

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

International Forum for Understanding (IFOUND)

SDG2030.me

MESPERO



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WHO WE ARE

ABOUT US

Based in Cambridge and Vienna, the International Forum for Understanding (IFOUND) promotes constructive dialogue and impactful solutions for interrelated contemporary challenges connected to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through our two subsidiaries, MESPERO and SDG2030.me, we extend our reach to mental health support, climate change awareness, and much more.

Mitigating and preventing human trafficking/modern slavery are also in scope, with special emphasis on elevating the profiles of individuals with lived experience.

The constellation of our cooperation partners transforms with each project, and thanks to our inter-generational ecosystem, many of our initiatives are youth-led.

OUR MISSION

By facilitating discussion among opinion leaders, decision-makers, and individuals with lived experience, we focus on achieving actionable results informed by diverse intergenerational perspectives.

OUR FRAMEWORK

We base our work on advancing the implementation of the SDGs.

OUR PEOPLE

We have a core team, and the constellation of our cooperation partners transforms with each project.

OUR CORE TEAM



LES SIMM

Executive Director & Founder



HEATHER WOKUSCH

Director of Development



MĂDĂLINA BOȚ

Director of Operations



NOUR BARAKEH

Energy & Communications
Consultant

OUR MONTHLY INITIATIVES

By emphasizing implementation, [SDG2030.me](#) showcases different SDGs and their intersections every month. Click any of the months below to find out more:

January: two youth-led reports on Impact and Climate Change

February: the launch of the Human Trafficking Awareness Hub

March: eLearning module on the Digital Gender Gap

April: supporting Ruchira Gupta's 'I Kick and I Fly' launch

May: MNN television segment on climate change and human trafficking

June: preparation for the workshop 'Building Climate Bridges'

July: World Youth Skills Day 2023 (WYSD 23), event at the United Nations

August: Impact Makers, video component of the WYSD 23

September: eLearning module on the UN Global Compact

October: Infographic on Disability Inclusion

November: eLearning module on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

December: digital interactions on Employee Experience

FEATURED IN



01 Manhattan Neighborhood Network

Malaika Oringo discusses the work of Footprint to Freedom in an interview conducted by Heather Wokusch in New York during the United Nations General Assembly and broadcast by MNN.

02 Radio FM4

Eva Liebentritt interviews Malaika Oringo during World Youth Skills Day (WYSD 2030) on the connection between human trafficking and climate change at the United Nations Vienna.

03 Pioneers in SDGs

The Journalists and Writers Foundation, alongside our esteemed 52 Global Partners spanning 27 countries, recognizes innovative Pioneers in SDGs. SDG2030.me got shortlisted.

04 Wilson Center

Nour Barakeh publishes the 'Enabling Sustainable Energy Security in Syria' report as part of her *Agents of Change Youth Fellowship*, mentioning her work for IFOUND.



OUR IMPACT AREAS

Events

WORLD YOUTH SKILLS DAY (WYSD 23)

The Event and Exhibition were designed to foster impactful collaboration on various themes connected to Youth Skills. Climate change, human trafficking, and organized crime were highlighted, along with innovative solutions for corresponding preventive and mitigating factors.



2023 Theme: ‘Skilling teachers, trainers and youth for a transformative future.’

Session 1 took an interactive and intersectional approach to finding shared solutions regarding the general UN theme. Video messages from three international Impact Makers were showcased, followed by an interactive panel discussion addressing the inclusion of people with disabilities, education, young intercultural individuals, racism, deconstructing privilege in schools.

Session 2 focused on engaging young people as drivers of change, particularly in implementing the 2030 Agenda and the goals related to crime prevention, criminal justice and rule of law. The importance of education to youth empowerment and community engagement in promoting the rule of law were also addressed.

Session 3 explored collaborative development of transformative narratives for climate impact. Emphasis was on youth engagement and leadership for SDG 13. Following panel presentations, the interactive workshop format BCD 2030 was launched.





IMPACT MAKERS

The Event included video messages sent by five international Impact Makers around the world on what kind of transformative future they would like to see and what steps they recommend for achieving it.

THE EXHIBITION

The exhibition showcased Ruchira Gupta and Laurent Ziegler, both internationally recognized not only for their art but also for their anti-trafficking work. Several paintings of Iga Hani, Ben Mugerwa, Grace Mukisa from Footprint to Freedom were also featured.



LAUNCH OF BRIDGING CLIMATE DIVIDES (BCD)

BCD was officially launched as part of WYSD's Session 3. Its approach is adapted from an SDG workshop model showcased live in a Learning Session of the United Nations' 2022 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Emphasis is placed on promoting collaborative development for youth engagement and leadership for SDG 13. In just 90 minutes, strangers became cooperation partners as intersections were explored and alliances created.

OUR IMPACT AREAS

eLearning



To build capacity, we create eLearning modules on various social impact topics:

Ukraine and Human Trafficking with a focus on:

- the war in Ukraine and its human trafficking implications
- case study on the British approach to the Ukrainian crisis highlighted in a related report

Bridging the Digital Gender Gap on:

- why & how the gender digital gap affects women across the globe
- a case study on how bridging the gap advances the fight against human trafficking

UN Global Compact: An Interactive Overview on:

- the UN Global Compact and what it stands for
- why it would be valuable for a company to join

Intro to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion on:

- the concept of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI)
- socialization

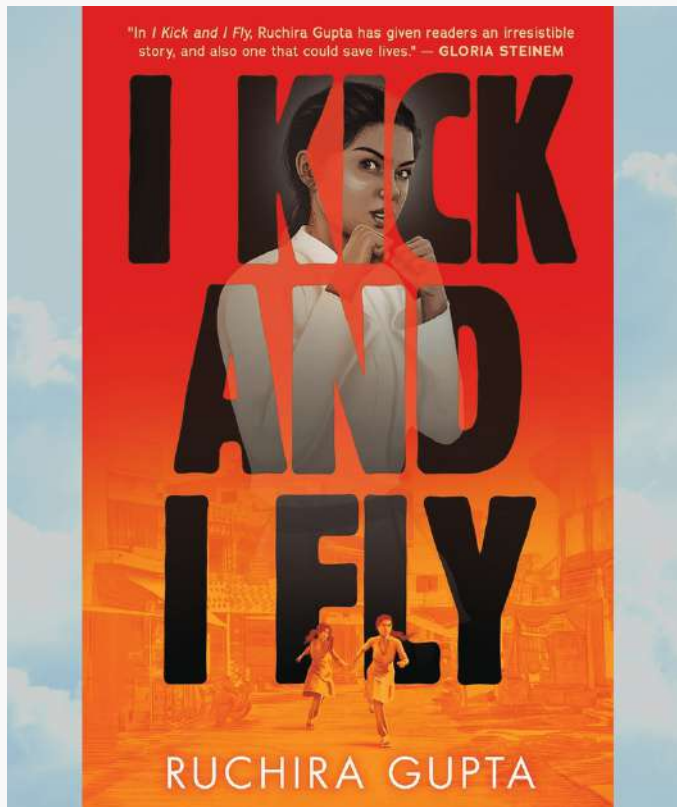
These modules are created by Heather Wokusch and Mădălina Boț.

OUR IMPACT AREAS

Book Launch for Social Impact



What would you do today, if you had to fight for your life tomorrow?



We supported author Ruchira Gupta in launching her new anti-trafficking book I Kick and I Fly. Launched on April 18, I Kick and I Fly is the inspiring story of a fourteen-year-old girl who learns that her body isn't an object to be preyed upon but rather a vessel to free herself.

By creating a dedicated website for the book and supporting with outreach strategy, we supported author Ruchira Gupta in bringing social impact to this debut fiction novel.

eLearning path

In order to scale its impact, we created 29 interactive quizzes in a 'test your knowledge' format.

The modules pay attention to the main challenges Heera confronts on her path to personal autonomy, as well as to various other details that engage a more careful type of reading. Each module consists of 10 questions.

MULTIMEDIA

Here are some samples of multimedia we created:



Analysis: MENA and Climate Change

Report focused on how North-South relations shape the role and opportunities of the MENA region in global environmental governance, particularly in combating climate change.

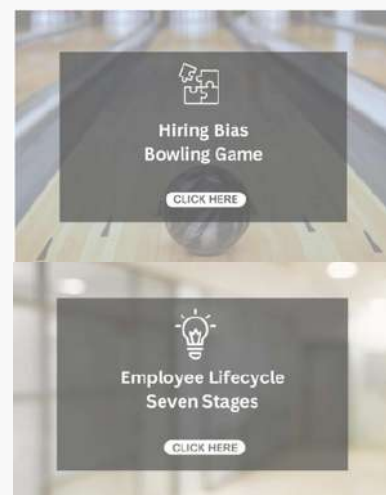


Infographic: Disability. Inclusivity. Accessibility.

Infographic focused on practical ways of creating a more inclusive environment by asking for advice from people experiencing disability, supporting individuals and groups who advocate for disability inclusion and by language.

Games: Employee Experience

Two digital interactions connected to Hiring Biases and Employee Lifecycle based on the eLearning module Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.



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