factors. This paper uses the methodology of qualitative analysis and addresses this issue by defining its scope to include two associations: Tkiyet Um Ali, one of the most important associations in Jordan, is based in the capital Amman and has several activities directly related to strengthening the social protection system in Jordan extending to all governorates; and the Arhaba Charitable Society, located in the outskirts of Irbid governorate in northern Jordan, with a specific geographical scope. These two associations will help us to build perceptions and scientific judgments to enable judging the NGO sector and its effectiveness in promoting and contributing to social protection.

## Social Protection Institutions in the Arab Region

The history of social protection institutions in the Arab world, whether contributory (such as pension and social insurance institutions) or non-contributory (such as national relief funds and zakat) dates back to the last century; the oldest social security systems in the Arab world started in 1949 in Algeria, 1950 in Egypt, and 1960 in Tunisia. Some insurance systems in the Arab world date back to the last decade of the 21st century, as in some Gulf countries such as the United Arab Emirates and Qatar.<sup>1</sup> In Jordan, social protection programs began in the 1950s, such as the provision of a pension system for the public sector, the Social Development

and Labor Law – in effect until the issuance of the Social Security Law No. 30 of 1978 – and the establishment of zakat funds. The aim was to provide an integrated umbrella for social protection based on a number of qualifying criteria such as need, lack of income, or lack of social security contributions.

As is the case in most countries in the Arab world, the social protection system suffers from the large number of separate protection programs with similar objectives, making transparency and accountability difficult and leading to inefficient spending as a result of their multiplicity and duplication of efforts. It has become imperative for Arab and low- and middle-income countries to rethink these programs and institutions, ensuring structural and barometric reforms that guarantee efficiency, effectiveness, comprehensiveness, and accountability. In this context, we can refer mainly to the group of executive agencies dealing with social protection in the Arab world:<sup>2</sup>

- **Pension and social security institutions:** Civilian and military pension and social security institutions, which are contributory programs and providing benefit packages such as pensions, lump-sum settlements, workers' compensation, unemployment funds, and maternity coverage, to cover the events that program participants are exposed to such as old age, disability, death, occupational injuries and diseases, unemployment, and pregnancy.
- **National relief funds:** Social security institutions and funds, such as the Social Security Fund in Saudi Arabia and the National Aid Fund in Jordan, aim to strengthen social protection systems through a number of programs such as recurring and temporary monthly

financial assistance programs, emergency financial assistance programs, supplementary financial assistance, physical rehabilitation assistance, and emergency financial assistance programs for natural disasters.

- **Zakat funds:** Zakat funds strengthen the social protection system; their financial resources come mainly from zakat paid voluntarily, and are directed to the poor through a number of programs such as monthly cash assistance, emergency assistance, providing in-kind items, sponsoring orphans, providing health care through affiliated medical centers, in addition to other programs related to students, school bags, and small investment rehabilitation projects.
- **Civil society organizations and institutions:** These organizations are licensed and specialized in providing assistance to impoverished and disadvantaged individuals and communities. They engage in the provision of recurring and emergency financial aid, in-kind assistance, and food. There are numerous such associations and bodies in existence. Notable examples include the Hashemite Charity Commission in Jordan, Tkiyet Um Ali, the Arhaba Charitable Society, Social Reform in Kuwait, Dar al-Bar in the United Arab Emirates, and the Charitable Society for Orphan Care in Saudi Arabia.

The above entities are the primary actors in the provision and reinforcement of the social protection system in the Arab world. They do so by meeting the system's requirements, which can be classified into two categories. The first category comprises social protection programs based on contributions, including pension and social insurance programs.

The second category encompasses programs that are not based on contributions. Guarantee funds, national aid, zakat funds, and programs provided by charitable associations and bodies typically target the impoverished and indigent who lack pensions and income and are designed to ensure the basic needs of these individuals are met. This is done through social studies and examinations to determine eligibility for social protection.

### The Reality of Social Protection in Jordan

As is the case in most countries in the Arab region, Jordan has a "National Social Protection Strategy 2019-2025" that was developed to ensure that "all Jordanians enjoy a decent life, a decent work environment, and accessible social services".<sup>3</sup> Jordan's social protection programs, which have similar goals to each other, have proliferated over time, creating challenges for transparency and accountability. The multiplicity and duplication of efforts inherent in this proliferation have also resulted in inefficient spending. In light of the constraints imposed by a limited public budget, it has become imperative for the state to prioritize the work of its programs and simplify its procedures.

In Jordan, executive agencies play a pivotal role in the administration and delivery of official social protection programs. These programs can again be broadly classified into the two basic categories: contributory and non-contributory. The contributory social protection category encompasses programs administered by the GOSS. These include insurance programs for old age, disability, and death; work injury and occupational disease; unemployment; and maternity. The non-contributory social protection category includes

programs managed by the National Aid Fund (NAF) and the Jordanian Zakat Fund.

Charitable associations, foundations, and community funds also contribute to the social protection system in Jordan, which typically caters to the economically disadvantaged and those lacking the means to secure basic necessities, as determined through social studies and assessments to ascertain eligibility for benefits.

In this context, we can mainly refer to a group of actors and the following executive bodies, which are concerned with social protection in Jordan:

- Community-based associations are dispersed throughout the Kingdom and provide a multitude of services, including financial assistance, in-kind donations, food provision, healthcare, education, shelter, and other initiatives that contribute to social protection in Jordan.
- The Royal Hashemite Court contributes to social protection through a variety of programs pertaining to the delivery of medical and therapeutic services, as well as the provision of housing for economically disadvantaged individuals.
- The General Organization for Social Security (GOSS) is a government agency and the primary entity responsible for administering social security programs. In 1995, the GOSS extended its coverage to include Jordanian public sector workers, and in 2003, it expanded its scope to encompass military sector personnel. The GOSS offers a comprehensive set of protection programs, funded through contributions of up to 21.75% from participants, to provide coverage for insurance

against old age, disability, and death. Injuries and diseases sustained in the workplace, maternity insurance, and unemployment insurance are among the social security programs that have been implemented in Jordan. As of the most recent data, there were 1,531,135 individuals enrolled in these programs, with a further 338,602 retired individuals receiving benefits. Additionally, approximately 417,000 individuals have received unemployment payments, and over 108,000 individuals have received maternity benefits.<sup>4</sup>

The percentage of the population with health insurance coverage has reached approximately 70%. This is the result of the various insurance programs that are currently in place, including civil health insurance, military health insurance, and insurance companies in the private sector. However, this still leaves 30% of Jordanians without health insurance. This highlights the necessity for concerted efforts on the part of the various components of the Jordanian state to launch and activate a comprehensive health insurance program.

The NAF represents the official arm of the non-contributory social protection umbrella. Its objective is to reduce poverty levels at the national level through the implementation of a series of programs, including monthly financial aid, cash support, emergency financial aid, winter aid, and rehabilitation programs such as vocational training and employment programs for children of beneficiary families, among others.<sup>5</sup> The following table shows the number of beneficiaries of selected NAF programs.

Read more at: <https://www.arab-reform.net/publication/the-role-of-community-based-associations-in-social-protection-jordan-as-a-case-study/>

## Aria CFO Services unveil true cost guidelines to foster greater trust and transparency in the social sector

New Delhi [India], September 13: NGOs in India often struggle with accurately computing and communicating their "true costs" - the complete costs required to sustainably run organisations while working towards their mission. To address this gap, Aria CFO Services, led by CA Ravi Bagaria and CA Ritu Jain has launched the "True Cost Computation and Communication Guidelines for NGOs in India," in a bid to strengthen the country's social sector. The guidelines were unveiled in the presence of distinguished Chartered Accountant Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal, which took place in New Delhi earlier this week.

These guidelines arrive at a crucial juncture as India advances towards its vision of Viksit Bharat (Developed India). NGOs, which contribute nearly 2% to India's GDP, play an indispensable role in fostering inclusive and equitable development. However, these organisations face considerable challenges in financial management and transparency. Hence, these guidelines serve the purpose to alleviate these challenges.

Key Highlights of the Guidelines:

- \* First-of-its-kind collaborative effort involving funders, NGOs, and Chartered Accountants
- \* Addresses a critical fundraising and communication gap: 83% of NGOs struggle to recover indirect costs, while 68% of funders have indicated their flexibility in funding these costs (Bridgespan Group survey, 2023)



- \* Developed with input from 7 support partners Center for Advancement of Philanthropy, Educate Girls, Guidestar India, Guru and Jana Chartered Accountants, PKF Sridhar & Santhanam LLP, Tejas Merh and The Bridgespan Group's Pay-What-It-Takes India Initiative,
- \* Developed under the aegis of Pay-What-It-Takes India movement, a collaborative movement of Funders, NGOs, and support organisations to achieve a robust & resilient social sector
- \* Tested and refined through workshops with over 35 NGOs

The comprehensive guidelines equip NGOs with essential tools to create accurate and transparent budgets, standardise financial information presentation, and enhance resource and funding management. This initiative is poised to foster greater financial transparency, improve governance practices, and catalyse stronger

partnerships between NGOs and funders.

Appreciating the effort, CA Ranjeet Agarwal, a prominent Chartered Accountant, said, "For India to achieve the goal of Viksit Bharat, funders need to support NGOs working for the most marginalised and disadvantaged communities. I hope these guidelines will help such NGOs strengthen their financial capabilities and operate with enhanced efficiency."

"NGOs and funders need to work as equal partners to contribute more effectively to the nation's social development. Pay-What-It-Takes India is a collaborative movement to help develop such partnerships, and these guidelines mark an important step in that direction." Added Shashank Rastogi, Partner at The Bridgespan Group.

Read more at: [https://www.business-standard.com/content/press-releases-ani/aria-cfo-services-unveil-true-cost-guidelines-to-foster-greater-trust-and-transparency-in-the-social-sector-124091300595\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/content/press-releases-ani/aria-cfo-services-unveil-true-cost-guidelines-to-foster-greater-trust-and-transparency-in-the-social-sector-124091300595_1.html)

# Strengthening social welfare in Nepal

**A**s Nepal transitions into a federal structure, the Social Welfare Council (SWC) plays a pivotal role in coordinating social welfare initiatives among various stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international non-governmental organizations (INGOs). Established under the Social Welfare Act of 2049, the SWC's mission is increasingly vital as it seeks to meet the diverse needs of the population while adapting to a complex political landscape.

Nepal's move to federalism has introduced significant changes in governance and service delivery. The SWC faces several challenges in this new environment:

**Fragmentation of authority:** Power is now decentralized, requiring the SWC to coordinate effectively across federal, provincial, and local levels. This fragmentation can lead to inconsistencies in policy implementation, making it essential for the SWC to establish robust communication channels.

**Resource allocation:** Government priorities may shift based on political dynamics, impacting the funding and support available for social welfare initiatives. This uncertainty complicates the planning and execution of programs aimed at vulnerable populations.

**Stakeholder engagement:** The SWC must balance the interests of local governments, NGOs, and community members, fostering collaboration to avoid service delivery overlaps and ensure cohesive efforts.

## Operational landscape

### Clients and beneficiaries:

The SWC's primary focus is on marginalized groups, including women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. Programs must be tailored to address specific social challenges, such as poverty, discrimination, and access to healthcare and education.

**Staff capacity and expertise:** The effectiveness of the SWC hinges on its personnel. Continuous professional development is crucial for staff to navigate the complexities of federalism and effectively support local NGOs.

**Board and governance:** The SWC's governance structure must include diverse representation to reflect the multifaceted nature of social issues in Nepal. The SWC board should be led by a professional politician while the line ministry should be an oversight body. Strengthening the executive committee can lead to more informed and inclusive decision-making processes.

## Strategic recommendations

To enhance the SWC's operational effectiveness in the federal context, consider the following strategies:

- **Enhanced coordination mechanisms:** Develop clear protocols for communication and collaboration among the SWC, local governments, and NGOs. Regular joint planning sessions can ensure alignment on priorities and enhance the effectiveness of social welfare programs.
- **Decentralized decision-making:** Empower local SWC branches to make decisions regarding funding and program implementation. This approach allows for greater responsiveness to local needs and quicker

adaptations to changing circumstances.

- **Prioritized capacity building:** Invest in training programs for SWC staff and affiliated NGOs, focusing on project management, monitoring and evaluation, and community engagement. A well-trained workforce is essential for effective service delivery.
- **Transparency and accountability:** Implement robust financial management and reporting mechanisms to build trust among stakeholders. Regular audits and public disclosures of funding and expenditures can enhance the SWC's credibility.
- **Collaboration with local organizations:** Strengthen partnerships with local NGOs and community-based organizations to leverage their knowledge and networks. This collaborative approach can enhance outreach and ensure programs are culturally sensitive.

- **Advocacy for sustainable funding:** Engage in advocacy efforts to secure stable funding from government sources, international donors, and private sector partners. Diversifying the funding base will enable the SWC to sustain its operations and expand its reach.

The Social Welfare Council is at a critical juncture as it navigates the complexities of a federal Nepal. By enhancing coordination mechanisms, decentralizing decision-making, investing in capacity building, and fostering collaboration with local organizations, the SWC can significantly strengthen its impact. These strategic adaptations will empower marginalized communities and align the Council's operations with the overarching goals of the Nepalese government, fostering a more equitable and just society. The SWC's proactive approach is essential for advancing social welfare initiatives and improving the lives of vulnerable populations across Nepal.

Source: <https://theannapurnaexpress.com/story/50622/>



# Foreign NGOs receive \$1.2b in 5 years

US, UN lead funding for flood relief, education, and women's empowerment

ISLAMABAD: Foreign NGOs operating in Pakistan received a staggering \$1.2 billion in foreign funding over the past five years, according to official documents obtained by The Express Tribune.

The detailed breakdown of these funds shows that the highest contributions came from the United States, which provided \$265.7 million, followed by the United Kingdom with \$205.8 million.

The European Union contributed \$115.4 million, while the United Nations topped the list with \$890.6 million. Other major donors included Germany (\$803 million), Norway (\$100.9 million), Canada (\$867 million), and private donors, who contributed \$117.6 million.

The report highlights that under the 2022 NPO policy, a significant portion of these funds was allocated to various causes, including more than \$440 million for flood relief activities, over \$71.8 million for infrastructure projects, and \$94.9 million for climate change initiatives across 41 approved cases.

The agriculture sector saw 13 approved

cases, with more than \$20 million allocated, while education projects received over \$142.3 million in funding.

In addition, women's empowerment received a notable \$215.6 million, social welfare projects were granted over \$150 million, and human rights initiatives received more than \$190 million in foreign funding.

During the 2020-2021 period alone, a total of 821 applications were received, reflecting the increasing demand for foreign assistance.

In 2020-2021, a total of \$200 million was disbursed for various projects, including \$58.7 million for 241 healthcare cases, \$71.8 million for 295 social

welfare cases, and \$2.2 million for nine agriculture-related cases.

Infrastructure projects received \$2.6 million for 10 cases, while climate change projects received \$7.2 million for 29 cases. Education projects saw \$20.8 million allocated to 85 cases, while women's empowerment was granted \$11.4 million for 47 cases.

Human rights initiatives received \$15.4 million across 63 cases, and minority rights projects received \$10.2 million across 42 cases.

In terms of foreign contributions, the US donated \$53.2 million in 2020-2021, the UK contributed \$41.5 million, and the EU provided \$22.3 million.

The United Nations contributed \$17.8 million, Germany donated \$16.6 million, Norway \$2.2 million, Switzerland \$5.6 million, and Canada \$17.7 million. Individual charitable donations amounted to \$23.5 million.

In total, foreign funding for 1,406 cases between 2020-2021 reached \$997.9 million, with over \$442.2 million spent on 15 infrastructure-related cases.

The report underscores the critical role of foreign assistance in supporting a wide range of development initiatives across Pakistan.

Source: <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2495176/foreign-ngos-receive-12b-in-5-years>



# U.S. Nonprofit Hospitals Received More than \$37 Billion in Total Tax Benefits in 2021

Analysis finds nonprofit hospitals' tax benefits concentrated among about 200 hospitals, accounting for half, and are dominated by state and local tax benefits

Nonprofit hospitals in the U.S. received \$37.4 billion in tax benefits in 2021, according to a study from researchers at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins Carey Business School, and Texas Christian University.

The researchers analyzed the latest available financial data from the nearly 3,000 U.S. nonprofit hospitals and found that tax benefits were larger than had been previously estimated, varied widely from state to state, mostly comprised state- and local-level benefits, and were concentrated among relatively few hospitals.

The study used standard accounting methods and is thought to be the most rigorous investigation to date to address the question of nonprofit hospitals' tax benefits. The researchers say it offers a good template for making future estimates of nonprofits' benefits.

The study appears September 26 in JAMA.

"We generally know what benefits communities derive from nonprofit hospitals—in this study we explored the other side of the equation, concerning the benefits these hospitals derive from their nonprofit status," says Ge Bai, PhD, a professor at the Johns Hopkins Carey Business School, with a joint appointment in the Bloomberg School's

Department of Health Policy and Management.

The nonprofit hospital model originated from the free-care, philanthropist-supported "charity hospital" model that largely disappeared in the 20th century. Nonprofit hospitals are expected to provide some charitable care, but their financial support comes less from philanthropy and more from ordinary paying patients and insurers. Consequently, some of their practices, including debt-collection actions against patients, have begun to resemble those of for-profit hospitals. This has sparked an ongoing policy debate about whether the added value to the community of hospital nonprofit—versus for-profit—status is commensurate with the tax benefits that nonprofits enjoy.

In the new study, Bai and her colleagues sought to illuminate the extent of those benefits. The analysis covered the 2,927 U.S. hospitals identified as nonprofits in standard Medicare Cost

Reports—mandatory filings for Medicare-certified hospitals—in 2021, the latest year for which such data are available. Benefits were defined as corporate taxes that would otherwise have been payable under for-profit status (federal and state income tax, state sales tax, property tax, federal unemployment tax), interest expense savings from issuing tax-exempt bonds, and



the fair-market value of donations received.

The central finding was that nonprofits in 2021 received a total of \$37.4 billion in benefits, including federal income tax benefits (\$11.5 billion), sales tax benefits (\$9.1 billion), and property tax benefits (\$7.8 billion). This is substantially larger than a study published last year that estimated that nonprofit hospitals received about \$28 billion in tax benefits in 2020 using a different methodology.

According to the new analysis, about 55 percent of total benefits came from state and local tax benefits.

The findings also revealed that nonprofit tax benefits are unevenly distributed, with dramatic differences between Massachusetts, which has the highest tax benefit per bed (\$159,464), and Delaware, which has the lowest (\$25,098).

Read more at: <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/2024/us-nonprofit-hospitals-received-more-than-37-billion-in-total-tax-benefits-in-2021>

# Shifting power to save lives: how the new UK government can become a champion for global partnerships and local leadership in crisis response

**The change in government in the UK with David Lammy as Foreign Secretary and Anneliese Dodds as Minister for International Development offers an exciting opportunity to change the way that the FCDO does aid and diplomacy to shift power to national and local organisations at the frontlines of crisis response.**

Lammy talks of wanting to forge a new approach to global partnerships, leveraging what the UK has to contribute, but also respecting and making the most of the expertise and influence of others around the world. What might a new approach to partnerships and local leadership mean for the government's approach to humanitarian action?

We work for CEFORD, a Ugandan national NGO that also acts as secretariat for the Charter4Change coalition, campaigning for locally-led humanitarian action, and CAFOD, a UK-based international NGO that has a long history of solidarity and partnership with local civil society groups around the world.

Exactly one year ago, we supported FCDO in an unprecedented FCDO dialogue with local civil society in Ukraine, Myanmar and South Sudan to identify [how the UK can better support locally led humanitarian action](#). Unlike most donor policy debates on 'localisation', the FCDO Dialogue took steps to join up the dots in discussion between FCDO headquarters decision-makers with UK embassies and local civil society groups, and their networks, at the country level.

It included diverse groups from Ukraine, Myanmar and North West Syria, including those representing LGBT, faith, persons with disability and women's rights movements. A survey of local actors was conducted by the Overseas Development Institute and FCDO issued a report with recommendations emerging from the Dialogue earlier this year.

Since then, officials have started scoping a whole-of-FCDO (not just humanitarian) localisation strategy, but the election inevitably led to a pause and now an opportunity to reflect.

## What next?

Based on the above efforts to listen to local civil society groups and dialogue with FCDO officials, we highlight the following four recommendations:

**Hold international agencies accountable for equitable partnerships and support to local leadership** – One very practical action that FCDO could take would be establishing a global, consistent approach to fair overheads cost support for local organisations, and holding international agencies accountable for providing this to them. Concerns about risk management, quality and accountability are often cited as obstacles to 'localisation', and yet the current approach too often involves not covering local NGOs' running costs, undermining their organisational capacity to effectively manage the risks they face. FCDO developed good guidance on overheads for its Rapid Response Fund, but since then has not mobilised that mechanism. That policy should be adapted and rolled-out across all FCDO funding. A deeper shift on equitable partnership would be to make this an explicit priority in all grants and consortia involving work with local groups, and to establish systematic mutual accountability stock-takes in which local groups' feedback on partnership quality get heard and acted on.

**Scale-up locally led funds at the country level which demonstrate a genuinely transformative approach, and appoint the right**

**staff to manage these** – The FCDO Dialogue in September 2023 revealed that the UK is already supporting some country-level funds and consortia innovating in support to local groups. A contextualised approach is essential to understanding risks facing local groups and finding practical ways to mitigate them. But these are few and far between, and reliant on individuals – they have happened where there are supportive senior embassy officials and fund managers in place. So the FCDO needs to hire staff with that expertise and commitment to shifting power to local groups and ministers need to give their political backing by making the case to Parliament and the media for solidarity with local first responders in times of crises.

**Use the UK's influence with humanitarian coordination agencies to ensure meaningful participation by local actors in decision-making** – UN coordination processes tend to emphasise the numbers of local groups that "participate", but if that participation doesn't involve meaningful influence on decision-making, nor result in plans that better support local groups, this isn't good enough. UN-led Humanitarian Country Teams in a number of contexts have been developing 'Localisation Strategies', but these are yet to see real momentum or accountability behind them. This needs to change. Area-based coordination offers potential for more inclusive, collaborative decision-making at sub-national level. And the UK should fund local actors' own networks and their own coordination, and ask international agencies how they're supporting that.

**Set targets for increasing direct and indirect quality funding to local organisations** – In 2022, FCDO data suggests that UK humanitarian funding to local actors stood at just 6%, or only 2.4% if UN pooled funds aren't included – far from the global target of at least 25% to national/local actors. The next financial year for FCDO offers an opportunity to set global and country-level targets to increase direct and indirect funding (including multi-year, flexible funds) to national NGOs. Under Samantha Power's leadership, USAID adopted ambitious targets to increase direct funding to local actors, and this has helped to drive change. Whereas much of USAID's localised funding goes to bigger national NGOs that resemble INGOs, FCDO could focus on support to more diverse local groups which often have access where others do not, such as local faith groups, women's groups and others. Adopting proportionate, tiered approaches to the administrative expectations of grant applications and reporting will be key to enabling access for smaller, local groups. Between now and next Spring, Embassies could consult on what is feasible and strategic, as well as gather wider input to shaping FCDO's global 'localisation' strategy.

Lammy and Dodds need to be mindful that lots of INGOs and UN agencies are seeking to rebrand themselves as localisation allies, but few are making substantive changes. FCDO should challenge their partners to do more and better. Is an INGOs' 'capacity strengthening' work genuinely leading to enhanced local leadership in programming and

access to funding, or is it keeping local NGOs dependent on the INGO? Or is a so-called 'localisation funding platform' really empowering local groups, or is it just a rebrand of old-school, top-down sub-granting to them?

The good news is that there are pockets of innovative practice in what FCDO supports, such as in Afghanistan and Bangladesh. Back in 2004, a previous Labour Government championed reform of the UN humanitarian system, getting the UN to establish pooled funds and cluster coordination to address the chaos of uncoordinated, poorly prioritised humanitarian response.

Almost a decade later, this new Government has an opportunity to help catalyse equally radical, transformative shifts by getting both UK-based INGOs, the UN and others to recentre crisis response on local community groups and networks. The fact is that local groups are already the first to respond, and international agencies already often rely on them. The UK should have their back.

Source: <https://www.bond.org.uk/news/2024/09/shifting-power-to-save-lives-how-the-new-uk-government-can-become-a-champion-for-global-partnerships-and-local-leadership-in-crisis-response/>



# HRC57: Key issues on the agenda of the September 2024 session

**The 57th session of the UN Human Rights Council (9 September - 11 October) will consider issues including intimidation and reprisals for cooperating with the UN, arbitrary detention, systemic racism, enforced disappearances, climate change, water and sanitation, and the rights of Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent, among others.**

This 57th Human Rights Council session will also present an opportunity to address grave human rights situations in States including Afghanistan, Belarus, Burundi, China, Israel/oPt, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Russia, Syria, Sudan, Ukraine and Venezuela, among many others. Here's an overview of some of the key issues on the agenda.

Stay up-to-date: Follow @ISHRglobal and #HRC57 on X, and

look out for our [Human Rights Council Monitor](#). During the session, follow the live-updated programme of work on [Sched](#).

## Modalities for participation at HRC57

On 26 August 2024, the Council decided that 'NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC and NHRIs with "A" status would have the possibility to deliver their statements in person or via pre-recorded video statements'. On 22 August 2024, the

Bureau of the Council 'agreed that, in order to balance the importance of inclusivity and what is feasible in terms of time and resources, the list of speakers for NGOs for each of the General Debates would be set in line with the average number of NGOs that participated in each of the General Debates in the previous three September sessions (i.e., the 54th, 51st and 48th sessions)'. The Secretariat announced that 'space for NGO side events will continue being allocated at a

reduced level. In the context of the renovations under the Strategic Heritage Plan, rooms will be allocated according to availability, and it may not be possible to accommodate all requests [...] a maximum of one side event per NGO may be requested. Each side event will last a maximum of one hour.'

Read the information [note](#) by the Secretariat which is updated according to the latest information.

## Side events

- ISHR and the UN Anti-Racism Coalition ([UNARC](#)) will organise a side event on 3 October at 12:00 pm in Room XXV. The side event will focus on bringing perspectives of the Afro-Brazilian community directly affected by police violence in Brazil to discuss the highly anticipated Brazil country visit report to be presented by the Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in the context of Law Enforcement (EMLER) during this session. The side event will be in English and Portuguese.
- ISHR will co-sponsor a side event focusing on the human rights situations in Nicaragua and Venezuela, and the importance of the work of relevant UN investigative mechanisms. It will be held on Wednesday 18 September at 11am. The event will include participation by civil society, the Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua (CHREN) and the UN Fact-Finding Mission on Venezuela. The event will be in English and Spanish.
- ISHR will co-sponsor a side event on Afghanistan that will discuss recommendations on how the Human Rights Council should respond to calls for

additional measures to advance accountability, including criminal accountability, in Afghanistan. Considering the report of the High Commissioner to the Council that takes stock of accountability options and processes, this event also aims to explore how such a mechanism could complement existing mechanisms and processes. The event will take place on 11 September 2024 from 13h00-14h00 in Room XXV.

## HRC 2024 Elections

For many victims and activists, the Council is a critical arena to confront abuses of power and push for change in their countries. Its success depends on members and their commitment to promote and protect human rights at home and abroad. Every year in October, the 193 Member States of the UN elect [new members to the Human Rights Council](#).

In 2024, 19 candidates are running for 18 seats. None of them have a perfect human rights record, they all need to do better. However, and according to the HRC membership criteria, one candidate stands out as manifestly unsuitable for membership on the Council: Saudi Arabia.

The UN's own experts have found the Saudi Arabian authorities responsible for the commission of atrocity crimes, as well as the repression of civil society in its own country and a pattern of reprisals against those who cooperate with the UN. The human rights situation in the country is dire, with the criminalisation of women human rights defenders, arbitrary detention and the application of the death penalty, among other abuses. We call on all UN States at the General Assembly not to vote for Saudi Arabia!

## #HRC57: Thematic issues

Here are some highlights of the session's thematic discussions:

### Issues on the agenda

At this 57th session, the Council will discuss a range of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and issues through dedicated debates with the:

1. Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation
2. Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights
3. Special Rapporteur on truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence
4. Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development and the Special Rapporteur on the right to development
5. Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences
6. Working Group on Arbitrary Detention
7. Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order
8. Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances
9. Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination

Read more at: <https://ishr.ch/latest-updates/hrc57-key-issues-on-the-agenda-of-the-september-2024-session/>

# European Court of Human Rights: Hungarian anti-immigration law restricts NGOs

**ARTICLE 19 submitted an amicus brief to the European Court of Human Rights (the Court) in *Amnesty International Hungary v. Hungary*. The case concerns the compatibility of Article 353A of the Criminal Code of Hungary, entitled 'Facilitating Illegal Migration', with the rights to freedom of association and expression. In the submission, ARTICLE 19 analyses the law in the context of other legislation inhibiting the independent operations of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and shows how the provision violates the rights to freedom of expression and assembly.**

The case, initiated by Amnesty International Hungary, concerns Article 353A of the Hungarian Criminal Code. The law was adopted in the framework of a larger legislative package known as the 'Stop Soros' package, which targets foreign-funded NGOs with onerous and stigmatising registration and reporting requirements.

Article 353A states that 'anyone who carries out organising activities' facilitating migration or asylum proceedings of persons 'not persecuted' in their country of nationality 'shall be placed in confinement'. Both before and after the adoption of the act, which introduced Article 353A to the Criminal Code, Amnesty International Hungary was designated by representatives of the right-wing ruling party Fidesz as an organisation supporting immigration.

The Constitutional Court of Hungary dismissed Amnesty International Hungary's constitutional challenge of these provisions and held that the legislation did not restrict the right to form or join organisations but merely criminalised organisational activities supporting illegal migration. The case is now pending at the European Court of Human Rights.

In the submission, ARTICLE 19 outlines the international standards applicable to the case. We also invite the Court to consider in its decision the legislative context of and its own case law on foreign agents laws - which are becoming increasingly popular legislative tools in the region to over-regulate and limit the activities of NGOs - as critical to understanding the goals and effects of Article 353A.

ARTICLE 19 also submits that any state measures that in practice limit the freedom of NGOs to determine their objectives and conduct their activities must be assessed in light of freedom of association and freedom of expression standards, even - and especially - if those activities are grounded in ideas that may challenge the state.

We invite the Court to assess Article 353A under the three-part test for restrictions on freedom of expression and association set out in Articles 10(2) and 11(2) of the European Convention on Human Rights, keeping the following in mind:

- Any interference in the rights to freedoms of association and expression must have a

legitimate purpose. Though preventing crime is indeed among the recognised grounds for restriction, the blanket prohibition of 'facilitating illegal migration' does not distinguish between supporting asylum seekers or challenging deportation through legal means and fighting human trafficking or smuggling.

- Resort to criminal law in regulating activities of associations requires particular scrutiny as to the tests of necessity and proportionality. In similar cases, the Court assessed proportionality by analysing whether the penalty could amount to a form of censorship if the sanction impacts NGOs' ability to perform their task of 'public watchdog', and if the gravity of the sanction was proportionate to that of the offence.

The Court's assessment of necessity and proportionality should be complemented by considerations of any 'chilling effect' on expression and association produced by the criminal sanctions, or the fear or threat of potential criminal prosecution.

ARTICLE 19 urges the Court to uphold a high standard of protection of freedoms of expression and association in this case and submits that the Court follow established jurisprudence on this matter.

Source: <https://www.article19.org/resources/european-court-of-human-rights-hungarian-anti-immigration-law-restricts-ngos/>

## Parliament Speaker claims "politically affiliated" NGOs "pose threat" to Georgia's democracy

Georgian Parliament Speaker Shalva Papuashvili on Friday claimed in the run-up to upcoming October 26 general elections, the activities of certain domestic "politically affiliated" civil society organisations "posing as impartial election observers" had become an "issue" for the country's democracy.

Some of the NGOs are directly linked or even affiliated with formal political parties, sometimes even bearing the same names as the parties, such as Droa or For People. We had an instance when the leadership of an NGO, the Eastern European Centre for Multiparty Democracy, simply transfigured themselves into a full-blown political party, 'Freedom Maidan,'" he emphasised.

[ ] ...The Anti-Corruption Bureau [of Georgia], which is responsible for monitoring political party financing, declared the NGO Vote for Europe as an entity with electoral objectives. NGOs criticised this decision as an instance of harassment of civil society. However, within a few days, two leading figures of this NGO ended up in leading positions on the opposition's electoral party list", Papuashvili said.

The Speaker noted it was "obvious" the "agenda of the NGOs and media

was "blatantly political", adding they had "constantly" called for a "change of authority and, at some point, even demanded the formation of a technical government for Georgia, which they said they would run after deposing" the ruling Georgian Dream party.

For instance, the Open Society Foundations, Transparency International Georgia's, Georgia's Young Lawyers' Association or the International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy message boxes, narratives, and sequencing of topics are fully synchronised with the opposition political parties, such as the United National Movement, Lelo, or Ahali and their affiliates. Similarly, such media outlets as TV companies Mtavari, Pirveli, or Formula provide propagandistic platforms for the same parties, respectively for Ahali, Lelo, and the UNM", he said.

The official further stressed that "beyond their political agendas and broadcasting", the finances of several domestic NGOs and media outlets often "directly serve the political parties" and were also "directly funded from abroad" through "democracy assistance grants and programs".

In other words, foreign money flows into politics. Georgian legislation explicitly forbids foreign funding of politicians and

parties. This norm makes direct or veiled foreign-funded political activities illegitimate and even plain illegal. Recently, some NGOs openly declared they are going to violate the law by disobeying the legislation on transparency of foreign influence. Such explicit disobedience goes beyond their hitherto tacit violation of legal norms and openly challenges the authority of the state", Papuashvili noted.

The chief legislator also emphasised that "foreign actors, NGOs, and media instead of improving the democratic environment in Georgia", tilted the playing field "in favour of certain political forces, thus depriving the population of their right to make an informed political choice at the elections".

Read more at: <https://agenda.ge/en/news/2024/40826#gsc.tab=0>



# Project HOPE & NGOs Call for a Humanitarian Reset in Gaza

**NGOs urge the Biden-Harris Administration to adjust course on its approach to Gaza given the catastrophic harm to civilians.**

Earlier this year, the Biden-Harris Administration created a new policy, National Security Memorandum 20 (NSM20) that included a requirement that all U.S. security partners facilitate humanitarian assistance. Israel provided written assurances it would adhere to this. Despite a public submission from 37 NGOs across the humanitarian, human rights and civilian protection community that Israel was restricting humanitarian assistance in Gaza, the U.S. government contradicted those findings by concluding Israel was in compliance in its May 10th report.

**Humanitarian organizations' collective experience on the ground demonstrates that access in Gaza remains arbitrarily denied, restricted, and impeded by Israel and conditions have markedly worsened since May.** There is an alarming gap between rhetorical commitments and the realities on the ground, where the humanitarian response is on the verge of collapse and aid workers face extreme levels of risk. As the U.S. government's own USAID Office of the Inspector General (OIG) report recently concluded in August, "ongoing hostilities, closed routes, and inspection delays at land crossings impeded efforts to deliver aid into Gaza." Humanitarian need is nearly universal in Gaza, yet restrictions on aid and attacks on aid workers and civilians are becoming alarmingly normalized.

The Biden-Harris Administration committed to continuous monitoring of its partners' adherence to NSM20, including Israel's. During the past four months, humanitarian access has been constrained by both arbitrary bureaucratic impediments and the conduct of the conflict:

- **Reduction on aid volume through border crossings into Gaza.** Rafah crossing into southern Gaza has been closed since May 7, leading to a backlog of 1,600 aid trucks stuck in Egypt. Erez West/Zikim/As-Siafa crossing into northern Gaza has been closed since August 2. The Kerem Shalom crossing remains open but the amount of aid moving through the crossing has dropped by 80% from April to July. As the USAID OIG report concluded, "since the outbreak of hostilities in October 2023, numerous and prolonged border closures have significantly affected the flow of humanitarian aid into Gaza."
- **Persistent delays in approvals from Israel for aid items to enter Gaza, sometimes lasting weeks.** Humanitarian items are sometimes rejected for entry as 'dual use' items.
- **Movement restrictions are imposed by Israel on humanitarian organizations inside Gaza, including over 1,000 aid mission requests within Gaza denied, impeded,**

**or withdrawn since May** (at least 175 in May, 124 in June, 226 in July, 299 in August, and 196 so far in September) and convoys being held at checkpoints – sometimes for hours at a time before being forced to turn back. Insufficient fuel is allowed into Gaza, further limiting the distribution of items across Gaza.

- **Israeli 'evacuation' orders now cover 85% of Gaza – up from 76% at the start of May – effectively declaring most of Gaza a no-go zone for its population.** Yet there is no safe place in Gaza for civilians to flee to. Israel announced 16 new evacuation orders in the first three weeks of August alone – a new order on average every two days.
- **The 'humanitarian zone' is under fire.** Israeli airstrikes are occurring inside and around the small 'humanitarian zone' that was unilaterally-declared by Israel, killing and endangering civilians and severely restricting humanitarian operations. Hundreds of thousands of civilians and many humanitarian organizations are concentrated in this overcrowded space.
- **An additional 60 attacks on health care sites and workers in Gaza** from April 7 to August 20, bringing the total to over 500 attacks since October.

The impact is clear: civilians in Gaza are being deprived of life-saving aid. These actions over the past four months have led to:

- **A more than 50% drop in humanitarian aid** entering Gaza since April.

- **300% rise in children diagnosed with acute malnutrition in northern Gaza and a nearly 200% rise in southern Gaza in July** compared to May.
- **The start of a polio outbreak in August – the first polio outbreak in a quarter century in Gaza** and a threat to global efforts to eradicate the disease.
- **96% of the population is acutely food insecure and all of Gaza is at high risk of famine**, according to the most recent analysis published in June by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC).

**orders' as programs suspend, sites shut down, and areas become inaccessible.** Recent orders in late August impacted at least 24 NGOs and forcibly displaced over 260,000 civilians. While some orders have been rescinded, these orders disrupt and halt humanitarian efforts, for example by leading to 10 hospitals and 16 primary health centers becoming inaccessible to civilians in July, a reduction in water production in Deir al Balah by 80%, closure of 31 temporary learning spaces, the suspension or location of 50 kitchens, and the closure of four UNFPA-supported maternal health service delivery points.

The ongoing deterioration and human toll merits a new assessment of Israel's adherence with U.S. law and policy and international laws and a humanitarian reset in Gaza to fully lift aid restrictions, rather than negotiate for progress at the margins, and use all leverage to secure an immediate ceasefire.

The steps required to scale up aid and alleviate the humanitarian crisis are clear and have been publicly outlined by many of our organizations for months. In the immediate term, we also urge the U.S. government to undertake the following steps that are fully in its control:

- **An immediate U.S. government re-assessment of Israel's adherence to NSM20, culminating in a public report by November 1, 2024.** Given the pace and scale of access constraints and civilian harm, a timely re-assessment is justified. That assessment should draw on independent assessments,

project  
HOPE

- **Over 20,000 additional Palestinian casualties, including over 6,000 deaths,** from early May to mid-September, according to the Ministry of Health in Gaza. On average, over 130 Palestinians have been killed or injured on a daily basis since May.
- **Around 54 additional aid worker deaths** since May, bringing the total to over 300 since last October, per Aid Worker Security data. On average, an aid worker has been killed in Gaza almost every day since October 2023.
- **Fragile progress to restore aid delivery is being reversed in areas under 'evacuation'**

including from many of our organizations, such as the over 200 humanitarian situation updates from UN OCHA and a series of new humanitarian snapshots (#1, #2, #3, #4, #5) providing first-hand reporting on humanitarian access restrictions from dozens of NGOs on the ground.

- **Public reporting on Israel's commitments to the U.S. government on humanitarian operations and basic service delivery since October 7, 2023,** including but not limited to: the facilitation of humanitarian aid, fuel, and commercial items; changes to dual use restrictions; the humanitarian notification system ('deconfliction'); and the restoration of basic services (e.g., water, electricity, banking).
- **Public reporting of the U.S. governments' own investigations into reported attacks on humanitarian static facilities, aid workers, distribution points and other humanitarian sites in Gaza since October 7, 2023 where U.S. weapons were more likely than not used.** Many humanitarian organizations, including U.S.-based NGOs and U.S.-implementing partners in Gaza, have not received answers from the U.S. government on the role of U.S. weapons in attacks on their staff and sites. This reporting should include assessments on the attacks on humanitarians identified in the May 10th NSM20 report.

- **An immediate suspension of offensive U.S. arms sales to Israel at serious risk of being used to violate international humanitarian and human rights law in Gaza.** Humanitarian assistance is not being facilitated in line with Israel's obligations under NSM20, international humanitarian law, and U.S. law.
- **A meeting with President Biden with humanitarian NGOs operating in Gaza to discuss the needs in Gaza** and restrictions on humanitarian access.

The status quo in Gaza is unconscionable for two million civilians who are enduring one of the worst humanitarian catastrophes of this century. We urge the Biden-Harris Administration to update its foreign policy and act on these realities to ensure a scale up in aid, release of the hostages, and an end to this conflict.

## Signatories

### Humanitarian NGOs:

- American Friends Service Committee
- Anera
- CARE
- Danish Refugee Council
- The Episcopal Church
- Humanity & Inclusion
- Islamic Relief USA

- MedGlobal
- Mennonite Central Committee U.S.
- Mercy Corps
- Middle East Children's Alliance
- Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) USA
- Oxfam
- Project HOPE
- Save the Children US

### Human rights, civilian protection, and peacebuilding organizations:

- Americans for Peace Now
- Amnesty International USA
- Center for International Policy
- Center for Victims of Torture
- Charity & Security Network
- Church World Service
- Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC)
- MADRE
- MPower Change Action Fund
- Nonviolent Peaceforce
- Peace Action
- Peace Direct
- Refugees International
- Win Without War
- Women for Weapons Trade Transparency

Source: <https://www.projecthope.org/news-stories/press-release/ngos-call-for-a-humanitarian-reset-in-gaza-an-ngo-submission-under-nsm20/>

# Hundreds of unions, NGOs in Spain call for general strike in solidarity with Palestine

**M**ADRID. More than 200 trade unions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Spain on Friday initiated a 24-hour general strike titled "Against the genocide and occupation in Palestine."

As part of the nationwide strike, demonstrations took place in the capital Madrid and other major cities such as Barcelona and Bilbao, with university students suspending classes in solidarity.

The unions and NGOs expressed that Israel's attacks on Gaza have become "intolerable," urging the Spanish government to "immediately cut diplomatic, commercial, and military relations with Israel" to prevent its participation in "Israel's ethnic cleansing."

The unions organized various demonstrations throughout the day, including protests at factories that produce military equipment and in front of the Foreign Ministry headquarters in Madrid.

## 'Biggest action'

Carmen Arnaiz, secretary of Social Activities at the General Confederation of Labor (CGT), which led the strike, stated, "We organized this action with the support of many NGOs to respond to the demands of Palestinian workers," she told Anadolu. She emphasized that "the biggest action we can take as trade unions is a general strike," calling the strike symbolic yet significant.

"The message we want to send to the Spanish government and the world

is to cut all relations with Israel," Arnaiz said, condemning Israel for its "total violation of international law and human rights" and labeling its actions as genocide.

Arnaiz further advocated for controlling arms exports to Israel and investing in health, education, and social services instead of weapons. She stressed the need for global demonstrations in support of Palestine.

"It is necessary to prevent the killing of civilians, including thousands of women and children, from entering a vicious circle as if it were normal."

The secretary criticized bans on demonstrations supporting Palestine in several European countries, including Germany, France, the UK, Italy, and the US, describing them as "fascism." She called such bans "scandalous," citing a recent incident in Germany where a child was confronted for carrying a Palestinian flag.

"It is incomprehensible that Germany would track down a 10-year-old boy just because he was carrying the Palestinian flag and violently take it away."

"Banning the right to protest and freedom of expression is a huge dilemma, especially for Europe, which claims to be a world leader in this regard," she stated.

"I expect the civil society in Europe, which I think does not agree with

such bans and violence, to react," the official underlined.

"It is a terrible thing to ban a demonstration against genocide," she added.

Flouting a UN Security Council resolution calling for an immediate cease-fire, Israel has continued a brutal offensive on Gaza following a cross-



border attack by the Palestinian group Hamas last October.

More than 41,500 people, most of them women and children, have since been killed and more than 96,000 injured, according to local health authorities.

The Israeli onslaught has displaced almost the entire population of the territory amid an ongoing blockade that has led to severe shortages of food, clean water, and medicine.

Israel also faces accusations of genocide at the International Court of Justice for its actions in Gaza.

Source: <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/hundreds-of-unions-ngos-in-spain-call-for-general-strike-in-solidarity-with-palestine/3343327#>



## Dr. Raheela Khalid: A Remarkable Journey in Burn Wound Care and Healthcare Advocacy

Some people achieve things that not only inspire others but also make a lasting difference in the world. One such person is Dr. Raheela Khalid, the first Pakistani woman to earn a Master's degree in Burn Wound Management with distinction. Her achievement is a proud moment not just for her but for all women striving to make an impact in healthcare. Dr. Raheela is more than just a highly educated woman—she is a dedicated philanthropist, an entrepreneur, and an advocate for healthcare and charity. She has worked tirelessly to ensure that people who suffer from burn injuries receive the care and attention they deserve.

Dr. Raheela's remarkable journey led her to set an Official World Record (OWR) for being the first woman in Pakistan to reach such a milestone in burn wound management. Her

hard work and dedication have not only put her on the map nationally but also gained her international recognition. She was even invited by the Moroccan military to attend a prestigious War Wound Conference, which had representatives from six European militaries, making her the only Pakistani to take part in the event.

### Breaking New Ground in Burn Wound Management

Earning a Master's degree in Burn Wound Management is no small feat. It takes years of dedication, hard work, and a deep commitment to the medical field. Burn wounds are some of the most complex injuries to treat. They often require specialized care that includes immediate treatment, prevention of infection, long-term recovery, and even

psychological support for patients who face trauma. In Pakistan, where many people face burn injuries due to accidents or other unfortunate incidents, Dr. Raheela's expertise is incredibly valuable.

Her distinction in this field shows how deeply she understands the complicated nature of burn injuries and how best to treat them. Through her work, Dr. Raheela is helping to save lives, reduce suffering, and give burn victims a chance at recovery. Her passion and determination are helping to fill a gap in the healthcare system, where such specialized care is still lacking in many areas.

### Advocate for Better Healthcare

Dr. Raheela's contributions go beyond her own education. She is also a strong voice advocating for better healthcare services for

everyone, especially burn victims. Pakistan, like many developing countries, still faces challenges when it comes to providing quality healthcare to everyone. Burn victims often don't get the specialized care they need because many hospitals don't have dedicated burn units. This can result in preventable deaths or lifelong disabilities.

**Dr. Raheela is working hard to change this by raising awareness and advocating for better healthcare facilities. She understands that building better hospitals and training more doctors in burn care is essential for improving the lives of people who suffer from these injuries. Her commitment to helping those in need through her advocacy work reflects her deep compassion for her fellow human beings.**

### Inspiring Women in Medicine

Dr. Raheela's journey as the first Pakistani woman to achieve this milestone is a powerful message for other women aspiring to work in healthcare. In Pakistan, and many other parts of the world, women face cultural and social challenges that often limit their ability to pursue higher education, particularly in specialized fields like medicine. However, Dr. Raheela has shattered these barriers, proving that with determination, women can achieve greatness.

Her success serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration for young women who dream of pursuing careers in healthcare or any other field. By achieving what she has, Dr. Raheela has opened doors for future generations of women who wish to make a difference in their

communities and the world. She is proof that when women are given opportunities, they can contribute significantly to society.

### International Recognition

Dr. Raheela's recognition on the global stage speaks volumes about her contributions. Being the only Pakistani woman invited to attend the War Wound Conference in Morocco was a significant achievement. The conference brought together medical experts and military personnel from six European countries, discussing the best ways to treat war wounds and severe injuries. Dr. Raheela's participation in this event highlights her expertise and the respect she commands internationally.

Burn wounds and war injuries share many similarities, as both require immediate and skilled care. By attending such international conferences, Dr. Raheela can share her knowledge with the global medical community, and in turn, bring back new insights to help improve treatment in Pakistan.

### A Philanthropist and Entrepreneur

Dr. Raheela is not only a medical expert but also a passionate philanthropist and entrepreneur. Her entrepreneurial spirit has led her to create sustainable solutions to healthcare problems, especially in underserved communities. She has initiated projects that aim to bridge the gap between healthcare professionals and patients, ensuring that even those in the most difficult situations can get the care they need.

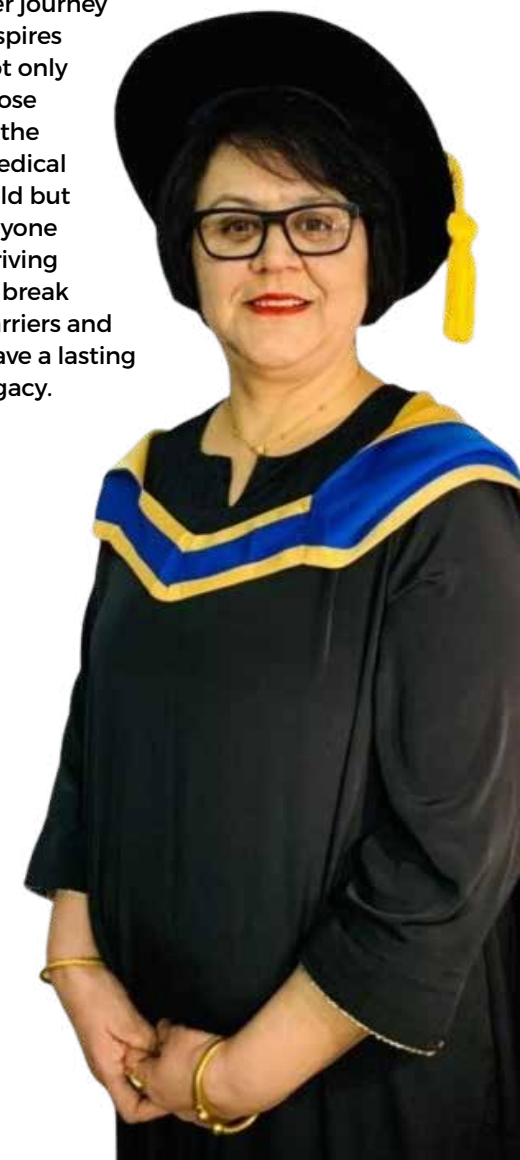
Her charitable efforts go beyond just talking about issues—she actively works to raise awareness and funds to improve medical facilities for burn patients. She is also involved

in mentoring and supporting young medical professionals, particularly women, who want to make a difference in the world.

### Conclusion

Dr. Raheela Khalid's record-breaking achievement of becoming the first Pakistani woman to earn a Master's degree in Burn Wound Management with distinction is a proud moment for her, her country, and women worldwide. Her commitment to helping burn victims, advocating for better healthcare, and her entrepreneurial and philanthropic efforts showcase the incredible impact one person can have on society. Dr. Raheela's story is a shining example of what can be achieved through hard work, passion, and an unwavering desire to make a difference.

Her journey inspires not only those in the medical field but anyone striving to break barriers and leave a lasting legacy.



Source: <https://www.officialworldrecord.com/dr-raheela-khalid-a-remarkable-journey-in-burn-wound-care-and-healthcare-advocacy/>

## 100 benefit from NGO's free Hepatitis B screening in Osun

In commemoration of its 8th anniversary, Mazota Development Initiative (MDI) organised a free medical test for Hepatitis B, benefiting 100 individuals.

The organisation also expanded its impact by raising awareness through radio programs to educate the public about the virus and its prevention.

Furthermore, the organisation utilized radio programs to sensitize the public about the dangers of the virus and the importance of immunization.

The organisation had during the 7th anniversary of the Mazota Nigeria trained seven individuals in masterclass business with experts across sectors.

Speaking with newsmen, Olaide Ajibola, Director of MDI, emphasised that the initiative aimed to give back to society and promote community health.

According to him, "At MDI, we recognize the significance of healthcare as a fundamental right. Our goal is to bridge the gap in access to quality healthcare services, especially in underserved communities," Ajibola stated.

Speaking further on the initiative, Ajibola emphasized that the event was aimed at giving back to society, in line with MDI's commitment to community health and well-being.

Ajibola highlighted the importance of Hepatitis B testing, noting, "Early detection is crucial in preventing the spread of the virus. We want to

encourage people to take proactive steps towards their health."

On the organisation's future plans, Ajibola added, "We're committed to expanding our reach and impacting more lives. MDI will continue to collaborate with stakeholders to improve Nigeria's healthcare landscape."

Source: <https://tribuneonlineng.com/100-benefit-from-ngos-free-hepatitis-b-screening-in-osun/>

## NGO reiterates commitment to accelerate maternal, child health in Bauchi

Alive and Thrive fhi360 Project has reiterated that it is working hard in implementing the acceleration of maternal, child health and nutrition in Bauchi state towards improving the maternal needs of the state.

In addition, the Project is now creating demand in various communities across the state for effective and efficient introduction of the Multiple Micronutrient Supplement (MMS) in pregnancy.

The disclosure was made by the State Coordinator of the Project, Chidi Asimobi at a one-day Inception Meeting of Scale-up of MMS, organised by the State Government in collaboration with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) as well as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) funded Fhi360 Alive and Thrive Project.

According to him, "What we are doing today is an addition to what is already in existence through our ASMIYCN.

For us in the Alive and Thrive Project, to contribute to what is on ground and to avoid contaminating the Implementation Research in the State, we are going to start demand creation in 5 LGAs of Alkali, Kirfi, Toro, Itas/Gadua, and Zaki."

He added, "By the end of the implementation in the state, we will have scaled up to the other 15 LGAs including the 3 that Nutrition

International will be exiting from after their implementation research.

He however said, "A&T is going to do that with the commodities UNICEF has procured because it is a joint venture with BMGF. For us at Alive and Thrive, the activities will be to train our community volunteers to be able to create awareness and demand for MMS at the community levels and also to train our health workers to be able to understand what to do with the MMS consignment that will be coming to their various facilities."



Chidiebere Asimobi said that the training would be for the CVs and Healthcare Workers across the Twenty local government areas of the state, noting that the move is aimed at strengthening interpersonal communication and community mobilization towards ensuring appropriate use of the supplement.

The supplements which is targeted primarily at pregnant and lactating

women, aim to fill nutritional gaps in their diet, support overall health and well-being, prevent or treat micronutrient deficiencies, improve immune function and energy levels as well as enhance cognitive function and development.

He stressed that the training would enable the health workers to do some checks to determine the appropriate dosage of MMS for individual needs.

He assured that the existing community volunteers would also be acquainted with the right information and they would be wearing a piece of clothing with the inscription "Ask Me About MMS, I'm Here To Help" so that anyone seeking clarification would get adequate explanation at that very moment.

The State Coordinator of the BMGF-funded Alive and Thrive fhi360 Project assured of continued support to the state government, particularly on the promotion of Maternal and Young Child Nutrition (MYCN) services.

"On that note, we also want to thank the Bauchi state Government for giving us the enabling environment to be able to integrate our full activities into that of the MMS which is also part of what we need to do for our mothers and I stand today to say that with what we have seen in Bauchi, the issue of anemia in pregnancy will be reduced to the barest minimum at the next survey."

Source: <https://tribuneonlineng.com/ngo-reiterates-commitment-to-accelerate-maternal-child-health-in-bauchi/>



## World Governments, NGOs Announce \$350m Investments in Sexual and Reproductive Health Services

**U**NITED NATIONS, Sep 26 (IPS) - On the heels of the Summit of the Future and the sidelines of the United Nations High-Level Meeting Week, governments and philanthropies pledged to commit at least USD 350 million to boost family planning, sexual and reproductive health and supplies on the national and global level. As enshrined in the newly-adopted Pact for the Future, seeking new international finance models is critical to solving the issues that the world faces today. The decision to pledge forward is a demonstration of commitment to ongoing health issues.

On September 24, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Family Planning

2030 (FP2030) and the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) invited prominent figures across the private, development and government sectors to promote political will on the matter of sustainable investments towards sexual and reproductive health (SRH).

**"Investing in reproductive health supplies is a 'best buy' for development, empowering women, improving maternal and newborn health outcomes, and uplifting economies," said Dr. Natalia Kanem, UNFPA's Executive Director.**

When speaking on UNFPA's partnerships with the co-organizers,

Kanem remarked: "What we're doing is transforming lives. The life of a girl in her community, the life of an adolescent in her city, and empowering communities and families to be able to harness and take control of their futures."

"So much of our world has been made possible by family planning," said Dr. Samukeliso Dube, Executive Director of FP2030. "By enabling more women to shape their lives and futures, family planning has helped women to finish their education, join the workforce, ascend to leadership positions, and achieve their dreams."

Donor countries, such as the United Kingdom, Canada, Norway, and Spain, announced pledges to the UNFPA Supplies Partnership, which delivers modern contraceptives and

maternal health supplies to women and girls in low-income countries. Through this partnership, UNFPA has helped to prevent 1.6 million child deaths, 254,000 maternal deaths, and 2.6 million unsafe abortions. The contributions to UNFPA could potentially save up to 9000 women and girls worldwide. As Anneliese Dodds, UK Minister for Development and Women and Inequalities, remarked, investing in SRH was "critical to making sure that women have the power."

**Speakers representing their countries' governments pledged their support through domestic financial investments. The governments of Madagascar, Nepal, and the Kyrgyz Republic, for example, announced domestic financial commitments that would invest in SRH services in their countries.**

Madagascar announced a contribution of USD 15 million to procure health supplies through UNFPA. Their minister of public health, Zely Arivelo Randriamanantany, added that their goal was to increase access to contraceptives by over 50 percent. Arzu Rana Deube, foreign minister of Nepal, announced the government's commitment of USD 600,000 to purchase high-quality contraceptives. Renat Mavlyanbai Uulu, Advisor to the Minister of Health, of the Kyrgyz Republic, announced a commitment of USD 119,000 to domestic resources for family planning commodities.

As UNFPA Chief of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Ayman Abdelmohsen told IPS, the commitments to domestic financing are significant; it shows

Source: <https://www.globalissues.org/news/2024/09/26/37781>

that in "allocating from their own resources... and budgetary allocations," these governments will prioritize SRH without relying on foreign donors. It is in line with UNFPA's compact agreements with 44 countries, through which countries will build up their capacity to provide comprehensive reproductive health through their own resources.

**Despite the predicted growth in contraceptive access and maternal health by 2030, the current financing gap why this is still far off in the future. The gap currently sits at at least USD 1.5 billion in the world's poorest countries.**

Throughout the event, the speakers emphasized the 'transformative' power of SRH in countries. That to invest in SRH is to invest in girls' and women's agency over the health and life choices. In guaranteeing women's sexual and reproductive health, it pays forward in protecting families and communities. In terms of financing, every dollar spent on family planning can yield more than 8 dollars in benefits for families and societies.

Investing in healthcare also goes forward to the practitioners within the sector. As Feri Anita Wijayanti, a registered midwife from Indonesia, explained to the panel, many communities rely on the expertise of midwives, whose responsibilities extend

"far beyond delivering babies," for they are at the frontlines to address other health issues.

"Every second in every corner of the world, midwives work tirelessly to protect the lives of women and babies, and to provide sexual and reproductive health services," she said. Midwives have the power to save an estimated 4.3 million lives each year by 2025. We urge you to invest in us, to believe in the transformative power of midwives and to begin by investing in sexual and reproductive health."

The commitments made by countries and the private sector are a step forward in closing the considerable financing gap. They come at a time where senior leadership within the UN, namely the Secretary-General, has called for countries to explore innovative and sustainable financing to address global inequalities. The commitments made at this event demonstrate that despite the challenges to SRH, there is political will in support of, and it can be mobilized to ensure this care for all.





## Disability rights activist pushes government to let him participate in society

**G**arret Frey refuses to be sidelined. Frey has been paralyzed from the neck down for more than 37 of his 42 years. He has spent decades rejecting the government's excuses when he and others with disabilities are denied the support they need to live in their own homes and to participate in society.

The Iowa won a landmark case before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1999, after his school district refused to pay for the care he needed to continue attending high school classes in Cedar Rapids. He recently scored another victory when a complaint he lodged with federal officials pressured Iowa to agree to increase Medicaid payments for caregivers to stay overnight with Frey so he won't need to move into a nursing home.

"These are civil rights issues," he said. "They are human rights issues."

Frey makes his points a handful of words at a time. The cadence of his speech follows the rhythm of a mechanical ventilator, which pushes air into his lungs every few seconds through a tube in his throat.

His voice is soft, but he makes sure it's heard.

Frey was paralyzed in an accident at age 4. He uses sip-and-puff controls to drive his wheelchair into courtrooms and through the halls of the Iowa Statehouse and the U.S. Capitol, where he demands policies that allow people with disabilities to live full lives.

"We'll get there. It takes time, but I'm not going to just let things go

or let things slide," he said in an interview on the sunny patio of his Cedar Rapids home.

Frey emphasizes that anyone could find themselves needing assistance if they suffer an accident or illness that hampers their ability to care for themselves. He encourages other people with disabilities to cite his victories when seeking services they're entitled to under federal law.

He has served on numerous local, state, and national boards and committees focused on protecting disability rights. He composes emails and updates his website using voice commands and a sticker on his chin that can interact with his computer's camera.

His activism has drawn admirers nationwide.

"People like Garret are critically important, because they are the trailblazers," said Melanie Fontes Rainer, director of the Office for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

In June, Fontes Rainer's office announced an agreement with the state of Iowa to settle Frey's complaint that Medicaid pay rates were insufficient for him to hire and retain overnight caregivers at his home.

Frey said he filed his federal complaint after being rebuffed by state officials. The resulting agreement increased his workers' pay from about \$15.50 to \$22 an hour, the federal agency said. It also made other changes designed to allow Frey to continue living in the home he shares with his mother and brother.

Fontes Rainer said state officials cooperated with her office in settling Frey's complaint. She said she hopes other people will take notice of the result and report problems they have in obtaining services that help them remain in their communities.

The federal administrator said she gets emotional when she sees how hard Frey and others fight for their rights. "You shouldn't have to advocate for health care," she said. "When I think about all that he's been through, and that he continues to use his voice, I think it is so powerful."

The Iowa Department of Health and Human Services declined to comment on Frey's case. But spokesperson Alex Murphy said the department is "committed to ensuring access to high-quality behavioral health, disability, and aging services for all Iowans in their communities."

This summer, Frey and his mother visited Washington, D.C., where they participated in a 25th anniversary celebration of the Supreme Court decision *Olmstead v. L.C.* In that landmark case, the justices declared that people with disabilities have a right to live in their own communities, instead of in an institution, if their needs can be reasonably accommodated.

Frey was reminded during the ceremony that others are still buoyed by his own Supreme Court case, *Cedar Rapids Community School District v. Garret F.*

The 1999 case focused on the Frey family's contention that the school district should pay for help Garret

needed to safely use his ventilator so he could continue to attend classes. School district leaders said they shouldn't have to pay for such assistance because it was health care.

The court, in a 7-2 decision, described Frey as "a friendly, creative, and intelligent young man" who had a right to services enabling him to attend school with his peers.

At the recent Washington ceremony, a California teenager approached Frey. "He said, 'You're Garret F? Thank you. Without you, I'd never have been able to go to school,'" recalled Frey's mother, Charlene Frey.

The 13-year-old fan was James McLelland, who breathes through a tube in his throat because of a genetic issue that impedes his windpipe. His breathing apparatus needs constant monitoring and frequent cleaning by a nurse.

His mother, Jenny McLelland, said she shows printed copies of the Garret F. court decision to school officials when she requests that James be provided with a nurse so he can attend regular classes instead of being sent to a separate school.

Because of the Supreme Court precedent, "we didn't have to litigate, we just had to educate," she said in an interview.

Source: <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2024-09-disability-rights-activist-society.html>

James, who is entering eighth grade this school year, is thriving in classes and loves playing percussion in a band, his mother said. "James has had the life that people like Garret had to fight to get," she said. "These are the kinds of rights that are built brick by brick."

Frey said he found inspiration from earlier advocates, including Katie Beckett, a fellow Cedar Rapids resident who, four decades ago, drew national attention to the plight of children with disabilities who were forced to live away from their families.

Beckett, who was partly paralyzed by encephalitis as an infant, was kept in a hospital for about three years. At the time, federal rules prevented payment for Beckett to receive care in her home, even though it would have been much less expensive than hospital care.

In 1981, President Ronald Reagan denounced the situation as absurd and told administrators to find a way to let the young Iowan go home. The Republican president's stance led to the creation of what are still known as Katie Beckett waivers, which make it easier for families to get Medicaid coverage for in-home care for children with disabilities.

Frey knew Beckett and her mother, Julie Beckett, and admired how their outspokenness prompted

reforms. He also drew inspiration from meeting Tom Harkin, the longtime U.S. senator from Iowa who was the lead author of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act.

Harkin, a Democrat, is retired from the Senate but keeps tabs on disability issues. In an interview, he said he was glad to hear that Frey continues to push for the right to participate in society.

Harkin said he is disappointed when he sees government officials and business leaders fail to follow requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act. To maintain the law's power, people should speak up when they're denied services or accommodations, he said. "It's important to have warriors like Garret and his mother and their supporters."

Iowa's agreement to increase Medicaid pay for Frey's caregivers has helped him hire more overnight workers, but he still goes some nights without one. When no outside help is available, his mother handles his care. Although she can be paid, she no longer wants to play that role. "She should be able to just be my mom," he said.

At a recent board meeting of The Arc of Iowa, a disability rights group, Frey told his friends he's thinking about applying for a civil rights job with the federal government or running for public office.



## Celebration as NGO distribute wheelchairs, to construct home for the elderly in Abuja

A non-governmental organisation, Emerald Elderly Care and Development Foundation says plans are at top gear for the construction of a befitting structure to be dedicated for the care of senior citizens in Abuja and environs.

The President/founder of the foundation, Dr. Becky Ogonnaya revealed this in Abuja at the 2024 annual Senior Citizen Conference 2024.

The event which had as the theme, "Climate Change and its Health

Implications on Older Persons in Nigeria".

It was organised in collaboration with the National Senior Citizens Centre (NSCC), and the National Council of Women Societies (NCWS).

Ogonnaya expressed dissatisfaction that the elderly in the Nigerian society have not been adequately cared for, assuring that it is poised for a paradigm shift.

She said the land for the construction has already been secured while it is partnering with

critical stakeholders to lay the foundation for the project.

She added that it will have a state-of-the-art facilities, with well trained professionals who will serve as caregivers.

At the event, the foundation also distributed wheelchairs for senior citizens who have challenges moving around.

Top dignitaries at the event include, Paulin Talen a former Minister of Women Affairs and former spokesperson of the Nigerian Army, Brig. Gen. S.K Usman (Rtd) among others.

Source: <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2024/09/celebration-as-ngo-distribute-wheelchairs-to-construct-home-for-the-elderly-in-abuja/>



## Anger at care cost increase for disabled people

**D**isabled people on benefits in Kent are angry that the county council has sharply increased charges for their care costs.

Peter Zein, who has cerebral palsy, has seen the amount he is charged per week more than quadruple.

The council now takes into account other benefits people receive when it means tests residents.

Kent County Council (KCC) cabinet member for adult social care Dan Watkins said the local authority is having to “take tough decisions” amid financial challenges.

### ‘It’s going to be bad’

The councillor responsible for KCC’s budget [told the BBC](#) in August the

council needed to find more than £87m of savings in its upcoming budget.

That’s on top of savings of more than £1bn over the last 10 years.

KCC said it provided adult social care services to approximately 16,394 adult residents.

The vast majority, 15,806, have to contribute something towards their social care services, such as residential assistance or the support they receive in their own homes.

The amount people pay is means tested by the council.

KCC will now take into account other disability benefits such as the government’s Personal Independence Payment (PIP) when

assessing how much people should contribute to the cost of their care.

“It’s going to be bad,” said Mr Zein, fearing disabled people across the county would suffer because of the hike.

**The amount he currently pays KCC towards his care is just over £11 a week, but that has now risen to £47.07 a week or more than £200 a month.**

“I do understand it isn’t easy, but I am angry,” he said.

When Bernadette John was told her son Nathan would see his contribution rise from £10.60 a week to more than £45 she said: “I

thought they [the council] had got the figures wrong.”

She said the benefits disabled people receive is to “cover the essentials of life and to lose £35 a week, it’s going to have disastrous consequences”.

Sophie Fournel, chief executive of charity Disability Assist, said that disabled people in the county don’t have a strong voice.

“There are a lot of people not prepared to speak up out of fear that the little they do get will be cut,” she told the BBC.

Ms Fournel urged the council not to look to disabled people to claw money back from “because these are people who really need it... and who really can’t afford to lose the little that they do currently receive”.

KCC’s Mr Watkins said “unlike a number of other councils” the local authority had held off taking into account wider benefits under the 2014 Care Act.

He said the decision was “not taken lightly” and to help reduce the impact of the increase KCC had included a £900k budgetary contingency to help with increased disability related expenses.

“Faced with increasing demands for complex care, rising costs of care and a lack of adequate funding from central government, we are having to take tough decisions to make sure future essential services are sustainable,” he added.

“These changes will create £3.84m of savings.”

The new charges for some will be payable from 2 September.

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cgkypdv1dv0o>

## Call for enhancement of disability inclusion

**As part of its public diplomacy initiative, Raabta, Serena Hotels has organised a significant panel discussion**

**I**SLAMABAD: As part of its public diplomacy initiative, Raabta, Serena Hotels has organised a significant panel discussion titled “Building an Inclusive Society: Advancing Disability Rights and Inclusion.”

The event, curated by Sidra Iqbal, has brought together leading experts and advocates in the field of disability rights to explore strategies and best practices for creating a more inclusive society.

The discussion aimed to raise awareness about the challenges faced by people with disabilities, share successful initiatives, promote collaboration among various stakeholders, and inspire concrete actions towards advancing disability inclusion.

The panel featured a diverse group of speakers, including

Sabeen Bilal, a special education expert, who has provided valuable insights into educational strategies that support the inclusion of children with disabilities in mainstream education.

Founder of ConnectHear, Azima Dhanjee, has highlighted the importance of technology in advancing accessible communication for the deaf community.

Fahmina Puri, who is an inclusion expert and disability advocate, shared her extensive experience in mainstreaming disability across development projects.

Source: <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2493622/call-for-enhancement-of-disability-inclusion>



## From Passion to Purpose: My Path to Inclusion at UNDP Pakistan

**O**n October 1, 2020, I stepped into the UNDP Pakistan office, filled with the excitement of finally fulfilling my long-awaited dream of working in the development sector. As a young volunteer, I was eager to make a meaningful impact, and little did I know how transformative this journey would be.

I started my journey at UNDP at the Youth Empowerment Programme (YEP), where I provided support in the design and implementation of advocacy efforts for the equitable participation of youth with disabilities in policy making. This cause was personal to me. Together with fellow United Nations Volunteers, I shortlisted proposals and mentored young innovators to design solutions to improve education, employment, and civic empowerment for youth with disabilities in their respective communities. Watching them grow and make a difference in their communities was incredibly fulfilling.

After two incredible years with YEP, I transitioned into the Accelerator Lab - a UNDP platform dedicated to finding radical solutions to today's development challenges. This experience broadened my perspective on future-focused design thinking and subsequently helped me in designing more inclusive and accountable democratic initiatives in Pakistan as part of the UNDP Strengthening Electoral and Legislative Processes (SELP) project. SELP's mission - advocating for the inclusion of women, youth, minorities, transgender individuals, and persons with disabilities - aligned perfectly with my passion. I was living my dream.



My first assignment with SELP was to facilitate the team in developing a National Strategic Framework for the electoral and political inclusion of the transgender community in Pakistan. This involved working closely with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), National Database and Registration Authority, and the transgender community to advance inclusive legislation and policies. It was my first time interacting with the transgender community, and I was deeply moved by their competence and compassion. This experience reaffirmed my belief that we need a commitment to transcend barriers to gender disparities.

When I think back on my time at the UNDP, perhaps my fondest memory is a workshop that I helped organize on design thinking to commemorate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities in 2023. Co-hosted by UNDP and the ECP, the workshop focused on raising awareness about the importance of inclusive electoral participation for persons with disabilities, and led to four provincial focus group discussions and a national consultation on the issue in July 2024. These

discussions ultimately resulted in the development of a comprehensive [implementation strategy](#) aimed at addressing barriers to polling stations and voting rights for persons with disabilities - an achievement I will always be proud to be associated with.

Looking back, my journey at UNDP has always been about purpose - both mine and UNDP's. We've grown together, driven by a shared commitment to make the world a more inclusive place. My perception about 'disability' has also evolved - I now see inclusion not as a response to exclusion, but as a natural state of acceptance. This notion has developed overtime, as I engaged with like-minded colleagues who welcomed my ideas and contributions whole-heartedly.

As I continue on this journey of breaking barriers, I find inspiration in the words of one of my favorite authors Lizz Fosslein who says, "Diversity is having a seat at the table, inclusion is having a voice, and belonging is having that voice heard."

Source: <https://www.undp.org/pakistan/stories/passion-purpose-my-path-inclusion-undp-pakistan>

## NGO Urged To Organise More Career Carnivals - Ahmad Zahid

**K**LUANG, Sept 27 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi has called on non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to work with the Social Security Organisation (SOCSO) and the Human Resources Development Berhad (HRD Corp) to organise more career carnivals aimed at boosting employment opportunities for young people.

He said such collaboration would enable effective job matching, ensuring that the skills of young people are aligned with the needs of local companies, ultimately benefiting the economy of the respective states.

**"In Johor there is a special economic zone and the federal government, as well as the state government, have established cooperation involving TalentCorp so that there is a match between the skills required by the employer and the workers in this special zone area."**

"We don't want Malaysia to be associated only with general workers, we aim to be a developed country and one of the states that welcomes the most foreign investment and domestic direct investment is Johor," he said.

The deputy prime minister said this when opening the Gagar Jejak Kerjaya MyFutureJobs with the Women's and Family Affairs Organisation (Hawa Malaysia) at Bazaar Uptown Kluang here today.

The programme was also attended by Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Onn Hafiz Ghazi, Deputy Human Resources Minister Datuk Seri Abdul Rahman Mohamad and Hawa Malaysia chairman Tan Sri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil.

Meanwhile, Ahmad Zahid, also the Barisan Nasional (BN) chairman, emphasised that the BN candidate for the Mahkota state by-election, Syed Hussien Syed Abdullah, has never been linked to any criminal case nor has he been charged in court.

This, he said, was confirmed by Johor Police Chief Datuk M. Kumar this morning.

**"Don't pay attention to those who are frustrated... whose candidate may not be as good as Syed Hussien. So, they resort to saying all sorts of negative things about Syed Hussien. Let's all pray for our candidate's victory," he said.**

Yesterday, Ahmad Zahid refuted the opposition's claims that Syed Hussien has a criminal record, saying that the allegations are untrue.

He said that such claims indicate the opposition has run out of issues due to the lack of response to their candidate.

Ahmad Zahid said that from reports he read, Syed Hussien was in his 20s when he tried to protect a blind man who was harassed and beaten by a group of men.

Polling for the Mahkota state by-election is tomorrow. It involved a straight fight between Syed Hussien and Perikatan Nasional (PN) candidate Mohamad Haizan Jaafar.

The by-election was called following the death of its incumbent Datuk Sharifah Azizah Syed Zain, 63, last Aug 2.

Meanwhile, Abdul Rahman said the two-day programme, which started yesterday, offered 3,000 job opportunities in various fields, with the participation of 30 employers.

He said a similar programme will continue to be organised in other locations to reduce the unemployment rate and help improve the socioeconomy of Malaysians.

"In the past, we had to look for jobs through newspapers and so on, but today under the MADANI Government, we organise programmes like MyFutureJobs to find people who want to work," he said.

Source: <https://www.bernama.com/en/news.php?id=2345147>

# Beyond academics: Kofi A. Tawiah Foundation provides character education training to educators

In a world where academic achievement often takes centre stage, a growing appreciation for character education is gradually unfolding in Ghana's classrooms. This transformative process seeks to redefine the very fabric of Ghana's education, nurturing good character values in students and staff, and potentially breeding a new generation of transformed citizens.

To reaffirm its commitment to character education in Ghana, the Kofi A. Tawiah Foundation

recently hosted the 2024 edition of its annual character education Training programme at Ho in the Volta Region. The comprehensive 3-day training seminar brought together institutions, educators and school leaders from selected schools across the Volta, Oti, Eastern and Bono East Regions of Ghana.

The training programme forms part of the onboarding process for schools that actively seek to become partner schools and promote

character education in their schools. Its main aim was to provide participants with the relevant knowledge, skills, and resources needed to successfully implement character education initiatives in their schools. This year, a total of about 65 educators benefited from the training program.

The training was delivered by Mr. Kent Fahrenbruck, a seasoned consultant with Strata Leadership (USA) with decades of experience in leading Character Education sessions around the world. The insightful training delved into several topics including character and competence,

developing good character, changing the culture, character-based corrections among others. Additionally, the schools were also provided with some practical implementation approaches for integrating Character Education into their schools' culture. Educators from Mummy's Darl Educational Centre and Humpty Dumpty School (all in Kumasi), who were part of the pioneer schools also shared their inspiring journey on the programme with the participants.

The training also included a dynamic panel discussion featuring experts from various fields, such as education leaders, NGO representatives, and specialists in character education. The panel delved into the role of character education in shaping future generations, discussed persistent challenges faced by schools, and emphasized the importance of customizing programmes to address behavioural issues in the classroom.

Mr. Fahrenbruck, the trainer, emphasized the need for schools and educators to be intentional in building a school culture which thrives on character development of both the staff and students. He believes

that good character is the foundation upon which all other activities are built.

**Speaking after the training programme, Mr. Kennet Kpornor, the current Volta Regional Director of the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) expressed his delight about the potential national benefits of the character education programme in schools. To him, the activities of the Kofi A. Tawiah Foundation is an outstanding initiative that complements the efforts of the NCCE in raising good citizens in Ghana.**

Many participants after the programme also shared their excitement about the insights they learned from the programme. Mr. Charles Annor-Frempong, the director of Charles Wesley Academy Foundation (Koforidua) on behalf of the participants thanked the foundation for

bringing this opportunity to schools to build good character.

In conclusion, the Kofi A. Tawiah Foundation's commitment to providing character education training to educators in Ghana is a laudable endeavour with far-reaching national benefits. By empowering educators to incorporate character education into their teaching practices, the foundation is sowing the seeds for positive societal change. Through this initiative, the foundation is not only shaping the future of Ghana but also laying the groundwork for more compassionate, principled, and responsible citizens.

Source: <https://www.myjoyonline.com/beyond-academics-kofi-a-tawiah-foundation-provides-character-education-training-to-educators/>



# 5 Ways to Make Disaster-Relief Donations Personal and Impactful

**W**hen natural disasters strike, it can be overwhelming to think about how you can make a difference in disaster aid. For many people, there is a natural desire to do something substantial to help communities in need, but even the most ambitious recovery efforts and good intentions can go wrong in delicate environments. Some families, or even entire communities, lose everything after being hit by a devastating hurricane, super storm, flood, wildfire, landslide or tornado; we witness the stark reality of the word “disaster” come to life.

As the frequency and intensity of natural disasters increases, volunteer efforts must evolve. Clothing, food and stuffed animal donations can sometimes add to, rather than relieve, stress to a community. Instead of donating goods for disaster relief, experts and officials suggest that monetary donations have the greatest potential to address the specific needs of each person and community impacted.

Monetary donations are flexible and provide culturally beneficial support, and they can be used immediately in response to a crisis. Yet, we tend to view monetary donations as less impactful, less caring and compassionate. That’s not the case! Here are five ideas to make donations more personal.

## Find Local Ways to Donate

Many reputable nonprofits and organizations,

like those in [Points of Light’s Global Network](#), are already working toward collecting and distributing funds in the area. Do some research to find trusted organizations using websites like Charity Navigator, GuideStar or

[National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters](#).

## Multiply Donated Dollars

Corporations and organizations have immense potential to make an impact after a natural disaster. Check with your employer and ask if they are able to match funds donated by employees. Many companies have existing donation-matching programs already in place, and others are happy to set up such a program for

specific circumstances. You can volunteer to be the campaign chairperson to get your colleagues involved.

## Host a Disaster Relief Garage Sale

Do you have items that immediately come to mind for sending to disaster-affected areas? Instead of sending these items, sell them! Gather a few tables and advertise around your neighborhood for a disaster relief garage sale, then donate the proceeds to recovery efforts. Take it to the next level by organizing a community yard sale day, thus increasing the chances of multiplying your impact.

## Use a Wish List

Many nonprofit organizations make Amazon wish lists for donors during a natural disaster. This tool allows you to fill in a specific and immediate need for a disaster-affected community. Browse the current wish lists, choose your items to purchase and encourage your neighbors, family and friends to do the same.

## Think Long Term

Disaster recovery can take months or years in many communities. Think about the ways you can continue to support these communities over time as they continue to rebuild through a sustained giving plan to a local nonprofit.

Source: <https://www.pointsoflight.org/blog/5-ways-make-disaster-relief-donations-personal-and-impactful/>



# From the HLPF 2024 to the Summit of the Future: will countries do what it takes to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030?

**With only 17 per cent of SDG targets being on track to be achieved by 2030 globally, now is the time to invest in sustainable development on an unprecedented scale.**

**H**igh-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) took place under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) from 8 to 18 July 2024 in New York and reviewed the progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development

Goals (SDGs). Under the theme “Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions”, this year’s HLPF reviewed in-depth [SDG 1: No Poverty](#); [SDG 2: Zero Hunger](#); [SDG 13: Climate Action](#); [SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions](#); and [SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals](#). This was the first HLPF after the 2023 SDG Summit and hence encouraged the implementation of the political declaration adopted at the Summit as the world’s rescue plan for people and the planet.

According to the [2024 SDG Report](#), only 17% of SDG targets are on track to being achieved by 2030. The prolonged impacts of

the COVID-19 pandemic, escalating conflicts, geopolitical tensions and growing climate chaos have severely hindered SDG progress. Without massive investment and scaled-up action, the achievement of the SDGs will remain intangible. Therefore, the global report calls for bold action on peace and finance,

highlighting the upcoming Summit of the Future, the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, and the second World Summit for Social Development, as critical milestones to achieving the SDGs. To reconfirm this commitment, the HLPF adopted a [ministerial declaration](#), which identified the current situation and challenges, alongside future actions and investment pathways needed to reinforce the 2030 Agenda.

## SDG progress and challenges in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean

In the region of Latin America and the Caribbean, the [Economic Commission for Latin America and the](#)

[Caribbean \(ECLAC\)](#) estimates that 22% of targets either have been achieved or will be achieved by 2030, while 46% of them are headed in the right direction but not quickly enough to be fulfilled on time, and the remaining 32% are not expected to be achieved. [José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs](#), ECLAC’s Executive Secretary, actively participated in several of the global forum’s plenary sessions and side events, where he shared his vision for moving towards a more productive, inclusive and sustainable development model in the region and reaffirmed its proposal for economic and social transformation to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

## Global commitment and regional insights at the HLPF 2024

In the opening of the HLPF, Chair Paula Narváez, President of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations, called for a renewed commitment to multilateralism and constructive dialogue to achieve the necessary transformations. About 90 Heads of State and Government, Deputy Prime Ministers, Ministers, Vice Ministers and ministerial level officials participated over the course of two weeks in the Forum, accompanied by a thousand actors from major groups and other stakeholders. Apart from the plenary sessions, 236 side

events, 14 Exhibitions, 13 special events and 13 VNRs Labs were organized. To monitor national progress towards the SDGs, HLPF 2024 featured [36 Voluntary National Review \(VNR\)](#) presentations, out of which eight were from the region of Latin America and the Caribbean, namely [Belize](#) and [Brazil](#) for the second time, [Costa Rica](#), [Ecuador](#), [Honduras](#) and [Peru](#) for the third time, and [Colombia](#) and [Mexico](#) for the fourth time. These reviews provided valuable insights into national experiences, lessons learned, and obstacles encountered in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

As a highlight of this year’s programme, the five UN Regional Commissions organized the annual plenary session entitled “[Messages from the Regions](#)” to showcase regional challenges, innovative pathways and opportunities for accelerating progress towards the SDGs and present transformative policies and actions for the remaining six years until the established deadline for the SDGs in 2030. The session discussed the recommendations from the [Regional Forums on Sustainable Development](#) and provided a particular focus on the [Pact for the Future](#) and its pillars on sustainable development and financing for development as well as science, technology, innovation and digital

HIGH-LEVEL  
POLITICAL FORUM  
on SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT

#HLPF #SDGs  
sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf

HIGH-LEVEL  
POLITICAL FORUM  
on SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT

#HLPF #SDGs  
sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf

# 2026 UN Water Conference

## 2024 HLPF and High-level Segment of ECOSOC

Theme: *Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions*

**9**

Days

**5**

SDGs under review

**36**

Countries presented VNRs

### WHO WAS THERE?

About 90

Heads of State and Government, Deputy Prime Ministers, Ministers, Vice Ministers and Ministerial Level Officials



125

Keynote speakers, panelists, lead discussants, respondents, moderators in townhall meeting and panels

to talk about

**176**  
Statements in general debate



About **1000** MGoS & NGOs accredited to ECOSOC

Special Events

**13**

VNR Labs

**13**

Side Events

**236**

(162 in person & 74 virtual)

Exhibitions

**14**

cooperation. It also featured a joined brochure with key messages from the five regions and a video which captured the voices of diverse stakeholders around the world.

With only six years left to fulfill the vision of the 2030 Agenda, its achievement requires an unprecedented level of collective action. International cooperation and greater commitment from all relevant actors must be urgently

scaled up to find lasting solutions. ECLAC's [Community of Practice on Voluntary National Reviews \(VNRs\) for Latin American and Caribbean \(LAC\) countries](#) as well as the upcoming eighth meeting of the [Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development](#) to be held at the ECLAC's Headquarters in Santiago de Chile in April 2025 provide an opportunity to

promote regional cooperation to accelerate progress towards the SDGs. Only together can we create an environment in which no one is left behind, and all people can fulfil their true potential, shaping a just and sustainable future for all, ahead of the Summit of the Future and beyond.

Source: <https://www.cepal.org/en/notes/hlpf-2024-summit-future-will-countries-what-it-takes-meet-sustainable-development-goals-sdgs>

The 2026 UN Water Conference to Accelerate the Implementation of SDG 6 will focus on actions to accelerate SDG 6 achievement and reaffirm internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including those in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Conference will result in an outcome document, focusing on areas of accelerated and collective action to support SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation).

The Governments of Senegal and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will host the Conference. The event will bring together governments, the UN system, intergovernmental bodies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations (CSOs), Indigenous Peoples and local communities, academia, the private sector, and other stakeholders.

The Conference will consider challenges to achieving SDG 6 as well as opportunities and innovative ways and means to support SDG 6 implementation and accelerate progress. Participants will exchange views and develop initiatives and actions to accelerate SDG 6 progress, including cooperation at all relevant levels to enhance means of implementation and partnerships. The Conference will consider gender perspectives and empowerment of women and girls in ensuring safe drinking water and sanitation for all.

The Conference will also offer an opportunity to share best practices in accelerating SDG implementation and invite Member States and other stakeholders to announce voluntary commitments in support of the Conference objectives. The Conference outcome document will serve as an input to the UN High-

level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

The Conference will be preceded by regional and global preparatory meetings. A one-day organizational session will convene in New York, US, in 2025 to propose and adopt recommendations to the UN General Assembly (UNGA) on the theme of the Conference's six interactive dialogues. In addition, the Government of Senegal will host a high-level international meeting in Dakar, Senegal, in 2025, to review the progress and gaps in SDG 6 implementation and support the Conference's preparation.

To receive SDG event notices, news, and analysis in your inbox, [subscribe](#).

To share information about your organization's activities related to this event, [subscribe](#) to our peer-to-peer [SDG](#) and [WATER](#) lists.

Source: <https://sdg.iisd.org/events/2026-un-water-conference/>



## Civil Society Organizations: Key to Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Princess Adejoke Orelope Adefulire

The Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs, Princess Adejoke Orelope-Adefulire has described the strategic role of the civil society organizations as very key to the overall implementation and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in

Nigeria, stating that her Office (OSSAP-SDGs) remains ever ready to discuss with CSOs on issues around SDGs for acceleration of sustainable development that will ensure promises of the government are implemented strategically to achieve our collective aspirations.

Princess Orelope-Adefulire made this assertion when the President of the Executive Council of the over 100,000 Civil Society Strategy Group on SDGs in Nigeria, Dr. Uzodinma Aderieje paid her office a courtesy visit on the 4th of September, 2024. The SSAP-SDGs said that “those behind the conceptualization of SDGs before it was unveiled in 2015 knew that we owe ourselves responsibilities, both public and private sector, to come together, think together and make use of the expertise, the commitment and seriousness of the private sector, so that together we achieve sustainable development goals that leaves no one behind”.

**Princess Adejoke stressed the importance of CSO collaboration with OSSAP-SDGs for acceleration of SDGs implementation in Nigeria, pointing out that though there are challenges posed globally and nationally, cases like COVID 19, wars, banditry, kidnapping, herders – farmer’s crises and insurgency in the north east, the government is working hard to surmount the effect of these distractions.**

She commended the role of the CSOs, noting that the world leaders knew that they occupy a very important place in the overall implementation and achievement of the SDGs, which is the reason they were highlighted among other development partners.

Princess Adejoke enjoined the CSOs President and his group to make more concerted efforts to reach out to other organizations to get more support and collaborations to enable them reach out to where SDGs cannot reach. This according to her will “carefully bring together the poor and the vulnerable from wherever they are, to make them strong and part of development as it is only when this is done that we can say we have achieved SDGs”. The Presidential Aide promised her office assistance to CSO group where ever possible so that together we can achieve SDGs.

Earlier in his address the Executive Council Chairman of the CSO group, Dr. Uzodinma Adirieje who congratulated the SSAP-SDGs on her reappointment and numerous awards and honors conferred on her, including the SDGs champion award by the United Nation, promised his group’s continuous commitment to the overall achievement of SDGs targets with meaning engagement of the civil societies in Nigeria.

In her closing remark, the Head of Policy and Strategy Unit of the OSSAP-SDGs Mrs. Patricia Aniebue pointed out that building synergies and collaborating with civil society group especially, in the areas of data sharing initiatives will enhance collective understanding and facilitate cross-sectoral approaches to solving pressing issues in Nigeria.

Source: <https://fmino.gov.ng/civil-society-organizations-key-to-achieving-sustainable-development-goals-sdgs-princess-adejoke-orelope-adejulire/>

## Pakistan drops to 137th place in SDGs Index 2024

Pakistan has fallen nine spots in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Index for 2024, now ranking 137th out of 166 countries, with a concerning score of 57.02.

This marks a decline from 128th in 2023 and 125th in 2022.

Of the remaining 16 goals, three have worsened, five face significant challenges, and seven are experiencing serious issues.

Regression has been noted in Goal 4 (Quality education), Goal 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), and Goal 16 (Peace, justice, and strong institutions).

However, some progress, albeit challenging, has been observed in Goal 1 (Poverty reduction), Goal 7 (Affordable and clean energy), Goal 9 (Innovation and infrastructure), Goal 14 (Life below water), and Goal 17 (Partnership for goals).

Limited progress amidst considerable challenges was reported for Goals 2 (Zero hunger), 3 (Health and well-being), 5 (Gender equality), 6 (Clean water and sanitation), 8 (Decent work and economic growth), 12 (Responsible consumption and production), 13 (Climate action), and 15 (Life on land).

The Sustainable Development Goals Index and Dashboard, compiled annually by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network and the Institute of European Environmental Policy, assesses countries’ performances on the Global Development Agenda 2030.

Source: <https://dailytimes.com.pk/1223201/pakistan-drops-to-137th-place-in-sdgs-index-2024/>

# Stepping up youth employability for jobs and better life chances

Imagine routinely hearing this from young Africans: "I run my own startup. I plan to hire three young people as the business is expanding", or "I was employed by a good company only three months after I finished school and I'm enjoying my job."

These are the kinds of success stories young Africans aspire to achieve. African governments aim to facilitate through their policies, and educational institutions strive to prepare students for them. However, the challenges are substantial: poor educational outcomes, a shortage of relevant skills, and low job creation.

Each year, at least 10 million youth enter Africa's labour market, but only 3.1 million new formal wage jobs are created. According to the International Labour Organisation, employability - defined as "portable competencies and qualifications that enhance an individual's capacity to secure and retain decent work, and to progress within the enterprise" - is attainable. But what steps are needed to more purposefully pursue youth employability? How can this agenda gain the focus and urgency required to achieve much-needed results?

## Revitalising the vision for employability

Skills and jobs are crucial for Africa's economies, especially as its youth population is projected to be the world's largest by 2050. However, progress on SDG 8.6 - promoting youth employability, education, and training - remains slow.

Employability is a key issue for the education sector but must be addressed as a cross-cutting

matter. The urgency lies in creating a coordinated approach that aligns school-work systems, promotes collaboration between training institutions and employers, and integrates educational and economic considerations to boost the job market and create necessary skills.

**A clear vision of employability is essential. This vision should define what is at stake, identify what needs to be accelerated to tap into and build potential, leverage existing assets, and coordinate the various parts, roles, and actors. This will help embed an understanding of the world of work in education and training.**

## Building skills with the workforce in mind

Unfortunately, education and industry have often failed to collaborate as needed, leading to a mismatch between the labour market and the skills it requires. A more integrated approach is essential for developing labour market-responsive curricula and fostering entrepreneurial learning to reduce barriers to youth employment and entrepreneurship.

Institutional leadership is crucial. The British Council's Innovation for African Universities (IAU) programme demonstrates how academia can enhance youth employability through Africa-UK partnerships that support innovation and commercialisation. This initiative helps students build job skills and entrepreneurial capabilities tied to real market opportunities.

In technical and vocational education and training (TVET), apprenticeships and work-integrated learning initiatives that combine real work with training could become a reliable model for developing industry-specific skills and providing valuable exposure for learners. If successful examples can be scaled up, both businesses and society will benefit.

Focusing on growth and productive sectors of the economy is a sustainable way to enhance employability. Ensuring that skills are demand-driven and deployable into existing and new jobs will support national productivity, economic growth, and the futures of young people.

## Empowering through digital

Across Africa, jobs are much sought after but self-employment is increasingly becoming a pragmatic option for earning a livelihood. It has been exciting to note how technologically enabled initiatives are igniting young people's potential and capacities.

SoCreative, the British Council's free, self-paced online learning platform is equipping thousands of creative entrepreneurs and leaders with business skills, knowledge and understanding.

In Nigeria, Kenya and South Africa, our Skills for Inclusive Digital Participation (SIDP) programme is helping bridge the digital divide. About 18,000 people with disabilities, disadvantaged youth and women have improved their digital skills, started businesses and are accessing new markets. This impact story shows how an inclusive approach is making a difference.

However, entrepreneurship in sub-Saharan Africa would need deeper investment to become a real source of jobs as it still faces challenges, including financing, regulatory barriers and lack of a supportive ecosystem.

## Influencing progressive industries

Improving youth employability requires actions that go beyond individual efforts, focusing on harnessing the dynamism of networks, the diversity of employers, and the energy of industries.

A groundbreaking initiative in African fashion, the TechStitched Fashion Residency - a collaboration between the British Council and Hub of Africa Fashion Week in Ethiopia - promotes growth, innovation, creative exchange, and skill development across the continent's fashion industry.

Recognising that the quality of business environments affects the health of enterprises, we support businesses through our EU-funded Investment Climate Facility (ICR). This initiative provides technical assistance and tools to help businesses operate more efficiently and create more decent work opportunities, especially for youth.

## Adopting a pipeline approach

The focus on youth employability often centres on tertiary education, but the entire formal education cycle needs to evolve, starting from earlier stages. Strong learning foundations determine the quality of learners transitioning into later stages.

The British Council's approach encompasses basic, secondary, and tertiary education, aiming to build robust, inclusive education systems through partnerships. These systems enable youth to develop cognitive and life skills as they progress

through the educational journey and enter the workforce. Our non-formal education interventions, such as Youth Connect, facilitate agency, leadership, and peer learning.

**By addressing the entire education lifecycle, our work leverages policy, practice, and partnerships that are locally led and informed by global best practices. We connect students, educators, policymakers, academics, creatives, and entrepreneurs, all focused on increasing opportunities for youth. This approach strengthens systems and identifies and tests incentives to develop effective solutions.**

## Moving the needle on gender equity

The youth unemployment rate for females is 9-13% higher than for males in most African countries. Young women face various workplace inequities, including unequal pay and fewer promotions.

Our efforts to not only make more young women employable but also to ensure they remain in the workforce are yielding positive results. The findings from a gender audit, supported by our ICR facility programme, are successfully mobilising companies in Malawi to adopt stronger anti-sexual harassment policies in the workplace.

Our Ignite Culture programme, operating in 14 African countries, provides grants and business support to creative and cultural enterprises, many of which are led by women. In Uganda, Bold-in-Africa, supported by an Ignite Culture

grant, exemplifies how our work is increasing the visibility of women creatives.

We continue to create an enabling environment by partnering to influence legislation, policy, and practice. Through dialogue, research, and evidence-based decisions, we aim to improve the lives of women and girls.

## Time to raise the stakes

High unemployment is not just an economic risk; it is also a social risk, as insufficient economic opportunities can threaten community stability.

The youth employability agenda must go beyond individual programmes, embracing a bold, continent-wide ambition, collective leadership, and imaginative approaches that involve the agency of young people facing these challenges.

Read more at: <https://www.bizcommunity.com/article/stepping-up-youth-employability-for-jobs-and-better-life-chances-035965a>





## The Power of Entrepreneurship to Own Your Future

Since the first conversation launched on September 2, 2020, Wharton Global Youth's Future of the Business World podcast has welcomed 46 high school students talking about their unique commercial visions and technology-driven innovations. While many illustrate the [entrepreneurial](#) mindset, few see their ventures as exclusive paths to employment and financial well-being.

Episode No. 47 features a new perspective. Joahluis Molina, introduced to us by our friends at the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE), started a [service](#)-based business at age 17

with the hope of making a living as an [entrepreneur](#) – and giving back to his community. He is still in the early stages of business ownership and is working one new client at a time toward building a stable financial future for himself and perhaps someday his family.

Be sure to click the arrow above to listen to our conversation with Joahluis Molina. An edited transcript of the conversation appears below.

Wharton Global Youth Program: Hello and welcome to Future of the Business World!

I'm Diana Drake with the Wharton Global Youth Program at the

Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. Our monthly Future of the Business World podcast is a celebration of youth [innovation](#) across borders and business sectors. We've interviewed teen entrepreneurs developing tech for the pet [industry](#) and trying to launch eCommerce on the [blockchain](#), as well as earnest mission-driven bakers and nutritional gummy makers. It's amazing to explore the thriving entrepreneurial spirit in so many different business landscapes.

But something that we haven't always talked about is youth entrepreneurship driven by personal financial need. In other words,

starting and running a business to make a living and pay the bills.

Today's guest is a great example of an evolving entrepreneur with a mission of business success and [personal finance](#) empowerment. Joahluis Molina just graduated from Met High School in Providence, Rhode Island. His business, That Junk Removal [Company](#), [won first place in the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship's \(NFTE's\) New England Regional Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge](#).

Joahluis Molina: Thank you so much. It's a pleasure. I appreciate the opportunity to be here on this podcast talking a little bit about That Junk Removal Company and the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship.

Wharton Global Youth: All right, so tell us about your [company](#). When did you start the business? And it sounds pretty self-explanatory, but what type of junk are you removing, and from where and where does that junk go? Give us all the details.

Joahluis: A few years ago, I was running a powerwash company by the name of Joahluis's Powerwashing, and it was fun to say the least, but it wasn't exactly what I loved to do. So, Joahluis's Powerwashing evolved to the company that I have now, which is called Molina [Management](#), where we offer snow plowing, power washing, fall and spring cleanup.

But I tried to figure out a way to market my company and give back to the community at the same time. I live in South Providence, which undeniably is one of the most polluted cities in the state of Rhode Island. Every corner you turn, you'll see a mattress, a beat-up sofa, or just garbage all over the streets. So, what do I look like running a junk removal company coming home to South Providence, where there's garbage everywhere. That led me

to starting That Junk Removal Company, where we donate 5% of all of our profits to a community cleanup hosted the first Sunday of every month. We call it our Sunday service, or how I like to call it 'a double dip,' a way for me to give back to the community and also market my company.

Wharton Global Youth: So, you also have a social mission with this. Is there actually a business mission with That Junk Removal Company? I mean, are you providing a service to clients, and can you maybe share an example?

Joahluis: Absolutely. So we offer the standard junk removal. You'd call us out, and we measure it by how much junk it is and what material it's made out of, and then we take that trash to the central landfill here in Cranston, Rhode Island, which is only a few minutes away. And the price is measured on how far you are from the landfill, and like I said, how much garbage you have and the material it's made out of.

Wharton Global Youth: What is the weirdest junk you have removed?

Joahluis: One of the weirdest jobs we've done, in my opinion, would be on a farm. We were dismantling a tractor and taking all the parts to a local recycling facility. All the money we got from that was implemented into our Sunday service, allowing us to pick up more garbage.

Wharton Global Youth: I'm interested that your company, both That Junk Removal Company and Molina Management, are set up as LLCs, which are otherwise known as limited [liability](#) companies. Can you explain a little bit about what that means and why did you choose that structure for your businesses?

Joahluis: The reason we set up LLCs for both That Junk Removal Company and Molina Management is to protect me and other workers. If anything goes wrong, if any of

our customers get injured in the process, or we damage anything inside of the house or in the exterior of the house, the company's at fault. So it kind of separates me the owner and the company.

Wharton Global Youth: Take us back a few years, when you first started exploring the power of entrepreneurship. What intrigued you about running your business, and what does entrepreneurship represent to you?

Joahluis: That's an awesome question. I'm the first entrepreneur in my family, and a few years ago, I worked at Walmart part-time, trying to balance school, family issues, and of course, Walmart at the same time. It's a lot having to go to work and getting yelled at by your boss, not seeing the money that you want, not being able to work the hours that you want. It's tough. It really is tough, especially for such a young person – a 16 or 17-year-old. It just wasn't cutting it. For me. I hated the idea of potentially getting yelled at by my boss, you know, getting scared to do something wrong and just not getting paid or working the hours that I wanted to work. So, I started looking into businesses and what business to start, and that's where it all started.

---

**“Creating something that can be passed along to my kids and their kids — it's so motivating...Not many people are committed to making a legacy from junk, but I'm happy to say that I am.” –Joahluis Molina**

---

Wharton Global Youth: What do you think your strengths and weaknesses are as an entrepreneur? Have you had a particularly challenging moment, and how did you overcome it?

Joahluis: I think I don't know when to stop. So a few years ago when

we were just a power-washing company, I'd go door to door to book my jobs and it was terrible. I'd be out there for hours and hours on end, trying to figure out what [I could do] to crack the code and book the jobs. I didn't understand when to stop. I'd be out there on no food. I'd be out there on no water, just in the boiling hot sun, pushing all my power-washing equipment around. And it was tough trying to figure out [how] to take my business to the next level. The way I overcame that was just research and realizing that it's not going to happen overnight. Being out there on the days where I was knocking on 100-plus doors and not getting any jobs was very discouraging for me. And being the only entrepreneur in my family, there's no one in my corner, pushing me to give it another shot, to get some rest and go out there again tomorrow. My mom, my father and all my siblings constantly telling me to get a job. It's not going to work. It's not going to work out. The bills have to be paid. So it was rough, you know? And I think that [motivation](#) is something that you have to derive from deep within yourself. And it's tough.

Wharton Global Youth: You feel as though finding that inner strength as an entrepreneur is what motivates you to keep going after setbacks?

Joahluis: Absolutely.

Wharton Global Youth: Did you have access to any financial funding to help you start your businesses?

Joahluis: No, I saved up all the money from Walmart. I bought my first truck a year and a half into owning Joahluis's Pressure Washing. Other than that, there's no funding. I didn't get anything from my parents, as unfortunate as it is. But we aren't all blessed with giving parents, I guess, or parents in the position to fund our businesses and our entrepreneurship ideas.

Wharton Global Youth: That is a point that I want to talk a little bit about. Because where did you get this entrepreneurial spirit? Do you feel like part of this was coming from the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship. Or how did you find that you just really wanted to be an entrepreneur? I know you talked about your job at Walmart, and I understand that you wanted to kind of take back the power in terms of your employment and your financial future, but what about just becoming an entrepreneur? You didn't really have a role model there.

Joahluis: About two years ago, I was sitting in my classroom and I heard about a classmate of mine that goes to the same high school by the name of [Raneem](#). She was the global winner for last year's [Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship] [competition](#). And I heard she won over \$13,000 in funding for her business. I could not believe it. That amount of money in high school was, to me at the moment, unheard of, and it just sparked something in me to sign up for NFTE, learn what NFTE was, what NFTE has to offer, and where I could get this funding, and just what I could do with it potentially.

Wharton Global Youth: Do you have mentors in the NFTE network to help you in your efforts?

Joahluis: Yeah, my teachers Jodie Woodruff and Brandon Lane gave me all the information I was looking for in the NFTE world. They work for the Met High School, and they're the teachers who set everything up for NFTE and enroll students in the competitions.

Wharton Global Youth: Did you also win money from the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship when you won your prize?

In June, I won first place in regionals and that set me ahead \$1,500,

which went directly toward That Junk Removal Company, and we used half of those for our Sunday service cleanups.

Wharton Global Youth: Great. All right, so the Sunday service cleanups are where you're really enriching the Providence community, right? Can you talk just a little bit more about those you talked about it at the beginning, but I'd, I'd love to know more about what that looks like. I mean, you're cleaning up some of the garbage around town. Do you feel as though it's a community effort? Do people rally around?

Joahluis: I try to give opportunities to those who could use the life skills that you learn from going around the community and picking up garbage. I rally around volunteers from my high school, and ask around who would like to volunteer, who would like to come with me on one of these dumps, and learn the responsibility and the life skills of being out in the neighborhood and being in the real world — blue-collar work trying to clean up the streets and beautify our neighborhoods.

Wharton Global Youth: I'm interested too in this line of work, because all kinds of [regulations](#) and requirements relate to this type of business. How and where to discard items, recycling. We've talked on the podcast before about the circular economy, which is a way to give junk new life and put it back into productive use. How do you plan to stay updated on trends and changes in the business world like this that might impact your business?

Joahluis: I like to stay up to date with what other big junk removal companies in Rhode Island are doing, see what they're doing for the community, see what is working for them. And I even set up a few interviews with other junk-removal companies in my area. We have

Powerhouse Junk Removal and Junk Kings in my area. They're great companies, awesome companies who [have taught me] a lot.

Wharton Global Youth: How do you market your company?

Joahluis: We have business cards and custom t-shirts. We have posters that we post all over coffee shops, telephone poles, all over the city of Providence and the state of Rhode Island. We're running paid ads on Nextdoor, Instagram and Facebook.

Wharton Global Youth: We talk a lot about the power of innovative and entrepreneurial thinking on this podcast. I love our conversation today because I believe in entrepreneurship as a tool that offers the potential for higher earnings, financial independence and wealth creation, even generational wealth, where you generate income for future generations. Have you thought about this? What kind of legacy do you hope to create by starting and running your own business?

Joahluis: That topic in particular is what keeps me driven today. Creating something that can be passed along to my kids and their kids — it's so motivating. It's a shame that my parents didn't have the opportunity to start a business and hand something like that off to me, but I appreciate the opportunity they've created for me to make that possible and have kids and pass That Junk Removal Company along to them. Not many people are committed to making a legacy from junk, but I'm happy to say that I am.

Wharton Global Youth: You just graduated from high school. Congratulations. What are your plans? Do you intend to combine

education and continue building That Junk Removal Company? How do you plan to balance entrepreneurship with other aspects of your life, like school?

Joahluis: What I plan to do is go to my community college to stay connected to some sort of educational system. And what I like to say is I want to study hard by night and work hard by day to make this bold mission possible.

Wharton Global Youth: Let's end with our lightning round of rapid-fire questions. What is something about yourself that would surprise us?

Joahluis: I love working. People despise work, but I think that you have to love what you do. And I can truly say that I love picking up junk. There's nothing like beautifying somebody's home and then being so happy with the result. Having their mind decluttered and their living situation decluttered.

Wharton Global Youth: When you're not running your business, what do you spend your time doing?

Joahluis: This might sound a little funny, but I either spend my time in the gym or figuring out ways to grow and scale my business when I'm not actively doing a job.

Wharton Global Youth: What business idea would you like to explore other than junk removal?

Joahluis: I talked a little bit about my [mentor](#) Brandon Lane. He actually took me out on a weekend to do dry stone stacking

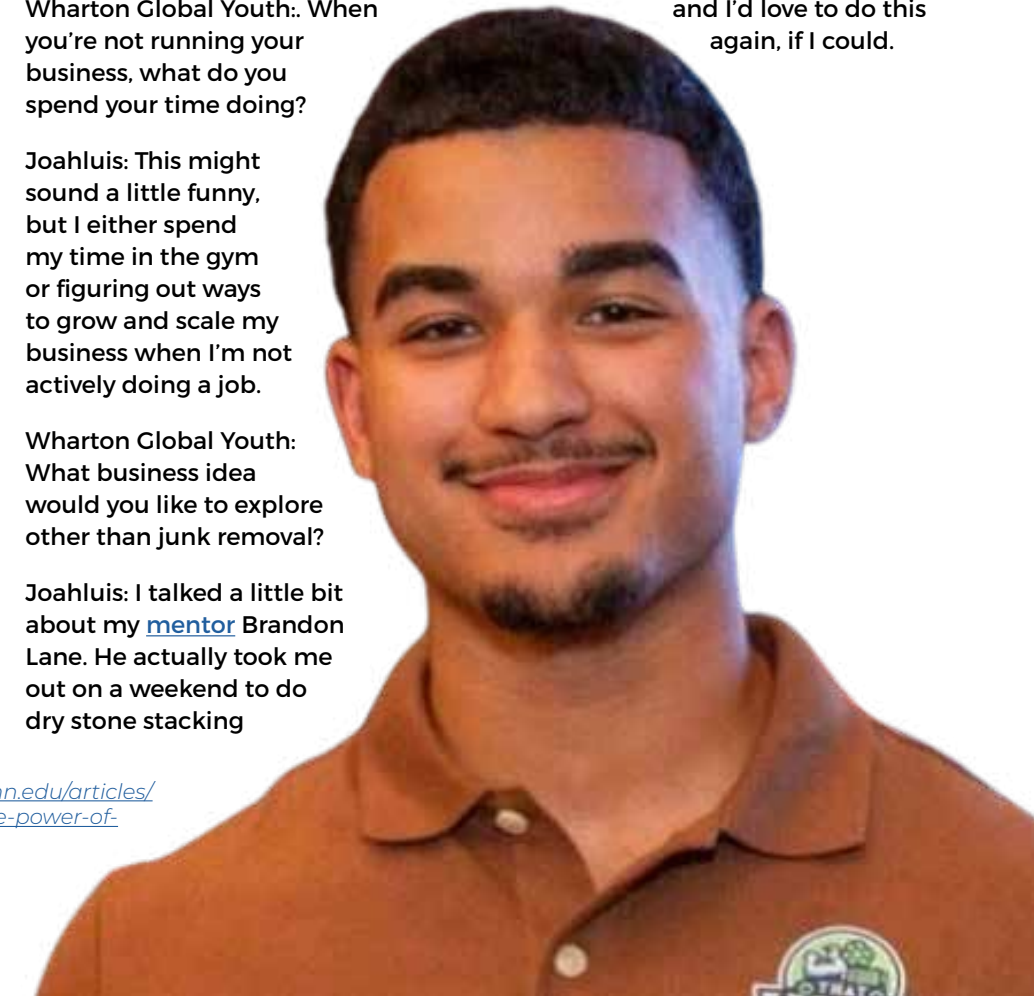
for one of his neighbors. And it's amazing. It's incredible. It's almost up there with pressure washing and junk removal. It's definitely a business I would love to explore and potentially start in the future.

Wharton Global Youth: Okay, you are starting your own business-themed talk show. Who is your first guest and why?

Joahluis: My first guest would be a man by the name of Alex Hormozi. He's an influencer, and he's amazing. He has so many motivational talks about entrepreneurship and why you should keep going. He's one of the most motivating people I've ever listened to and seen in my life. I'd love to sit down with him and have a conversation with him, and pick his brain a little bit.

Wharton Global Youth: Joahluis, thank you for joining us on Future of the Business World.

Joahluis: Thank you so much for the opportunity. It was amazing, and I'd love to do this again, if I could.



Source: <https://globalyouth.wharton.upenn.edu/articles/future-of-the-business-world-podcast/the-power-of-entrepreneurship-to-own-your-future/>



# NGOS IN YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

## Role, Impact, Challenges, Importance, etc.

**NGOs in Youth Empowerment:** India is home to one of the youngest populations globally, with more than 65% of its citizens below the age of 35. This demographic dividend presents a unique and unparalleled opportunity for the country's development. The energy, enthusiasm, and fresh perspectives of the youth are indispensable assets that can be harnessed to propel India into a new era of innovation and progress.

August 12th is celebrated as the International Youth Day, the world over. On this day in 1985, the United Nations recognized empowering youth as an integral part of society. The UN also acknowledged that the energies of the youth need to be harnessed effectively in a productive manner.

Despite holding such importance, millennials often face hurdles daily, with their energy still not being channelled in the right direction. In India, we have the 'National Youth Policy' that has been designed to effectively address the problems faced by our youth and the related solutions.

This policy expresses the vision the country has for our youth; it also identifies objectives and priority areas that are addressed and considered extremely important by the Government.

### Table of Contents

- What is Youth Empowerment?
- How Does The Youth Help In Social Development?
- Youth's Principal Contributions to Social Development:
- Plight of Modern Youth
- Youth's Power: An Agent of Change
- How Do NGOs Contribute In Fostering Youth?
- Top NGOs Working For Empowering Youth

### What is Youth Empowerment?

Youth empowerment is the process of involving the youth and the young population in the decision-making of a community. As the realisation that the youth has a voice that a community should listen to; it also presents an avenue

through which they can make their voices heard and recognize the power that they have.

It is important because we need to give youth the push they need to take control of their future. We need to equip them with the right tools to make better decisions for their future.

### How Does The Youth Help In Social Development?

Young people, who are frequently viewed as the leaders of the future, are increasingly acting as the catalyst for societal change. They are priceless resources in the process of creating a more just and sustainable world because of their dynamism, inventiveness, and idealism.

### Youth's Principal Contributions to Social Development:

#### Activism and Advocacy

In a number of social movements, young people have taken the lead in promoting causes including equality, human rights, and climate change. As a result of their activity,

important social concerns are frequently brought to light and policies are changed.

#### Participation in the Community

By offering assistance and support to people in need, young [volunteers](#) make a substantial contribution to the development of communities. A lot of young people are launching businesses that solve social issues and make money at the same time.

#### Technology and Innovation

Young people are using technology to create creative responses to societal problems like environmental sustainability, healthcare, and education. Youth can effectively raise awareness and rally support for social problems by utilising [social media](#) platforms.

#### Cultural and Educational Exchange

Youth exchange initiatives promote tolerance, understanding, and cooperation among different cultural groups. Through activities, young people from various backgrounds can share ideas and best practices.

#### Mentoring and the Development of Youth Leadership

Young leaders serve as role models for others, encouraging them to get involved in social change. These help younger generations grow as leaders by offering them direction and encouragement.

#### Plight of Modern Youth

Some of the challenges faced are as follows-

- **Lack of access to [education](#) and training:** In many developing countries, the youth do not have access to quality education and training. This limits their ability to get good jobs and participate effectively in the workforce.
- **High unemployment rates:**

Young people often face high unemployment rates, which can lead to frustration and disillusionment.

- **Lack of opportunities:** The lack of opportunities for the youth can be a major challenge. They may have the desire and motivation to work but lack the opportunity to do so.
- **Poverty:** Poverty is another major challenge faced by the youth. Poverty limits their access to education, training, and job opportunities, and makes it difficult for them to escape the cycle of poverty.

#### Youth's Power: An Agent of Change

Young people, who are frequently viewed as the future, are increasingly acting as the catalyst for social change. Their limitless enthusiasm, creative thinking, and unshakable determination make them a potent force for change.

Important characteristics of adolescents that influence their impact are:

- **Passion and Enthusiasm:** A strong feeling of purpose and the desire to change the world are common motivators for young people.
- **Creativity & Innovation:** Their novel viewpoints and openness to trying new things can result in ground-breaking answers to pressing societal issues.
- **Digitally Savvy:** Young people are skilled at connecting, communicating, and organising around social problems using technology.
- **Social Consciousness:** A lot of young people have strong feelings about social justice, inequality, and climate change.

#### How Do NGOs

#### Contribute In Fostering Youth?

Among the myriad of factors contributing to youth empowerment, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) play a pivotal role.

NGOs for youth empowerment are independent, non-profit organisations dedicated to addressing social issues, often with a focus on a particular cause or group. Many NGOs worldwide are committed to youth empowerment, making it their mission to create a brighter future for the younger generation.

Here's how [NGOs in India](#) act as catalysts of positive change in the realm of youth empowerment:

#### 1. Providing Educational Opportunities

NGOs are instrumental in expanding access to education and improving its quality. Through scholarships, mentorship programs, and skills training, they ensure that young individuals have the opportunity to develop their intellectual and personal capabilities.

#### 2. Fostering Economic Inclusion

Many [NGOs](#) for youth empowerment focus on economic empowerment by offering entrepreneurship training, micro-loans, and job placement programs. By providing the tools for financial independence, these organisations help young people break the cycle of poverty.

#### 3. Promoting Health and Well-being

Health is a fundamental component of youth empowerment. NGOs support access to healthcare, promote [mental health](#) awareness, and combat issues such as substance abuse and sexual health concerns. A healthy individual

is better equipped to pursue empowerment opportunities.

#### 4. Encouraging Civic Engagement

Engaging in civic activities is a cornerstone of youth empowerment. NGOs inspire young people to participate in community development, volunteer work, and advocacy, fostering a sense of social responsibility.

#### 5. Mentoring and Personal Development

Many NGOs for youth empowerment offer mentorship programs that help young individuals build their self-esteem, develop life skills, and set and achieve personal goals. These programs empower youth to overcome challenges and setbacks.

### Top NGOs Working For Empowering Youth

#### Akshara Centre

It provides education, skills training and job opportunities for young women from disadvantaged sections of society. It empowers them and encourages them to be financially independent. The NGO has worked tirelessly to give young girls the confidence to fight discrimination and violence and to build their vision of a more equitable society.

#### Pradan

PRADAN which stands for Professional Assistance for Development Action was set up in 1983 by two young professionals Deep Joshi and Vijay Mahajan. They took a novel approach to poverty eradication and empowerment of the youth of India. They came up with the idea of engaging educated youth in rural development activities, thus creating the framework for a symbiotic relationship between the young in urban and rural India.

#### Milaan Foundation

Milaan Foundation stands as one of

the most significant organisations working for the empowerment of young girls in India. The NGO has impacted the lives of over 40,000 girl students in over a decade and continues to expand its programmes across the country.

The NGO believes in ensuring education for girls as a catalyst to enable women to become agents of social change. This will also lead to their development and economic growth. Milaan focuses on educating adolescent girls from marginalised communities as the cornerstone of its 'Girl Icon' programme.

#### Vivekanand Youth Program

The NGO has a wide array of interventions focused on providing education and healthcare to underprivileged children and youth. Vivekananda Youth Forum, in the last 35 years since its inception, has touched the lives of thousands. The NGO has made the teachings of Swami Vivekananda its founding principles

#### Youth India Foundation

At Youth India Foundation (YIF), they are dedicated to empowering youth and fostering positive change. They assist underprivileged students by providing scholarships, mentorship, and career guidance to ensure access to quality education.

As we march towards the 100th anniversary of our independence, let us recognize the power and agency of our youth. They are the torchbearers of our dreams, the harbingers of a radiant future.

To quote former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, "Dream, dream, dream. Dreams transform into thoughts, and thoughts result in action." It is through their dreams and actions that the vision of a Dream India @2047 will be realised.

Let us unite as a nation, inspire the youth, and together forge a path towards a resplendent future where India shines as a beacon of hope and progress.

Source: <https://ngofeed.com/ngos-empowering-youth/>



# Young artist wants to promote digital painting entrepreneurship

**P**ESHAWAR: A young artist has envisioned that digital painting entrepreneurship will get a boost and art lovers should promote it at world level to attract wide spectrum of customers.

Niha Mazhar opened an art display gallery in Deans Trade Centre after having shifted with her family from Lahore a year ago. Within a short span of time, local art lovers thronged her gallery.

She is also a recipient of several awards and commendation certificates.

"It was a tough job to convince my parents that I need their support for launching a display art outlet. Soon I was able to start my dream job. Initially digital painting was just my hobby but Japanese Manga art fascinated me to turn my art fad into a profession, she said.

#### Niha Mazhar has opened an art display gallery in Deans Trade Centre

Ms Mazhar said that it was her dream to become Pakistani number one Mangaka, an expert on Manga art. She regretted that most people unfortunately took 'art' for granted and even degraded artist that was why most young artists remained dormant.

She recalled that she had a penchant for pencil sketch and drawing at her tender age, growing up with different types of experiences with painting. She said



that she ended up with accounting and financing and presently working as manager at a private firm.

The young artist said that she started learning digital art online four years ago and became an expert on its several aspects. She said that the project of opening an art gallery in the city encouraged her to attract online customers and also launched in-person classes for young girls and boys as most emerging artists didn't have the facility of an art studio or a platform where they could learn digital painting.

"On Saturday and Sunday I teach a group of young entrepreneur to learn and market their art pieces online. My online customers are from Gulf States, the USA, UK and Japan. My target market is Japan where Manga, which means all kinds of comics, animations and cartooning are in great demand," said Ms Mazhar.

She said that her job at the display gallery was two layered -- teaching

digital painting including Manga alongside storytelling that should correspond to the art piece. She said that her students included all age groups. She added that digital painting might prove an effective market-oriented online entrepreneurship.

Ms Mazhar claimed that she had a master hand at using all medium of art and colours but digital Manga was her forte. She said that one should exploit her/his talent to the best.

Regarding her future plans, she stated she would open an outlet to be named as Niha Mazhar Academy where she would provide digital services, especially for young girls so that they could learn different skills. "I want to create a non-fungible token where users could buy, sell and trade and own their products," the artist concluded.

Source: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1856242/young-artist-wants-to-promote-digital-painting-entrepreneurship>

# Expediting the Digital Trade Integration of Pakistan and Central Asian Economies



Asif Javed



Vaqar Ahmed

**E**-payment gateways and streamlined customs clearance processes can promote regional collaboration and economic growth in digital trade.

## Introduction

Digital trade integration involves regulatory structures/policy designs, digital technologies, and business processes along the entire global/regional digital value chain (UNESCAP 2021). It requires free cross-border movement of digital products, services, and technologies, manufactured goods, data, capital, talent, and ideas, along with the availability of integrated physical and virtual infrastructure. Hence, digital trade integration requires the removal of digital trade barriers, as well as extensive technology, legal and policy coordination between member states.

The significance of digital trade has increased considerably after the COVID-19 pandemic. (Javed and

Ahmed 2022).<sup>[1]</sup> It highlighted the need for improvements in digital connectivity, ease in regulations, and availability of skilled workers to facilitate trade integration and promote the growth of the e-commerce sector.

A study published by the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC)<sup>[2]</sup> Institute [examined the regional trade agreements of Pakistan and selected Central Asian countries](#)—including Afghanistan,<sup>[3]</sup> Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan—and their relevance to digital trade integration. It also scrutinized the challenges faced by Pakistan's public institutions in implementing digital trade policies (UNESCAP and SDPI 2021).<sup>[4]</sup> It took a closer look at the challenges faced by small and medium enterprises (SMEs) involving digital trade-related products, and recommended plans of action toward achieving successful and sustainable regional digital trade integration.

## Context

Central Asia is home to low- and middle-income countries. Although they do not have competitively available technologies and access to mature value chains, they can attain the benefits from the prospects available through digital trade integration. Businesses, specifically SMEs, can collaborate with global or large firms through digital platforms.

Multilateral cooperation is significant in promoting the digital

revolution and could substantially minimize the amount of public and private investment required for digital trade integration between Pakistan<sup>[5]</sup> and Central Asian countries. CAREC members have introduced laws and policies on e-commerce, but these are not always consistent or in line with best practices (CAREC 2020). Countries that perform well in digital trade and the digital economy can be referred to when developing guidelines to track and boost digital trade, such as adopting emerging technologies, including block chain and artificial intelligence.

## Analysis

A CAREC Institute-published study aimed to find out how regional trade agreements can help narrow the gaps resulting from lack of a multilateral digital trade integration framework. In the initial phase, it explored the trade agreements across Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and how they utilized digital trade. It also examined the potential benefits of regional trade agreements for SMEs involved with digital trade-related products. Fifty SME firms from Pakistan and 50 from selected Central Asian countries in e-commerce and digital trade-related sectors were surveyed. The study then developed an action plan based on information extracted through 20 key informant interviews and two virtual focus group discussions.

Findings showed that regional integration among the selected

countries has increased by 40% since 2010. Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan were the most integrated with the other economies, while Afghanistan and Pakistan were the least integrated. Laws and regulations for electronic transactions were only fully implemented in Uzbekistan, whereas other countries have only partially carried them out.

**The study also indicated that Pakistan and selected Central Asian countries are at different levels of digital adoption, particularly in terms of mobile connectivity, download speed of mobile and broadband, and network readiness. It further reported that Kazakhstan and Pakistan have higher volumes of export and import compared to the others but do not have any major trading partners from the economies selected in the study. This demonstrates the lack of regional cooperation and the need for regional trade agreements to boost bilateral and regional trade.**

A review of Pakistan and the other Central Asian economies' e-commerce laws and domestic policies and measures showed that they are at varying levels in implementing digital trade facilitation measures. Key policy issues that influence digital trade integration include ineffective enforcement of intellectual property rights, foreign investment restrictions in digital space, data and information costs, and cyber security concerns.

## Policy Recommendations

Key recommendations to achieve successful and sustainable regional

digital trade integration while improving regional cooperation include

- improving digital connectivity at home and across borders to help firms reduce costs and increase export volume;
- harmonizing rules, such as customs procedures and regulatory frameworks, to support cross-border digital trade through swift and timely knowledge-sharing between Pakistan and selected Central Asian countries;
- creating a working group dialogue consisting of Pakistan and Central Asian countries, including Afghanistan,

- conducting ICT capacity-building programs for young people, women, and the public, particularly in rural areas, to provide practical training in e-commerce;
- establishing a joint chamber of commerce for promoting business networks and bilateral trade such as the Pakistan Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and

governments investing extensively in education and training in the telecommunications, and technology sectors to overcome the lack of skilled workers and the mismatch between skills and demand.



Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, to enforce a mutual understanding on product standards for trade;

- governments ensuring digital inclusion by reducing the urban-rural divide and integrating it into domestic digital trade policy and regulatory frameworks;
- developing electronic payment gateways and collaborating to establish a regional payment mechanism;

Other suggested initiatives involve establishing and strengthening bilateral and regional trade agreements, such as (i) reducing trade barriers by including provisions for digital trade integration; (ii) integrating IT and telecommunications in global value chains; and encouraging the exchange of goods and services, and economic cooperation in several fields, including e-commerce, trade, investment, transport and communication, and tourism.

Source: <https://development.asia/insight/expediting-digital-trade-integration-pakistan-and-central-asian-economies>

# Plastic pollution: NGO trains, empowers 500 women in FCT

**A**s part of efforts to reduce marine plastic pollution, a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Initiative for Advancement of Waste Management in Africa (WASTE Africa) has trained over five hundred women from various communities in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

The initiative which was supported by Global Environment Facility, Small Grants Programme in Nigeria, (GEF-SGP), was also aimed at reducing marine plastic pollution in Lugbe and Gwagwalada communities, with focus on Rupa River and Usuma River in the FCT.

Speaking at the event in Abuja, the Program Coordinator Waste Africa, Mrs Odhikori Juliet, while lamenting the negative effects of marine pollution, said the oceans could contain more plastic than fish by 2050 if urgent steps were not taken to prevent it.

She said NGOs have collected over 50,000 kg of materials from the recycling efforts of the women.

"And how we wanted to do that was to start community led recycling programs from ten clusters, so we have five recycling clusters in Lugbe Area and five recycling clusters in Gwagwalada area.

"We empowered over five hundred women to start collecting materials, So there are local recyclers who collect materials from their environment, plastics, cans, papers, every recyclable material, and then they earn money from it," she said.

In her remarks, National Coordinator GEF-SGP, Mrs Ibironke Olubamise, lamented the negative impact of



plastic waste on terrestrial and marine environments, adding that it has caused havoc to society and human health.

She added that the program aims to create awareness about the dangers of plastic waste in the environment so as to reduce the menace.

According to her, "One of what we do in our office is to support environmental initiatives, of course, from the GEF small grants program, we call it the small grants because the maximum amount for a regular project is about 50,000 US dollars. and so we support community environmental initiatives to address any of the focal areas of the GEF we have five focal areas of the GEF small grant, biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, chemicals and international waters.

"So this project, it falls under the focal area of international waters, plastic but targeting international

waters. as you have heard in the presentation, we have two international waters in Abuja in a Federal Capital Territory, the idea is to reduce, create awareness about plastic menace in the environment how these plastics are finding their ways into the water bodies"

Mrs Olubamise disclosed that one of strategies of curbing the menace of plastic waste was to incorporate skill acquisition by empowering women.

She said, "One of our strategy is to support pilot projects, when we support pilot projects, and we see the success stories, it is easy for the project to be either replicated or upscale so we also then share the information with other agencies, donors, governments, politicians that are interested, and when they are interested, well, of course, they can always replicate it in other places.

Read more at: <https://blueprint.ng/plastic-pollution-ngo-trains-empowers-500-women-in-fct/>

# NGO Provide Grants For women Towards Waste To Wealth

**A** Non-Governmental Organization Known as Initiative for Advancement of Waste Management in Africa (WASTE Africa) has trained over five hundred women in various communities in the FCT to help manage and reduce marine plastic pollution in their various communities.

The program with support of Global Environment Facility, Small Grants Programme in Nigeria, GEF-SGP, is to reduce marine plastic pollution in Lugbe and Gwagwalada areas, with a focus on Rupa River and Usuma River in the Federal Capital Territory.

Speaking at the event in Abuja, National Coordinator Global Environment Facility, Small grants Programme in Nigeria, GEF-SGP, Mrs Ibironke Olubamise said that waste plastic has become a menace not only on the terrestrial environment, but also on the marine environment in the waters.

She also noted that the menace of waste plastic has caused dangerous havoc to the society and human health.

"One of what we do in our office is to support environmental initiatives, of course, from the GEF small grants program, we call it the small grants because the maximum amount for a regular project is about 50,000 US dollars. and so we support community environmental initiatives to address any of the focal areas of the GEF we have five focal areas of the GEF small grant, biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, chemicals and international waters.

"So this project, it falls under the focal area of international waters, plastic

but targeting international waters. as you have heard in the presentation, we have two international waters in Abuja in a Federal Capital Territory, the idea is to reduce, create awareness about plastic menace in the environment how these plastics are finding their ways into the water bodies". She said.

She said the idea of the program is to reduce, create awareness about plastic menace in the environment, and what can be done to reduce and manage the plastics as necessary.

Mrs Olubamise, further stressed that the program is also to incorporated skill building activity into the project to help the women.

---

**"One of our strategy is to support pilot projects, when we support pilot projects, and we see the success stories, it is easy for the project to be either replicated or upscale so we also then share the information with other agencies, donors, governments, politicians that are interested, and when they are interested, well, of course, they can always replicate it in other places.**

---

"We have seen several of our projects being taken over by embassies, by bilateral donors because they saw that, we have supported these people in only ten communities can we upscale it to hundreds communities, for example. So these are some of the strategy that we use for it to be sustainable and then to expand." She explained

She noted that Global Environment Facility, GEF will continue to work and collaborate with the government to address environmental issues.

According to Mrs Olubamise, "in the marine it's so difficult, number one, because of the peculiarity of the water body, and also because the animals in the marine, what we have found out is that they tend to ingest the plastic thinking that it is food, and we can see what happened in the Presentation inside, whereas a fish or two thought that he was eating, but he was actually eating plastic."

The Program Coordinator Waste Africa Mrs Odhikori Juliet, said Marine pollution harms both land and sea creatures adding that the oceans could contain more plastic than fish by 2050.

She said creating the awareness became imperative, as this would help in 80% reduction in the volume of recyclable waste littering drainage system in the community.

"And how we wanted to do that was to start community led recycling programs from ten clusters, so we have five recycling clusters in Lugbe Area and five recycling clusters in Gwagwalada area."

"We empowered over five hundred women to start collecting materials, So there are local recyclers who collect materials from their environment, plastics, cans, papers, every recyclable material, and then they earn money from it." She said.

She said the goal of the program is also to introduce bodies that have major focus.

Read more at: <https://von.gov.ng/ngo-provide-grants-for-women-towards-waste-to-wealth/>



## FID: Innovations in Food and Agriculture

**S**URREY, United Kingdom -- In the absence of public funding for investment and innovation, the [Fund for Innovation in Development](#) (FID) attempts to meet this need. With a focus on education, health, climate instability and gender equality, the FID's five-stage funding process pays particular attention to projects centering on marginalized territories and populations in medium and low-income countries. Innovative projects, whether put forward by a university, research institute, nongovernmental organization (NGO) or otherwise, are rigorously evaluated through the five-stage process, beginning with funding of €50,000 (about \$55,000)

at the pilot stage and extending to the possibility of a €4 million (\$4.4 million) grant at the final, scaling-up stage. Developments in nutrition and agriculture, which cross-cut multiple focus areas from health to gender equality, have been facilitated through this international funding, proving transformative to the lives of recipients.

### Kenya: Unsold Mangoes

The perfumed air of farms quickly turns sour as the troubles of mango farming manifest themselves: rotting surplus fruit, fruit fly infestations turning mango to mush and exploitative prices. One current proposal, presently in its

first stage of implementation, is the Kenyan enterprise Shambani Pro's project to find value in unsold mango produce. With the potential to transform the lives of [smallholder farmers in Kenya](#), Shambani Pro is looking to overcome the issues with the demand that leaves farmers with significant surpluses of fruit, more often than not, left to rot on trees and in fields. Surplus supply also pushes prices down, depressing the income for farmers.

Thirty percent of all [food is wasted](#) before it ever even reaches the table of consumers and, in Africa, the figures for fruit and vegetable waste extend to more than 40%. As the third largest mango producer in

Africa, many Kenyan smallholders share in this struggle. According to the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute, these smallholders consistently lose between 40% and 45% of their crop each year. This equates to nearly \$1.1 billion in industry losses per annum.

### Differing Strategies

Shambani Pro's proposal tests two different strategies for mitigating this wastage, ensuring that these hundreds and thousands of mangoes are not, year after year, left to rot on trees. Micro-factories will be set up and managed by women to extend the demand for unwanted produce and process it into mango chips that will be sold on the international market. The first model will involve the smallholders directly as they collect the surpluses and process them into mango chips. The second proposal consists of the creation of external operating hubs, employing young people and women to collect and process the mangoes.

Beyond just reducing waste and increasing incomes for smallholders, Shambani Pro's goals are also to improve women's participation in the production process, as well as provide employment opportunities to the nation's youth. These lofty goals that transcend a one-dimensional focus on industry alone reflect the FID's focus on health, gender equality, development and climate.

### Laos: NutriLao

In partnership with the Institute for Research and Development (IRD), Māi Savanh Lao (MSL) has constructed [the NutriLao project](#), aiming to fight [childhood malnutrition in Laos](#). In this Southeast Asian nation, 9% of children younger than 5 experience severe acute malnutrition and more than 30% suffer from chronic malnutrition.

Inspired by similar successful programs in Cambodia and Vietnam, the IRD and MSL are looking to transform the Sacha Inchi nut, "perfectly acclimatized" to the environment in Laos, into Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF). RUTF, [according to the United Nations](#) (U.N.), is defined as "a life-saving essential supply item that treats severe wasting in children" less than 5 years old. IRD and MSL, through their NutriLao program funded by the FID, are looking to produce RUTF from the abundant Sacha Inchi nut, thereby manufacturing a nutritionally dense product to fight the micronutrient deficiencies among a population vulnerable to malnutrition.

Similar to Shambani Pro's proposal, the NutriLao project also takes a gender-sensitive approach, focusing not only on malnutrition and nutrient deficiencies in children but also on anemia in women. Here, one can see, again, the exemplification of a program that has been pushed to consider health, climate and gender in its research project facilitated through international funding.

### Benin: Stimulating Soil Quality

With maize yields declining, the importance of increasing soil quality in Benin is primary, especially as, at the same time, food insecurity in the nation remains a troublesome issue, with 11% of the population being or at risk of being food insecure. While maize is a staple food in the country, projects focusing on increasing its yields may have tremendous advantages for the population.

This is where the Benin NGO Center for Research and Expertise for Local Development (CREDEL) takes its position. In conjunction with the Laboratory of Biology and Molecular Typing in Microbiology

(LBMM) and the National Institute of Agricultural Research of Benin, CREDEL is using the FID's funding to pursue field tests of an indigenous arbuscular mycorrhizal fungus that has been used in [new biostimulant for Benin's soils](#).

**As the FID emphasizes, the health of our soils is paramount for maintaining agricultural productivity. However, with the extensive use of chemical fertilizers, the erosion of soil quality is threatening the sustainability of Benin's soils and agriculture. The aim of this new biostimulant is, in short, to increase soil quality, strengthening the productivity of maize harvest. Through the international funding that FID provided, it will be tested by 200 corn farmers across four cooperatives in the South of Benin with the hopes of providing substantial evidence of its effectiveness.**

### Conclusion

These innovations across three countries are just a brief snapshot of the plethora of projects that the FID's international funding is currently facilitating. Although not every project will be successful, by filling the gap in funding for innovation, the FID nurses a culture of experimentation and invention when it comes to tackling poverty, malnutrition, gender equality and other development issues. This international organization, then, epitomizes the potential that is unlocked through funding innovation with development at its core.

Source: <https://www.borgenmagazine.com/fid/>



# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CHARITY

Website:  
www.ngofeed.com

## International Day of Charity 2024: History, How to Celebrate, Theme, etc.

**I**nternational Day of Charity 2024: It is celebrated globally on September 5th of each year. This unique day serves as a poignant reminder of the importance of kindness, generosity and charitable efforts to raise awareness and provide a platform for charities worldwide to decrease poverty, assist vulnerable communities, and encourage social solidarity. But what does this day represent, and how can we support its goals? In this article, we will explore about International Day of Charity, its history, How to celebrate it, National and International [NGO](#) involvement

and How they work on this day and the various ways we can use NGOs to promote and commemorate charitable causes.

### Table of Contents

- About the International Day of Charity 2024
- History of the International Day of Charity
- International Day of Charity 2024 Theme
- Why Celebrate the International Day of Charity 2024
- How to Celebrate the International Day of Charity 2024
- NGO Involvement and How They Work on the day of Charity.
- How NGOs Work:
- International NGOs involvement
- Conclusion
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- What is the International Day of Charity?

Source: <https://ngofeed.com/international-day-of-charity/>

## Centre asks NGOs to raise awareness on senior citizens' rights during IDOP celebrations

### Synopsis

The government has enlisted NGOs to raise awareness about senior citizens' rights through banners and displays for International Day of Older Persons on October 1. This initiative, part of the Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana, aims to honour senior citizens and promote their social engagement. NGOs will organise activities and must document events for fund reimbursement.

**T**he government has asked NGOs to raise awareness about senior citizens' rights through banners and displays as part of its [International Day of Older Persons \(IDOP\)](#) celebrations on October 1. This initiative, part of the [Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana \(AVYAY\)](#), is aimed at honouring senior citizens and promoting their social engagement, the [Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment](#) said.

Each NGO under the Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens (IPSRC) of the AVYAY scheme has been provided with the funds to organise activities that celebrate and involve the elderly, it added.

In a letter to NGOs working under the umbrella of Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana, the ministry said organisations are required to upload pictures of the events conducted on the occasion within ten days.

The NGOs are also required to submit a detailed report summarising the activities, including a financial statement and participant feedback, according to the letter.

The ministry said it will reimburse the allocated funds of Rs 10,000 per NGO in the next tranche after submission of these reports.



Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/centre-asks-ngos-to-raise-awareness-on-senior-citizens-rights-during-idop-celebrations/articleshow/113740024.cms?from=mdr>

# 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](mailto: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](mailto:editor@thengoworld.com)

# Live For Others



Submit your stories  
for upcoming edition & for queries, suggestion, feedback

[editor@thengoworld.com](mailto:editor@thengoworld.com)