“Nothing can be more dangerous to our efforts to build peace and development than a world divided along religious, ethnic or cultural lines.

In each nation, and among all nations, we must work to promote unity based on our shared humanity.”

Kofi Annan
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Twenty years ago, our multilateral system, led by Kofi Annan, was able to develop effective solutions to massive challenges such as the toll taken by HIV/AIDS on African vulnerable populations. New institutions were put in place including the International Criminal Court or the Human Rights Council that carried the promise of justice on a global scale, while agreement was reached on the ambitious Millennium Development Goals.

Today, as the world faces challenges that dwarf even the COVID pandemic, progress in multilateral fora seems impossible except on the smallest of common denominators. War, aggressive nationalism and authoritarianism have returned. We seem incapable of turning the tide of confrontation and violence.

Technology and experience have given us the tools to predict conflicts, pandemics, climate change and other shocks and crises. And yet we seem unable to prevent them from happening. When they do occur, we can rely on elaborate mechanisms and a solid legal framework to facilitate international cooperation. And yet many leaders choose to ignore them and flout internationally agreed rules and standards.

The Kofi Annan Foundation will carry on promoting a legacy of principled leadership and effective cooperation. With other members of the Board, I will continue to advocate obstinately for a greater focus on the vulnerable, for more innovative partnerships, for more effective prevention and for a reinvigorated multilateral system.

"We must try harder and do better."

I am particularly pleased that Kyung-wha Kang has joined us, as I know that her expertise in diplomacy, humanitarian and development assistance, and human rights will be of great benefit to the Foundation at this time.

I want to thank the staff of the Foundation who have again shown exemplary professionalism and dedication in 2021, implementing new projects, entering into new partnerships, mentoring young people, and shining a light on the work of peace builders, educators and democracy activists.

With their assistance and the invaluable support of our donors and partners, the Foundation will carry forward Kofi Annan’s work in the fields of peace, democracy, youth, food security and wherever our name, network and expertise can make a positive difference.

Elhadj As Sy
The war in Ukraine has shown in very tragic terms the real dangers involved in the rise of authoritarianism and autocrats, who sow discord and confusion through systematic disinformation, elevate nationalism at the expense of peace and understanding, eschew international law and the opportunities for dialogue and compromise offered by our multilateral system, and ignore young people’s aspirations for a sustainable, peaceful, and more just future.

Although democracy was already in retreat in many regions of the world before 2021, the year saw a particularly worrisome regression in democratic values and systems. It began with an assault on the Capitol in Washington DC, followed by the toppling of civilian governments in Yangon, Kabul, Conakry, Khartoum, and Ouagadougou. The acceleration of the climate crisis, growing tensions among superpowers, the return of large-scale military conflict, the incapacity of regional and international organizations to bring an end to violence in the Sahel, Ethiopia, Syria, Yemen, and other countries, all highlight the urgent need for more effective mechanisms for dialogue and cooperation and for principled leadership focused on the needs of the most vulnerable.

While a massive - if unequal - roll out of vaccines allowed the world to emerge from the depths of the Covid-19 pandemic, its impact on women, young people, and marginalized groups will linger for years to come. If the rapid recovery observed in some regions does not benefit all, and if assistance is not brought to those who suffered the most from the disruption brought about by the health crisis, more will be drawn to the mirage of strongmen who promise easy answers and incite hatred for others.

The Kofi Annan Foundation, therefore, worked with even greater determination in 2021 to build the conditions of trust and good governance which allow people, nations, and the global community to thrive.

We focused our activities on rebuilding trust in democracy as the system best able to deliver legitimate and effective governments accountable to their citizens; rebuilding trust in communities emerging from conflicts or torn by violent extremism; elevating the voices of young people and highlighting inspiring stories of young changemakers. We promoted Kofi Annan’s legacy to boost confidence in multilateral cooperation and advance effective, inclusive, and ethical leadership.

We were active in West and East Africa, in East and South Asia and in Europe and we organized meetings, conferences and events in Nairobi, Abuja, Accra, Dubai, Brussels, Geneva and online. In 2022, we will continue focusing on these regions, where we have developed hubs of activity and have built networks of partners and our expertise, while launching projects in other countries such as Colombia and Zimbabwe. We will seek to assist young people on all continents and create a community of changemakers who are driven by Kofi Annan’s values, we will foster reconciliation and collaboration, we will advocate for electoral integrity, and we will deepen our understanding of how digital technologies can weaken or bolster democracy.

We hope that we have your trust and that we will have your support.

Corinne Momal-Vanian

Executive Director of the Kofi Annan Foundation
The Kofi Annan Foundation is an independent not-for-profit organization established in Switzerland in 2007 by the late former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Our Board is composed of prominent personalities from the public and private sectors, and we have a small team based in Geneva, Switzerland.

Vision
A fairer and more peaceful world, where no one is left behind, democratic principles and the rule of law are upheld, and divides are bridged through dialogue and international cooperation.

Mission
To help build peaceful, democratic, and resilient societies.

Values
Our work is underpinned by the same courage, integrity, and creativity that characterised Kofi Annan’s efforts to resolve even the most intractable of global challenges. We carefully steward Kofi Annan’s reputation for acting with honesty, fairness and impartiality. Inclusion, diversity, gender equality, and sustainability are at the heart of everything we do.

Impact
As a small foundation, our work is measured through our influence on key actors, as evidenced by changes in their opinions, policies, or behaviours.

How we work
The Foundation works closely with partners from international and regional organisations, foundations, universities and civil society. We channel expertise, convene all stakeholders around the table and forge coalitions of trusted influence which can make change happen.
We are funded by public and private donors and take particular care to ensure funding sources are beyond reproach and that contributions are politically un-tied.

About the Kofi Annan Foundation

Our core areas of work in 2021:
- Amplifying Kofi Annan’s Legacy
- Strengthening Democracy
- Youth, Peace & Trust
- Combatting Hunger & Transforming Food Systems

Our activities can take the form of:
- Country engagements through private diplomacy or advisory and operational activities
- Events, speeches and conferences
- Public advocacy
- Research and publication of reports and policy papers
Follow us on Twitter @KofiAnnanFdn to learn more about how our programmes and projects are making an impact worldwide.

2021 in tweets

"For the world to make its painfully slow recovery, I think we need to reassert the moral legitimacy of our response to COVID-19." - @KofiAnnanFdn on Twitter, during the Kofi Annan Generous Peace Address and Awards 2021

"We are facing a global pandemic that is reshaping the world. As leaders, we must come together with a common purpose and a shared commitment to protect our people." - @KofiAnnanFdn on Twitter

"As the second week of #ICDF21 gets underway, get inspired by what young people are doing on the ground while politicians negotiate in Glasgow." - @KofiAnnanFdn on Twitter

"Meet KofiAnnanChangemaker @BogduOmoBei from Uganda and her project on Pardons in Kenya: Kenyans who have served at least 15 years in prison have the right to apply for a pardon. Let's help them!" - @KofiAnnanFdn on Twitter

"At the Kofi Annan Foundation, we are committed to empowering young people to be the change they want to see in the world. #KOF21" - @KofiAnnanFdn on Twitter

"The Kofi Annan Foundation aims to help restore the #IPI in the face of increasing global instability." - @KofiAnnanFdn on Twitter

"We are delighted to present this year’s cohort of Kofi Annan Scholars at the Walter-Sisulu-Kofi Annan graduate programme at Nelson Mandela University. #KofiAnnanFdnWeFuturize" - @KofiAnnanFdn on Twitter

"Chair of the Kofi Annan Foundation, @KofiAnnanFdn, urges all leaders to show the same foresight and courage as Kofi Annan did 20 years ago when dealing with the #ICDF11 pandemic." - @KofiAnnanFdn on Twitter

"Thank you President @BharratJagdeo for your support to the #KOF21 and your strong call for presidents and others to respect constitutional term limits. As the #DemocracySummit gets underway, the world is looking for leaders to set an example." - @KofiAnnanFdn on Twitter

"Introducing the Kofi Annan Changemakers 2021! These are the 12 @KOF21 Changemakers who will join a host of recognized international leaders in a 6-month #KOF21GlobalDialogue to strengthen and improve the UN. More info: kofiannan.org/KOF21Changemakers" - @KofiAnnanFdn on Twitter

"To observers #InternationalDemocracyDay, 2021’s young activists from all over the world have shared with us @EU4YouthUnion why #democracy matters to them. Tell us, what does #democracy mean to YOU? #EU4DemocracyDay #KOF21" - @KofiAnnanFdn on Twitter

"Thank you to everyone who has been part of our journey as we celebrate 20 years of the Kofi Annan Foundation. It’s been a journey of learning, growth, and impact. Thank you for your support and for being part of our story." - @KofiAnnanFdn on Twitter

"This year, 2021, marks 20 years since Kofi Annan and the EU received their Nobel Peace Prize. To celebrate this anniversary, we have put together a selection of 20 speeches you need to read by Kofi Annan; his Nobel Lecture included!" - @KofiAnnanFdn on Twitter

"Five facts about our youth initiative @ExtrmeTogether

1. Extreme Together @ExtrmeTogether - 3 yrs. 2019 It was once called 1TrillionTrees, we started our #ExtrmeTogether

2. #ExtrmeTogether: Girls wanted, we want to shine with you! From each country, we select 3 girls to participate at the event.

3. #ExtrmeTogether: How many do you know? 1girl1girl1girl.

5. #ExtrmeTogether: Show the Future." - @KofiAnnanFdn on Twitter

"You’re not just a politician, you’re an actor in this story that’s going to change the world. It’s our story to tell and our story to change." - @KofiAnnanFdn on Twitter at the KOF21 opening ceremony.

"As #Kenya heads towards a presidential election in 2022, the #KOF21 and MoiCentre joined forces to convene a hybrid workshop to discuss the safeguarding of the digital space ahead.

What needs to be done? See the recommendations: kofiannan.org/KOF21Kenya

#TechForDemocracyKE" - @KofiAnnanFdn on Twitter
In its Global State of Democracy Report 2021, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) expressed concern that “the number of countries moving in an authoritarian direction in 2020 outnumbered those going in a democratic direction”, and that “the pandemic has prolonged an existing negative trend into a five-year stretch, the longest such period since the start of the third wave of democratization in the 1970s.”

The report noted that increasingly, democratically elected governments are adopting authoritarian tactics, often with significant popular support, and electoral integrity is being questioned, often without evidence, even in established democracies.

At the same time, many democracies have proved their resilience, introducing democratic innovations, and adapting their practices and institutions, and so have pro-democracy movements.

In this fraught context, the Foundation’s work in promoting democracy and electoral integrity seems more relevant and necessary than ever.

“No one is born a good citizen; no nation is born a democracy. ...Rather, both are processes that continue to evolve over a lifetime. Young people must be included from birth.” – Kofi Annan
How we rebuilt trust in 2021:
A selection of our work

ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRACY IN THE DIGITAL AGE

The findings of the Kofi Annan Commission on Elections and Democracy in the Digital Age (KACEDDA) are acquiring even more significance with the accelerated pace of digitalization brought about by the Covid pandemic. The Foundation has continued to promote these findings internationally and in certain countries.

The KACEDDA final report was presented by Secretary-General of the KACEDDA Stephen Stedman during the ‘Can Democracy Survive Technology’ webinar at the Salzburg Global Seminar. KACEDDA Chair Laura Chinchilla spoke at the Copenhagen Democracy Summit in May on why democracies in the Global South are highly vulnerable to online disinformation and the types of regulations needed to mitigate the problem. In June, the Foundation and the Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD-West Africa), in partnership with the Swiss Embassy in Nigeria, hosted a hybrid discussion in Abuja on the KACEDDA report and the role that social media can play to undermine or strengthen the integrity of elections in Nigeria. The KACEDDA report - and its relevance to the Ghanaian context - was presented by the Foundation at an event in July co-organized with the Centre for Democratic Development (CDD)-Ghana in Accra. The Executive Director of CDD-Ghana and the chair of the election commission were the main Ghanaian speakers and KACEDDA Commissioner Bill Sweeney joined the event virtually.

In September, the Parliament of the State of Victoria in Australia published the final report on its “Inquiry into the impact of social media on elections and electoral administration,” which refers extensively to the KACEDDA findings.

SECURING THE DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT FOR THE 2022 ELECTIONS IN KENYA

With support from the UN Democracy Fund, the Foundation launched a project addressing the potential impact of the internet, social media and digital technologies on electoral integrity and confidence in the electoral process in Kenya. Activities in 2021 included:

- In November we organized a conference of key stakeholders with the Centre for Multiparty Democracy, to build conditions of trust and safeguard the digital space. The conference drew significant local media attention and was featured on one of the main evening news shows. It allowed for a dialogue amongst electoral stakeholders from all sectors, including government agencies, election management bodies, civil society, and the tech sector. It garnered commitment from electoral stakeholders to apply best practices and develop home-grown solutions to the challenges posed by social media.

- Key priorities for future action were identified that the Foundation will take forward with local actors, including the development of a digital code of conduct and the launch of a collaborative initiative to tackle dis- and misinformation.

- We participated in the “People’s Dialogue Festival” organized by the Centre for Multiparty Democracy in Kenya on the International Day of Democracy. The festival provides an annual platform for dialogue between citizens, political and opinion leaders towards consolidating the country’s democratic space. The Foundation used the opportunity to raise awareness of the digital threats to democracy.
The Foundation has strengthened its network of organizations working to promote democracy and electoral processes and is in discussions to formally join the European Partnership for Democracy. These efforts have been timely, as there’s much work to be done to implement the European Action Plan on Democracy, adopted in December 2020, which is as much a process as it is a guiding document.

- We engaged with EU institutions, namely the office of Commissioner Jourova, responsible for elaborating and proposing concrete measures on political advertising, the first issue on which specific proposals will be considered and adopted by the EU Council. Our hope is that these measures will reflect the KACEDDA recommendations on political advertising.

- We continue to work with Meta, the Commission, and others to develop and host a series of private encounters between technical experts within the Commission and Parliament and members of the private sector.

- The discussions focus on the steps necessary to ensure adherence to the new measures by the private sector, how new measures align with and complement other mechanisms such as the Digital Services Act, and what steps partners can take beyond the measures to address the impact of political advertising, particularly considering the strong links with disinformation.
The Kofi Annan Foundation continues to advocate for electoral integrity, the strengthening of democracy and positive civic engagement in both established and newer democracies. Here is a selection of our advocacy statements, articles and publications:

- **SPEAKING UP FOR DEMOCRACY**

  - **REBUILDING TRUST IN DEMOCRACY**
  
  For the International Day of Democracy, on 15 September, we partnered with the UN Democracy Fund to create a series of videos in which young activists around the world answer this simple question. Watch the full series on YouTube >>

  - **UGANDA: Stability without legitimacy cannot last.**

    We wrote an article about the Ugandan elections that took place in mid-January 2021.

  - **Geneva Solutions published our op-ed about the US insurrection: Restoring the shine of the City on the Hill, an urgent global priority.**

    - We shared our opinion on the state of American democracy: Is American democracy in decline or in recovery?

    - Jeune Afrique published an op-ed signed by our Chair entitled “Coup d’état en Guinée: le mirage des mandats perpétuels.” The article draws attention to the advocacy work we conducted in West Africa to recommit the region to the 2001 ECOWAS Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance.

West Africa led the continent’s transition to democracy in the aftermath of the Cold War, and after a series of civil wars. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) became Africa’s most robust regional organization, providing direction and assistance to this process. The region has not been spared democracy’s global retreat over the past decade, however. The UN Secretary-General noted in one of his latest report on West Africa and the Sahel the “early warning signs of a democratic retreat across parts of the region,” which “warrant urgent attention and action.”

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of ECOWAS’ 2001 Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance, we launched an ambitious project to work with stakeholders in the region to arrest, and if possible reverse, this trend. It aims to focus increased regional attention on the democratic recession observed, recommit leaders to apply the norms developed by ECOWAS for democratic governance, strengthen these norms where necessary and build the capacity of civil society to hold leaders accountable for compliance with these norms. The project, which has involved close collaboration and extensive discussions with the Ghanaian authorities and ECOWAS has already achieved some of its initial objectives.

- We commissioned and published a report by Prof. Gyimah Boadi on democratic backsliding in West Africa. The report was distributed at the Kofi Annan Peace and Security Forum and made available in both English and French.
- We held an on-line public discussion in May 2021 with regional and international experts to raise awareness of the issue of democratic backsliding. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, the outgoing UN Special Representative for West Africa and the Sahel delivered keynote remarks at the event.

Read the report on our website
The crisis of democracy in West Africa was the focus of this year’s Kofi Annan Peace and Security (KAPS) Forum, co-organised by the Kofi Annan Peacekeeping Training Centre and the Kofi Annan Foundation, to mark the twentieth anniversary of the Democracy and Good Governance Protocol of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Respecting constitutional term limits

When constitutional term limits are flouted, stressed President Nana Akufo Addo of Ghana in his powerful opening speech, “the marriage between the elected and the electorate becomes forced, the environment becomes toxic, and the mandate becomes precarious.” In his speech, President Akufo Addo pledged not only to respect term limits himself, but also to rally his peers in the region to do the same. Former President Ernest Bai Koroma of Sierra Leone, who stepped down after his second term, stressed that “after ten years in office, who can credibly claim he can accomplish much more? It is time to pass the baton to the next generation.”

In its final communiqué, the KAPS Forum called on ECOWAS’s heads of state to adopt a mandatory two-term presidential term limit at their upcoming summit, as well as an age limit for presidential aspirants in a region where the gap between the average age of the rulers and the ruled is particularly wide.

The Forum also called for alternatives to the “winner takes all,” political culture in many countries in the region the over-concentration of power in the executive, better protection of constitutional norms, a strengthening of the independence of election commissions, better representation and inclusion of women and youth in politics, the regulation of social media discourse around election time, and more civic education.

Professor Gymah Boadi, co-founder of the Centre for Democratic Development and of Afrobarometer, reminded participants that a large majority of West Africans, 75% on average, support democracy as a system of government, one of the highest scores in Africa and even globally.

Chair of the Kofi Annan Foundation board, Elhadj As Sy, recalled that democracies, in Africa and elsewhere, outperform almost all authoritarian governments, not only regarding economic development but also public health, life expectancy, good governance and even pandemic management, according to detailed data from the Varieties of Democracy project.

The popular uprisings that led to the downfall of strongmen like Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso or Yayah Jammeh of Gambia, as well as the Afrobarometer polling data, highlight the region’s youth’s thirst for more democracy, not less, as well as better representation and inclusion. As Sy warned that “if the population does not believe it can secure change via the ballot box, it will find less peaceful alternatives. The crisis of democracy is already becoming a crisis of peace and security. That is why the region has to act now.”
“Young people are uniquely placed to contribute to counter extremism efforts within their communities as role models, teachers, family members, friends or mentors, and I have no doubt as to their capacity to positively shape the world they will inherit.”  - Kofi Annan

recent important intergenerational study, conducted for UNICEF[1], found young people to be more globally minded and optimistic than their elders, even though they are not complacent. “Born into a more digital, interconnected and diverse reality, young people see a world that is largely a better place for children than the one their parents grew up in – a safer and more abundant world that offers children better education, opportunities and hope for the future,” the report concludes. UNICEF’s Executive Director noted that “Today’s young people have concerns for the future but see themselves as part of the solution.”

The Kofi Annan Foundation shares this view that young people are positive agents of change, and that they can be key actors in preventing violence and improving social cohesion in their communities. Expanding from our initial Extremely Together programme, which has just celebrated its fifth anniversary, we are working with a growing network of young men and women on the ground to ensure that their voices are heard and that they can contribute to building peace, wherever it is threatened.


Civil unrest has been a major contributor to the global decrease in “peacefulness” over the past years. The 244% rise in civil & political unrest between 2011 and 2019 shows the need to rebuild trust between state and society and within societies.

Source: Global Peace Index 2021

Did you know?

244% rise in civil & political unrest
The Foundation’s activities in the field of youth and peace continue to expand, generating interest and drawing support from around the world. One of our key priorities when conducting these activities is to ensure that the voices of young people from marginalized groups are heard, and that they feel empowered to lead peacebuilding efforts in their own communities. In line with these values, we partnered with the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva and worked with a group of students to research ‘The Role of Artificial Intelligence and Big Data in Peacebuilding’, and the potential for new technologies to encourage the participation of groups who traditionally may be under-represented in peace processes.

Our work also aims to support the meaningful participation of young people in international fora dealing with peace and security. Throughout the year, our Extremely Together leaders participated in several initiatives, which were led in collaboration with partner organizations also working on inclusive peace. A few examples include:

**One Young World:**
Extremely Together Chapters from Somalia, Uganda, Pakistan and the Philippines hosted their first joint virtual workshop during the 2021 One Young World summit in Munich on the role of young people in promoting peace and cohesion in their communities through art, theatre, interfaith dialogue, and sports.

**Principles for Peace**
The Foundation and its Extremely Together leaders participated in the Principles for Inclusive Peace initiative launched by Interpeace.

This initiative aimed to collect young people’s perspectives on existing flaws in peace processes and recommendations on how to make them more inclusive. An online youth consultation titled “Peace in our Terms” was held in September and featured five of our Extremely Together leaders. Building on this, the Foundation partnered with HIVE Pakistan and 180° Wende for a series of country-consultations held in Germany and Pakistan in late 2021 with young people from marginalized or under represented groups.
We continued to nurture our network of global Extremely Together (ET) leaders, and we also focused on strengthening Extremely Together’s four national chapters in the Philippines, Pakistan, Uganda, and Somalia.

Over the course of the year, our chapters worked tirelessly to build tight youth networks through which they were able to train and empower young people to lead efforts to promote togetherness in their divided communities. In 2021, our chapters mobilized thousands of youth from communities across the four countries.

**Spotlight on: The Philippines**

Our Extremely Together chapter in the Philippines organized ‘Peace Camps’ during which they trained hundreds of young urban Filipinos and provided financial support to some in the form of seed grants to implement their projects. In addition, the chapter worked to bolster the capacity of young people from hard-to-reach communities and ensured that information on the role of youth in building peace is more accessible to them.

Special attention was also paid to communities affected or displaced by violent extremism, and the distribution of relief packages provided an opportunity to strengthen narratives of peace in these communities. The chapter’s activities culminated in a Grand Peace Conference held in November, which engaged over 150 participants in-person and over 500 online from across the country.

This helped cement the strong ties created across Extremely Together’s network of young participants, who are united by the peace pledges they put forward.

**Spotlight on: Pakistan**

In Pakistan, our Extremely Together chapter has become the biggest youth movement on preventing violent extremism in the country, with over 5,000 new members registered in under 12 months. They built their network through a series of youth-led citywide campaigns in Karachi, Peshawar, Islamabad, and Lahore. This was followed by a national retreat for all leaders responsible for the local chapters in each city. This helped build strong ties between different groups involved and also bolstered their leadership capacity.

Finally, the chapter worked on enhancing solidarity within its network through community service action for families of Afghan refugees in September. This was complemented by eight live discussions with Afghans in Pakistan on regional peace, and youth inclusion in politics in October.
Facilitating mutual learning between chapters

At the Foundation, we also seek to ensure that the ET chapters learn from each other. This year, we provided several opportunities for our chapter members to exchange inspiring practices and draw lessons from their experiences on how to foster youth-led PVE.

Spotlight on: South & Southeast Asian Chapters

This year was the second year of a two-year engagement in the region to build youth capacities for PVE in urban settings. We started the year with a webinar hosted by our local partners from Pakistan, the Philippines and Bangladesh, in which they presented their research on what drives young people to join violent extremist groups, and what entry point can be used to engage them in violence prevention.

To build on these findings, we provided different opportunities for the sharing of experiences and to reflect on lessons learned. This culminated in a regional conference, held in October in Dubai, which brought project partners and practitioners together in a hybrid way. This hybrid conference included local civil society organisations, young activists and regional experts from across South and Southeast Asia. Their reflections regarding the challenges and opportunities that come with building networks and trying to engage young people in PVE actions were captured in an inspiring guide being published in early 2022. Our chapters’ work on fostering youth action to promote social cohesion was also featured in an article from the EU’s Foreign Policy Instrument.

Excerpt from the graphic recording of the regional conference in Dubai between our chapters in South and Southeast Asia. See the full graphic on our website.

Spotlight on: East African Chapters

We kicked off the year with a virtual exchange between Extremely Together Somalia and Extremely Together Uganda. In this exchange, our chapter members shared their experiences navigating youth-led action on preventing violent extremism in 2020, a year like no other.

After the virtual exchange, we hosted a public webinar in March, where young Somalis and Ugandans were invited to reflect on their experience of using theatre, community radios, dialogue and training to engage youth in promoting peace and preventing violent extremism.

See the article on the EU FPI website.
Extremely Together’s 5th Anniversary

Since its launch, Extremely Together has grown far beyond its initial network of 10 leaders, to a youth movement also locally rooted in its four national chapters.

Together, our leaders and chapter members work to inspire youth to act in favour of peace and social cohesion, but also seek to ensure youth participation in the world’s largest fora on peacebuilding policy hosted by bodies such as the UN General Assembly, the Commonwealth, or the European Commission.

Following the publication of the first-ever peer-to-peer guide on preventing violent extremism, Extremely Together have trained over 7,000 young people in 13 countries.

With its community-level activities and its advocacy engagement at the international level, Extremely Together is uniquely positioned to elevate the perspectives and experiences of young people from marginalized communities to national and global policymakers.

In 2021, the Foundation completed its scoping work for the establishment of Extremely Together national Chapters in the Sahel, a region deeply affected by violent extremism.

The security situation in the Sahel continues to deteriorate rapidly and the Gulf of Guinea is now also directly affected. Between 2015 and 2020, attacks by extremist groups have increased eightfold in the central Sahel and threefold in the Lake Chad Basin. Cross-border areas between Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, and Nigeria are particularly affected.

The all-security approach often adopted by the states of the region has shown its limits and the task of the governments is complicated by worsening socioeconomic conditions that provide few opportunities to young people. In Niger, for instance, 60% of the 24-million population is under 18 years old, and no fewer than 500,000 young people enter the labor market each year.

Missions to Niger, Burkina Faso and Benin were conducted in the summer and fall of 2021 to assess the potential for youth-led PVE action and the creation of national ET Chapters in those countries.
Twelve incredible young changemakers from around the world are selected each year from among one hundred nominees to take part in a ground-breaking initiative launched in 2021: The Kofi Annan Changemakers. 

During a six-month programme of intergenerational dialogue, training and mentorship, the Kofi Annan Changemakers are exposed to the approaches and values that Kofi Annan embodied. They meet with officials working in the many international organisations based in Geneva and gain access to experts in their field and build their networks. They interact with extraordinary leaders who share their own experiences of dealing with the most pressing challenges the world is facing today. They provide their own view of the challenges faced by their communities, resulting in mutual learning between this new generation of young leaders and experienced experts who worked closely with Kofi Annan and his Foundation.

And above all, they build their own support network of Changemakers, and make lasting friendships with like-minded young people from all over the world. This gives them the knowledge and confidence to scale up their action, whether at the local or global levels.

"Any society that does not succeed in tapping into the energy and creativity of its youth will be left behind." – Kofi Annan

Did you know?

About 26% of the world is under 15 years of age.
How we rebuilt trust in 2021:
A selection of our work

THE PROGRAMME

12 young leaders under the age of 30 from 11 countries across four continents were chosen among candidates from all over the world for the inaugural Kofi Annan Changemakers programme. The chosen young leaders have all been working in a field aligning with key areas of interest to Kofi Annan and the Foundation for at least two years and have demonstrated their commitment to the public good.

Workshops and informal discussions, allowing for genuine intergenerational dialogue, with high-level friends of Kofi Annan and the Foundation.

Insight into the “Kofi Annan Way” through a series of encounters bringing to life the values and approaches underpinning Kofi Annan’s work.

Workshops on topics such as project management, policy influencing, fundraising and negotiations.

Pairing each Changemaker with a mentor who provides advice, inspiration and support during and after the programme on how to strengthen impact and best use the seed grant.

A seed grant for each Changemaker to scale up or improve their work in their respective fields.

Visits to and meetings with UN agencies, NGOs and other international organizations based in Geneva relevant to the Changemakers’ areas of work.

A one-week programme online in the summer, focusing on the themes of ethical leadership, advocacy, influencing and communication, and including sessions with senior leaders and experts.

A second segment in person in Geneva, focused on consensus-building, negotiation, mediation and resilience. Extensive references to Kofi Annan, his vision and his work are included, with stories shared to illustrate his unique approach to leadership.
Meet the 2021 Kofi Annan Changemakers

Sophiyat Sadiq, Nigeria
Sophiyat strives to create a world where young girls can fully participate in the digital economy, regardless of their socioeconomic background and gender. She works with girls in Lagos to build their capacity in STEM subjects and digital technology. Through her organization, Auxilium, and her volunteer experience, Sophiyat runs workshops for girls in Lagos to build their capacity in STEM subjects and digital technology.

Sohaila Rezaee, Afghanistan
Sohaila founded the Young Emerging Leaders Programme to ensure high-quality education and eradicate illiteracy for girls and women in rural areas of Afghanistan. She was one of the many who fled Kabul during the summer of 2021.

Lourence Balatbat, Philippines
Lourence is the founder and CEO of Beyond Three Billion (B3B). A non-partisan youth-led organization, B3B develops context-based programmes to end the marginalization of young people in elective and appointive decision-making spaces across all levels of governance. He aims to create a world where young leaders are not called youth leaders but simply leaders.

Irene Nagudi, Uganda
Through her organization Kichini Gardeners Initiative, Irene teaches and connects children and youth to environmental conservation through sustainable gardening practices. Irene empowers children and young people to become drivers and agents of change.

Zeinorin Stephen Angkang, India
Zeinorin works with indigenous farmers from the Tangkhul Naga community in Manipur, India. Focusing on indigenous heirloom seeds, Zeinorin aims to ensure food security and reduce poverty through sustainable farming practices.

Chmba Ellen Chilemba, Malawi
Chmba fights for women’s and minority rights in Malawi. Chmba aims to empower young leaders who will transform communities, break toxic cultures, and make Malawi, Africa, and the world better. She co-founded Traile, an organization that creates safe spaces for young women and girls to flourish.

Lakshwin Murugamooorthy, Malaysia
As Chief Operating Officer at Women of Will (WOW), Lakshwin empowers low-income women through community and entrepreneurship development programmes. WOW provides women entrepreneurs in rural areas with essential training in business management and micro-credit to kickstart their work.

Jean Sebastian Pedraza Paez, Colombia
Sebastian seeks to empower rural youth in Colombia to develop their communities, specifically through food systems transformation. He believes that rural youth can transform agriculture and develop their rural territories simultaneously.

Abdul Gafaru Dasana Amin, Ghana
Abdul empowers women in rural areas of Ghana who work in the production of shea and its processing. He aims to raise women above the poverty line and make Shea’s production more sustainable for the planet.

Sharon Matongo, Zimbabwe
As co-founder of Charity Drive Zimbabwe, Sharon seeks to improve rural education and teach about the right to education. She aims to put human rights in the national curriculum and give all children in Zimbabwe equal access to education regardless of their gender or socioeconomic background.

Leon Gojani, Kosovo
As Director of the Young Leaders Program at MCW Global, Leon creates opportunities for discussion between young leaders. He provides them with the skills they need to make a change within their communities.

Junbert T. Pabon, Philippines
Junbert helps to rehabilitate young offenders, known as Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL). Using a holistic development program implemented by the World Organization of the Scout Movement, he seeks to transform lawbreakers into peacemakers across the Philippines.
Meeting with Former president of the Swiss Confederation Ruth Dreifuss. Topics that were covered: the art of negotiation, how to build consensus (and why it’s so important), how to get into politics and more.

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- Patrick Youssif

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- Sharon

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- Lakshwin

Nov 17th: Session with Nada Al-Nashif, UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights and Patrick Youssif, Deputy director of operations for Africa at the International Committee of the Red Cross, on #resilience

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Trust in the multilateral system has been eroded by a decade of intractable conflicts, the flouting by many leaders of international agreements and the perceived incapacity of our institutions to deliver real solutions to pressing challenges. Through our “Vision Annan” programme of work, our aim is to raise awareness of Kofi Annan’s values and actions and their continued relevance. Our mission is to promote his core belief that structured international cooperation is key to solving challenges in today’s interconnected world.

We select initiatives such as lectures, scholarships, awards and exhibitions that commemorate Kofi Annan’s life or are named after him, and that convey his values and sustain his influence on contemporary events.

“Our futures, our prosperity and security, are wrapped up together more than ever before. No country, no matter how wealthy or powerful, can any longer stand on its own.”

— Kofi Annan
How we rebuilt trust in 2021: A selection of our work

Kofi Annan Award for Africa

The Kofi Annan Award for Innovation in Africa aims to recognize and support promising African social entrepreneurs with a sustainable business model in the further development of digital solutions for the common good.

The initiative was officially announced in November 2021 and the first three prizes (each for 250,000 euros) will be awarded in July 2022 to entrepreneurs with digital or technology-powered solutions that are helping to improve the health and well-being of people in Africa in line with SDG3.

Kofi Annan Scholars of the Weidenfeld-Hoffman Graduate Programme

In September, Oxford University’s Mansfield College welcomed its second cohort of Kofi Annan Scholars of the Weidenfeld-Hoffman graduate programme. The programme aims to provide outstanding university graduates and professionals from developing and emerging economies with the opportunity to pursue studies at the University of Oxford. In addition to their studies, the graduates participate in a tailor-made leadership programme that gives them practical skills and opportunities.

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The Kofi Annan Geneva Peace Address

As international tensions rise, solutions to conflicts seem elusive and nationalist agendas threaten international cooperation, it is more important than ever to talk about peace and to offer a platform to those who are building it, day after day.

The Kofi Annan Geneva Peace Address was officially launched on October 12, 2021 – the twentieth anniversary of the announcement that the United Nations and its Secretary-General Kofi Annan had won the Nobel Peace Prize.

We had the honour of welcoming Nobel Laureate Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to deliver the inaugural lecture. Africa’s first democratically elected female president, Ms Johnson Sirleaf was the President of Liberia from 2006 to 2018 and is a member of The Elders.

Ms Johnson Sirleaf was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2011 for her “non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women’s rights to full participation in peace-building work.”

The lecture was followed by a Q&A session moderated by the CEO of The New Humanitarian, Heba Aly.

The Kofi Annan Geneva Peace Address was organised in partnership with the Graduate Institute of Development and International Studies with the support of the Republic and State of Geneva, the City of Geneva and the Fondation pour Genève.

“My message to all of you today, in the spirit of my dear friend, mentor, and older brother Kofi, is we cannot go back. It is not enough to build back better. We must build forward. We must move on.”

– Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

2022 & beyond:

Selection of Projects We Hope to Deliver in 2022

- The Kofi Annan Courage in Cartooning Award
- Kofi Annan NextGen Democracy Prize
- The Inaugural Kofi Annan Road Safety Award Ceremony
- Kofi Annan Lecture Series: to set the tone ahead of the United Nations General Assembly in New York
- Kofi Annan Award for Innovation in Africa Award Ceremony

Click to view
In Africa, about 56 million children under 5 years are undernourished, whilst 30 million are acutely undernourished.

“By supporting Africa’s smallholder farmers, we can build an Africa free from hunger. We can build an Africa free from poverty. We can build an Africa proud to be economically strong and able to feed itself. That is the bountiful harvest that together we can and must achieve.” – Kofi Annan

In “Our Common Agenda,” the UN Secretary-General noted that nearly one in three people in the world (2.37 billion) did not have access to adequate food in 2020 – an increase of almost 320 million people in just one year. He called for food systems to be transformed, aligning with health, climate, equity and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Improving food security and strengthening food systems were also among Kofi Annan’s priorities.

Did you know?

In Africa, about 56 million children under 5 years are undernourished, whilst 30 million are acutely undernourished.
Interview with Mrs Annan

A discussion with Mrs Nane Annan about the benefits of orange-fleshed sweet potato.

In Africa, about 56 million children under 5 years are acutely undernourished, whilst 30 million are acutely undernourished. Mrs Nane Annan explains the role that the orange-fleshed sweet potato can play in strengthening nutrition and increasing women empowerment in agriculture.

Can you tell us more about the 2021 sweet potato project?

Orange-fleshed sweet potatoes (OFSP) contain high levels of beta-carotene. Research shows that just 125 grams of OFSP is enough for children to meet their daily vitamin A. Vitamin A deficiency remains a major public health problem in many African countries making children vulnerable to infections and diseases and preventing them from developing fully.

Why Orange-fleshed sweet potato?

We were delighted to receive part of a grant from AGRA (Africa Green Revolution Alliance) relating to OFSP to promote its beneficial qualities in Ghana. Fighting malnutrition was at the very core of the project.

Was this a new interest?

No, my husband and I had for a long time been interested in OFSP and traveled across Ghana to promote this climate smart crop. It can easily be used in traditional Ghanaian recipes but it can also be processed into chips or used for baking bread, to some degree replacing imported wheat.

What was the goal of the AGRA project?

It was to create demand and to scale up OFSP activities along the value-chain to the market. Its goal was to improve income, nutrition and livelihood opportunities for smallholder farmers and small enterprises, with a special focus on women and youth.

"Fighting malnutrition is at the very core of our project."

What will happen now?

It was a one-year project and we were part of a consortium with partners working on various aspects of the project. We were all united in our efforts to strengthen the OFSP value chain as a way of tackling malnutrition and improving livelihoods. Our hope is that the project will be regarded as a successful pilot and will inspire follow up action by AGRA and others. One of its objectives was precisely to set up a sustainable innovation platform to channel continued activities. So this is just the start!
The Foundation is currently participating in a project of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) promoting the orange-fleshed sweet potato (OFSP) in Ghana. Across Africa, bio-fortified sweet potatoes are already contributing to providing healthier diets for rural and urban populations, creating jobs and promoting entrepreneurship. The OFSP brings many health benefits, is climate-resilient and can benefit agribusinesses and smallholder farmers alike. The project aims to create demand and stimulate activities in the OFSP value chain, leading to income, nutrition and livelihood opportunities for smallholders, small and medium enterprises, and creating businesses led by youth and women.

Working with partners in Ghana, the Foundation is advocating for OFSP to be incorporated into government programs, mobilizing leadership, fostering greater public awareness around OFSP and promoting collaboration among a range of stakeholders.

With Mrs Nane Annan’s support and personal involvement, the Foundation initiated discussions with key stakeholders, including the World Food Programme (WFP), the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, Harvest Plus, the SUN Movement, the International Potato Centre, and the Office of the First Lady of Ghana to increase awareness and support for the project.

The Foundation organised two multi-stakeholder meetings and awareness creation events with consortium partners and additional stakeholders from government, universities, and the private sector from Ghana and the region. The meetings focused on opportunities for the development of OSFP value chains in Ghana through private and public sector efforts. The events also allowed for the sharing of experiences and lessons learned from other countries, including Nigeria and Uganda. As part of its global advocacy efforts, we promoted OFSP at key international policy summits.

Mrs Annan participated as a keynote speaker in the 2021 African Green Revolution Forum during a session on Africa’s solutions to safe and nutritious food for all. The Foundation also worked with the UN Food Systems Summit nutrition cluster and endorsed a statement in support of food fortification to improve nutrition security.

The benefits of orange-fleshed sweet potato

Sweet potato is a root crop that offers quick nutritional returns in the face of increasingly challenging weather conditions.

Instead of waiting up to a year to mature (as is the case with some other crops) sweet potato and all its nutritional benefits is RIPE AND READY IN AS LITTLE AS...

Just 125 grams of orange-fleshed sweet potato provides the

needed to avoid illness, blindness and stunting...

Its edible leaves are a rich source of lutein, essential for preventing sight degeneration.

OFSP is an optimal food choice for pregnant and lactating women and for women with children under two years of age.
The Foundation continues to uphold and promote Kofi Annan’s values of inclusion, diversity, and gender equality in its organizational and programmatic work. The Foundation is part of the International Gender Champions (IGC), a leadership network of over 250 Champions founded in 2015.

In 2021, the Foundation committed to two actions:
1) promoting gender-responsive communications
2) fostering an inclusive organizational culture.

Accordingly, we created a Gender, Equality, and Inclusion section on our website. Through a programmatic lens in the areas of peace, reconciliation, political participation and violent extremism, the page highlights the specific needs and experiences of women, especially marginalized and young women.

Did you know?
As the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be felt, closing the global gender gap has increased by a generation from 99.5 years to 135.6 years. Source: World Economic Forum’s Global Gender Gap Report 2021.

“Gender equality is more than a goal in itself. It is a precondition for meeting the challenge of reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development and building good governance.” – Kofi Annan

How we rebuilt trust in 2021:
A selection of our work

Our external advocacy work
- In a video series produced for International Women’s Day, young female leaders from Extremely Together Chapters in Uganda, Somalia, Pakistan, and the Philippines spoke about leadership, what inspires them, and shared messages addressed to other young women.
- The Foundation released a statement following the Taliban offensive about Afghan women’s rights.
- We published an article about women-led peace campaigns in Pakistan.
- We contributed to an interview of ET leader Hajer Sharief with the Geneva Observer about women’s rights in Libya.
- We signed the Young Women B+25 Manifesto by the Nala Feminist Collective.

Our internal commitment for promoting diversity
We raised awareness of staff and trained them on issues of diversity and inclusion, focusing on assumptions and implicit bias based on gender, age, race, disability, or background.
The advent of social media and other digital technologies brought new hope that Kenyan women would finally be able to circumvent some of the obstacles that hamper their participation in the governance of their country. The digital sphere had, and still has, the potential to empower women who want to participate in political and electoral processes. In reality, however, digital technologies have transformed many forms of gender-based violence into something that can be perpetrated online, across distances and borders. A dangerous myth in Kenya is that such online gender-based violence is not ‘real’ violence because it is not physical. In fact, online gender-based violence is just as destructive as offline violence.

Some malicious ways in which the digital space is used, especially during elections, include: doxing, trolling, cyberstalking, instigation of violence, blackmail, hate speech, humiliation, discrimination, defamation, identity theft and hacking, and sexual objectification.

The objective of the perpetrators is to silence women in both online and offline public spaces and ultimately to discourage them from participating in political life.

Perpetrators of online gender-based political violence can be freelancers and consultants hired to attack an individual at a price, as well as political party members and their supporters.

A recent study on sexism and violence against women in African parliaments by the Interparliamentary Union (IPU) and the African Parliamentary Union (APU) revealed that at least 42% of women parliamentarians had received death threats, rape threats, or threats of beating or abduction, online. Furthermore, the women reported that the primary perpetrators of such violence were their male counterparts from rival political parties, followed closely by male colleagues from the same party.

The Kenyan Constitution enshrines public participation as a key value, and this value should be extended to attempts to develop online rules of engagement. Kenya’s Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act and the National Cohesion and Integration Act criminalise the spread of disinformation and hate speech. The government appears intent on enforcing these laws in the lead up to the general elections in 2022.

However, stronger political goodwill is needed to ensure that there will be significant repercussions for egregious online behaviour that targets women. A digital code of conduct addressing gender-based political violence is vital to secure a healthy online ecosystem in Kenya.

The overall aim of such code of conduct would be to enhance Kenyan women’s democratic rights to engage in political and electoral processes and help those who have hesitated to participate and those who have left to return to the digital society and exercise their constitutionally mandated rights. It should be the product of robust public participation involving all administrative levels (county and ward). Political parties, political candidates, technology companies and civil society organisations would all have a role in their development.

The Kofi Annan Foundation and Centre for Multiparty Democracy (CMD Kenya) are now working with all relevant stakeholders to help facilitate the development of a gender-sensitive digital pledge contributing to a safer digital space for women ahead of Kenya’s 2022 election.
The Kofi Annan Foundation Board

We have an exceptional Board made up of global leaders from around the world.

Elhadj As Sy
Chair of the Board
Former Secretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

Nane Annan
Nutrition advocate, artist, and former lawyer. Nane Annan is the wife of the late Kofi Annan.

Louise Arbour
Canadian lawyer, prosecutor, and jurist. Former Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for International Migration.

Samson Itodo*
Lawyer and democracy activist from Nigeria. Founder of Yiaga Africa, an NGO whose mission is to promote democracy in Africa. *Joined 2022

Kyung-wha Kang
Former Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Republic of Korea, Ms Kang was previously United Nations Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator and Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights.
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Kofi Annan Foundation Staff

“Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.” – Andrew Carnegie

Staff in 2021

Corinne Momal-Vanian
Executive Director

Sofia Anton
Programme Manager: Youth, Peace and Trust

Claire Dorey
Communications Associate

Genna Ingold
Communications Manager

Amanda Kutch
Programme Associate: Youth, Peace and Trust

Fabian Lange
Senior Programme Manager: Elections and Democracy, Food Security

Li Ling Low
Head of Finance and Administration

Nelly Martin
Travel and Administration Coordinator

Natalie McDonnell
Senior Programme Manager: Youth, Vision Annan
We also want to thank our interns and any staff not listed who supported our work in 2021.

Special Advisers

Declan O’Brien
Senior Programme Coordinator: Elections and Democracy

Maud Roure
Deputy Director for Programmes

Karen Zamberia
Programme Officer: Elections and Democracy

We also want to thank our interns and any staff not listed who supported our work in 2021.
Funding

We are a not-for-profit organisation and depend on grants and philanthropic gifts. The Foundation is grateful to all the individuals, organisations, and governments whose financial partnership in 2021 made our work possible. We thank our funding partners, including those who choose to give anonymously, for their commitment to creating fairer, more peaceful, and prosperous communities.

PRIVATE DONORS

Nane Annan
Alain Dick
Sylvie Albisati
Gillian Sorensen
Jenö Staehelin

We would also like to thank our donors who contributed via our website and those who contributed anonymously.
Our achievements in 2021 would not have been possible without the expert support provided by the following partners:

Action Mental Health
Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)
Alianza para la Paz (APAZ)
Africa CDC
Agency for Peacebuilding
Austrian Development Agency (ADA)
BENI
Baraza Media Lab
Le Centre d’Accueil de la Genève Internationale (CAGI)
College of Youth Activism and Development (CYAAD)
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MakeSense
Mansfield College, Oxford
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Peace One Day
République et canton de Genève
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Tuffix
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UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP)
United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF)
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Bangkok Regional Hub
United Nations Department of Political Affairs (UNDPA)
United Nations Information Service in Geneva (UNIS)
United Network of Young Peacemakers (UNOY)
United States Institute of Peace (USIP)
University of Geneva
Ville de Genève
World Food Programme Innovation Accelerator
180 Grad Wende
**Finances**

Year ended 31 December 2021

The Foundation collaborates with a variety of other organisations and operates on a modest overall annual budget; for the fiscal year 2021, its annual expenditure was CHF 2.5 million*.

**2021 Expenses**

(unaudited) in thousand CHF

**TOTAL**

CHF 2.5 million

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**2021 Sources of Funds**

(unaudited) in thousand CHF

**TOTAL**

CHF 2.7 million

*Unaudited*
Support us

with your philanthropic gifts and grants

The Kofi Annan Foundation is an independent, not-for-profit organisation under Swiss law funded by a mix of public and private donors. None of our income is guaranteed, and without financial contributions from individuals, foundations, governments, and other institutions, we cannot carry out our work. We actively seek support from individuals and organisations who share our values and aims and who wish to invest in peace, development, and human rights.

- Do you want to help build a fairer, more peaceful world?
- Do you have an active interest in a specific issue that the Foundation addresses?
- Do you want to support one of our programmes or projects?

Please get in touch!

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