

# The NGC Global Change Movement

*“There is no passion to be found playing small - in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living.”*

**Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela,**  
Born July 18, 1918

Anti-apartheid activist, first democratically elected President of South Africa, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate – July 18, 2009 the world celebrated Mandela's 91st birthday. Across generations, Mandela—his life and legacy, represents a potent symbol of social change and resistance to oppression everywhere.

You've joined a growing movement of committed and passionate young people, NGC Global Partners, and grassroots social entrepreneurs mobilizing to help solve the greatest challenges faced by communities around the world. All NGC Teams are led by young people representing diverse backgrounds, from cities and towns across the United States and beyond. NGC values and depends on students like you – And NGC will support you and your team through a number of resources. This binder will further introduce those essential resources and information including:

- Details of NGC's mission, vision, and unique approach to the world's greatest challenges
- Activities to create dialogue and critical thinking on global issues
- Example team meetings

The purpose of the Team Binder is to support Team Leaders as direct representatives of New Global Citizens on campuses and in communities everywhere. The binder serves as your team's guide to the New Global Citizens program and program year that begins August and runs to the end of June. Throughout the program year, NGC will provide additional printed information for you to continue to put in this binder. Our intention is to offer the most pertinent and concrete information necessary to unify all NGC Teams behind a common cause: to realize sustainable global change by supporting grassroots efforts of communities and social entrepreneurs worldwide.

NGC understands that Team Leaders possess diverse levels of awareness of global issues and leadership experience. This diversity allows NGC Team Leaders and Team Members to be creative each year in planning events in order to strengthen and develop both existing and new skills essential to make life-long decisions as effective social change agents.

We are inspired by your dedication to take the steps towards realizing your potential to create lasting change. The next few pages will prepare you to further understand why

and how New Global Citizens partners locally led solutions with the power held by your generation to ultimately create a more just and sustainable world.

As an NGC representative among your peers, on your campus, and in your community you must be prepared to fully articulate what it means to be a part of the NGC global change movement. Accordingly, this section provides you with key topics to further understand:

- The NGC Mission and Vision
- The Power of Your Generation and the World's Greatest Challenges
- Our Unique Partnerships and Global Projects

## The NGC Mission and Vision

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**New Global Citizens' mission is to educate, equip, and mobilize young people to help solve the greatest challenges faced by communities around the world.**

All organizations have a mission. Like New Global Citizens, organizations carefully craft a mission statement to explain why they exist, what they are doing, and how they are going to do it. Mission statements describe what an organization is seeking to do both in the present and immediate future. These statements are typically one sentence long, and they're a great way to easily communicate how an organization differs from other organizations.

**New Global Citizens' vision is to create a more just, equitable, and sustainable world by building a movement of young people who take action for global change.**

An organization's vision captures the larger picture—the ultimate **long-term** end goal it wants to achieve. So for NGC, the reason we exist and work to equip your generation is to achieve global change.

An organization's vision statement is often necessarily broad because many organizations can share in a single vision. NGC of course isn't alone in this vision. In fact, there are many organizations that share our goal, which is why we have such great Global Partners and Projects!

What our mission and vision mean for you and your generation:

NGC has built a program that does precisely what our mission states. We **educate you** with interactive online trainings about global challenges and making impact. We **equip you** with great resources, like the NGC Team Box and Binder, the Event Planning Guide, and NGC staff ready to help. Finally, we **mobilize you** to form teams, connect to innovative partnerships, gather support and resources in your own community, make collective impact through fundraising, advocacy, and community education, and continue

developing your global awareness through available study, volunteer, and travel opportunities.

This fits directly into our vision, too, because you are gaining this incredible experience now as opposed to years from now. You will be prepared for a complex global future that needs young people who are forever committed to seeing the world's greatest challenges solved.

This is very unique. We want to take a moment to emphasize how unique your participation in NGC's mission and vision truly is. First of all you'll notice how NGC takes the power of youth seriously. Our program is **student driven**, allowing you to make the decisions, follow your passions, set your goals, take ownership of overcoming challenges, and contribute your feedback. You might have never experienced that level of leadership within a campus club. You may have been told to rely on your club sponsor to run the meetings, take the initiative, organize events...while you and other students help to make some (perhaps not all) decisions.

And NGC is **grassroots**, meaning we support work at the community level to empower people from the ground up who are the real community experts on their own needs and the workable solutions to create sustainable change – just as our student teams are the experts on raising awareness and mobilizing support in their own communities.

***Where others hold back because they think their efforts are futile, NGC knows that in taking on the responsibility of leading your team you too share our mission and vision—you too feel like young people today can mobilize to change history. We are counting on you to serve as advocates and organizers to build a movement of young people, working together in support of global change.***

### **The 8+2 World's Greatest Challenges**

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The New Global Citizens program is organized around ten (8+2) of the world's greatest challenges and the belief that every young person can play a role in solving them. These include the challenges identified in the 8 UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG's)—extreme poverty and hunger, universal education, gender equality, child mortality, maternal health, HIV/AIDS and other diseases, environmental sustainability, and sustainable local economies, plus 2 NGC initiatives—armed conflict and natural disasters.

### **A Call to Action**

In 2000, 198 leaders from countries around the world met for the United Nations Millennium Summit to commit their nations to a new global **partnership to end extreme poverty with a deadline of the year 2015**. That plan is known as the **Millennium**

**Development Goals.** The MDGs set forth an ambitious agenda for reducing poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation, child mortality, and discrimination against women, covering many of the most pressing global issues currently facing **marginalized populations** across the globe.

The work of the United Nations reaches every corner of the globe. Although best known for peacekeeping, peace building, conflict prevention and humanitarian assistance, there are many other ways the United Nations and its System (specialized agencies, funds and programs) affect our lives and make the world a better place. The United Nations works on a broad range of fundamental issues, from sustainable development, environment and refugees protection, disaster relief, counter terrorism, disarmament and non-proliferation, to promoting democracy, human rights, governance, economic and social development and international health, clearing landmines, expanding food production, and more, in order to achieve its goals and coordinate efforts for a safer world for this and future generations.

**(UN at a Glance), Available:** <http://www.un.org/en/aboutun/index.shtml>  
**(Accessed: 2009, July 24).**

The MDGs represent a **call to action** requiring the voices and involvement of countries, organizations, individuals, and communities across the globe. Humanity is quickly approaching 2015. And, while there have been many achievements towards realizing the MDGs, there also have been major setbacks—including rising food costs and the global economic crisis most significantly impacting developing nations.

When you look at the world's greatest challenges, NGC believes that it's important to understand two major underlying issues connected to all these challenges—poverty and human rights. The two are closely linked.

**Poverty** exists in every country on some level. There are two main kinds of poverty, **relative** and **extreme**. Relative poverty is what people experience in developed nations. This means poverty relative to the kind of lifestyle many others around them enjoy. Extreme poverty means poverty in any context; it is widely defined as living on \$2 per day or less. This means \$2 for everything: clothing, food, shelter, medication, water... It is in these conditions that billions of people are forced to make impossible, life-or-death decisions on a daily basis.

The term **Human Rights** refers to the concept that "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood." This is how human rights is described in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was adopted and proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948. Of course, a proclamation can be a far cry from reality. Over 60 years later, we continue to face human rights violations of all kinds, including imprisonment of people who disagree with the politics of his/her government, enslavement, and forced marriage. The conditions of poverty are

often the result of/perpetuated by the absence of human rights for marginalized groups of societies.

The two largest organizations working on international human rights are Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. They are both leaders in the field of promoting the dignity of all people and work in different, complementary ways. We encourage you to visit both sites for perspectives on human rights challenges and solutions, as well as ideas for how to incorporate the issue of human rights with your team's chosen NGC Global Project.

- Amnesty International – [www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org)
- Human Rights Watch – [www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org)

And if you have an Amnesty International or other human rights related club on your campus, we strongly encourage you to reach out so that your two groups can work together. A significant source of New Global Citizens' success has been through our strong network of partnerships. Now as a Team Leader, you can begin to build your team's network of community partners for the purpose of enhancing your knowledge, skills, and work.

All of the 8+2 issues overlap and affect each other. Any Global Project your team takes on will address more than one of the issues. If done well, your Team will find itself weaving several of these issues together and gaining an understanding of their relationship to both poverty and human rights.

In order to fully understand each issue, you have to take into consideration the historical, political, economic and social factors that have led to and perpetuated these circumstances. The following brief descriptions intend to start you thinking and inspire you to continue your own research to gain a deeper look into their causes.



### NGC Global Project: Carolina for Kibera – Nairobi, Kenya

Nairobi is the bustling, cosmopolitan capital of Kenya and a regional hub in East Africa. Within this city of many contrasts, where lavish villas and skyscrapers mix with shantytowns, is the urban slum of

Kibera. Kibera has the dubious distinction of being the largest slum in East Africa, with 600,000 people, half of whom are under the age of 15, living in an area the size of Manhattan's Central Park. There is a severe shortage of basic government services, such as the provision of clean water, healthcare, education, and sewage disposal. Approximately 80 percent of all young people of working age in Kibera are unemployed, and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that over 20 percent of the population is HIV-positive. Women, particularly young women, in Kibera are treated as second-class citizens and have unique needs that are not met and are rarely recognized. Carolina for Kibera is a community-led organization established in 2001 to promote youth leadership and ethnic and gender cooperation through sports, women's empowerment, and community development. All of its programs are grounded in the theory and practice of **participatory development** – meaning community members are empowered to determine the best means to address their shared needs.

Carolina for Kibera is one of NGC's many Global Projects focused on sustainable solutions to extreme poverty. Visit the project menu on the NGC website to view additional project choices.



## Extreme Poverty And Hunger

All types of poverty must be addressed to ensure the dignity of all people around the world. But combating extreme poverty is at the center of many international efforts. Extreme poverty is defined as living on \$2 a day or less. About half of the world's total population of over 6.7 billion lives on less than \$2 a day. What's more, approximately one billion people live on less than \$1 per day. (Source: World Bank Development Indicators 2008) In many places \$2 cannot provide basic needs– food, clean water, shelter, and health care.

It is important to understand what the statistics mean. When we say someone in Mexico lives on less than \$2 per day, this doesn't literally mean one US dollar, but rather the number of Mexican pesos that would enable us to buy an equivalent value and amount of goods in Mexico. We use a **purchasing power parity** exchange rate to translate these numbers so that we can compare across currencies. ([www.oecd.org/std/ppp](http://www.oecd.org/std/ppp))

\$2 a day is used simply as a measuring tool. In reality, living in poverty is about more than how much money a person holds at a certain time. The World Bank describes poverty in the following way:

Poverty is hunger. Poverty is lack of shelter. Poverty is being sick and not being able to see a doctor. Poverty is not having access to school and not knowing how to read. Poverty is not having a job, is fear for the future, living one day at a time. Poverty is

losing a child to illness brought about by unclean water. Poverty is powerlessness, lack of representation and freedom.

Poverty has many faces, changing from place to place and across time, and has been described in many ways. Most often, poverty is a situation people want to escape. So poverty is a call to action - for the poor and the wealthy alike - a call to change the world so that many more may have enough to eat, adequate shelter, access to education and health, protection from violence, and a voice in what happens in their communities.

**(Overview: Understanding, measuring, and overcoming Poverty) Available: <http://web.worldbank.org> (Accessed: 27 July, 2009)**

Combating extreme poverty is the first of the UN Millennium Development Goals because having enough food, shelter, clean water, and other basic necessities provides a fundamental starting point for making progress on all of all other challenges.

### **The Reality of Poverty**

The number of people living in extreme poverty is shocking, especially when we imagine what it means for each of these people's lives. It means having to choose between food for the family or medicine for a sick child; it means walking hours a day just to get water; it means having to work to help your family instead of going to school and pursuing a better future. With no money, little education, and health problems, nearly half the world's population has no choice but to struggle to get by day-to-day without opportunities to escape the **poverty trap** and improve their situation.

### **Why do we think we can get rid of extreme poverty?**

In short, because there is more than enough to go around! Some people will say that poverty is inevitable; that the world will always have it. But even just a few hundred years ago, almost the entire world was living in poverty – now it's about half. People have created structures and systems to provide a better way of life. Empowered with this knowledge, it is our responsibility to make sure that all people have access to these structures—decent-paying jobs, health care, clean water, free education... If we commit to this challenge, **extreme poverty can be eradicated in our lifetime.**

### **Why are people hungry?**

**It is a common misconception that people around the world are hungry because there is not enough food for everyone.** This is not the case. People are hungry because they are too poor to buy the food they need; but the world actually has enough for everyone. It is important to think of poverty and hunger as closely linked so as not to fall into the trap of thinking that the solution to world hunger is to provide more food. Even if more food were readily available, there would still be billions of people too poor to afford and access the food.

In order to alleviate world hunger, it is necessary to first address extreme poverty. Other issues such as land rights and use, inefficient and damaging agricultural practices, emphasis on export and cash crops, war, famine, and natural disasters are largely related to hunger. Governmental policies and the global economy often play large roles in setting the stage (e.g. unfair free trade agreements that lead to unfair labor practices).

### **Is the solution to just give everyone free food?**

In emergency situations, like natural disasters and conflict zones, providing free food is usually a good idea. However, free food is not the long-term solution to hunger because when free food is introduced into the economy of a poor country it undermines the price of the food that local people are producing. This only leads to more poverty in the long run.

### **What's the most sustainable solution?**

In order to identify the most effective means to address extreme poverty, we must learn from the experts – **the people who live with poverty and hunger everyday.** Supporting local needs combined with local solutions is the most sustainable way to ensure that people living in poverty are empowered to best meet their needs. It is this model of sustainable international development that New Global Citizens advocates.

### **Where can I learn more?**

- United Nations Human Development Programme (UNDP) – [www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org)
- Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations – [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)
- World Food Program – [www.wfp.org](http://www.wfp.org)
- International Fund for Development Organization – [www.ifad.org](http://www.ifad.org)



### NGC Global Project: Afghan Institute of Learning – Afghanistan

When the Taliban came into power in Afghanistan and closed all of the schools for women, Sakeena Yacoobi filled the education gap for women and children. These schools started as an illegal and underground operation and have now educated more than 350,000 women and children. With the fall of the Taliban, educating women is no longer a crime, but is still difficult. Despite the oppression that still exists, women learning in AIL schools across the country have had the opportunity to learn Arabic, English, tailoring, knitting, calligraphy, math, and carpet weaving. Not only do these women have classes in all these subjects but they also learn health education and their rights in Islam. Sakeena Yacoobi, founder of the Afghan Institute of Learning, has now changed hundreds of thousands of women's lives.

The Afghan Institute of Learning is one of NGC's many Global Projects focused on sustainable solutions to universal education. Visit the project menu on the NGC website to view additional project choices.



## Universal Primary Education

### Why don't children go to school?

According to the United Nations, there are 115 million children who do not attend primary school and fifty-seven percent of them are girls. **It is a misconception that building more schools would alleviate this startling figure.** The issue of providing universal primary education is much greater than providing communities in developing countries the bricks, mortar, and books to establish a school—Beyond buildings and supplies there are much more complex barriers to education necessary to first understand and address.

### Child Labor

Child labor is a major reason children do not attend school around the world. Child labor is work done by children that harms them or exploits them in some way—physically, morally, mentally, or by blocking access to education. There are an estimated 200 million child laborers between the ages of 5 and 14 worldwide. This does not include the millions of children, mostly girls, who work as unpaid domestic servants. Child labor exists on every continent. And child labor is not solely a problem for developing countries. Even in the United States, children continue to illegally work in industries such as manufacturing and agriculture. (Source: International Labor Organization)

## **Head of Household or Primary Caregiver**

It is false that most of the children in these situations are there because of neglectful, greedy or cruel parents. In fact, most of the children working are doing so to help feed the rest of their family.

Being the head of a household/primary care giver is another major reason children do not go to school. This is especially prevalent where disease has ravaged a community, such as AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis. Often, the eldest child is left to care for a family when the adults have all died or are too sick to work. It is understandable how quickly a child's options diminish in this situation. School is no longer a priority, but a luxury.

## **War, Genocide, and Natural Disasters**

War, genocide, and natural disasters also cause children to leave school. When families are driven out of their communities by one of these causes, they often end up in refugee camps or in an unfamiliar country or territory. Refugee camps are meant to be temporary shelters during an emergency, but they often end up being permanent homes for the world's poorest displaced people.

## **Beyond an Education**

For many children around the world, school represents something more than a place to receive an education. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) tells us that school also offers children a safe environment, with support, supervision and socialization. Here they learn life skills that can help them prevent diseases, like how to avoid HIV/AIDS and malaria. They may receive life-saving vaccines, fresh water and nutrient supplementation at school. Educating a girl also dramatically reduces the chance her child will die before age five.

(Source: <http://www.unicef.org/mdg/education.html>)

When children do not have access to education they are at a higher risk of disease, exploitation, and abuse throughout their lives. This is particularly true for young women. Investing in girls' education is one of the most critical ways anyone can assist in improving life for all people. Educating girls has the following effects on communities worldwide:

- Reduces women's fertility rates
- Lowers infant and child mortality rates
- Lowers maternal mortality rates (the rate at which women die while pregnant, giving birth, or just after their baby is born)

- Protects against HIV/AIDS infection
- Increases women's—and therefore families'—income
- Makes it more likely that her children will attend school

(Source: World Bank)

Providing children a basic education is the best investment the world can make in its future. Education reduces poverty by providing everyone with choices and opportunities to create a better life. Without universal primary education, no real progress can be made on the other 8+2.

### **What's the most sustainable solution?**

It's important to support sustainable education systems that deliver quality services by trained professional staff. A significant quality of sustainable education systems includes involvement of all community members to ensure the underlining barriers to accessing education are addressed. Consider the example of NGC Global Project Chintan Environmental Research and Action Group, India. This community-based organization offers a unique approach to address the issue of child labor—By educating and involving the junk dealers that employ the children, Chintan is able to offer education on a flexible schedule and health care services to all of the working children in the junk yards. Further details on Chintan's remarkable work may be viewed on the NGC Project Menu.

Too often, organizations ask students to raise funds simply to send books or build schools in other countries—regardless if the real issues, for example, are that children must work in order to support their families, the need for books and learning materials in the local language, or the lack of trained school teachers. As a New Global Citizen Team you will raise the awareness of others to also understand that in developing countries, every community is unique in their barriers to universal education and is best equipped to develop the solutions to those barriers.

### **Where can I learn more?**

- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) – [www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)
- UNESCO Institute for Statistics – [www.uis.unesco.org](http://www.uis.unesco.org)
- For more information on child labor visit the UN International Labor Organization – [www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/inf/wdacl/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/inf/wdacl/index.htm)



### **NGC Global Project: Girl Child Network – Zimbabwe**

In Zimbabwe, a girl's life has many grave threats. A ten-year economic recession with inflation at 1000 percent robbed an entire generation of education and healthcare. The country is afflicted by HIV/AIDS, extreme poverty, and has one of the lowest life expectancy rates in the world. Founded in 1998 by Betty Makoni, the Girl Child Network (GCN) strives to empower girls in Zimbabwe to become future women leaders. In Zimbabwe, girls face a particularly difficult path in reaching their full potential. Often, girls drop out of school because of early marriages, rape and fear of rape, poverty or they are forced to care for sick relatives or younger children. GCN is a girls' rights organization with a membership of 20,000 girls across Zimbabwe. GCN provides a unique model of girls' empowerment clubs in schools and villages proven to be a highly effective way of mobilizing, nurturing and mentoring girls. GNC provides 24-hour emergency services to abused girls, especially for those who want to disclose abuse following GCN's community education/awareness events. GCN provides rescues for potential abuse victims, accompanying them to the police, social welfare agencies and other services and organizations as needed.

The Girl Child Network is one of NGC's many Global Projects focused on sustainable solutions to gender equality. Visit the project menu on the NGC website to view additional project choices.



## **Gender Equality**

Evidence that globally women don't have the same opportunities as men is apparent from the fact that women own only an estimated 1 – 2% of all owned land worldwide and are frequently denied the right to inherit property. (Source: USAID) Gender inequality starts early and keeps women at a disadvantage throughout their lives. In some countries, infant girls are less likely to survive than infant boys because of parental discrimination and neglect. In addition, girls are more likely to drop out of school and receive less education than boys—they might be forced to work or assume caretaking responsibilities at home, or parents might not find it acceptable for a girl to be in school. If a family can only afford to educate one child, as is often the case in developing countries, it is almost always the boy who takes precedence. (Source: United Nations)

In the United States we often talk about gender discrimination and unequal representation among presidents, CEOs, and other prominent positions in public life. But on a global scale, we must focus on guaranteeing rights as basic as education for all girls and women.

### **What's the most sustainable solution?**

Gender equality requires giving women and men the same entitlements to all aspects of human development, including economic, social, cultural, civil, and political rights; the same level of respect; the same opportunities to make choices; and the same level of power to shape the outcomes of these choices. (Source: Oxfam)

In order to empower women and close the equality gap between men and women. More women need to have access to education to improve their prospects for the rest of their lives. Equal rights laws need to be put in place or enforced to guarantee women the same rights as men in all spheres of their lives, from health to politics to economics. According to the United Nations Population Fund, gender equality is a cornerstone to each MDG issue area due to evidence that women contribute to the health and productivity of whole families and communities. Investing in women is an investment to improve the next generation.

**Where can I learn more?**

- United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women – [www.un.org/womenwatch/daw](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw)
- United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) - [www.unifem.org](http://www.unifem.org)
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHCHR) – [www.ohchr.org/EN/Pages/WelcomePage.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Pages/WelcomePage.aspx)



**NGC Global Project:  
Women's Education for Advancement and Empowerment  
(WEAVE) – Burma/Thailand**

WEAVE was founded in 1990 with the intent to empower indigenous women and support their needs and basic human rights. The organization has evolved over the years, in response to the increase of refugees from Burma. WEAVE's projects address some of the key problems faced by marginalized refugee women and their children from Burma in the areas of education, health, economic empowerment and self-reliance. Through its early childhood development program targeting children between 2 and 7, WEAVE incorporates these programs into preschool learning centers in the refugee camps where they operate. WEAVE provides curriculum creation and training, teacher aids, and parental training to strengthen the ability of local women's organizations to manage their own education programs and to encourage greater responsibility among local education committees. WEAVE publishes children's books and informational materials on childcare and health in a variety of languages to reach out to different groups in the camps.

The Women's Education for Advancement and Empowerment is one of NGC's many Global Projects focused on sustainable solutions to child mortality. Visit the project menu on the NGC website to view additional project choices.



## Child Mortality

Infant mortality is death of an infant before the age of one year. The infant mortality rate (IMR) of a region or population is the number of babies dying before age one divided by the number of live births annually. It is reported as the number of these infant deaths per one thousand live births. This allows for easy comparison from country to country. For example, in Afghanistan the IMR is 151, which means that out of 1,000 live births 151 infants die before they turn 1 year old, whereas in the United States the IMR is 6.26 which means that out of 1,000 live births somewhere between 6 and 7 infants die before they turn one year old. (Source: CIA World Factbook 2009)

Child mortality is the death of children before the age of five. Child mortality is calculated the same way as infant mortality, but instead of one year of age, 5 years of age is used.

One of the most horrifying characteristics of poverty is that it preys on the vulnerable and defenseless. This often means children.

The principle causes of child mortality are dehydration (often resulting from severe diarrhea) and diseases. The leading illnesses causing child mortality are respiratory infections, diarrhea, malaria, measles, and HIV/AIDS.

Preventable conditions, such as malnutrition and lack of access to safe water and adequate sanitation, are also major contributors to child mortality.

### **What's the most sustainable solution?**

Child mortality can be greatly reduced and prevented if more attention is given to minimizing the circumstances that put children at risk. This can be done by:

- Expanding access to reproductive health care for pregnant women in developing countries which leads to healthier babies that are at less risk
- Distributing nutritional supplements which provide children with the necessary vitamins for healthy growth to children in countries without functioning health care systems
- Ensuring that more families have access to clean water
- Providing insecticide-treated bed nets (and making sure they are retreated every year with insecticide – so they continue to kill mosquitoes) to families in areas at a high risk for malaria, which protects young children from contracting the disease from mosquito bites
- Increasing the number of community healthcare providers in underserved regions, especially in rural areas, which provides the much-needed medical attention to prevent cases of child mortality

### **Where can I learn more?**

- Committee on the Rights of the Child – <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/index.htm>
- UN Children's fund (UNICEF) – [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)



## NGC Global Project: Migrant Health Promotion – United States

In the United States, we enjoy abundant, affordable produce year round. Yet, few of us realize where that food comes from and who grows it. Each year 3 to 5 million farm workers and their families labor in fields and factories across the country to bring us fresh fruits, vegetables and other agricultural products. In exchange, farm worker families earn low wages and endure job-related hazards, poor working and living conditions, long hours, and isolation. Farm workers face more substantial health challenges than other groups, but have fewer resources and little or no access to health care, health education or other services. Migrant Health Promotion began in 1983 to support farm workers and migrant families by empowering these communities to improve their own circumstances and to eliminate the root causes of poor health. Migrant Health Promotion's philosophy is based on four main themes: social justice, community empowerment, systems change and popular education. Migrant Health Promotion's *La Voz Latina* project in Progreso, TX equips women in the *colinas* (unincorporated neighborhoods developed outside of city limits and lacking many basic municipal services) of the Rio Grande Valley of Texas with the reproductive health education, leadership skills, and advocacy training necessary to access reproductive health services and make policy change.

The Migrant Health Promotion is one of NGC's many Global Projects focused on sustainable solutions to maternal health. Visit the project menu on the NGC website to view additional project choices.



## Maternal Health

Maternal health is the medical care, nutrition and wellbeing of women before, during, and after they are pregnant and give birth. In the United States, many women see a doctor or health care practitioner several times before the baby is born. The vast majority of women in the U.S. give birth in hospitals with extremely advanced medical care. Others give birth at home, equipped with essential health-care advice from a trained doula or midwife.

All women are vulnerable to a great number of health problems while they are carrying a child and afterwards, as a woman's body is undergoing great changes and strains to provide for themselves and for their child. According to the World Health Organization, the rate of maternal mortality has barely changed since 1990 – In North America, 1 in 3700 women die giving birth. In Africa, 1 in 16 women die giving birth. Today, in much of the world, women rarely, if ever, see a doctor or other health care practitioner during or after pregnancy. Because they do not have access to proper nutrition or medical advice, the rate of maternal death (during or just after birth) is enormous in the developing world.

## **Why is improving maternal health important?**

- Every year, at least 529,000 women die in pregnancy or childbirth. 99 percent of the deaths occur in the developing world.
- For every woman who dies in childbirth, approximately 20 more suffer injury, infection, or disease – affecting around 10 million women each year.
- 120 million couples in developing countries still do not have access to safe and effective contraception necessary to space health births versus having successive births and pregnancies immediately after each other.
- When a woman has poor maternal health, much more than her life is in danger – High maternal death rates mean that many children are left orphaned or without caregivers. There are also many diseases, including HIV/AIDS, which are transmitted from mother to child during pregnancy. Every child, family, and wider community is jeopardized and impacted by the loss of its mothers.

(Source: World Health Organization)

## **What's the most sustainable solution?**

Most of the deaths associated with childbirth could be prevented by wider access to skilled medical care before, during, and after pregnancy. Many women, especially in rural areas, have no access to the necessary health services to handle complications during pregnancy. Immediate access to trained medical care, life-saving antibiotics and treatments, and surgery can save lives in cases of emergencies. Even if these services are available, many women may not have the necessary money to afford the medications or services, or the transportation to medical centers. Furthermore, women may not seek medical help because of restrictive societal rules or cultural norms. By making doctors, health clinics, medications, and trained midwives available and affordable, the rate of maternal deaths could be decreased substantially.

Better care during pregnancy also entails treatment of diseases that may not be directly related to the pregnancy itself, such as HIV/AIDS. If a mother is HIV positive, this virus can be transmitted to her child in pregnancy. With proper care, the mother can receive treatment and the transmission of the disease can be prevented, protecting the life of her child.

A high percentage of maternal and newborn deaths occur in the postpartum (after birth) period. In order to combat the high mortality rate, more births need to be attended by skilled health personnel and more attention needs to be placed on postpartum care of mothers and children.

Improving access to reproductive health or family planning information and services will reduce the maternal mortality rate by reducing the frequency and increasing healthier

spacing of a woman's pregnancies. Furthermore, improving maternal health will reduce the prevalence of child headed households and street children left orphaned and vulnerable because of maternal mortality.

**Where can I learn more?**

- World Health Organization - [www.who.int/topics/maternal\\_health/en](http://www.who.int/topics/maternal_health/en)
- United Nations Population Fund – [www.unfpa.org/public](http://www.unfpa.org/public)



### **NGC Global Project: APOPO – Tanzania**

APOPO trains and uses African Giant Pouched Rats to provide cheap, reliable, and locally manageable solutions to save lives around the world. APOPO trains these “HeroRats” to use their incredible sense of smell to detect landmines and

the Tuberculosis (TB). TB is the single most single infectious disease in the world today. Nearly 2 million people die worldwide from TB each year. Medical testing for critical diseases is often too expensive or too challenging for countries and communities to undertake. The WHO (World Health Organization) prospects a 400 percent increase in cases by 2015. In sub Sahara Africa, the combination of TB and HIV result in the highest casualty rate per capita, worldwide. Left untreated, a person with active TB will infect on average 10 to 15 persons a year. TB is hard to detect, only 1/3 of cases are discovered and reported, making TB a quickly spreading disease. HeroRats are cheap, reliable and can detect TB early and effectively, which can help curb the spread of this deadly disease.

APOPO is one of NGC’s many Global Projects focused on sustainable solutions to HIV/AIDS, malaria, TB and other diseases. Visit the project menu on the NGC website to view additional project choices.



## **HIV/AIDS, Malaria, TB and Other Diseases**

HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis are working together to kill the world’s poorest people who are most vulnerable to these diseases. Together these diseases caused an estimated 6 million deaths in 2004 (Source: Earth Institute) HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other preventable diseases are an obstacle to true development because these diseases perpetuate the cycle of poverty.

### **HIV/AIDS**

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is a virus that attacks the immune system, making the body unable to defend against infections. AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is the condition caused when HIV has severely depleted the immune system and the body becomes unable to fight off infections and cancers.

### **What’s the most sustainable solution?**

- Know the facts about transmission.
- Talk about AIDS – This is one of the best ways to end the silence and stigma that surround HIV/AIDS.
- Appeal to the governments of both developed and developing nations to support the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and malaria.

- Demand access to life-saving drugs by protecting the right to health over the right to intellectual property in trade agreements.
- Support education/prevention programs that are comprehensive and research-based.
- Advocate for the debt cancellation of highly indebted, AIDS-stricken countries.

### **Where can I learn more?**

- Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS – [www.unaids.org](http://www.unaids.org)

### **Malaria**

According to the World Health Organization, malaria is one of the world's most common and serious tropical diseases. Malaria is a protozoal infection transmitted to humans by mosquitoes. Symptoms include fever, anemia, and in severe cases a coma that can lead to death. The already sick, malnourished, young, old, and weak are particularly at risk of death from malaria.

Each year, malaria causes at least one million deaths and an additional 300 to 500 million clinical cases, the majority of which occur in the world's poorest countries. More than 41 percent of the world's population is at risk of acquiring malaria, and the proportion increases yearly due to deteriorating health systems, growing drug and insecticide resistance, climate change, and war. High-risk groups include children, pregnant women, refugees, displaced persons, laborers, and travelers entering endemic areas. (Source: World Health Organization) Every 30 seconds, an African child dies from a malaria infection transmitted by a mosquito bite. Every day 25 million pregnant African women risk severe illness and harm to the unborn children from a malaria infection. (Source: United Nations Foundation)

### **What's the most sustainable solution?**

Malaria can be prevented through a simple, inexpensive measure: sleeping each night under a net treated with insecticides that kill mosquitoes. An insecticide-treated net effective for four years costs just (US) \$4 to \$6, but most Africans cannot afford them.

### **Where can I learn more?**

- Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria – [www.theglobalfund.org/en](http://www.theglobalfund.org/en)
- World Health Organization (WHO) – [www.who.int/en](http://www.who.int/en)
- United Nations Foundation – [www.unfoundation.org](http://www.unfoundation.org)

## **Tuberculosis (TB)**

Tuberculosis is a disease that usually attacks the lungs but can affect almost any part of the body and is caused by a pathogenic bacterial species called *mycobacterium tuberculosis*. A person infected with TB does not necessarily feel ill – and such cases are known as silent or “latent” infections. When the lung disease becomes “active,” the symptoms include a cough that lasts for more than two or three weeks, weight loss, fever, night sweats, and coughing up blood.

Tuberculosis has killed more people than any disease in history. It is a disease of poverty. It is widely recognized that the poorer the community, the greater the likelihood of being infected with it. A lack of basic health services, poor nutrition and inadequate living conditions all contribute to the spread of TB and its impact upon the community. Poor nutrition and an inadequate diet weaken the immune system and increase the chances of infection. Overcrowded and poorly ventilated home and work environments common in poor communities make TB transmission much more likely. People living with HIV are more likely to die of tuberculosis than any other infection.  
(Source: World Health Organization)

TB is spread through the air, like the common cold, by an infected person and transmitted to a vulnerable person – usually an individual with an already compromised immune system. When an infected person with active TB coughs, sneezes, spits, or even just talks, they’re spreading the disease. Other people become infected when they breathe in the airborne bacteria.

### **What’s the most sustainable solution?**

Community education and early detection are critical needs for developing countries. TB can be cured! Medication to manage TB for one person costs an average of \$10. These drugs are readily available, but not where they are needed the most, in the poorest communities. And, the cost of TB medication, although minimal by U.S. standards, is too expensive for many of the world’s poorest people.

### **Where can I learn more?**

Visit the Stop TB Partnership [www.stoptb.org](http://www.stoptb.org) to see what is being done to get these medications to the people who need them.



### NGC Global Project: Agri-Forest Agents – Brazil

Agri-Forest Agents is a grassroots organization working to create an avenue for dialogue between indigenous people and those exploiting their land. Forest Agents help indigenous communities understand their rights, talk about the invasion of

logging and mining operations on their lands which is the root of many of their problems and then develop strategies to combat this invasion. The organization works with diverse tribes in the region within and surrounding the Brazilian state of Acre in order to network with each other and share techniques and approaches to creating sustainable solutions. Many different tribes have come together to form the Association of the Indigenous Agri-Forest Agent Movement, which represents the interests of indigenous people and negotiates with government, businesses, and citizen sector organizations.

Agri-Forest Agents is one of NGC's many Global Projects focused on sustainable solutions to environmental sustainability. Visit the project menu on the NGC website to view additional project choices.



## Environmental Sustainability

We cannot have sound economies, sustainable societies, and healthy people without a healthy environment. Overuse of natural resources such as forests, land, and water has caused alarming changes in our natural world. Environmental sustainability, like all the 8+2, is a wide-ranging set of underlying issues. Most important to consider, is the long-term effects of our decisions about the use of natural resources. When we say **environmental sustainability** we mean a planned use of natural resources lasting and effective over time.

**Environmental degradation** is damage to a local or global ecosystem due to human activity for short-term benefit. It occurs when nature's resources are being consumed faster than nature can replenish them. There are many factors that lead to environmental degradation – All are linked to the poor use of natural resources. Some factors include:

- Pollution
- Global warming
- Unsustainable agricultural and fishing practices
- Cash crops for export
- Loss of biodiversity
- Over consumption
- Concentration of land ownership
- Unequal distribution of wealth

- Using productive land for non-productive products like tobacco, cotton, and flowers
- Deforestation – for fuel, cattle, etc.
- Overuse of pesticides and herbicides

The world's poor are the ones that unequally bare the consequences of these choices, despite the fact that the actions of both wealthy and poor countries are responsible.

Many of the present and future conflicts around the world are disputes over natural resources or are worsen by resource scarcity. Because of this, armed conflict and the environment are closely linked and solving the problem of how we use and distribute the world's resources can help create a more peaceful and sustainable world.

### **How are decisions about use of resources affecting the world's poorest communities?**

There are far too many examples to list here, so we are going to use one example as a "case study," or a true story of something that is happening to demonstrate how this issue can play out.

In Ghana, a West African country, there is an enormous reservoir, Lake Volta, which cuts through much of the middle of the country. About 70 percent of the Ghanaian people lack reliable access to clean water despite this seemingly easy access to water. How does this happen? The Ghanaian government was promised a lot of money by wealthy governments and other institutions for the rights to sell clean water from Lake Volta. These institutions claimed that much more money would be made later on as water from Ghana was transported and sold in other countries. In addition, the people of Ghana would have to pay around 30 cents per day for the water they needed. While this doesn't seem like a lot of money, consider the fact that many people in Ghana live on no more than \$1 per day. The economic benefits from sale of the water may seem attractive, but what does that mean for the people living in areas that cannot afford it? How will they farm, bathe, treat illness, cook, access sanitation systems, take care of their animals, stay healthy? Fortunately, a large group of average citizens (many of whom poor) advocated to stopped this "water privatization" plan from moving forward. For the past several years, both sides have been trying to negotiate what happens next.

**(Public Citizen: Ghana) Available:**

[http://www.citizen.org/cmep/Water/cmep\\_Water/reports/ghana/index.cfm](http://www.citizen.org/cmep/Water/cmep_Water/reports/ghana/index.cfm)

**(Accessed: 27 July, 2009)**

### **What's the most sustainable solution?**

It is essential to support environmental initiatives where advocacy, education, and community involvement in the decision making process are paramount. Often, policy decisions about the use of natural resources are convenient or profitable in the short-term, but really make life difficult for the poorest in the world. Governments and corporations make many of these decisions without regard for or input from the local communities affected. Often the people who are not receiving any of the short-term benefits while their livelihoods and lives are endangered daily by these decisions.

### **Where can I learn more?**

- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – [www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org)



### NGC Global Project: Amahoro Association – Rwanda

Orphaned by the 1994 genocide and the AIDS related deaths of their families, eight teenagers formed the Amahoro Association in Kigali, Rwanda in 2000. As heads of their households, the founding members initially wanted to create a support group for orphaned children. Today, the organization offers home-based care and support to 412 families and 2,000 children and youth between the ages of 3 and 20. Amahoro ensures that all the children receive an education by contributing to the cost of school fees and supplies. Professional post-trauma counselors work closely with the children to help them cope with their feelings of loss, grief and hopelessness. **The children also learn income generation abilities through Amahoro's skills workshops and microenterprise trainings.** Amahoro is the first association of its kind formed for and by youth and orphans in Rwanda. Associations in Rwanda are recognized groups that are able to receive funding and government services. Because of their status as an association, Amahoro is better able to access government and other aid agencies' services like health insurance and scholarships. Amahoro is working with other orphan groups around Rwanda to also become established associations in order to provide similar services in order to raise the education and job skills of orphaned youth throughout Rwanda.

Amahoro is one of NGC's many Global Projects focused on sustainable solutions to sustainable local economies. Visit the project menu on the NGC website to view additional project choices.



## Sustainable Local Economies

Each of us wants to contribute to society, make a decent living, and not depend on others for our livelihood. Helping to create a global system of job opportunities and strong, local economies is essential to all our work and achieving the MDGs.

“Aid” is often portrayed as giving something to those who cannot support themselves. New Global Citizens approaches aid as a way of **empowering people** to support themselves by helping to supply the first step towards self-sufficiency. Helping people create, find, and keep jobs with decent wages is one of the best ways to ensure economic stability for all. Providing access to technology, small business loans, and education are all key.

Poverty reduction depends upon increased foreign aid. Several decades ago, wealthy countries (including the U.S.) agreed to work towards contributing 0.7 percent of their national income each year to help developing countries to provide more sustainable economic structures and institutions. According to the United Nations, official development assistance (ODA) continued to drop from an all-time high of \$107.1 billion in 2005, to \$103.7 billion in 2007. Yet, in order to meet the promise made in 2005 by the United Nations G8 (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) to double aid by 2010, aid needs to increase by \$1 billion per year – an additional \$50 billion annually in global aid, of which \$25 billion

intended for Africa. So far, only a handful of countries have fulfilled this commitment, including Sweden, Norway, the Netherlands, and Denmark. It is our job as average citizens to educate our selves about those promises, and keep the pressure on governments of the world's wealthiest nations.

### **What's the most sustainable solution?**

One of the first steps in this process is debt forgiveness of **heavily indebted poor countries**—a deal whereby wealthy nations "erase" the debt of poor nations. Often, corrupt governments borrowed from wealthy nations years ago. As those governments failed or were overthrown, the people were left with the crippling burden of debt for loans they never benefited from.

Another important step is to ensure **fair trade** practices around the world. This means that small farmers, fishermen, artisans, and manufacturers in the developing world have a chance to produce products under dignified working conditions and sell products at a fair market price. When they can compete in a global market, they will have the ability to provide more jobs to local communities. They will also have more money to invest in local development — new housing and businesses, for example.

**Youth employment** and **microfinance** are essential components of building sustainable local economies. Nearly 40 percent of the world's population is under the age of 20, and 85 percent of these young people live in the developing world. (Source: World Population Foundation) At very early ages in the developing world, young people are expected to care for themselves, younger siblings, and often sick parents.

Youth employment is very distinct from child labor. First, youth employment refers largely to teens and young adults (often defined as up to 25). It also refers to constructive work with fair wages that allows for young people to further their education while earning an income. Child labor is exploitive and dangerous work that often prevents young people from engaging in education and does not earn a fair wage. Dangerous labor—such as prostitution and mining—is just one of the many dangers young people face when they do not have meaningful, skilled employment.

The 2008 United Nations' "End Poverty 2015" initiative reports that microfinance has proven central to empowering many of the world's poor to gain self-employment and self-sufficiency.

With access to small loans and other financial services such as savings and micro-insurance, microfinance recipients, mostly women, have formed livelihoods that generate income. Through microfinance, the poor are able to establish networks for improving health and education in their communities. Microfinance also helps them meet unexpected needs arising from medical emergencies or a death in the family. **Grameen Bank** of Bangladesh is one of the world's most successful microfinance

institutions. From a starting base of 10 members in 1976, Grameen Bank today has over 7.5 million borrowers, 65 % of whom have managed to lift themselves out of extreme poverty.

**Available:** <http://www.endpoverty2015.org/> (Accessed: 27 July, 2009)

#### **Where can I learn more?**

- International Monetary Fund (IMF) – [www.imf.org/external/index.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/index.htm)
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) – [www.unctad.org/Templates/StartPage.asp?intltemID=2068](http://www.unctad.org/Templates/StartPage.asp?intltemID=2068)
- United Nations Capital Development Fund: Microfinance Distant Learning – [www.uncdf.org/mfd/index.php?\\_mode=students.home](http://www.uncdf.org/mfd/index.php?_mode=students.home)
- Grameen Bank – [www.grameen-info.org](http://www.grameen-info.org)



### **NGC Global Project: Al-Rowwad Theater - Palestine**

Many children in the refugee camps of Palestine are exposed to violence and turn to it as a means of self-expression. The Al-Rowwad Theater is a program created to offer children an alternative of self-expression through activities like sports,

arts, and theater. Children are able to learn acceptance of others and non-violent communication. Also, the Al-Rowwad Theater works with parents and community members to teach them about alternatives to conflict.

Al-Rowwad is one of NGC's many Global Projects focused on sustainable solutions to armed conflict. Visit the project menu on the NGC website to view additional project choices.



## **Armed Conflict**

Armed conflict is a state of open, often prolonged, fighting. Other terms that might be used to describe types of armed conflict are: war, civil war, ethnic strife, genocide, guerrilla warfare, gang warfare, and terrorism.

Many of the conflicts that we hear about in the news are really the reemergence of past conflicts that have only been suspended for a period of time. The tendency for old conflicts to resurface points to a reality that many of the attempted peace processes have failed to fully address the root causes of the armed conflict.

Frequently, the causes for the conflict have existed for a long time before the actual armed conflict begins. Often the event or series of events that sets off the conflict do little to explain why the origin of the conflict – only why it flared at that particular time.

The causes of armed conflict are very complex and diverse. The causes often reflect the social, cultural, economic, environmental, and political atmosphere of the conflict afflicted area. The causes include, but are not limited to:

- Poor economic conditions or having low levels of economic development— This is especially relevant to areas that are dependent on agriculture or other business that is vulnerable to economic shifts in the world market
- Repressive political systems, especially during a leadership transition in the government
- Power struggles between different cultural or religious groups
- Disparities (especially in wealth and access to resources) between ethnicities, often exaggerated by leaders in order to incite violence
- Environmental degradation or threat to natural resources

### **How are women and children affected?**

In the past decade an estimated two million children have been killed in armed conflict. Three times as many have been seriously injured or permanently disabled, many of them maimed by landmines. Countless others have been forced to witness or even to take part in horrifying acts of violence - Children as young as 5 have been kidnapped and forced to join rogue armies. (Source: United Nations) And both women and children suffer under the use of rape as a weapon of war.

### **What's the most sustainable solution?**

Poor countries are 4 times more likely to have conflict than rich ones. (Source: Oxfam) Therefore, addressing the root causes of poverty is an important step in curbing the eruption of violence and armed conflict. In this way, peace promotion and fighting poverty are closely linked.

### **Where Can I Learn More?**

- For more information, visit the Institute for Economics and Peace and view resources pertinent to understanding issues surrounding global peace – [www.economicsandpeace.org/Education](http://www.economicsandpeace.org/Education)
- And visit the Global Peace Index to view statistical information on how countries rank on a peace and conflict scale – [www.visionofhumanity.org/gpi/results/rankings.php](http://www.visionofhumanity.org/gpi/results/rankings.php)
- United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) – [www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)
- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) – <http://ochaonline.un.org>



### **NGC Global Project: Well Repair Project – Malawi**

Water is without a doubt the most precious resource in the world; in rural developing areas, residents are entirely dependent on wells for clean water. In Africa, there are several thousand “bore hole” wells drilled to provide fresh water in rural areas. Most of the time, these bore holes are drilled by foreign companies, and there is no reliable service for maintenance and repair when the pumps (inevitably) stop working. Many bore holes need repair within a matter of months after installation, and locals are forced to return to the endless and often fruitless search for potable water. Malawi is a country that has suffered under catastrophic drought. Sustainable Resources recognized that many wells in Malawi could be fixed with a \$5 rubber piece and community effort. Sustainable Resources developed a plan to fix wells and pass on this valuable information to other communities. This successful undertaking gave birth to the idea of a locally owned, locally operated well-repair business. Sustainable Resources strives to identify and support projects that once started can be locally controlled and sustained with whatever resources are readily and locally available. This well-repair industry can continue to thrive without outside funding and support once the initial investment in supplies and training is made.

The Well Repair Project is one of NGC’s many Global Projects focused on sustainable solutions to natural disasters. Visit the project menu on the NGC website to view additional project choices.



## **Natural Disasters**

Natural disasters are caused by natural forces, but are also impacted by human actions such as:

- Climate change
- Environmental degradation
- Population growth, especially in cities

Common natural disasters include:

- Earthquakes
- Volcanoes
- Tornadoes
- Hurricanes
- Floods
- Droughts
- Landslides
- Tsunamis

There has been a five-fold increase in disasters from 1975 to 2005 (Source: Oxfam). Between 1975 and 2005 we have experienced severe climate change, widespread

environmental degradation and increased population growth. Despite being natural phenomena, human actions have had a negative impact on natural disasters. If our actions have had a negative impact, other actions can also have a positive impact if global warming/climate change, environmental degradation, and population growth are addressed in a comprehensive manner.

### **What's the most sustainable solution?**

Fighting poverty all over the world, but particularly in the developing world, reduces vulnerability to the negative consequences of natural disasters. When a natural disaster strikes, all people suffer, but it has been shown over and over again that the poorest people suffer the most. Compared to other sectors of the population, people living in poverty are more likely to live in flood plains, alongside riverbanks, on steep slopes and on unsteady land. These areas are more dangerous and therefore less desirable to anyone who can afford to live elsewhere. These marginalized populations tend to have limited access to information and to pre- and post-disaster protection. And the most at-risk populations within the marginalized communities are women and children.

More than 90 percent of the populations of Bangladesh, Nepal, the Dominican Republic, Burundi, Haiti, Taiwan, Malawi, El Salvador, and Honduras live in areas at a high relative risk of death from two or more natural hazards. (Source: World Bank) Many poor countries have underdeveloped infrastructure, lack basic public services, leaving them less able to endure natural disasters or to respond adequately when one occurs. These countries often lack resources for early warning systems and natural disasters cause setbacks to economic and social development, inflict massive casualties, and end up diverting funds from development programs to emergency relief and recovery. (Source: World Bank)

### **Where Can I Learn More?**

- ReliefWeb - [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)
- International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) – [www.unisdr.org](http://www.unisdr.org)

Now that you have reviewed this entire binder section on the 8+2, share this information with your Team Members and together become more familiar with each issue by taking the time to go to the **Team Experience** on the NGC website and navigate through the training:

- **The 8+2 Issue Areas**

Remember, long-lasting, sustainable solutions to the world's greatest challenges will not come from outside the afflicted countries. These communities, while suffering are not simply waiting helpless for aid from developed nations. There are many people around the world that are finding homegrown solutions to the issues of poverty. Often the best solutions come from the people who are experiencing the downfalls of an inadequate and unjust system everyday. Each of the 8+2 issue areas can be greatly reduced and someday eradicated completely by **raising the financial resources** to support these **social entrepreneurs**, **advocating** that governments keep their commitment to the UN MDGs, and **educating** others on the solutions – This is the NGC's unique approach to sustainable global change.

NGC's partner organization Ashoka explains **social entrepreneurship** this way:

A **social entrepreneur** is someone who recognizes when a part of society is “stuck” and provides new ways to get it “unstuck.” It could be society's failure to deal effectively with corruption in the government, farming practices that are harmful to the environment and long-term health of the community, or school fees that are so high that most children can't afford school. A social entrepreneur **questions the established way of doing things** when those conventions are not working. S/he solves the problem by **changing the system**, spreading the solution, and persuading entire societies to take new leaps.  
[www.ashoka.org](http://www.ashoka.org)

### **The NGC Approach to Sustainable Global Change**

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Any way you can be involved in the fight against global poverty is a step in the right direction. But while there may not be a “wrong” way to get involved, certain methods are more powerful than others.

You are probably most familiar with an approach to giving that we'll call the **charity model**: a form of giving where you are asked to give money for a basic need or cause. Often organizations present the donor with images of suffering people in another country or community and plead to the donor to send money or other items to help. In most cases, your involvement ends there, with a donation that hopefully provides immediate help for a basic need. While this kind of giving can help alleviate challenges in the short-run, there are several problems with this model if applied to all situations. Let's look at this in more detail.

## **One-way Giving vs. Reciprocal Giving**

In the charity model, a donor usually sends a check to a local relief organization working in a developing country. That's where the relationship stops, leaving the donor with a limited understanding of the situation and leaving the people receiving the donation without participation or involvement in the process. When the people living in the affected area are not given a say in determining their own needs, the money might not be spent on what is needed most, but instead on what relief organizations coming in from the outside think is best.

The charity model can be patronizing and disempowering to the people we intend to assist. The recipients of donations are often portrayed as helpless people who are just waiting for our donations. In actuality, people in developing countries struggle everyday to address the issues they face and creating innovative ways to make the most of their limited means. Social entrepreneurs are taking the lead to find long-lasting solutions to their communities' problems. Our donations should go to helping the members of the community—the true experts—with what they need and systems they have already put in place. In addition, we in the United States have a lot to learn from people living in situations very different from our own. Our financial donations should reflect a partnership in which parties on both sides of the exchange are “givers” and respect the unique position of people in the community abroad. They know their social, cultural, political, and environmental context better than anyone coming in from the outside and they know what “aid” would help the most—now, that's truly being reciprocal.

## **Short-term Giving vs. Sustainable Giving**

Charity model donations often go to immediate needs on the ground—one day's worth of food, bottles of clean water, or immediate medical help. While these are necessary right away—especially in natural disasters or other circumstances that cause people to flee their homes quickly—money can be most effectively spend on projects that will help in the long run. These initiatives include supporting sustainable agricultural practices, building wells, and educating young people who will become future leaders and entrepreneurs. These **sustainable development projects** will affect a larger amount of people over a much longer period of time, helping communities to recover after a crisis, improve their standard of living, and gain self-sufficiency.

Where previous generations of world leaders and social change makers have laid the foundation, YOU and your generation will play a pivotal role in finally achieving the seemingly impossible: a world free of **extreme** forms of poverty and its manifestations. Are you excited? Absolutely! That's why you're getting started with NGC.

Are you ready? Most likely...not entirely... Again, that is why you're getting started with NGC. Our work is to introduce you to the issues, connect you to a global network of

supporters, and direct you to **sustainable solutions**: the ideas of grassroots social entrepreneurs needing your support.

The NGC F.A.CE. is how teams create sustainable global change. It is made up of three equally important pieces: Fundraising, Advocacy, and Community Education. Once you are established as a team, organizing events to achieve your team's F.A.CE. Goals will comprise a significant portion of the **action** you take in supporting your Global Project. You will learn more about creating your F.A.CE. events in the next binder section on the NGC Team Experience.

## **Our Unique Partnerships and Global Projects**

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The movement for global change can only really succeed if everyone is involved. This is why NGC highly values the power of networking and partnerships.

New Global Citizens partners with leading international organizations, grassroots organizations, and community members to support shared efforts to create lasting change. We call this the **partnership model**. By focusing fundraising, advocacy, and community education efforts on homegrown solutions led by local people around the world, your team will have a larger, prolonged impact and reach more people.

### **Who does NGC work with to make this happen?**

NGC only works with organizations that we know are reliable and effective so that you can be sure that support reaches the intended destination and empowers social entrepreneurs on the ground in their countries and communities. NGC carefully selects all of the organizations we work with based on their **development model** and **theory of change**, as well as their financial **transparency**. Because of contracted agreements with our partners, all your team's efforts will get to the right people and the right projects so that every dollar you raise, every advocacy effort you initiate, and every community member you educate will result in the largest global impact possible. Other aid organizations often overlook or ignore such locally led, community driven projects in favor of efforts and initiatives run by foreigners from outside the afflicted community – New Global Citizens assures all our partners work by empowering community leaders, social entrepreneurs, and their initiatives within the country in need.