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THE PEACE GONG FELLOWSHIP

SOCIAL IMPACT REPORT



THE GLOBAL GOALS

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Introduction

What started as a small dream of fostering peace and sustainable development through the involvement of youth has now blossomed into a remarkable global family of over 3,000 committed changemakers.

This journey has been nothing short of a testament to human solidarity and, most importantly, to the power of young people to drive meaningful change. Our fellowship has grown beyond borders, with projects extending from Argentina to Ethiopia, India to Kenya, and Mexico to Myanmar. Together, we've tackled seven Sustainable Development Goals - focusing on eradicating poverty, hunger, and inequality, promoting good health and education, championing gender equality, combating climate change, and building peaceful, inclusive societies.

This progress would not have been possible without the guidance, support, and encouragement of our mentors: Dr. Vedabhyas, Mr. Janith Perera, Dr. Marta Lescano, Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Ms. Christine Hess, Mr. Sudarsha de Silva, Mr. Antonio Rivas, and our partners Dr. Nikki de Pina from GPLT, Ms. Vani Dhaka from Lantern Tribe, and Hassan Abdulkadir from AFS. To each of you, I owe my deepest thanks.

Our team's dedication has been incredible. From managing time zones as distant as Papua New Guinea to Tunisia and Belgium to Pakistan, to coordinating seamless projects across the globe, their efforts have been invaluable. Special thanks to our remarkable content team—Srishti Shankar, Chimdi O, Suleiman Nurow, and Habiba Hussain—whose words gave life to our mission, and to our Program Coordinators Suhani Aggarwal, Madhulika Ramesh, Charles, McDonald Makoni, Neeti Sabnani, and Nitin, who brought these initiatives to life. My heartfelt gratitude to Shahd Shegedi, Myat Khit, Ali M Karrar, and Kabir Sharma for their meticulous work on our reports.

And finally, to my dear Fellows: You have sparked change in ways I could only have dreamed of. Thank you for your courage, resilience, and commitment. Here's to the journey ahead and to the belief that, together, we can make this world a better place for all!

Best wishes,

KHUSHI NIGAM
FOUNDER,
THE PEACE GONG FELLOWSHIP

Priority SDGs

There are 17 SDGs and 169 targets in total.

While they are all important and interrelated, for the purpose of the Fellowship, we focused on 7 specific targets and mentored the Fellows to develop projects in these target areas.



SDG 1: NO POVERTY

The Peace Gong Fellowship focuses on eradicating poverty through projects that support economic stability and self-sufficiency, particularly in marginalized communities.



SDG 3: HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Promoting health is a key priority, with Fellows addressing critical issues like cancer awareness, FGM prevention, and mental health resources to foster overall community wellness.



SDG 4: QUALITY EDUCATION

The Fellowship values education as a foundation for empowerment, offering skill-building, literacy programs, and training that uplift disadvantaged groups.



SDG 5: GENDER EQUALITY

Gender equity is central to the Fellowship, with projects like women's empowerment initiatives and anti-domestic violence campaigns promoting equal opportunities and safety for women.



SDG 13: CLIMATE ACTION

Recognizing climate change as a global challenge, the Fellowship advances climate justice initiatives to protect vulnerable ecosystems and advocate for sustainable practices.



SDG 16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

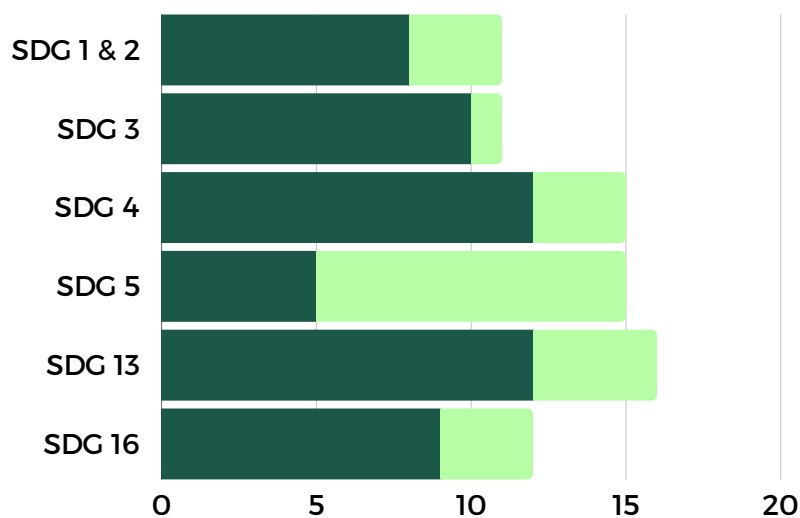
The Fellowship aims to build peaceful and just societies, engaging in projects that enhance democratic participation, uphold human rights, and support conflict resolution.

The Fellowship Data at a Glance

Running from June to October, the Fellowship empowered 100 Fellows from 20+ countries in designing and executing sustainable development projects to uplift their communities. The data below captures the key facts and figures related to the Fellowship cohort of 2024.

The Distribution of On-ground Projects and Research Papers

The Fellows of Class of 2024 implemented projects in two ways: On-Ground Fieldwork (Dark Green) and Research Papers (Light Green) targeting their SDGs.



62

Fieldwork and Research Projects implemented across the Global South.

3500+

Stakeholders impacted on key areas of climate, gender and justice.

Below are some key findings related to the projects designed by the Fellows.

- **Key areas** - Climate Justice, Women Empowerment, Universal Healthcare, Poverty Alleviation, Educational Interventions, Food Drives, Peace Advocacy and Refugee Rehabilitation.
- **Target Groups** - women, underrepresented groups, minorities, refugees, students and unemployed youth.
- **Target Regions** - South Asia, Middle East, North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, Central and South America.
- **Average Implementation Time** - 2 months
- **Average Impact** - 63 people per project (Research included).

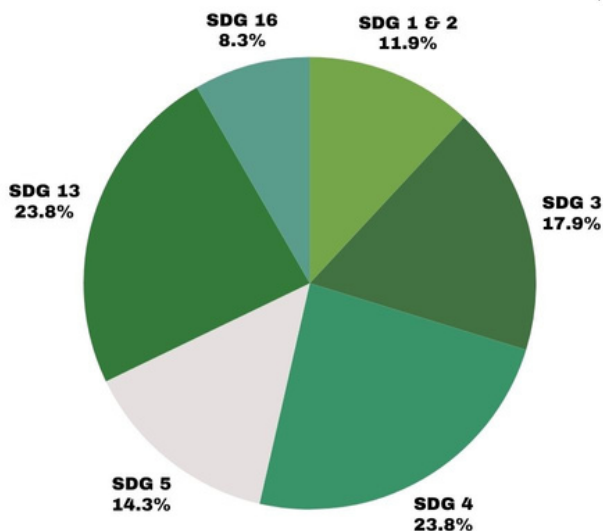
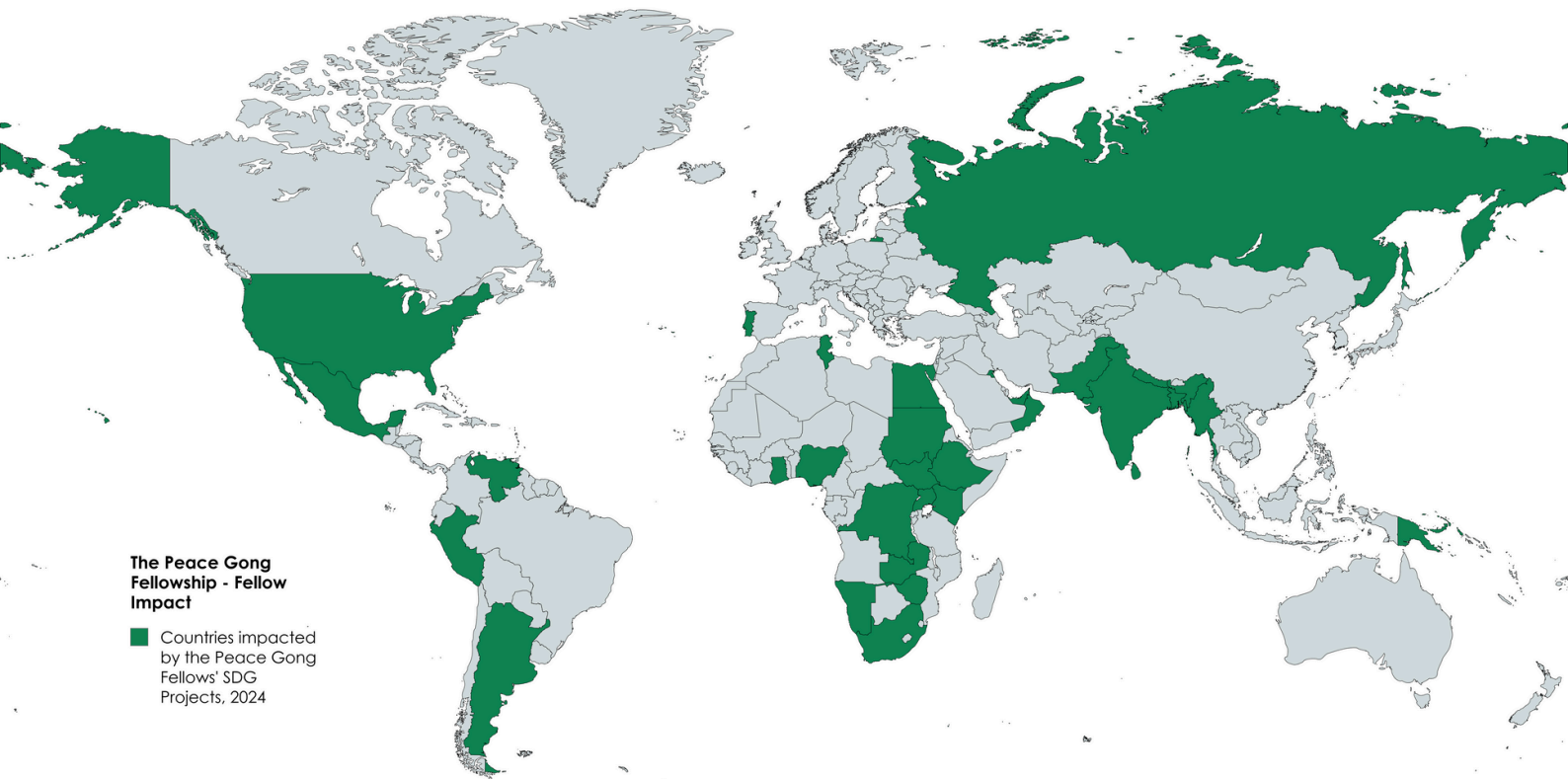


95% of the Fellows successfully implemented Social Action Programs and research work in the 7 key areas of Sustainable Developmental Goals.

Fellows and Team Executives

In 2024, the Fellowship received 1000+ applications for the team and the programme.

In 2024, the Peace Gong Fellowship received an overwhelming response, with 500+ fellowship applications from South Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Europe, alongside 500+ team applications from regions like South America and Oceania. This year's fellows and teams represent a vibrant mix of backgrounds, including refugees, students, doctoral candidates, doctors, and social workers from prestigious institutions such as the London School of Economics (LSE), Lady Shri Ram College, Columbia University, the University of Cape Town, and United Nations Volunteers (UNV), underscoring the fellowship's global reach and commitment to fostering diverse, impactful changemakers.



**6/10 Fellows were women
from developing nations.**

The Social Impact

With 3500+ stakeholders impacted worldwide, the Fellows headed 62 fieldwork projects and research papers targeting 7 SDGs.

Organized into 7 SDG-specific cohorts, each of our Fellows worked on targeted initiatives that collectively reached over 3,500 stakeholders across Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and Latin America. Fellows undertook projects primarily in two ways: in-depth research publications and direct community development interventions. Their projects focused on refugee rehabilitation, climate justice in South Asia, eliminating female genital mutilation (FGM) practices in Ethiopia, raising awareness against domestic violence in Egypt and cancer in India, promoting democratic values through social media engagement, and empowering women in Uganda with vocational training programs.



The Fellows led projects tackling gender equality, climate action, health, and poverty through vocational training, research, awareness campaigns and social intervention programs.



#youths4banNukescampaign

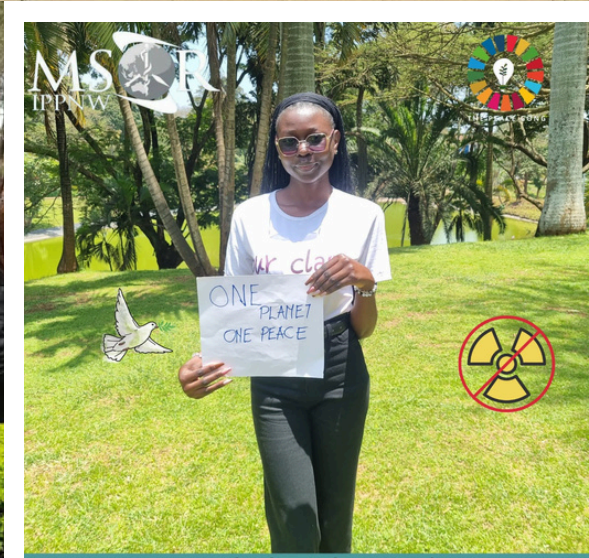


#youths4banNukescampaign



#youths4banNukescampaign





Highlights of the SDG Projects

The Refugee Non-Violent Communication Project, Uganda

Gervin Kitiwaka, a resilient refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo now in Uganda, turned his SDG 16 Fellowship into a lifeline of peace for over 100 individuals in his refugee settlement. Driven by a vision for unity, Gervin empowered his community with the transformative tools of Non-Violent Communication and conflict de-escalation, teaching them to resolve tensions without violence. Through his leadership, Gervin didn't just offer skills—he ignited a movement for peace, helping survivors of conflict reclaim agency and build a culture of harmony in one of the world's most fragile settings.

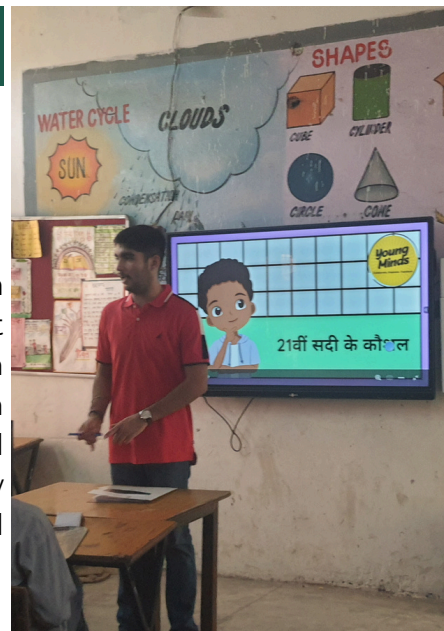


Save the Forests: A Climate Action Initiative, Kenya & Pakistan

This project by Paul Kiptum and Tauseef Ullah assesses climate change impacts on forest ecosystems in Nandi Hills, Kenya, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, focusing on forest health, biodiversity, and socioeconomic impacts on communities. Key issues identified include deforestation, biodiversity loss, and vulnerability to droughts and floods. The project proposes measures like sustainable forest management, improved governance, and expanded conservation efforts to mitigate these challenges.

YOUNG MINDS: Education and Changemaking, India

Manan Singh, an SDG 4 Fellow from India, is on a mission to transform education for middle school students in government schools. His project fosters critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity through hands-on activities and real-world applications, empowering students with skills for personal growth and equipping them for future educational and career paths. By igniting curiosity and resilience, Manan's initiative opens new avenues for these young learners, bridging gaps in traditional education and nurturing a generation of empowered, forward-thinking youth.



Partners and Mentors

In 2024, we connected with 18+ organisations and mentors for social leadership.

For the 2024 Fellowship, we partnered with prestigious organizations, including UNICEF, the U.S. Department of State, UN Volunteers, the Red Cross, IIT Guwahati, and the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Program, to host impactful events, seminars, workshops, and campaigns.

These collaborations connected our fellows with expertise in diverse fields, from child rights and disaster response to innovation and public health. By engaging with these global leaders, fellows deepened their understanding of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) such as Quality Education (SDG 4), Good Health (SDG 3), and Peace and Justice (SDG 16), empowering them to drive meaningful, SDG-aligned change in their communities.



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IndiaAlliance
DBT welcome



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Middle East & North Africa



Mentoring and Beyond

The Fellowship hosts 10+ mentors from 4 continents, each expert in social work and one of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals.

While our Fellows undertook significant strides in empowering vulnerable communities, The Fellowship 2024 was also a special run for our mentors who volunteer their time to host weekly classes and personally curate the Fellow Projects.



Nobel Calling: Dr. Javed Naqi at the Nobel Prize Ceremony, 2024

In September 2024, Dr. Javed Naqi, the mentor for SDG 4: Quality Education, was invited to the Nobel Prize Ceremony for his contributions to teaching in Ladakh, India.

Climate Action: A Call for Immediate Response, Mr. Sudarsha de Silva

With 20+ years of experience in ecological conservation Mr. Sudarsha de Silva, our mentor for SDG 13: Climate Action, was featured on BBC Sri Lanka for his endeavours as a climate activist.



Education for All: A Revolution in Latin America headed by Fundacion FEPAIS

Dr. Marta Lescano is not only a visionary educator, but also an emancipator of underprivileged children to access quality education in Latin America. Through Fundacion FEPAIS, she has empowered over 1000 students to access equal and quality education, and 2024 marks 10 years of her social work career.

Insights from the Fellows



Dr. Rekik Gedion
SDG 3: Health & Well Being Fellow
Ethiopia

“My experience with the Peace Gong Fellowship was transformative and enriching. The fellowship provided valuable insights into community engagement and advocacy, particularly in promoting health awareness. I had the opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals and mentors who shared their expertise and experiences, enhancing my understanding of social impact initiatives. The collaborative environment fostered creativity and encouraged us to delve deeper into our projects, equipping me with skills and resources to effectively address issues like obstetric fistula in Ethiopia. Overall, it was an empowering experience that strengthened my commitment to social change.”

“My experience with the Peace Gong Fellowship was incredibly enriching. The program empowered me to advocate for peace, non-violence, and sustainable development... One of the highlights was learning to promote the values of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals. Collaborating with peers and mentors from different backgrounds gave me a more profound sense of global citizenship and responsibility.”



Dr. Naresh Prajapati
SDG 13: Climate Action Fellow
India



Dr. Yasmine Asaad
SDG 3: Health & Well-Being Fellow
Egypt

“The Fellowship experience was amazing! The fact that the PGF team provided us with genuine support and connections was something I’ve never seen in any other program. The fellowship is a full package and you really put in the efforts to make it the best experience ever. I managed to maximize my impact despite the limitations I faced thanks to the fellowship, my mentors and leaders.”

Conclusion

As the first run of the Fellowship closes with a promising success, the PGF team endeavours to empower more leaders, more sustainable projects, and more communities in the year ahead. In conclusion, our first cohort reinforces the PGF's belief that young people can drive a meaningful social change across the world.



Global Community of Global Citizens

As the targets to SDGs become more pronounced, the Fellowship run reinforced the urgency to share global knowledge and connections to drive a social impact.



A New Generation of Changemakers

As we launched the Fellowship, The PGF team was positively incentivized seeing the overwhelming response from the youth communities worldwide. It reinforced the fundamental belief that Gen Z is the new, vocal, and unrelenting catalyst of change.



Solidarity of the Global South

The challenges of climate change, adequate healthcare and educational facilities, and gender equality remains a challenge in the Global South. The Fellowship was a testimony to young people's resolution to drive meaningful change in the Global South.



The promise of a better, more just future.

As we progress deeper into the 2020s, the Fellowship was a reminder that social advocacy, still evergreen, continues to strive for the rights and equality of all underrepresented communities worldwide.

In a world that urgently needs unity and action, this fellowship celebrates the strength of young leaders coming together across borders to champion a shared vision for a better tomorrow. Fueled by a commitment to the SDGs, they embody hope, resilience, and the promise of a more just and sustainable world for all.

Acknowledgements

A special note of thanks to the members of the Peace Gong Fellowship and our partners who contributed to the smooth functioning of the Fellowship and the production of this report.

The Peace Gong Fellowship Executive Team:

Shahd Shegedi

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Kabir Sharma

Ali M. Karrar

Our Partners: The Global Peace Let's Talk, Fundacion FEPAIS, Lantern Tribe, and AFS Kenya



We thank you for your continued support in our efforts to contribute to the SDGs.

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