

Edition : February 2025

THE NGO WORLD



Let's
Celebrate,
Commemorate
and
Collaborate



WORLD
NGO DAY

27th February
2025

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Civil Society
in Asia...**

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social lab-smart
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WORLD'S LEADING EVENT ON HUMANITARIAN AID & DEVELOPMENT

21st Edition
DIHAD[®]

معرض ومؤتمر دولي للإغاثة والتطوير
Dubai International Humanitarian Aid & Development Conference & Exhibition

29 April – 01 May 2025 | Dubai World Trade Centre

Theme:

"HUMANITARIAN AID AND DEVELOPMENT IN A POLARISED WORLD"



20

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World NGO Day 2025: Uniting for Global Impact

On February 27, 2025, we observe World NGO Day, a day dedicated to honoring the relentless efforts of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) worldwide. These entities are instrumental in addressing critical global challenges, including poverty, inequality, environmental degradation, and healthcare disparities.

In 2024, the theme was “Building a Sustainable Future: The Role of NGOs in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),” highlighting the pivotal role NGOs play in advancing global sustainability.

As we approach 2025, the urgency of these challenges has only intensified. NGOs are at the forefront, implementing innovative solutions and advocating for systemic change. Their work is vital in creating a sustainable and equitable future for all.

On this World NGO Day, we call upon all sectors of society—individuals, businesses, and governments—to actively support and collaborate with NGOs. Engage in community initiatives, participate in awareness campaigns, and contribute resources to amplify their impact.

Let us recognize that the responsibility of building a better world is a collective one. By standing in solidarity with NGOs, we can drive meaningful change and work towards a future where justice, equality, and sustainability are not just aspirations but realities.

Together, we have the power to transform our world. This World NGO Day, let's commit to action, support, and collaboration in pursuit of global betterment.

Zafar Iqbal

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PUBLICATION:

THE NGO WORLD FOUNDATION

DESIGNED BY:

A.J COMMUNICATIONS

DISCLAIMER:

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

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‘It’s about solidarity, not charity’: the Oxfam chief seeking to decolonize the aid sector



Kaamil Ahmed

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2025/jan/13/its-about-solidarity-not-charity-the-oxfam-chief-seeking-to-decolonise-the-aid-sector>

The outdated, elite-dominated international charity sector needs to hand over the money and power to those in the global south for whom aid is intended, says the head of Oxfam GB, Halima Begum.

The current aid system is broken, Begum says, and can only be fixed by decolonising, shifting the centre of control away from rich countries with colonial legacies to the developing countries.

Begum, who took up the chief executive role eight months ago, says that within five years Oxfam will be spending more of its money on the ground where it is needed, and allowing more decision making by local civil society groups and communities.

“It’s about solidarity, not charity. Images of victimhood and desperation; that’s the old, broken charity model. And that’s entirely understandable in its time and place, with its resonances of the Victorian sense of duty that was perhaps rather too centred on the donor,” says Begum.

The international aid sector has long faced criticism over structures that remain loosely based on colonial, outdated and wasteful charitable giving models, of having inflated operational costs in the global north while imposing western notions of support on communities who are not given sufficient voice in expressing their needs.

Begum’s call for the sector to reimagine how it works comes after years of growing challenges, with funding stretched by competing crises and countries cutting aid budgets. Oxfam has also faced its own struggles, especially after its reputation was hit by sexual

[abuse scandals in Haiti](#) and the [Democratic Republic of the Congo](#).

While there have been pledges to [make aid more effective through localisation](#) – which would empower local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) – Begum believes there has been little effort to enact a real change.

She also believes that simply [localising aid](#) by asking local NGOs to implement the projects of international donors is not enough – decolonisation should be a more ambitious effort to transfer power away from richer countries with a colonial legacy.

“Much of the INGO [international NGO] system is still configured in the same way. We say we want to build from a place of understanding and solidarity, but our structures aren’t doing that. Our structures are, in fact, still very traditional and old-fashioned,” she says.

Begum believes that alongside ensuring a greater share of aid money is channelled directly to developing countries, there needs to be a new model on how to spend it that puts the power in the hands of local actors – and not just local charities or the country offices of international

organisations, which are often run by the privileged.

Begum proposes that, instead, a possible combining of civil society groups and stakeholders with experience, who are rooted in the areas they work in, would make decisions on how aid money is used.

She said an example could be [Sudan’s mutual aid system](#), neighbourhood-based relief systems funded by the diaspora, or the Women’s Rights Fund already supported by Oxfam, which gives money to women’s rights groups to fund what they see as priorities.

“Where the status quo prevails, you’re essentially left with that old trope of European, Asian or African elites in the big INGOs mapping the future of relatively poor black and brown people living in developing countries,” says Begum.



The Japan Social Development Fund: Celebrating 25 Years of Community-centered Interventions

STORY HIGHLIGHTS:

- In 2025 the Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF) marks its 25th Anniversary
- Working directly with communities, the JSDF has funded nearly 800 projects in more than 90 countries, improving the lives and livelihoods of millions of people since 2000
- In 2024, jointly with the government of Japan, the JSDF streamlined grant approval procedures to enhance its operational efficiency for greater impact
- In January 2025, annual consultations between the Government of Japan and the World Bank provide an opportunity to reflect on 25 years of community-centered interventions

Year 2025 marks the 25th Anniversary of the Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF). Conceived as a partnership between the government of Japan and the World Bank, the JSDF was initially created to alleviate the social and economic distress caused by the East Asian financial crisis in the late 1990s. The JSDF soon expanded its mission to reach the most vulnerable communities in developing countries, providing direct funding to innovative grassroots interventions. Since 2000, the JSDF has funded nearly 800 projects in more than 90 countries, touching the lives of tens of millions of people.

"We wanted to change people's lives, to help them when crises hit," said Daiho Fujii, Deputy Vice Minister of Finance for International Affairs at the Japanese Ministry

of Finance. "And we wanted to bring about transformative change to make them more resilient when times get rough." Today, as intersecting global crises pose direct threats to the livelihoods of vulnerable communities across the world, this ambition remains just as relevant as it was a quarter century ago.

Placing communities front and center

From the outset, the JSDF took an innovative approach to funding development interventions. Unlike other World Bank projects that work mainly with central governments, the JSDF carved a niche by funding small-scale, community projects with direct grants. "Our goal was to have a direct impact on the poorest of the poor in the most vulnerable communities," said

Arif Zulfiqar, Former Director of Trust Funds and Cofinancing and one of the founders of JSDF. "Community-driven development was an approach that we thought was important to build into the program." To this day, JSDF-funded initiatives are often designed and implemented locally, ensuring that communities own and lead every step of the process.

Working directly with local partners enables JSDF projects to respond to community-specific challenges. For example, in [Armenia](#), a partnership with associations of social workers helped marginalized groups more easily access social services. In [Kyrgyz Republic](#), the JSDF helped increase self-employment amongst vulnerable youth by working through rural development foundations. In [Vietnam](#), the JSDF has improved pandemic preparedness at the grassroots

level by partnering with local non-governmental organizations. Finally, in [India](#) it enhanced digital financial inclusion of informal sector women thanks to its partnership with a local non-governmental organization.

A force for social inclusion

The JSDF has been a critical partner in supporting marginalized groups and helping ensure that development interventions leave no one behind. In [Honduras](#), a project managed by a local non-governmental organization worked in collaboration with indigenous peoples to support the community's socio-economic activities in agriculture, fisheries, and livestock rearing, and increase household incomes. In [Cambodia](#), JSDF helped provide childcare services to low-income garment factory workers. In [Solomon Islands](#),

a JSDF grant piloted mechanisms to share benefits from large infrastructure projects with local communities.

The JSDF's focus on local innovation and flexibility is one of its hallmarks. "JSDF projects are flexible, and they are adaptable," said Maitreyi Bordia Das, Director of Trust Funds and Partner Relations Development Finance at the World Bank. "They are meant to be forward-looking, so development solutions are often picked up by larger projects. The focus on community-driven and innovative projects is what makes JSDF unique, relevant, and sustainable, 25 years on."

Source: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2025/01/08/the-japan-social-development-fund-celebrating-25-years-of-community-centered-interventions>

Embracing change for more impact

In 2024, the JSDF worked with the government of Japan to streamline its grant approval processes and make it more efficient. The change aligns with the World Bank's ongoing evolution to become faster and better. The JSDF is also strengthening its focus on results. In 2024, it updated its [results framework](#), to match project indicators to the World Bank Group [Corporate Scorecard](#). These changes will allow to better map, track and compare results, which will ultimately lead to better designed, more responsive, and more impactful interventions.

As the JSDF celebrates its 25th anniversary, its proven model of community-driven development, coupled with Japan's commitment to global solidarity, will continue to help communities build resilience and pilot development solutions to the challenges of today.

Two children die in Mediterranean shipwreck, 17 rescued, NGO says

Seventeen migrants were rescued after a shipwreck in the Mediterranean, while two children died, the German NGO Sea Punks said on Sunday.

The rescue took place in the early hours of Sunday morning in the Maltese Search and Rescue (SAR) area, Sea Punks said in a statement.

One child was recovered deceased, while the Sea Punks crew medical team performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on two other children, saving one's life.

A Maltese rescue helicopter evacuated a pregnant woman and a seriously injured man, while an Italian coastguard vessel picked up the other 15 survivors and the

bodies of the two children. Survivors told rescuers that the boat set off with 21 people, Sea Punks added, leaving two missing.

Earlier, Italian news agency [ANSA](#) reported that 15 migrants had been rescued and three were found dead, with three others still missing.

Source: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1887851/two-children-die-in-mediterranean-shipwreck-17-rescued-ngo-says>

Save The Children Nicaragua and 14 Other NGOs Closed

The international NGO, which had been operating in Nicaragua since 1981, requested “voluntary dissolution” on November 19, 2024, according to the government.

By EFE (Confidencial)

HAVANA TIMES – The Nicaraguan government has announced the closure of 15 non-profit organizations, including Save The Children, bringing the total number of dissolved organizations to over 5,600 since the onset of the country’s social and political crisis in April 2018.

The government, led by President Daniel Ortega, published the decision in the Official Gazette on Wednesday, January 8, 2025. It cancels the legal status of four organizations due to “non-compliance with their functions” and approves the dissolution of 11 others, including Save The Children, which requested the measure “voluntarily.”

According to the official document, Save The Children, which had operated in Nicaragua since 1981, requested voluntary dissolution on November 19, 2024, citing the “completion of its project portfolio in Nicaragua.”

Among the other 10 organizations that requested dissolution are the Christian Missionary Foundation Ebenezer, the Foundation for Care and Vocational Training for Street Children, and the Los Angeles Foundation, which stated they lacked funding for their projects,



according to the government document.

The four organizations canceled for “non-compliance with their functions” include the Nicaraguan Foundation for Spirituality, Culture, History, Anthropology, Archaeology, and Art (CECHAN); the Integrated Services for Women Association (SI MUJER); the Pentecostal Ministry Foundation Christ Is Coming (M.P.C.NIC.); and the Rio Prinzapolka Foundation.

Confiscation of NGO Properties

With these closures, the total number of NGOs dissolved since the April 2018 protests exceeds 5,600. In most cases, the government has ordered the transfer of their assets to the state.

Nicaragua has been facing a political and social crisis since April

2018, which deepened following the controversial November 2021 elections. In these elections, Ortega reelected himself for a fifth term—his fourth consecutive one—amid allegations of electoral manipulation. His main political opponents were imprisoned months before the election, later expelled from the country, stripped of their nationality, and deprived of their political rights after being accused of “coup plotting” and “treason.”

Various countries and international organizations have accused the Nicaraguan government of serious human rights violations during this crisis, which has also included the closure of media outlets and academic institutions.

First published in Spanish by [Confidencial](#) and translated and posted in English by Havana Times.

Source: <https://havanatimes.org/news/save-the-children-nicaragua-and-14-other-ngos-closed/>

“Lack of transparency”: NGO group hits out at UK Government on aid spending at home

Minister unable to confirm timeline for reducing aid spending on domestic asylum and refugee costs.

NGOs have warned of an alarming amount of UK aid continuing to be spent on issues at home, demanding ministers urgently clarify a timeline for this to end.

In 2023, the UK spent more than a quarter of the government’s aid budget in the UK on asylum seeker costs - amounting to £4.3billion.

On Tuesday, Minister for Development Anneliese Dodds gave evidence to Westminster’s International Development Committee on the development work of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

During the session, the Minister announced there will be an uplift to the FCDO’s Official Development Assistance (ODA) budget of £200-300 million for 2024/25 pending parliamentary approval.

This is said to be due to a higher forecasted gross national income (GNI) and spending on domestic asylum and refugee costs being lower than anticipated.

Sir Philip Barton, Under-Secretary at Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office and Nick Dyer, Second Permanent Under-Secretary at Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office also gave evidence.

However, the FCDO officials were unable to confirm the timeline and explain the specific details of the collaborative process with the Home Office to reduce spending of the UK

aid budget on domestic asylum and refugee costs.

Gideon Rabinowitz, policy and advocacy director at Bond, the UK network for NGOs, said: “It’s encouraging that cross departmental work to address the substantial amount of UK aid spent on asylum seekers and refugees in the UK has helped to secure a small uplift to planned UK aid spending this year.

“However, the lack of transparency on how the government intends to further reduce the amount of asylum and refugee support sourced from the UK aid budget and how progress will be monitored is alarming.

“Supporting asylum seekers is vital, but it requires its own budget. We urge the government to outline its timelines and milestones to reduce the amount of UK aid spent domestically on asylum and refugee costs.

“This is key to ensuring UK aid supports marginalised communities globally impacted by poverty, conflict and climate change.”



Source: <https://tfn.scot/news/lack-of-transparency-ngo-group-hits-out-at-uk-government-on-aid-spending-at-home>

Operational and financial risk in international development: a living case study.



By its very nature, international development takes place in extremely complex environments where situations range from civil conflict to natural disasters or political changes.

Industry professionals working in international NGOs must adapt to these evolving circumstances quickly and effectively.

In aid of this, we recently hosted a workshop, in partnership with Bond, to bring together those at the forefront of international development and work through operational and financial risk scenarios. The goal was to encourage participants to discuss common issues and consider alternative approaches.

Every sector professional has had a project impacted by complex challenges and each hold an

awareness of the vital interrelations between their ability to deliver projects and the management of organisational finances and banking relationships. This is why the event was built around hosted simulations, to test how theory converts into practice, exploring a range of issues including FX volatility, managing in low-liquidity environments, sanction compliance, counterparty risk, aid diversion, fraud risk and cyber security.

Our VP of IDO Global Markets, Mark Tait, began the session by challenging organisations to take a risk appreciative approach, rather than a risk 'management' or 'mitigation' approach, to turn challenges into opportunities for progress. Tackling risk from the outset and in partnership with banking providers, is essential to managing challenges and being transparent in this heavily regulated environment.

With this overarching view, we had three very productive scenarios with important lessons learned.

Simulation 1: Counterparty risk

For the first scenario, we looked at the counterparty risk, with NGOs facing the possibility the other party will not fulfil their obligations. We were able to draw some interesting conclusions.

Firstly, holding funds in a weakening currency can have a material effect on the financial viability of a country's operation. Providing funding to country offices on a just-in-time basis can help mitigate risks. However, this approach creates a significant dependency on your banking partner's ability to deliver funds promptly. So whilst bank selection should prioritise financial security

and stability, never underestimate the critical support and influence national banks can provide in times of crisis.

Simulation 2: Sanctions

The second scenario looked at preparing for sanctions. The first key takeaway from the session was the importance of preparedness. Engage with your existing banks. Understand their compliance requirements and how you can develop processes and reporting protocols to satisfy those requirements.

Engaging with OFSI (HM Government's Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation) to ensure complete sanction compliance is an essential step. Finally, engaging with other banks is a great way to understand varying

risk appetites and their offers of different solutions for operations in challenging regions.

Simulation 3: No banks

In the scenario where there are no banks – ensure you have a robust method of verification, which has been agreed with the agent/implementing partner to record cash payments received by registered individuals. Make sure to protect yourself by performing enhanced due diligence checks on local cash agents and intermediaries to understand financial crime risk.

While Most cash agent services are legitimate businesses that support their communities, enable financial inclusion, and facilitate many humanitarian projects in regions without banking access. Try to avoid

mechanisms that might support or facilitate terrorist financing or money laundering. For payment terms in service agreements, try to secure payment in arrears. Whilst you may pay a slight premium for this, it increases accountability and therefore is likely to improve service delivery and control mechanisms.

Overall, the event was a great success and produced key actionable insight for those working for international NGOs. We were thrilled to receive very positive feedback, particularly the thoughtful conversations and relevance of the event for a whole host of different job roles including finance roles, programmatic roles and risk roles – ensuring everyone is working effectively to appreciate the risks involved in international development.

Source: <https://www.bond.org.uk/news/2025/01/operational-and-financial-risk-in-international-development-a-living-case-study/>



Building Civil Society in Asia: Taiwan's Expanding NGO Fellowship Program



Robert Wang

Over the past decade, the United States and Taiwan have collaborated to strengthen democracies in Asia through initiatives like the Global Cooperation Training Framework (GCTF). Launched in 2015, GCTF has held over 80 workshops on various topics, fostering cooperation among Indo-Pacific countries. Expanding on this, Taiwan was invited by the Biden administration in 2021 to participate in the "Summit for Democracy" and

committed to becoming a regional hub for international civil society.

In 2023, Taiwan Alliance in International Development (Taiwan AID), a coalition of over 30 Taiwanese NGOs, launched an NGO Fellowship Program with funding from the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) and Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA). This program aims to train young NGO professionals from South and Southeast Asia, enabling regional NGOs to address inequality and human rights issues effectively. The inaugural program welcomed ten fellows selected from 172 applicants. The fellows received workshops on project management, fundraising, and advocacy, followed by placements in host Taiwan NGOs.

The program supported diverse causes, including vocational training for persons with disabilities, menstrual hygiene for adolescent girls, and advocacy for women's and HIV/AIDS rights. Feedback from the fellows and host organizations was overwhelmingly positive, with participants praising Taiwan's unique governance model, strong government-civil society collaboration, and the ability of NGOs to raise funds internally without relying on international organizations.

Encouraged by its success, Taiwan AID expanded the program in 2024 to include participants from Mongolia, Japan, and Korea. Applications surged to 1,372, and the number of fellows increased to

15, while host NGOs doubled from 10 to 20. Taiwan NGOs in 2024 addressed a broader range of issues, including child welfare, gender-based violence, LGBTQ rights, environmental conservation, and penal reform. Some Taiwan NGOs, such as the Garden of Hope Foundation and One-Forty, extended their activities abroad, establishing branches and contributing to international collaborations.

Fellows' feedback highlighted Taiwan's emphasis on empathy, diversity, and political will as key factors for successful civil society initiatives. The program's alumni noted the valuable exchange of ideas and strategies for tackling complex societal challenges.

Looking ahead, Taiwan AID faces challenges, including securing consistent multi-year funding and managing increasing demand. Strategies for expansion include organizing multiple classes annually, increasing alumni engagement, and involving international NGOs as lecturers or hosts.

As Taiwan develops into a regional NGO hub, the program aligns with its commitment to fostering open societies and strengthening democracy under the "Summit Pillar: Defending Against Authoritarianism." With sustained support, the Taiwan NGO Fellowship Program holds the potential to empower hundreds of young activists, strengthen civil societies, and bolster democracy across Asia.

Source: <https://globaltaiwan.org/2025/01/building-a-regional-ngo-hub-in-taiwan/>

UK NGO Grants \$10 Million for Early Childhood Development in Zambia

A United Kingdom-based nongovernmental organization has given Zambia a 10-million U.S. dollars grant for an early childhood development program in Lusaka and Chongwe District.

Speaking during the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in Lusaka today, Local Government and Rural Development Minister Gary Nkombo said the MoU is a pivotal step towards building a brighter future for Zambia's children.

Mr. Nkombo said the agreement also reflects the government's collective commitment to ensuring that every child is given an opportunity to thrive regardless of their background.

Eddy Kalisa, a representative of Big Win Philanthropy who joined

the meeting via Zoom, said early childhood development is essential for any country's development.

Meanwhile, Education Minister Douglas Syakalima said the grant will provide necessary support and resources to ensure young learners receive the highest quality of education to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Speaking at the same event, Lusaka Province Minister Sheal Mulyata said the initiative to promote and improve early childhood education aligns with the Transformative Agenda 2030.

Ms. Mulyata said this in a speech read on her behalf by Lusaka Province Acting Permanent Secretary Alex Mapushi.

Source: <https://znbco.zm/news/uk-ngo-grants-10-million-for-early-childhood-development-in-zambia/>

Following Trump's order, USAID suspends aid operations in Bangladesh alongside rest of world

The United States is the largest single donor of aid globally - in fiscal year 2023, it disbursed \$72 billion in assistance

Highlights:

- Suspension comes after Trump's executive order imposing a 90-day pause
- Aid stopped worldwide
- Project stakeholders, including US-funded NGOs in Bangladesh, concerned about impact
- US is the leading contributor of humanitarian assistance in response to Rohingya crisis
- Provided nearly \$2.4 billion since the Rohingya crisis started in August 2017

Along with other countries around the world, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has announced an immediate cessation or suspension of any work in Bangladesh under contracts, work orders, grants, cooperative agreements, or other assistance or procurement instruments.

The US donor agency sent a message to project implementing partners in Bangladesh in this regard on Saturday (25 January), stating the immediate suspension.

The suspension has also been felt in other areas dependent on US funding as well.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The USAID, in its letter on the funding suspension, cited US President Donald Trump's recent executive order, saying, "This letter is directing all USAID/Bangladesh implementing partners to immediately cease or suspend any work under your USAID/Bangladesh contract, work order, grant, cooperative agreement, or other assistance or acquisition instrument." The US is the leading contributor of humanitarian assistance in response to the Rohingya crisis, having provided nearly \$2.4 billion since the outbreak of violence in August 2017, including nearly \$2 billion to assist Rohingya refugees and host communities in Bangladesh, according to the USAID website.

The country has assisted Bangladesh with \$550 million as disbursement in 2023 alone via all its agencies.

Just hours after taking office on 20 January, Trump ordered a 90-day pause in US foreign assistance programmes pending a review of efficiencies and consistency with his foreign policy but the scope of the order was not immediately known.

Various project stakeholders, including US-funded NGOs in Bangladesh, were concerned about the impact of this order.

According to a cable seen by Reuters, the US State Department issued the "stop-work" order on Friday for all existing foreign assistance and paused new aid after Trump ordered the pause to review whether aid allocation aligned with his foreign policy. The cable, drafted by the Department's foreign assistance office and approved by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, said waivers have been issued for military financing for Israel and Egypt. No other countries were mentioned in the cable.

The move risks cutting off billions of dollars of life-saving assistance. The United States is the largest single donor of aid globally - in fiscal year 2023, it disbursed \$72 billion in assistance.

The State Department cable said effective immediately, senior officials "shall ensure that, to the maximum extent permitted by law, no new obligations shall be made for foreign assistance" until Rubio has made a decision after a review.

It says that for existing foreign assistance awards stop-work orders shall be issued immediately until reviewed by Rubio.

Source: <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/usa-id-announces-suspension-aid-operations-bangladesh-1052641>

Why standardized financial reporting is crucial for NPOs

Over ten million organisations in the global development sector manage billions of dollars annually. Despite its size and scope, the sector is blocked by the absence of standardised non-profit financial reporting in more than 90 per cent of countries globally. This absence of uniformity has made it challenging for development partners and donors to compare the impact and performance of their financial contributions to various projects across sectors such as health, education, and governance in host communities and countries. Kenya alone boasts of a historically robust, vibrant and dynamic Not for Profit Organizations (NPO) sector. The Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) Coordination Board has cumulatively registered over 13,000 NPOs engaged in diverse sectors. The NPO sector accounts for billions of shillings worth of direct foreign and human capital investment. There is also no guessing the key role the sector plays in promoting economic and social development through massive investment in social safety nets, social protection and poverty alleviation for the needy. Accountability and sustainability challenges. For instance, in the FY2021/22, the 3005 NPOs that filed annual reports with the NGO board received Sh175.9 billion and spent a total of KES 185.5 billion, including Sh118

billion in project implementation and Sh49.7 billion in employee emoluments, according to an NGO Coordination board report. Beyond the positive outlook, the sector continues to grapple with compliance, accountability and sustainability challenges. Regulation 24(1) of the NGOs Co-ordination Regulations (1992) requires NGOs to submit annual reports within three months of the end of their financial year. However, the sector has constantly recorded low compliance levels. Historical dependency on foreign donors, emerging donor trends, including reduced available funding, increased restricted funding and short-term funding commitments, continue to adversely impact the sustainability of NPOs. Historically, NPOs have relied on financial reporting templates borrowed from the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs). However, these templates are not tailored to address the unique needs of the NPO sector. Tangible outcomes of investments. Recognizing these challenges, the global accounting community has taken significant steps towards developing a standardized reporting framework for NPOs. In a landmark move, the IFR4NPO Project was launched, whose key mandate is the development

of accounting guidelines to harmonise and improve the quality of reporting in the sector. The guidelines are referred to as International Non-Profit Accounting Guidance (INPAG). Humentum, a global nonprofit, and CIPFA, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy in the UK, are leading a globally representative coalition to develop guidelines. I am honored to be serving in the governance group (Board) of INPAG, representing the interests of NPOs in Africa. So far 3 exposure drafts have been published, receiving very good feedback from stakeholders. In the year 2025, it is exciting to note that we will be officially launching INPAG and driving its adoption. Plans are already at an advanced stage with champions in 36 countries globally, Kenya being one of them, to roll out the requisite reporting guidelines for the NPO sector. Donors and development partners will have a clearer picture of how their funds are being utilized and the tangible outcomes of their investments. This transparency will drive more strategic funding decisions towards this multi-billion dollar sector for critical causes, and promote greater efficiency in the allocation of resources. CPA Risper Olick is a ICPAK Council member and a member of INPAG Governance Group (GG) Provided by SyndiGate Media Inc.

Source: https://www.msn.com/en-xl/africa/kenya/why-standardised-financial-reporting-is-crucial-for-npos/ar-AA1xRG_Lp?apiversion=v2&noservercache=1&domshim=1&renderwebcomponents=1&wcseo=1&batchservertelemetry=1&noservertelemetry=1

advocating Muslim interests..': NGO protests court's problematic remarks

New Delhi: A special NIA court made some serious controversial remarks while passing an order in the 2018 Kasganj violence case suggesting that NGOs who provide legal aid to accused charged of UAPA or terrorism have questionable motivations, The Wire reported.

The court said that those groups, particularly those advocating Muslim interests, promptly provide legal aid and fact-finding exercises. These are against constitutional principles.

Several Indian and international organisations such as the People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL), Alliance for Justice and Accountability (New York) and Citizens for Justice and Peace (Mumbai) were mentioned in the court judgement, who provided mentioned aid to the accused. However, none of these organisations were party to the court proceedings.

In the case, the court sentenced 28 individuals to life imprisonment

while criticising said organisations for providing legal aid to individuals accused under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and terrorism charges. They went to the extent of questioning the legitimacy of the mentioned organisations and suggested that their funding and objectives must be investigated.

"The prosecutors have expressed concern that in NIA courts across the country when accused in cases under the UAPA or other anti-national/terrorist activities are brought for trial, NGOs – primarily advocating Muslim interests – promptly provide legal aid. This contradicts constitutional principles, as it boosts the morale of undesirable elements," the court order read.

Following this, the PUCL responded by expressing its strong disapproval of the court's comments, citing a Supreme Court judgment that courts must not make adverse remarks against individuals or groups without giving them a chance to be heard.

"It should be noted that none of the implicated organisations were before the court or were put to notice that observations were likely to be made against them. We are shocked to note that the ruling has passed prejudiced, unsubstantiated and potentially damaging comments about the role of human rights organisations in general and PUCL in particular when these comments are not germane to the issues in the criminal trial nor were they based on evidence led during the trial," PUCL's statement said.

It is strongly argued that fact-finding, legal aid and financial support provided by NGOs cannot be considered anti-national activity. It demanded that the court's observations must be expunged because it lacked "factual substance and attacked the credibility of human rights organisations," The Wire quoted.

Source: <https://madhyamamonline.com/india/advocating-muslim-interests-ngo-protests-courts-problematic-remarks-1368653>

Trump pauses all US foreign aid for 90 days; orders review; NGOs decry move.

US President Donald Trump has announced a sweeping freeze on US foreign aid, effective immediately, through an executive order issued on Monday (January 27). The directive excludes military assistance to key allies Israel and Egypt.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio communicated the directive via a cable to all US diplomatic posts, implementing a "stop work" order on existing programmes and suspending new awards. The freeze, which applies to nearly all forms of non-military foreign assistance, affects health initiatives, education programmes, and water distribution efforts.

The directive, halting foreign aid for 90 days pending a review,

has sparked widespread concern among humanitarian organisations and government officials, given the US's status as the world's largest donor of foreign aid.

US halts foreign aid: Reactions and implications

The decision has sent shockwaves through the humanitarian sector. InterAction, an alliance of international NGOs, criticised the move, noting its disruption of vital projects ranging from infant healthcare and education to anti-trafficking efforts. The International AIDS Society warned that halting initiatives like the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) could endanger millions by cutting access to lifesaving HIV treatments.

The freeze is particularly disruptive in conflict-ridden regions such as Ukraine, Sudan, and Haiti, where US aid has played a critical stabilising role. A USAID official described the move as "manufactured chaos," citing the immediate suspension of essential programmes like maternal health services and childhood vaccinations.

Meanwhile, fears are growing that the funding vacuum could be exploited by geopolitical rivals such as China. Humanitarian organisations are scrambling to understand the full implications of the freeze as concerns mount over its long-term effects.

Read more at: https://www.business-standard.com/world-news/donald-trump-halts-us-foreign-aid-90-days-review-marco-rubio-ngos-unhappy-125012700115_1.html

International Conference of NGOs: Building capacity and partnerships

From December 17 to 19, 2024, UNESCO hosted its biennial International Conference of NGOs (ICNGO), a vital platform for civil society to collaborate and strengthen partnerships to advance UNESCO's mission. Under the theme "Building Capacity for Action," the conference explored success stories, opportunities for collaboration, and strategies for advocacy and partnership-building.

Opening Sessions: Partnerships for Peace and Resilience

UNESCO Deputy Director General Xing Qu emphasized NGO collaboration in tackling global challenges, highlighting resilience through partnerships. H.E. Ambassador Simona-Mirela Miculescu noted the essential

role of civil society organizations in amplifying UNESCO's modest resources to create a greater impact. The integration of digital tools and emerging technologies was also recognized for empowering marginalized voices. A farewell was extended to Nick Newland, the outgoing Chair of ICNGO, for his contributions to NGO efforts within UNESCO's mandate.

Conference Agenda and Elections

Jullien Pellaux, Director of the Division of Partnerships, outlined the conference agenda, which included strategic plan discussions and elections to the NGO UNESCO Liaison Committee. The conference saw active participation from 300 attendees, focusing on strengthening NGO contributions to UNESCO's goals.

Funding Challenges and NGO Roles

Zazie Schafer, Director of the Bureau of Strategic Planning, highlighted the financial challenges facing UNESCO, which receives less than 1% of overall UN funding. Despite these constraints, NGOs provide invaluable contributions in expertise and knowledge. The importance of reimagining UNESCO's vision to address global uncertainties and inequalities was also emphasized.

Priority Africa: Ethical Use of Technology

The Africa plenary session addressed ethical considerations in leveraging emerging technologies, such as AI, and emphasized the need for digital skills and capacity building. Discussions included

cultural attitudes toward witchcraft, social justice, and fostering partnerships to advance UNESCO's mission in Africa.

Parallel Events and Panel Discussions

Successes, Challenges, and Lessons Learned: This session explored the role of culture in international development and the need for dialogue between NGOs, ministries, and UNESCO.

Communication and Information Sector: Discussions centered on media literacy as a critical digital competency. The session tackled misinformation, disinformation, and the governance of digital platforms using UNESCO's TRUTH framework (Transparency, Responsiveness, Understanding, Trust, Human Rights).

Youth Working Group: Strategic Priorities

The Youth Working Group engaged young representatives in identifying key priorities for UNESCO's strategic plan. Facilitators guided discussions on mental health, education, peacebuilding, sustainability, and more. Youth inclusion remains a focus for UNESCO, with initiatives like the Youth Liaison Committee ensuring intergenerational dialogue.

Conclusion

The ICNGO 2024 conference underscored the importance of partnerships in addressing global challenges and advancing UNESCO's mission. By leveraging NGO expertise, fostering innovation, and integrating youth voices, UNESCO aims to remain agile and impactful in a rapidly changing world.

Source: <https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/international-conference-of-ngos-building-capacity-and-partnerships/>

Let the kite fly high



Sulan Chen

The global plastics negotiation process, launched in 2022 under a resolution by the UN Environment Assembly, represents an unprecedented effort to combat the escalating plastic pollution crisis. Despite progress, negotiations stalled at the end of 2024 due to diverging views on the scope, measures, financing, responsibilities and other issues. This impasse highlighted the challenge of balancing economic interests, development disparities, and planetary sustainability.

As 2025 begins, it brings with it a renewed sense of purpose and the opportunity to gather fresh energy for the critical task ahead. The turning of the calendar offers the global community a chance to reset, reimagine, and reignite the momentum needed to achieve a plastics treaty that meets the scale of the crisis. Winston Churchill's words; "Kites rise highest against the

wind, not with it," remind us that resilience and determination can turn obstacles into opportunities. Despite the headwinds, this treaty holds the promise to drive systemic change, protect our planet, and secure a sustainable future for all.

Life is short, art is long

A global plastics treaty is not just a policy document—it is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reshape humanity's relationship with plastics and redefine our stewardship of the planet. To achieve this, we need bold global leadership that rises above short-term interests and embraces a vision of shared prosperity for generations to come.

Continuing the current trajectory of linear production, consumption and disposal systems will leave an indelible mark on the planet—a legacy of pollution, environmental degradation, and missed

opportunities for innovation. It is a legacy that future generations will inherit, one that we have the power to prevent. The treaty must drive us toward a more sustainable and conscientious path, where plastics are not just reduced but reimaged within circular economies, balancing economic growth with environmental responsibility.

As we navigate this critical juncture, it is worth reflecting on the timeless wisdom of Hippocrates: "Life is short, art is long." Our lives and leadership are fleeting, but the decisions we make today will ripple far into the future, shaping the lives of generations to come. This treaty, if crafted with courage and foresight, can stand as a testament to human ingenuity and unity. Let us choose to leave a legacy that embodies regeneration, not regret.

Rising against the winds

The path to a global plastics treaty is not without its obstacles. Divergent perspectives, economic dependencies, and varying levels of development among nations often create friction. However, these winds of resistance should not be seen as insurmountable barriers but rather as opportunities to soar higher. Difficult moments

like these demand vision, courage, and collaboration to find common ground.

This is the moment for global leadership to rise above narrow self-interest and short-term gains to embrace the transformative potential of this treaty. Bold compromises and courageous decisions are needed to prioritize the long-term health of our planet and its people. Leaders must consider the far-reaching impact of their actions on ecosystems, human health, and global stability.

The success of this treaty will hinge on our ability to navigate these challenges together. It requires that countries approach the negotiations with a sense of shared purpose, recognizing that plastic pollution transcends borders. With determination and collective action, we can turn resistance into momentum, obstacles into opportunities, and agreements into tangible change.

A call to action

The urgency of finalizing a robust and enforceable global plastics treaty by 2025 cannot be overstated. The world cannot afford further delays. With every passing moment,

the problem grows more complex and costlier to address.

To the negotiators, leaders, and advocates shaping this treaty: Let the kite above immediate obstacles, chart the course for systemic change, and seize this historic opportunity to leave a legacy of resilience and regeneration.

As we approach the pivotal milestones of 2024 and 2025, let us draw inspiration from history, where humanity has risen above divisions to achieve transformative milestones, such as the [Montreal Protocol](#), which safeguarded the ozone layer, and the [Paris Agreement](#), which united nations against climate change. These successes remind us that strength, unity, and vision can overcome even the most daunting challenges. Together, we can channel this spirit of international cooperation to turn the tide on plastic pollution and ensure a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable planet for generations to come

Source: <https://www.undp.org/blog/let-kite-fly-high>

NGO calls for shipping to slow down

Reducing vessel speeds, or slow steaming, has been described as the low-hanging fruit for cutting greenhouse gas emissions in the shipping industry. As large-scale production and adoption of alternative fuels are likely to take time, slow steaming offers an immediate and practical way to lower emissions, but there are limits.



Jasmina Ovcina
Mandra

A recent analysis by Brussels-based NGO Transport and Environment (T&E) suggests that reducing ship speeds to 75% of current levels could cut carbon emissions by 47%. Even with an additional vessel to maintain container volumes on service strings, emissions could still be reduced by 34%.

Average sailing speeds

In an interview with WorldCargo News, Niels Madsen, Vice President of Product & Operations at Sea-Intelligence, said slow steaming needs to be understood in its proper context. Around 2010, the average sailing speed for container ships was close to 22 knots. At that time, Maersk and other carriers adopted slow steaming, lowering the global average speed to around

17.5-18 knots. While speeds have recently risen slightly to about 19 knots, they remain significantly slower compared to 10-15 years ago.

T&E's concept to reduce vessels speeds to 75% of current levels could more accurately be called "super-slow steaming", and would see vessels sailing at 15 knots or less, he said.

While slowing to 14-15 knots presents challenges, especially for older vessels with engine limitations, it is technically possible. Newer, conventionally-fuelled ships can reduce speeds to 10-12 knots. Marine engine manufacturers now also offer de-rating kits and optimised propeller modifications to improve fuel efficiency and operational flexibility at lower speeds.

Market realities

While super slow steaming is technically feasible, it is poorly aligned with current market conditions. The Red Sea crisis has

forced ships to reroute around the Cape of Good Hope, significantly increasing voyage times and fuel bills. The rerouting has absorbed nearly all excess capacity, leaving the market with virtually zero idle capacity. Congestion at key ports and ongoing labour disputes in Canada and along the US East and Gulf Coasts have further disrupted vessel service strings. These factors make further reductions in vessel speed challenging without exacerbating delays and capacity shortages.

Furthermore, achieving further speed reductions would require significant buy-in from both carriers and shippers, Madsen explained, as they would have to accept longer transit times, which is unlikely.

Lars Jensen, CEO of Vespucci Maritime, and a noted industry analyst, agrees. "In general, slow steaming is certainly a useful tool for reducing emissions – and has indeed been an important component in the emissions reductions seen over the past many years in container shipping.

"However, the Red Sea situation has caused sailing distances to be significantly expanded. This leads to a need to use many more vessels to move the same amount of cargo and has created a situation where there has been no excess capacity in 2024. Practically, this has prevented further slow-steaming as this would require even more vessels," Jensen told WorldCargo News.

Furthermore, as Madsen explained, in piracy-prone areas like the Red Sea and West Africa, vessels slowing below 20 knots face a different challenge altogether, as they become easier targets for pirates in fast boats.

Business case

Reducing the speed of a service currently operated by 10 vessels could require 12 to 13 vessels to maintain the same service level. "However, the capacity to deploy extra ships simply isn't available," Madsen said.

More newbuilds are not an option as yards are already full, with newbuild slots reserved for the next two to three years.

In addition, new vessels being released from shipyards are already being absorbed into current services, particularly those navigating around Africa and the US East Coast, leaving little room for fleet expansion. In addition,

Madsen noted that reducing sailing speed to increase efficiency could lead to fewer service options, higher competition, and significantly higher freight rates, which would disrupt current market dynamics. This makes the concept of "super-slow steaming" highly unrealistic unless competition regulations are disregarded, a scenario that seems unlikely given the prevailing market forces.

Emissions at the same level

This is not what NGO's like T&E want to hear. T&E stresses that Europe's container ships are polluting as much per container as they did six years ago, despite claims from the industry of improved efficiency. While emissions slightly decreased in 2023, this was likely due to a drop in global trade rather than improvements in operational efficiency. Although lines have ordered more efficient vessels following higher global oil prices, there has been no substantial reduction in emissions, the NGO argues.

Hence, T&E has urged the European Commission to introduce energy efficiency measures, including speed limits and the adoption of wind-assisted propulsion, and

push for stronger targets at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to align with its long-term emissions reduction goals.

To be fair to the shipping industry, investments in greener ships have been overshadowed by recent black swan events, including the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing Red Sea crisis, further exacerbating emissions and stagnating the progress towards a more sustainable shipping industry.

"Specifically to the T&E data: the COVID years did nothing good to the emissions," said Peter Sand, Chief Shipping Analyst at Xeneta. "A lot of older ships got a chance to extend their lives. This impacted the operational efficiency of the whole fleet negatively. For the post-2013 designs* the development can be concluded as positive – as an improvement of 30% has happened in just 5 years. This split is very relevant to have in mind, as this is the future."

"Finally, it also proves that cutting emissions may not be top of the agenda everywhere for everyone. Should extensive slow steaming have taken place during the Covid-years and now during the Red Sea crisis, freight rates may have been 4 – 8 times higher than the levels already seen. Everything is compromised in the end."



Source: <https://www.worldcargonews.com/shipping-logistics/2025/01/ngo-calls-for-shipping-to-slow-down-but-practice-denies-it-accept/>

UN Development Programme (UNDP) and The Coca-Cola Foundation (TCCF) partner to scale up management of plastic waste in Asia

Bangkok, Thailand - The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and The Coca-Cola Foundation (TCCF) have partnered to help address the growing challenge of plastic waste management in Asia, a region that is home to significant environmental opportunities and challenges. Rapid urbanization, increasing demand for single-use plastics, and gaps in waste management infrastructure have contributed to a rising volume of plastic waste, making effective solutions more urgent than ever.

A significant portion of the world's plastic waste enters the ocean through waterways in the region, posing serious threats to marine ecosystems, human health, and livelihoods. Sixteen of the top twenty polluting rivers in the world are in Asia, and account for more than two thirds -of the global annual volume of plastics flowing into the world's oceans.

In response to this urgent issue, UNDP and TCCF are scaling up efforts in nine Asian countries—Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Maldives, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam—supported

by a \$15 million grant from TCCF to support UNDP's initiatives across the region.

The three-year multi-country programme launched in India today, will help improve plastic waste management, promote recycling, reduce plastic leakage into the environment, foster country-based solutions, and facilitate regional collaboration. By adopting and disseminating best practices across the region, the programme aims to inspire policy changes and community-level actions to reduce and help to eliminate disposable plastic and improve the livelihoods of waste workers.

While expanding successful initiatives, the programme will focus on developing innovative business models for waste collection and recycling, offering technical advice on environmental best practices and tapping into the latest technology to improve collection and recycling, to reduce plastic leakage.

"Tackling plastic waste isn't just about cleaning up - it's also about building a smarter development model. Across Asia, countries are combating

the problem by embracing the circular economy. Through our Zero Waste and Plastics initiatives, we are helping them craft policies, attract investments, and reduce the consumption of single-use plastics," said Christophe Bahuét, UNDP Deputy Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific. "With this initiative, we are also empowering communities to scale up solutions that will effectively reduce plastic pollution and safeguard our planet."

"Collaboration is key to help improve waste management systems and strengthen recycling infrastructure. Through our collaboration with UNDP, the Foundation aims to advance solutions that minimize packaging waste, support better collection methods, and enhance processing capabilities. This approach not only helps address plastic waste more effectively but also contributes to long-term improvements in local communities and the broader environment," said Carlos Pagoaga, President, The Coca Cola Foundation.

Source: <https://www.undp.org/hepal/press-releases/un-development-programme-undp-and-coca-cola-foundation-tccf-partner-scale-management-plastic-waste-asia>



Enhancing NGO capacities is essential to advancing SDGs

Strengthening NGO capacities is vital for addressing local challenges and advancing SDG progress, speakers highlighted at the National Consultation with NGO Representatives and Relevant Stakeholders on Achieving SDGs. Held on January 12, 2025, at the NGO Affairs Bureau Conference Room, the event was organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the NGO Affairs Bureau as part of the Institutional Strengthening for Promoting Accelerated Transformation (ISPAT) project, a joint initiative by NGOAB, UNDP Bangladesh, and the Australian High Commission.

Launched in January 2024, the three-year ISPAT project aims to streamline NGO services, build institutional and professional capacity, and foster policy reforms to enable efficient, gender-responsive service delivery. At the consultation today, NGO leaders and development partners gathered to share insights and explore strategies for sustainable development.

Speaking as the chief guest, Lamiya Morshed, Principal Coordinator for the SDGs at the Chief Advisor's Office, stated, "Bangladesh faces several challenges in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Overcoming these obstacles requires collective effort and collaboration."

Highlighting the transformative potential of ISPAT, UNDP Resident Representative Stefan Liller remarked, "Bangladesh's development challenges are increasingly localized, requiring innovative, context-specific solutions tailored to community needs. NGOs play a vital role in this effort through their grassroots presence and deep local understanding. As the SDG integrator of the UN system, UNDP is committed to fostering partnerships that bridge gaps and amplify development efforts. The ISPAT project, with the generous support of the Australian Government, is a significant step

towards strengthening NGO capacities and accelerating transformative change for a sustainable future."

The ISPAT project employs a three-pronged approach, digital transformation, capacity building, and policy reform, envisioning a more inclusive and impactful development landscape in Bangladesh.

Other speakers at the event included Badiul Alam Majumder, Chair of the Election Reform Commission, Md. Anwar Hossain, Director General (acting), NGO Affairs Bureau; Sheela Tasneem Haq, Senior Governance Specialist, UNDP; Ashif Mahmud, Director, NGO Affairs Bureau; Asif Kashem, Senior Program Manager at the Australian High Commission in Dhaka; Mushtanjida Pervin, Deputy Director, NGOAB and Focal Person of the ISPAT Project; and Azizul Haque Sarder, UNDP. Representatives from various NGOs and CSOs were also present.

Source: <https://www.undp.org/bangladesh/press-releases/enhancing-ngo-capacities-essential-advancing-sdgs>



Inauguration of ZEST Non-Formal Education Center in Sherafi Goth

The NGO World Foundation, in collaboration with Artistic Milliners, proudly inaugurated a ZEST Non-Formal Education (NFE) Center in Sherafi Goth, Korangi. This significant initiative aims to provide quality education to out-of-school children, fostering hope and empowerment within the community.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by teachers, students, parents, and local community members. The team engaged with

all stakeholders, emphasizing the importance of education in shaping a brighter future. Discussions centered around the transformative impact of the NFE center, highlighting the need for collective efforts to ensure sustained learning opportunities for children who lack access to formal schooling.

This new chapter in Sherafi Goth is more than just an educational milestone; it represents a commitment to changing lives through knowledge. The enthusiasm of parents and students

reflects the community's readiness to embrace learning. By addressing educational gaps, this initiative will empower children with the skills and knowledge necessary for a promising future.

Together, The NGO World Foundation and Artistic Milliners are lighting the path to education, one child and one classroom at a time. This collaboration marks the beginning of a transformative journey toward a literate and empowered society.





NGO under fire for offering fake scholarships to students in West Pokot

Hundreds of students have been left financially drained and unable to continue with their studies after being conned by a fraudulent scholarships program.

TV47 has established that students were charged Ksh2,500 while being promised fully-funded Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) by the alleged scam, orchestrated by a group operating under the name Pokot Heritage Foundation.

The scheme has now left victims from West Pokot and Elgeyo Marakwet counties in financial distress.

The alleged scam foundation instructed students to apply for Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) funds and other government financial aid, rather than providing the promised scholarships.

In response to this, West Pokot County Commissioner Khalif

Abdullahi condemned the scheme, terming it a betrayal of the community's trust.

Principals of affected TVET institutions have distanced themselves from the foundation.

Nyamu Elishah, principal of Shamberere TVET, stated, "Our institution has no association with Pokot Heritage Foundation. If any student was conned, they should file an official complaint with my office for follow-up."

Education stakeholders are now calling on the government to intensify public awareness about legitimate scholarship opportunities to protect vulnerable students.

Rebecca Kide, West Pokot County Executive Member for Education, admitted that the foundation had reached out to her office.

"The foundation informed me they were sponsoring students and claimed to have signed MOUs with

college principals," she said.

"They even have an office at Chepareria, where individuals can verify their claims. However, I urge parents and students to remain cautious," she added.

On the other hand, Kevina Loyatum, director of Pokot Heritage Foundation, defended the organization, insisting they were negotiating with partners to secure scholarships.

"We guide students to apply for government scholarships, and we negotiate on their behalf for tuition fees," said Loyatum.

She added that the Ksh2,500 collected from students was meant to facilitate the foundation's activities, including transport and administrative costs.

"We've successfully enrolled 26,771 students in different institutions across the country," she claimed.

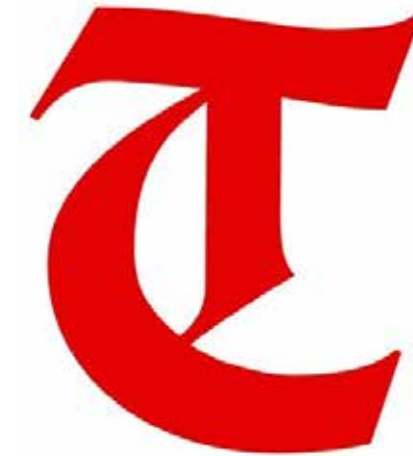
Source: <https://www.tv47.digital/ngo-under-fire-for-offering-fake-scholarships-to-students-in-west-pokot-84106/>

NITI Aayog joins forces with NGO to combat child marriage, boost education in 73 districts

NITI Aayog has partnered with NGO Association for Voluntary Action (AVA) to protect and empower children in vulnerable regions across India.

The collaboration, aimed at tackling child marriage, child labour and child trafficking, targets 73 districts in 12 states, with an ambitious goal to declare 15,000 villages child marriage-free by the end of 2025.

The partnership will focus on the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP), launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which aims to uplift the most underdeveloped districts of the country. Through a statement of intent (SoI) signed here, the initiative will work to connect out-of-school children with education and skill development programmes, while also linking at-risk families to government



welfare schemes. Additionally, the partnership will bolster child protection committees, train Aanganwadi workers and mobilise local communities to combat child exploitation.

AVA will establish Surakshit Bal Grams, a model community designed to eliminate child

marriage and exploitation.

The initiative will also introduce movement and marriage registers at the panchayat level to monitor and prevent child marriage and trafficking.

AVA executive director Dhananjay Tingal said, "This collaboration is a significant step forward in empowering vulnerable communities. By 2025, we aim to make these blocks child marriage-free and ensure every child's right to safety, education and dignity."

The project will also benefit from the expertise of India Child Protection, an AVA associate that focuses on child sexual abuse and online exploitation.

Source: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/delhi/niti-aayog-joins-forces-with-ngo-to-combat-child-marriage-boost-education-in-73-districts/>

Student NGO hosts event for school children

Dhanbad: Fast Forward India, a student NGO of IIT (ISM), organised 'Umeed 2025 – Hunar aur Hauslon ka Mahotsav' in Dhanbad. IIT(ISM) director Sukumar Mishra inaugurated the event, which saw participation from over 1,000

students from more than 60 schools. The festival featured various competitions, including dancing, singing, chess and an event titled 'Einstein Playground'. DAV Public School Koyla Nagar secured the best school award held at the Penman Auditorium. Professors

of the institute evaluated the performances while participants received appreciation certificates and guidance from IITians, making it a significant platform for promoting children's education and development.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ranchi/student-ngo-hosts-event-for-school-children/articleshow/117180400.cms>

With SDG deadline nearing, gender equality remains a distant reality

A recent report titled Gender 2024, jointly prepared by UN Women and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, reveals that progress towards gender equality—Goal 5 of the SDGs—remains insufficient.

Despite global commitments, the world is failing to meet its promises to women and girls, with the 2030 deadline for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) fast approaching.

A recent report titled Gender 2024, jointly prepared by UN Women and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, reveals that progress towards gender equality—Goal 5 of the SDGs—remains insufficient.

Background on SDGs and SDG Goal 5

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), established in 2015, were designed to create a blueprint for a sustainable and equitable world by 2030.

Goal 5 specifically focuses on ensuring gender equality and empowering all women and girls, addressing issues such as discrimination, violence, and economic disparity. While there has been progress in certain areas, overall advancement towards gender equality has been slow and uneven.

Current gender equality report

Gender Profile 2024 shows the different developments in gender representation in leadership roles.

As of January 1, 2024, only 26.9 per cent of the seats in the national parliaments were held by women, compared to 22.3 percent in 2015.

Despite efforts such as the World Bank's Gender Strategy for 2024-2030, which aims to accelerate global poverty reduction through gender equality initiatives, economic disparities persist.

Alarmingly, the Sex 2024 report shows that nearly half of married women worldwide lack autonomy in making decisions about their sexual and reproductive lives, while 35 per cent of women aged 15-49 have experienced physical or sexual violence.

Case study: Ivory Coast's inclusive development

Ivory coast has been praised for its efforts to combat gender-based violence. It scored 17.3 in the 2023 OECD Gender and Social Institutions Index (SIGI). The report assesses family violence, access to financial resources, violations of physical integrity and restrictions on civil liberties.

Prime Minister Robert Boger Mamba praised the country's progress, citing progressive laws promoting women's rights and economic empowerment, and efforts to combat gender-based violence (GBV).

However, local women's rights activists say the data does not reflect the reality on the ground. They point to recent killings of women and a culture of impunity, and stress that legal reforms must be accompanied by social change and more effective practices.

The Ivorian government has launched advocacy campaigns and worked with influencers to challenge cultural norms. However, the OECD says that if the country is to achieve its 2030 targets, more

needs to be done to reduce GBV and promote family autonomy.

Key challenges

The slow pace of progress towards equality has serious global implications. Gender inequality hampers economic growth, perpetuates poverty and undermines social stability. Experts argue that comprehensive policy reforms, increased investment and stronger accountability mechanisms are necessary for progress.

The European Parliament has called for transformative changes, including increased regional accessibility and increased funding for equal opportunities. Likewise, the World Bank's Gender Strategy 2024-2030 outlines ambitious goals to accelerate gender equality as a tool to eradicate global poverty.

That being said, achieving gender equality by 2030 requires a global effort to remove systemic barriers, challenge cultural norms and implement effective policies that empower women and girls.

Source: <https://www.deccanherald.com/world/with-sdg-deadline-nearing-gender-equality-remains-a-distant-reality-3362864>

SDGs Symposium 2025 - Tackling Inequalities for Sustainability and Wellbeing

Springer Nature and the University of Tokyo to organise SDGs Symposium 2025 on tackling inequalities for sustainability and wellbeing

A symposium that will discuss how to address multifaceted challenges of inequality and promote science for sustainability will take place in person and online on February 8, 2025.

Springer Nature and the University of Tokyo will host the 2025 SDGs Symposium on February 8, 2025.

Titled ["Tackling Inequalities for Sustainability and Wellbeing"](#), it will bring together researchers from Japan and the broader community to explore the critical intersections of inequality and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

A growing awareness of the significant impact of human activity on the planet and society has led to strong efforts to achieve sustainable development. However, achieving equality during this transition remains a challenge. Entrenched inequalities within and between societies pose serious risks to progress toward sustainability and wellbeing. The multifaceted nature of inequality makes it difficult to

resolve, and the complexity involved in the collection of information and the generation of knowledge underscores the significance of cultivating interdisciplinary insights and bridging the gap between theoretical frameworks and practical applications. Nevertheless, no simple solutions are available at present.

The 2025 SDGs Symposium will critically explore how to understand and tackle inequalities to achieve sustainability and wellbeing. It will feature a series of presentations from researchers and practitioners in Japan working at the interface of SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), as well as other SDGs, alongside Magdalena Skipper, Editor-in-Chief of Nature. The speakers will engage

in discussions on how research can provide equitable solutions to these critical challenges. It will explore how cutting-edge research can be applied in inclusive ways and put into action in policy and society. This event represents the sixth collaboration between Springer Nature and the University of Tokyo in organizing the SDGs symposium.

Registration for this event is free and anyone interested in sustainability research at the interface of SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) is welcome to join ([link to event page](#)). A student poster session will also be held following the event. Our [call for posters](#) have started, and the deadline for submission is January 22, 2025.

Source: <https://group.springernature.com/gp/group/media/press-releases/sdgs-symposium-2025/27731174>

Speakers for this symposium are as follows (in order of appearance):

Sawako Shirahase (Project Professor, The University of Tokyo; Senior Vice President, United Nations University)

Magdalena Skipper (Editor-in-Chief, Nature, Chief Editorial Advisor, Nature Portfolio)

Shunsuke Managi (Distinguished Professor, Kyushu University)

Yasushi Ishihara (President, Tsukuba University of Technology)

Etsuko Yamaguchi (Executive Director, Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning (JOICFP))

Takane Ito (Director and Project Professor, UTokyo Center for the

Coproduction of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity (IncluDE), The University of Tokyo)

The event program and speaker profiles can be viewed in the [event page](#).

More on Springer Nature's commitment to, and engagement with the SDGs can be found at our [SDG programme website](#). Note to Editors: United Nations SDGs

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) address the key global challenges of our times, and this symposium will address the following SDGs, which intersect strongly with each other: SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Event details

Event name: SDGs Symposium 2025: Tackling Inequalities for Sustainability and Wellbeing

Date: Saturday, February 8, 2025, 10:00 – 13:00 JST

Format: Hybrid

Venue: UTokyo Ichijo Hall (Yayoi Campus) and Online (Zoom Webinar)

Organizers: Springer Nature, The University of Tokyo

Language: English (with simultaneous interpretation in Japanese)

Target audience: Researchers, policymakers, students, anyone interested in health and the environment, SDGs, sustainability research and science

Registration fee: Free

Source: <https://www.springernature.com/gp/researchers/campaigns/sdg-symposium-2025>



2025 CDP Plenary Open Session: Advancing sustainable development by 2030 and beyond

20 January 2025
Date and time: Wednesday, February 26, 3:00-4:30pm EST
Place: Conference Room 5, UNHQ New York

The meeting is open to holders of a valid UN grounds pass.

Live Webcast will be available on [UN Web TV](#) (link will be active on the day of the event).

The Committee for Development Policy (CDP)'s 2025 open session will focus on "Advancing sustainable development by 2030 and beyond". In the Pact for the Future, Member states invite "the high-level political forum, under the auspices of the General Assembly, to consider in September 2027 how we will advance sustainable development by 2030 and beyond, as a priority and at the centre of our work." The Committee hopes to contribute, through its work from 2025 to 2027, to this process. At this event, a group of CDP members will share their perspectives on what the international community should consider as it charts a path toward

sustainable development beyond 2030, in light of the ongoing challenges in achieving the SDGs. They will be drawing from their individual research and practice as well as from work by CDP, which is currently examining, as part of a multi-year programme started in 2024, new contexts and pathways for development.

The following questions will be addressed:

What has changed in the development landscape since 2015 that demands changes in how we approach the SDGs?

What lessons have we learned from the implementation of the 2030 Agenda so far?

What is needed from the international community to move ahead by 2030 and beyond taking into account the current context and lessons learned?

Moderator:

Jose Antonio Ocampo, Professor at the School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University

Speakers: Sabina Alkire, Director, Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, University of Oxford.

Jibrin Ibrahim, Senior Fellow at the Centre for Democracy and Development, Abuja
Nyovani Madise, Director of Development Policy and Head of the Malawi office of the African Institute for Development Policy
Taffere Tesfachew, Senior Advisor on Economic Transformation to the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change

More information:

[2025 CDP Plenary](#)

[CDP|CDP News|News & Events](#)

[Committee for Development Policy](#)

[Committee for Development Policy \(CDP\)|Development Policy Branch \(DPB\)](#)

[CDP News and Events](#)



KP govt launches social lab-smart village project in Swat

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has launched the Social Lab-Smart Village Project in Swat to improve the quality of life and provide modern facilities in the district.

The launching ceremony of the project was organized under the auspices of the University of Swat in collaboration with the Centre of Excellence on Countering Violent Terrorism (KPCVE) with Commissioner Malakand Division, Abid Khan Wazir as chief guest on the occasion on Wednesday.

The ceremony was also addressed by Dr. Ayaz Khan, Chief Coordination Officer of KPCVE, Director General Dr. Muhammad Qasim of KPCVE, Dr. Hassan Sher, Vice Chancellor University of Swat, and other speakers.

Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner Malakand Division, Abid Khan Wazir stated that 70 percent of Pakistan's population resides in rural areas, and providing such a large population with education and all modern facilities is essential to putting the country on the path of peace, progress, prosperity, and stability. He said that the Social Lab-Smart Village Project Swat is an innovative and revolutionary step by government in this regard.

The speakers emphasized the importance and significance of the Social Lab-Smart Village Project in fostering sustainable development in rural communities, improving their quality of life, and providing modern facilities such as internet access, digitization, and training. They highlighted that this innovative and first-of-its-kind project would establish technology centres, smart energy solutions, and digital training hubs with the collaboration of industry partners, particularly high-tech organizations of exceptional reputation and quality. This project, they said will serve as a model not only for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but also for other regions across Pakistan.

The chief guest, Commissioner Malakand Division Abid Khan stated in his address that investing in and developing human resources is a core agenda and vision of the provincial government, as nations worldwide have achieved progress by developing their human resources. He emphasized that the Social Lab-Smart Village Project is a crucial step in this direction, and he is confident that its success will be a beacon of hope for development, peace, and prosperity not only in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, rather in the whole country.

Source: <https://www.brecorder.com/news/40341829/kp-govt-launches-social-lab-smart-village-project-in-swat>

Source: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/india/2025/2025-cdp-plenary-open-session-advancing-sustainable-development-by-2030-and-beyond/>

UNDP-Backed Initiative Strengthens Indonesia's Health Systems for Malaria Elimination by 2027



Maya Tamara

In the pursuit of a malaria-free Indonesia by 2027, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Indonesia, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, has launched a key initiative to enhance the nation's surveillance and diagnostic capacity for malaria. The initiative's core element is developing standardized malaria slides to serve as diagnostic tools and training resources for health professionals, especially in community health centers (puskesmas), ensuring accurate malaria detection

through microscopic blood sample examination. This strengthens health systems by equipping every healthcare worker with the necessary tools and training for precise diagnoses. The initiative is supported by funding from the Global Fund, contributing to the collective goal of improving public health outcomes in Indonesia.

The successful implementation of this initiative lies on the importance of collaboration between national and local governments, international organizations, and the healthcare sector. The Ministry of Health of Indonesia and UNDP have worked closely with regional health offices and local puskesmas to design and deliver training programs that are relevant to the specific needs of malaria-endemic communities.

This collaborative effort extends to the development of standardized malaria slides, with substantial contributions from the Balai Besar Lab Biologi Kesehatan (BBLBK) under the Ministry of Health. The BBLBK team has been instrumental in training and overseeing the detailed process of creating these slides, including blood sample collection, preparation of thick and thin smears, fixation, staining, validation, and homogenization. The introduction of standardized slides addresses critical challenges, optimizing resource utilization and ensuring patients receive accurate and timely care. These slides are intended to serve as diagnostic tools nationwide, enabling all puskesmas, regardless of their location or available resources, to adhere to a uniform diagnostic standard, thereby improving the accuracy and reliability of malaria diagnoses.

Empowering Locals

Community health workers play a vital role in this initiative. As frontline professionals directly engaging with affected populations, they ensure the success of malaria elimination efforts, particularly in remote areas where healthcare disparities are pronounced. Their involvement in training and field surveys bridges the gap between local challenges and effective solutions. In the region of Aceh Jaya, healthcare workers are provided with on-the-job training to strengthen their capacity in malaria diagnosis using microscopic test methods. The training consists of both theoretical classroom sessions and practical fieldwork to ensure that staff are equipped to conduct mass blood surveys, identify malaria cases, and make accurate diagnoses

During the one-day classroom training, participants are taught about the different forms and characteristics of the five Plasmodium species, which are

responsible for malaria in humans. Special emphasis is placed on the identification of Plasmodium knowlesi (Pk), a species transmitted by the macaque monkey and its vector, the Anopheles mosquito. Healthcare workers are also trained in the process of creating malaria slides, which will later be standardized for diagnostic purposes.

After the training, participants join field teams for a six-day survey, where they perform mass blood tests on key populations who are at higher risk of contracting malaria, particularly workers who spend time in the forested areas where macaque monkeys live. These populations, including plantation workers, miners, and loggers, are more likely to be exposed to the infected Anopheles mosquito, which can transmit the Pk parasite.

Through this hands-on experience, healthcare workers not only strengthen their skills in diagnosing malaria but also gain valuable insights into the challenges faced by communities at risk. The involvement of local healthcare workers in such surveys is a critical step in achieving the 2027 malaria elimination goal, as it helps ensure that diagnostic efforts are rooted in the realities of local populations.

"This initiative is about equity—about empowering every healthcare worker with the tools they need, no matter where they serve," said dr. Zulkarnaini, ZA, Head of the Disease Prevention and Control Section in Aceh Jaya.

While this initiative is currently focused on Aceh Jaya, its impact is expected to extend nationwide. By

standardizing malaria diagnostics at the puskesmas level, the initiative is contributing to the larger goal of eliminating malaria in Indonesia by 2027. This ambitious goal is supported by a national malaria surveillance strategy, which includes the development of tools such as the malaria slide standards, as well as the training of healthcare workers to implement them effectively.

Looking Ahead

The effort to eliminate malaria by 2027 is not just about reducing the number of cases—it is about improving the overall quality of health systems across Indonesia. By equipping local healthcare workers with the necessary skills and resources, this initiative strengthens the foundation of the country's healthcare infrastructure. The long-term impact will be a more resilient and responsive healthcare system, capable of effectively diagnosing and treating malaria and other infectious diseases.

As the project progresses, the focus will shift towards expanding the reach of this initiative to other malaria-endemic regions in Indonesia. The success in Aceh Jaya will serve as a model for other areas where malaria remains a public health threat. Expanding the use of standardized malaria slides and further training of healthcare workers will be essential steps in accelerating the country's malaria elimination efforts. Additionally, plans are underway to create a digital ATLAS for Plasmodium, serving as a digital database for original Indonesian Plasmodium images. This initiative is not just about eliminating malaria—it is about creating a stronger, more resilient healthcare system capable of addressing the challenges of today and tomorrow. With the continued dedication of all stakeholders, the goal of a malaria-free Indonesia by 2027 is within reach (*).

Source: [https://www.undp.org/indonesia/blog/undp-backed-initiative-strengthens-indonesias-health-systems-malaria-elimination-2027#:~:text=This%20initiative%20is%20not%20just,2027%20is%20within%20reach%20\(*\)](https://www.undp.org/indonesia/blog/undp-backed-initiative-strengthens-indonesias-health-systems-malaria-elimination-2027#:~:text=This%20initiative%20is%20not%20just,2027%20is%20within%20reach%20(*))



Dow Dentistry, Heal a Smile hold free dental camp, awareness session

KARACHI: In a heartwarming initiative to promote oral health, [Heal a Smile](#) NGO in collaboration with the [Community Dentistry Department of Dow International Dental College \(DIDC\)](#) organized a dynamic Dental Camp and Awareness Session at the [Association of Children with Emotional and Learning Problems \(ACELP\)](#) in Karachi.

The event was spearheaded by Dr. Sabeka Khan and Dr. Hassaan Maqbool, the visionary Co-founders of Heal a Smile, under the expert supervision of Dr. Ambrina Qureshi, Dr. Rida Batool, and Dr. Aqsa from DIDC's Community Dentistry Department. Their collective efforts aimed to instill essential oral hygiene habits and dispel common misconceptions about dental care among children, their guardians, and parents.

Informative and interactive learning The session offered

a comprehensive overview of oral health, covering: Normal tooth morphology and common dental problems .The stages of dental caries progression and effective prevention strategies Live demonstrations of proper brushing and flossing techniques. The significance of a balanced diet and regular [dental check-ups](#).

The interactive format also allowed parents to have their oral health myths debunked by experts, fostering greater awareness and proactive dental care. Fun-filled activities for lasting impact To make learning fun and memorable, participants engaged in creative, hands-on activities such as:

Practicing brushing techniques on tooth models. "Remove the Caries" games to identify and eliminate tooth decay. Spotting "good food vs. bad food" to understand diet's impact on dental health. Free [dental check-ups](#) and oral health kits

During the camp, the dental team performed free [dental check-ups](#), recording oral hygiene status using the [OHI-S](#) index and assessing dental caries with the [CAST index](#). Generous support from Shield ensured that all attendees received toothbrush and toothpaste samples, reinforcing the event's educational messages with practical tools. A commitment to a healthier smile

The ACELP administration praised Team Heal a Smile for their impactful session and commitment to improving oral health. Their dedication to community outreach reflects a significant step forward in preventive dental care and public health awareness.

Join the oral health movement!

Stay updated on future dental health initiatives and valuable tips by subscribing to [Dental News](#) on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

Source: <https://www.dentalnews.pk/11-Jan-2025/heal-a-smile-dental-camp-awareness-karachi>

Ghana Intensifies Efforts to Eliminate Cervical Cancer by 2030

Jennifer Nelson, Preventive and Occupational Health Management Consultant and CEO of Lifeline Haven Company Limited, has emphasized the need to scale up cervical cancer screening for early detection. Speaking during an engagement organized by Communication for Development and Advocacy Consult (CDA Consult) to mark the 2025 Cervical Cancer Awareness Month, Ms. Nelson highlighted screening as a critical step toward cervical cancer elimination, aligning with the World Health Organization's (WHO) global campaign.

Since 2020, WHO has driven a global effort to eradicate cervical cancer, stressing collaborative

innovation. The 2025 awareness month theme, **"Eliminating Cervical Cancer: A Shared Responsibility,"** calls for collective action. Ms. Nelson urged young women to prioritize screenings, noting, "Cervical cancer can be cured if diagnosed early and treated promptly." She also advocated for HPV vaccination and treatment of pre-cancer lesions as cost-effective preventive strategies.

CDA Consult Executive Director, Francis Ameyibor, noted that the campaign's climax from January 22–28 highlights prevention, screening, and treatment. He commended the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), Caritas Christi Hospital, and others for supporting the advocacy.

Under the slogan **"Ghana Must Rise Against Cervical Cancer,"**

CDA Consult has mobilized stakeholders for a nationwide campaign to accelerate efforts. Regional slogans and strategies are complementing national advocacy to increase public education.

Ameyibor acknowledged progress but emphasized scaling up efforts to achieve the 2030 target, urging both state and non-state actors to join the fight. This year, regional health professionals will intensify education and expand prevention, detection, and treatment initiatives.

The campaign reflects Ghana's commitment to combating cervical cancer and building a future free of the disease.

Source: <https://businessghana.com/site/news/general/320894/Upscale-screening-to-help-eliminate-cancer>



REASONS WHY NGOs FAIL

NGOs play a critical role in addressing societal challenges, many face significant hurdles that can lead to failure. Below are key reasons why NGOs struggle or fail:

- 1. Lack of Sustainable Funding** Dependence on one major donor or funding source leaves NGOs vulnerable when funds are withdrawn. Many grants are project-based and time-bound, leaving NGOs without long-term financial stability. Limited skills or strategies to diversify funding sources can lead to financial constraints.
- 2. Poor Governance and Leadership** Ineffective or disengaged boards fail to provide strategic direction and accountability. Lack of skilled leaders to drive the organization's mission and manage resources efficiently. Power struggles or misaligned priorities among staff and board members can disrupt operations.
- 3. Misalignment with Community Needs** NGOs that design programs without consulting beneficiaries often fail to address real needs. Lack of understanding of local contexts and customs can lead to program rejection. Failure to involve communities in planning and decision-making results in lack of ownership and support.
- 4. Poor Strategic Planning** Many NGOs operate without a well-defined mission, goals, or long-term strategy. Failure to track progress and demonstrate impact weakens credibility with donors. Taking on too many projects without sufficient resources or expertise can dilute effectiveness.
- 5. Weak Financial Management** Poor budgeting, record-keeping, or financial oversight can lead to inefficiencies and loss of donor trust. Cases of misappropriation of funds tarnish the reputation of NGOs and deter



donors. Failure to report financials or demonstrate accountability can alienate stakeholders.

- 6. Donor Dependency and Mission Drift** Aligning with donor priorities at the expense of the NGO's core mission leads to loss of focus. Donor-driven projects often end when funding stops, leaving no long-term impact.
- 7. Inadequate Capacity Building** Limited investment in training and development hinders organizational growth and innovation. Poor working conditions or lack of motivation leads to frequent staff exits, disrupting operations. Limited resources often result in staff burnout and reduced productivity.
- 8. Ineffective Communication** Lack of effective communication with donors,

beneficiaries, and partners can weaken relationships. Inability to communicate success stories and measurable outcomes reduces credibility and donor confidence. Limited outreach and marketing efforts make it hard to attract support and partnerships.

- 9. Resistance to Change** NGOs that fail to adapt to changing contexts, technologies, or donor expectations risk becoming irrelevant. Bureaucratic processes hinder decision-making and responsiveness.
- 10. Competition and Duplication** Intense competition among NGOs for limited funding can lead to underfunding or animosity. Overlapping programs in the same area without coordination reduces efficiency and impact.

NGO urges Kenya to release missing protesters amid deteriorating human rights situation

The global civil society alliance [CIVICUS](#) [urgently called](#) on Kenyan President William Ruto and his administration on Wednesday to promptly and unconditionally release 20 protesters who have been reported missing following recent civil unrest.

CIVICUS called upon Ruto to fulfill his commitments regarding human rights by ensuring the release of unjustly detained individuals, addressing any harm caused to activists, and ending the abduction of dissenters while holding accountable those responsible for violence and intimidation. The statement further indicated that CIVICUS Monitor's findings highlight a systematic pattern of repression that extends beyond immediate physical violence to include enforced disappearances and targeted abductions of individuals associated with the protests.

This appeal comes amidst rising concerns over the increasing incidents of abductions and unlawful detentions targeting Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) and social activists in Kenya, which have sparked [significant alarm](#) among international observers.

CIVICUS downgraded Kenya's civic space rating to "repressed," reflecting a troubling trend of state-sanctioned violence against peaceful demonstrators. This downgrade follows a series of nationwide protests in June 2024 in response to a [controversial Finance Bill](#) that aimed to raise taxes amid soaring living costs. The Kenya Court of Appeal at Nairobi delivered a [judgment](#) rendering the controversial Finance Act 2023 unconstitutional in August 2024. The Supreme Court [stayed](#) the Court of Appeal decision citing public interest.

Despite [calls](#) for the National Police Service to respect and uphold human rights ahead of demonstrations, the government's violent crackdown [resulted](#) in the deaths of at least 60 individuals and the arrest of over 1,200 protesters. Reports [indicate](#) that more than 130 individuals remain unaccounted for, with many believed to have been forcibly disappeared by security forces targeting those perceived as dissenters or critics of the government.

Several international organizations have [echoed these concerns](#), emphasizing the need for

accountability and reform within the Kenyan government. Advocacy groups have pointed out that the use of excessive force against peaceful protesters, coupled with ongoing abductions, represents a blatant disregard for human rights. The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights has [documented](#) numerous cases of enforced disappearances, highlighting the [urgent need for intervention](#) from both local and international bodies.

The backdrop to this crisis can be traced back to a growing discontent among Kenyans regarding government corruption and economic mismanagement. The protests in mid-2024 were fueled by widespread frustration over increasing taxes and living costs, which many citizens deemed unacceptable given the [prevailing economic conditions](#). As public dissent grew, the government's increasing repressive measures culminated in violent confrontations between law enforcement and demonstrators.

Source: <https://www.jurist.org/news/2025/01/ngo-urges-kenya-to-release-missing-protesters-amid-deteriorating-human-rights-situation/>



British High Commissioner for continuing cooperation to promote entrepreneurial culture in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Jan 19 (APP):Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Pakistan, Ms. Jane Marriot has said that the United Kingdom (UK) will always continue its full cooperation with Pakistan to promote entrepreneurial culture and skills and instil entrepreneurial spirit in youth of the country. Pakistani cuisine recipes

Pakistani youth have entrepreneurial skills and potential and the British High Commission in Islamabad will continue its due support to develop this potential and such programs will be continued in the future to enhance their business skills, the British High Commissioner said.

Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Pakistan, Ms Jane Marriot told APP here, the annual inter-School business competition was hosted by British High Commissioner, Jane Marriott CMB OBE, in Islamabad with King's Trust International and SEED Ventures.

Pakistani cuisine recipes

Meanwhile talking to APP, she said that today, young students from five different schools and

education institutions belonging to all the provinces of the country including Sindh, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), Baluchistan and Islamabad Capital presented their business models and business-related ideas, which reflect their excellent entrepreneurial skills and business capabilities and such talented youth in Pakistan are testifying to the bright future of the country.

The British High Commissioner said that in an annual inter-school business competition held here today in British High Commission Islamabad, students from different education institutions demonstrated their full potential and in this, especially girl students expressed their talents in the best way.

The envoy said that the British High Commission Islamabad has already started various programs to promote girls' education and entrepreneurship in Pakistan and more programs are being planned in this regard in the future.

She said that the private sector, especially Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), play a very

important role in any economy and such programs will improve the national economy by promoting SMEs in Pakistan.

In today's modern world, start-ups, innovation, and entrepreneurial skills are the backbone of any emerging economy and especially to increase the role of youth in the future economy, these skills must be taught to them, she said.

The High Commissioner said that there is a lot of potential in economic and trade relations between the United Kingdom and Pakistan and there are vast opportunities for promoting future bilateral trade on both sides.

She said that at present, the volume of bilateral trade between the two countries is 4.4 billion pounds, which is much less than its potential and it needs to be enhanced in the future.

The British envoy said that the United Kingdom has historical social, economic and cultural relations with Pakistan, which are growing day by day.

At present, 1.6 million Pakistanis are present as the Pakistan diaspora in

the UK, which plays the significant role of a cultural bridge between the two countries and is also our cultural heritage.

Enterprise Challenge Pakistan (Enterprise Challenge Pakistan) is an annual inter-school business competition, a joint initiative from Prince's Trust International and SEED Ventures. Now in its eighth year, the programme enables school students to learn practical business skills through coaching, mentoring and an online business simulation

game. Enterprise Challenge Pakistan received a mention in Forbes as one of the "Five Leading Programs Supporting the Next Generation of Entrepreneurs".

The event will host 100 guests from a diverse range of sectors. The event commences at 3:00 p.m. and will conclude at 6:00 p.m with the speech from the High commissioner and the winner.

In annual Inter-School business competition was hosted by the

British High Commissioner team "Eco-EduTech from Daharki" won the eighth cycle of Enterprise Challenge Pakistan.

The King's Trust International delivers interventions in 20 countries, providing opportunities for young people to develop the skills and confidence to learn, earn and thrive.



Source: <https://www.app.com.pk/national/british-high-commissioner-for-continuing-cooperation-to-promote-entrepreneurial-culture-in-pakistan/>

Solar microgrids make a difference for Yemeni entrepreneurs

Frequent and extended power outages have long plagued communities in Yemen, forcing individuals to rely on diesel generators, an unsustainable option due to fuel shortages and high prices. Recognizing the need for alternative energy solutions, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with support from the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, has launched the “Renewable Energy to Improve Access to Health Services and Livelihood Opportunities” (HEAL) Project.

This initiative, implemented across Aden, Lahj, Abyan, Sana’a, and Hajjah governorates, aims to address the electricity crisis and its severe impacts on vulnerable communities. The project emphasizes solar microgrid stations operated by youth and marginalized individuals, providing both clean energy and economic empowerment. Imad Al-Obaidi, a project coordinator with local partner Enjaz Foundation, noted that the stations enable shop owners to access affordable electricity while creating income-generating opportunities for operators.

Through the HEAL Project, 360 participants were selected to operate solar microgrid stations. Organized into groups of 7-10, each received a complete solar energy system tailored to site-specific needs. These systems have already benefited approximately 205,000 people, including operators and subscribers.

The project also supports women and youth by equipping them with essential skills. Participants undergo six-day training programs covering solar panel installation, maintenance, and business management. Aya, a Business Administration graduate from Lahj, shared how the training equipped her to operate a station and handle technical issues, significantly improving her livelihood.

Adel, working at a station in Aden, highlighted his role in connecting shops to the electric grid and the income he earns. Sana’a, another participant, emphasized how task distribution based on individual interests streamlined workflow, with her focus on marketing drawing more subscribers to the stations.

For shop owners like Ahmed, a barber in Aden, the solar energy systems have been transformative. Frequent outages and high fuel costs once forced him to close his business, but affordable and uninterrupted solar power has allowed him to reopen and thrive.

The benefits extend beyond individual operators and shop owners. Solar microgrids support

local markets by ensuring reliable power, reducing fuel costs, and fostering economic stability. Environmentally, these systems reduce noise pollution and carbon emissions, contributing to a healthier community.

The project aligns with UNDP’s broader mission to empower communities through sustainable development. By providing knowledge, skills, and resources, it fosters self-reliance and local economic growth. Imad emphasized that renewable energy projects address critical needs identified through UNDP assessments, offering practical and sustainable solutions to Yemen’s electricity crisis.

As Aya and Adel confirm, the demand for solar microgrid services continues to grow, driving economic and social change in their communities. Aya expressed confidence in the future expansion of these stations, while Adel highlighted the role of renewable energy in improving his livelihood.

The HEAL Project demonstrates the transformative power of renewable energy, offering a sustainable path toward community resilience, economic empowerment, and environmental preservation in Yemen.

Source: <https://www.undp.org/arab-states/news/solar-microgrids-make-difference-yemeni-entrepreneurs>



Empowering Young Black Entrepreneurs at the St. Paul Youth Business Fair

The Rosedale Center Mall in Roseville, MN, will transform into a hub of innovation and creativity as young entrepreneurs take center stage at the St. Paul Youth Business Fair. From 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, children will showcase their own businesses, embodying the principles of entrepreneurship and demonstrating the power of ambition and ingenuity. This one-day event, sponsored by Acton Academy, along with the generous contributions of donors and volunteers, provides children with a platform to build brands, create products or services, design marketing strategies, and interact with real customers. It’s not just a fair—it’s a launchpad for future leaders.

For Black children and their families, this event is a celebration of possibility. Entrepreneurship has long been a cornerstone of economic empowerment in Black

communities, and events like this provide a space to nurture and uplift the next generation of change makers

Building a Legacy of Innovation

The Acton Children’s Business Fair is the largest youth entrepreneurship event in North America, and it serves a mission close to the heart of many Black families: creating pathways to opportunity. With a vision to inspire at-risk youth through mentorship, employment, and education, the fair is more than an event; it’s a movement toward economic empowerment and self-determination.

Whether they’re selling handmade crafts, tech innovations, or delicious treats, these young entrepreneurs are gaining more than profits—they’re learning to navigate challenges, solve problems, and believe in their dreams.

Why This Matters for Black Youth

Representation in business and innovation is essential. Black entrepreneurs like Madam C.J. Walker, Daymond John, and countless others have shown the transformative power of ownership and creativity. The St. Paul Youth Business Fair honors that legacy while encouraging the next generation to step into their own greatness.

Entrepreneurship isn’t just about profits; it’s about building something larger than oneself. It’s about serving communities, creating jobs, and innovating in ways that impact lives. Events like this instill those values early, planting seeds for future success.

Read more at: <https://spokesman-recorder.com/2025/01/10/st-paul-youth-business-fair/>





How scientists with disabilities are making research labs and fieldwork more accessible

The field trip was designed to illustrate the challenges disabled researchers often face and how barriers can be overcome.

“Just because you can’t do it like someone else doesn’t mean you can’t do it,” said Anita Marshall, a University of Florida geologist leading the outing. The group included scientists with sight, hearing and mobility disabilities.

Marshall’s organization ran the field trip to the lake along the

San Andreas Fault, outside of San Bernardino. Her group – the International Association for Geoscience Diversity – and others are working to improve access to field and lab work so that those with disabilities feel welcome and stay.

Taormina Lepore, a Western Michigan University paleontologist who went on the trip, said scientists tend to value a single, traditional way of getting things done.

At Lost Lake, everyone got a view – even if they couldn’t physically get

there. “It’s really about empathy, as much as it is about science,” said Lepore, who also researches science education.

Making research labs more accessible Disabled people make up about 3% of the science, technology, engineering and math workforce, according to 2021 data from the National Science Foundation.

Scientists with disabilities say that’s in part because labs, classrooms and field sites aren’t designed to

accommodate them. Students and faculty are still told that they can’t work in a lab or do research safely, said Mark Leddy, who formerly managed disability-related grants for the National Science Foundation.

The Americans with Disabilities Act, passed in 1990, sets minimum regulations for new buildings and labs, including ramps and wheelchair-accessible walkways. But modifying older labs can be a complicated and lengthy process.

Alyssa Paparella is working on her doctorate in biology at Baylor College of Medicine and founded an online community for disabled scientists. She said a science building at one of her former schools had no automatic buttons to open doors.

“What is that saying about who you want actually working in the laboratories?” she said. “That’s the front door that they’re not even able to get in.”

Leddy said researchers with disabilities are invaluable because of their life experiences. They have to constantly come up with creative ways to get past barriers in their lives – a problem-solving skill that’s indispensable in a lab.

“If they don’t feel welcome, if they don’t get access, then how can they contribute that talent?” Leddy said.

Venu Varanasi, a biomaterials engineer at the University of Texas at Arlington who has low vision, prints out signage using high-contrast color combinations and encourages his students to keep

floors and counters clutter-free so he can navigate the lab more easily.

He said those modifications also keep accidents to a minimum for non-disabled students. “When you realize that you have a person with a disability, you have an opportunity, not a problem,” he said.

At Purdue University in Indiana, engineering professor Brad Duerstock helped design an accessible biomedical lab years ago with support from the school and a National Institutes of Health grant, removing cabinets under sinks and fume hoods so that wheelchairs can easily pull up.

The cost of making a lab more accessible varies depending on how extensive the changes are, Duerstock said. Some schools set aside money for improvements and science organizations can offer grants. Accessibility in the outdoors On the California geology field trip, the group explored the lake carved into the landscape by the San Andreas Fault, where the grating of two tectonic plates can cause earthquakes.

The group included rock enthusiasts at all different stages of their careers. A handful were students. Others were professors, eager to explore the outdoors in a group they could trust to look after them.

Central Connecticut State University professor Jennifer Piatek, who uses a wheelchair, saw the lake through drone footage and used a pocket lens to examine rocks brought back by other participants.

She said it was nice to be part of a community that anticipated her needs. For example, their bus pulled forward to park at a flatter location to make it easier for her to get off.

You can learn a lot from images and maps, “but really you need to get

to the space to be in it,” said Piatek, who studies planetary geology.

Lepore, a neurodivergent person with low vision, scanned rocks using an artificial intelligence app that described their color and shape out loud.

“Nature is not inherently accessible,” she said. “Nature just doesn’t have ramps and the kinds of things that we might wish it had. But there are so many workarounds and ways that we as geoscientists can make things truly open.”

Bushra Hussaini uses tips from the field trips to support interns and volunteers with disabilities at New York’s American Museum of Natural History, where she works. She said the supportive community of geologists is what keeps her coming back. “We learn from each other and we help each other,” she said.

Before heading out, Marshall urged the participants to ask for a hand or a shoulder to lean on if needed. She and others from the organization have been leading field trips every year as an offshoot from the Geological Society of America’s annual meeting.

As a doctoral student, Marshall would go on field trips with her peers only to wait back in the van, frustrated, because the organizers hadn’t thought about how to accommodate her disabilities.

She wants things to be different for the next generation of scientists.

“The whole point of these little day trips is to just plant that seed out there,” Marshall said, “that there’s another way forward.”

Source: <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/tx/south-texas-el-paso/news/2025/01/18/scientists-with-disabilities-are-making-labs-more-accessible>

Oregon's Disaster Readiness for People with Disabilities: A Critical Gap



Geoff Norcross

Jake Cornett, Executive Director and CEO of Disability Rights Oregon, warns that Oregon is unprepared to protect people with disabilities during natural disasters. He cites the tragic 2021 death of Ashlyn Maddox, a disabled Portland woman who perished in extreme heat just 50 feet from safety after being dropped off by a medical transport company that failed to ensure she reached her home.

Cornett stresses that such deaths are preventable with proper planning and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). He fears that the devastation faced by disabled individuals during the current Los Angeles wildfires could also unfold in Oregon, particularly as climate change intensifies extreme weather events.

Local governments are legally required under the ADA to provide accessible emergency communication and evacuation strategies. However, Cornett highlights how existing methods fail many disabled individuals, such as blind residents who cannot read door notices or those without

access to transportation who are left behind during rapid evacuations.

Oregon has already witnessed hundreds of heat-related deaths in recent years, disproportionately affecting seniors, disabled individuals, and those with medical conditions. Cornett emphasizes the urgent need for inclusive disaster preparedness, ensuring that emergency responses account for the unique needs of disabled individuals to prevent further unnecessary deaths.

Source: <https://www.opb.org/article/2025/01/19/oregon-advocate-people-with-disabilities-disaster/>

Bombay High Court Questions Denial of Motherhood to Woman with Intellectual Disability

Mumbai: The Bombay High Court on Wednesday raised critical questions about the rights of women with intellectual disabilities to become mothers. A division bench of Justices R.V. Chuge and Rajesh Patil was hearing a petition filed by the father of a 27-year-old woman seeking medical termination of her 21-week pregnancy. The father argued that his daughter, unmarried and diagnosed with borderline intellectual disability, was incapable of raising a child.

The woman, however, expressed her desire to continue the pregnancy. Following the court's direction, a medical board at JJ Hospital in Mumbai evaluated her condition and submitted a report stating she was not mentally unsound or ill but

had borderline intellectual disability with an IQ of 75%. The report confirmed that the foetus showed no abnormalities and the woman was medically fit to continue the pregnancy, though termination was also feasible if deemed necessary.

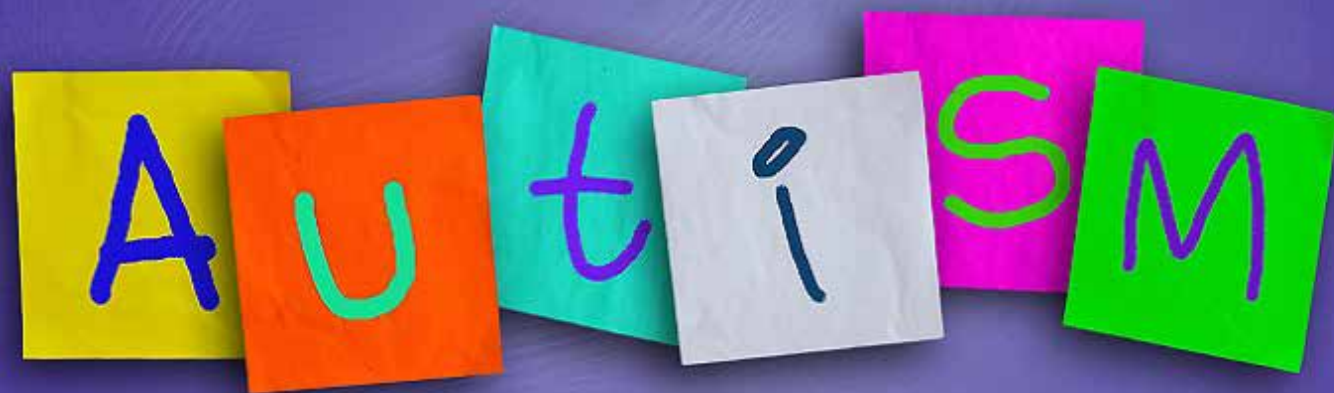
The court criticized the parents for not providing psychological counseling or appropriate treatment for their daughter since 2011, relying solely on medication. Additional Government Pleader Prachi Tatke emphasized that the

pregnant woman's consent was paramount, a principle reinforced by the medical board's findings.

The bench noted that intellectual disability does not equate to mental unsoundness, questioning the societal and familial assumptions underlying the father's plea. It stressed the importance of balancing the rights of individuals with disabilities against paternalistic interventions.

The case highlights the complex interplay between reproductive rights, intellectual disabilities, and societal norms, with the court poised to deliver a significant judgment on the matter.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/intellectual-disability-mother-9766932/>



Global prevalence of autism hits over 60 million



Alison Bloomer

New data shows that the global prevalence of autism in 2021 was over 60 million people, and autism was one of the top ten causes of non-fatal health burden for people aged under 20 years.

This means that in 2021, one in 127 people globally were estimated to be autistic, substantially higher than the one in 271 estimated in 2019.

The research published in [the Lancet](#) is taken from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2021 and found that autism is significantly higher among males, at 1,065 cases per 100,000 males, almost double of global prevalence [among females](#) (508 per 100,000 females).

Regions like High-Income Asia Pacific, including Japan, recorded the highest prevalence globally (1,560 per 100,000 people), while Tropical Latin America and Bangladesh reported the lowest. Despite differences in sex and region, autistic people are present globally across all age groups, with rising disability-adjusted life-years (DALYs) due to population growth.

Urgent need for early detection of autism

The authors said that the findings suggest that there is an urgent need for early diagnosis and sustained support for autistic individuals and their caregivers worldwide.

Also, improved geographic data coverage and targeted interventions for comorbidities and mortality

risks, such as [suicide](#), are essential steps in this effort.

They added: "These findings provide a critical foundation for shaping policies and practices that enhance the quality of life for millions of autistic individuals worldwide. "Although the importance of early detection and intervention cannot be overstated, we must also reconsider how the service needs of autistic people evolve across the lifespan. Addressing not only the needs of autistic children and adolescents but also those of adults, who often remain under-represented in research and service provision, is imperative."

The study was funded by Queensland Health and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Source: <https://www.learningdisabilitytoday.co.uk/news/global-prevalence-of-autism-hits-over-60-million/>

The invisible struggles behind hidden disabilities

HIDDEN disabilities, like those faced by some children with life-limiting conditions, can be the root of misunderstandings by members of the public, even though their impact on daily life can be profound.

As highlighted by Hidden Disabilities UK, conditions like chronic pain, neurological disorders, and autoimmune diseases significantly affect people's lives even if they aren't immediately visible to others.

This is the reality for Emma and her daughter Izzy, a bright and curious child living with a life-threatening condition. Although Izzy looks like any other child to strangers, the challenges of her condition are anything but ordinary. Izzy can do most of what her friends can do, and she loves being in school shows, reading books, writing stories and playing with her girlfriends. However, because she doesn't outwardly show signs of her condition, Emma and her husband Neil often face scepticism when they park in disabled spaces, from members of the public unaware of Izzy's struggles.

Emma said:

"People assume everything is fine because Izzy doesn't 'look sick,' but they don't see the sleepless nights, medical equipment, or constant worry. Yes, this is fine. It's wonderful in many ways that no one knows Izzy was so sick when she was little, and even now, while she is stable, they have no idea about the extra

care. But that also makes it exhausting as people wonder why you feel so anxious and worried much of the time!"

This scenario ties into broader issues discussed by disability advocacy groups, such as The Disability Rights Commission (UK), which addresses the misuse of blue badges and, alongside this, the challenges by members of the public to disabled people who don't look disabled. The frequent misunderstandings faced by families like Izzy's highlight the ongoing struggle for recognition of hidden disabilities.

In addition, families facing life-threatening conditions, like Izzy's, often endure emotional strain and isolation, highlighting the urgent need for greater support and awareness. Charities such as Jessie May, the South West's children's hospice at home, play a vital role by providing expert medical care, emotional support, and respite, allowing families to focus on spending quality time together despite the challenges.

Emma added:

"Jessie May has made such a difference for us. Their support allows us to feel more like a family and less like we're just managing a condition."



Jessie May nurse Steve said:

"Life-limiting conditions are not always visible, but the challenges are very real. I have seen Izzy grow up and witnessed both her resilience and the immense effort her family puts into her care. Behind her smiles and laughter, there's a level of vigilance and dedication that many wouldn't realise."

This year, Jessie May is urging the public to acknowledge the hidden battles families like Emma's face and to contribute to making their journey a little easier. At a time for giving, small acts of kindness can make a big difference, bringing comfort and connection to families facing hidden disabilities, whether through donations, volunteering, or raising awareness.

To help support families like Emma and Izzy's, please visit: [Winter Appeal - Jessie May](#)

Source: <https://www.charitytoday.co.uk/the-invisible-struggles-behind-hidden-disabilities/>

Museum project puts disabled people at forefront

A museum and an arts school for adults with learning disabilities will place “disabled people in the storytelling seat” after receiving a substantial grant.

The project is a co-production by The Museum of Cambridge and the Rowan Humberstone arts centre.

It was made possible after receiving a £99,802 grant from [the Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund](#) through the Museums Association.

Rowan chief executive Cherie Evans said the aim was to tell “often unheard stories of disabled people in Cambridgeshire - past, present, and future”.

‘A voice in their own city’

“This project will provide an opportunity for our artists to explore their unique experiences of living life with a disability and to express this experience through their own stories and art,” she continued.

“We believe that contributing to this research project based in their own city will give our community a voice

and an opportunity to be at the forefront of their own histories.”

The museum, which tells the story of 300 years of Cambridgeshire history and heritage, said disabled people would be at “the forefront of researching, curating, and sharing” their histories.

Their stories are already present in its collection of more than 40,000 everyday objects, including family photographs showing people with disabilities, workhouse records and objects made by craftspeople with disabilities.

But organisers said there was “little institutional research conducted on disabled experiences within the museum’s collection” and the project would “take vital steps toward more equitable storytelling”.

Alex Smaridge, engagement and collections manager, said: “This project is a pivotal step for the Museum of Cambridge, placing disabled people in the storytelling seat of disabled histories.

“We’re proud to collaborate with Rowan Humberstone to ensure these stories are told with authenticity, respect, and lasting impact.”

Organisers hope the project will inspire other institutions in the UK to take up similar collaborative models.

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c626977x24go>

‘It gives me freedom’: Local organization giving people with disabilities chance to hit the slopes

The Regina Ski Club is ensuring everyone has a chance to hit the slopes this winter.

“We offer various services that include sit skis or blind skiing assist guiding, cognitive items,” said guide Brent Waldo. “It’s for people that don’t normally get a chance to get outside and enjoy an activity like this.”

The Alpine Adapted Ski program has more than a dozen athletes with various disabilities. From spinal injuries to visual impairments or even amputations.

Skylar Derin lives with cerebral palsy.

In her daily life, she requires a wheelchair to be mobile. But because of a sit ski, she has been skiing for 13 years.

“It gives me so much freedom instead of just sitting in a wheelchair all the time,” Derin told CTV News.

With the assistance of her guide, Joel Makan, she’s able to use a chairlift and slide down the hill.

“She has a handlebar to control the sit ski,” Makan explained. “If she turns it left, the ski goes left. The same to go right.”

“And if she wants to break, she pulls back on the bar,” he added.

Emilie Lemoine is blind.

Through her guide, Daniel Petit, she says she’s been skiing for a decade.

“She can’t see anything, but she is able to feel the trail much better than I do,” Petit said.

Lemoine relies heavily on Petit while on the hill as he guides her down the slope.

“I have a microphone so I can talk to her,” Petit said. “I have to verbalize everything I see that she cannot. Whether that is somebody following or trees.”

Petit, Makan and Waldo all say being a guide is an opportunity to give back to a sport they enjoy dearly.

“Forty years ago, I started to ski. Somebody had to show it to me,”

Petit said. “It’s nice being able to give my time and give back.”

“It gives people the ability to be independent,” Makan said. “And [for them] to get outside and slide on the snow and make relationships with different people they normally wouldn’t on a regular basis.”

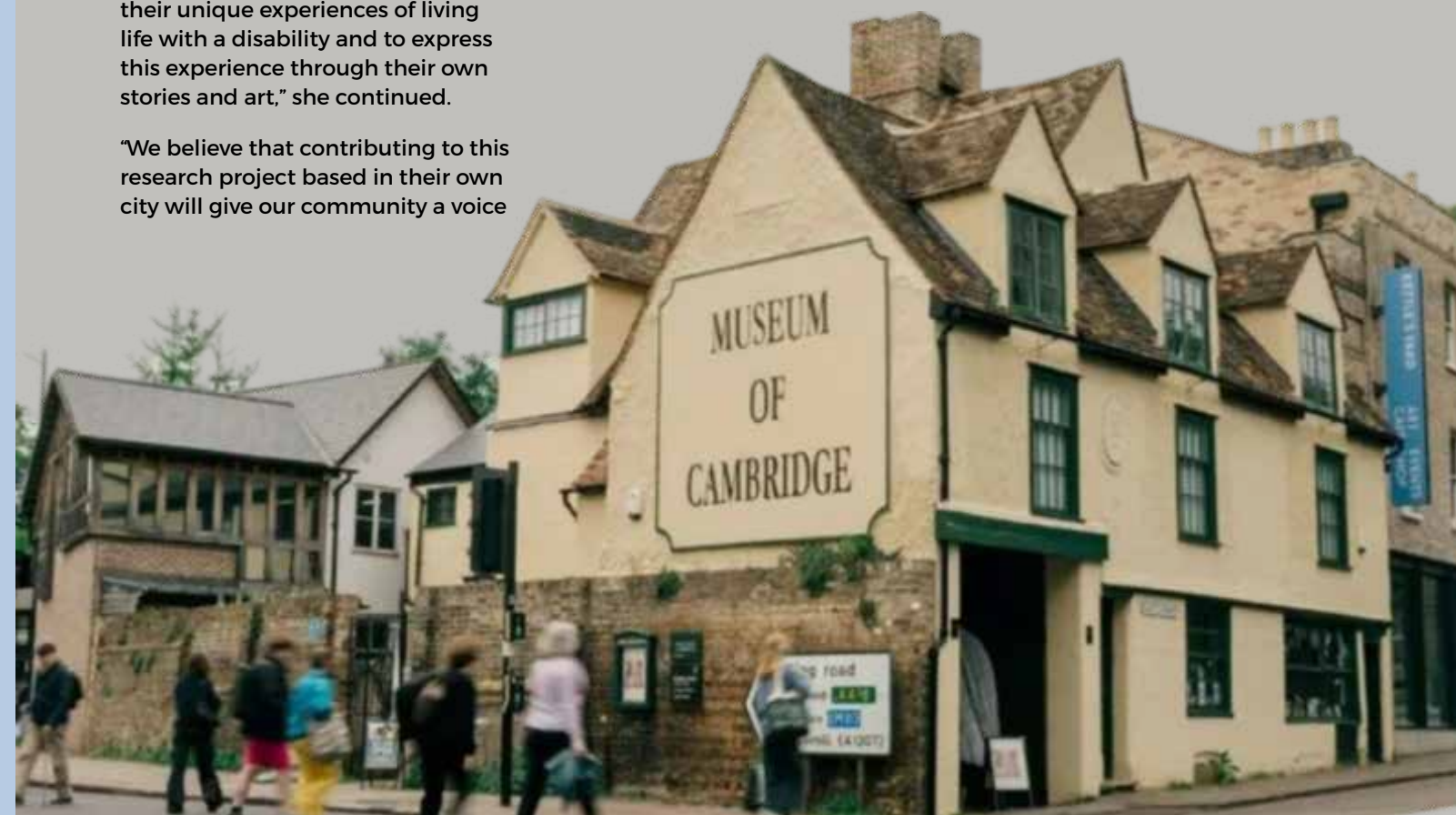
“It’s a chance for us to be with families,” Waldo added. “But it’s given me a new lease on skiing. [Guiding] allowed me to come back into skiing in a big time and in a big way.”

The Alpine Adaptive Ski program trains every second Saturday at Mission Ridge Wintersport Park.

The club says they are always welcoming new athletes and guides for anyone who wants to try.

In March, they hold their year-end races as a way to fundraise for new equipment.

Source: <https://www.ctvnews.ca/regina/article/it-gives-me-freedom-local-organization-giving-people-with-disabilities-chance-to-hit-the-slopes/>





Applications Invited for Grants-in-Aid for Tribal Welfare Projects

Jan 9- The Directorate of Tribal Welfare has invited applications from Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Voluntary Organizations (VOs) for grants-in-aid under the scheme "Grant-in-Aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes (STs)"

for the financial year 2024-25. Interested organizations can submit their applications to the Directorate of Tribal Welfare by February 15, 2025. Grants-in-aid will support projects in the Education sector, including non-residential and residential schools and hostels; the Health sector, for hospitals,

dispensaries (10+ beds), and mobile dispensaries; and the Livelihood sector, focusing on income generation through agriculture, fisheries, dairy, animal husbandry, water conservation, and organic farming initiatives.

Source: <https://digitalgoa.com/applications-invited-for-grants-in-aid-for-tribal-welfare-projects/>

NOFO: NGO Programs to benefit Refugees, Migrants, and Returnees

Deadline: 7-Mar-25

The Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) seeks proposals for humanitarian assistance activities in Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal focusing on various sectors such as education, child protection, shelter and settlements, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH).

Program Area

Proposals must align with one or more of the following program areas.

Humanitarian Protection and Assistance

Durable Solutions

Funding Information

For [Mauritania](#):

- Funding floor per year (lowest \$ value): [\$1,000,000 per year]
- Funding ceiling per year (highest \$ value): [\$1,200,000 per year]
- Programs period of performance of 36 months will be considered.

For [Niger](#)

- Funding floor per year (lowest \$ value): [\$1,000,000 per year]

- Funding ceiling per year (highest \$ value): [\$1,200,000 per year]
- Programs period of performance of 36 months will be considered.

For [Senegal](#):

- Funding floor per year (lowest \$ value): [\$600,000 per year]
- Funding ceiling per year (highest \$ value): [\$1,200,000 per year]
- Programs period of performance of 12 or 24 months will be considered.

Geographic Regions/ Populations

Proposed activities should primarily support refugees in local hosting populations and/or other conflict victims affected by the displacement crisis in Mauritania, Niger, or Senegal locations. Due to PRM's mandate to provide protection, assistance, and sustainable solutions for refugees and conflict victims, PRM will only consider those programs that target at least 50 percent of their participants as refugees.

Eligibility Criteria

Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education (U.S.-based NGOs must be able to demonstrate proof of non-profit tax status).

Nonprofits without 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education (overseas-based NGOs must be able to demonstrate proof of registration in country of domicile); and

International Organizations. International multilateral organizations, such as United Nations agencies, should not submit proposals through Grants.gov in response to this NOFO. Multilateral organizations that are seeking funding for programs relevant to this announcement should contact the PRM Program Officer (as listed below) before the closing date of the funding announcement. For more information, visit [Grants.gov](#).

Source: <https://www2.fundsforngos.org/latest-funds-for-ngos/nofo-ngo-programs-to-benefit-refugees-migrants-and-returnees/>



Ushirika wa Maendeleo ya Elimu Barani Afrika
 الرابطة لأجل تطوير التربية في إفريقيا
 Association for the Development of Education in Africa
 Association pour le développement de l'éducation en Afrique
 Associação para o Desenvolvimento da Educação em África

24 Jan 2025

International Day of Education

AI and Education: Preserving Human Agency in a World of Automation

■ Message from ADEA

Today marks the International Day of Education (IDE), celebrating education as a fundamental human right and a driver of sustainable growth. This year's theme, "AI and Education: Preserving Human Agency in a World of Automation," highlights the role of technology in expanding access to quality learning.

For Africa, IDE provides an opportunity to assess progress in integrating EdTech into its education systems. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed vulnerabilities but also accelerated efforts to leverage technology for resilience and transformation. Studies, such as ADEA's research on ICT in Education and Remote Learning, have demonstrated Africa's preparedness for tech-driven education. ADEA's partnership with the Mastercard Foundation Centre for Innovative Teaching and Learning (CITL) supports 30 African countries in using EdTech to enhance decision-making and learning outcomes.

AI offers vast opportunities, from automating routine tasks to enhancing teacher capacity, curriculum development, and remote learning. Recognizing AI's potential, ADEA has integrated EdTech as a key pillar in its strategic plan and is fostering collaboration to shape AI policies, teacher training, and system improvements.

By embracing AI and digital transformation, Africa can create an inclusive, innovative, and quality-driven education system that empowers future generations.

Happy International Day of Education!

Source: <https://www.adeanet.org/news/international-day-education-2025>

www.adeanet.org



UNDP Introduces Cutting-Edge Solutions for Climate Resilience

Ashgabat, 14 January 2025: The UNDP/GCF project “Developing a national adaptation planning process in Turkmenistan” in cooperation with the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan organized a roundtable to present a database on priority technologies available for the future implementation of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) in the country.

The event took place on January 14, 2025, at the premises of the International Scientific-Technological Park of the Academy of Sciences of Turkmenistan. This roundtable brought together a

diverse group of stakeholders, including representatives from line ministries, government agencies, and prominent lecturers from leading educational institutions across Turkmenistan. The event aimed to promote dialogue and enhance collaboration in tackling climate change challenges, while equipping Turkmenistan with essential tools and technologies to achieve its adaptation objectives. The agenda featured a presentation on planning for climate change adaptation in priority economic sectors and the role of innovative technologies in addressing key challenges. Participants were introduced to a comprehensive approach for identifying and

prioritizing technologies most relevant to Turkmenistan’s adaptation needs and engaged in discussions on practical solutions and strategies to integrate advanced tools into national adaptation projects, emphasizing the importance of the state-of-the-art technology in achieving sustainable development.

This initiative reflects Turkmenistan’s ongoing commitment to addressing climate change impacts by enhancing institutional capacity and adopting cutting-edge solutions. The developed database is expected to serve as a cornerstone for decision-makers and stakeholders, providing a robust foundation for

the implementation of climate adaptation strategies across various sectors.

In the framework of the project “Developing a National Adaptation Planning Process in Turkmenistan” UNDP collaborates with the Government of Turkmenistan to enhance the country’s adaptive capacity to climate change.

During the project cycle, long-term adaptation goals for the priority sectors of economy of Turkmenistan were defined and a comprehensive framework for monitoring and evaluating adaptation efforts was developed to assess the effectiveness of climate related actions. One notable outcome is the development of a roadmap for private sector engagement in adaptation activities within Turkmenistan’s water sector. To deepen the understanding of vulnerabilities, detailed climate risks and vulnerabilities assessments have been conducted for Ashgabat and Dashoguz velayat. These assessments provided critical insights into local challenges, enabling targeted interventions and allowing for the preparation of an analysis of regulatory policies and plans to identify strategic entry points for integrating climate risk considerations into national and sectoral planning. To support these initiatives, a concept for climate finance development was elaborated, emphasizing the need to secure and allocate resources effectively for adaptation activities across the country.

These collective actions resulted in the preparation of a Roadmap for the development and implementation of the future NAP of Turkmenistan, serving as a strategic blueprint for long-term adaptation efforts.

Source: <https://www.undp.org/turkmenistan/press-releases/undp-introduces-cutting-edge-solutions-climate-resilience>

The Climate Change Education Act dies in Congress



Glenn Branch

S. 4117 and H.R. 7946, the Senate and the House versions of the Climate Change Education Act, were introduced in the Senate Committee on January 3, 2025, when the 118th Congress adjourned sine die. The identical bills would have authorized the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to institute a competitive grant program aimed in part at developing and improving educational material and teacher preparation on the topic of climate change.

Among the findings listed in the bills are “[T]he evidence for human-induced climate change is overwhelming and undeniable” and “Only 30 percent of middle school and 45 percent of high school science teachers understand the extent of the scientific consensus on climate change” – a reference to the NCSE/Penn State [survey of climate change educators](#) (PDF).

S. 4117 was sponsored by Edward J. Markey (D-Massachusetts) and 20 of his colleagues in the Senate. H.R. 7946 was sponsored by Debbie Dingell (D-Michigan) and nine of her colleagues in the House. Similar climate change education bills in Congress from previous years include S. 966 in 2021, S. 477 in 2019, S. 2740 in 2018, H.R. 2310 in 2021, H.R. 2349 in 2019, and H.R. 5606 in 2018.

Source: <https://ncse.org/climate-change-education-act-dies-congress>



Localisation of SDG 13 — climate diplomacy and green economy

Pakistan faces climate challenges but sees opportunities in green economy transition and global cooperation.



Dr Shahid Hussain Kamboyo

Sustainable Development Goal 13 emphasises the need for urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. For Pakistan, this challenge presents an opportunity to transition toward a sustainable green economy while addressing its environmental vulnerabilities and socioeconomic challenges. Ranked 5th on the Global Climate Risk Index, Pakistan contributes only 0.88% of global greenhouse gas emissions but is disproportionately affected by climate change due to its geographical and economic conditions. Global warming has accelerated significantly, with Earth's temperature rising by 0.11°F (0.06°C) per decade since 1850, tripling to 0.36°F (0.20°C) per decade since 1982. Pakistan has experienced a 0.5°C increase in temperature since the 1960s, with projections indicating a rise of up to 1.5°C by 2050. These shifts threaten its agriculture-based economy and exacerbate poverty, food insecurity, and inequality.

The devastating 2022 floods impacted 33 million people, caused extensive damage to infrastructure, and resulted in economic losses exceeding \$40 billion. These events underscore the critical need for sustainable water management systems and

climate adaptation measures. Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Prof Dr Ahsan Iqbal stated that the Living Indus initiative exemplifies Pakistan's commitment to SDG 13 by focusing on ecosystem restoration, pollution reduction, and sustainable water management. He emphasised that "climate change poses an existential threat to Pakistan" and called for global cooperation under frameworks such as the 5Es Framework, particularly on environmental issues. Despite these initiatives, Pakistan faces significant barriers to achieving SDG 13, including limited renewable energy infrastructure, deforestation, water scarcity, and governance issues. Fossil fuel dependency and inadequate investments in renewable energy further hinder progress, while low forest cover accelerates biodiversity loss. Rainfall disruptions have reduced agricultural productivity, exacerbating food insecurity. Pakistan is currently on track to meet only 35 out of 169 SDG targets, with SDG 13 showing stagnation or regression, requiring approximately \$52 billion, equivalent to 16.1% of its GDP, by 2030.

Climate diplomacy has become a cornerstone of Pakistan's efforts to combat climate change. Platforms such as COP29 and the Summit

of the Future allow Pakistan to advocate for increased global financing and technological support. At COP29, Pakistan spotlighted its vulnerabilities and introduced the National Climate Finance Strategy (NCFS) to bridge a \$348 billion funding gap by 2030. Key mechanisms in this strategy include green bonds, public-private partnerships, and climate-smart technologies. COP29 commitments included mobilising \$300 billion annually for vulnerable economies by 2035. Dr Samuel Rizk, UNDP Resident Representative, highlighted that "climate resilience is not just about adaptation but also about integrating sustainable development frameworks into national and local policies." Pakistan has also advocated for the Loss and Damage Fund established at COP28, emphasising the need for financial assistance to vulnerable nations.

Global examples offer valuable lessons for Pakistan in addressing climate challenges. Denmark's success in generating over 50% of its electricity from wind energy is a model for Pakistan's wind corridors in Sindh and Balochistan. Similarly, China's Grain for Green initiative, which restored 70 million hectares of degraded land, highlights the potential of large-scale reforestation efforts like Pakistan's Ten Billion Tree Tsunami project. The Netherlands' flood-resilient infrastructure and India's climate-smart agriculture, featuring drought-resistant crops and efficient irrigation systems, provide adaptable solutions for Pakistan's challenges in food security and extreme weather risks. Nature-based solutions, such as afforestation and wetland restoration, are critical for mitigating extreme weather events, improving water management, and enhancing biodiversity.

Empowering farmers with modern tools and technologies is essential for building climate resilience in rural areas.

Localised actions remain critical to achieving SDG 13. Implementing climate-smart agriculture, promoting renewable energy, and expanding afforestation efforts will address Pakistan's vulnerabilities. The private sector has also stepped up, contributing Rs13 billion to climate action projects through Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives in 2022-2023. These investments highlight the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing climate challenges. Strengthening frameworks like the National Climate Change Policy and dedicated climate finance institutions can enhance transparency, governance, and fund mobilisation. Innovative financing tools, such as green bonds and public-private partnerships, can accelerate the deployment of renewable energy and climate-resilient infrastructure.

Governance reforms and judicial involvement are vital for enforcing environmental protections and ensuring accountability. The Bhurban Declaration 2012 emphasised regional cooperation to uphold environmental laws and promote climate justice. Climate litigation is emerging as a key tool for holding governments and corporations accountable for unmet commitments. The judiciary's role in ensuring environmental protection further reinforces the legal backbone necessary for achieving SDG 13.

Localisation of SDG 13 requires bold policies, robust investments, and international cooperation. Pakistan's focus on green bonds, digital tools for monitoring, and disaster preparedness offers avenues to address climate challenges. The Living Indus initiative showcases how localised solutions can align with global goals to boost climate resilience. Tackling climate change is both a necessity and an opportunity for Pakistan to turn vulnerabilities into strengths. By fostering climate diplomacy, learning from global practices, and scaling initiatives, Pakistan can build a resilient green economy. The interconnected nature of the SDGs - embodied in the "5 Ps" of Planet, People, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership - highlights the urgency of integrated climate action to secure a sustainable, equitable future for generations to come.

Source: <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2521518/localisation-of-sdg-13-climate-diplomacy-and-green-economy#:~:text=Localisation%20of%20SDG%2013%20requires,avenues%20to%20address%20climate%20challenges>.



474 homeless people died due to winter exposure in Delhi, claims NGO

It emphasised on the lack of access to basic protective measures, such as warm clothing, blankets, and adequate shelter, increasing the risk of mortality among the homeless population.

"Many shelters in the city are unable to meet the demand and those that are available often lack essential facilities like heating and hot water, leaving individuals exposed to the cold," the letter read. The NGO urged authorities to increase shelter capacity, provide essential services such as hot water and warm clothing, and address the underlying causes of homelessness through inclusive housing policies and comprehensive support services.

(Only the headline and picture of this report may have been reworked by the Business Standard staff; the rest of the content is auto-generated from a syndicated feed.)

An NGO on Saturday claimed that at least 474 homeless people in Delhi have died due to "winter exposure" between November 15, 2024, and January 10, 2025.

The claim made by Centre for Holistic Development (CHD), an NGO working for the welfare of homeless, however, has no official confirmation.

In a letter addressed to Delhi Chief Secretary Dharmendra and Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) Chief Executive Officer Ravi Dhawan, CHD cited police statistics, indicating that an alarming 80 per cent of "unidentified dead bodies" in the city are believed of homeless individuals.

"Between November 15 2024 to January 10, 2025, 474 homeless people died in Delhi due to the 'winter exposure' and unavailability of essential protective measures such as warm clothing, blankets, or adequate shelter," the NGO claimed.

CHD also highlighted that people living on the streets face numerous health challenges, including respiratory infections, skin ailments, arthritis flare-ups, and deteriorating mental health. "Chronic illnesses, such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and cardiovascular diseases, worsen due to freezing temperatures, increasing vulnerability to severe complications and even death," the organisation added.

Source: https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/474-homeless-people-died-due-to-winter-exposure-in-delhi-claims-ngo-125011100723_1.html



The NGO World Foundation Strengthens Ties with Turkish Consul General for social good.

It was a pleasure to visit the Turkish Consul General in Karachi, Mr. Cemal Sangu, and discuss the ongoing projects of [The NGO World Foundation](#) in collaboration with esteemed Turkish organizations. The meeting highlighted our shared commitment to humanitarian and development initiatives that create lasting impacts on underserved communities. During the visit, presented Mr. Sangu with the

updated edition of "Brotherhood for Social Good," a report documenting our 14-year journey of collaboration with Turkish partners. Mr. Sangu expressed appreciation for our efforts and reaffirmed his interest in further strengthening ties to enhance social good in both nations.

Tweets of Social Good

Gaza



ISRAEL'S BAN ON UNRWA IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY IS COMING INTO FORCE

UN WOMEN

During crises, investing in women isn't optional, it's **essential**.

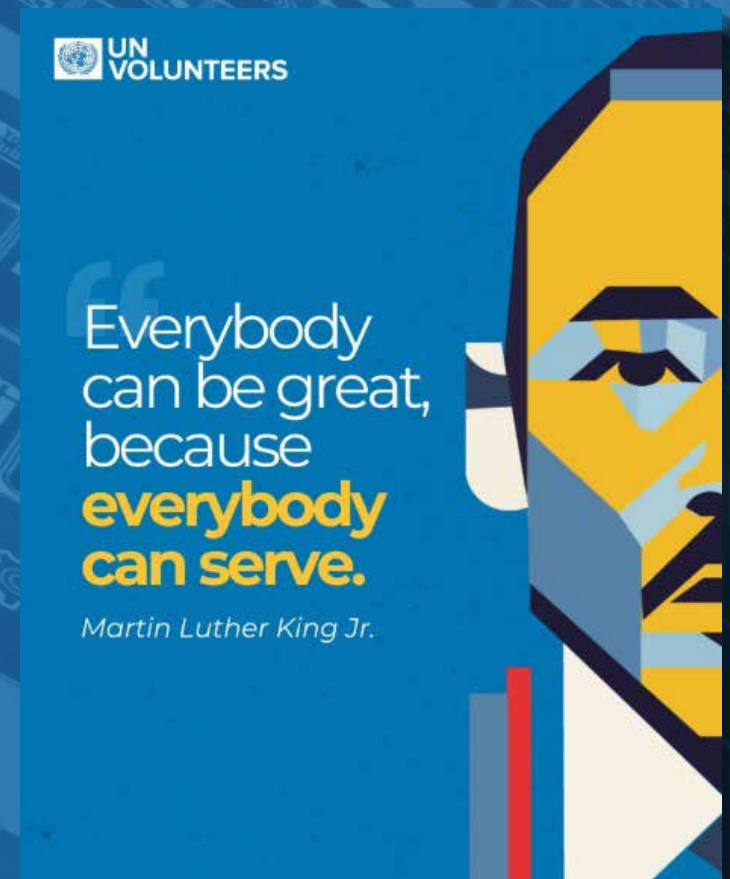


Learn why →

UN VOLUNTEERS

Everybody can be great, because **everybody can serve.**

Martin Luther King Jr.



AVOID EYE STRAIN & HEADACHES FOLLOW THE 20-20-20 RULE

-  **AFTER 20 MINUTES** spent using a screen
-  Look at an object **20 FEET (6M) AWAY**
-  For at least **20 SECONDS**

World Health Organization



Nearly **1 in 8** children in Haiti are internally displaced.

unicef | for every child

International Labour Organization

240 million workers worldwide live in extreme working poverty



LAO PDR #ປາກປາ



Safeguarding children from the devastating impacts of **measles**

World Health Organization

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

Unleash Your Impact: The NGO World Awaits Your Input

At "The NGO World" magazine, we believe in the power of collective knowledge and shared experiences. We invite our valued readers to become contributors and actively participate in shaping the content of our magazine. Your insights, stories, and perspectives are essential in fostering a sense of community and driving positive change.

If you have a compelling story related to humanitarian work, development initiatives, or social impact that aligns with the diverse sections we cover, we encourage you to share it with us. Whether it's a firsthand account of your involvement in an NGO project, an innovative solution you've come across, or an issue you're passionate about, we want to hear from you.

By actively engaging with "The NGO World," you play a crucial role in expanding our community's knowledge and fostering a deeper understanding of the challenges and solutions within the humanitarian and development sectors.

Together, we can amplify the voices of those working toward positive change and inspire others to make a difference. We look forward to receiving your contributions and continuing our shared mission of creating a better world.

Please send your content submissions via email:

editor@thengoworld.com

ensuring that your submission aligns with one of the sections provided below.

Sections of Magazine:

Here's an expanded list of potential sections for the magazine "The NGO World" to cover a wide range of topics related to humanitarian work, development, and social impact:

Featured NGO Spotlight: Highlighting the work of a specific NGO, sharing their success stories, challenges, and impact.

Global Development News: Covering the latest developments in international development, policy changes, and global issues.

Local Initiatives: Showcasing grassroots projects and initiatives making a difference in local communities

NGO Innovations: Exploring innovative approaches and technologies used by NGOs to address pressing issues.

Humanitarian Crises: In-depth coverage of ongoing humanitarian crises and the response efforts.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Articles focusing on progress and challenges related to achieving the UN's SDGs.

Women Empowerment: Stories of women-led initiatives and efforts to empower women and girls

Youth Engagement: Highlighting the role of youth in driving social change and their involvement in NGOs.

Environment and Conservation: Covering environmental issues, conservation efforts, and climate change initiatives.

Education for All: Articles on educational programs, access to quality education, and innovative teaching methods.

Health and Well-being: Discussing healthcare initiatives, disease prevention, and public health campaigns.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR): Examining the CSR efforts of businesses and their impact on communities.

Refugee and Migration Issues: Coverage of refugee crises, resettlement programs, and the experiences of displaced people.

Tech for Good: Exploring how technology is used for humanitarian purposes, from apps to drones.

NGO Profiles: Brief profiles of various NGOs, their missions, and achievements.

Volunteer Stories: Personal accounts from volunteers who have contributed to NGOs and their experiences.

Funding and Grants: Updates on available funding opportunities for NGOs and how to apply.

Policy and Advocacy: Discussions on policy changes affecting NGOs and their advocacy efforts.

Impact Assessment: Articles on measuring and evaluating the impact of NGO projects and programs.

Partnerships and Collaborations: Exploring successful partnerships between NGOs, governments, and businesses.

Disaster Response and Preparedness: Coverage of disaster relief efforts, preparedness strategies, and recovery stories.

Microfinance and Economic Empowerment: Exploring initiatives that empower communities economically.

Indigenous Rights and Cultural Preservation: Articles on efforts to protect and preserve indigenous cultures and traditions.

Human Rights and Social Justice: Discussions on human rights issues, social justice movements, and advocacy work.

Arts and Culture for Change: Showcasing how art and culture are used as tools for social change and awareness.

Inspirational Interviews: Exclusive interviews with prominent figures in the humanitarian and development sectors, sharing their insights, experiences, and visions for positive change.

Philanthropy and Impactful Giving: Exploring the impact of philanthropic efforts, featuring interviews with philanthropists and discussions on effective giving strategies.

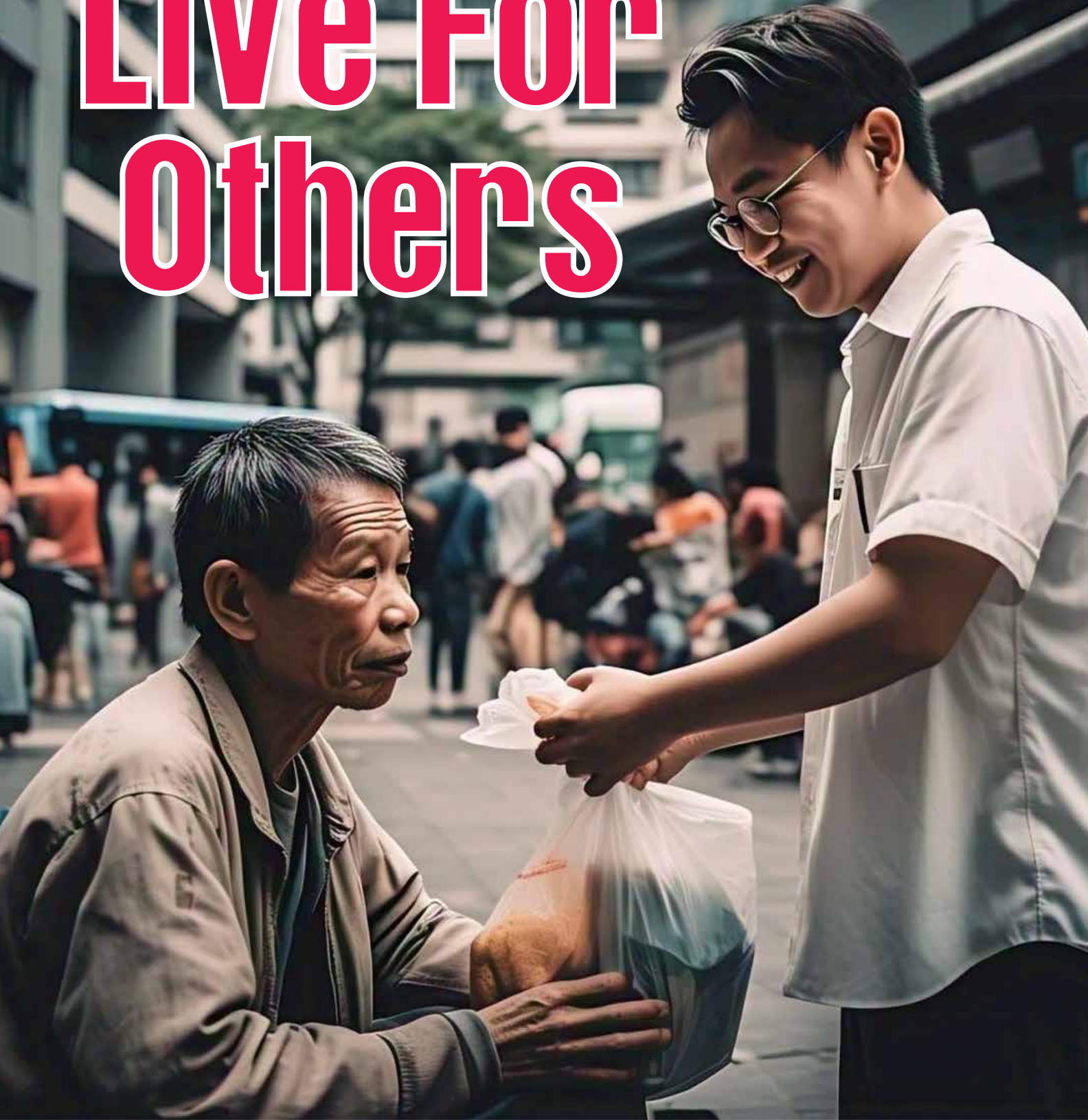
NGO Leadership and Management: Articles on leadership skills, management practices, and organizational development within the NGO sector, providing insights for NGO professionals and leaders

These sections offer a comprehensive view of the multifaceted work being done in the realm of humanitarianism, development, and social impact.

Submit your stories for upcoming edition & for queries, suggestion, feedback

editor@thengoworld.com

Live For Others



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for upcoming edition & for queries, suggestion, feedback
editor@thengoworld.com