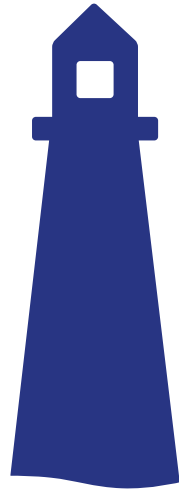




Kofi Annan
Foundation

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



**Standing Firm
in Fractured Times**



We stand
and fall
together

**“The battle for freedom and justice is never hopeless,
but it is never finally won. Every morning,
we must wake up ready to fight it again.”**

- Kofi Annan, “The Battle is Never Finally Won,” 2007





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FOREWORD FROM THE CHAIR

Elhadj As Sy

Chair of the Board

Moments of profound uncertainty test not only our institutions, but our values. In 2025, those tests have multiplied. International relations are increasingly marked by confrontation rather than cooperation. Conflicts persist and spread, while climate change and economic hardship deepen the vulnerability of millions, especially those already living at the margins. At the same time, we see a worrying erosion of respect for democracy, the rule of law, and international norms. Funding for international cooperation has all but dried up.

Yet, despite the gravity of today's challenges, 2025 has also been a year of real opportunity. Across regions, a well-connected, informed and determined generation of young people is stepping forward — demanding accountability, defending democratic principles, and proposing solutions that reflect both lived experience and global awareness. Their optimism is an effective antidote to growing cynicism. The severity of the crisis has also finally led to a realisation among many decision-makers and practitioners that meaningful reform of national and international institutions is no longer optional, but indispensable and urgent.

Throughout the year, the Foundation has continued to act as a bridge — between generations, sectors and regions — nurturing youth leadership, supporting democratic resilience, and advocating for more inclusive and effective multilateral cooperation.

The evolving political and financial context reinforces the relevance of our mandate, while requiring us to adapt our approaches. In 2026, therefore, the Foundation will work even more closely with a number of key partners, pooling expertise, influence and resources to deepen impact in a more fragmented world. Our Board is also changing. I am truly grateful to Louise Arbour, Susana Malcorra and Kyung-wha Kang, whose mandates ended in 2025, for their support to the Foundation over the years. We were delighted to welcome Kojo Annan, Catherine Bertini, John Nagulendran and Neha Sanghrajka who will help us renew and strengthen the Foundation in the years ahead.

Kofi Annan's values and legacy will help us weather the storm. He once said: "To live is to choose. But to choose well, you must know who you are and what you stand for, where you want to go and why you want to get there." Today, even as prevailing winds push us towards confrontation, self-interest and isolation, we choose to stand for solidarity, cooperation and dialogue.

Elhadj As Sy
Chair of the Board, Kofi Annan Foundation



“Throughout the year, the Foundation has continued to act as a bridge — between generations, sectors and regions — nurturing youth leadership, supporting democratic resilience, and advocating for more inclusive and effective multilateral cooperation.”

- Elhadj As Sy

ELHADJ AS SY



About the Kofi Annan Foundation

Our mission:

Our mission is to build on Kofi Annan’s legacy for peace by advancing youth leadership, defending democracy, and promoting international cooperation.

Who We Are:

The Kofi Annan Foundation is an independent, non-profit organisation established in Geneva, Switzerland, in 2007 by former United Nations Secretary-General and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Kofi Annan. Our Board is composed of prominent personalities from the public and private sectors around the world.

We work to build 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.

Our values

Our work is guided by the courage, integrity, optimism, and creativity that defined Kofi Annan’s leadership. We uphold his values of honesty, fairness, impartiality, compassion, and discretion. Inclusion, equality, accountability, and sustainability are at the heart of everything we do.

Our approach

We work closely with partners from international and regional organisations, foundations, universities, and civil society. Our approach combines top-down policy advocacy and private diplomacy with bottom-up grassroots engagement.

We convene stakeholders, build coalitions of trusted influence, support local actors through capacity-building and sub-granting, and contribute to research, policy development, and public advocacy. Through these efforts, we amplify Kofi Annan’s legacy and translate values into action.



Our Strategic Objectives:

Our work is guided by three Strategic Objectives:

- 1) **Empowering youth to build a peaceful, sustainable future**, by supporting young leaders and youth-led networks to strengthen social cohesion, resilience, and peace.
- 2) **Turning back the tide of democratic erosion**, by promoting credible elections, strengthening democratic institutions, and countering disinformation.
- 3) **Promoting a more equitable and effective multilateralism**, by advancing dialogue, reform proposals, and public engagement around international cooperation and global governance.

KOFI ANNAN

Our unique strengths

The Foundation is uniquely positioned to bridge regions, generations, and sectors. With a small, agile Geneva-based secretariat and an exceptional global network, we are able to act swiftly and credibly, free from bureaucratic constraints.

Our name, expertise, and partnerships are our greatest assets, and we actively cultivate all three to maximise impact and deliver strong value for our partners and donors.

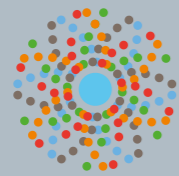


SCAN THE QR CODE TO JOIN OUR MAILING LIST AND STAY UPDATED WITH OUR WORK AND IMPACT.

Our impact

The Kofi Annan Foundation has a proven record of preventing and defusing electoral crises, strengthening the capacity of local and international actors to address disinformation, empowering young leaders, and bringing issues of violence, exclusion, and discrimination to international attention.

Through our programmes, advocacy, and convening power, we contribute to policy debates, support peaceful democratic transitions, promote youth leadership, and advance international cooperation in an increasingly fragmented world.



Our priorities & areas of work

Africa

Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Malawi, Niger, Somalia, Tanzania, Sudan, Senegal, Uganda

Asia

Indonesia, Lebanon, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand

Europe and North America

Brussels, Switzerland, Italy, USA (advocacy and convening)

Europe

North America

Africa

Asia

Covering the following sustainable development goals:



SCAN TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE

2025 in numbers

This section offers a snapshot of the Kofi Annan Foundation's tangible achievements and pivotal moments from 2025.

673 million

An estimated number of people worldwide facing hunger,



representing approximately one in 11 people globally. This figure represents the vast scale of the global hunger crisis our Kofi Annan Commission on Food Security (KACFS) was formed to address, providing a stark context for its urgent recommendations.

4 new projects

Throughout 2025, we launched four major new projects to expand our programmatic footprint:



10+

The number of young leaders trained in psychological first aid,

peacebuilding and climate action through "Power with YOUTH" pilot training in the Philippines, as part of our Champions for Peace project.

32 participants

completed a 3-day training course for State and Non-State Actors in Preventing & Countering Violent Extremism as part of our Peace Beyond Borders project.



CHF

130,000:

The fundraising target for our Youth Impact Fund. This initiative is designed to provide direct support to grassroots projects, empowering young innovators to implement their own solutions for peace and democracy.

10

The number of countries we produced analysis for to complement our 2026 Electoral Vulnerability Index.



8000

The number of people impacted by Kofi Annan Changemakers seed grant projects in 2025.

Almost 800 people attended the 2025 Kofi Annan Geneva Peace Address in-person and online.

1,000+ applications:



THE OVERWHELMING RESPONSE TO OUR SAWA PROJECT.

This number demonstrates the immense and urgent need for youth-led initiatives focused on mental health and well-being in peacebuilding contexts.

29

The number of young mental health professionals and advocates from six Eastern African countries who convened in Nairobi for the Sawa Project's Young Leaders Conference.

59

The number of young people from Lebanon

who participated in the Rooting for the Future project to restore a shared cultural heritage site in Tripoli and take part in dialogue sessions.

13 new Changemakers:

We welcomed 13 new young leaders to our flagship youth leadership initiative, making the total number of Changemakers 62 and counting. These inspiring young leaders were selected from a global pool of hundreds nominations and represent countries as diverse as, Africa, Asia, Europe and South America.



Key Milestones Across the Year

In 2025, a year of significant global challenges, these milestones provide tangible evidence of our progress in executing the Foundation's mission across its core pillars of Youth & Peace, Elections & Democracy, and Multilateralism. The following timeline captures the major events, launches, and accomplishments that defined our year.

Launch of The Digitalise Youth Project which aims to address the shrinking civic space and rampant disinformation in the Sahel and neighbouring regions by empowering local youth activists and civil society organisations. It focuses on enhancing digital skills, promoting civic tech solutions, and raising awareness about online political engagement.



Roundtable & Project Launch
As part of our series of roundtables on Multilateralism and Democracy, we co-hosted a high-level policy dialogue at the United Nations in Geneva to explore the critical links between multilateralism, democracy, and human rights.

We launched Peace Beyond Borders, a project in the DRC and Uganda to transform communities from targets of violence into agents of sustainable peace and resilience.

Policy Dialogues & Discussions
The Foundation co-hosted a high-level Policy Dialogue in Brussels to explore the place democracy should occupy in the new security agenda. We also joined leading democracy organizations in a public call urging NATO and the European Union to bolster investments in democratic resilience as a core component of security.

We co-hosted a film screening and panel discussion that brought together leading experts, diplomats, and scholars to explore the historical legacy, current challenges, and future prospects of the Security Council veto in a rapidly evolving geopolitical landscape.



10 finalists
10 finalists were chosen for the 2025 Kofi Annan NextGen Democracy Prize. The prize was awarded to Julián Rodríguez Sastoque (Colombia) at the Athens Democracy Forum in October 2025 for his transition from activism to local governance.

100 young leaders from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao in the Philippines participated in the Champions for Peace training on resilience and social cohesion, "Power with YOUTH".

10 working groups established
in Uganda and DRC border areas to facilitate cooperation between local governments and civil society on the prevention and countering of violent extremism.

We convened 29 young leaders in Nairobi for the Sawa Project's inaugural Young Leaders Conference, and co-hosted a high-level panel that produced a communiqué calling for an inclusive political settlement to the conflict in Sudan.



How to Fix a Broken Food System
10 recommendations
Launch of the landmark final report of the Kofi Annan Commission on Food Security, presenting an actionable roadmap to reform global food governance.

10 young leaders
As part of WYDE Accountability Hubs, ten African young leaders joined a week-long programme in Dar es Salaam to strengthen democratic resilience and promote safe spaces for women in politics.

Strengthening accountability
The second cohort of WYDE Accountability Hubs members convened in Senegal for the second week of training focused on equipping them with the skills and knowledge needed to strengthen democratic governance across the continent.

The third Kofi Annan Road Safety Award was held in Eswatini.

11 young leaders completed our Rooting for the Future Training of Trainers in Lebanon on facilitation skills.

Predicting Electoral Violence
In collaboration with UpSight, we released the 2025-2026 Electoral Vulnerability Index (EVI), a data-driven tool designed to predict and prevent election-related violence.

The 2025 Kofi Annan Peace Address, a flagship event of Geneva Peace Week, was delivered by Martin Griffiths, former UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, on the theme of "Peace-Making in Fractured Times."

Also during Geneva Peace Week we co-organised a Climate, Peace and Security workshop to explore pathways for resilience, conflict prevention and peace.

13 young leaders
We welcomed the 2025 cohort of 13 Kofi Annan Changemakers to Geneva for their week-long in-person leadership module and co-organized a workshop on youth, climate, and peace at the 2nd EU Conference on Youth, Peace and Security.

Youth & Peace: our work in 2025

— EMPOWERING YOUTH TO BUILD A SUSTAINABLE AND PEACEFUL FUTURE —

In a year of strategic consolidation, we sharpened our focus on high-impact interventions that address the root causes of conflict. Recognising that sustainable peace requires more than political agreements, we successfully integrated mental health and cultural heritage as essential pillars of community resilience.

This approach allows us to address the interconnected needs of young peacebuilders, equipping them with the support systems and sense of identity necessary to lead effectively in fractured societies.

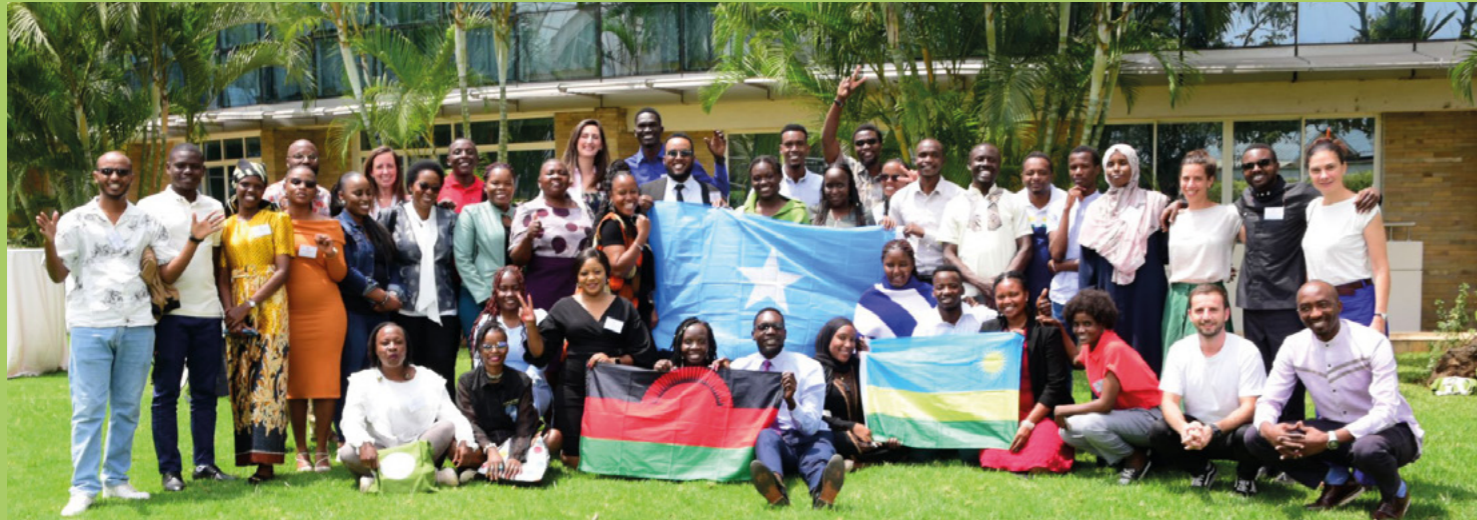
By investing in the well-being and collaborative capacity of young leaders, we are building the foundation of resilient individuals and peaceful communities.

“You are never too young to lead, and you should never doubt your capacity to triumph where others have not.”

- Kofi Annan



DISCOVER MORE ABOUT OUR
YOUTH & PEACE WORK



The Sawa Project: Prioritising Mental Health

THE CORNERSTONE OF OUR MENTAL HEALTH FOCUS, THE INITIATIVE ADDRESSES YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS, SUPPORT AND POLICY ACROSS KENYA, MALAWI, RWANDA, SOMALIA, TANZANIA, AND UGANDA.

Partners: MCW Global, Africa Alliance of YMCAs. Funded by Wellcome

The Challenge: In Africa, a staggering 98.8% of youth in need of mental health services do not receive them. In Kenya alone, there are just 0.19 psychiatrists per 100,000 people, with services heavily concentrated in urban areas, leaving rural youth underserved.

Launched in 2025, the Sawa Project aims to raise awareness, expand access to mental health care, and strengthen mental health policy in Eastern Africa. Our aim is to equip young mental health professionals, community organisers, and advocates in Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda with

“This journey has been nothing short of inspiring connecting with brilliant minds, meeting fellow East Africans, and sharing ideas that can shape the future of mental health in our region.”

**– Mohamed Dahir Omar
Medical Doctor and Participant**

the skills, resources, and networks needed to drive change.

Our Actions: Through leadership training, advocacy support, and seed funding, the project’s actions will enable young leaders to create impactful educational programmes, awareness campaigns, and outreach initiatives that expand access to mental health services and reduce stigma.

The 2025 Milestone: The project convened 29 young mental health practitioners and professionals from Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda for a week-long

“It was clear that changing the narrative of mental health in Africa will take the collective effort and co-creation of programs involving individuals in various sectors working together. As a collective, we can do more in shaping mental healthcare across East Africa and beyond.”

**– Sawa Project participant,
Howard Bowa, Malawi**

training and network-building workshop , co-designed by the participants themselves.

The Impact: This gathering was instrumental in expanding the Eastern African youth mental health network to advocate for policy change and destigmatize mental health. By the end of 2025, ten initiatives developed by this youth network received seed grant funding and mentorship to develop community-driven mental health solutions across the region.

Learn more about the project on page 24.



[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SAWA PROJECT](#)

Champions for Peace: Youth Resilience and Social Cohesion in Southeast Asia

CHAMPIONS FOR PEACE EMPOWERS YOUTH IN THE PHILIPPINES, SINGAPORE, THAILAND, INDONESIA, AND MALAYSIA TO ADDRESS SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL FRAGILITIES AND CONTRIBUTE TO A MORE PEACEFUL AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.

Partners: Implemented with KRIS for Peace in partnership with and with financial contributions from the Temasek Foundation, Nagulendran Philanthropy Alliance and the Diana Koh Fund, administered by Asia Community Foundation.



Key Achievement: Our work in the Philippines reached a major milestone in 2025 with the completion of the “Power with YOUth” pilot training for 100 emerging leaders.

From Ideas to Action: Out of 28 project proposals developed during the training, five initiatives received seed grants to address local needs, ranging from mental health support to flood-related storytelling.

Scaling Up: Building on this success, we have identified key partners to expand the curriculum into Singapore with hash. peace, Malaysia with SmallChanges, Indonesia with Indonesia Education, Youth and Social (IYES), and Thailand with DotToDot.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT CHAMPIONS FOR PEACE](#)





Rooting for the Future: Heritage as a Bridge

UPSKILLING YOUTH IN LEBANON THROUGH CULTURAL HERITAGE RESTORATION TO FOSTER SOCIAL COHESION.

Partners: Fight for Humanity, Permanent Peace Movement, the Institut Européen de Coopération et de Développement, and the Directorate General of Antiquities in Lebanon. Funded by ALIPH with the financial participation of the Municipality of Monaco.

Rooting for the Future works side-by-side with Lebanese youth in the restoration of the historic Citadel of Tripoli, equipping them with technical and professional skills to build trust and break down inter-communal barriers. 59 young people from diverse socio-economic, religious, and geographic backgrounds have taken part in 26 dialogue sessions where they discussed memory, cultural heritage, dealing with the

past, and youth leadership. Through these sessions, they were also taught about project management and the foundational knowledge of leading a project. This segment also provided them the ability to apply for seed grants.

Economic Opportunity: The project provides vocational training in highly skilled restoration techniques, creating pathways to employment in a region with high

youth unemployment.

Seed Grants: In 2025, four youth-led initiatives received funding to increase the awareness and pride of Tripoli communities of the Citadel and the City's tangible and intangible heritage.



[DISCOVER MORE ABOUT ROOTING FOR THE FUTURE](#)

Kofi Annan Changemakers: A Growing Global Community

NOW ENTERING ITS SIXTH YEAR, THIS INITIATIVE REMAINS OUR FLAGSHIP INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE AND TRAINING PROGRAMME

Partners: Organised in collaboration with the Geneva International Welcome Center, Geneva Graduate Institute and the International Telecommunications Union.. Funded by the Jenö Staehelin Foundation.

An Intergenerational Dialogue for Impact: The Kofi Annan Changemakers initiative elevates and supports young people by giving them a space to dialogue with and seek counsel from experienced leaders on issues of deep concern, whilst affording the opportunity to leaders to better understand the preoccupations of young people.

Across the year, the Changemakers follow online dialogue sessions and workshops with former colleagues and friends of Kofi Annan and the Foundation, receive guidance from mentors and receive a small seed grant to expand their impact. The programme includes a week-long in person module in Geneva, Switzerland, which provides an opportunity to expand their network, meet

their peers and present their seed-grant projects proposals in front of a diverse audience composed of mentors, partner organisations from International Geneva and youth groups.

The 2025 Cohort: 13 young leaders from 13 countries were selected to join the global network and to participate in the Kofi Annan Changemakers programme including training workshops, intergenerational dialogue, mentorship, seed grants and networking.

Continuing the Legacy: The community now comprises 62 young leaders from 42 countries, all carrying forward Kofi Annan's values through their action at the local, national and international levels.



[DISCOVER MORE ABOUT THE KOFI ANNAN CHANGEMAKERS INITIATIVE](#)

Peace Beyond Borders: Cross-Border Prevention of Violent Extremism

ACCELERATING LOCALLY GROUNDED SOLUTIONS FOR PREVENTING AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC) AND UGANDA

Partners: Prospect Initiative (Uganda) and Pole Institute (DRC). Funded by the EU.

Pace Beyond Borders supports the engagement of all stakeholders – local authorities, civil society organizations, at-risk communities and victims of violent extremism – in efforts to prevent violence. Cross-border exchanges also allow for the sharing of experience about the regional dimension of the threat and the development of joint responses between Congolese and Ugandan actors.

Radios as a powerful tool for community awareness about the risk of violent extremism: Broadcast on local radios and in local languages, radio drama and programmes were used to heighten vigilance among the general public against the threat of violence. The numerous calls from community members after each episode showed a high level of interest and the radios' wide reach.

Victims' needs: Victims are often neglected in efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism. To

address this gap, our partners Prospect and Pole Institute conducted a needs assessment of victims' needs and resilience factors. They also helped them strengthen their advocacy capacities and strategies to make their voices heard. In Uganda, Prospect helped victims organize themselves into an association that was legally registered in 2025.

Protecting youth from manipulation: In DRC, 100 young people vulnerable to recruitment by armed groups were trained on understanding and fighting hate speech, civic engagement, and ways to resist identity manipulation.



[DISCOVER MORE ABOUT PEACE BEYOND BORDERS](#)



Environment of Peace: From Youth-Led Research to Policy and Action

STRENGTHENING YOUTH LEADERSHIP AT THE INTERSECTION OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND CONFLICT

Partners: CercleDev, Elman Peace, Hive Pakistan, KRIS for Peace, Prospect Initiative, Suudu Andal.

In 2025, the Environment of Peace programme focused on translating youth-led research into policy engagement and programme development at the intersection of climate change and conflict.

Perspectives from marginalised youth: The programme builds on youth-led research completed in 2024 with the support of the Global Challenges Foundation. Young researchers engaged peers aged 15–30 in Burkina Faso, Niger, Pakistan, the Philippines, Somalia and Uganda, including in highly isolated and conflict-affected areas severely impacted by climate change.

The research documents how climate change and conflict shape young people's lives and opportunities, and highlights the perspectives of marginalised young men and women who have rarely, if ever, been consulted on these issues.

“In Marawi, many of us have had leave our homes multiple times... uncertainty and fear are overwhelming, especially for the younger generation.”

A young leader from Marawi, Philippines.

From Evidence to Policy and Programming:

In 2025, the Foundation and its youth partners prioritised the dissemination and uptake of the findings and recommendations.

- In April, the Kofi Annan Foundation co-organised an Environment of Peace event with the European External Action Service (EEAS) and presented research results and policy recommendations to a specialised EU audience.
- In May, Anja Tresse, Partnerships & Programme Manager, and Aaliyah Kaiira from our Ugandan partner Prospect, co-hosted a workshop with the Folke Bernadotte Academy, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and SIPRI on the intersection of youth, peace, and climate at the Stockholm Forum.
- In November, three youth researchers from Niger, Uganda, and the Philippines participated in the second European Union's Youth, Peace and Security Conference. Their contributions supported the stronger integration of climate considerations across thematic discussions and were reflected in the conference's final report and outcome declaration, which incorporated several of the research recommendations.

In parallel, the Foundation and its youth partners developed new project concepts to support young people facing the combined pressures of climate change and conflict.

These proposals focus on equipping affected youth with climate-resilient skills, restoring and building sustainable livelihoods, and supporting community-level dialogue to reduce tensions linked to environmental stress.

HIGHLIGHT STORY

Voices of Resilience: Transforming Mental Health in Eastern Africa

IN AFRICA, THE WORLD'S YOUNGEST CONTINENT, WITH A MEDIAN AGE OF JUST 19.7, MENTAL HEALTH IS NOT A PERIPHERAL ISSUE; IT IS A FUNDAMENTAL PILLAR OF PEACE AND PRODUCTIVITY. A STAGGERING 98.8% OF YOUTH IN NEED OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ON THE CONTINENT DO NOT RECEIVE THEM.



Across East and Southern Africa, one in four young people lives with depression or anxiety, yet fewer than 30% can access the care they need. And, in Kenya alone, there are just 0.19 psychiatrists per 100,000 people, with services heavily concentrated in urban areas, leaving rural youth underserved.

Against this backdrop, the Sawa Project (“Sawa” meaning “Okay” in Swahili) convened its inaugural Young Leaders Conference in Nairobi from September 3-5, 2025. The gathering was designed around a unique leadership model that prioritises lived experience as a tool for systemic change.



Over three days, 29 young mental health professionals and advocates from Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Somalia, Tanzania, and Uganda worked to build a unified front against the stigma that often silences those suffering in their communities.

The conference offered them a space for reflection, knowledge sharing and collaboration. It laid the foundation for participants to translate ideas into joint action to develop solutions for their community and for advocacy and care.

The conference enabled the young leaders to expand their mental health network, to share resources and advocate for policy reform at local, national and regional levels.



The work did not end when the participants returned home. To translate these visions into reality, the Sawa Project awarded seed grants to ten initiatives - 7 individual projects and three regional projects - at the end of 2025. These grants, paired with ongoing mentorship, are powering diverse projects - from school-based awareness campaigns to the development of new outreach tools - across the region.

“Leadership begins when you’re brave enough to speak your pain. Storytelling builds empathy, challenges norms, and amplifies silenced voices.”

- Ruth Nazzinda, Filmmaker, Uganda

By investing in these youth-led solutions, the Sawa Project is ensuring that young mental health professionals become the architects of a more resilient, inclusive future for mental well-being in Eastern Africa.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Youth & Peace: Advocacy 2025

SHARING INSIGHTS AND ACTIONABLE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Maud Roure, Deputy Executive Director, shared insights on the nexus of violent extremism and climate fragility in West Africa as part of a Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) and Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) panel discussion. (January 2025)

Corinne Momal-Vanian, Executive Director, contributed a session on why cultural heritage protection is a key component to building sustainable development and peace

at the 2025 ALIPH Conference. (May 2025)

During the Sawa Young Leaders Conference in Nairobi, co-organised by the Kofi Annan Foundation, the Africa Alliance of YMCAs and MCW Global, Maud Roure and Linda Peterhans shared their knowledge with participants via a workshop on community outreach, mobilisation, and advocacy. (September 2025)

Linda Peterhans represented the Kofi Annan Foundation at the inaugural

in-person gathering of the Possibilists Alliance in Berlin where she shared ideas for driving collective action and building trust among global youth networks. (October 2025)

Maud Roure and Linda Peterhans shared insights on supporting young people's mental health globally at a roundtable organized by UNICEF and the Global Coalition for Youth Mental Health. (November 2025)

CONVENING EXPERTS

The Kofi Annan Foundation joined forces with SeeD, Saferworld, and KRIS for Peace to co-host a workshop exploring evidence-based tools to strengthen peace and resilience against climate challenges during Geneva Peace Week. (September 2025)

Youth leaders from our Environment of Peace project, representing the Philippines, Niger, and Uganda presented actionable recommendations for integrating climate action into peacebuilding strategies at the 2nd EU Conference on Youth, Peace and Security. (November 2025)

The Kofi Annan Foundation co-organised a working lunch, "Connecting for Mental Health: Building Bridges among Private and Public Humanitarian Actors," with Peace of Mind Foundation, convening over 15 actors in the mental health field across Switzerland. (December 2025)



DISSEMINATING OUR PROJECTS, ACTIONS AND IMPACT

Linda Peterhans, Programme Manager, presented the Kofi Annan Changemakers initiative during a session on youth civic participation at the European Partnerships for Democracy (EPD) Webinar Week. (Jan 2025)

We presented our research results and policy recommendations to a specialised EU audience through an Environment of Peace event co-organised with the European External Action Service (EEAS), the EU's diplomatic service. (April 2025)

Maud Roure, Anja Tresse and Arizza Nocum presented the Champions for Peace project as an example of ICCS-inspired social cohesion at the 2025 International Conference on Cohesive Societies (ICCS) in Singapore. (June 2025)

Prospect, our local partners for Peace Beyond Borders, organised a national roundtable in Uganda for the International Day of Remembrance of Victims of Terrorism, where they presented a mapping of victims' needs and resilience factors. (August 2025)



Youth & Peace: Strategic Priorities 2026 & Beyond



As we enter 2026, the Kofi Annan Foundation is transitioning from a year of strategic consolidation to one of high-impact expansion. By scaling our successful 2025 pilots, we are ensuring that young leaders have the institutional support, mental health resilience, and cross-border networks needed to build a more peaceful world.

Sustaining “Extremely Together” in the Sahel: With funding secured from the Canton of Geneva, we will move into the full implementation phase of our Sahel project in Niger and Burkina Faso with Suudu Andal and Cercle Dev. This initiative will train a core group of young leaders to mobilize their peers against youth recruitment by armed groups and to build peace.

Regional Expansion in Southeast Asia: In January 2026, we will convene the

Champions for Peace Regional Conference in Singapore. This landmark event will bring together youth leaders from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, and Singapore to establish a regional platform for “harmony in diversity” and youth-led climate resilience and to roll out the youth training tested in the Philippines to the other countries of the project.

Advancing the Mental Health Agenda: 2026 will focus on advocacy and support within the Sawa project. From January to June, 10 youth-led initiatives will receive mentorship and funding to implement community-driven mental health solutions across the East-African region.

Cultural Heritage: We hope to expand our work on cultural heritage as a factor of social cohesion and bring young people to work on new sites in Lebanon.

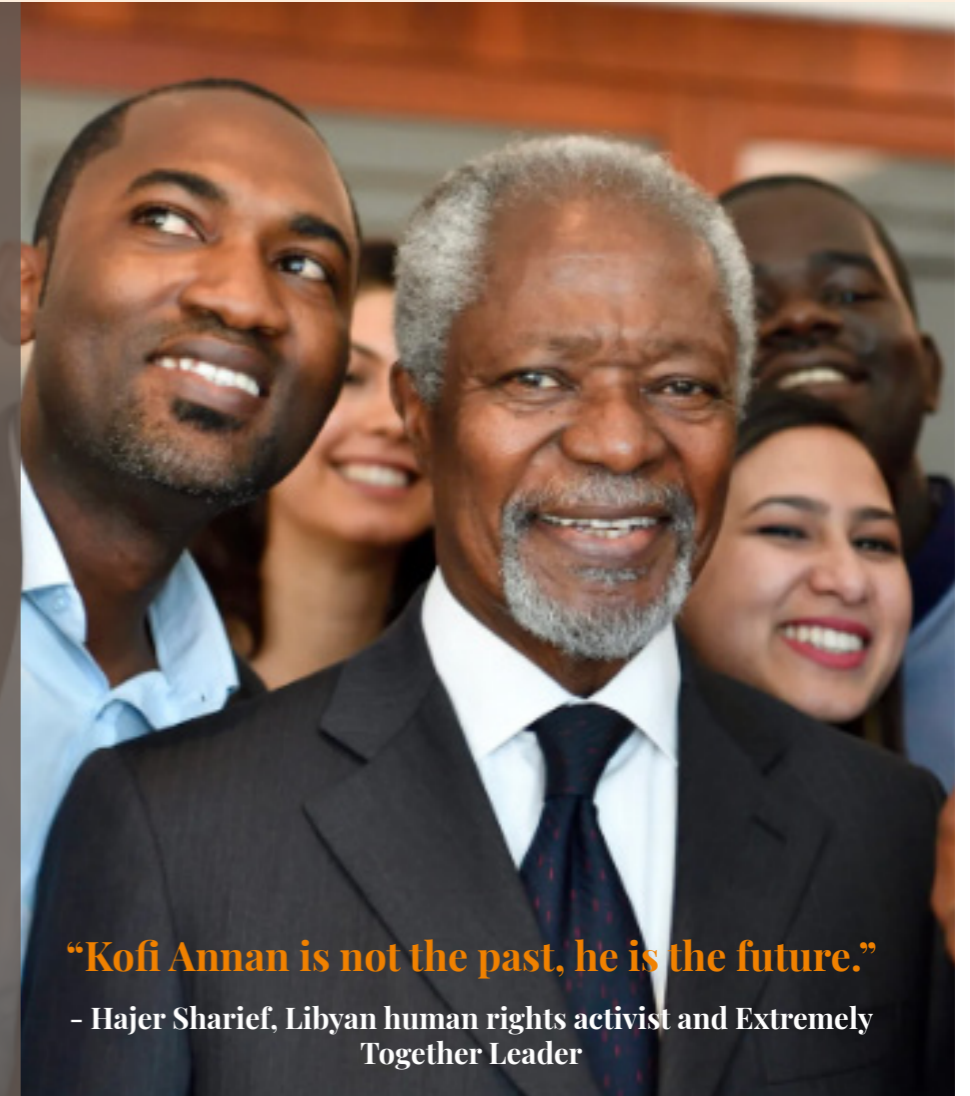
Empowering the Next Generation of Leaders:

THE KOFI ANNAN YOUTH IMPACT FUND

Half the world’s population is under 30, and young people are uniquely positioned to drive societal change. With their energy, creativity, and idealism, they offer innovative solutions, bridge divides, and challenge injustice. Yet, despite their potential, young leaders often struggle to access the funding and support they need to make a lasting impact. We must support their efforts, highlight their innovations, and help them access resources and influence policy.

This is why we aim to establish a fund dedicated to supporting young leaders who embody Kofi Annan’s vision. With your contribution, we can empower more young leaders and create a lasting network of changemakers driving positive global change.

[FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE FUND:](#)



“Kofi Annan is not the past, he is the future.”

- Hajer Sharief, Libyan human rights activist and Extremely Together Leader

Elections & Democracy: our work in 2025

— TURNING BACK THE TIDE OF DEMOCRATIC EROSION —

Amidst a global trend of democratic backsliding and weakened trust in institutions, the Foundation intensified its focus on fortifying democratic principles from the ground up. We prioritised critical levers for change in the modern political landscape: digital literacy, ethical leadership and identifying electoral vulnerabilities.

Our work has expanded a global network of rising democratic leaders, and elevated public discourse on democracy and international cooperation through strategic advocacy and communications.

By equipping young leaders and activists with the tools to defend democratic spaces and counter

disinformation, we are ensuring that the next generation of political actors can champion integrity.



**DISCOVER MORE
ABOUT OUR
DEMOCRACY AND
ELECTIONS WORK**



“Politics is too important to be left only to politicians. Democracy depends on the lively participation of organised civil society in political life.” – Kofi Annan

Leadership Excellence in Politics (LEiP): Rebuilding Trust in Political Leadership

— RECOGNISING EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP SHOWN BY YOUNG ACTIVISTS IN DEFENDING,
RENEWING AND PROMOTING DEMOCRACY —

Now in its second year, the Leadership Excellence in Politics initiative continued to create a global community of young political leaders equipped to engage constructively in democratic governance and multilateral processes. Through political leadership training, research and advocacy, LEiP aims to increase healthier, constructive dialogue about expectations between politicians and citizens.

*Partners: The Better Politics Foundation and Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP).
Funded by Movetia.*



2025 Training:

A cohort of 14 aspiring politicians from four continents gathered in Geneva in May 2025 for a week-long intensive course on ethical leadership.

The 2025 training included:

14 participants from 13 nationalities across all continents

Sessions on leadership skills, political strategy, ethical governance, and resilience

High-level speakers including former heads of state, diplomats, and UN officials

Visits to CERN, the United Nations, and the Hôtel de Ville

A 4.93/5 overall satisfaction rating, with measurable improvement across all learning categories

The “Kofi Annan Way”:

Highlights included a dialogue with former Swiss President Simonetta Sommaruga and technical visits to CERN and the UN Palais des Nations.



**FIND OUT MORE
ABOUT LEiP VIA
OUR WEBSITE**



The Kofi Annan NextGen Democracy Prize: Recognising Exceptional Leadership

Awarded each year to a young leader aged between 18 and 30, the aim of the Kofi Annan NextGen Democracy prize is to recognise exceptional leadership and inspire more young people to commit to the advancement of democracy.

Partner: The Democracy and Culture Foundation



Julián Rodríguez Sastoque, receiving the Kofi Annan NextGen Democracy Prize 2025 from Corinne-Momal Vanian, Executive Director of the Kofi Annan Foundation.

Each year, we run an international nomination and selection cycle, inviting people to nominate young leaders who strengthen democratic institutions and fight for justice. The Prize is presented at the Athens Democracy Forum, held in association with The New York Times, ensuring wide international media coverage

The winner receives:

USD
10,000

A commissioned
work
of art

A one-year
mentorship
with a senior
democracy leader

2025 Winner: Julián Rodríguez Sastoque

The 2025 Kofi Annan NextGen Democracy Prize was awarded to Julián Rodríguez Sastoque of Colombia, whose journey serves as a powerful model for young leaders worldwide.

Julián began his journey as a student activist at age 13, eventually mobilizing 15,000 Colombians to contribute to the national SDG definitions. In 2019, he became the youngest elected official in Colombia's history, winning a seat on Bogotá's City Council at just 23 years old.

At the Athens Democracy Forum in October 2025, Julián reflected on the challenge of his journey: "From youth activism...to politics, this transition has been the greatest challenge of my life".

Through his platform, +YouthInPolitics, Julián has already trained thousands of young people in social control and research, proving that student activism can be translated into tangible institutional change.

[Watch Julian's acceptance speech via our website](#)

Digitalise Youth: Breaking Down Barriers to Inclusive Democratic Participation

LAUNCHED IN JANUARY 2025 AS PART OF THE DIGITAL DEMOCRACY INITIATIVE, DIGITALISE YOUTH ADDRESSES THE URGENT THREAT OF ONLINE DISINFORMATION IN DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES ACROSS THE SAHEL AND NEIGHBOURING REGIONS.

Partners: The European Partnership for Democracy, Africtivistes, Cfi Media Development, Code for Africa, World Scouting and the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy. Powered by the Digital Democracy Initiative, co-funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, the European Union and Norway.

The Digitalise Youth project is being carried out in 14 countries in the Sahel and neighbouring regions: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Ethiopia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Togo.

Equipping young leaders and media to navigate the digital ecosystem: By connecting human rights defenders and the tech community, the project equips young activists and media organisations with the knowledge and tools to navigate the digital ecosystem, protect themselves from surveillance, and fight against disinformation. In addition to its capacity-building work, Digitalise Youth's advocacy efforts seek to promote digital rights at local, regional, and international levels.

The Milestone: We successfully connected human rights defenders with the tech community to navigate complex digital ecosystems.

The Impact: Activists were equipped with technical skills to protect themselves from surveillance and identify false narratives designed to polarise societies during sensitive electoral cycles.

Advocacy: In late 2025, the project expanded its reach to promote digital rights at regional and international levels.

[Find out more about Digitalise Youth on our website](#)



WYDE Accountability Hubs: Strengthening Governance in Africa

EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF AFRICAN LEADERS WITH SKILLS IN FINANCIAL AND POLITICAL ACCOUNTABILITY, DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT, TO JOINTLY PUSH FOR MORE ACCOUNTABLE AND TRANSPARENT GOVERNANCE AND PEACEFUL, INCLUSIVE AND STABLE SOCIETIES.

Partners: Westminster Foundation for Democracy and The Oslo Center. Funded by the European Partnership for Democracy and the European Union.

Despite young people making up over 70% of the population in Sub-Saharan Africa, they remain systematically excluded from public affairs. Our Accountability Hubs project bridges this gap.

Regional Convenings: In 2025, we held major learning events across the year online and in person in Tanzania (February) and Senegal (April), training 20 young leaders in project management and financial accountability.

High-Level Mentorship: Participants engaged in private sessions with figures like H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, former President of Tanzania to gain inspiration on ethical leadership.

From Learning to Action: Following the 2025 training, 20 new youth-led pilot projects were launched to improve transparency in local governance. In 2026, we will share the impact of their work through a dedicated microsite.

[FIND OUT MORE ABOUT WYDE ACCOUNTABILITY HUBS ON OUR WEBSITE](#)



Electoral Vulnerability Index (EVI): Predicting Election-Related Violence



THE RELEASE OF THE 2025-2026 ELECTORAL VULNERABILITY UPDATE PROVIDED A VITAL ANALYTICAL TOOL FOR POLICYMAKERS AND INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS.

Partners: UpSight QRA.

We continue our work to identify elections at high risk for election-related violence, enabling experts to engage proactively on the diplomatic or technical fronts.

New for 2025: For the first time, we complemented our quantitative data with qualitative pre-electoral analysis for ten high-risk countries.

[Find out more about the Electoral Vulnerability Index on our website](#)

HIGHLIGHT STORY

Amplifying young women's voices: Transforming budget participation in Kwale County, Kenya

In Kenya, Mealii Swazuri's *Young Women at the Table* project teaches vulnerable young women budget literacy, moving from unseen beneficiaries to authors of their first budget memorandum.

Kwale County, Kenya, young women's voices have been largely absent from the public consultations that shape county budgets and determine the quality and delivery of community services.

While government-sponsored education programmes and other public services directly benefit young women, many remain unaware that these opportunities originated from community participation in budget-making processes. This disconnect has meant that young women have had little say in shaping the very services they depend upon for education, healthcare, employment, and social support.

Recognising the missing voices at the table

Mealii's awakening to this came through a conversation with a friend who had received a government scholarship for university. When Mealii asked whether her friend attended public consultations, the answer was a simple "no."

More striking was the revelation that her friend had no idea her scholarship existed because community members had proposed it through public participation, debated it through the county assembly, and secured budget allocation for it.

"I realised that even as young women or as youth, there are services that we are enjoying at the community that we did not participate in shaping."

This moment confirmed a pattern Mealii had observed at public consultations in her ward: few young women were present, and those who were simply would not speak. Mealii knew that young women needed greater say in shaping the services aimed at them, and from this realisation, the Young Women at the Table project was born.



Training and networking for change

The Young Women at the Table project was supported by the WYDE programme, which provided crucial mentorship and comprehensive training for young African leaders like Mealii.

"I realised that, despite coming from different regions, many of the challenges facing youth are similar. Innovations that work in Uganda, for example, could also be successfully adapted in Kenya. This exchange of ideas was a particularly enriching part of the WYDE project experience"



Building skills for meaningful participation

Implemented in Waa-Ng'ombeni Ward – one of 20 wards in Kwale County – the Young Women at the Table project deliberately targeted vulnerable young women who had never previously participated in community projects. For many participants, this was their first time taking part in civic activities; some had not completed secondary education, many were unemployed, and others relied on small businesses for income. "I feel like we really targeted the women we wanted to



target," Mealii says, adding that their level of commitment was "truly inspiring."

Through the project's capacity-building activities, young women gained a strong understanding of the budget-making process, including how to navigate key budget documents across the budget calendar. They learned when and how public participation takes place at different stages—such as the Annual Development Plan, the County Fiscal Strategy Paper, and Member of County Assembly (MCA) validation meetings—allowing them to prepare effectively and engage with confidence. With expert support, participants also strengthened their budget analysis skills, enabling them to prioritise their needs and align them with county and national government priorities for each financial year. This alignment increased their bargaining power, making it easier for their proposals to

be adopted and funded, ultimately improving access to quality public services.

Making participation meaningful

The project has led to a noticeable increase in women's participation in public consultations. Targeted community meetings (barazas), held exclusively with women, helped raise awareness of these processes and the importance of having their voices heard. As a result, more women are now attending consultations—and not just listening, but actively speaking out. Over time, this growing engagement is helping government actors recognise a strong, organised constituency advocating for young women's and young people's meaningful involvement in county decision-making.

During the training, moments of realisation stood out. Participants actively asked questions and began connecting the dots: "Oh, this is what



we're supposed to do—why haven't we been doing this? We just didn't know."

One of the project's proudest achievements was the submission of the first-ever young women's memorandum in the ward, with recommendations developed directly by the young women themselves, based on community challenges and their lived experiences. As Mealii notes, this process significantly amplified young women's voices and increased awareness of the importance of their participation—laying the groundwork for stronger engagement and improved public service delivery for the wider community.

Scaling impact and deepening engagement

The project revealed both the immense potential and the remaining challenges in amplifying young women's voices in governance.

“So many young women are not aware of county processes, especially when it comes to budget-making and implementation.”

Looking ahead, Mealii sees significant potential to build on the project's success—starting with scaling capacity building.

“So many young women are not aware of county processes, especially when it comes to budget-making and implementation”.

Following the Young Women at the Table barazas, she received numerous calls from women asking for the same training, highlighting a clear demand to expand the model to other wards with additional funding. She also emphasises the importance of stronger partnerships, noting that “one meeting with a member of the county assembly was really not enough” to influence policy adoption or budget allocation. Future efforts will therefore focus on deeper engagement through roundtable discussions, committee-level advocacy within the county assembly, and strategic relationship-building with key decision-makers.

With more resources, she envisions scaling the initiative into a powerful network of budget advocates. “If this small percentage has worked in such a short period of time, you can imagine what 10, 20, or even 40 budget advocates across wards could achieve.”

Such a network could serve as a

resource hub for budget analysis, community needs identification, and public participation. Strengthening the advocacy strategy is also a priority, shifting from one-off meetings toward a more coordinated, committee-focused approach. Together, these next steps point to a growing movement of young women equipped to influence decision-making and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

Young women leading the change

Mealii's work demonstrates that investing in projects designed by young people themselves is investing in the future of communities. As she powerfully articulates:

“Once ideas come from the youth, they're able to own these interventions, and these interventions are able to be more sustainable. We are telling youth that we are also able to participate meaningfully in making decisions and participating in social economic activities, community activities, not as just leaders of tomorrow, but as today's leaders.”

The Young Women at the Table project proves that with the right training, support, and belief in their capacity, young women can transform from silent observers to active architects of their communities' futures.

Elections & Democracy: Strategic Priorities 2026 & Beyond

As we look toward 2026, the Kofi Annan Foundation is committed to deepening the support systems for those on the frontlines of democracy:

Expansion of Accountability Hubs programme:

In light of the success of the Accountability Hubs programme in Sub-Saharan Africa and interest from Europe, which is facing its own challenges of democratic erosion, we plan to expand the programme into Europe.



Scaling Digitalise Youth:

Entering its second year, the project will move from technical training to national-level advocacy campaigns across the Sahel, helping CSOs influence digital rights legislation.

Exploring the links between Food Security and Democracy:

Building on the final recommendations of the Kofi Annan Commission on Food Security, we plan to explore the links between food, democracy and global governance. By tracking, testing and evaluating deliberative governance experiments in Europe related to food, we plan to explore connecting citizens' deliberations across borders, tracking how local food governance decisions either reinforce or challenge global governance reforms.



Electoral Vulnerability Index - Qualitative Expansion:

Based on the success of the 2025 edition, we plan to increase the number of countries receiving deep-dive qualitative risk assessments ahead of their 2026 electoral cycles.

MULTILATERALISM: THE KOFI ANNAN WAY

Advocating for a fairer, more effective multilateral system

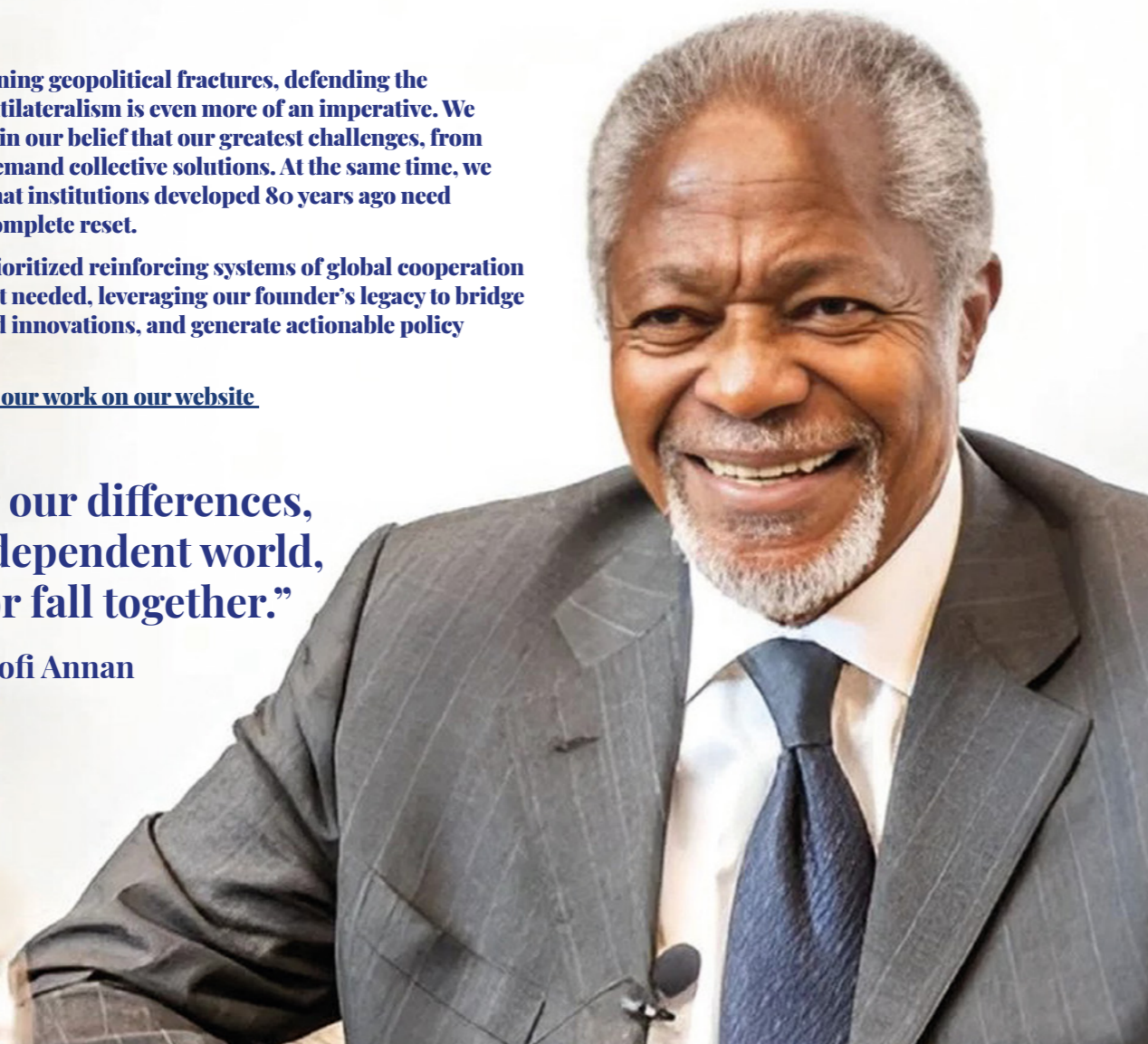
In an era of deepening geopolitical fractures, defending the principles of multilateralism is even more of an imperative. We remain steadfast in our belief that our greatest challenges, from hunger to conflict, demand collective solutions. At the same time, we must acknowledge that institutions developed 80 years ago need reimagining and a complete reset.

Our work in 2025 prioritized reinforcing systems of global cooperation where they were most needed, leveraging our founder's legacy to bridge divides, propose bold innovations, and generate actionable policy recommendations.

[Find out more about our work on our website](#)

**“...whatever our differences,
in our interdependent world,
we stand or fall together.”**

– Kofi Annan



Understanding the Links Between Multilateralism and Democracy to Tackle Global Challenges More Effectively

A TWO-YEAR PROJECT TO FURTHER A COMMON UNDERSTANDING – THROUGH OPEN DIALOGUE, EXCHANGES OF GOOD PRACTICES FROM ALL CONTINENTS, TRAINING AND ADVOCACY – OF HOW DEMOCRATIC, ETHICAL AND INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP IS ESSENTIAL TO SOLVING GLOBAL CHALLENGES.

Partners: The Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy at the Geneva Graduate Institute. Funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York

Democracy and effective multilateralism are inextricably linked, as clearly evidence by our Multilateralism and Democracy initiative, which combined research, expert analysis and structured policy dialogue. Its central vehicle was a series of high-level thematic roundtables, each exploring the democracy–multilateralism nexus in a different policy domain.

2025 Highlights:

In partnership with the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy, the Kofi Annan Foundation concluded a two-year project examining how democratic values can strengthen global governance.

In 2025, the Foundation convened three of a series of six high-level roundtables to tackle critical questions at the intersection of global governance and democratic values.

A dialogue in Geneva focused on how multilateral human rights mechanisms can support national democratic processes, while a second in Brussels explored the place democracy should occupy in the new security agenda, and another in Athens identified pathways to a more equitable Global Trade Order, with all three seeking to reconcile the mechanisms of multilateralism with the demands of democratic legitimacy.



For every roundtable, an Issue Brief was prepared in advance to frame the debate, and an Outcome Document was published afterwards to capture insights and recommendations. This method allowed discussions to move beyond abstract principles and focus on concrete actions in sectors where global cooperation is most urgently needed.

[Discover more about the project on page 47 and via our website](#)





 Kofi Annan Commission
on Food Security

Kofi Annan Commission on Food Security: Reimagining Global Governance

The Kofi Annan Commission on Food Security (KACFS) was established in April 2024 with the primary goal of transforming global food security governance to ensure that no one goes hungry. In 2025, the Commission published its final report, which sets out 10 actionable recommendations. These are grounded in two core arguments: that food security must be treated as a universal public good, and that a preventive approach to governance can help avert the slide into hunger.

Partners: Funded by The Rockefeller Foundation, Gates Foundation



“Food security should be a fundamental human right, not a privilege... The time for a radical shift in governance is now.”

- Elhadj As Sy, Chair of the Kofi Annan Commission on Food Security

The Commission concluded its landmark 18-month process in 2025, addressing the devastating truth that 733 million people still face hunger worldwide.

The Milestone: In February 2025, the Commission launched its Final Report, identifying four headline “governance shifts” and 10 actionable recommendations to revive the ambition of zero hunger.

The Impact: The Commission aimed to shift the global mindset to recognize food and nutrition security as a universal public good and a fundamental human right, rather than a privilege. It also highlighted how the slide into hunger can be prevented through peacebuilding and social protection.

External evaluation: An independent external evaluation was conducted to assess the KACFS’s progress, achievements, and overall contribution to the field.

The evaluation found that the Commission’s findings laid the groundwork for influence. A key lesson included the need for a mechanism that sustains stakeholder engagement way beyond the Commission’s running time, to ensure meaningful policy uptake.

Advocacy: Following launch events in Geneva, Rome, and Brussels and online, a grant from the Gates Foundation was secured in late 2025 to advance specific, politically feasible reforms identified by the Commission.

By integrating food priorities into climate, trade, and finance policies, the Kofi Annan Foundation is championing a future where zero hunger is no longer an impossible goal but a shared global responsibility.

[ACCESS THE FULL REPORT
ON OUR WEBSITE](#)





The Kofi Annan Geneva Peace Address: Peacemaking in Fractured Times

AN ANNUAL EVENT THAT HONOURS KOFI ANNAN'S LEGACY BY CONVENING LEADERS AND PEACEBUILDERS TO REFLECT ON THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEACE IN OUR TIME. THE FLAGSHIP EVENT OF GENEVA PEACE WEEK.

Partners: Geneva Graduate Institute, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform. Funded by the Republic and Canton of Geneva, and the City of Geneva.

The 2025 Keynote: Martin Griffiths, International Mediator and former United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, delivered the address, titled "Peacemaking in Fractured Times," on October 14, 2025.

The Message: Griffiths drew from five decades of experience to reflect on the fragility of the international system and the urgent need to rebuild trust across political and social divides.

"...we, as peacemakers, must fight harder to carry [Kofi Annan's] legacy forward in these difficult times. Not for Kofi's sake, but for the millions of people in the world who deserve our help, and the millions more who will come after them."

Youth Dialogue: The address was followed by a discussion between Mr. Griffiths and young peacebuilders from Pakistan, Vietnam, and Brazil, focusing on the role of youth in conflict transformation.

[DISCOVER MORE VIA OUR WEBSITE](#)



Kofi Annan Road Safety Award: Saving Lives in Africa

An annual award to honour outstanding contributions in reducing African road fatalities and injuries.

Implemented by: United Nations Special Envoy for Road Safety, and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

The third edition of the Kofi Annan Road Safety award ceremony recognized outstanding country-led strategies on a continent that loses 300,000 people annually to road crashes.

The Host: The event was held in the Kingdom of Eswatini, in April 2025.

The Winners: Initiatives from Nigeria, Kenya, Senegal, Ethiopia, Cameroon, and South Africa were recognised for their innovation and commitment to road safety as a fundamental right.

Kofi Annan Fellowship in Global Health Leadership

Supporting aspirational public health leaders in Africa to acquire advanced skills to strategize, manage and lead public health programmes that will transform public health on the continent.



Implemented by: The Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC)

Fellows admitted will lead and contribute to the implementation of Africa’s Health Security and Sovereignty Agenda and the new public health order for Africa and help shape the next generation of leaders.

Impact: Since its launch, the fellowship has graduated 84 Fellows from over 34 African countries, with many now leading transformative initiatives, authoring books, creating cross-border partnerships, and one even serving as a Minister of Government.

Kofi Annan Scholarships

Named in honour of Kofi Annan, these scholarships provide exceptional university graduates from developing and emerging economies with the opportunity to study at the University of Oxford.

Implemented by: Weidenfeld-Hoffmann graduate programme, Mansfield College, University of Oxford, with support from Mansfield College Alumnus, Jan Fischer

An ongoing partnership: We are delighted to continue our partnership with the Weidenfeld-Hoffmann graduate programme at Mansfield College, Oxford, where each year a group of students are chosen to become Kofi Annan scholars.

Through these scholarships, Mansfield College aims to inspire and transform the worldview of the recipients in a similar way to Kofi Annan’s recounting of his experience as a student at Macalester College.

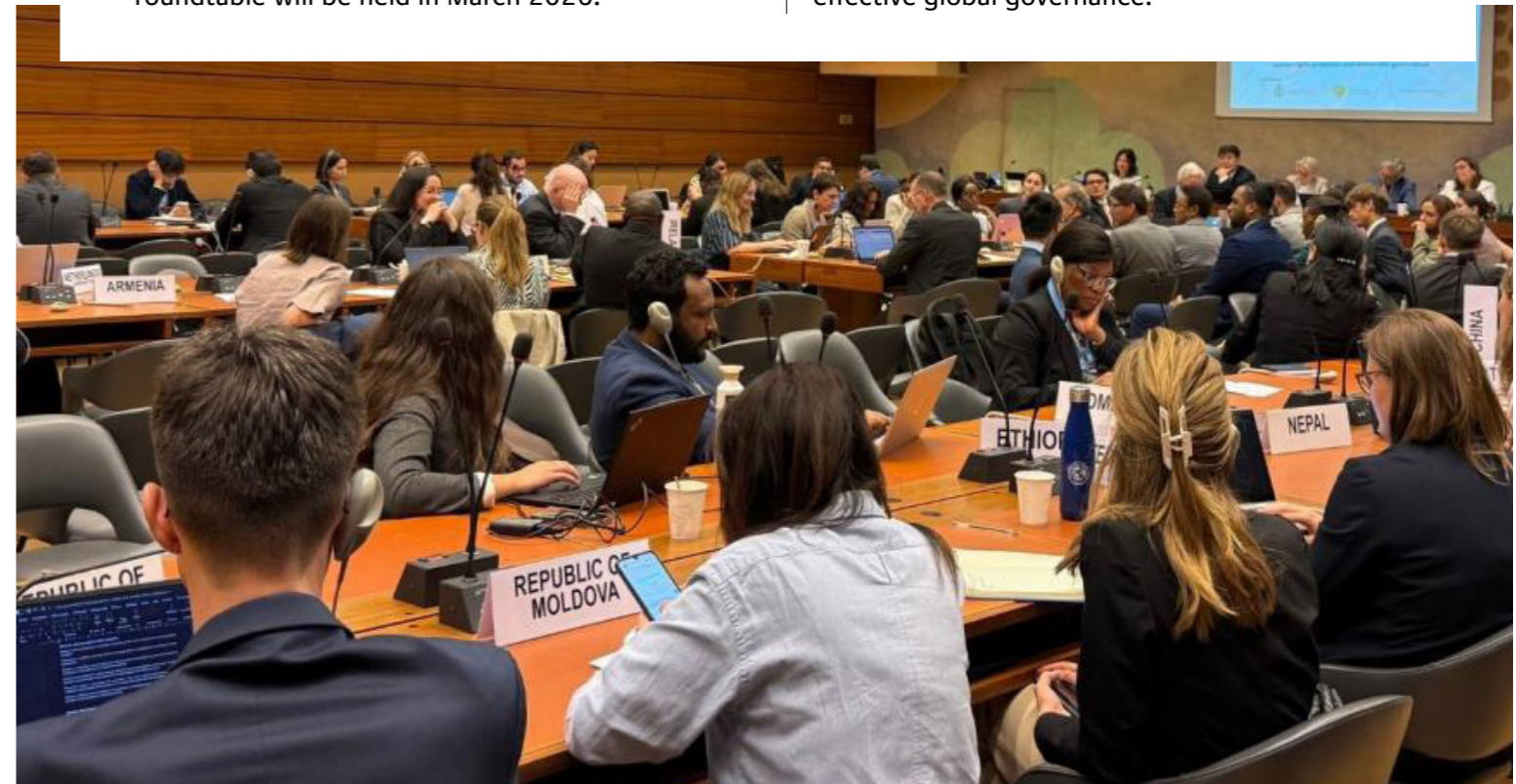


HIGHLIGHT STORY

Multilateralism & Democracy Roundtables

Between 2024 and 2025, the Kofi Annan Foundation and Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy at the Geneva Graduate Institute convened five expert discussions in major multilateral hubs to explore the links between democracy and multilateralism and to generate publicly accessible research outputs. A sixth and final roundtable will be held in March 2026.

The roundtables convened international organizations, diplomats, academics, civil society actors, and technical experts. The discussions highlighted growing challenges to the multilateral system, the erosion of trust in institutions, and the importance of democratic values—transparency, accountability, public trust, and inclusion—for effective global governance.



Five expert roundtables were organized, each focusing on a major global challenge:

1 **Climate Change and Democratic Governance (Geneva, 2024)**

Twenty experts from international organisations, foundations, civil society, and academia participated in the discussion, which consisted of a comprehensive exploration of the relationship between climate change and democratic governance. It encompassed a wide range of topics, from lessons learned since the adoption of the Paris Agreement to best practices for inclusive participation in global conferences.

2 **Artificial Intelligence and Democracy (Geneva, November 2024)**

The session focused on artificial intelligence (AI) and its implications for democratic practices and the multilateral system. Close to 30 experts from international organizations, civil society,

academia, and the private sector participated, examining how AI intersects with democracy and multilateralism.

3 **Human Rights, Democracy, and Multilateral Norms (Geneva, May 2025)**

A high-level dialogue at the Palais des Nations which gathered experts from ambassadors, UN officials, academics, and civil society leaders, in partnership with the Permanent Missions of Costa Rica and Switzerland. The session explored how engaging with UN human rights mechanisms can build democratic resilience, featuring cases from Costa Rica, Kazakhstan, and The Gambia.

4 **Global Security, Peace, and Democratic Institutions (Brussels, June 2025)**

Ahead of the NATO summit, the event convened stakeholders in Brussels to urge that democracy promotion be treated as a core component of security. In partnership with the Centre on

Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP), the European Endowment for Democracy, and International IDEA, the meeting brought together leading voices from international organizations, civil society, academia, and the private sector to reflect on the place of democracy in the new security agenda.

5 **Trade, Economic Governance, and the Future of Multilateral Cooperation (Athens, October 2025)**

At the Athens Democracy Forum, the roundtable explored pathways to reconcile the multilateral trading system with principles of democratic legitimacy and inclusivity. Moderated by Declan O'Brien, the discussion brought together Christian Winkler and Alice Tipping of the International Institute for Sustainable Development to explore how multilateral trade governance might recover direction in a fragmented political environment.

To complement these convenings, we produced:

Six issue briefs on the following topics: Climate, AI, Human Rights, Security, Trade and Migration

Five roundtable summary reports

These publications offered evidence-based

recommendations for strengthening democratic principles within multilateral cooperation.

They have been made available to policymakers, practitioners, and the informed public, advancing the project's core objective of improving understanding at the intersection of democracy and multilateralism.

[ACCESS ALL THE PUBLICATIONS VIA OUR WEBSITE](#)

The Kofi Annan Way: Multilateral Cooperation in 2026 & beyond

AS WE LOOK TOWARD 2026, THE KOFI ANNAN FOUNDATION REMAINS COMMITTED TO ADVANCING REFORM AND STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.



The Kofi Annan Commission on Food Security

The Foundation is undertaking a period of donor consultations based on the drastically changing international environment. We will reevaluate the Commission's recommendations and review how governments and donors are responding to food security, with the aim of getting food and nutrition governance firmly on their agendas.



Kofi Annan Lecture 2026

The biennial lecture series in New York will return in 2026, providing a platform for global leaders to set out new agendas for rules-based cooperation.

UN Charter Reform:

The Foundation is supporting the "Article 109 Coalition," which seeks to build consensus for a UN General Conference to review and update the UN Charter by 2030.



The Kofi Annan Foundation – Our Board

Our Board is made up of prominent personalities from around the world. In 2025, the Foundation welcomed three new members: Kojo Annan, John Nagulendran, and Neha Sanghrajka. Nane Annan was recognized as Board Member Emerita for her years of contribution



Elhadj As Sy (Chair of the Board)
Senegal

Former Secretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).



Kojo Annan
Ghana

Entrepreneur & Investor.



Catherine Bertini (as of December 2025)
USA

Accomplished leader in international organization reform and a powerful advocate for women and girls, 2003 World Food Prize Laureate.



SCAN TO LEARN
MORE ABOUT
OUR BOARD



Samson Itodo
Nigeria

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



Bernard Mensah
United Kingdom (mandate ended March 2026)

President of the UK & Central Eastern Europe, the Middle East & Africa (CEEMEA) and co-head of Global Fixed Income, Currencies & Commodities (FICC) Trading at Bank of America.



Michael Møller
Denmark

Former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations & the 12th Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva.



John Nagulendran
Singapore

Business leader, lawyer and philanthropist.



Ivan Pictet
Switzerland

Former Senior Partner of Swiss multinational private bank Pictet & Cie & former President of Fondation pour Genève.



Peter Piot

Belgium

Doctor & microbiologist & one of the discoverers of the Ebola virus. Professor of Global Health, EU Chief Scientific Advisor on Epidemics.



Ghassan Salamé

Lebanon (mandate ended March 2026)

Lebanese academic, politician and diplomat.



Neha Sanghrajka

Kenya

Negotiator, mediator, & author.



Board Member Emerita - Nane Annan

Sweden

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

The Kofi Annan Foundation Team

At the Kofi Annan Foundation, we are driven by a shared passion for making a positive impact on the world. Our team is composed of exceptional individuals with a deep commitment to advancing democracy, empowering youth leadership, and fostering international cooperation. Each team member has shared a Kofi Annan quote that inspires them.



Alina Sophie Bernhardt

Intern - Youth & Peace

“Ignorance and prejudice are the handmaidens of propaganda. Our mission, therefore, is to confront ignorance with knowledge, bigotry with tolerance, and isolation with the outstretched hand of generosity. Racism can, will, and must be defeated.” Kofi Annan



Adrien Coulon

Communications Associate

“Whatever our differences, in our interdependent world, we stand or fall together.”
Kofi Annan



Ayooshee Dookhee

Senior Programme Manager -
Food Security

“We have the ability to reshape the global food security system to alleviate hunger, end poverty, and promote sustainable development.”
Kofi Annan

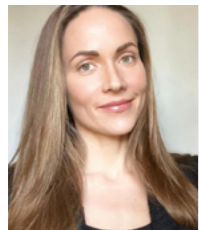


Genna Ingold

Head of Communications

“We may have different religions, different languages, different colored skin, but we all belong to one human race.”

Kofi Annan



Teresa Lévine

Senior Programme Manager - Democracy & Multilateralism

“We will not enjoy security without development, we will not enjoy development without security, and we will not enjoy either without respect for human rights.”

Kofi Annan

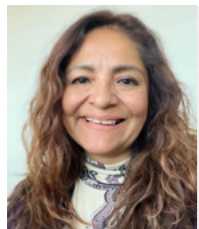


Li Ling Low

Head of Finance & Administration

“There can be no long-term peace and security without development. There can be no long-term development without peace and security.”

Kofi Annan



Nelly Martin

Travel & Administration Coordinator

“To live is to choose. But to choose well, you must know who you are and what you stand for, where you want to go and why you want to get there.”

Kofi Annan



Sofia Anton Martins

Programme Manager - Youth and Peace

“The world is not ours to keep. We hold it in trust for future generations.”

Kofi Annan



Corinne Momal-Vanian

Executive Director

“Each of us must share the pain of all who suffer, and the joy of all who hope.”

Kofi Annan



Declan O'Brien

Head of Democracy & Multilateralism Programmes

“There is no single model of democracy, or of human rights, or of cultural expression for all the world. But for all the world, there must be democracy, human rights, and free cultural expression.”

Kofi Annan



Linda Peterhans

Programme Manager - Youth Leadership

“Far away from the media spotlight, around the clock and around the world, thousands of volunteers contribute in thousands of ways.”

Kofi Annan



Maud Roure

Deputy Executive Director & Head of Programmes

“No dispute is so entrenched that it cannot be overcome, and enmity between peoples need not last forever.”

Kofi Annan



Anja Tresse

Partnerships and Programme Manager – Youth and Peace

“A good leader is a good listener. A good leader is also a good follower.”

Kofi Annan



Valentin Wagee

Programme Manager -
Democracy & Multilateralism

“You are never too young to lead
and never too old to learn.”
Kofi Annan

We wish to thank all those who supported our work in 2025 but are not included in this section.



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QUOTES AND SPEECHES,
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Our Funding

We wish to thank our funders and private donors for their generous support.



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OUR PARTNERS

Thanks to our partners who worked with us in 2025:

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AfricTivistes

Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy

Accountability Lab

Better Politics Foundation

Caux Initiatives of Change

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CFI Media Development

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PRIVATE DONORS

Nane Annan | Alain Dick | Strive Masiyiwa | Jenö Staehelin | Sylvie Albisati

We wish to thank all those who partnered with us in 2025 but are not included in this section.

Finances

Year ended 31 December 2025

The Kofi Annan Foundation collaborates with a variety of other organisations and operates on a modest annual budget. For the fiscal year 2025, its annual expenditure was CHF 3.4 million*

YOUTH & PEACE

CHF 1,967k | 58%



ELECTIONS & DEMOCRACY

CHF 938k | 28%



MULTILATERALISM: THE KOFI ANNAN WAY

CHF 480k | 14%



2025 Expenses

(UNAUDITED) IN THOUSAND CHF

TOTAL

CHF 3.4 million*

*Unaudited

The Foundation provides transparent and detailed financial and narrative reports on its activities. Grants are received on the understanding that the Foundation's integrity will not be put at risk.

FOUNDATIONS

CHF 2,287k | 66%



GOVERNMENTS

CHF 1,024k | 29%



PRIVATE & OTHERS

CHF 176k | 5%



2025 Sources of Funds

(UNAUDITED) IN THOUSAND CHF

TOTAL

CHF 3.5 million



Support our work

The Kofi Annan Foundation is an independent, not-for-profit organizations 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 and partnership from individuals and organizations who share our values and wish to invest in peace, youth leadership, development and human rights.

- Do you have an active interest in an issue that the Foundation addresses?
- Do you want to help build democratic, resilient societies?
- Do you want to support young leaders to drive positive global change?



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Connect with us

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