

THE NGO WORLD



**4. ULUSLARARASI
STK FUARI** 2024
IV. International NGO Fair
معرض المنظمات الأهلية الدولي الرابع

21-23 NOVEMBER

ISTABBUL-TÜRKIYE

**Oil execs work
COP29 as NGOs
slam lobbyist
presence**

16

**Smart Village project
to improve life of
people of remote
areas: State Minister**

28

**Marches, events
call for end to
violence against
women**

48

**After 86 Years,
Disabled Workers
Could Finally Receive
Minimum Wage...**

76

Global Good in Focus: Reflection on 4th International NGO Fair Istanbul

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.



The 4th International NGO Fair, held from November 21 to 23, 2024, in the vibrant city of Istanbul, brought together an inspiring assembly of around 200 organizations from across the globe. This monumental event showcased the collective achievements of nonprofits, offering a platform for learning, networking, and fostering collaborations to address the world's pressing challenges. The NGO World had the privilege of being part of this transformative gathering, reaffirming its commitment to making a meaningful impact.

The fair, widely acknowledged for its significance, gained even greater prestige with the presence of the President of Türkiye, who commended the tireless efforts of humanitarian workers. His words of encouragement resonated with all participants, further emphasizing the critical role of civil society in building a just and equitable world.

For The NGO World, the event was an opportunity to share our journey of 14 years of impactful work, including our flagship ZEST educational projects and partnerships with Turkish humanitarian organizations. Our exhibition booth became a hub for exchanging ideas, exploring synergies, and building relationships with like-minded

organizations and individuals passionate about driving change.

The fair underscored the power of collaboration, as visitors and participants engaged in vibrant discussions about innovative solutions to global challenges. It provided a fertile ground for networking and developing partnerships, enabling nonprofits to scale their efforts and create lasting change.

As we reflect on this event, it is evident that such platforms are essential for strengthening the nonprofit sector. They inspire organizations to innovate, amplify their impact, and remain steadfast in their missions.

The NGO World extends its gratitude to the organizers of the 4th International NGO Fair and the President of Türkiye for recognizing the invaluable contributions of humanitarian workers. We remain committed to leveraging the insights and connections gained at the fair to further our mission of transforming lives and creating a better world.

Together, let us continue to celebrate collaboration and innovation in our shared journey toward social good.

Zafar Iqbal

Editor-in-Chief, The NGO World

For queries, suggestion & feedback
editor@thengoworld.com

IN THIS ISSUE...

PHILANTHROPY & NONPROFITS

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| New Humanity NGO elevates GenFest proposals at UNAOC Global Forum | 6 | NGOs' Financial Moves Amid COVID-19 Crisis | 13 |
| NGOs from Troika countries debut joint forum within COP29 in Azerbaijan | 8 | Tech, data collection help NGOs effect social change | 14 |
| British NGO Muslim Hands launches "Solid Waste Management Project" in Mirpur | 9 | Chinese NGO promotes environmental governance in EV sector | 15 |
| NGOs urged to embrace local funding and human rights advocacy | 10 | Oil execs work COP29 as NGOs slam lobbyist presence | 16 |
| NGOs praise UN Working Group ruling and urge immediate release of Moroccan political activist Nasser Zefzafi | 12 | MLA Sri N.A. Haris Launches People's Planet, an NGO for Environmental Conservation | 18 |
| | | Kazakh Activists Launch Global Movement to Save the Caspian Sea | 20 |

SPECIAL REPORT

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------|----|
| IV International NGO Fair 2024 ISTABBUL-TÜRKIYE | 22 |
|----------------------------------------------------|----|

HUMAN RIGHTS

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 40 migrants missing in Mediterranean, rescued girl tells NGO | 26 | Smart Village project to improve life of people of remote areas: State Minister | 28 |
| Unite strengths to abolish forms of modern slavery | 27 | | |

HEALTH

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| No Life Should Be Lost to Poverty: NGO Donates Life-Saving Kits to Hospital | 30 | Rahnuma-FPAP Hosts FP2030 CSOs & Youth Working Group Meeting in Karachi to Strengthen Family Planning and Reproductive Health Efforts | 33 |
| Dhairya NGO Organises Successful Blood Donation Camp at CHC Bambooflat | 31 | Ignoring plastic health impact "delusional", say leading health scientists | 34 |
| NGO performs surgeries | 32 | | |

SOCIAL SECTOR 37

| | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Social Care Sector Will Be Forced To Take Action Unless "Change Comes" | 36 | NGOs play vital role in addressing needs of destitute community, essential they operate with maximal accountability: Sakeena Itoo | 37 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|

SDGs

| | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|---------------------------------------------------|----|
| SDG Impact Standards: An Effective Impact Measurement and Knowledge Management | 38 | Poet Kearls wins 2024 NUGS SDGs Essay Competition | 42 |
| Climate resilience must be integrated into UN Sustainable Development Goals, say experts | 40 | | |

WOMEN

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Haitian women activists join campaign against gender violence | 44 | Status of women development in Pakistan—II | 50 |
| Marches, events call for end to violence against women | 48 | Pakistan can join leading economies with active youth, women participation: Ahsan | 51 |
| Awareness on Safety Laws for Young girls and Women | 49 | | |

YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Scottish Government pledges nearly £2 million to boost Youth Entrepreneurship | 52 | African Youth Tech Venture Entrepreneurs Embark on Groundbreaking Korean Innovation Tour | 57 |
| Male entrepreneurs on decline, youth leader urges action | 53 | Youth Unemployment in Pakistan: Challenges, Impacts, and Strategic Solutions | 58 |
| The 2023 GUESSS Survey on India's Promising Youth Entrepreneurship | 54 | Over 4,000 young entrepreneurs receive grants under YouStart Initiative | 61 |

CLIMATE

| | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| From Bhutan to Nigeria & Kenya, women endure climate change differently than men | 62 | Workshop on Climate Finance and Project Development: Exploring the Role of the Private Sector in Climate Adaptation | 68 |
| How Arctic climate change is reshaping our planet's future | 66 | | |

FUNDS & GRANTS

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----|
| CFAs: USAID/Pakistan Inclusive Water Governance Activity | 69 |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----|

EDUCATION

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| YEFL-Ghana engages stakeholders on promoting inclusive, equitable education | 70 | Dhairya NGO and PS Cyber Crime Conduct Cyber Crime Awareness Program for Students of MES School Bambooflat | 73 |
| Ethiopia Lifts Suspension Of 3 NGOs | 71 | A beacon of hope for marginalised in Rohtas | 74 |
| Climate emergency: children's advocacy NGO against school closures | 72 | | |

TWEETS OF SOCIAL GOOD

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Tweets of Social Good | 75 |
|-----------------------|----|

PWD

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|---------------------------------------------------|----|
| After 86 Years, Disabled Workers Could Finally Receive Minimum Wage Protections | 76 | Disability benefit process 'emotionally draining' | 79 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|---------------------------------------------------|----|

INTERNATIONAL DAY 81

| | | | |
|----------------------------------------|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Human Rights Day: 5 key things to know | 80 | International Human Solidarity Day 2024: Theme and Understand Concept of Solidarity by UN | 82 |
|----------------------------------------|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|

SUBMIT YOUR STORIES

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Your Story, Our Platform: The NGO World Welcomes Your Contributions | 84 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----|

New Humanity NGO elevates GenFest proposals at UNAOC Global Forum

In a world marked by war, crises, and polarization, dialogue and cooperation remain the only paths to peace. With this conviction, *New Humanity* NGO joined the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) Global Forum that convened its Group of Friends at Cascais, Portugal, from November 25th to 27th. Under the theme “United in Peace: Restoring Trust, Reshaping the Future – Reflecting on Two Decades of Dialogue for Humanity,” the event brought together diverse stakeholders—including religious leaders, academics, youth, media, and civil society representatives. High-profile attendees included

António Guterres, UN Secretary-General, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, President of Portugal, the king Felipe from Spain, several current foreign ministers and previous prime ministers of European countries.

New Humanity NGO of the Focolare Movement and member of UNAOC’s Multifaith Advisory Council highlighted the organization’s commitment to fostering a just and united society, where faiths are spaces of encounter and collaboration. Rooted in decades of grassroots initiatives, *New Humanity* bridges local action with international diplomacy to tackle global challenges and promote peace. This participation

underscored the importance of multilateral efforts to restore trust and reshape a future of harmony and collaboration among international institutions, religious organizations and the private sector.

Our commitment

During the Global Forum, Ana Clara Giovanni and André Correia, youth representatives of the Focolare Movement, along with Maddalena Maltese, the main representative of the *New Humanity* NGO in New York, presented the document “*Together to Care – For Our Human Family and Our Common Home*.” This document represents a commitment by the Youth for a United World (Y4UW) to the Pact for

the Future, approved by the United Nations last September.

At *Genfest 2024*, a gathering of 4,000 youth from around the globe held in Brazil, eight hubs of innovation were launched to foster the unity of the human family and care for our common home. These eight United World Communities have consolidated and developed proposals and projects inspired by the spirituality of unity of the Focolare Movement, in alignment with the principles of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights and the UN’s Pact for the Future. These initiatives focus on areas such as sustainable development, climate action, the promotion of peace and human rights, intercultural dialogue, social cohesion, and youth empowerment.

These projects and proposals form the core of the document presented in Cascais. It opens with a letter to UN Secretary-General António Guterres, acknowledging his

tireless efforts to champion peace and sustainable development. Among the key proposals are the establishment of a High-Level Youth Forum to integrate youth perspectives into global decision-making, and preparations for the UN’s 80th anniversary and COP 30, showcasing youth-led solutions for urban sustainability and climate justice.

Presented to Miguel Ángel Moratinos, High Representative for UNAOC, and Felipe Paullier, High Representative for Youth Affairs, the document received enthusiastic support. Both leaders recognized *New Humanity*’s long-standing contributions and expressed interest in further analyzing the proposals. This engagement underscored the pivotal role of youth in shaping policies for a just and sustainable future, strengthening the connection between grassroots actions and international diplomacy.

Next Steps

To expand the reach and effectiveness of this work, United World Ambassadors, a youth network, will play a pivotal role in connecting grassroots initiatives to international frameworks like the United Nations, ensuring that local actions resonate globally.

New Humanity remains committed to bridging grassroots initiatives with high-level organizations, advancing its mission to promote fraternity, dialogue, and sustainable development. The connections established during the UNAOC Global Forum will be instrumental in strengthening the impact of our projects and amplifying the voices of youth worldwide.

Source: <https://www.focolare.org/en/new-humanity-ngo-elevates-genfest-proposals-at-unaoc-global-forum/>





NGOs from Troika countries debut joint forum within COP29 in Azerbaijan



Humay Aghajanova

The agency's Executive Director Aygun Aliyeva mentioned that the forum is a golden opportunity for swapping COP experiences and getting NGOs in on the action regarding result-oriented climate finance.

BAKU, Azerbaijan, November 14. NGOs hailing from the UAE, Azerbaijan, and Brazil have come together to break new ground at their inaugural forum on climate financing in the COP29 Green Zone, Trend reports.

The forum, titled "COP Legacy - Civil Society Discussions on Climate Finance," was organized by the Azerbaijani State Support Agency for NGOs and the Azerbaijani National NGO Forum.

Chairman of the Global Council for Tolerance and Peace of the UAE Ahmed Mohamed Al-Jarwan addressed NGO initiatives related to climate finance during COP28 and emphasized the importance of advancing key issues.

Head of the Planning, Information, and Tourism Development Department of Brazil's Ministry of Tourism Barbara Blaudt Rangel pointed out that Brazil, as the host country for COP30, strives to listen

to and incorporate the approaches of civil society on climate matters.

The forum rolled on with panel discussions, keeping the ball rolling and the conversation flowing.

The first panel, "COP29: Empowering Civil Society in Climate Finance, Inclusivity, and Environmental Governance," was moderated by President of the Arab Platform for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Kamel Essigairi. The speakers included Executive Secretary of the Brazilian Panel on Climate Change and Researcher at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro Andrea Souza Santos, Head of the UAE Climate Network Rasha Bayoumi, and Board Member of the Azerbaijani National NGO Forum Azer Allahveranov.

The second panel, "COP Legacy: Strengthening Civil Society in Climate Finance, Inclusivity, and Environmental Protection," moderated by Chairman of the Azerbaijani National NGO Forum Ramil Iskandarli, featured presentations from Head of the Monitoring and Evaluation Department at the UAE Ministry of Social Development Ahmed Khalifa Al-Shamsi, Climate Director for Brazil at the World Resources Institute Karen Silverwood-Cope, and Brazilian environmental and public health activist Ajaj Rifah.

The first-ever NGO tri-country collaboration was considered an important milestone. During the discussions, representatives of civil society from abroad expressed their gratitude to the Azerbaijani government for the high level of organization of COP29.

To note, the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29), which will run until November 22, opened on November 11 at the Baku Olympic Stadium.

The event is the largest organized by Azerbaijan to date and is the first time the region has hosted the event in Azerbaijan. Within COP29, the highest-level event - the summit of world leaders on climate action - was held on November 12-13.

The main expectation from COP29 is to agree on a fair and ambitious NCQG on climate finance. The COP29 chairmanship has launched 14 initiatives that include linkages between climate action and the Sustainable Development Goals, including green energy corridors, green energy storage, harmony for climate resilience, clean hydrogen, methane reduction in organic waste, action on green digital technologies, and other topics.

British NGO Muslim Hands launches "Solid Waste Management Project" in Mirpur

MIRPUR (AJK), Nov 29 (APP): British-based global NGO, Muslim Hands International has launched a broad-based 'Solid Waste Management Project' in Mirpur, Azad and Jammu Kashmir (AJK), and emerged as a pioneering effort in state aimed at to revolutionizing the way solid waste was collected and managed.

When contacted. Head, Media Wing, Muslim Hands International, Qamar Atta, Raja told APP here that the project had not only focused on the collection of solid waste, but also placed a major emphasis on resource recovery, where the collected waste materials were recycled, reprocessed, and composted for further use.

Elaborating the salient features of the gigantic project, Qamar said that as part of the project, each registered household was provided with two dustbins: one each for kitchen waste and general waste (such as plastics, glass, tin, etc.). These dustbins were provided free of cost to the users, after a minimal monthly service fee was charged for waste collection", he added.

"Segregating waste at the source (households) was key to unlocking the full potential of the recycling and composting processes, ensuring materials were sorted appropriately before processing", he said adding that additionally,

the project team ensured that waste was collected at regular intervals, multiple times a week, guaranteeing consistent service, a cleaner environment, and facilitating the recycling and composting process.



He further said that such initiatives not only would contribute significantly to environmental prosperity but also facilitated a shift from a linear economy to a more sustainable circular economy model, through the reintegration and reutilization of the collected waste materials. "We successfully prepared compost from organic waste, marking a significant milestone toward creating a healthier environment", the media wing head said.

Qamar Atta concluded that in future, this compost would be used in Muslim Hands' plantation drives and distributed among locals to encourage planting.

"It will also serve to foster a sense of achievement among the community members, who will take pride in using compost made from their own waste, further nurturing their responsibility for the environment", he underlined.

Source: <https://www.app.com.pk/domestic/british-ngo-muslim-hands-launches-solid-waste-management-project-in-mirpur/>

NGOs urged to embrace local funding and human rights advocacy

The number of registered NGOs has dropped from over 14,000 in 2019 to around 6,000 this year, leaving many organisations vulnerable to closure because of the decline in foreign aid which has left them struggling to raise funds.

Non-government organisations (NGOs) operating in Uganda have been urged to explore alternative funding models to effectively protect the rights of their beneficiaries.

Stephen Okello, the secretary for the National Bureau of NGOs from the internal affairs ministry says NGOs in Uganda are increasingly depending on external funding, with over 98% of them relying on foreign donations.

"This is a concern because it creates a situation of weak sustainability and if an NGO is fully dependent on donations, it loses its independence. It becomes supply-driven, and that means you cannot negotiate with confidence. You end up dancing to someone else's tune," he said.

Okello was addressing different stakeholders and beneficiaries during the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative's (FHRI) annual general meeting at Human Rights House in Nsambya, Kampala on November 9, 2024.

NGO numbers drop

According to him, the number of registered NGOs has dropped from over 14,000 in 2019 to around 6,000 this year, leaving many organisations vulnerable to closure

because of the decline in foreign aid which has left them struggling to raise funds.

"It's important that they start thinking about self-sustenance through local fundraising as it is in Section 46 of the Act. If you rely solely on external donations, your future is not guaranteed," he added.

He pointed out that the NGO sector's dependency on foreign funding also puts a strain on its ability to advocate for human rights and address urgent local issues.

Enabling environments

Okello's comments come amidst growing concerns about the state of human rights in Uganda, where NGOs often play a critical role in holding the Government accountable and defending marginalised communities.

"The Government is also focusing on creating an enabling environment for NGOs, aiming to provide support and clear pathways for organizations to thrive without over-reliance on international donations," he emphasized.

FHRI executive director Dr Livingstone Sewanyana said NGOs in Uganda are increasingly struggling with a hostile legal and financial environment including the

lack of automatic tax exemptions which severely limits their ability to raise funds.

"NGOs are being forced to pay income and property taxes on funds generated through income-generating activities, despite the fact that this money is reinvested into serving communities," he said.

"The government must recognise that we contribute significantly to the country's development and offer more support, including tax exemptions."

He added that compounding the financial challenges is a lack of local philanthropy, a reason why they continue to rely heavily on international donors, whose contributions have also dwindled in recent years.

"We need a legal framework that allows the Government to directly support these activities, just as donor countries fund their own NGO sectors. We are asking for the opportunity to help Uganda grow into a nation where all citizens can enjoy their human rights, live free from poverty and participate fully in the democratic process," he said.

Josephine Ndagire, the chairperson of the FHRI board of directors said much as NGOs are trying to reduce over-dependency, reforms should be revised for effective work.

"We have invested in properties and shares to help us generate our activities but still, more resources are needed," Ndagire explained.

Human rights crisis

Sewanyana stressed that the human rights situation in Uganda has worsened over the past three years, driven by a complex mix of socio-economic and political challenges.

"The majority of Ugandans continue to live in deep poverty," he said, adding: "Without access to basic needs, they cannot fully participate in decision-making and their voices are stifled".

Accordingly, the widespread poverty means that many Ugandans remain excluded from vital government programmes and policies aimed at socio-economic development despite initiatives such as the Parish Development Model since the poorest are still not benefitting from government programmes, further deepening inequality.

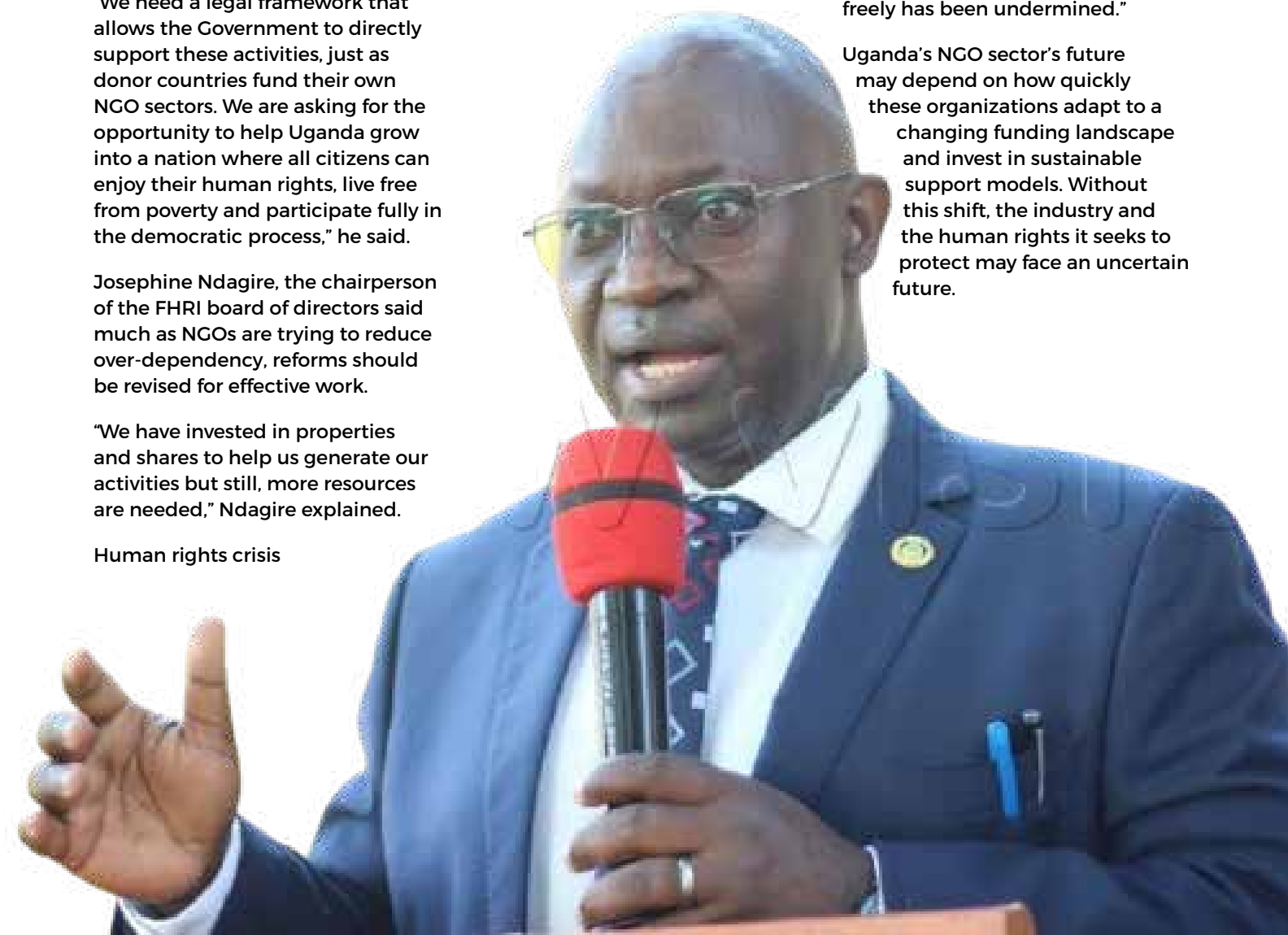
He asked the Government to engage with civil society meaningfully to reduce injustices, with many Ugandans complaining that their legal cases take too long to be heard.

"People are dying before their cases are resolved, which not only undermines justice but also damages citizens' faith in the state," Sewanyana added.

As Uganda heads into the 2026 general election, he noted that citizens disillusioned by past experiences may be disengaged from the political process.

"There is no excitement about the upcoming elections," he said. "The memories of 2021 when the internet was shut down and observers were blocked are still fresh, and many people feel their right to participate freely has been undermined."

Uganda's NGO sector's future may depend on how quickly these organizations adapt to a changing funding landscape and invest in sustainable support models. Without this shift, the industry and the human rights it seeks to protect may face an uncertain future.



NGOs praise UN Working Group ruling and urge immediate release of Moroccan political activist Nasser Zefzafi

Washington, DC and Geneva, Switzerland – The Committee for Justice, Freedom House and MENA Rights Group praised the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention's (WGAD) recently announced Opinion qualifying the detention of Moroccan activist Nasser Zefzafi as arbitrary, and calling on the Moroccan government to take action to release Zefzafi without delay.

Zefzafi is a Moroccan political activist and leader of the 2016-2017 Hirak Rif Movement, which sparked the largest protests in Morocco since 2011. As one of its leaders, Zefzafi advocated for significant reforms, particularly addressing the systemic marginalisation of the Rif people, whom he claims suffer from the "state's policy of neglect".

Zefzafi was arrested on May 29, 2017, and charged with two felonies and seven misdemeanours, including undermining the internal security of the state, contempt of law enforcement officers and participation in an armed rebellion. He stated that he was brutally tortured on the day of his arrest. The charges he faced were linked to his peaceful activism as part of the Hirak Rif Movement.

Along with Zefzafi, hundreds of protesters were imprisoned during the police crackdown which followed the largely peaceful protests. On April 6, 2019, Zefzafi

was sentenced on appeal to 20 years in prison. In 2023, three organisations representing Zefzafi – Committee for Justice, Freedom House and MENA Rights Group – submitted a complaint to the WGAD and requested the group of experts to issue an Opinion on his case. The WGAD concluded that Zefzafi's detention is arbitrary and in violation of international law.

"Zefzafi has been wrongfully detained for more than seven years, and he still has well over a decade left to serve out a sentence that should never have been imposed in the first place," said Brian Tronic, director for the Fred Hiatt Program to Free Political Prisoners at Freedom House. "The international community should remind the Moroccan government of its obligations under international human rights law and urge it to release Zefzafi without delay."

In a recently published opinion, adopted on August 30, 2024, the WGAD found that Zefzafi was detained solely because of his peaceful protest and expression. The WGAD further assessed that the violations of Zefzafi's right to a fair trial were so serious that they rendered his detention arbitrary. The WGAD noted that the government had not demonstrated which measures were taken to investigate his torture allegations, nor did it ensure that information obtained through ill-treatment or torture was used in the prosecution.

In its opinion, the WGAD called on the Moroccan authorities to take the necessary measures to remedy Zefzafi's situation without delay, by immediately releasing him and granting him reparation in accordance with international law. Additionally, the WGAD determined that Zefzafi's detention is not an isolated act but rather part of a pattern targeting him due to his ethnic identity and political activism, amounting to discrimination.

"The Working Group's decision reaffirms that Nasser Zefzafi's imprisonment is a profound violation of fundamental rights," Committee for Justice said. "His detention is emblematic of the wider repression faced by those who peacefully demand justice and equality. We urge Moroccan authorities to release Zefzafi without delay, grant him reparations, and address the systemic injustices that allowed this to occur. This case is a test of Morocco's commitment to upholding its international human rights obligations and respecting the voices of its citizens."

The Moroccan authorities must now send the WGAD their observations on how they intend to implement the recommendations contained in the decision.

Read more at: <https://freedomhouse.org/article/ngos-praise-un-working-group-ruling-and-urge-immediate-release-moroccan-political-activist>

NGOs' Financial Moves Amid COVID-19 Crisis

During economic, political, or other crises, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) often experience a heightened need for their support and assistance. Yet, the recent global crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic presented unexpected challenges to the NGOs: restrictions on movement imposed by governments prevented them from carrying out their activities and providing certain services. Moreover, despite the increase in demand for NGO services, organisations have faced the problem of raising funding, as some of the usual methods of fundraising have become impossible.

"For these reasons, some organisations decided to "wait out" the difficult period, thinking that things will soon return to "normal". While others have managed to continue their activities and even to improve their financial results," says Dr Šviesa Leitonienė, a researcher at the KTU School of Economics and Business.

She explains that examining such success stories was the main purpose of the study conducted by an international team of researchers from Lithuania, Poland and Croatia universities. The scientists believe that finding out what solutions helped NGOs raise funds and successfully carry out their activities during the COVID-19 pandemic would be very useful while preparing for future crises.

Lessons learned during COVID-19 are used by NGOs to fundraise for Ukraine

She notes that NGOs work to

promote the interests of society, focusing on issues and needs that the government and business sectors cannot address. For this reason, the importance of NGOs' activities increases in difficult times. However, Dr Leitonienė adds, that in times of crisis, NGOs also face certain challenges, such as attracting additional funding.

"It is important to explore how NGOs adjust their activities and overcome the difficulties they face. Differently from most of the research in this field, we focus on examining the success stories – that is, finding out how and with what solutions NGOs were able to raise funds and successfully carry out their activities during the COVID-19 pandemic," explains Dr Leitonienė.

She believes that the findings might be useful for NGOs to prepare for future crises. According to the KTU researcher, NGOs' flexibility such as their ability to attract additional funding by working closely with the government, founding companies, and donors and by carrying out joint projects with other NGOs is an important indicator of their resilience.

"For example, virtual fundraising, which was introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic, has been successfully used to raise funds to address the problems related to the war in Ukraine today," says Dr Leitonienė.

Among success factors – collaboration, virtual fundraising and publicity

The study analysed 240 NGOs from four countries: Poland,

Lithuania, Croatia, and the United Kingdom. Each country contributed 60 organisations to the research sample. The study focused on comparing revenues from two periods (2019 and 2020) to determine the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the organisations.

Using a mixed-method approach – content analysis of NGO financial reports and statistical methods, including logit regression – changes in financing models and critical success factors, and their interrelationships were established.

The study revealed that although some NGOs managed to achieve better financial results, i.e. to maintain the same level of funding or even to increase it, they didn't achieve their objectives.

"This does not mean, that NGOs received more money while carrying out fewer activities. It simply means that the NGO carried out other activities or in a different way than planned," explains the KTU's School of Economics and Business researcher.

She says that many of the financially successful NGOs linked their activities to the societal problems caused by the COVID-19 pandemic instead of focusing on their previous objectives. Moreover, the transfer of activities online was not always possible or did not ensure the previous quality of services or advice.

Read more at: <https://www.miragenews.com/ngos-financial-moves-amid-covid-19-crisis-1375083/>

Tech, data collection help NGOs effect social change

In April 2022, the multi-sector partnership Thrive by Five, led by the Department of Education and DataDrive2030, released their wide-ranging 2021 Thrive by Five Index, the largest open-source data set in the country of preschool child development according to early learning, physical growth and social-emotional wellbeing.

Some of the findings included:

- * 43% of four-to-five-year-old children are on track in both growth and early learning, while 53% face barriers to thriving, followed by 4% who are not on track for either;
- * On average, 45.7% of children are on track in terms of gross motor development, fine motor co-ordination, emergent numeracy and mathematics, cognition and executive function, and emergent literacy and language, while 26.3% are falling behind, with a further 28% falling further behind; and,
- * In terms of social relations with peers and adults, 72.5% of surveyed children achieved an expected score, opposed to 27.5% who did not. 66.6% of children were found to be emotionally ready for school, while 33.4% did not achieve the expected score for this indicator.

"Poor data collection and mismanagement have real-life consequences," comments Stefan Gerber, co-founder at Tregter. "The failure of US banks to collect accurate credit data on borrowers,



outdated or incomplete data used in risk models, accurate data on the true value and risk of these assets not collected or made available, with regulators flying blind when trying to scope the financial terrain for any risks were major contributing factors to the 2008 financial crisis, of which the consequences were felt for many years thereafter."

However, data collection failures are also counterweighted by data collection successes. An example of this is the data from ThriveByFive Index is a game changer for the education and child health sectors, as it provides concrete information that can be used at scale.

"Data sets which include these rich qualitative data insights are critical for the operations of the government and the NGO

environment. Without hard data, evidence-based decisions cannot be made, and effective resource allocation cannot be rolled out. We see this in local projects and widely scaled programmes", added Jessica Ronaasen, national lead of the Do More Foundation.

However, most importantly, using reliable data can improve the living conditions of South Africans over time. Ronaasen qualifies that "data equips decision-makers to identify trends and anticipate future challenges, enabling targeted responses to areas of need. For example, the ThriveByFive data revealed that 9% of children surveyed in the Eastern Cape are short for their age due to chronic malnutrition. Insights like these empower government, NGOs and businesses to channel resources effectively, to address specific bottlenecks and challenges for areas that are identified by the data."

Further to this, polling data can assist in better understanding an

individual community's unique needs and circumstances in order to provide tailored solutions.

"Digital platforms like WhatsApp and Telegram can serve as a revolutionary vehicle for social impact organisations to gather more information from the public and improve outcomes," Gerber says. "Especially in more rural and poorer areas, where technology use is largely limited to an entry-level smartphone.

"AI-driven chatbots capable of managing dynamic human-like conversations in several languages can be hosted on these digital platforms in gathering more granular information from community members, especially because it has the capabilities of guiding the conversation to seek out the needed information, as well as analyse other media such as images or voice notes. AI automation can take this data and assist in analytics while also allowing for scalability in the future," he adds.

With accurate data, organisations gain more credibility and can build partnerships more easily to ensure the highest level of impact and efficiency. This includes leveraging programmatic and operational data alongside national index data to provide a comprehensive understanding of needs, measure progress effectively, and align interventions with broader strategic goals, ensuring that resources are allocated where they are most impactful.

Gerber concludes: "Data is a tool for success. Without it, other functions of any organization or even society for that matter, cannot operate seamlessly. In a data-driven age, it is vital for humanity to continue working effortlessly to scale up data collection if we are to see positive radical change in the lives of society's most vulnerable."

Chinese NGO promotes environmental governance in EV sector

in Baku, Azerbaijan, bringing together representatives from companies, governments and non-governmental organizations to explore practical solutions to address climate issues.

Invited by the China Environmental Protection Foundation, Tan Liya, director of GreenAnhui Environmental Protection Center, joined four other Chinese peers at the China pavilion event to share her expertise in promoting environmental governance within the new energy vehicle sector.

Tan delivered a keynote speech highlighting GreenAnhui's research in the environmental challenges facing the new energy vehicle industry. Her recommendations included: assisting companies in better aligning with international environmental, social and governance standards to ensure emission compliance and global competitiveness; guiding companies within new energy supply chains to create scientific carbon neutrality road maps; supporting carbon inventories and emissions management systems, etc.

China pavilion event, hosted by the Chinese delegation, focused on the theme "Empowering Climate Action: Chinese NGOs

in Action." It was co-organized by the China Environmental Protection Foundation, the China Association for NGO Cooperation, and the Society of Entrepreneurs and Ecology Foundation.

As one of China's environmental NGOs, GreenAnhui has been engaged in works concerning chemicals management, waste reduction, energy governance, and climate change mitigation. The organization provides research insights and technical recommendations to refine environmental policies, many of which have been incorporated into national legislation.

GreenAnhui collaborates with high-tech enterprises and industrial parks, delivering training to promote clean technologies such as carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS); green electricity and hydrogen applications; and circular production systems. These initiatives have supported over 100 enterprises in adopting sustainable commercial practices.

Source: <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202412/08/WS67558512a310f1265a1d1bbf.html>

Oil execs work COP29 as NGOs slam lobbyist presence

Oil executives descended on the COP29 talks in Baku for “energy day” on Friday as environmental groups denounced the presence of fossil fuel industry lobbyists at the U.N. climate talks.

While negotiators haggle behind closed doors on the key task of increasing climate funds for developing nations, executives from top oil firms including France’s TotalEnergies are holding events.

The “Kick the Big Polluters Out” (KBPO) coalition of NGOs analyzed accreditations at the annual climate confab, calculating that more than 1,700 people linked to fossil fuel interests are in attendance.

“It’s like tobacco lobbyists at a conference on lung cancer,” David Tong from campaign group Oil Change International told AFP.

The presence of oil, gas, and coal interests at the climate talks has long been a source of controversy.

The appointment of UAE state oil firm head Sultan Al Jaber to the presidency of last year’s negotiations in Dubai was a lightning rod for criticism.

And this year’s host, energy-rich Azerbaijan, launched a defense

of planet-heating fossil fuels, with President Ilham Aliyev on Tuesday repeating his insistence that oil, gas, and other natural resources are a “gift of God.”

“It’s unfortunate that the fossil fuel industry and the petrostates have seized control of the COP process to an unhealthy degree,” former U.S. Vice President and leading climate activist Al Gore said Thursday.

While the Dubai summit produced a global agreement on “transitioning away” from fossil fuels, the follow-up commitment “has been very weak” and the issue “is hardly even mentioned” at COP29, he said.

“I have to think that one of the reasons for that is that the petrostates have too much control over the process,” he said.

‘No longer fit for purpose’

A group of leading climate activists and scientists warned Friday that the COP process was “no longer fit for purpose.”

In a letter signed by figures including former U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, they urged smaller, more frequent meetings with greater accountability and

strict criteria for host countries.

They also called for rules to ensure companies showed clear climate commitments before being allowed to send lobbyists to the talks.

KBPO said Japan brought employees of coal giant Sumitomo as part of its delegation, Canada included oil producers Suncor and Tourmaline, and Italy brought employees of energy giants Eni and Enel.

However, some of those on the NGO list work for companies that are not primarily fossil fuel-related, including Danish offshore wind champion Orsted.

A spokesman for TotalEnergies said the firm is on track to achieve its “ambitious” emission reduction targets, and that its employees had no access to negotiations.

Some 53,000 people have registered to participate in COP29 in Baku, not including technical and support staff, according to the U.N.

The top priority at the talks is to agree on a new figure for climate finance to help developing countries adapt to climate change and transition their economies away from fossil fuels.

Rich nations are reluctant to spend much more than the \$100 billion a year already committed, conscious of domestic publics angry about inflation and stuttering economies.

But developing countries warn they need at least \$1 trillion to defend against the ravages of climate change and meet commitments to reach net-zero emissions.

Negotiators are struggling to wrangle a draft text into workable form before ministers arrive next week to start nailing down a deal.

Hanging over proceedings is the question of what role the United States will play on climate action and funding after Trump returns to the White House in January.

He has pledged to again withdraw from the landmark Paris Agreement, raising questions about how much U.S. negotiators can really promise and deliver in Baku.

But Gore insisted that “there is so much more momentum that even a new Trump administration is not going to be able to slow it down much,” echoing the line from other Americans at the talks.

Source: <https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/oil-exec-work-cop29-as-ngos-slam-lobbyist-presence-202659>



MLA Sri N.A. Haris Launches People's Planet, an NGO for Environmental Conservation

A new era of conservation begins with the 'Reclaim Bengaluru' campaign, focused on reforestation, urban renewal, and the pledge to plant one million saplings by 2025, in collaboration with the N.A. Haris Foundation

Bengaluru (Karnataka) [India], December 13: [People's Planet](https://www.peoplesplanet.in), an NGO dedicated to environmental conservation, was launched in November 2024. The inaugural event took place at St. Joseph's University, Bengaluru, and was graced by the Chairman of BDA and MLA, Sri N.A. Haris, Environmentalist - Amith Hegde, and Actor - Shreyash Suri. This initiative, in collaboration with the NA Haris Foundation, marks a significant step in advancing reforestation, community

education, and sustainable practices across India. The event also honored Mr. Vadayakkandy Narayanan, Environmentalist, and Mr. Mohamed Wazeer, Co-founder of Treetag for their contributions in this space.

Bengaluru has seen notable changes to its landscape over the past five decades, losing approximately 30 square kilometers of green cover per year due to rapid urban expansion. In response, People's Planet introduced its 'Reclaim Bengaluru' initiative during

the inaugural event, a campaign dedicated to restoring the city's lost greenery. With urbanization dramatically altering Bengaluru's landscape and impacting biodiversity, air quality, and overall quality of life, the initiative aims to counteract these effects through active reforestation efforts and urban greening initiatives.

People's Planet is unique in its approach to conservation. It empowers local communities to take ownership of environmental initiatives while using technology to

ensure transparency. For example, every tree planted is geo-tagged to provide detailed tracking and documentation. This process commenced with the first sapling planted by Sri. N.A. Haris at the St. Joseph's University campus. The NGO's initiatives include tree planting, clean-up campaigns, community workshops on sustainable practices, and advocacy efforts aimed at influencing environmental policies.

Planting the first of many saplings, Sri N.A. Haris said, "Today, we take a significant step toward securing a greener future. Planting trees is not just about preserving nature; it is about safeguarding our communities, our health, and our planet. Let this initiative inspire every individual to take action. Together, we can build a sustainable tomorrow for future generations"

'Reclaim Bengaluru' will extend to multiple locations across the city, including Jayanagar, Anjanapura, Indiranagar, Sadashivanagar, HRBR Layout, Vishweshwaraiah Layout, Koramangala, and many more, primarily focusing on areas under the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA). This initiative is a key part of People's Planet's broader mission to plant one million trees across India by 2025, uniting communities from all walks of life in the journey to restore Bengaluru's ecological balance and natural beauty. More than just planting trees, Reclaim Bengaluru is about building awareness, fostering community involvement, and inspiring action.

The driving force behind People's Planet is Jayani Bennheim, an entrepreneur and philanthropist, whose vision and passion for the planet led to the creation of this

community-driven initiative. She is a modern industrialist, social activist, and GGA Ambassador for India since 2016. Her projects have spanned reforestation, including planting one lakh tree saplings annually, education, providing essential healthcare, and establishing community-based education centers.

"Our inspiration stems from the urgent need to address alarming climate issues and local environmental degradation. People's Planet focuses on engaging communities to ensure our efforts are sustainable and impactful," says Jayani Bennheim, Founder of People's Planet. "With Reclaim Bengaluru, we are taking decisive steps to restore the city's green cover by planting native trees and empowering local communities to take charge of their environment. Bengaluru's green identity has been diminished by urbanization, and this initiative sets in motion real change that will inspire other cities across India to follow suit."

As part of its mission, People's Planet is actively working to expand its reach across India, with a focus on regions most affected by deforestation and environmental degradation. Over the next three years, the NGO plans to establish partnerships with local communities and corporations, aiming to foster a global movement for environmental conservation.

To learn more about how you can get involved or contribute to the 'Reclaim Bengaluru' initiative, visit www.peoplesplanet.in

About People's Planet:

People's Planet is a community-driven NGO dedicated to environmental conservation, with a focus on reforestation, education, and sustainable practices. Established by a group of socially responsible individuals in 2016

and officially registered as a legal entity in 2024, the organization is committed to restoring ecosystems and empowering communities across India to take action against climate change. Through various initiatives, People's Planet fosters local engagement while leveraging technology, including geo-tagging, for transparency and impact tracking. With a mission to inspire collective action and protect the environment for future generations, People's Planet aims to lead a national movement in reforestation and environmental advocacy.

About Jayani Bennheim:

Jayani Bennheim, CEO of the Bennheims Group, is instrumental in shaping the company's strategic direction with a strong emphasis on sustainability and ethical business practices. As the founder and trustee of People's Planet, she furthers her commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable development. Her integrated approach to environmental management and corporate growth has established her as a leading figure in the industry.

Recognized as a modern industrialist, social activist, and philanthropist, Jayani has made notable contributions across sectors, including Pharmaceuticals, Renewable Energy, Healthcare, Luxury Assets, and Cosmetics. Her exemplary leadership has earned her a place on Forbes India's 100 Most Powerful Women list in 2024, as well as prestigious awards such as Times of India's Business Woman of the Year 2024 and the Business Excellence Woman Award in 2023. Since 2016, she has also served as a GGA Ambassador for India, leveraging her business acumen to drive sustainable initiatives and advocate for positive environmental change.

Source: <https://up18news.com/mla-sri-n-a-haris-launches-peoples-planet-ngo-for-environmental-conservation/>

Kazakh Activists Launch Global Movement to Save the Caspian Sea

Kazakh environmental activists, scientists, and thought leaders are calling on the international community to address the unfolding ecological crisis of the Caspian Sea with the launch of a new global movement, Save the Caspian Sea.

Once the largest enclosed inland body of water, supporting over 270 million people across Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Iran, and Azerbaijan, the Caspian Sea is now in peril. Water levels are dropping at an alarming rate of 70 centimeters per year, with parts of Kazakhstan already witnessing shoreline retreats of up to 18 kilometers. By the end of the century, the sea could shrink by another 18 meters, bringing catastrophic consequences to coastal communities, local economies, and ecosystems dependent on this vital resource. The crisis is already evident in the mass die-off of rare Caspian seals, with over 4,000 carcasses discovered in just the past two years, a grim indicator of the environmental disaster unfolding.

"Despite years of discussions, conferences, and isolated NGO efforts, the situation is worsening. The Caspian Sea is at a critical turning point, and the choices we make now will define its future. It's time for all stakeholders—governments, industries, and communities—to come together in a coordinated effort to safeguard

this unique and vital ecosystem," said Vadim Ni, environmental and climate law attorney, director of the Social and Environmental Fund, and founder of Save the Caspian Sea. "We are committed to fostering collaboration, transparency, and meaningful investments to ensure the Caspian Sea remains a source of life and prosperity for generations to come."

The movement draws strength from its global network of partners and supporters. Among them are Kate Watters of Crude Accountability, Galina Chernova of NGO Globus Centre for Environmental Law Initiative, and Tatyana Sedova from the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). These partners bring expertise in corporate accountability, biodiversity conservation, and transparent governance to the campaign. "We are leveraging global expertise and resources to address this crisis and demand justice, transparency, and preservation for one of the world's most significant ecosystems," said Kate Watters, Executive Director of Crude Accountability.

Speaking at the movement's launch event, Galina Chernova, a leading environmental expert and a key advocate for the campaign, emphasized the urgency of global action. "The Caspian Sea is not just a regional issue; it is a global crisis. What happens here affects ecosystems, economies, and people far beyond its shores. We are at a

Kazakh environmental activists, scientists, and thought leaders are calling on the international community to address the unfolding ecological crisis of the Caspian Sea with the launch of a new global movement, Save the Caspian Sea.

crossroads. This campaign is not just about saving water or wildlife—it's about protecting livelihoods, cultural heritage, and the natural balance of our planet. Together, we can turn the tide."

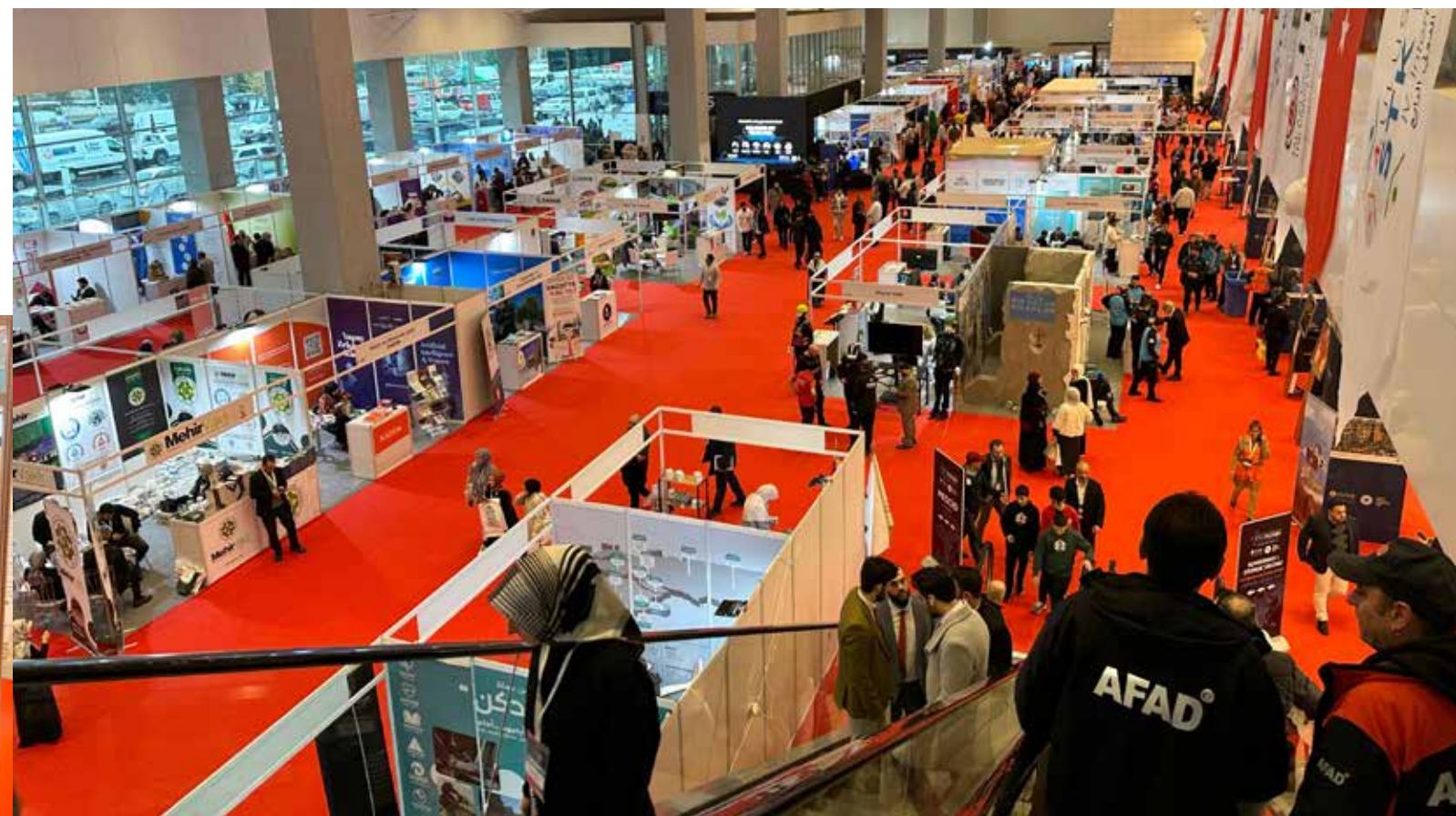
As part of its action plan, Save the Caspian Sea will focus on coordinating and promoting conservation research to inform sustainable policies and practices. The movement will also prioritize fundraising for restoration initiatives aimed at mitigating biodiversity loss and reversing environmental degradation. Additionally, it will organize international events and awareness campaigns to engage stakeholders and amplify the urgency of protecting the Caspian Sea. Finally, it seeks to develop partnerships with governments, NGOs, and corporations to foster collaborative solutions.

Save the Caspian Sea aims to engage millions worldwide through a global awareness campaign, amplified by the hashtag #SaveTheCaspian across social and traditional media platforms. By galvanizing public support, the movement seeks to pressure decision-makers into prioritizing urgent preservation efforts for this critical ecosystem.

Source: <https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2024/12/16/kazakh-activists-launch-global-movement-to-save-the-caspian-sea/>



4. ULUSLARARASI
STK FUARI 2024
 IV. International NGO Fair
 معرض المنظمات الأهلية الدولي الرابع
 21-23 NOVEMBER ISTABBUL-TÜRKIYE





During the NGO Fair 2024 in Istanbul, Mr. ZAFAR IQBAL, presented a booklet highlighting the joint projects between [The NGO World Foundation](#) and [Deniz Feneri Derneği](#) a renowned humanitarian organization in Turkey, to its President, Mr. Mehmet Cengez. Since 2010, both organizations have collaborated on numerous initiatives, including disaster relief, seasonal programs, orphan support, and health-related actions aimed at improving community welfare. This successful partnership has significantly impacted thousands of people in need across Pakistan, exemplifying the power of international collaboration in addressing social challenges and fostering sustainable development for vulnerable communities.



Mr. ZAFAR IQBAL, Chairman of The NGO World, held a strategic meeting with Madam Gamze Özçelik, president of Umuda Koşanlar Derneği, a renowned Turkish organization. The discussion centered on ongoing projects and future collaborative opportunities to advance social good initiatives. Her team actively participated, offering valuable input to ensure the effective implementation of joint efforts. This engagement further solidified the partnership between The NGO World and Umuda Koşanlar Derneği, underscoring their shared commitment to impactful humanitarian endeavors.

Mr. Zafar Iqbal also presented her "Brotherhood for Social Good"... [#Istanbul](#)



December 5, 2024, The NGO World's Founder, Mr. Zafar Iqbal, visited the headquarters of Valide İnsani Yardım Derneği in [hashtag#Istanbul](#) and met its President, Muhammed Faruk Pirdal. They discussed mutual partnerships for social good and future plans to serve underserved communities. Mr. Zafar Iqbal also presented "Brotherhood for Social Good," a report highlighting the impactful projects executed in collaboration with Turkish organizations since 2010, emphasizing shared dedication to humanitarian and development causes.

40 migrants missing in Mediterranean, rescued girl tells NGO

ROME: More than 40 migrants are feared dead off Italy's Lampedusa after a lone 11-year-old survivor said the boat she was on capsized, a rescue group said on Wednesday.

"We assume that she is the only survivor of the shipwreck and that the other 44 people drowned," said Compass Collective, which assists in migrant rescue missions in the Mediterranean.

The group's Trotamar III vessel "heard the calls in the darkness" of the girl Wednesday morning at approximately 2:20 am (0120 GMT) while heading to another emergency.

"The 11-year-old girl, originally from Sierra Leone, had been floating in the water for three days with

two improvised life jackets made from tire tubes filled with air and a simple life jacket," the group said in a statement.

Mauro Marino, a doctor who examined her, told the Repubblica daily that he believed the girl was in the sea for some 12 hours.

The girl told rescuers that the metal boat left from Sfax, Tunisia, but sank in a storm.

"The girl had no drinking water or food with her and was hypothermic, but reactive and oriented," Compass Collective said.

A spokeswoman for Mediterranean Hope, another charity, told AFP the girl was recuperating in hospital after her rescue.

Source: <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1260732-40-migrants-missing-in-mediterranean-rescued-girl-tells-ngo>

Unite strengths to abolish forms of modern slavery

Although the system of slavery was abolished many years ago, various forms of modern slavery still persist around the world, influenced by factors such as religion, racism, and lifestyle in the society.

Currently, people around the world are seeking employments to support their families and earn an income. In this pursuit, many people unexpectedly fall victim to varieties of modern slavery. Both men and women become targets of forced labour and forced marriage. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), forced labour and forced marriage have increased significantly over the past five years. In 2021, a total of 10 million more people were trapped in modern slavery compared to 2016, bringing the global total to 50 million. Women and children are still disproportionately vulnerable.

Although modern slavery isn't legally defined, it is an umbrella term encompassing practices like forced labour, debt bondage,

forced marriage, and human trafficking. It refers to situations where individuals are exploited and unable to escape due to threats, violence, coercion, deception, or abuse of power. Modern slavery exists in nearly every country and spans ethnic, cultural, and religious boundaries. According to a United Nations press release, over half (52 per cent) of forced labour and a quarter of forced marriages occur in upper-middle-income or high-income countries.

Currently, the Myanmar government has established relevant law enforcement bodies to combat modern slavery. These law enforcement bodies have saved many people for their lives and prestige from those engaging in the modern slavery.

These authorities are taking action against offenders involved in trafficking, forced labour, and forced marriage. Deterrent measures are being imposed on those who exploit labour, manipulate individuals, and violate fundamental labour

rights. Additionally, authorities are addressing money laundering linked to the illegal profits generated from modern slavery activities.

The theme for the 2024 International Day for the Abolition of Slavery is 'Creating Global Freedom: Countering Racism with Justice in Societies and Among Nations'. Observed on 2 December yearly, the day focuses on ending contemporary forms of slavery.

While efforts to commemorate the abolition of slavery may not fully eradicate all forms of slavery, they contribute to raising public awareness about the dangers of modern slavery. This awareness can inspire new ideas for combating the chains of modern slavery, offering hope that future generations can live free from exploitation and harm and have a safe society.

Source: <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/unite-strengths-to-abolish-forms-of-modern-slavery/>

Smart Village project to improve life of people of remote areas: State Minister



SIALKOT, Dec 14 (APP): Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja has said that the aim of the Smart Village project under the government's Digital Pakistan vision is to digitally connect remote and rural areas with internet connectivity, so that the quality of life of the people improves and it becomes easier to resolve daily issues including health and education digitally.

There is no shortage of talent and skills among the young population of Pakistan, but there is a need to highlight their talents. The Smart Village project will play a significant role in bringing forward talented youth and solving the daily problems of the residents of the area. She stated this while addressing the inauguration ceremony of Asia's first smart village project in the village of Roras, Sialkot, as the chief guest. Shaza Fatima Khawaja said that this pilot project has been launched in collaboration with the Ministry of Information, International Telecom Union, Huawei, Bedari NGO and Tele-Education at the Roras village, located in tehsil Sambrial, 15-km from Sialkot. She said that the duration of completion of the project will be six months and 100 girls and boys will be given business and computer skills courses at the Digital Village Center, which would provide employment opportunities for them and is part of Pakistan's Smart Villages project. Shaza Fatima Khawaja said that Pakistan is the first country in the Asia-Pacific countries where e-village facilities are being provided. "Our commitment is to connect the people living in our villages and remote areas to the digital world," she added.

She said that the provision of digital facilities related to health and education in Roras is the first step. It is a good sign that the provision of modern computer lab and virtual education is going to be started in the secondary school for girls in Roras village. She said that in view of the difficulties in providing medical facilities, digital medical consultancy facilities are also being provided. She said that the initiatives of the International Telecom Union, Huawei Pakistan, Tele-Education, Bedari NGO and the Department of Education for the project are commendable. Similar smart village projects will soon be launched in all four provinces, she added.

Regional Director International Telecommunication Union Atsuko Okuda said, "The Smart Village Pakistan initiative promotes a complete government approach to bring the benefits of digital transformation in sectors such as health, education and agriculture to rural and remote communities".

Huawei Technologies Pakistan Samar Abbas said that the challenges that come with digitalization are immense but the opportunities in Pakistan are even greater. Digitalization is essential for competitiveness, which represents an incentive to enhance the ability to play a more important role in the international community. Regional Director International Telecommunication Union Atsuko Okuda along with Director Ministry of Information Technology Hammad Waseem, Executive Director Bedari NGO Arshad Mehmood Mirza and Vice Chairperson Hina Noreen inaugurated the Smart Classroom and Digital Village Center at Government Girls High School Roras.

Source: <https://www.app.com.pk/national/smart-village-project-to-improve-life-of-people-of-remote-areas-state-minister/>



No Life Should Be Lost to Poverty: NGO Donates Life-Saving Kits to Hospital

The First Call Aid Charitable Foundation has stepped in to tackle Nigeria's healthcare crisis, donating critical emergency medical, surgical, and dialysis kits to the National Hospital, Abuja.

The initiative aims to address the financial barriers preventing many Nigerians from accessing life-saving care.

Speaking at the foundation's launch in Abuja, Mrs. Khadija Fashina, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, revealed that her passion for emergency care advocacy stemmed from a personal tragedy. She recounted a road accident 15 to 20 years ago involving her drivers, where two lives were lost due to inadequate emergency response.

"I spent almost 24 hours at the emergency department and witnessed heartbreaking scenes. People in desperate need couldn't get help, and lives were lost due to a lack of timely intervention," Fashina shared.

Fashina highlighted the harsh reality that many Nigerians live on less than ₦1,000 daily, making essential medical kits unaffordable. Dialysis kits cost around ₦60,000, surgical kits range from ₦10,000 to ₦15,000, and even basic medical kits cost ₦5,000 – prices well beyond the reach of many.

In response, the foundation launched an initiative to supply categorized emergency kits to public hospitals, aiming to reduce preventable deaths. "We need everyone to partner with us. No Nigerian should die because they can't afford emergency care," Fashina urged.

She also raised alarm over the rising cases of chronic kidney disease among young Nigerians, linking it to the consumption of adulterated alcohol. Fashina called on the youth to adopt healthier habits to avoid these life-threatening conditions.

"Our mission is to build a healthcare system where no life is lost unnecessarily due to financial

constraints. Together, we can create a future where accessibility and affordability are guaranteed for all," she concluded.

Commending the foundation's efforts, Professor Muhammad Raji Mahmud, Chief Medical Director of the National Hospital, represented by Dr. Abba Badamosi, emphasized the need for partnerships to meet the healthcare demands of over 20 million Nigerians.

"The government is making strides in providing resources, but more support is needed," Dr. Badamosi said, calling on individuals and corporate bodies to ease the financial burden on patients.

With this donation, First Call Aid Charitable Foundation hopes to ignite collective action toward a more equitable healthcare system, ensuring no life is lost to poverty.

Source: <https://radionigeria.gov.ng/2024/12/01/no-life-should-be-lost-to-poverty-ngo-donates-life-saving-kits-to-hospital/>

Dhairya NGO Organises Successful Blood Donation Camp at CHC Bambooflat

Campbell Bay, 01 December 2024. A successful blood donation camp was organised on 30th November 2024, at the Community Health Center (CHC) in Bambooflat by Dhairya NGO, in collaboration with the Andaman & Nicobar AIDS Control Society and the Blood Bank. The event received an overwhelming response, with numerous young individuals actively participating in the life-saving cause by donating blood.



The camp underscored the critical role blood donation plays in saving lives and strengthening the community. Organizers emphasised the importance of regular blood donation, particularly by the youth, to ensure a steady supply of blood for patients in need. The success of the event highlighted the growing awareness about this vital cause in the region.

Ms. Mariyam Bibi, Secretary of Dhairya NGO, and Abdul Sajid (Sajid Shan), Vice President of the organisation, expressed their deep appreciation for the medical staff, volunteers, and donors who contributed to the event's success. They also reaffirmed their commitment to organising future blood donation drives, which aim to address healthcare challenges and raise awareness about the life-saving benefits of blood donation.

Blood donation offers numerous benefits, not only to those who receive the life-saving transfusions but also to the donors themselves and society as a whole.

For the individual donor, giving blood helps in maintaining good health. Regular blood donation can stimulate the production of new blood cells, reducing the risk of iron overload, and it can help in reducing the risk of heart disease and cancer. Studies have shown that donating blood can lower the levels of iron in the body, which may reduce the risk of heart disease by decreasing the chances of arterial blockages.

On a societal level, blood donation ensures that hospitals and healthcare institutions are equipped to respond effectively to medical emergencies, accidents, surgeries, and chronic health conditions. The availability of blood is crucial for surgeries, cancer treatments, and care for individuals suffering from anaemia and other blood-related diseases. Blood donations, especially those driven by youth, are essential for

building a sustainable and healthy community.

Additionally, blood donation fosters a sense of camaraderie and social responsibility, as it brings people together for a shared cause—saving lives. It also encourages others to take part in future donation drives, perpetuating a cycle of compassion and care within the community.

This initiative by Dhairya NGO, in collaboration with health authorities, serves as a powerful reminder of how a single act of kindness can make a profound difference. By continuing such efforts, the region will not only meet the growing healthcare needs but also build a stronger, more compassionate society.

Source: <https://nicobartimes.com/local-news/dhairya-ngo-organises-successful-blood-donation-camp-at-chc-bambooflat/>

NGO performs surgeries

PATIENTS at Madang's Modilon Hospital are expected to have access to better quality healthcare from the Changhua Christian Hospital (CCH) after a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed.

CCH has been implementing the Ministry of Health's South Pacific Medical Cooperation Programme (Taiwan) since 2005 in the country, fostering partnerships with hospitals across the country, including Wewak, Angau, Nonga and Port Moresby.

CCH chief executive officer of the Overseas Medical Mission Centre (OMMC), Nina Kao said the hospital expanded to Madang this year, establishing a partnership with Modilon General Hospital and the Madang Health Authority, (PHA) and signed a MoU that would focus on training medical staff

to strengthen their professional healthcare capabilities.

The six-member CCH volunteer medical team led by Kao, embarked on a five-day medical service at Modilon General Hospital on Oct 20.

The team included orthopaedist Dr Leo Tseng, paediatrician Dr Jeffrey Whang, otolaryngologist Dr Jerry Hsu, obstetrician and gynaecologist Dr Jimmy Liang, and project manager Jade Cheng from OMMC.

The team's activities include case consultations, ward rounds and collaborative discussions with local doctors to identify optimal patient treatments.

Tseng performed surgeries on fractures and Hsu conducted a lip cancer surgery.

Whang talked about airway anomaly associated with prolonged pneumonia and suggested

diagnosing complex respiratory cases in limited-resource settings.

Through collaborative exchanges, both teams shared skills and insights, better understanding each other's needs.

During their stay, the CCH team met with Dr Harry Aigeeleng, faculty dean, and Prof Jerzy Kuzma, head of department of medicine, faculty of medicine and health sciences of Divine Word University, exploring potential exchanges of faculties and students.

The university expressed interest in a partnership with CCH through a new MoU.

Kao said: "Earlier this year, CCH donated a 40-foot container of medical supplies to PHA, containing equipment such as nursing carts, medicine trolleys, bed tables and intravenous stands."

Source: <https://www.thenational.com.pg/ngo-performs-surgeries/>



Rahnuma-FPAP Hosts FP2030 CSOs & Youth Working Group Meeting in Karachi to Strengthen Family Planning and Reproductive Health Efforts

Pakistan FP2030 CSOs & Youth Working Group Meeting, held in Karachi under the auspices of Rahnuma-FPAP, brought together a diverse range of stakeholders from private sectors, including youth leaders, civil society organizations, and community activists, to advance the FP2030 agenda in Pakistan. Dr. Jamil Ahmed, Technical Specialist UNFPA Pakistan, formally initiated the session by highlighting UNFPA Pakistan's engagements and summarizing key discussion points from the recently concluded 35th CEWG meeting. Dr. Syed Asif

Source: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/>

Hussain, CEO Rahnuma-FPAP, provided an overview of Rhanuma-FPAP initiatives and achievements to strengthen the NGO sector contributions for FP2030 CSOs at the national and provincial levels. Dr. Syed Aziz ur Rab, CEO GSM Pakistan shared his key learnings from the South-South Learning Workshop, while Dr. Aisha Laraib, Youth Focal Person for the FP2030 CEWG, briefed participants on the recently held Summit of the Future 2024 and emphasized the critical role of youth in shaping the future. Additionally, Dr. Talib Lashari, Technical Advisor for CIP and NAP Facilitator PWD Sindh,

presented updates on the Revised National Action Plan. During the opening discussion, participants from organizations such as QZ Catalyst, CDA, ISYD, SZABIST, NCMNH, GSM, DKT, Pathfinder International, Willows International, PSI, IPAS, JHPIEGO, and MEZRAB shared valuable insights and lessons to further strengthen FP and RH efforts in Pakistan. Dr. Talib Lashari, Technical Advisor CIP/ FP 2030 PWD Sindh concluded the session with closing remarks while appreciating Rahnuma-FPAP efforts for strengthening FP & RH services in Pakistan through meaning engagement of all stakeholders.

Ignoring plastic health impact “delusional”, say leading health scientists

AMSTERDAM, Nov. 29, 2024 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- The Plastic Health Council was joined by Plastic Soup Foundation, A Plastic Planet, Earth Action, Greenpeace, BreakFreeFromPlastic at INC 5 in Busan in calling for a robust Treaty that cuts plastic production to shield future generations from the impact of plastic and endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) entering human bodies.

LEADING SCIENTISTS and campaigners have today warned governments that ignoring the impact of plastic on human health is “delusional” at the final round of negotiations for a UN Global Plastic Treaty.

The event marked the release of ‘Scientists Speak Out’, a film produced by Plastic Soup Foundation. The documentary interviews leading health scientist, Professor Thais Mauad, University of Sao Paulo, who discovered the presence of plastic in the brain in the world-first discovery this year.

Prof Thais Mauad states, “If you don’t think that plastic will affect you, it is a delusion. Microplastics in our body affect the DNA structure of cells, damaging our health. I’m afraid of plastic as production is increasing and our

- Scientists, NGOs like Plastic Soup Foundation, and insurers unite behind demands for robust UN Treaty during final negotiations
- New research finds financial valuation models fail to recognise the true risk of plastic pollution
- Leading health scientist warns inaction on plastic pollution “a political choice” in new film

health will be increasingly exposed to these adverse consequences.”

“The duty of a government is to protect its people. When a government allows the plastic industry to use toxic plastic additives, the government is supporting the development of a disease and not protecting the population. It instead protects the profits of the fossil fuel industry.”



“Those with the ability to make real change are policymakers, and such action is a political choice. We do not have to lose this battle.”

To coincide with the event, [new research has been released by Earth Action](#) that provides guidance to financial institutions on how to integrate financial risks associated with plastic in corporate valuations.

According to Earth Action’s research, today’s financial valuation models do not fully capture such plastic pollution risks, highlighting the need for increased corporate disclosure of plastic usage and the opportunity for the UN treaty to provide clarity to financial institutions on potential corporate risk from plastic usage.

A pilot study produced in collaboration with insurance provider a.s.r and Dutch NGO, Plastic Soup Foundation, assessed plastic

pollution and the associated health risks from the activities of a select group of companies in a.s.r.’s investment portfolio. a.s.r. evaluated indirect and direct health impacts of plastic pollution.

The pilot’s findings suggest that a plastic footprint score should be used to guide sustainable investment decisions that acknowledge the material’s health impact.

Rosanne de Boer, Corporate Spokesperson for a.s.r said: “We are pleased to collaborate with Plastic Soup Foundation and Earth Action on this research. At a.s.r., we acknowledge the importance of understanding and recognising the real risks of plastic pollution, not only for our health and that of our planet but also for the financial stability of businesses.

This research highlights the need for greater transparency and clear guidelines so that we can collectively work towards a future where plastic pollution is reduced and future generations are protected. We therefore support the call for a robust UN treaty that pursues these goals.”

The plastic footprint methodology, developed by the Plastic Footprint Network, refers to the process of evaluating the effect that the plastic generated by an individual, organisation, community or country has on the environment. The assessment methodology is similar to the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, which provides the world’s most widely used greenhouse gas accounting standards for organisations, governments and NGOs.

According to the research, a plastic footprint measurement including health impact metrics would allow investors to evaluate high-risk companies for targeted engagement on plastic reduction and advocate for increased corporate transparency in plastic footprint reporting.

More than 500 million metric tonnes of plastic are produced every year for use in a wide variety of applications. Scientists have compiled a list of over 16,000 chemicals present in plastic products and found that more than 4,000 of these were hazardous to human health and the environment.

A range of health concerns are linked to plastic chemicals including obesity, fertility issues,

increased risk of autism and cancer. In the US alone, the annual health and economic costs due to chemical additives included in plastic exceeds \$250 billion.

With continued plastic usage presenting a \$100 billion annual financial risk to businesses by 2040, researchers believe corporate failure to mitigate the impact could result in financial risk and legal action that impairs the profitability of an organisation.

Source: <https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2024/11/29/2988946/0/en/ignoring-plastic-health-impact-delusional-say-leading-health-scientists.html>

4 reasons we can't look away from Syria

16.7 million people in humanitarian need.

More than **14 million** people displaced within or from Syria.

2 million children out of school—and another million at risk of dropping out.

90% of the population living in poverty.



Social Care Sector Will Be Forced To Take Action Unless “Change Comes”

CAMPAIGNERS say social care will have to take some form of action if changes do not come quickly enough to save the sector.

They are angry that repeated warnings over the crisis in the care of older, vulnerable and disabled adults are continuing to go unheeded.

This comes after the Local Government Association called for a 10-year plan for social care to enable the Government’s 10-year NHS plan to succeed.

Mike Padgham, Chair of the social care provider organisation, The Independent Care Group (ICG), welcomed the LGA call and urged the Government to agree.

“It is very clear that the Government’s 10-year plan for NHS reform is doomed to fail if it is not matched by similar reform of social care. You cannot fix the NHS without fixing social care. You cannot move from hospital to community if there is no community there to look after you.”

“Here we have a very stark warning from the LGA that councils are having to dip into their reserves in their struggle to keep pace with the rising demand for social care. The LGA is 100% correct in saying that we need a standalone plan for social care with the people who need care at the heart of it.”

Mr Padgham said the sector was sick of being pushed further and further down government priorities and the time was fast approaching when it would have to take action as that was the only way to get its case heard.

“I think providers feel they have been ignored for too long and that they are being backed into a corner. It is sad, but they are looking at



what GPs, nurses, doctors and most recently, farmers, have done to protest at their situation.”

The proposed increase in Employer’s National Insurance contributions, along with increases in the National Living and National

Minimum wages, are pushing many providers to fear for the future.”

Last month, a survey of 1,180 care providers, carried out by the Care Provider Alliance, found that 22% of those who responded were planning to close their business; 73% will have to refuse new referrals from local authorities or the NHS; 57% planned to hand back some contracts and 64% feared having to make staff redundant.

“If those things happen as the survey predicts, more and more people will end up going without the care they need, adding to the 2m who currently can’t access care,” Mr Padgham added.”

“We have been waiting more than 30 years for reform to social care, seeing government after government kick the issue down the road time and time again. This Government seems intent on doing the same, avoiding facing up to reforming social care.”

“Central to the Government’s plans for the NHS is moving from hospital to community, but they aren’t going to achieve that unless they get social care fit for purpose – not least so that they can discharge the thousands currently in hospital fit enough to be discharged but without care packages to enable it.”

Source: <https://thecareruk.com/social-care-sector-will-be-forced-to-take-action-unless-change-comes/>



NGOs play vital role in addressing needs of destitute community, essential they operate with maximal accountability: Sakeena Itoo

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today chaired a meeting to review the performance and functioning of various government-funded NGOs operating in Jammu region.

Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare department (SWD), Sheetal Nanda; Director Social Welfare Jammu, Rupesh Kumar; Director Finance SWD, other senior officers of SWD, DSWOs of concerned districts, representatives of NGOs like Red Cross Home, SoS Children’s Village of India, Balgrana Charitable Home for Destitute Children, Samaj Kalyan Kendra, Louise Braille Memorial Residential School, Ved Mandir, Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sanasthan, Hari Krishna Food Life Trust, Udampur, Home for Aged & Infirm, Kathua and Care for You, Poonch attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the Minister took comprehensive assessment of

the impact of these government-funded NGOs on ground and also discussed challenges faced by these NGOs while operating in their respective areas.

The meeting also deliberated on strategies to enhance collaboration between the government and NGOs to improve the welfare of marginalized sections of society, including old age persons, differently able children, destitute children as well as economically weaker sections and orphan children.

During the meeting, the Minister emphasized on the importance of maintaining transparency, accountability and efficiency in the functioning of NGOs receiving government grants. She stressed on the need for strict monitoring mechanisms to ensure that funds are used appropriately and effectively to serve the deserving persons and children, particularly in the areas of education, healthcare and welfare needs.

“Government-funded NGOs play a vital role in addressing the needs of destitute community and it is essential that they operate with maximal accountability. They must ensure proper use of funds and resources to maximize their impact in society”, Sakeena Itoo said. “Our aim is to empower these organizations with the hope of bringing positive change at ground level”, she added.

The Minister also stressed upon the representatives of NGOs as well as officers to focus on skilling of students admitted in the schools of these NGOs so that they become employable for the future. She also called upon them to create maximum awareness among people about the services and facilities being provided at these institutions so that the families don’t hesitate to admit their children in these schools.

Read more at: <https://brighterkashmir.com/ngos-play-vital-role-in-addressing-needs-of-destitute-community-essential-they-operate-with-maximal-accountability-sakeena-itoo>



SDG Impact Standards: An Effective Impact Measurement and Knowledge Management

Measuring Up

As a developing country, Indonesia represents a prime opportunity for impact investment to make an outsized impact on key development issues. From 2020 to 2022, Indonesia accounts for an estimated 20% of all impact capital flowing into Southeast Asia, with an estimated USD 1.44 billion invested through 131 impact deals ranging from clean and affordable energy; sustainable infrastructure and housing; agriculture; and healthcare.(1)

With impact investing continuing to gain traction, it has brought an unprecedented focus on impact measurement. Investors need a way to effectively and transparently measure and report impact performance of their investments. Equally important, and perhaps inseparable from impact measurement, is the need for knowledge management. Capacity and awareness building, as well as providing a platform for dialogue – where stakeholders engage in discussions and share best practices – can build a more informed

community and further encourage businesses towards sustainable management approaches.

From 13-15th of May 2024, UNDP Indonesia partnered with Social Value International (SVI) and Indonesia Impact Alliance (IIA) to organize the first SDG Impact Standards Training of Trainers. The training was held in Jakarta and involved a total of 17 ecosystem players active within the Impact Measurement and Management (IMM) space in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore.

But what exactly do these standards entail for impact investing?

Decision Making for Sustainability

The impact investing market has grown in notable ways. It now hosts diverse stakeholders that span various sectors, pursue different impact goals and each with varying levels of risk tolerance and expected returns – a shift that has brought about a demand for effective IMM. The SDG Impact Standards step in as a crucial set of standards for stakeholders aiming to measure social and environmental impact effectively. It functions as a decision-making framework that helps make sense of existing principles, tools, and methodologies in impact management and measurement.

The standards not only consolidate established practices but also identify and address gaps in current market practices that undermine progress toward sustainability and the SDGs.(2)

In this way, they empower businesses and investors to engage in more informed and accountable decision-making by helping to determine how much data is needed to make an informed

decision and guide in managing risks when data is insufficient.

The Global Impact Investing Network (GIIN)'s 2023 [GIINsight report](#) found that nearly a fifth (19%) of the investors surveyed are using the SDG Impact Standards as the framework to guide their impact strategies, with increasing integration IMM into their organizational budgets. The report also found that in 2017, 64% of investors tracked their investments against the SDGs, a figure that increased to 75% by 2022.

The training helped to enable business professionals in the ecosystem meet their ever-growing knowledge demand on building a sustainable ecosystem through the SDG Impact Standards. Participants – ranging from consultancies, investors, social enterprises, venture builders, to academia – were encouraged to consider how to build a business case for sustainability. From embedding sustainability and the SDGs into core business strategies, to ensuring transparency and accountability on reporting their impact performance. They were also introduced to self-assessment tools to implement the standards for their businesses and investments.

The training serves as a platform where practitioners and experts can exchange best practices and promote the adoption of effective IMM. It fosters a sense of community among participants, bringing about networks and the expertise from different backgrounds and experience. Together, they advocate for higher standards in IMM implementation through the SDG Impact Standards.

Participant Lishia Erza, Co-Founder of Candra Naya Lestari, found that the training offered major value into decision-making, stating

“Reporting alone is not enough. In Indonesia, the skill sets available are largely reporting-driven, not strategic decision making. This training bridges that gap.”

Eric Natanael from the Indonesia Impact Alliance remarked,

“Many businesses are finding it difficult to set a strategy when it comes to impact. This framework would guide you on your own path that puts impact – not as a side project – but as an inseparable part of your business.”

Jessica Novia, Founder of CarbonEthics, shared how the standards can help organizations to effectively assess their performance on the SDGs. She remarked,

“It serves as the umbrella of all other existing frameworks in the industry. It enables organizations to conduct comprehensive audits of their performance vis-à-vis the SDGs, establishment of thresholds and targets.”

The SDG Impact Standards are the missing piece of the puzzle. A universal framework and management approach for SDG-enabling investments. The standards provide businesses, investors, and policy makers with the tools to not only strengthen organizational resilience in response to ever-changing demands, regulatory requirements, and investor expectations, but also pave the way for sustained business prospects and investment performance in the years ahead.

Source: <https://www.undp.org/indonesia/blog/sdg-impact-standards-effective-impact-measurement-and-knowledge-management>



Climate resilience must be integrated into UN Sustainable Development Goals, say experts

A new study reveals that climate change, the most pressing threat to global socio-economic development and the environment, demands a reimagining of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The University of Birmingham's research underscores the need for an integrated approach to infuse climate resilience into every facet of the SDGs. Experts argue this is the only viable path to securing a sustainable future for our planet.

What are the UN Sustainable Development Goals?

Adopted in 2015, [the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) represent a global agenda to

[address urgent challenges by 2030.](#)

These goals, established through extensive consultations with nations, organisations, and civil society, aim to:

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
2. Eradicate hunger, improve food security, and promote sustainable agriculture.
3. Ensure healthy lives and well-being for all ages.
4. Guarantee equitable, inclusive

education and lifelong learning opportunities.

5. Achieve gender equality and empower women and girls.
6. Provide access to clean water and sanitation.
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy.
8. Promote sustainable economic growth and decent work for all.
9. Build resilient infrastructure and foster innovation.
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.
11. Create sustainable cities and communities.
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
14. Conserve and sustainably use marine resources.
15. Protect and restore terrestrial ecosystems.
16. Promote peaceful, inclusive societies with access to justice for all.
17. Strengthen global partnerships for sustainable development.

These interlinked goals strive to create a world free of poverty and inequality while fostering environmental stewardship. Yet, [climate change](#) challenges their implementation.

Lead author Dr Ajit Singh added: "Embedding climate action within each SDG would ensure that climate resilience is a core component of sustainable development.

Source: <https://www.innovationnewsnetwork.com/climate-resilience-must-be-integrated-into-un-sustainable-development-goals-say-experts/53458/>

"If we fail to resolve tensions between development goals and climate action, we will find it impossible to secure the future of our planet and its people."

Climate action: The key to SDG success

Following discussions at COP29 in Baku, University of Birmingham researchers argue that integrating climate resilience into the SDGs is vital.

The interdisciplinary team has developed a five-point action plan to align climate goals with the SDG framework. Key recommendations include:

- 1. Harmonising the Paris Agreement and SDGs:** Establish a cohesive roadmap for sustainable development.
- 2. Setting short- and long-term targets:** A structured approach ensures immediate action alongside future planning.
- 3. Empowering local communities:** Locals must play a central role in creating and executing climate policies.
- 4. Developing unified financial systems:** Focus on climate resilience, especially in vulnerable regions.
- 5. Creating an international climate panel:** Foster knowledge exchange and collaboration across sectors.

Why climate resilience matters for development

The study highlights how climate change exacerbates poverty, disrupts health systems, and widens inequality.

Its impact on agriculture threatens food security, while its effects on water ecosystems endanger marine biodiversity.

Moreover, climate disasters disproportionately harm vulnerable communities, emphasising the need for localised, inclusive strategies.

Experts emphasise that climate education should be embedded within school curricula to equip future generations with the tools to address environmental challenges.

Climate-resilient policies, such as [sustainable agriculture](#) and [ocean conservation](#), are also critical to mitigating damage.

A global responsibility

Although the UN Sustainable Development Goals were crafted collaboratively, their implementation lies in the hands of individual countries.

This decentralised approach demands robust international cooperation to ensure success. Aligning climate action with the UN SDGs not only addresses environmental threats but also promotes equitable social and economic progress.

The call to action is clear: without integrating climate resilience into the UN Sustainable Development Goals, humanity risks undermining its progress on poverty eradication, health equity, and global prosperity.

As the clock ticks closer to 2030, urgent, unified efforts are essential to transform these aspirations into a sustainable reality.

Poet Kearls wins 2024 NUGS SDGs Essay Competition

Samuel Issifu, celebrated as Poet Kearls, has been crowned the winner of the 2024 SDGs Essay Competition, organized by the UDS National Union of Ghana Students (NUGS) in Tamale.

This remarkable achievement underscores his exceptional literary talent and steadfast commitment to advocating for global progress through the written word.

A 4th-year medical student at the University for Development Studies, Samuel has masterfully balanced the rigorous demands of his medical education with a thriving career as a writer and poet. His award-winning essay impressed judges with its incisive exploration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly emphasizing education and health as pivotal drivers of transformative change. With compelling arguments and sharp insights, the essay highlighted the critical role of youth in advancing the SDG agenda and championed cross-sector collaborations as essential for building a resilient and equitable future.

The award was presented by the UDS SRC President during the NUGS Sustainable Development Goals Summit, held on November 30, 2024, at the Multipurpose Auditorium in UDS-Tamale. The event honored Samuel alongside the first and second runners-up in a ceremony celebrating creativity, intellectual engagement, and dedication to global development.

Beyond his essays, Samuel—widely recognized as Poet Kearls—has made significant contributions to literature and performance art.

His poetry, known for its emotional depth and social resonance, has earned national and international acclaim. A multiple award-winning artist, he has performed on esteemed platforms, including events graced by Ghana's President, H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, and the Speaker of Parliament, Rt. Hon. Alban S.K. Bagbin. His work continues to redefine the

intersection of creativity, intellect, and advocacy, establishing him as a trailblazer in youth leadership.

The 2024 NUGS SDGs Summit brought together young thinkers, changemakers, and scholars committed to tackling global challenges. Samuel's victory symbolizes the potential of Ghanaian youth to lead efforts toward sustainable development. Reflecting on his journey, he described the youth as "torchbearers of global progress, equipped with both dreams and the determination to transform them into realities."

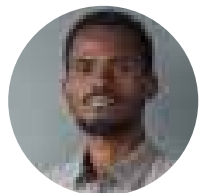
Samuel's story is one of vision and resilience, inspiring generations of students, writers, and advocates. Whether wielding a stethoscope or a pen, he exemplifies how passion and purpose can converge to make a profound impact. His victory is not merely an accolade—it is a testament to the boundless possibilities of dedication and the enduring power of the written word.

Source: <https://www.modernghana.com/news/1365942/poet-kearls-wins-2024-nugs-sdgs-essay-competition.html>



Haitian women activists join campaign against gender violence

With an alarming number of gender-based violence cases reported this year, Haitian organizations are raising awareness and supporting displaced women amid rising gang violence.



Juhakenson Blaise



Kervenson Martial



Edxon Francisque

Overview:

During the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, Haiti's human rights advocates and feminist organizations, particularly in Port-au-Prince and the North, will engage with women displaced by violence in the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. Efforts include providing support, raising awareness, and offering training on gender-based violence. The organizations are urging action from women, communities, and the government to combat violence against women and girls, as reports indicate nearly 4,000 victims in the first quarter of this year alone.

PORT-AU-PRINCE — Many of Haiti's human rights advocates and feminist organizations will participate in this year's 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) campaign. Led by the [United Nations Women](#) agency as part of the [UNiTE](#) campaign in observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the activities aim to highlight the alarming rise in violence against women under the theme, "Every 10 Minutes, a woman is killed. #NoExcuse. UNiTE to End Violence against Women."

Haitian women's and feminist organizations, like [MARIJÀN](#), are using this occasion to advocate for measures to combat all forms of gender-based violence, with several events planned, including an educational tour of displacement camps in Port-au-Prince. In August, the [UN](#) warned of a "surge in sexual violence against displaced women." Multiple organizations have also [reported](#) that gangs in Haiti are systematically using sexual violence as a tool to further their illegal activities and maintain control over regions, with nearly 4,000 cases of sexual assault reported in the first four months of 2024.

[According](#) to the young feminist organization MARIJÀN, the educational tour begins on Nov. 25, on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and will end on Dec. 10, Human Rights Day. The awareness campaign will highlight prevention

methods, assaults in the camps, and resources available for survivors of gender-based violence.

"The vast majority of women experience at least one form of gender-based violence in their lifetime," wrote the leaders of the feminist organization. "Each experience and each journey of recovery is unique. Nevertheless, our collective response remains crucial to preventing violence and supporting survivors in their recovery."

A call across Haiti to mobilize against gender-based violence, particularly against women and girls

Similarly to MARIJÀN, other women's and human rights organizations across Haiti have also launched their 16 Days of Activism campaign, urging all sectors to unite against violence perpetrated on women and girls and support victims of all GBV in the country.

While the Federation of Organizations for Women's Equality and Human Rights ([FEDOFEDH](#)) announced it would cancel several of its in-person events due to escalating gang violence in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince, it will still hold its virtual roundtable on the theme: "Let's End Gender-Based Violence: Empower Communities and Strengthen Women's Rights in Haiti."

"Every day, lives are shattered, families are mourning due to unjustifiable acts of violence," says Antoine Augustin, president of the federation. "Every voice raised against violence counts. Together, we can build a just and equitable society where women live freely and safely."

On its part, Espwa pou Fanm Ayisyen ([EFA](#)), Hope for Haitian Women in English, is undertaking the UNiTE campaign while distributing food and hygiene kits to families in camps around the capital.

"We are also thinking about Christmas," Victoria Baillergeau, the organization's founder and executive director, told *The Haitian Times*.

"We plan to distribute shoe boxes filled with toys to children for Christmas, particularly vulnerable and displaced girls."

Like in the Haitian capital, various women's organizations have been motivated to organize debate and discussion sessions in Haiti's northern region.

In the Northwest department, for instance, the Jean-Rabel-based Organization of Solidarity with Catron's Women (OFSC) will focus on training women in income-generating activities and GBV. It is organizing a special day of reflection on all forms of violence faced by women and girls in the municipality's 5th communal section, Catron-La Source.



"I will reaffirm my commitment to advising women while asking them not to tolerate or accept unacceptable behaviors in the face of the mistreatment they suffer," said Adèle Jean-Jacques Dorméus, president of the OFSC.

She also called on UN leaders to take a closer look at the situation of Haitian women, notably those victims of violence by armed gangs.

The Haitian Women's Initiative (IFA) is another feminist organization involved in the UNiTE campaign in Haiti's Northwest. With its 250+ members, IFA plans to run several workshops on GBV education and awareness from Nov. 25 to Dec. 10. Despite challenges related to road conditions, other infrastructural issues, and economic insecurity, the organization, which has been active for 12 years, continues to work on women's education and health

issues and support victims in the fight against violence.

"With what I went through, I would have preferred to die. When they saw there was no man with me, they attacked me."

A Haitian woman victim reported by the United Nations Population Fund

"In this organization, we constantly fight against all forms of malicious violence, often crimes of passion against women," Roseleine Etienne Jeanty, coordinator of IFA, said during an interview with The Haitian Times. "With the women members, we will organize reflection sessions. We will also emphasize our rights and duties within society."

In the Northeast, several feminist organizations, including Révolté d'Haïti, are mobilizing during the 16 Days of Activism to raise awareness about gender-based violence. The advocates aim to promote gender equality and support victims.

Révolté d'Haïti's project, supported by the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF)/UN Women, aims to assist 300 women through various activities, including training, medical, psychological, and therapeutic consultations and support.

These activities are designed to equip women with the knowledge and tools needed to combat GBV in their communities. In addition to the workshops, the organizers will meet with people with disabilities, provide therapy for the elderly, and educate women on managing their

households and conditions related to fertility.

"By bringing together women and girls from different backgrounds, the workshops and awareness activities will promote solidarity and the creation of support networks, essential to combat violence against women and build a safer and more equitable future for all," confided Edmonde Pierre-Fils, the WPHF/UN Women project coordinator.

Gender-based violence is devastating for women and girls globally, not just in Haiti

Gender-based violence is a global phenomenon. Women around the world have been victims of violence based on their sex or gender, whether by their partners, family members, or through criminal violence.

Although figures for 2024 are not yet available, UN Women [reported](#) that in 2023, approximately 51,100 women and girls were killed by their intimate partners or other family members worldwide. This number is higher than the 48,800 victims estimated in 2022.

"In other words, on average, 140 women and girls worldwide lost their lives every day at the hands of their partner or a close relative in 2023," said the UN agency dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women and established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide.

"Women and girls everywhere continue to be victims of this extreme form of gender-based violence, and no region is exempt."

And in Haiti, women and girls, especially those displaced by gang violence, continue to be victims.

Nearly 4,500 women have been victims of gender-based violence between January and August 2024.

According to the latest data from the UN [GBV sub-cluster coordination](#), 69% of these cases are sexual violence, and members of armed groups committed 66%. The reported cases represent only a fraction of the total number of victims. Due to multiple challenges faced by many victims in Haiti, particularly in Port-au-Prince, thousands of cases often go unreported.

According to [UN figures](#), incidents of violence against women and girls increased from 250 in January-February to over 1,500 in March, reaching more than 2,000 in April-May.

These incidents involved 75% adult women and 20% minor girls, with 61% of the victims being displaced persons living in inadequate camps where their safety is not guaranteed.

Victim's testimonies highlight thousands of gender-based violence cases

Recently, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) reported the [poignant testimony of a mother of seven children](#), among other victims, illustrating the devastation of violence on women's lives. She recounted being sexually assaulted while sleeping in a park after fleeing her home due to armed gangs launching an attack in her community, killing residents and burning houses.

"With what I went through, I would have preferred to die," said the woman to the [UNFPA](#). "When they saw there was no man with me, they attacked me."

During this heinous act committed by several men, the victim was four months pregnant. Since that day, she has lived in fear and extreme difficulty in caring for her children. She constantly worries about her daughters, who are at risk of experiencing the same fate as her in the context of rising violence driven by gangs, which control more than 85% of the Haitian capital.

"I'm afraid for my daughter, who is 11 years old. I also have a daughter who is turning five, and I am also worried for her," she added.

This woman's story is a cry of distress for thousands of women victims of GBV in Haiti. It highlights the vulnerability and precariousness in which women and girls live, being highly exposed to these forms of violence. It also underscores the urgency of taking action to prevent, support victims, and combat violence against women.

This is often a cycle that tends to repeat itself.

The Haitian feminist organization [Nègès Mawon](#) reported testimonies based on interviews conducted with [six women](#) who confirmed being victims of collective rape orchestrated on them and their daughters by gangs.

"I've done nothing to deserve this," said a victim of sexual assault— a teenage girl whose mother was also raped by gangs days apart while she was in school.

"Everyone looks at me sideways and humiliates me. I don't want to take my own life, but every time I see other girls in uniform on their way to school, it's like I'm dead."

Source: <https://haitiantimes.com/2024/11/25/women-displaced-targeted-by-gbv-awareness-campaigns/>



Marches, events call for end to violence against women

Türkiye observed the International Day for the Elimination of [Violence Against Women](#) on Nov. 25 with nationwide marches and events aimed at amplifying awareness of [femicide](#) and gender-based violence.

Throughout the weekend, thousands of [women](#), particularly in Istanbul and other major cities, took to the streets, chanting slogans and organizing demonstrations to protest the ongoing scourge of femicide in the country.

With femicide remaining a profoundly pressing issue in Türkiye, in the first 10 months of 2024, 276 women were killed, Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya disclosed last week.

The Family and Social Services Ministry reaffirmed its “zero tolerance” stance toward violence against women.

“We are implementing impactful measures to halt violence and disrupt its perpetuation. Violence against women is an indefensible crime against humanity and combating it is a shared responsibility,” Minister Mahinur Özdemir Göktaş stated in a video message on Nov. 25.

The U.N. Women Türkiye office announced this year’s theme as the “Shine a Light Campaign,” which commenced on Nov. 22 as part of the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence.

“Let us not ignore, normalize, or

remain passive, let us act,” U.N. Türkiye Resident Coordinator Babatunde Ahonsi said.

Similarly, EU Delegation to Türkiye Ambassador Thomas Ossowski articulated the vision of a world where women and girls can live freely, develop their potential and fully realize their aspirations.

Two U.N. agencies reported on Nov. 25 that the deadliest place for women is at home and 140 women and girls on average were killed by an intimate partner or family member per day last year globally.

Globally, an intimate partner or family member was responsible for the deaths of approximately 51,100 women and girls during 2023, an increase from an estimated 48,800

victims in 2022, U.N. Women and the U.N. Office of Drugs and Crime said.

Across Türkiye, civil society organizations paid tribute to victims of femicide, laying carnations on their graves.

“The atrocities inflicted upon Narin, baby Sıla and the heinous murders of Ayşenur Halil and İkbal Uzuner within half an hour of each other have strengthened our resolve in this decades-long struggle,” said participant Çağrı Sert told private Demirören News Agency during a protest in the southern province of Antalya.V

The killing of 8-year-old Narin Güran, the death of 2-year-old Sıla Y. following sexual assault and the murders of 19-year-olds Ayşenur Halil and İkbal Uzuner have sparked widespread outrage and grief in recent months.

While the Turkish parliament has established commissions to investigate both femicide and violence against children, the Women and Democracy Association (KADEM) recently unveiled a study scrutinizing popular Turkish dramas.

The research examined 14 of the most-watched series of the 2023-2024 broadcast season, uncovering 3,013 instances of violence against women within these productions. On average, television series depict nine scenes of violence per episode, while digital platform dramas feature seven.



Awareness on Safety Laws for Young girls and Women



Premansh Sharma

In view of the women’s equality day, we organized a one week campaign to aware the children especially young girls about equality and the laws for their safety. Empowering women and informing them about the laws that protect their safety is crucial for ensuring gender equality, reducing violence, and promoting personal autonomy. It also strengthens their contribution in the development of the society.

We organized a week-long campaign at a nearby school named Gyannpith and aimed at fostering knowledge and awareness among young girls about the importance

of gender equality and the laws that are essential for their safety. Through interactive sessions on various topics like, free being me (body confidence), her world her voice (Women empowerment), etc we empowered them with the information needed to understand their rights and importance.

Through the initiative we learnt the importance of self-confidence, leadership, and equality. The initiative highlighted the need for women and young girls to break free from societal constraints and take charge of their lives, careers, and decisions. Activities like Free being me and Her World Her Voice helped to foster an environment of resilience, helping women overcome barriers related to gender discrimination, while promoting social, economic, and emotional well-being.

Source: <https://sdgs.scout.org/project/awareness-safety-laws-young-girls-and-women>

Pakistan can join leading economies with active youth, women participation: Ahsan

SLAMABAD, Nov 14 (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday expressed confidence that Pakistan could join the ranks of the world's leading economies by 2047 through the active participation of youth, especially women entrepreneurs.

"The country's progress and prosperity are closely linked with the development of youth and women entrepreneurs. Their active role and participation in national development can make it possible for Pakistan to join the world's top economies by 2047," he said.

He made these remarks while addressing the fifth edition of the Women Entrepreneurship Conference titled "Mumkin Hai"(It is possible),

organized by the National Incubation Centre at the National University of Modern Languages (NUML) here.

The conference featured panel discussions on aligning entrepreneurial goals with the digital economy in Pakistan.

Addressing the participants, the minister assured that the recommendations made by experts at the conference would be "put into implementation" because the incumbent government believed that the future of the nation was in the hands of youth and women. "It is our job to make

everything possible for them," he added.

Ahsan Iqbal said the intellect and innovation of youth and women could help establish start-ups, introduce made-in-Pakistan products and effectively compete in international markets, contributing billions of dollars in revenue to the national exchequer.

He said the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government hoped that, in 23 years, when both Pakistan and India celebrate their 100th year of independence, Pakistan's youth would celebrate it with pride, without any excuses for lagging behind in development.

The minister highlighted the importance of continuity in policies, peace, stability and a continuous reform process to achieve the national goals of development and prosperity, citing examples of countries that made progress by ensuring at least a decade-long stability and consistency in their policies.

Ahsan Iqbal stressed that Pakistan could no longer afford chaos and anarchy, emphasizing the need for greater unity and a peaceful environment to attain national progress.

Source: <https://www.app.com.pk/business/pakistan-can-join-leading-economies-with-active-youth-women-participation-ahsan/>

Status of women development in Pakistan—II

The free and compulsory primary education has been focused in each successive government's education...

Education

The free and compulsory primary education has been focused in each successive government's education policy, but the programme was never implemented in letter and spirit. Resultantly, goals set under SDGs, particularly those relating to primary education for all, remained low by great margin from the target. Resultantly, Pakistan is faced with the lowest literacy rate and a glaring inequality in education gender wise.

According to recent Human Development report, published by UNDP, regarding gender gap, Pakistan has been placed at 145th position out of 146 countries surveyed. Only 27.9 percent of females of the age 15 and above are literate. As per statics of 2022, there were 80 percent and 55 percent literacy rates in urban and rural areas, respectively, of the country. In rural areas, female enrolment rate is around 42 percent. Female

enrolment was recorded highest at primary level, but seems to decrease progressively at secondary, college and tertiary levels.

Keeping in view the size of the social sector development programme, there is a need to increase allocations for education and health sectors. The present allocation for education, being 2.7 percent of GNP or 8.8 percent of total government expenditures, is woefully low.

Status of women development in Pakistan-I

However, it is a matter of satisfaction that new education policy has its focus on technical education, particularly on information technology for women.

In recent years, non-governmental sector's role has gained a lot of importance in developing and

implementing social sector initiatives. Donor agencies and government itself have inducted notable NGOs for promoting female education in less-developed areas of all the four provinces speedily, realizing the fact that education besides having its intrinsic worth has impact on human capital, productivity and capabilities for participation and social interaction.

Economic empowerment

According to Human Development report of 2022, population earning dollars two or less per day exceeds 84% of the total population. Nearly 70 percent of this poverty-stricken population of Pakistan is women. In order to eradicate poverty and empower women economically, their participation in economic process needs to be enhanced.

Source: <https://www.brecorder.com/news/40335774/status-of-women-development-in-pakistanii>

Scottish Government pledges nearly £2 million to boost Youth Entrepreneurship

The Scottish Government has announced a significant investment of over £1.9 million to foster entrepreneurship among young people and increase diversity in business across Scotland.

This initiative aims to embed entrepreneurial education in classrooms from primary one through to the end of secondary school, marking a substantial step towards creating a more entrepreneurial culture in the country.

The funding is divided into two main streams:

School-based programmes: More than £829,000 has been awarded to seven education organisations to develop and deliver entrepreneurship programmes in schools.

This includes £250,000 to Powering Futures for designing education programmes, £157,025 to Founders4Schools for networking young people with business role models, and £79,834 to Gen+ for designing business lessons for secondary school students.

Pathways Fund: £1.08 million has been allocated to 13 organisations through the Pathways Fund, focusing on supporting under-represented groups in business, including women and ethnic minorities. Notable grants include £200,000 to Investing Women for educational programmes and networking opportunities, and £106,505 to GrowBiz to encourage



support for women starting firms in rural areas.

Deputy First Minister Kate Forbes emphasised the importance of this investment, stating, "By mainstreaming the subject we aim to give every school leaver the skills, confidence and opportunity to set up their own business".

This initiative aligns with the Scottish Government's broader strategy to establish Scotland as one of Europe's leading start-up economies.

Deputy First Minister Kate Forbes said: "These projects mean that for the first time, entrepreneurship will be embedded in Scotland's classrooms, from P1 to S6.

"By mainstreaming the subject we aim to give every school-leaver the skills, confidence and opportunity to set up their own business.

"This is a continuation of the Scottish Government's drive to create one of Europe's leading start-up economies.

"Existing entrepreneurs are already being supported, including by our successful Techscaler programme.

This comprehensive approach to entrepreneurial education aims to inspire the next generation of Scottish business leaders, fostering innovation and economic growth across the country.

Male entrepreneurs on decline, youth leader urges action



Sheria Brathwaite

A youth business development official on Thursday sounded the alarm that interest in entrepreneurship among males has plunged to troubling levels over the last two decades, with only one in five aspiring business owners now being male.

Ryan Moseley, acting manager of the Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme (YES), made a rallying call to young men to "lift up" themselves and show their worth.

Speaking during the launch of Global Entrepreneurship Week at the CIBC Caribbean Regional Head Office in Warrens, Moseley said: "What we at YES have recognised is that there is a serious imbalance where males are concerned. I don't know if the other agencies experience this, but in my 20 years in entrepreneurship, I have seen a steady decline where the females outnumber the males; it is almost a four-to-one ratio, and it is extremely troubling for us."

Moseley added that the latest publication by the organisation focused heavily on reaching out to young men to get them involved in entrepreneurial ventures.

"I am not against focusing primarily on women for activities in entrepreneurship, but I think what may have happened is that because the focus was so heavily on females, less focus was placed on males," he

said. "I do appreciate the concept that females are the major caregivers, they don't have the time to indulge in entrepreneurial training, and so on, so programmes had to be designed primarily for them.... But what has happened is that we have realised that males have tended to shy away from taking the opportunities that are presented. The opportunities are there, but the uptick in registration—and we see it at every core within our entrepreneur development training—is such that males are just decorations within the plethora of females in the classes."

Moseley said that, by extension, the Ministry of Youth has had to adjust its youth development programmes and tailor certain aspects to target more males.

"We really want to encourage males to take advantage and lift themselves," the YES manager said. "We have a special programme within the Ministry of Youth Sports and Community Empowerment called the Block Transformation Unit, where guys and girls on the blocks are targeted. They are provided with training and start-up equipment to become entrepreneurial. The focus is also heavily on males because we recognise there are more males on the blocks than females. This is a strategic approach to target males.

"We do not have anything against females, but we recognise that the trend is going in the negative," he said.

The general manager of the Barbados Youth Business Trust (BYBT), Cardell Fergusson, also said her organisation had just rolled out a new programme, funded by the European Commission, focusing on males and

providing them with opportunities for economic empowerment.

"This programme, what we'll be doing is partnering with organisations across Barbados that will then provide our young men with opportunities to grow personally through their careers and professionally," she said.

"So what we are doing is partnering with organisations that already have programmes for males to provide a holistic programme for them because we recognise entrepreneurship is for everyone, but not everyone can become an entrepreneur. We believe that entrepreneurial skills can be implemented in all spheres of life. You can be an entrepreneur as an employee, and you can be an entrepreneur in your own business. We are going to be assessing the participants in the programme to determine which stream is best for them—entrepreneurship or employment—and then work with partners within the ecosystem to channel them in the right way."

Global Entrepreneurship Week 2024 runs next week, and the BYBT is partnering with several non-governmental agencies and youth development organisations to host a range of activities. (SZB)



Source: <https://barbadostoday.bb/2024/11/15/male-entrepreneurs-on-decline-youth-leader-urges-action/>

The 2023 GUESSS Survey on India's Promising Youth Entrepreneurship

The GUESSS India 2023 Survey reveals a growing trend of youth in India starting businesses, influenced by new academic programs and government initiatives. India needs to enhance access to resources to further boost entrepreneurship and foster collaboration among the government, industry, and educational institutions. Implementing these strategies could elevate India's status as a leader in student-led entrepreneurship.



Dar Javed

India stands at the beginning of a transformative period as its youth increasingly embrace entrepreneurship, reshaping the country's economic landscape in real-time. The GUESSS India 2023 Survey shows that Indian students have a growing interest in entrepreneurship, a trend strengthened by academic programs, progressive policies, and a culture that increasingly values innovation. Conducted by the Indian chapter of the [Global University Entrepreneurial Spirit Students' Survey \(GUESSS\)](#), led by [Dr. Puran Singh](#), Associate Professor at the [Indian Institute of Technology Mandi](#) and India's GUESSS country delegate, this survey highlights a

shift in career aspirations among young Indians. This shift is a pivotal aspect of India's development as it aims for global leadership in entrepreneurship and reflects changing career goals among young Indians.

The findings of the [GUESSS India survey](#) provide valuable insights into career aspirations, government support for startups, and suggestions for fostering a more supportive environment for future entrepreneurs. The implications of these findings are significant for policymakers, educators, and investors. By supporting this entrepreneurial movement, India could undergo transformative change and set an example of student-led growth for the global community.

Indian students stand out globally, demonstrating one of the highest levels of entrepreneurial ambition. As India's startup ecosystem thrives, aided by government initiatives like Startup India and extensive support from academic institutions, the GUESSS report raises essential conversations for policymakers, educators, and stakeholders. Targeted strategies are needed to harness this entrepreneurial potential by closing critical gaps, improving accessibility, and building an environment where every aspiring entrepreneur can succeed.

Immediate career preferences: employment is primary, but entrepreneurship is on the rise

The GUESSS India 2023 report, the [first survey](#) in India, reveals that

69.7% of Indian students intend to pursue employment right after graduation, a statistic that mirrors global trends. Many students within this group aspire to join large corporations, public service, or academia, reflecting the value placed on job security and career stability early on. This preference aligns with the traditional education-to-employment path that has historically directed students toward stable jobs post-graduation.

However, a growing segment—about 14%—aims to jump directly into entrepreneurship. This new wave of students sees potential in creating their own businesses and contributing to India's dynamic startup environment. With entrepreneurship becoming more attractive due to platforms like [Shark Tank India](#) and the success stories of [Indian unicorns](#), students are increasingly inspired to build their ventures.

Five years after graduation, the number of students aiming to launch their businesses more than doubled, reaching 31.4%. Meanwhile, preference for traditional employment falls to 52.2%. This trend suggests an “employee-first, entrepreneur-later” mindset, where students view the corporate experience as valuable preparation for entrepreneurship. For policymakers and educational institutions, this deferred approach signals the need to create pathways that make entrepreneurship a feasible career choice right after graduation.

The role of government initiatives: startup India and incubators

Government initiatives, especially Startup India, have created a vast network of over 500 government-recognized incubators nationwide, fostering a supportive environment for young entrepreneurs. These

incubators serve as critical resources, providing funding, mentorship, and hands-on business support to help students overcome early obstacles. In addition, programs like tax exemptions, simplified compliance, and prioritized procurement for government projects have helped student-led ventures thrive.

Through initiatives like the National Innovation and Startup Policy ([NISP](#)) and the National Education Policy ([NEP](#)), the government encourages universities to include entrepreneurship in their curricula—for example, the [Atal Innovation Mission](#) funds numerous universities' innovation labs and incubation centers. The [Atmanirbhar Bharat](#) and [Make in India](#) encourage student entrepreneurship by supporting ventures that foster national self-reliance and showcase Indian ingenuity. Expanding access to incubators, mentorship, and funding focused on young entrepreneurs will empower more students to transform their ambitions into businesses that enhance India's economic resilience and international stature.

Challenges in achieving the entrepreneurial vision

Despite enthusiasm for entrepreneurship, challenges hinder the transition from intention to action. Currently, only [4.8% of Indian students](#) manage active, revenue-generating businesses. This discrepancy suggests barriers to transforming startup ideas into functional businesses, requiring attention from institutions and policymakers. Furthermore, male students display higher entrepreneurial ambition than their female counterparts, highlighting the need for programs encouraging women entrepreneurs. Resource accessibility, especially

incubators and funding, also varies across regions, posing additional challenges for students in rural or underserved areas. Addressing these regional disparities is crucial to ensuring equal entrepreneurial opportunities for all students.

Recommendations to unlock India's entrepreneurial potential

The following actions are essential to maximize the entrepreneurial potential of India's youth:

1. **Expand Incubation Support:** While India's incubator network is growing, making these resources more accessible to students across regions, especially women entrepreneurs, would create a more inclusive ecosystem. Aligning these resources with student needs, particularly in non-urban areas, will foster a diverse and widespread entrepreneurial culture.
2. **Enhance Entrepreneurial Education:** Integrating entrepreneurship education across disciplines—not just in business schools—can foster a broader understanding of venture creation. Universities can also implement experiential programs that let students work on actual startup projects, bridging the gap between theory and practice.
3. **Increase Government-Industry-Academia Collaboration:** Collaborative programs among government agencies, private enterprises, and academic institutions can provide funding and mentorship, helping students gain valuable industry insights and connections crucial for entrepreneurial success.
4. **Support Women Entrepreneurs:** Mentorship programs and

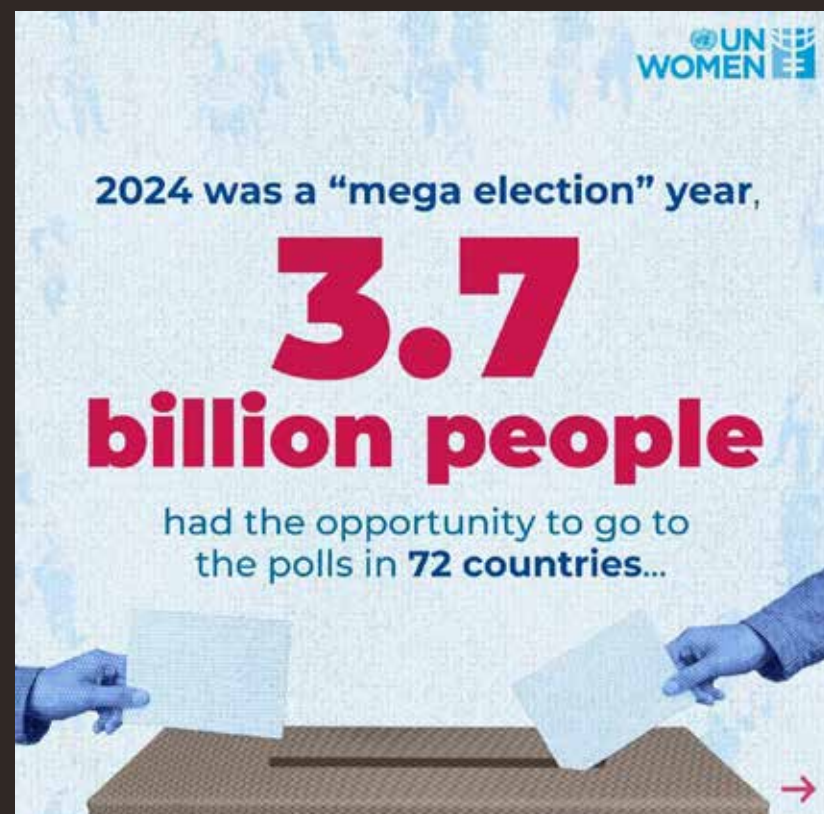
scholarships for female entrepreneurs can help close the gender gap in entrepreneurship. Female students can also benefit from connecting with female mentors and role models in business, inspiring more women to pursue entrepreneurial careers.

5. **Promote a Startup Culture through Media and Events:** Shows like Shark Tank India illustrate media's impact on career ambitions. More events and initiatives celebrating young entrepreneurs can help create a culture where entrepreneurship is encouraged and celebrated.

India's path forward: reflections from stakeholders

As India's student entrepreneurship ecosystem grows, policymakers,

Source: <https://www.fairobserver.com/business/the-2023-guesss-survey-on-indias-promising-youth-entrepreneurship/#>



educators, and industry leaders have a unique opportunity to shape a future where student-driven innovation fuels economic growth. Supporting the ambitions of young entrepreneurs benefits individuals and contributes to solving more significant economic issues, from job creation to technological advancement.

The GUESSS India 2023 Survey reveals a strong entrepreneurial drive among India's youth. The challenge ahead is creating a comprehensive support system that removes obstacles and improves accessibility, enabling these entrepreneurial aspirations to become impactful realities. Through effective policies, enhanced educational frameworks, and collaborative initiatives, India can position itself as a global hub for student-led entrepreneurship.

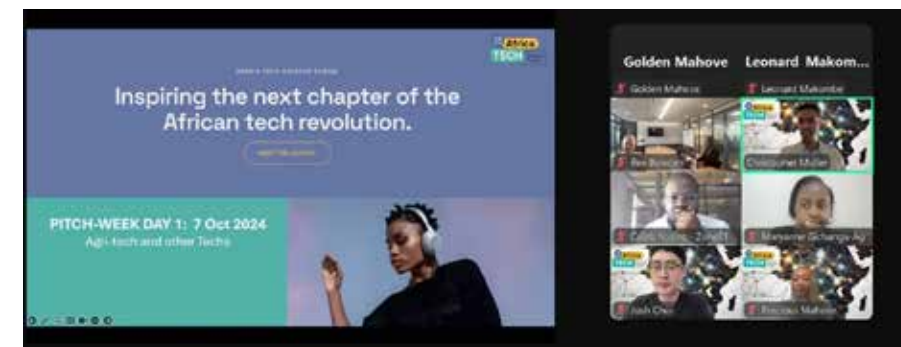
African Youth Tech Venture Entrepreneurs Embark on Ground-breaking Korean Innovation Tour

Twenty promising youth entrepreneurs from African technology ventures and enterprise support organizations have embarked on a two-week study tour of the Republic of Korea, seeking investment and insights from the country's innovative tech ecosystem. The African Development Bank Group's Innovation and Entrepreneurship Lab selected these young entrepreneurs from 133 ventures that participated in last month's Africa Tech Startup Forum.

Held under the auspices of the Lab's Leveraging the Entrepreneurial and Innovation Success of Korea to Strengthen African Enterprise Support project, the Forum selected entrepreneurs who pitched the best business models during the weeklong virtual market access and acceleration program preparing, training, and connecting technology ventures with opportunities.

Representing eight African nations -- Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, and Uganda - the delegates span diverse technological sectors, including agritech and health. Their ambitious itinerary includes visits to prestigious institutions such as

Global Startup Centre, LG Science Park, the Korea Software Technology Association, unicorn companies with valuations exceeding \$1 billion and the Global Digital Innovation Network, a foundation supporting the expansion of South Korea's tech startups.



Uche Ezadinachi, the founder of Kenya-based health technology venture Zuri Health, expressed enthusiasm about the opportunity. "I am excited to go to Korea because the country has made serious technological developments. The [country] is a technology-driven society, and this tour is an opportunity for me to see how we can bring such technology to Africa," she said.

"We will share experiences with our Korean counterparts; they will learn from us as much as we learn from them," she added.

The delegation, which is more than one-third women and entirely composed of entrepreneurs aged 18 to 35, will participate in several high-profile events, including, K Startup Grand Challenge, an accelerator program supported by the South Korean government, Africa Innovation Networking Gala, and COMEUP Korea, an event connecting Korean startups with global investors, corporations, and media.

David Chen, co-founder of Rwandan health data venture Kapsule, highlighted the tour's potential for relationship-building. "This

is an opportunity for us to have face-to-face interactions and build relationships. This trip will help us link with other health technology companies operating in Asia," he said.

Financially supported by the Korea-Africa Economic Cooperation Trust Fund, the Africa Tech Startup Forum is part of the African Development Bank's broader Jobs for Youth in Africa Strategy.

Martha Phiri, the Bank's Director of Human Capital, Youth and Skills Development, underscored the program's significance.

"This is a pivotal initiative that plays a crucial role in enhancing the skills of young entrepreneurs. These skills will empower young entrepreneurs to expand their ventures, which leads to significant employment creation," she stated.

Ndeye Absa Ngingue, Innovation Platform Officer, managing the Bank's Innovation and Entrepreneurship Lab, said: "Platforms like the Africa Tech Startup Forum provide young people with the opportunity to nurture their potential. We will continue to work with them so they can blossom."

Source: <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/african-youth-tech-venture-entrepreneurs-embark-groundbreaking-korean-innovation-tour-79617>



Youth Unemployment in Pakistan: Challenges, Impacts, and Strategic Solutions

Discover how youth unemployment in Pakistan affects socio-economic stability and explore innovative strategies to empower the young workforce through reforms and skill development.

Unemployment is one of Pakistan's most pressing socio-economic challenges, affecting millions of individuals and the nation's development trajectory. Despite being endowed with a youthful population and abundant natural resources, the country has struggled to provide adequate employment opportunities for its growing labor force. Addressing youth unemployment while promoting youth [employment](#) in Pakistan is crucial for leveraging the country's

demographic dividend and ensuring sustainable development. This article delves into the causes, impacts, and potential solutions for unemployment and the role of policies in boosting youth employment in Pakistan.

The Current State of Youth Unemployment in Pakistan

As of recent estimates, Pakistan's unemployment rate hovers around 6-8%, but this figure does

not fully capture the issue of underemployment—a condition where individuals work in roles beneath their skill levels or for fewer hours than they desire. Rural and urban unemployment dynamics also vary, with rural areas often experiencing hidden unemployment in agriculture, while urban centers grapple with job scarcity in the formal sector.

Causes

Population Growth

Pakistan's population exceeds 240 million, with a significant proportion under the age of 30. This demographic structure offers immense potential but poses a challenge when job creation cannot keep pace with the rapidly expanding labor force. The country's economy struggles to absorb the growing number of entrants into the workforce, exacerbating unemployment rates. Rapid urbanization has further compounded the issue, creating job scarcity in cities while rural areas experience underemployment.

Economic Instability

The cyclical nature of economic crises in Pakistan—marked by fiscal deficits, inflation, and a weak currency—has consistently hindered industrial and economic growth. This instability discourages both local and foreign investment, limiting the expansion of industries that could provide job opportunities. High borrowing costs and reduced government spending further restrict job creation efforts.

Skill Mismatch

A significant factor contributing to youth unemployment is the mismatch between the skills imparted by Pakistan's education system and the demands of the job market. Many graduates are equipped with theoretical knowledge but lack practical skills, making them unprepared for employment in sectors that require specialized expertise. As industries evolve, this gap between labor supply and demand continues to grow, leaving many educated youth jobless.

Energy Crisis

Chronic power shortages have long hampered industrial productivity in Pakistan. The unreliable energy supply disrupts manufacturing operations, discourages investment, and creates a ripple effect that

limits job opportunities across sectors. Despite some progress in addressing the energy crisis, its long-standing impact on unemployment remains significant.

Political Instability

Frequent changes in government, policy inconsistencies, and periods of political unrest create uncertainty for businesses and investors. This lack of stability discourages investment, which is crucial for economic expansion and job creation. Moreover, political turmoil diverts attention and resources from critical employment-generation initiatives.

Urbanization and Rural Stagnation

The migration of rural populations to urban centers in search of better opportunities has strained the infrastructure and job market in cities. Meanwhile, advancements in agricultural mechanization have reduced the demand for labor in rural areas, leading to hidden unemployment. This dual challenge of urban job scarcity and rural stagnation exacerbates the unemployment crisis.

Lack of Industrialization

Pakistan's reliance on agriculture and its limited focus on industrial diversification have stifled the creation of jobs in high-value sectors such as manufacturing, technology, and services. Industrial growth has been slow, and the lack of policies supporting innovation and industrialization prevents the country from leveraging its labor potential effectively.

Impacts of Youth Unemployment in Pakistan

Economic Impacts

Youth unemployment weakens economic growth by reducing

consumer spending and productivity. Households with unemployed youth face increased dependency ratios, putting a strain on both family resources and national welfare systems. The economic inactivity of such a significant portion of the population slows down overall development.

Social Consequences

Prolonged unemployment among youth leads to frustration, often manifesting in rising crime rates and social unrest. Marginalized communities are hit hardest, as poverty and inequality deepen, limiting access to education and opportunities. The lack of employment prospects can erode social cohesion, impacting long-term stability.

Brain Drain

The scarcity of job opportunities drives skilled professionals to seek better prospects abroad. This "brain drain" leads to a significant loss of talent and innovation, which could otherwise contribute to national development. It also creates a disparity between the skills produced in Pakistan and those that benefit other countries.

Psychological Effects

The psychological toll of unemployment is profound. Many young people face stress, depression, and a diminished sense of purpose, which impacts not only their mental health but also their capacity to contribute to society. This cycle of despondency further weakens the social fabric.

Solutions to Tackle Youth Unemployment in Pakistan

Addressing youth unemployment in Pakistan requires a multi-pronged approach involving government initiatives, private sector

involvement, and international cooperation.

Economic Reforms

Creating a conducive environment for investment through tax incentives, streamlined regulations, and ease of doing business reforms is essential. Stabilizing the economy can attract foreign direct investment (FDI) and support the growth of industries that generate jobs.

Education and Skills Development

Reforming the education system to align with market demands is a critical step. Emphasizing technical and vocational training can bridge the skill gap and prepare youth for emerging industries. Public-private partnerships can play a pivotal role in implementing industry-specific training programs.

Youth Empowerment

Programs like the [Kamyab Jawan Program](#) need to be expanded to fund youth entrepreneurship and innovation. Promoting startups in sectors like IT, renewable energy, and e-commerce can unlock new employment avenues. Providing mentorship and financial support to young entrepreneurs is equally important.

Industrial Policy

Strategic industrial policies focusing on the establishment of special economic zones (SEZs) can boost manufacturing and exports. Investing in labor-intensive industries can effectively absorb a larger workforce, creating stable employment opportunities.

Agricultural Modernization

Encouraging agro-industrial ventures and innovation in sustainable farming practices can create jobs beyond traditional farming. Value addition in

agriculture, such as food processing, offers significant potential for employment generation.

Infrastructure Development

Investing in large-scale infrastructure projects, including housing, energy, and transportation, can stimulate economic growth and generate both short- and long-term jobs. Infrastructure development also facilitates industrial expansion and regional connectivity.

Social Safety Nets

Strengthening welfare programs such as the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) is essential to protect vulnerable populations. Providing unemployment benefits, retraining programs, and job placement services can help mitigate the immediate impact of joblessness.

Source: <https://technologytimes.pk/2024/12/08/youth-unemployment-in-pakistan-challenges-impacts-and-strategic-solutions/>

Digital Transformation

Leveraging freelancing platforms and IT services can create remote employment opportunities. Expanding internet access in rural areas ensures broader participation in the digital economy, integrating previously underserved populations into the workforce.

Conclusion

Youth unemployment in Pakistan is not merely an economic issue but a multidimensional challenge with social, political, and psychological ramifications. Tackling it requires a coordinated effort between the government, private sector, and international partners. By investing in education, fostering industrial growth, and leveraging its youthful demographic dividend, Pakistan can turn its unemployment challenge into an opportunity for sustainable development and inclusive economic growth.

“

The children in Syria have suffered enough.

They deserve a future of peace, dignity, and opportunity.

Catherine Russell, UNICEF Executive Director

unicef | for every child

Over 4,000 young entrepreneurs receive grants under YouStart Initiative

The Ghana Enterprises Agency (GEA) Phase two grant disbursement under the YouStart Ghana Jobs and Skills Project to support youth-led businesses on mentorship and growth will provide fifty-two million Ghana Cedis grant to 4,000 youth-owned startups and enterprises.

The second phase of the YouStart Ghana Jobs and Skills Project dubbed 'Biggest grant, and mentoring expo' reached a major milestone with the official grant signing ceremony held at the Accra International Conference Centre.

Over 4,000 young entrepreneurs from across the country were awarded grants under the initiative, designed to empower the youth of Ghana and foster the growth of sustainable businesses that will drive the nation's economic progress.

The event marked the next step in the Government of Ghana's commitment to addressing youth unemployment and supporting entrepreneurship as a key driver of economic development.

Under Phase two of the YouStart Initiative, the government is providing critical financial support and mentorship to help young entrepreneurs build and scale their businesses.

The initiative is a vehicle through which Government intends to provide funding and technical support to youth and youth-led businesses to assist them start, build and grow their own businesses.

With more than 50,000 youth trained through the program, the



phase two represents a crucial opportunity to support young entrepreneurs in launching their businesses and driving economic growth.

The project is the government of Ghana initiative under the Ghana Enterprise Agency initiative and funded by World Bank. It will give three levels of entrepreneurship training- basic, intermediate, and advanced.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Ghana Enterprises Agency (GEA), Kosi Yankey-Ayeh highlighted the significance of the initiative, not only in terms of financial support but also as a testament to the government's belief in the power of the youth to shape Ghana's economic future.

She indicated that the initiative has marked a significant milestone in a collective effort to empower the youth of Ghana and nurture their entrepreneurial aspirations.

"Today's disbursement ceremony goes beyond the formal signing of grant agreements; it represents a powerful commitment to the future of our country, built upon the dreams and determination of our young entrepreneurs," she said.

The Phase two grants total GHC 51,866,369.31, which will

be distributed to 4,174 young entrepreneurs across Ghana.

The grants are designed to support businesses in various stages of development, providing young people with the resources they need to scale up their ventures.

She added that beside the financial assistance, beneficiaries will also receive tailored mentorship in key areas such as business management, financial literacy, digital marketing, and market expansion.

Mrs. Yankey-Ayeh further emphasized the holistic nature of the YouStart program, explaining that the grants are only one part of a larger ecosystem designed to ensure that young entrepreneurs succeed.

"These grants, made possible under the YouStart Ghana Jobs and Skills Project, are not just financial support. They symbolize the Government of Ghana's unwavering belief in the potential of our youth to drive innovation, create jobs, and contribute to the sustainable development of our nation," she stated.

Read more at: <https://3news.com/news/over-4000-young-entrepreneurs-receive-grants-under-youstart-initiative/>



From Bhutan to Nigeria & Kenya, women endure climate change differently than men

Climate change is not an equal player; neither is environmental degradation. Research shows that both disproportionately affect populations that are already vulnerable. The effects of floods, fires, heat waves and droughts are all more likely to hit harder in communities living under the poverty line or on society's socioeconomic fringes. And gender is a critical factor.

Globally, women and girls suffer the effects of climate change more than men. Women and children are [14 times](#) more likely than men to die in environmental disasters. Women also make up the majority of the world's poor, and they [rely more heavily on the environment](#) for their survival. These are all among the reasons why the United Nations says women are [key to climate action](#).

And yet, women are also disproportionately neglected in

- Research shows that globally, women and girls suffer greater effects of climate change and environmental disasters than men; at the same time, women environmental journalists often face greater obstacles on the job, and women's voices are often missing from stories about climate change.
- Three recent Mongabay fellows, all women, report on specific examples from their home countries (Bhutan, Nigeria, Kenya) in which women disproportionately experience the effects of climate change and extreme weather.
- In all three examples, women exhibit a perseverance that ensures their own and their families' survival — and sometimes aids their own independence and resourcefulness.

reporting on climate change and the environment — one [global analysis](#) found that women account for just 28% of the voices quoted in stories about climate change. Further research shows a [myriad of](#)

[reasons](#) for this: Women are seen as “less credible” sources than men, men fill the majority of newsroom leadership roles, reporters are influenced by cultural norms that don't prioritize women's voices

and women journalists face [greater safety risks](#) in the field — and online — that often curtail their reporting.

This year, Mongabay's fourth cohort of [Y. Eva Tan Conservation Reporting Fellows](#) comprised a diverse group of journalists from Bhutan, Nigeria and Kenya — all women. This was not orchestrated; each was selected (as all fellows are) on the basis of her talent, ambition, ideas and dedication to environmental reporting. It just so happened that the dynamics of this particular cohort presented a new opportunity to examine this underexamined facet of environmental reporting through an array of gendered lenses. Below, Mongabay's fellows offer keen insights into the experiences of women facing climate change, socioeconomic hardships and cultural biases in three distinct cultures — exhibiting perseverance that, at times, leads to greater equality and resourcefulness.

(Choki Wangmo reports from Bhutan, Tarinipre Francis reports from Nigeria and Juliet Akoth Ojwang reports from Kenya.)

BHUTAN

Women cordyceps collectors battle uncertainty amid changing climate

LUNGO, Bhutan — Pem Zam stands in the doorway of her newly built stone house, watching the distant mountains that have been both a lifeline and a challenge for her family. The fire crackles warmly inside the house, but outside, the May winds bring snow to the rugged peaks. Her husband, brother and his wife set off in the early morning for Gumna, a high-altitude pass four hours away, with permits in hand to collect [cordyceps](#) (*Ophiocordyceps sinensis*), a rare medicinal fungus that has become a vital part of their livelihood. Pem Zam will join them the next day,

but the journey is never easy — especially after the [landslide](#) that claimed the lives of 20 of her friends last year.

“I still have nightmares,” she says quietly, the trauma of that tragic day still fresh in her mind. Pem Zam, one of the survivors of the disaster, is haunted by the fear that the mountains could strike again. Her anxiety is a daily battle, but she continues to push forward.

Pem Zam is not alone in this struggle. In the high-altitude regions where she lives, women are often the backbone of their families, tending to livestock, preparing meals and holding their communities together, responsible for caregiving in their households, managing the home. Comparatively, with no time to care for themselves, they face many health problems, including the challenges of menstruation in extreme cold.

Pema Lhaden, 50, has recently hit menopause. She has been collecting cordyceps for more

than 15 years, and with age, it is getting increasingly challenging. Besides severe mood changes, she suffers from constant migraines and insomnia that triggers altitude sickness. She is also worried about her three children who are spread across various mountain areas for cordyceps collection. Without a phone network, she worries about the well-being of her 5-year-old granddaughter left in the care of a childhood development center in the village. Meanwhile, her neighbor takes care of her 80-year-old mother. At the last point of the phone network area, she calls her mother: “Please take care and eat well. I will be back soon.” Deep down, she says that she is scared of uncertainty; the fragile life of her old mother.

The weather is unforgiving, the snow knee-deep outside their tents. The thin, bright blue trampoline tents buckle under the weight of the fresh snowfall, their fabric stretched tight. The night had been restless, with loud, crashing sounds waking them — perhaps the glacial lakes above were shifting. “It's the mountain's wrath,” one of the women murmurs, a superstition passed down through generations.

“Winter is especially hard,” Pem Zam says, her brow furrowed with



concern. “Finding enough feed for the yaks is difficult.” Yak rearing has been a vital part of her family’s life for generations, but [climate change](#) has made this way of life more fragile. “Only eight households out of 60 still raise yaks,” she adds.

Untimely snowfall, erratic rain and rising temperatures have tested their resilience like never before. As the fungus depends on cold, moist conditions, the [warmer temperatures](#) are shrinking its habitat, and the already fragile ecosystem is further stressed.

Pem Zam continues to climb higher at the base of Masangang, which peaks at 7,194 meters (23,602 feet) in northern Bhutan, in search of a better harvest, but the yields are dwindling. Decades ago, Pem Zam’s father could collect an entire bag in a single day; now, even a good harvest brings only a fraction of what it once did. [Reports show](#) that the amount of cordyceps harvested has declined sharply in recent years, and the future of this vital income source is increasingly uncertain.

Cordyceps, particularly found at altitudes above 3,800 m (12,500 ft), is in high demand in China for its use in traditional medicine. The value of the fungus has skyrocketed, with prices reaching 2.83 million Bhutanese ngultrum (\$34,000) per kilogram in 2022.

The booming cordyceps trade is not without its environmental costs. Overharvesting, coupled with climate change, exacerbates the sharp decline in the availability of the fungus. In upper [Paro](#), once-prime cordyceps habitats have dwindled, threatening the livelihoods of local communities. Chencho Gyeltshen a local leader in the district, acknowledges that cordyceps has become a crucial supplement to yak rearing, but the future remains uncertain.



“We pray that the fungus doesn’t run out,” says Namgay, a concerned collector.

Despite the altitude sickness, the headaches and the persistent coughs, the collectors press on. “There is no getting used to it,” Pem Zam says. “We just have to fight through it.”

NIGERIA

Flooding reveals struggles of women & children

YERWA CAMP, Maiduguri, Nigeria — On the night of Sept. 9, a flash flood drove Hadiza Modu, her husband and their six children out of their home. They spent that night by the road. At dawn, they moved to Yerwa Camp, a temporary shelter provided by the government of Borno state, in the northeastern corner of Nigeria, for residents [displaced by the flash floods](#) recorded in an area known as Jere.

The floods came without warning. The Alau Dam in neighboring Konduga had breached its bank and spread to Jere and Maiduguri local government areas. In the following days, up until the Yerwa Camp was closed on Sept. 19, 40-year-old Modu had to find ways to fend for herself and her six children. The camp was at capacity,

and with no more room to stay, her husband sought shelter in a mosque, from where he routinely paid his family a visit.

Although this responsibility of fending for herself was not new to the mother of six — she was the primary provider in her family, being married to an older husband who was retired — the situation at hand was unique. The floods had overrun their home, damaging their properties and suspending her cap-selling business. Her family now shared a living space and struggled with thousands of other victims for food brought by relief agencies.

“It was hard to watch over six children by myself in that type of situation. My husband was not with us at the camp, so I had to take full responsibility,” she said of their experience.

“On our first day at the camp, we didn’t eat anything throughout that day. When food came from the NGOs, I would first secure food for my children to eat before I thought of myself. The condition of the camp was very uncomfortable.”

Several studies over the course of many years have recorded how

low-income women are some of the most vulnerable to environmental crises like floods. In one of such [study](#), dating to 2013, researchers mentioned that while “gender alone is not a significant determinant of vulnerability to flood impacts ... gendered experiences of flood[s] are influenced by gender roles intersecting with place, class and household structures.”

Interestingly, women don’t often recognize this gendered vulnerability. According to the study, “women in general expressed no concern about gendered vulnerability to flooding as most believed flood impacts were gender neutral.” Their views, however, were not supported by evidence of the reality on ground, where the impacts of floods varied among income groups and neighborhoods, and “gender differences were apparent.” Women in the low-income neighborhood studied “recorded higher impacts and slower recovery compared to other social categories of women and men,” according to the study.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) also [reports](#) that “as climate change destroys existing livelihoods, women are more exposed to the risk of being left behind and trapped in dangerous environments.” They are also expected to take care of family and household responsibilities, while men migrate to other

places, seeking better livelihood opportunities.

This implies that environmental crises like floods exacerbate already existing inequalities in society. For Modu, it was the continuous sole responsibility of caregiving even in a situation that required more support.

Now, a few months later, sitting in front of what was left of their home, breastfeeding the youngest of her six children, she tells Mongabay that she definitely experienced the floods differently from her husband.

“I did not have the privilege to leave my six children or just hang around. At the camp, my child fell ill, and I did not know what to do. Everywhere was shut down because of the flood. There was no hospital to go to. I assumed most of the responsibility in keeping my family safe during the crisis. I can’t go anywhere freely. I have to always be watching over my children.”

KENYA

Maasai women respond to climate change & culture with innovation

It’s around 10 a.m. in Olooloitkosh village, on the outskirts of Kitengela town, approximately 30 kilometers south of Kenya’s capital, Nairobi. The bleating of sheep and goats and the lowing of cows echo across the landscape’s vast distances.

At the local borehole, a beautiful scene unfolds. Livestock crowd around, drinking deeply from water pans under the warmth of the mid-morning sun. Others graze nearby, their movements accompanied by the gentle tinkling of bells around their necks that create a soothing melody blending harmoniously with the chirping of birds perched in surrounding trees.

This borehole, a lifeline for the community, is more than just a water source. It has become a vibrant gathering place for a group of Maasai women; a hub of conversation, camaraderie and connection.

The Nadupoi Women Group, predominantly composed of elderly women, is dedicated to combating the harsh conditions brought about by climate change on their pastoralist lifestyle. Facing unpredictable weather patterns and prolonged droughts, these resilient women have embraced “climate-smart” agriculture to adapt and thrive.

Read more at: <https://news.mongabay.com/2024/12/from-bhutan-to-nigeria-kenya-women-endure-climate-change-differently-than-men/>



How Arctic climate change is reshaping our planet's future

The Arctic, often referred to as the Earth's 'canary in the coal mine' for climate change, is experiencing dramatic transformations as global warming intensifies.

These changes are not confined to the Arctic itself but ripple across the globe, impacting weather patterns, ecosystems, and economies. The Arctic is warming up to four times faster than the global average, a phenomenon known as Arctic amplification.¹ This rapid warming is driving significant environmental shifts, from declining sea ice to thawing permafrost, with far-reaching consequences for the planet.

Arctic temperature trends

Arctic temperatures have risen significantly over the past decades, with the region now warming at more than double the rate of the rest of the world. In 2023, the Arctic recorded its warmest summer to date, with average temperatures surpassing the 1991–2020 baseline by over 4°C in some areas.² The year 2023 also marked a troubling milestone, with annual Arctic temperatures increasing by an average of 0.25°C per decade since 1940.

This rapid warming is not just a statistical anomaly – it is driven by feedback loops unique to the Arctic. One critical factor is the albedo effect. Albedo refers to the measure of a surface's reflectivity. Snow and ice, which dominate the Arctic landscape, have high albedo values and reflect a significant portion of solar radiation back into space. However, as temperatures rise and ice and snow melt, darker surfaces

such as open ocean and exposed land are revealed. These surfaces absorb more solar energy than they reflect, leading to further warming – a self-reinforcing cycle.³

This feedback mechanism is one of the main drivers of Arctic amplification, where the region warms at a rate up to four times faster than the global average. Studies show that the loss of sea ice, particularly in summer months, is responsible for a significant portion of this enhanced warming. The additional heat absorbed by the Arctic Ocean does not just melt more ice but also warms the surrounding air and accelerates the melting of permafrost and glaciers.

Shrinking sea ice: A disappearing shield

Arctic sea ice, a cornerstone of the region's climate stability, is rapidly diminishing. Satellite data shows that the 17 lowest sea ice extents on record have all occurred since 2007, with 2023 marking one of the most critical lows.⁴ September, the month of the annual sea ice minimum, has become a key indicator of this trend. The National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC) reports that sea ice extent during September has declined by approximately 13% per decade since the 1980s.

The loss of sea ice has profound implications. It alters the Arctic Ocean's ecosystem, disrupts species reliant on ice, such as polar bears and seals, and opens the region to

increased human activity, including shipping and resource extraction. Furthermore, diminished sea ice affects global weather patterns. For instance, it weakens the jet stream, leading to more persistent weather extremes, such as prolonged heatwaves and storms in mid-latitude regions.

Greenland's melting ice sheet: A global concern

The Greenland ice sheet, the second-largest reservoir of freshwater on Earth, is losing mass at an alarming rate. Recent studies by NASA's Earth Observatory highlight extreme melt events, with 2023 seeing surface melting even at Greenland's summit, an area previously considered immune to such changes. Each year, Greenland contributes approximately 0.8 millimetres to global sea level rise, a figure expected to increase as warming intensifies.⁶

This ice loss has global repercussions. Melting from Greenland alone could raise sea levels by over 20 feet if fully destabilized. Such a rise would inundate coastal cities, displace millions, and cause catastrophic economic losses. Additionally, as glaciers retreat, they expose darker rock surfaces, enhancing heat absorption and accelerating further melting.

Ecosystem impacts

The Arctic's warming waters and shifting ice are reshaping

ecosystems in unexpected ways. Salmon populations are a striking example of this upheaval. Chinook and chum salmon, historically abundant in Arctic rivers, are now struggling due to heat stress and altered river conditions. Conversely, sockeye salmon, a species more tolerant of warmer waters, are thriving, showcasing how climate change can create winners and losers within ecosystems.

Beyond fish, these changes affect the entire Arctic food web, from plankton to apex predators. Indigenous communities, who rely on consistent fish and wildlife populations for sustenance and cultural practices, face significant challenges as traditional food sources become unpredictable or scarce.

Thawing permafrost

Permafrost, the frozen soil that underpins much of the Arctic landscape, is thawing rapidly as temperatures rise. This process releases methane and carbon dioxide – potent greenhouse gases – into the atmosphere, amplifying global warming. Subsea permafrost, which covers vast areas of the Arctic Ocean floor, is particularly concerning. As warmer ocean currents erode this frozen layer, methane previously trapped for millennia is released, contributing to a feedback loop of accelerated warming.

Quantifying these emissions is challenging, but their potential to significantly influence climate systems is undeniable. Scientists warn that permafrost carbon release could rival or exceed current annual emissions from fossil fuel use, underscoring the need for urgent monitoring and mitigation.

The role of clouds and aerosols

Recent studies have highlighted the

complex role of clouds and aerosols in the Arctic's climate dynamics. Thin, low-lying clouds can either reflect sunlight, cooling the surface, or trap heat, exacerbating ice melt. Aerosols, including dust, smoke, and marine particles, further complicate this dynamic by altering cloud properties and behaviour. The ARCSIX project, a NASA-led initiative, has collected extensive data on these interactions, improving our understanding of how these factors influence Arctic warming.⁷

This research is critical for refining climate models. While current models provide valuable insights, real-world data from field studies like ARCSIX help scientists identify gaps and improve predictive accuracy, ensuring better preparedness for future changes.

Socioeconomic and global impacts of Arctic climate change

The Arctic's changes extend far beyond its icy borders, with profound global implications. Melting sea ice opens new shipping routes, reducing transit times for global trade but raising environmental and geopolitical concerns. The region's untapped oil and gas reserves are also becoming more accessible, sparking debates about balancing economic opportunity with environmental stewardship.

On a broader scale, the Arctic's transformation disrupts weather systems worldwide. The weakened polar vortex and altered jet stream patterns linked to Arctic warming are associated with extreme weather events, from heatwaves in Europe to severe cold spells in North America. These changes

underscore the interconnectedness of the Arctic with the rest of the planet.

Policy responses and the path forward

Efforts to address Arctic climate change include initiatives by the ArcticNet, [which integrates scientific research with indigenous knowledge to promote resilience](https://www.innovationnewsnetwork.com/how-arctic-climate-change-is-reshaping-our-planets-future/54064/). Countries with Arctic territories are also collaborating on emissions reduction strategies, though progress remains uneven. Restoration projects, such as reforestation and peatland restoration, aim to enhance carbon storage and mitigate warming.

However, the urgency of the Arctic crisis demands more comprehensive global action. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions, advancing renewable energy adoption, and funding climate research are critical steps to slowing Arctic warming and its global effects.

The Arctic's dramatic changes are a stark reminder of the urgency of addressing climate change. As sea ice retreats, permafrost thaws, and ecosystems shift, the need for global collaboration and immediate action becomes increasingly clear. The Arctic's future is not just a regional concern; it is a global imperative. By understanding and addressing these changes, humanity can work toward a more stable and sustainable climate.

Source: <https://www.innovationnewsnetwork.com/how-arctic-climate-change-is-reshaping-our-planets-future/54064/>



Workshop on Climate Finance and Project Development: Exploring the Role of the Private Sector in Climate Adaptation

This two-day workshop on Climate Finance and Project Development brings together stakeholders from across six Francophone West African countries, including Senegal, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Benin, Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, and Guinea. Participants include accredited entities from private and public sectors, organizations pursuing accreditation, and National Designated Authorities (NDAs). The event is designed to enhance participants' capacity to prepare Green Climate Fund (GCF)-compliant project concept notes, integrate climate resilience into project design, and access climate finance.

Participants explore how private sector innovation, financing, and expertise can complement public sector efforts to address climate challenges. Through dedicated sessions and open discussions, the workshop highlights strategies to better integrate private entities into climate finance frameworks.

Event description

Exploring the Role of the Private Sector

The private sector plays an essential role in scaling climate adaptation efforts by mobilizing resources, fostering innovation, and bridging the gap between public funding and the financial needs of large-scale adaptation projects. A

highlight of the workshop is the dedicated session on the private sector outlook, which shares insights into leveraging the GCF and other climate financing mechanisms. This discussion underscores how such funds enhance the bankability of adaptation investments by hedging the risks associated with high-risk adaptation projects, making them more attractive and viable for private sector participation. However, structural bottlenecks often impede the accessibility of GCF funding for private entities.

Challenges for Private Sector Engagement:

Difficulty aligning private investment strategies with GCF requirements: Private investments often prioritize profitability and scalability, which can conflict with GCF's focus on environmental and social impact.

Lack of access to localized climate data: The absence of comprehensive local studies can hinder the development of robust, data-driven investment proposals.

Complexity and length of GCF processes: The accreditation and project approval timelines can be especially challenging for private entities, with ownership changes, mergers, and acquisitions introducing additional bureaucratic complexities.

Opportunities for Impact:

Leveraging GCF and other climate funds to de-risk adaptation investments.

Building collaborations with NDAs and accredited entities to co-develop impactful projects.

Identifying scalable models for private sector involvement in adaptation finance.

Workshop Objectives

- Enhance participants' understanding of GCF processes and criteria.
- Build capacity for preparing robust, GCF-compliant concept notes.
- Foster collaboration between public and private stakeholders to accelerate climate finance in the region.

Key Highlights

- Capacity Building: Expert-led sessions on accreditation processes, project concept note development, and climate data integration.
- Practical Application: Group exercises to apply knowledge in real-world project contexts.
- Peer Learning: Opportunities to exchange experiences, challenges, and best practices across sectors.

Source: <https://gca.org/events/workshop-on-climate-finance-and-project-developmentexploring-the-role-of-the-private-sector-in-climate-adaptation/>

CFAs: USAID/Pakistan Inclusive Water Governance Activity

Deadline: 6-Feb-25

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is seeking applications for a cooperative agreement from qualified entities to implement the Inclusive Water Governance Activity.

Goal

- Improved resilience of communities to floods and droughts and increased economic opportunities of communities.
- Intermediate Result 1 (IR-1): Integrated hill torrent water governance and strengthened disaster preparedness for floods and droughts
 - SubIR-1.1: Strengthened capacity of local stakeholders
 - SubIR-1.2: Policy, plans, and regulations developed and implemented
 - SubIR-1.3: Demonstration green infrastructure built
- Intermediate Result 2 (IR-2): Groundwater recharge supported to increase urban groundwater storage
 - SubIR-2.1: Strengthened capacity of local stakeholders
 - SubIR-2.2: Policy, plans, and regulations developed and implemented
 - SubIR-2.3: Demonstration green infrastructure built

- Intermediate Result 3 (IR-3): Increased water conservation opportunities in rural areas to harness rainfall-floods
 - SubIR-3.1: Strengthened capacity of local stakeholders
 - SubIR-3.2: Policy, plans, and regulations developed and implemented
 - SubIR-3.3: Demonstration green infrastructure built

Funding Information

- Award Ceiling: \$14,000,000
- Award Floor: \$2,990,000

Duration

- The anticipated period of performance is five years. The start date will be determined prior to issuance of the award

Expected Outcomes

- The activity is expected to achieve a number of outcomes, including fostering community organization and resilience building, policy reforms, strengthening local water governance and management, increasing surface water storage capacity, increasing the recharge of groundwater reducing flood risks, increasing [economic](#) opportunities and ensuring the institutional and financial sustainability of these interventions.

Eligibility Criteria

- Eligibility for this NOFO is restricted to local organizations or local entities. USAID defines a "local entity" as an individual, a corporation, a nonprofit organization, or another body of persons that:
 - Is legally organized under the laws of; and
 - Has as its principal place of business or operations in; and
 - Is
 - majority owned by individuals who are citizens or lawful permanent residents of; and
 - managed by a governing body the majority of who are citizens or lawful permanent residents of the country receiving assistance.

- USAID welcomes applications from organizations that have not previously received financial assistance from USAID.
- Faith-based organizations are eligible to apply for federal financial assistance on the same basis as any other organization and are subject to the protections and requirements of Federal law.

For more information, visit [Grants.gov](https://www2.fundsforngos.org/latest-funds-for-ngos/cfas-usaid-pakistan-inclusive-water-governance-activity/).

Source: <https://www2.fundsforngos.org/latest-funds-for-ngos/cfas-usaid-pakistan-inclusive-water-governance-activity/>



YEFL-Ghana engages stakeholders on promoting inclusive, equitable education

Tamale, Dec. 11, GNA – YEFL-Ghana, an NGO, has held series of gender transformative educational dialogue meetings for some stakeholders in the education in the northern part of the country to promote inclusivity in development.

The dialogue meetings, held separately in the Northern, Savannah and the North East Regions, were to bring to light critical challenges impeding gender equality, inclusivity, and access to quality education in these regions.

They were organised with funding support from Oxfam in Ghana under the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) Strategic Partnership II Programme.

Mr Emmanuel Ndukwe, Lead Project Officer at YEFL-Ghana, speaking during the meeting in Tamale, said they were to explore the challenges impeding gender

equality, inclusivity, and access to quality education.

He added that they were also to strategise and come out with workable solutions to address the issues as well as to showcase successes and opportunities of community-led initiatives, which revealed some significant reductions in school drop-out, among others.

Mr Ndukwe said “The initiatives have helped, especially girls to excel in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields showcasing their potential when given the opportunities.”

He reiterated the commitment of YEFL-Ghana to youth empowerment, and underscored

the importance of community engagement, emphasising more on the need for chiefs and traditional authorities to support reforms for educational development.

The dialogue highlighted the limited scope of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programmes, which participants said often focused on male-dominated fields such as auto mechanics and woodwork, which discouraged female participation.

The dialogue also identified harassment in schools, which was rooted in unequal power dynamics between teachers and students, which in many cases, were unreported due to the lack of safeguarding structures and the lack of gender-neutral leadership roles in schools.

Stakeholders recognised some government initiatives in promoting gender transformative education,

such as the Free Senior High School initiative, the Re-entry Policy, and the Pre-Tertiary Education Act 2020 (Act 1049) as well as the recent increase of both the Capitation Grant and the capital daily cost allocation of the School Feeding programme by 50 per cent.

Mr Amadu Mamuda Timbilla, Headmaster, Kpasenkpe STEM SHS, during the dialogue at Walewale, said there was more to be done in terms of policy, adding policies were usually formulated without broader consultations, making their implementation challenging.

The dialogue also mentioned that inadequate infrastructure was a major challenge, including the lack of inclusive facilities for persons living with disabilities and other amenities such as changing rooms and sanitary facilities, which had been compounded by poverty and lack of parental support systems.

The stakeholders asserted that implementing the above recommendations would help address systemic, cultural, and infrastructural barriers to transform education in the northern part of the country.

Madam Seidu Latifa, Savannah Regional Girls Education Officer, during the dialogue at Damongo, said poor parental attitudes and cultural norms were one of the major contributors to early marriages, and teenage pregnancies.

She said, “Some parents put pressure on their girls to marry early in order to reduce financial burdens, which undermines their educational prospects.”

Madam Ali Shahada, Gender Equity and Social Inclusion Lead for Africa Education Watch, commended YEFL-Ghana for its leading role in championing gender equality and inclusive education and called on government and other stakeholders to support the efforts to enhance the sustainable development of the country.

Ethiopia Lifts Suspension Of 3 NGOs

Ethiopia has lifted a ban on three rights organisations it had previously suspended for political bias, the groups said on Wednesday.

The government ordered the Center for the Advancement of Rights and Democracy (CARD), the Association for Human Rights in Ethiopia (AHRE), and Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR), to stop operations in mid-November, accusing them of harming national interests.

Their suspension was criticised by rights groups including the Human Rights Watch (HRW) which said Ethiopia was shutting the last remaining space for independent oversight.

Ethiopia’s Authority for Civil Society Organizations (ACSO) lifted the ban in a letter to the NGOs urging them to “be politically neutral”, a representative of one of the lobbies told AFP on condition of anonymity.

“We dispute what we’ve been accused of and this is a bad signal being sent. It is worrying,” a member of another NGO said.

HRW said early this month the groups were targeted shortly after they signed a public letter criticising proposed

amendments to Ethiopia’s media law.

The amended law aims to bring the country’s media authority under the direct control of the prime minister’s office.



The government has previously suspended rights groups, including international NGOs, for criticising its conduct in the devastating war in the Tigray region that killed hundreds of thousands of people between 2020 and 2022.

The Horn of Africa country of around 120 million people is still facing multiple conflicts, particularly in the most populous regions of Amhara and Oromia, where federal forces are fighting armed militias.

Both the federal forces and the militias have been accused of human rights violations.

Source: https://www.barrons.com/news/ethiopia-lifts-suspension-of-3-ngos-3182559b?refsec=topics_afp-news



Climate emergency: children's advocacy NGO against school closures

The National Inclusive Children's Parliament writes to India's Chief Justice. Interruptions not only lead to learning problems, but deprive many pupils of a regular meal. For NICP president, "Schools are not just classrooms – they are spaces where we grow, thrive, and feel safe".

Delhi (AsiaNews) – The National Inclusive Children's Parliament (NICP), an association that represents and protects children from vulnerable communities, has written to India's Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna, to denounce the negative impact of school closures on children.

School closures caused by pollution and climate emergencies are causing serious problems in the Indian subcontinent, with potentially negative impact on children's education, especially

among the most vulnerable social groups.

The petition, drafted and signed by a group of children, notes that closures end up undermining their constitutional rights, as well as those guaranteed by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which includes the right to education, nutrition, and safety.

This issue does not only affect education, but also children's nutrition since many, in fact, rely on the midday meals provided by schools as a primary source of their everyday nourishment.

School closures put them at serious risk of hunger and malnutrition, further compromising their growth and well-being.

Without action, children risk falling into a cycle of poverty, exploitation and abandonment, reads the petition, reposted by the Catholic Connect Reporter (CCR).

The appeal, submitted through PRATYeK on behalf of the NICP, details children's struggles – for food and books – and provides actionable recommendations. The signatories ask that midday meals or dry rations be available even during

school closures, to ensure continuity in nutrition.

It is also hoped that hybrid learning modes will be implemented, to maintain access to education by prioritising safety during emergencies. The goal is to turn schools into day-boarding facilities and holiday activity hubs, with regular access to food, protection, and development opportunities.

The appeal also highlighted the wider implications of school closures, noting how children have been deprived not only of education, but also of essential resources such as safe environments, opportunities for socialisation, and protection from exploitation.

Referring to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the children stressed that school closures violate their right to education, play, health, and protection.

They note that many of their peers have been left unsupervised, vulnerable to child labour, and unable to access digital education due to lack of resources.

The document not only contains criticism, but also expresses gratitude for the Supreme Court's efforts to address air quality emergencies, despite the need for more comprehensive and child-centred solutions.

"Schools are not just classrooms – they are spaces where we grow, thrive, and feel safe," said NICP president Nikky, stressing the importance of ensuring that no child is left behind, even in times of crisis.

The letter ends with a call for systemic reforms to protect children's rights during emergencies. By amplifying their voices, the NICP hopes to encourage judicial and political accountability to ensure a future where every child in India has uninterrupted access to education, nutrition and safety, even in the face of the challenges posed by climate crises and pollution.



Dhairya NGO and PS Cyber Crime Conduct Cyber Crime Awareness Program for Students of MES School Bambooflat

Sri Vijaya Puram, 11 December 2024. In a bid to raise awareness about the growing dangers of cybercrime, a Cyber Crime Awareness Program was conducted at MES School in Bambooflat on 9th December 2024. The event was a joint effort by Dhairya NGO and the Cyber Crime Police Station of the Andaman and Nicobar Police.

The program saw enthusiastic participation from students, who were educated on key aspects of cyber safety, including online security, responsible use of technology, and safeguarding personal information. Experts from Police Station Cyber Crime of Andaman and Nicobar Police provided valuable insights on identifying cyber threats, preventing online fraud, and understanding the importance of staying vigilant in the digital world.

Through the interactive session, students gained a deeper understanding of how to navigate the online space safely, with a dedicated Q&A segment allowing them to address specific concerns with the experts.

Dhairya NGO, which is committed to promoting digital safety, thanked the Andaman and Nicobar Police for their invaluable support and expertise. The management of MES School also expressed their appreciation for the program, emphasising the significance of such initiatives in today's technology-driven age.

The event not only raised awareness but also empowered students to act as responsible digital citizens and report any suspicious online activity.

Source: <https://nicbartimes.com/local-news/dhairya-ngo-and-ps-cyber-crime-conduct-cyber-crime-awareness-program-for-students-of-mes-school-bambooflat/>

A beacon of hope for marginalised in Rohtas

Dr Manju Kumari, an education official in Rohtas district, is going beyond her official duties to uplift children from economically disadvantaged families. Her dedication to social service is transforming the lives of students, particularly in Naxal-affected areas.

BIHAR : Driven by a deep sense of social responsibility, Dr Manju Kumari, an official with Bihar's Education Department, is making a significant impact in Rohtas district, particularly in the Naxal-affected Tilauthu block. As the in-charge of the Block Resource Centre (BRC), she goes beyond her official duties, dedicating herself to inspiring and educating children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Unlike many of her colleagues, Manju does not head home after office hours. Instead, she spends her evenings visiting villages, distributing books, school bags, uniforms, and other study materials—personally funded from her salary. She works tirelessly to support students who lack basic educational resources, a cause she's passionately taken up without relying on NGOs or external funding.

Her commitment to social work traces back to her childhood, where she was inspired by her father, late Shiv Shankar Shah, a former mukhiya (panchayat head) of Chandanpura in Rohtas. "Watching my father serve the community, providing land and resources to establish a new school, instilled in me a strong sense of social responsibility.

The school is still operational," Manju recalls. Her father's enduring social contributions laid the foundation for her own lifelong dedication to public service.

Despite personal struggles, including an early marriage that ended in



separation, Manju remained focused on her mission. She remarried, found support, and raised two children, both of whom now live outside Bihar. Her educational background—a post-graduate degree and a Ph.D. from Ranchi University—has shaped her professional journey. After teaching Hindi at Government High School (+2), Dehri, for over a decade, she was appointed as the BRC in-charge in 2023.

The new role has given Manju more freedom to pursue her childhood dream. Beyond administrative duties, she inspects local schools, ensures proper sanitation, motivates students, and provides financial assistance with her limited resources. "Now, I have the time and platform to make a real difference," she says.

Manju's passion for education isn't limited to Bihar. While living in Ranchi, she worked as a teacher in a private school for some time, when she visited tribal colonies, teaching children who had

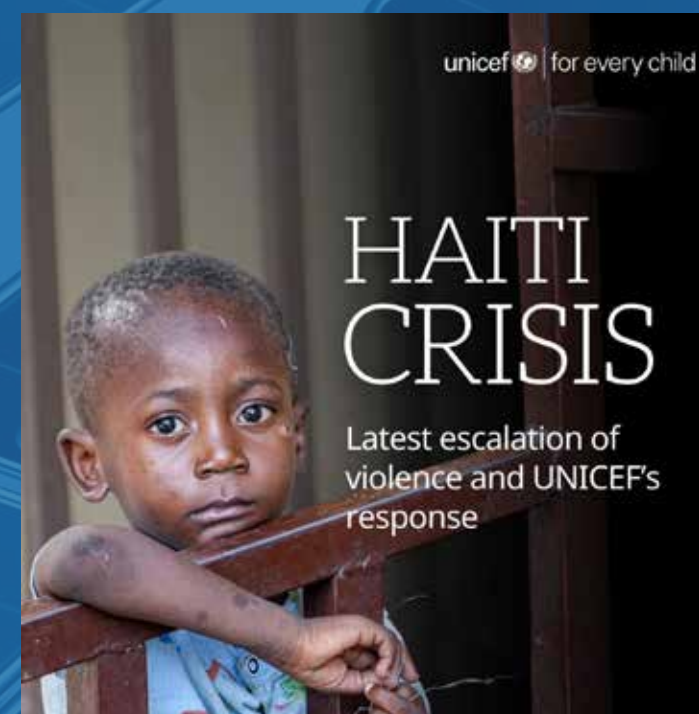
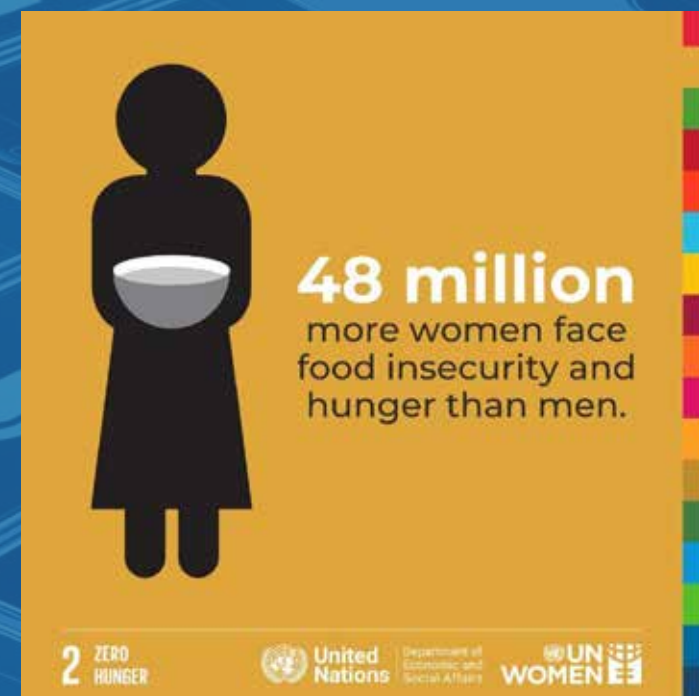
never been to school. Her efforts were groundbreaking in those communities. "Parents eventually started sending their children to school, which was a huge success," she notes.

However, her journey has not been without obstacles. Initially, her efforts were met with resistance from her in-laws and her first husband, who discouraged her from pursuing social work. Despite the opposition, she remained steadfast. "It wasn't easy, but I didn't let their discouragement stop me," she says.

Reflecting on the state of society, Manju expresses concern over the decline of social responsibility and ethical values. "People are more focused on personal gains, with little regard for the greater good," she says. "I hope to revive the spirit of service and social commitment in our communities."

Source: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/thesundaystandard/2024/Dec/15/a-beacon-of-hope-for-marginalised-in-rohtas>

Tweets of Social Good





After 86 Years, Disabled Workers Could Finally Receive Minimum Wage Protections

Biden's Labor Department is moving to abolish "subminimum wage" rules, but the Trump administration may undo the win.



Schuyler Mitchell

For nearly 90 years, the wealthiest country in the world has [allowed](#) thousands of disabled people to be paid mere pennies on the dollar. Now, after decades of advocacy from disability justice activists, the U.S. Department of Labor has finally announced plans to end the exploitative practice.

Any move to reverse a decades-old injustice is cause for celebration. But as a second Donald Trump

presidency looms, the future of the potential rule change looks uncertain. And disability advocates fear that the fledgling proposal might never get the chance to leave its nest.

When Congress passed the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, it established essential protections for U.S. workers, including the right to a minimum wage and overtime pay. But the law included a cruel carve-out in the form of Section

14(c), allowing employers to obtain certificates to pay disabled workers a subminimum wage. Already, you might recall, the federal minimum wage has been stuck at a paltry \$7.25 an hour for more than a decade. But there's no floor to how low wages for disabled workers can go. Half of the people working under the Department of Labor's Section 14(c) certificate program — the vast majority of whom have an intellectual or developmental disability — make less than [\\$3.50](#) an hour.

The initial inclusion of Section 14(c) purported to be a good thing for disabled workers, providing businesses with an economic incentive to hire them and thereby expanding employment opportunities for the disabled community. In reality, the program has prevented thousands of disabled people from obtaining fair and meaningful work opportunities, while trapping them in cycles of poverty. More than one in four disabled adults in the United States were [living](#) in poverty in 2022, compared to just 11.5 percent of adults without disabilities.

The Department of Labor is accepting comments on its proposed change until January 17, 2025. If the rule is finalized, it would cease the issuance of new subminimum wage certificates and begin a three-year period of phasing out existing certificates.

"The change is extremely important, because it states that the federal government recognizes disabled people as full human beings," Mia Ives-Rublee, senior director for the Disability Justice Initiative at the Center for American Progress, told Truthout. "It's one of many steps that we need to take in order to pull down a lot of these draconian patronizing policies that keep disabled people poor."

A cornerstone of the Section 14(c) program is the use of sheltered workshops, which Ives-Rublee likened to sweatshops: warehouses where disabled workers are sequestered and made to perform often menial work for cents on the dollar. In 2022, The Kansas City Beacon and ProPublica [analyzed](#) employment data from the more than 5,000 disabled adults employed at 97 sheltered workshops across Missouri. Their investigation found that, while sheltered workshops are intended to be temporary training measures, very few employees ever left for regular-paying jobs.

"The change is extremely important, because it states that the federal government recognizes disabled people as full human beings."

Ives-Rublee similarly noted that, while lawmakers might have initially passed Section 14(c) with the intention of encouraging businesses to hire disabled workers, the certificate program is in fact "a hallmark of the general patronizing viewpoint of disabled people and their worth in society."

Rather than seek to convince businesses that hiring disabled people is a good thing to do in its own right, Section 14(c) tries "to utilize a capitalist mindset of, 'Oh, these people aren't worth as much, so you don't have to pay as much,'" Ives-Rublee told Truthout.

In an interview with ProPublica in 2022, State Sen. Bill White (R-Missouri) echoed this sentiment himself. "This wonderful idea that we're going to put everybody in the mainstream and everybody will be able to participate and function perfectly in this economy isn't true," he said. "They're just not as able to be as fast, as productive and as efficient."

The proposed federal rule change, however, arrives as 16 states have already banned subminimum wage for disabled workers — and provided data that directly contradicts this ableist argument against phasing out Section 14(c).

A Washington Post [analysis](#) of eight states that banned subminimum wage found that overall employment rates for adults with cognitive disabilities actually increased after the certificate programs were ended.

"There's a general fear from families about where their children are going to go after 14(c) goes away. There's a fear of them not having a place to work or not having some meaningful activity," said Ives-Rublee. "But we've seen from studies that that's not actually true."

Unfortunately, given the Biden administration's last-minute attempt to push through this rule change, when Donald Trump enters the White House next month, his administration will have the power to pause or revoke it. So far, however, Trump has not shared his stance on Section 14(c). Ives-Rublee calls disability "a weird third rail policy area," because it impacts Republicans as much as Democrats, and some conservatives have been willing to work in favor of certain disability justice measures.

Project 2025, the far right policy blueprint spearheaded by the Heritage Foundation, also does not address the issue of subminimum wage. However, it proposes changes that would [hurt disabled people](#), including cuts to Medicaid and Medicare and the elimination of the Department of Education. While strides have been made in recent years to ensure equitable educational opportunities for disabled people, eliminating the Department of Education would dismantle the coordinated resources offered by

the department's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services. Disability justice advocates warn that this could hinder both disabled people's educational opportunities and later-employment possibilities.

Recognizing the importance of congressional action to enshrine protections for disabled workers before Trump takes office, the End Subminimum Wage Coalition has been pushing for the passage of the bipartisan Transformation to Competitive Integrated Employment Act. The bill would eliminate subminimum wage for disabled people through

the legislative process, making the protections more difficult to overturn than the proposed Department of Labor rule. In September, the coalition of more than 90 organizations [wrote](#) a letter urging Congress to pass the bill before the end of the year.

"When disabled people are instead given the appropriate accommodations and wraparound services, we often stop demonstrating the behaviors or characteristics that got us (mis) labeled as 'low-functioning' or 'profoundly disabled' to begin with," the End Subminimum Wage Coalition wrote.

The letter also included personal testimonies from disabled people who were hired in subminimum wage jobs, such as an employee named Donna Spears, who worked at a 14(c) sheltered workshop in Louisiana for 38 dollars per month.

"Working for less than minimum wage took away my dignity.... I was humiliated when I learned that other workers were paid much more than me for the same work," Spears wrote. "14(c) has to end."

Source: <https://truthout.org/articles/after-86-years-disabled-workers-could-finally-receive-minimum-wage-protections/>

Help us Prepare for Trump's Day One

Trump is busy getting ready for Day One of his presidency – but so is Truthout.

Trump has made it no secret that he is planning a demolition-style attack on both specific communities and democracy as a whole, beginning on his first day in office. With over 25 executive orders and directives queued up for January 20, he's promised to "launch the largest deportation program in American history," roll back anti-discrimination protections for transgender students, and implement a "drill, drill, drill" approach to ramp up oil and gas extraction.

Organizations like Truthout are also being threatened by legislation like HR 9495, the "nonprofit killer bill" that would allow the Treasury Secretary to declare any nonprofit a "terrorist-supporting organization" and strip its tax-exempt status without due process. Progressive media like Truthout that has courageously focused on reporting on Israel's genocide in Gaza are in the bill's crosshairs.

As journalists, we have a responsibility to look at hard realities and communicate them to you. We hope that you, like us, can use this information to prepare for what's to come.

And if you feel uncertain about what to do in the face of a second Trump administration, we invite you to be an indispensable part of Truthout's preparations.

In addition to covering the widespread onslaught of draconian policy, we're shoring up our resources for what might come next for progressive media: bad-

faith lawsuits from far-right ghouls, legislation that seeks to strip us of our ability to receive tax-deductible donations, and further throttling of our reach on social media platforms owned by Trump's sycophants.

We're preparing right now for Trump's Day One: building a brave coalition of movement media; reaching out to the activists, academics, and thinkers we trust to shine a light on the inner workings of authoritarianism; and planning to use journalism as a tool to equip movements to protect the people, lands, and principles most vulnerable to Trump's destruction.

We urgently need your help to prepare. As you know, our December fundraiser is our most important of the year and will determine the scale of work we'll be able to do in 2025. We've set two goals: to raise \$140,000 in one-time donations and to add 1469 new monthly donors by midnight on December 31.

Today, we're asking all of our readers to start a monthly donation or make a one-time donation – as a commitment to stand with us on day one of Trump's presidency, and every day after that, as we produce journalism that combats authoritarianism, censorship, injustice, and misinformation. You're an essential part of our future – please join the movement by making a tax-deductible donation today.

If you have the means to make a substantial gift, please dig deep during this critical time!

With gratitude and resolve,

Maya, Negin, Saima, and Ziggy

Disability benefit process 'emotionally draining'

A woman has described the system for claiming disability benefit payments as "emotionally draining".

Jo Burridge, 55, from Highbridge, Somerset, said she had found navigating the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) system "really hard" and had now helped design an online tool for others to navigate the process.

"When you're doing the form you have to focus on all the things you can't do and the pain you're in - which are all the things you don't want to think about," she said.

The new Labour government said it was looking at how the disability benefits system worked and would publish proposals in the spring.

Ms Burridge was left with long-term health conditions as a result of a stem cell transplant and ongoing chemotherapy treatment for chronic myeloid leukaemia.

She became passionate about improving the application system after trying to apply in 2016.

"I found it a really hard experience, emotionally draining. It's such a big document when you initially apply," she said.

Ms Burridge has temporary cataracts, hearing impairment, cardiac problems and a mild cognitive impairment, which could lead to dementia.

Now, working with the national anti-poverty charity Turn2us, Ms Burridge has co-designed an accessible online guide to PIP, which aims to simplify the process for those who could be entitled to claim the benefit.

The [Turn2us PIP Helper](#) provides step-by-step instructions to assess eligibility, complete the application, and includes accessibility features such as British Sign Language (BSL) content and audio descriptions.

Ms Burridge has particularly championed the built-in well-being and mental health support, as well as testing the tool and making suggestions for how things could be improved.

"It's been a great process to be involved in, really interesting, but it's been a long process, as we wanted to get it right," she said.

PIP is worth between £314 and £798 per month and is aimed at helping with the extra costs associated with having a disability.

The payments are available to people with a long-term physical or mental health condition who have difficulty carrying out everyday tasks, even if they are working.

Turn2us said almost one in three (4.8 million) disabled people are living in poverty.

The charity added that a 14% dropout rate in PIP applications in 2022-23 showed many people struggled to navigate the complex application process.



The National Audit Office has found that £870m in PIP went unclaimed between 2023-24.

'Accessed by all'

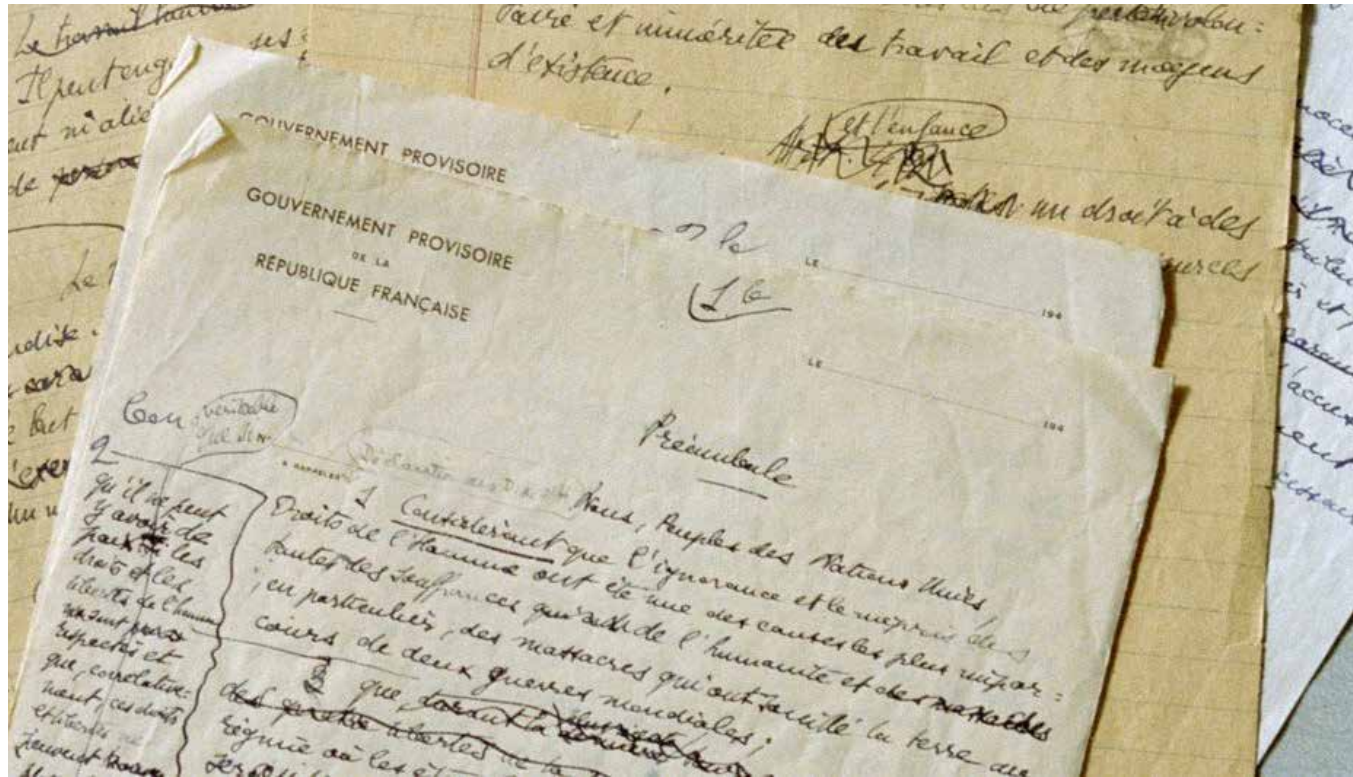
The last government launched [a consultation](#) on changing the way the disability benefits system works - wanting to save money and encourage more people, particularly those with mental health problems, to work.

The new Labour government has [said it will come up with its own plans](#) on how to change things and will publish proposals in the spring.

A spokesperson for the Department for Work and Pensions said: "Millions of people rely on our welfare system every year and it is vital that it can be accessed by all who need it.

"That's why we will work closely with disabled people to reform the current system so that it provides the support they need."

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ckqvm4xn2xmo>



Human Rights Day: 5 key things to know

As **Human Rights Day** dawns on 10 December, it serves as a reminder of the ongoing importance of equality, justice and dignity for all people worldwide.

The theme for Human Rights Day 2024, “[Our Rights, Our Future, Right Now](#)”, highlights the continued relevance of human rights in addressing global challenges.

This year, the UN human rights office, [OHCHR](#), aims to inform and change perceptions on human rights while mobilising action.

Here are five essential facts about human rights everyone should know:

1. Human rights are universal and inalienable

Human rights are not granted by States - they belong to everyone, everywhere, simply by virtue of being human. They transcend race, gender, nationality, or beliefs, ensuring inherent equality and dignity for all.

These rights include fundamental ones, like the right to life set out by [article 3](#) of the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), and those that enable a fulfilling existence, such as access to education and health.

The declaration is [the most translated document](#) in world history, available in more than 500 languages.

Human rights are also inalienable, meaning they cannot be taken away except in specific legal circumstances, such as imprisonment following due process.

2. Human rights are equal, indivisible and interdependent

Human rights are indivisible and interdependent, which means that the fulfilment of one right often relies on others.

For example, the right to education is crucial for exercising political rights, such as voting in elections. Similarly, the right to health and access to clean water are vital for the right to life and dignity.

Understanding this interconnection is essential in addressing complex global issues.

Tackling one area can lead to progress in others – such as gender equality or poverty reduction – while ignoring even one right can create a ripple effect, harming individuals and communities in multiple ways.

3. Universal Declaration of Human Rights was a global turning point

Human rights are not just abstract ideas, through different declarations, covenants and bills, they have become actionable standards.



United Nations

Born from the atrocities of the Second World War and adopted in 1948, the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) was the world's first comprehensive statement of universal human rights.

As the foundation of international human rights law, the 30 articles of the declaration outline key freedoms, from equality and liberty to protection from torture; and has inspired more than 80 international treaties.

Together with the [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#) and the [International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights](#), it forms the

[International Bill of Human Rights](#).

4. States have obligations and individuals have support

All States have ratified at least one of the nine [core human rights](#) treaties, as well as one of the nine optional protocols. This means that States have obligations and duties under international law to respect, protect and fulfil human rights.

At the same time, human rights treaties offer a framework for individuals and communities to demand the fulfilment of their rights and advocate for change.

Grassroots movements, such as the youth-led [Fridays for the Future](#), showcase how human rights can fortify the call for climate justice.

5. Human Rights Day: A platform for action

Observed annually, Human Rights Day commemorates the adoption of the declaration and serves as a platform to reflect on both achievements and ongoing struggles in the realm of human rights.

“Human rights are about people. They are about you and your life: your needs and wants and fears; your hopes for the present and the future,” said UN High Commissioner for human rights Volker Türk, in his [video message](#) for the day.

This year, the 76th anniversary of the declaration emphasises the power of human rights as a preventative, protective and transformative force, especially in times of crisis.

Stay tuned on Tuesday morning for UN News’s live page coverage marking Human Rights Day from around 8am EST (New York time), featuring events from around the world.

Source: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/12/1157986>

International Human Solidarity Day 2024: Theme and Understand Concept of Solidarity by UN

International Human Solidarity Day emphasizes global cooperation in addressing challenges like poverty, inequality, and climate change. Observed on December 20, it encourages nations and individuals to work together for peace, sustainable development, and social justice. The day highlights the importance of diversity, accountability, and collective action for a better world.



Kirti Sharma

International Human Solidarity Day is observed every year on 20 December. It is a day which reminds us of the relevance of solidarity in dealing with challenges that face the world at large. This day was created by the United Nations General Assembly in 2005 as an affirmation of our collective responsibilities, with the need for joint effort towards social justice, peace, and sustainable development. It is in 2024 that we should analyze this day, its themes, and what the UN has perceived in terms of solidarity.

The Significance of International Human Solidarity Day

The United Nations recognizes that solidarity is one of the core values upon which 21st-century relationships between people should be built. General Assembly Resolution 60/209 made December 20 International Human Solidarity Day. To recognize the importance of this global cooperation, in working towards poverty elimination and to realize social development, such

observances do not serve just to provide the public with symbolism, but challenge each government and person to ponder his roles in building a culture of solidarity.

Key Goals of International Human Solidarity Day:

Celebrating Unity in Diversity: The day to be observed to focus on the need for diversity in cultures and perspectives for common goals.

- **Encourage Government Accountability:** Remind nations to abide by international agreements aimed at reducing inequality.
- **Raising Public Awareness:** Educate communities about the importance of solidarity in achieving SDGs.
- **Promoting New Initiatives:** Encourage collective efforts to eradicate poverty and enhance social welfare.

Theme for 2024

So far, the theme for International Human Solidarity Day 2024 has not been disclosed. However, previous themes have been on different aspects of solidarity, such as social inclusion, poverty eradication, and

global cooperation. The theme for 2024 is expected to continue on these critical issues in light of ongoing global challenges.

Understanding the Concept of Solidarity by the UN

The concept of solidarity of the UN is the base on which its mission is based. It includes several principles in it:

Collective Security

In simple words, collective security is a principle that encourages mutual support among nations. The UN Charter underlines that member states should strive to maintain international peace and security through cooperation. This helps the nations to come together against any threats, such as armed conflict or terrorism.

Cooperation Beyond Borders

Recognizing the interconnected nature of global challenges, the UN advocates for international collaboration to address issues like poverty, hunger, and climate change. Solidarity manifests through partnerships that enhance resource sharing and amplify each nation's efforts. For instance, during crises such as natural disasters or pandemics, countries often come together to provide aid and support.



Humanity at the Heart

Solidarity is not only governmental relations but the welfare of all people. The UN actively promotes human rights and social development initiatives with the aim of an equal world where everyone gets opportunities to grow. This commitment manifests a deep-seated belief in universal progress as a cornerstone of solidarity.

Practising Solidarity

Solidarity is not only a theoretical concept but also has practical implications in different sectors:

Social and Solidarity Economy:

The United Nations has realized the need to promote a social and solidarity economy characterized by voluntary cooperation, mutual aid, and democratic governance. This approach puts people first and aims to create sustainable development models that benefit communities.

Human Rights Advocacy:

Solidarity finds more importance in human rights advocacy. The Vienna

Declaration requires protracted international cooperation to be taken that would help in realizing critical progress in human rights.

Global Issues: Challenges for example global warming. Under such challenges, one needs solidarity. The UN Secretary-General has also called for the adoption of a Climate Solidarity Pact as a collective response by nations on equity.

Celebrating International Human Solidarity Day

The following are some of the various actions through which people and communities can celebrate the day:

- **Supporting Charity Organizations:** Donating funds to poverty alleviation or social justice organizations.
- **Volunteer work:** Working with local or international humanitarian organizations to offer relief services in whichever way possible.

- **Changing Society:** Creating awareness of current issues through a campaign or education.
- **Community Activity:** Creating avenues for the people to discuss solidarity and the significance it brings in creating an open society.

International Human Solidarity Day is one such observance that points to the very reality of our interdependence and the collective responsibility for creating a more just and equitable world. As we step into the year 2024, we must embrace the spirit of solidarity not only on this day but also throughout the year.

Through understanding and working towards common purposes, it's through solidarity that we can beat barriers and make a bright future for everyone. As is said by the United Nations on principles of solidarity, together, through cooperation, sympathy, and action, we make big changes for peace and prosperity throughout the world.

Source: <https://www.jagranjosh.com/general-knowledge/international-human-solidarity-day-1734611343-1>

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

Unleash Your Impact: The NGO World Awaits Your Input

At "The NGO World" magazine, we believe in the power of collective knowledge and shared experiences. We invite our valued readers to become contributors and actively participate in shaping the content of our magazine. Your insights, stories, and perspectives are essential in fostering a sense of community and driving positive change.

If you have a compelling story related to humanitarian work, development initiatives, or social impact that aligns with the diverse sections we cover, we encourage you to share it with us. Whether it's a firsthand account of your involvement in an NGO project, an innovative solution you've come across, or an issue you're passionate about, we want to hear from you.

By actively engaging with "The NGO World," you play a crucial role in expanding our community's knowledge and fostering a deeper understanding of the challenges and solutions within the humanitarian and development sectors.

Together, we can amplify the voices of those working toward positive change and inspire others to make a difference. We look forward to receiving your contributions and continuing our shared mission of creating a better world.

Please send your content submissions via email:

editor@thengoworld.com

ensuring that your submission aligns with one of the sections provided below.

Sections of Magazine:

Here's an expanded list of potential sections for the magazine "The NGO World" to cover a wide range of topics related to humanitarian work, development, and social impact:

Featured NGO Spotlight: Highlighting the work of a specific NGO, sharing their success stories, challenges, and impact.

Global Development News: Covering the latest developments in international development, policy changes, and global issues.

Local Initiatives: Showcasing grassroots projects and initiatives making a difference in local communities

NGO Innovations: Exploring innovative approaches and technologies used by NGOs to address pressing issues.

Humanitarian Crises: In-depth coverage of ongoing humanitarian crises and the response efforts.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Articles focusing on progress and challenges related to achieving the UN's SDGs.

Women Empowerment: Stories of women-led initiatives and efforts to empower women and girls

Youth Engagement: Highlighting the role of youth in driving social change and their involvement in NGOs.

Environment and Conservation: Covering environmental issues, conservation efforts, and climate change initiatives.

Education for All: Articles on educational programs, access to quality education, and innovative teaching methods.

Health and Well-being: Discussing healthcare initiatives, disease prevention, and public health campaigns.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR): Examining the CSR efforts of businesses and their impact on communities.

Refugee and Migration Issues: Coverage of refugee crises, resettlement programs, and the experiences of displaced people.

Tech for Good: Exploring how technology is used for humanitarian purposes, from apps to drones.

NGO Profiles: Brief profiles of various NGOs, their missions, and achievements.

Volunteer Stories: Personal accounts from volunteers who have contributed to NGOs and their experiences.

Funding and Grants: Updates on available funding opportunities for NGOs and how to apply.

Policy and Advocacy: Discussions on policy changes affecting NGOs and their advocacy efforts.

Impact Assessment: Articles on measuring and evaluating the impact of NGO projects and programs.

Partnerships and Collaborations: Exploring successful partnerships between NGOs, governments, and businesses.

Disaster Response and Preparedness: Coverage of disaster relief efforts, preparedness strategies, and recovery stories.

Microfinance and Economic Empowerment: Exploring initiatives that empower communities economically.

Indigenous Rights and Cultural Preservation: Articles on efforts to protect and preserve indigenous cultures and traditions.

Human Rights and Social Justice: Discussions on human rights issues, social justice movements, and advocacy work.

Arts and Culture for Change: Showcasing how art and culture are used as tools for social change and awareness.

Inspirational Interviews: Exclusive interviews with prominent figures in the humanitarian and development sectors, sharing their insights, experiences, and visions for positive change.

Philanthropy and Impactful Giving: Exploring the impact of philanthropic efforts, featuring interviews with philanthropists and discussions on effective giving strategies.

NGO Leadership and Management: Articles on leadership skills, management practices, and organizational development within the NGO sector, providing insights for NGO professionals and leaders

These sections offer a comprehensive view of the multifaceted work being done in the realm of humanitarianism, development, and social impact.

Submit your stories for upcoming edition & for queries, suggestion, feedback

editor@thengoworld.com

An illustration featuring a central globe with concentric blue and white rings. Numerous hands of various skin tones (brown, tan, orange, red, yellow) are reaching out from the edges of the frame towards the center. The background is a mix of blue and green washes, suggesting water or a natural environment. The overall theme is global unity and mutual aid.

Live For Others

Submit your stories
for upcoming edition & for queries, suggestion, feedback

editor@thengoworld.com