



Initiatives of Change
International



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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IofC International

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Message from the President

As we reflect on the past year, I am reminded again that Initiatives of Change is not merely an organization but a global fellowship, a community of communities rooted in values that transcend geography and ideology. Whether gathered in our centres in Switzerland or India, connecting online through the HubFest or working quietly in local settings, our purpose remains the same: to strengthen the moral and spiritual foundations of society.

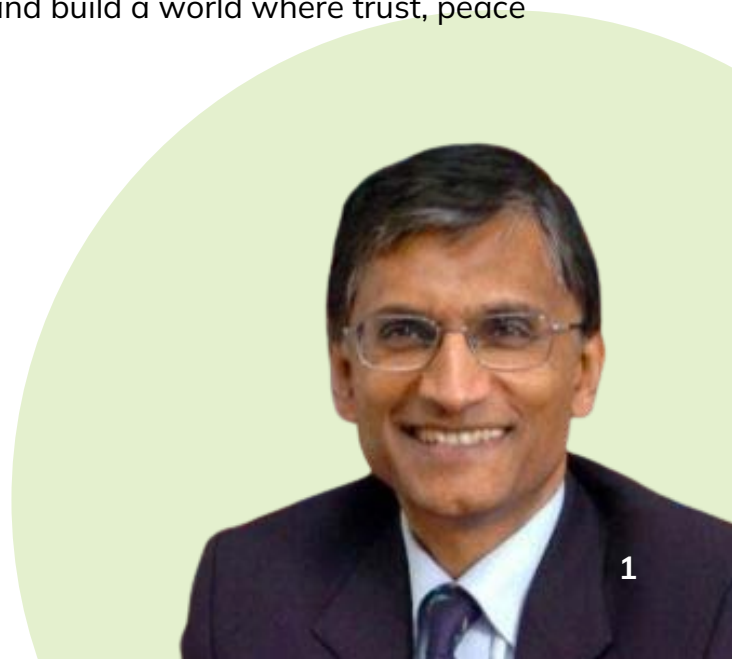
The world around us continues to face division, inequality, conflict and environmental degradation. Rather than retreat into despair, we are called to listen deeply, act with integrity and live the change we want to see. Our programmes - whether focused on trustbuilding, ethical leadership, peacebuilding or creating a humane economy - are not ends in themselves. They are expressions of a deeper commitment, to demonstrate through our lives that absolute love, honesty, unselfishness and purity are not outdated ideals but urgent necessities.

This year's Report reflects both the challenges and the hope we carry. From grassroots action to regional collaboration, we have worked to knit our global family closer together, learning from one another and supporting leadership across all regions. The strength of our movement lies not in grand strategies but in the daily decisions of ordinary people choosing to live differently; offering to our world an alternative way of thinking and behaving.

We've seen remarkable examples - from trustbuilding efforts in Kenya, Nepal and Indonesia to education initiatives in India and Lebanon - that show how change can spread like light overcoming darkness. As someone said, all the darkness in the world cannot put out the light of one little candle!

None of this happens without you: our volunteers, donors and partners. Thank you for your generosity, your faith in this mission and your ongoing financial support. Together, let us continue to roll up our sleeves and build a world where trust, peace and moral courage take root.

Gerald Pillay
President,
Initiatives of Change International



What is Initiatives of Change?

Initiatives of Change (IofC) International is a non-profit organization registered in Switzerland, existing to represent and advance the work of IofC globally. The 36 national teams and international programmes, which comprise its voluntary association membership, each operate autonomously, but work towards taking focused action in one, or more, of these areas:



Trustbuilding



Ethical
Leadership



Sustainable
Living

Our starting point is that creative social change depends on personal change. Everyone can examine their lives and align their actions with the values of honesty, unselfishness, purity and love; thus 'being the change' they want to see in the world.

The International Council



The International Council provides leadership to the global network in line with the goals of Initiatives of Change International and the decisions of the annual Global Assembly.

The 2024 International Council members and Executive Leadership are, pictured above, top left to bottom right: Gerald Pillay (President), Mounir Beltaifa (Vice President), Zacharia Muturi Karimi (Treasurer), Tapan Parekh, Maria del Pilar Griffin, Marta Dabrowska, Yofrina Octika Gultom, Cecilia (Thembi) Silundika, Assaad Chaftari and Patrick McNamara.

What Drives Us Forward

Our Vision: a just, peaceful and sustainable world to which everyone, responding to the call of conscience, makes their unique contribution.

Our Mission: to inspire, equip and connect people to address world needs, starting with themselves.

Our flagship programme is the International Trustbuilding Program, which aims to build trust across the world's divides by developing ethical and trustworthy leaders at all levels.



Our History

Initiatives of Change (IofC) began over 90 years ago as a spiritual and social movement, rooted in living by values of honesty, unselfishness, purity, and love, and being open to the divine spark within to create a better society.

Today, IofC International is a Switzerland-registered, donation- and grant-funded nonprofit serving as the hub for a global network of national teams and individuals leading community-based initiatives. Its grassroots approach fosters local ownership and empowers individuals to drive change.

Highlights from 2024



Annual Lecture and Trustbuilding Awards

As part of the 2024 International Peace Week celebrations, Initiatives of Change honored three outstanding individuals at the Trustbuilding Awards ceremony in Richmond, Virginia:

- Pascal Biruru (Young Trustbuilder of the Year), for mobilizing Congolese youth to reform the education sector;
- May Thu Ne Win (Trustbuilding Award of the Year), for empowering women leaders amid conflict in Myanmar; and
- Jo Berry (Lifetime Achiever Award, pictured left), for her decades-long peacebuilding work that began in Northern Ireland.

The event was hosted in partnership with Initiatives of Change USA, featuring a keynote Annual Lecture by Professor Rajmohan Gandhi and remarks from distinguished speakers, along with community dialogues and museum visits that explored the theme 'US:A Belonging Beyond Borders.'

Caux Forum 2024

Last summer, the Caux Initiatives of Change Foundation, in partnership with Initiatives of Change International, hosted a dynamic series of forums that brought together over 600 participants from around the world to explore the inner and outer dimensions of global change. The Caux Inner Development Goals Forum invited participants to reflect on how inner growth can support the UN Sustainable Development Goals, fostering dialogue across cultures and sectors.

The Caux Democracy Forum, part of the three-year Caux Democracy Programme, examined the state of democracy worldwide and encouraged deeper engagement through storytelling, honest conversation and youth leadership. At the Caux Intergenerational Forum, people of all ages came together to listen, share and reflect on what truly matters in a world increasingly shaped by division and conflict.



Trustbuilding Program

Amid growing polarization and threats to democracy, the lofC Trustbuilding Program (TBP) continued to equip individuals and communities with tools for healing, dialogue and peacebuilding. Launched in 2019, the TBP focuses on addressing divisions rooted in conflict by fostering trust through inner reflection, honest conversation and long-term community engagement. In 2023/24, TBP reached over 21,000 people through more than 1,600 events, training nearly 3,700 trustbuilders with the support of over 53,000 volunteer hours.

Throughout the year, TBP teams across 15 countries fostered healing and understanding, from bridging divides between police and youth in Nigeria to addressing historical wounds in Burundi and social fractures in Nepal.

A key milestone was TBP's practical workshop at Geneva Peace Week 2024, co-organized with the Institute for Community-Based Sociotherapy (ICBS). The session featured grassroots trustbuilding examples, examined an active conflict case study and highlighted post-conflict successes, sparking dynamic discussions and building connections among peacebuilders from diverse sectors.



At lofC's Encuentro in Brazil, the international TBP team led a Taster workshop for participants from 14 countries, covering trauma awareness, trustbuilding tools and the moral and spiritual foundations of trust. This gathering also launched the development of TBP's first regional program in South America, set to roll out in phases starting in Brazil and Uruguay in 2025.

Thanks to support from the Fetzer Institute and dedicated volunteers, TBP continues to demonstrate that trust is the foundation for lasting peace.



Creators of Peace

Creators of Peace International is a women-led, non-profit programme of Initiatives of Change and an Associate Member of the Initiatives of Change International Association. In 2024, practitioners from 20 countries organized 105 Creators of Peace (CoP) activities, including the signature Creators of Peace Circles (CoPCs), along with workshops, taster sessions, and facilitator trainings. These activities engaged 2,979 participants—primarily women, but also men and youth. More than 85 Peace Circles were facilitated during this period. Thanks to volunteer efforts and funding support, the CoP Circle Facilitator Manual is now available in 10 languages.



CoP practitioners made meaningful global impact, from women in a Kenyan prison to students in Cameroon, and through new launches in Italy and Indonesia.

Collaborative initiatives like A Manifesto for Global Democracy and Peace continue to inspire.

Farmers' Dialogue International



Farmers' Dialogue International (FDI) connects farmers worldwide to share experiences, foster trust and promote sustainable agriculture through dialogue and community action.

In 2024, an international gathering planned for India was canceled due to local unrest. However, visiting French farmers still engaged with the IofC team and Grampari in Panchgani, India, gaining insights into community development and sustainability.

FDI also connected with the UNDP's Conscious Food Systems Alliance (CoFSA), presenting their work in a global forum.



Initiatives for Land, Lives and Peace

The Initiatives for Land, Lives and Peace (ILLP) programme builds on Initiatives of Change's core values to address the intersection of environmental degradation, conflict and climate change. Through dialogue, cross-sector collaboration and community-driven solutions, ILLP works to restore trust and foster climate resilience in vulnerable communities.

In 2023/24, ILLP refreshed its mission and strategy, strengthening its focus on supporting local action and contributing to global climate and peace discussions. The Steering Committee deepened connections with the wider lofC community, participating in a UK Fellowship Weekend and leading a design sprint that produced a new vision and fundraising strategy.

ILLP contributed actively to both the lofC Caux Democracy Forum and the Inner Development Goals (IDG) Forum, hosting workshops that helped participants explore climate solutions rooted in personal motivation and collective action.

At COP29 in Baku, ILLP raised its profile globally. Dr. Alan Channer spoke at the Faith Pavilion on the synergy between faith and science in climate negotiations, while Dr. Irina Fedorenko presented on carbon market trends and community-based climate solutions.

Throughout the year, ILLP has reinforced lofC's human-centered, trustbuilding approach, bridging divides and inspiring action on some of the world's most urgent challenges.



Community of Support

No matter your age, income, or culture, if you believe in the power of honesty, unselfishness, purity, and love, then you have a community to support you in tough times. As an organization whose aim is to support and facilitate personal change, we listen to the needs of our global community and provide our members with various opportunities to connect through face to face and virtual gatherings:

By combining meaningful dialogue with practical activities, the initiative is not only encouraging personal growth but also inspiring participants to carry these efforts into their wider communities. With a thoughtful strategy and a people-centred approach, the TBP in Cameroon is demonstrating how trustbuilding can help transform divided societies into more inclusive and resilient communities.



iListen

iListen is the virtual version of the lofC practice of 'quiet time', an open invitation for participants to reflect on their lives and seek inspiration. This safe and inclusive space, where everyone can share what's on their heart, gives a chance to receive encouragement from others and help discern what changes may be needed in one's life. Initially developed in English, iListen sessions are also hosted in French, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic, Hindi and Ukrainian.



Global Community Forum

The Global Community Forum is a monthly gathering for committed community members to discuss the deeply personal, and often spiritual, approach to societal change in a guided sharing format.



Initiatives of Change Hub

The Initiatives of Change Hub 2023/24 hosted a wide range of discussions, talks, films, training, music, and other artistic events, and was led by people active with lofC across the world.



Living History

Living History – Across Generations offers opportunities to engage with changemakers from across the globe and gain practical knowledge that can be applied to participants' personal journeys as advocates for change.



What Can I Do?

Initiatives of Change has a distinctive approach to generating change, which is rooted in our shared values of honesty, unselfishness, purity and love. We believe that each person has the capacity to:

Reflect

An honest look at one's own motives and behavior is where change begins. By placing people at the center of our approach, we believe that we can create sustainable impact built on commitment and conviction.

Listen

Honest conversation, undertaken in an open spirit, builds bridges of trust and community between people of similar, different, and even antagonistic backgrounds.

Volunteer

Until the turn of the century, our operations were carried out entirely by volunteers. Even today, our teams rely on volunteers to provide support in their communities. If you have time and talents you would like to give, then please reach out to us!

Donate

Our teams are working tirelessly in their local communities to carry out the mission of IofC, and every donation provides the necessary resources to support their efforts!

Partnerships

Change cannot occur in a vacuum. Partnerships across sectors and between organizations ensure that we can address societies' needs in a more holistic and inclusive manner!

- Fetzer Institute
- Guerrand-Hermès Foundation for Peace
- Spirit of Humanity Forum
- Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers

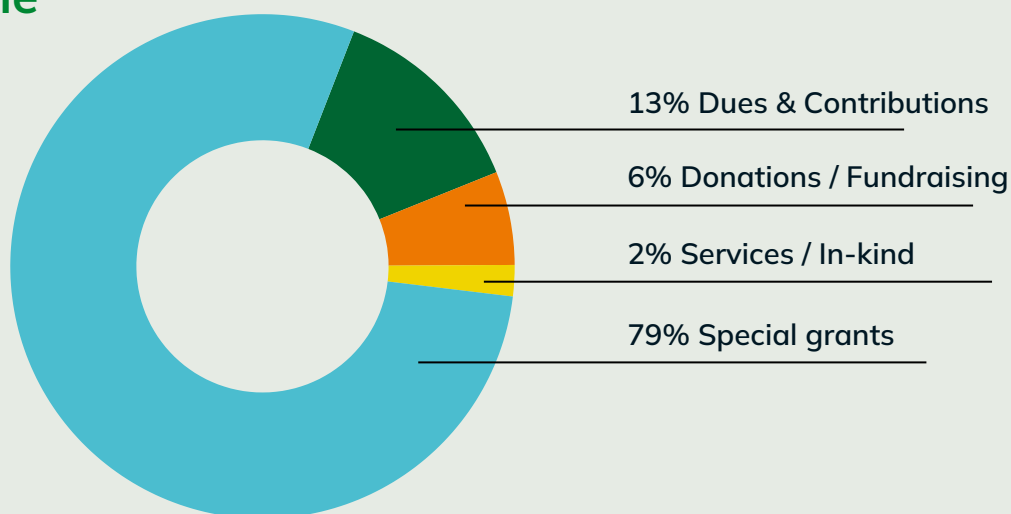
Affiliations

As part of our desire to inspire change at all levels, we seek out relationships with like-minded organizations with an international focus. We are actively engaged with:

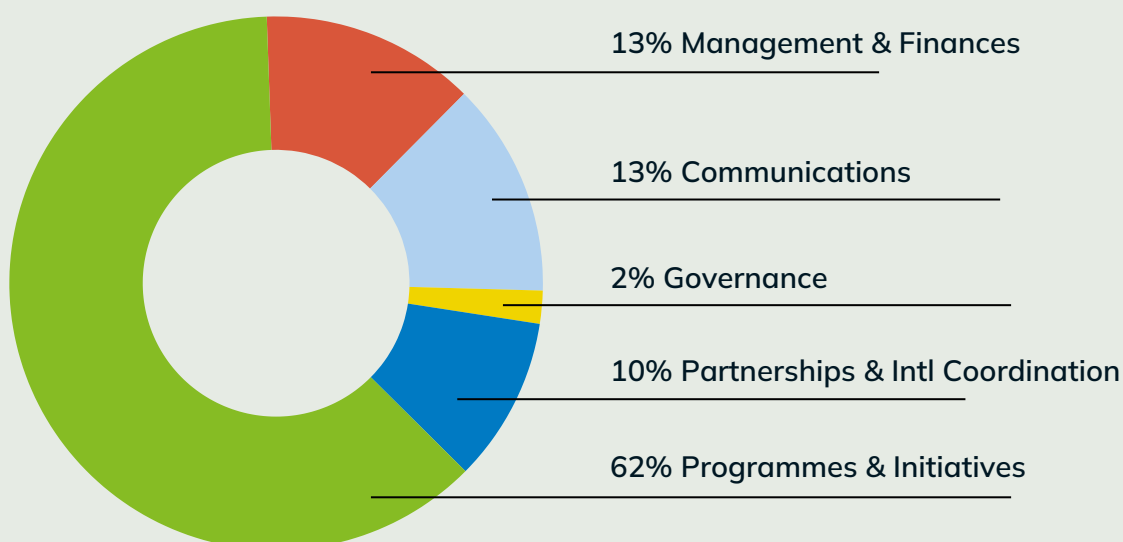
- United Nations Economic and Social Council (Special Consultative)
- Council of Europe (Participatory Status)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Organizational Finances

Income



Expenses



Thank You!

Initiatives of Change could not continue its work without the countless individuals, on all continents, who have committed themselves to be the change they want to see in the world. From the very beginning, our people and programmes have been supported by generous individuals, who have given accommodation, financial resources or time because they are inspired by our mission and our people.

We are grateful to all those who have contributed towards creating a lasting, positive impact. Thank you to everyone – past, present and future – who has supported our vision!

Initiatives of Change

GLOBAL COMMUNITY

Initiatives of Change national bodies, international programmes and local teams operate in over 45 countries world-wide, with six prominent centres in Australia, Brazil, Nigeria, India, Switzerland and UK.



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|  SITIO SÃO LUIZ Petropolis, Brazil |  GREENCOAT PLACE London, UK |
|  IYOKI CENTER Lagos, Nigeria |  CAUX PALACE, Caux, Switzerland |
|  ASIA PLATEAU Panchgani, India |  ARMAGH Melbourne, Australia |

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