

Rise or Fall Together:

Addressing the Emergency Needs of the World's Most Vulnerable
Populations in this Time of Global Crisis



One United Humanity. One Shared Ecosystem. Stronger Together.

July 14, 2020

This document was compiled by OneShared.World's Vulnerable Populations Campaign team in consultation with the listed contributors.

Campaign team members:

Frederick Barton, Chair

Tarana Sable, Project Coordinator

Tianna Herman, Project Coordinator

Contributors:

Mohamed Badissy

Barry Edwards Bass

Tom Clark

Peter de Clercq

Ladeene Freimuth

John Heffernan

Laura Herman

Pankaj C. Jani

Jamie Metzl

Maxwell Reikosky

Beto Saavedra

Jonathan Sandy

Thomas Schindler

John Schroder

Wendy Wei

We would also like to thank Steven Hansch, Stephen Morrison, and Pedro Teran for the support and feedback that they provided.

About OneShared.World

OneShared.World is a broad and inclusive movement of people in nearly 100 countries on five continents working collaboratively across diverse cultures, communities, ethnicities, generations, and nations to ensure a better future for humankind and the sustainability of our common home. We are building a third pillar of the global power structure beyond sovereign states and the essential international institutions created by our governments: a global social movement and political force that represents the democratic expression of our common humanity.

Hundreds of people have donated over 7,000 volunteer hours to launch **OneShared.World** over the past few months. Our members include global citizens from all backgrounds, ages, and orientations, ranging from university presidents, former prime ministers and governors, to artists and students. We collectively drafted the Declaration of Interdependence, which we have translated into multiple languages.

Our strategy balances short-term efforts to alleviate stress on vulnerable populations during crises with establishing long-term global recognition of mutual responsibilities comprising interdependence. It is comprised of four core pillars:

1. **Public engagement and education** to help build a common vocabulary and community around the theme of interdependence;
2. **Broad partnerships with aligned organizations** to help galvanize a far-reaching and inclusive global interdependence movement;
3. **Focused issue campaigns** to translate lofty principles into action; and
4. **Integration** “Integration of an appreciation for the mutual responsibilities of interdependence into the missions, platforms, and agendas of organizations, political parties, governments, and international bodies around the world.

Learn more and sign the Pledge of Interdependence at [OneShared.World](https://www.oneshared.world).

The Interdependent Moment

The COVID-19 pandemic has plunged our world into a state of deep emergency and the world's [most vulnerable populations](#) are now increasingly bearing the brunt of the crisis.

Developing countries account for [three quarters](#) of [new coronavirus cases](#). Nearly [half](#) of working people worldwide are on the verge of losing their livelihoods. Acute [hunger](#) could double by the end of 2020. Growing hostility and discrimination threaten [migrants](#) and ethnic minorities. [Women](#) and [children](#) face increased rates of domestic violence. Limited access to key medical services obstructs individuals with disabilities. The global death toll from COVID-19 has now surpassed [half a million](#) victims. These trends are expected to worsen.

This pandemic and its economic impact not only puts the world's most vulnerable populations at risk, it threatens all of us. If the virus grows and mutates anywhere, it poses an increased threat to people everywhere.

Calling for a massive and concerted global effort to address the emergency needs of the world's most vulnerable population is therefore not an act of charity but a pragmatic imperative. In our interconnected world, we are only as safe as the most vulnerable among us.

This effort cannot be carried out piecemeal. Because this challenge is global and systemic, it can only be addressed systemically and through concerted global action for the common good.

This framework document is designed as a call to action to all people, civil society groups, countries, corporations, international organizations and others to come together in this time of global emergency. While the ideas contained in the report result from consultations with top experts around the world and are based on the important work of many other organizations, our recommendations are not designed to be comprehensive. Rather, they seek to help catalyze efforts to provide emergency support in this time of extreme crisis.

We acknowledge and celebrate the work of other organizations in these areas as well as the principles of the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the Sustainable Development Goals. The essential principles outlined in these documents will only be realized if each of us makes upholding them our responsibility.

We look forward to a meaningful stakeholder dialogue at the **OneShared.World** Global Interdependence Summit, a virtual mid-September event, prior to the UN General Assembly. The ideas that follow will also underpin a global WASH PAP (water, sanitation, hygiene, pandemic preparedness) campaign **OneShared.World** will soon launch in conjunction with many other organizations.

With our world in disarray and so many lives at risk, it is now up to each and all of us to be audacious. We must imagine systemic change, share information, empower the vulnerable, and embrace collective action to address our greatest shared challenges.

PRINCIPLE ONE - Act quickly to safeguard vulnerable populations in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis.

COVID-19 presents us with a daunting and urgent challenge: without swift international action, we face a growing global crisis that puts the world's most vulnerable at risk of poverty and illness. To avoid disaster, we propose the following emergency steps:

I. Provide immediate relief to the most vulnerable individuals and governments .

Prevent chaotic defaults and create a more sustainable global debt system for low income and developing countries in exchange for local public health investments and the open flow of information. Multilateral institutions, national governments, and private creditors should work together to prevent disorderly defaults and ensure that the most vulnerable nations have the funds to invest in public health infrastructure and revive their economies. The United Nations Secretary General has outlined a [set of principles](#) to provide debt relief to the countries hardest hit by the pandemic and maintain market access for other affected countries- these include debt moratoriums, waivers, and forgiveness. Near-zero interest rates provide an opportunity to restructure and reduce sovereign debt for struggling low-and middle-income countries through buybacks, debt-for-development swaps involving social bonds and green bonds, and forgiveness for countries with the most severe liquidity and solvency challenges. Countries ranked as “low income” and “lower-middle income” by the World Bank owe approximately \$2.1 trillion to investors, governments and others outside their borders.¹ New lending programs could link interest rates to GDP growth, in which interest rates rise when economies grow faster and can afford higher debt costs; and to progress in meeting Sustainable Development Goals, which would trigger lower rates or forgiveness. To qualify, governments should be encouraged to allocate appropriate resources for public health infrastructure and to support citizen and journalist reporting that can help ensure these funds are used effectively.

Provide close to \$400 billion of direct cash support to people living in extreme poverty with a matching amount to their immediate communities and neighborhoods. Target [820 million people](#) who are [living](#) in extreme poverty or [in danger](#) of falling into it due to COVID-19². Provide at least a dollar per day in direct cash support³ to this population over a six month period, which would require us to raise \$150 billion. In addition, provide their neighborhoods with \$240 billion of direct assistance for community infrastructure projects such as schools, low cost internet and clean water. Use IMF reserves and other development banks to issue new international money (known as [special drawing rights](#)). [Direct cash transfers](#) to those in need will be the [most effective and efficient](#) way to distribute humanitarian assistance, while also supporting local economies.⁴ A fast and massive transfer will only happen with new partnerships of cell phone and internet companies, international

¹ Mary Williams Walsh and Matt Phillips. “Poor Countries Face a Debt Crisis ‘Unlike Anything We Have Seen.’” June 2020.

² World Bank

³ The strategy of providing direct cash support to civilians has been successfully employed by a number of governments throughout the pandemic. See [this](#) article about 14 countries who adopted this approach.

⁴ See experience after Pakistan earthquake in 2005.

and local financial institutions and the new breed of fintech lenders.⁵ [Blockchain technology](#) and other new means of direct, secure, and fast transactions with low fees, [greater security and privacy](#) and rapid verification will be required.

Ease remittance services and pool funds at the community level for quick impact projects. The World Bank projects that remittances will fall by about [20 per cent](#), or \$110 billion, causing hunger, lost schooling, and deteriorating health for tens of millions of families, with an especially heavy impact on women and girls. KnowYourClient (KYC) requirements could help address “de-risking” practices by correspondent banks that continue to affect access to bank accounts for money transfer businesses operating in [smaller and poorer](#) remittance corridors. Pilot high profile initiatives in vulnerable areas for schools, clinics and even rapid testing.

II. Work collectively to meet the immediate sanitation, access and ongoing disease treatment needs of the most vulnerable.

Ensure access to safe drinking water, basic sanitation and hygiene, and essential pandemic protection to all people. In their upcoming summit, G20 leaders should commit to a specific, adequately funded plan to ensure safe drinking water, basic sanitation, and essential protection from deadly pandemics to every person on earth by 2030. These aspirations are already included in the UN Sustainable Development Goals, but there is not yet a robust strategy for achieving them. The pandemic creates a unique opportunity for fixing that.

Ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches those caught in war zones. Empower the UN Peacebuilding Support Office to report to the Security Council when international humanitarian assistance is being diverted from vulnerable populations in conflict places. Call upon the Security Council to mandate alternative means of assistance and prepare to name and shame obstructionist parties. Back the Secretary General’s calls for conflict ceasefires during this virus crisis and through Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration ([DDR](#)) initiatives.

Continue pre-existing health and development interventions, such as malaria, TB, HIV-AIDS and others that have the potential to be set back due to COVID-19. Recent history has shown that when outbreaks occur, [resources are diverted](#), resulting in excess morbidity and mortality from diseases that are preventable and treatable. COVID-19 has also resulted in [falling vaccination rates](#), with national immunization programs suspended in many countries. We must adapt our healthcare systems to make them more resilient in times of crisis. Facility-based services should be delivered remotely through expanded telehealth services where appropriate and feasible, and primary care services that would routinely be delivered across multiple visits should be integrated when possible.

⁵ See Jonathan Hakim letter to Wall Street Journal, April 13, 2020 “whose business is built around rapid, low-cost digital processing of loans to small - and medium- size businesses. Their scalable underwriting platforms and agile business culture are ideal for this effort....and support badly needed competition in our banking system.”

PRINCIPLE TWO - Launch critical long-term global initiatives to mitigate the political, economic, and social challenges that COVID-19 and future pandemics pose to vulnerable populations.

We must meet the challenge of growing political, economic, and social instability by building an engaged global citizenry of local leaders, safeguarding human rights and democracy, and expanding our scientific capabilities. We propose the following steps:

I. Protect, preserve, renew and expand individual human rights, democracy and public capacity through communications, justice and education initiatives designed to empower vulnerable populations as key drivers of our collective global response to the crisis.

Focus on youth through national human rights training, service initiatives and community infrastructure projects. Build a concerned and committed citizenry through educational initiatives and an international youth corps program through UNICEF. Emphasize broad-based curriculum expansion in elementary schools. Provide small grants to invest in local communities through an international youth corps program, and create virtual portals to match youth with a global network of volunteer mentors. Hold virtual international youth corps gatherings promoting the principles of good governance, universal human rights, and international collaboration. In the short term, have UNICEF call a summit of countries with [existing youth corps models](#) to explore how the most effective of these models can be replicated elsewhere.

Expand the protection of grassroots justice defenders. Legal empowerment efforts -- which support people affected by injustice to understand, use, and shape the law -- reduce conflict, increase economic opportunity, and improve environmental stewardship. Yet the work of legal empowerment groups is under-financed and often under threat. Few donor governments emphasize this sector in their development assistance, and business, which depends on a rules based system, must partner to finance this work. They should.

Establish a fund to improve information and expand global independent media. Coordinate efforts by news organizations, private foundations, training groups and the general public through crowdsourcing to fund the survival of quality, independent global media to promote transparency, trust, accountability, and accuracy of information among the global citizenry and its leaders. A healthy, independent media is a cornerstone of good governance and positive social change. There are now more media consumers than at any time in history. At the same time, journalists and media organizations are experiencing unprecedented levels of social and economic pressure, and the creation and spread of misinformation is endemic. Close to 500 journalists were killed, held hostage or detained in 2019 and about 1,000 killed in the past 10 years.⁶

⁶ Reporters Without Borders https://rsf.org/sites/default/files/rsf_2019_en.pdf

Restore the integrity of electoral systems. Pandemics are just one excuse to subvert open and honest elections. Have the [World Leadership Alliance Club de Madrid](#) convene a partnership of democracy building non-profits⁷ to improve the security of voting systems. Promote reforms including online, mail and ranked choice voting. While the pandemic has led to crises of democracy in many countries, democratic processes have the potential to make effective pandemic response more possible.

Promote state accountability. Many governments, including many democracies, have been accused of underreporting COVID-19 cases. Establish and strengthen open communication channels between citizenry and states, through citizen review boards, online suggestion boxes and surveys, or online surveys conducted in partnership with cell phone companies, local governments, and non-government organizations. Embrace aspects of the Estonian [e-government model](#) to encourage public engagement. One of the major aims of the Estonian government is to establish a “[citizen-inclusive and open law-making process](#) [...] by adopting measures to avoid the risks of concealed lobbying and to reinforce the transparency of the [government] and its public responsibility.”⁸ The Estonian E-State has developed a system to facilitate e-participation including several portals where the drafts of laws, amendments and development plans are published at the early stage of their development. The portals allow users to express their opinion and make suggestions on a published draft act.⁶

Encourage the expansion of internet and cellphone access. Through an annual [UN Internet Governance Forum](#), identify key areas that do not receive service. Build upon low cost, high speed, universal access models that are unfolding,⁹ and call on both the private and public sector to fulfill those needs.

II. Develop systems to monitor pandemics and expedite vaccine development.

Build a global [Virome Project](#) to provide the scientific world with detailed knowledge of the viruses that could cause tomorrow’s pandemics. Armed with genetic data, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations ([CEPI](#)) would be able to establish viral libraries before novel epidemics emerge—dramatically [decreasing](#) the time to develop a new vaccine. [Note: OneShared.World will soon be releasing a new report on global pandemic response.]

PRINCIPLE THREE - Increase investments in disaster prevention; including tracking progress.

Systems to prepare for and prevent global disasters can save money, suffering, and lost lives and property. To that end, we propose the following:

⁷ See IFES, NDI, IRI, Carter Center, Democracy International and many more.

⁸ Council of Europe. “Civil participation in the decision-making process: Fact finding visit to Estonia.” September 2017.

⁹ See Medellin, Colombia for \$2 per month urban initiative.

I. Develop a Global Disaster Preparedness and Response Excellence Center.

Create a leadership group with a secretariat composed of experts from the multilateral, bilateral, and private sector as well as civil society and citizen representatives. Have the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs convene a special meeting to establish and select the secretariat members, with two year terms. Follow a similar model to the [Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System](#), which comprises various working groups and task forces that address particular dimensions of tsunami prevention in the Indian Ocean. The Center would rely upon independent philanthropic funding and donor government start-up money.

Collect and analyze independent data through the GDPREC and issue annual grades and policy recommendations. Develop vulnerability and crisis preparedness benchmarks that outline necessary measures to protect vulnerable populations from future catastrophes. To ensure the voices of the vulnerable populations themselves are heard, the data would include surveys and semi-structured interviews with members of various vulnerable populations, quick cell phone questionnaires, and other localized collection models to evaluate whether or not adequate protections are in place. These benchmarks would be categorized in accordance with the population affected, and would be developed by a diverse global team of experts who belong to specific vulnerable populations and can advocate for the needs of their communities.

Organize an annual Global Disaster Preparedness and Response Conference that convenes experts across various sectors and citizen representatives of affected populations to evaluate crisis preparedness in diverse regions.

Address the ability of the UN to access all countries and collect timely independent data. The World Health Organization must have the resources and access to deploy emergency response teams and reliably report on outbreaks. Citizens must press our national governments to ramp up the funding, staffing, authority, and global coordinating role of the WHO and transform it from its current state to the organization we need. At a time when walls are going up around the world, we desperately need an empowered global health organization to operate above them.¹⁰

II. Invest in global sustainability.

Push for 80% of any future economic stimulus to go towards sustainable investments. After decades of conflict and finance based emergencies, we face a future of natural and climate driven disasters. The vulnerable will suffer the most. This is our opportunity to shape climate-friendly [recovery packages](#) that boost incomes for vulnerable populations via inclusive and equitable job creation, local investment and infrastructure and generate long-term sustainability benefits, while helping to prevent a climate crisis in the future. When done well, [green investments](#) can be more effective and

¹⁰ The real and metaphorical walls our countries are building to keep the virus out will almost certainly come to mimic the walls around medieval cities that proved effective at keeping invaders out unless the invaders were fleas carrying the bubonic plague, in which case being behind those walls was a death sentence.

long lasting. Yet in the 2007-2009 Great Financial Crisis, environmental investments received less than 10% of stimulus funds. Governments should not miss that opportunity again.

Launch a Global Conservation Corps with national chapters. Pursue country initiatives that provide populations at high risk of unemployment with entrepreneurial skills in the sustainability sector. The Corps could be funded by corporations seeking to [offset their carbon emissions](#) or by the implementation of a [global carbon tax](#). The revenue raised from the tax can be partially used to fund conservation efforts, including a Global Conservation Corps, and returned to consumers through rebates and dividends.

CONCLUSION

People of all backgrounds are suffering from the COVID-19 pandemic and the cascading crises it has unleashed. The world's most vulnerable populations, however, are at greatest risk.

If this virus has taught us anything, it is that our fates are connected and that a threat to one is a threat to all in our interconnected and interdependent world.

This framework document is a call to action to everyone and every organization, institution, corporation, government, and other entity to take personal responsibility for ensuring that the most vulnerable among us are as safe as possible.

As should be clear to all, this is not an act of charity but instead an investment in our communal self-preservation.

Expert Committee Chair



AMBASSADOR RICK BARTON teaches at Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs, where he serves as co-director of the Scholars in the Nation's Service Initiative. Author of **Peace Works: America's Unifying Role in a Turbulent World**, Barton was the first Assistant Secretary of State for Conflict and Stabilization Operations, America's ambassador to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations in New York, the UN's Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva and founded USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives. He led peacebuilding initiatives in over 40 crisis zones across the globe, from Haiti, Iraq, Nigeria, Burma to Pakistan.

Expert Committee Coordinators



TIANNA HERMAN is a Rhodes College Alumna and a Master of Science in Public Health Candidate at the Bloomberg School of Public Health. Herman currently works for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health as a Data Abstractor analyzing opioid overdoses. She has previously worked on a number of projects including forming a task force in Southwest Florida to combat the opioid epidemic; testing well water for fecal coliforms in Kisumu, Kenya; and improving access to family planning services for immigrant teens in Teton County, Wyoming. She is passionate about promoting and improving public health through advocacy and policy reform.



TARANA SABLE studies History at Brown University, where she is a Writing Fellow and Managing Editor of the *Brown Political Review*. She has previously interned in a number of law and policy organizations, including Human Rights Watch, Latham & Watkins, and the Migration Resource Center. She also volunteers as a literacy tutor for several organizations, including EduMate and the Refugee Dream Center in Providence. She is currently studying Modern Standard Arabic, Levantine Arabic, and Spanish.

Contributors



MOHAMED RALI BADISSY is a scholar, advisor and international development advocate in the field of energy and climate finance. He currently serves as an Assistant Professor of Law at Penn State Dickinson Law, where his research focuses on the use of contract standardization and sustainable finance to accelerate the development of energy infrastructure in emerging markets to increase access to affordable and abundant energy. Prof. Badissy previously served as the Senior Attorney for Energy and Finance with the Commercial Law Development Program of the U.S. Department of Commerce, advising governments in emerging markets on commercial law reforms intended to catalyze private investment to increase energy access. Over the past decade, Mohamed has led energy sector reforms in dozens of markets in partnership with host governments, multilateral institutions, civil society organizations and industry leaders, and continues to serve as an advisor to both public institutions and private developers. He is the principal editor for a series of open-source guidebooks for governments titled (Understanding Power Purchase Agreements, Understanding Power Project Financing, and Understanding Power Project Procurement) and a contributor to a handbook on the management of sovereign debt published by the African Development Bank (Understanding Sovereign Debt). Mohamed began his career with the public international law group of Latham & Watkins LLP in New York and Dubai and as a law clerk to

the Hon. William H. Walls of the United States District Court of New Jersey (Newark). While a law student at the University of Washington School of Law, he was awarded High Honors, Order of the Coif and Order of the Barrister and served on both the Moot Court Honor Board and the Pacific Rim Law & Policy Journal.



BARRY EDWARDS BASS is presently serving as the Coordinator of ECWA Student Ministry in Nigeria where he works with youths in over 113 Universities within and outside Nigeria. He has been and still actively involved in youth empowerment, Coaching and community water and health/hygiene projects in Nigeria. He has served with SSE (Self Sustaining Enterprise) as the National Community team leader, where he works with rural communities promoting good health/ hygiene and providing portable drinking water to vulnerable rural communities. He was instrumental in starting a youth Camp ministry in Nigeria, Ghana and the Niger Republic, and also works in fundraising projects in the USA. Currently he is working with a team in Nigeria providing relief food items to the vulnerable in the present COVID -19 pandemic in Nigeria. He has contributed to a lot of study materials in Nigeria.



TOM CLARK is a graduate student at Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs. A recipient of the 2019-20 Ullman Fellowship, Tom has spent the past year working with the World Food Programme on the applications of big data to food security programming. As part of the COVID-19 response, he has worked on the use of mobile phone data to inform national lockdown strategies across several low-income countries. Before starting at Princeton, Tom spent 7 years managing aid projects which spanned agricultural development, fiscal governance in fragile states and humanitarian emergencies.



PETER DE CLERCQ, originally from the Netherlands, is currently a Visiting Professor at the School of Governance in the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg and a Distinguished Fellow of the Development and Rule of Law Project, Stellenbosch University, South Africa. He is the former UN Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia. He has worked with the UN for 34 years at various duty stations and retired from the organisation at the Assistant Secretary-General level in 2019. He continues to be active on Forced Displacement, State Building, Security Sector, Humanitarian and Development issues.



LADEENE FREIMUTH is the founder and President of The Freimuth Group, LLC, a domestic and international consulting firm focused on clean energy, global climate change, water management and related sustainability and security issues. Ms. Freimuth possesses more than twenty-five years of experience with the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, consulting firms, and overseas. In the U.S. House of Representatives and in the U.S. Senate, she helped craft and pass major pieces of legislation in these areas. As EcoPeace Middle East's Israeli Deputy Director, she worked with Israelis, Palestinians and Jordanians to implement trans-boundary water management projects among these parties as a means toward peacebuilding. In 1994, she managed all aspects of a joint U.S.-Russian project to help clean up an ecological disaster zone in Siberia.



JOHN HEFFERNAN has over thirty years of experience in leadership roles in international development, human rights, rule of law, democracy and governance, humanitarian relief and post-conflict reconstruction projects in five continents. He served as Executive Director for Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights' Speak Truth To Power (STTP) from 2009 to 2019. From 2005-2009 as the Director of the Genocide Prevention Initiative at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum he led advocacy efforts aimed at responding to genocide today which included the Museum's Genocide Prevention Mapping Initiative a partnership with Google Earth and the Genocide Prevention Task Force. As a Senior Investigator with Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) he led three

investigations to the Darfur region of Sudan and was the lead author of PHR's report, *Assault on Survival*. As the Chief of Party for the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs in Guyana, South America. In 1995, Heffernan established and ran as Executive Director, the Coalition for International Justice, a Washington-based non-governmental organization created to support the work of the international war crimes tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia. As Country Representative for the former Yugoslavia, he managed a humanitarian relief program for the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and from 1990 to 1993 he managed IRC's refugee resettlement program in Khartoum, Sudan. Prior to working overseas, Heffernan served as the Vice President of the Business Council for the United Nations in New York City. Heffernan has written opinion articles for the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *International Herald-Tribune*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *San Diego Union-Tribune* and other publications. He serves as the board chair for Disability Rights International and is on the boards of the Dodd Center for Human Rights and the Educator's Institute for Human Rights.



LAURA HERMAN has been working with global companies and philanthropic foundations for over 20 years to support their strategic investments in global health and economic development. Through her career at Deloitte, FSG and most recently Essilor, in Singapore, Laura brings a systems lens to address poverty across the global south. Laura is a former term member at the Council on Foreign relations, board member at VillageReach and board member at US Pharmacopeia.



PANKAJ JANI is a Professor with the Department of Surgery, College of Health Sciences, University of Nairobi. He joined the University as a Lecturer in 1989 and has risen through the ranks to become a Full Professor. He is a founder member of COSECSA (College of Surgeons, East, Central and Southern Africa) serving in various capacities such as the Head of General Surgery, Chair of Exams and Credentials committee, Secretary General, Vice President and finally President of the College in 2018 and 2019. He is serving as a Vice Chair of G4 Alliance permanent council. He is also a founder member of OTPAK (Operating Theatre Practitioner Association of Kenya) which is dedicated to improving Surgical training in Kenya with the aim of improving Surgical care, especially in Rural Kenya. Prof. Jani is a patron of USHA (University Students Hindu Association) which is an association of young, talented University students who are encouraged to do social work in underserved areas. He has also served as a Chairman and Trustee of Shree Kenya Brahma Sabha, which is a religious organisation for Brahmins of Nairobi. He is an honorary chairman of the Neighborhood, Thigiri Road Association.



JAMIE METZL is the Founder and Chair of OneShared.World. A leading technology futurist and geopolitical expert, he is a member of the WHO expert advisory committee on human genome editing. Jamie previously served in the U.S. National Security Council and State Department and with the UN in Cambodia. He is the author of a history of the Cambodian genocide, the historical novel *The Depths of the Sea*, the genetics sci-fi thrillers *Genesis Code* and *Eternal Sonata*, and the recent bestseller, *Hacking Darwin: Genetic Engineering and the Future of Humanity*. Jamie is a graduate of Oxford (Ph.D.), Harvard (JD), and Brown (BA) universities.



MAXWELL REIKOSKY is a student of the Committee on International Relations (CIR) Master's program at the University of Chicago, specializing in Human Rights, Environment, and International Law. He has worked as a researcher, program manager, legal representative, and healthcare provider for international organizations aiming to promote the well-being and rights of migrating and displaced populations. His regions of experience include Central America, where he worked with a Guatemala-based medical NGO called Health & Help to serve indigenous Maya populations, and East Africa, where he supported migration think-tank Samuel Hall to design and conduct research in Kenya, Afghanistan, Somalia, and Ethiopia.



BETO SAAVEDRA leads Technical Product Management at Mojix, where he also directs R&D initiatives leveraging AI & Blockchain technologies. He has led local chapters of global tech communities including Startup Weekend, GDG, City.AI and #ANewDataEconomy, currently his activism interests are focused on data dignity within the RadicalxChange community, data feminism and digital interdependence towards a fairer and transparent data-driven world. His experience working as Program Manager at Microsoft in Redmond, solution providers in Germany and Mexico, and startups in Colombia and Bolivia are his MTP's motivation: Empower everyone to team up in trustful settings where talents are equity-valued.



JONATHAN SANDY is both a national and international public figure who has made a career path on being an expert on democratic governance, international stabilization interventions, national and regional security issues such as DDR, SSR, strengthening community resilience amid terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism, arms control, Rule of Law, promoting the Global Health Security Agenda, and Borderland Development and Management, having spent many years working for the Government of Sierra Leone, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Geneva Center for Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) International Security Sector Advisory Team (ISSAT), the African Union and the U.N/World Bank in numerous roles. Chairman of the Executive Board, Regional Centre for Governance and Security Policy Initiative, Accredited to the AU Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) 3rd General Assembly (GA), with headquarter based in Freetown, Sierra Leone with branch office in Kenya. Tel: +232-76612965; Email: jpjsandy@yahoo.com.



THOMAS SCHINDLER was born in the US and grew up in Europe in an environment dominated by natural sciences. But instead of pursuing a scientific career he directed his focus onto the internet leading to a series of successful and unsuccessful projects and ventures ranging from collaboration platforms to mobile couponing systems, least cost routing services and ecommerce platforms. This led to a passion of exploring the social and technological edges of the technium. During this journey he has gathered extensive experience as founder, CEO and CTO of businesses between one and fifty million EUR revenue and employs this for building new impact oriented businesses. The best place to follow his activities is <https://www.thomas.cr>



JOHN SCHRODER is a lawyer, former US diplomat, and former UN official. He has lived and worked in a dozen global hotspots. He co-founded and led Steelhead Global Advisors, an international business advisory firm focused on strategic partnerships and initiatives, and he was a member of the founding team at LAVLE, a company that develops and supplies advanced battery technologies for the maritime, defense, rail, and renewable energy markets. He holds a Juris Doctor in International and Comparative Law from the University of Washington, where he was also a fellow at the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization.



WENDY WEI is a PhD student in political science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, specializing in comparative politics. Before entering academia, Wendy worked as a researcher and program officer on forced migration themes spanning diaspora engagement, service delivery, education, and labor markets, particularly in the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa. Her management and field experience includes projects in Syria, Libya, Lebanon, Chad, and Ethiopia. She is a graduate of the University of Chicago and Sciences Po Paris School of International Affairs as a Kuwait Sciences Po Excellence Scholar.

