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OEF PROGRAMS

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As a lifelong entrepreneur, I have a passion for building sustainable solutions. I view the resources that I endow One Earth Future with as “venture capital,” to be used to help create solutions that are valued by institutions other than our own. By helping humanity create new systems to solve emerging problems, it is possible to achieve self-perpetuating, systemic change over the long term. This reflects our view of the evolution of governance, where a new idea is tested, its value is proven, and it becomes widely adopted and scaled.

2016 was a year where we began to see this dream come to fruition. Our Shuraako program’s mission is to connect Somali entrepreneurs with capital. Lending $1.1 million from the Arsenault Family Foundation to Somali entrepreneurs has created 502 gross permanent jobs. Because our Somali partners repay the loans, this system is economically sustainable. After three years, several large loans have been paid back in full, and we are expecting a very low default rate of less than 5%. Shuraako’s proof of concept has resulted in new investors wishing to invest in Somalia, furthering its resilience, prosperity, and stability.

We have achieved this kind of impact by coordinating the private sector, civil society, and local and national governments, which all contribute to “peace through governance.” Our strategy remains focused on building other multi-sector governance networks. We do this by listening to local voices (our stakeholders) and designing OEF programs to fit within their context and goals.

This strategy is further illustrated by the three new programs launched in 2016. Shared Resources works to elevate community voices in the broader natural resource governance framework, converting a bilateral relationship between the private sector and national government into a true governance network. PASO Colombia’s goal of sustainable reintegration of FARC ex-combatants is buttressed by strong local communities and civil society, as well as a proactive business sector. Thus PASO Colombia promotes network governance as a broker, matching the needs of ex-combatants with resources. Our Secure Future is also working to connect stakeholders with the right resources through promoting committed action to turn policy into practice, strengthening networks of women peacebuilders, and amplifying women’s voices.

Two milestones—systemic impact and enhanced focus—show that OEF is ready to move from its entrepreneurial phase to a more institutionalized phase. It is time to shift our focus toward building a solid foundation of leadership, processes, partnerships, and accountability. Successfully executing this transition will allow us to grow aggressively and efficiently.

Leading this charge is our new president, Larry Sampler. Larry understands the complexity of creating sustainable peace. He helped build the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe’s mission monitoring the Dayton Peace Accords in the former Yugoslavia, planned and executed the Emergency Loya Jirga in Afghanistan, and ran USAID’s Office of Afghanistan and Pakistan Affairs, leading the U.S. Government’s two largest aid missions, both in the context of armed conflict.

Larry brings leadership, discipline, and excitement to OEF. As a great manager, he knows how to build and sustain high-performing teams to achieve even the most ambitious missions. Larry will step in and coordinate a series of fiercely independent and exciting programs, along with ambitious employees seeking to change the world now.

As OEF moves into its next stage of institutional development, my role will be to ensure that the entrepreneurialism of OEF remains a part of its DNA. I will lead the development of new initiatives, an inherently entrepreneurial endeavor. The Board and I will allocate the growing resources of OEF based on evidence of systemic impact. Perhaps most importantly, I will ensure that individuals who embody the entrepreneur’s passion, commitment, hard work, and persistence always have a place, as well as a path, in this growing organization.

OEF’s current trajectory has already exceeded even my unreasonable expectations. Combining the best of my entrepreneurialism with Larry’s ability to build a strong, focused, and disciplined institution, and adding in our diverse, talented, and dynamic team, is a potent recipe for success. I’m excited to see how OEF can build on the systemic impact of 2016.

Sincerely,

Marcel Arsenault, Founder
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am thrilled and honored to be part of the One Earth Future team. For someone who has seen first-hand the consequences of war and violent conflict, and who has experienced the joys and frustrations of working in the development community at every level and on several continents, a chance to lead an organization like One Earth Future is incredibly exciting. In some ways, it’s like I’ve worked my entire career to prepare myself for this opportunity and challenge.

OEF works in what I consider the “sweet spot” of development. We take the “long view” of development. This is a significant advantage over contractual or federally-funded development projects, which are hard-pressed to show immediate returns on investment and, per complicated regulations, must be re-competed and (often) re-awarded to a new firm, just as the project begins to show sustainable progress. We’re not trying to be good at everything for everyone. Guided by our Core Values and Beliefs, we are pretty specific about what change we think we might make in the world, and how we intend to go about making it. And we are some of the most innovative, passionate, and exciting people in the world – literally – to be addressing these pressing issues.

In a world with so much suffering and so much deprivation, it’s easy to get distracted and to lose the single-minded focus on goals and values that make our successes possible, and that help us learn from our failures. I see a large part of my job as maintaining focus, whether on providing a workplace that is respectful, inclusive, and tolerant, or on programmatic questions such as the role of women and gender in every aspect of our work. And I am wonderfully engaged with and excited about the focused efforts One Earth Future will undertake in the coming months and years.

Sincerely,

Larry Sampler, President
OEFS FAMILY OF PROGRAMS

OCEANS BEYOND PIRACY
Reducing Violence at Sea

OEF Research
Informing Change for Peace

SHURAAKO
Connect ▶ Invest ▶ Jobs

Peace Through Governance

Shared Resources
Toward Inclusive Governance

one earth future

SECURE FISHERIES
Advancing Sustainable Fisheries

OUR SECURE FUTURE
Women Make the Difference

PASO COLOMBIA
Paz Sostenible para Colombia
Oceans Beyond Piracy (OBP) aims to reduce maritime piracy and violence at sea by mobilizing stakeholders from across the maritime community and promoting long-term solutions at sea and on shore.

2016 HIGHLIGHTS

An Expert on Critical Maritime Issues

OBP again researched and compiled its annual *State of Maritime Piracy* report, which is considered a leading resource for the maritime industry. The report called attention to the increasing threat in the Gulf of Guinea while confirming that suppression efforts off the coast of Somalia and in the seas of Southeast Asia have resulted in reduced incidents of piracy in both areas. OBP also conducted interviews with Somalis living along the coast to give a voice to their attitudes toward piracy.

In the absence of accepted international guidance for private security companies, OBP published the *Handbook on the Use of Force for Private Security Companies* for jurisdictions including the high seas. OBP also created the *West Africa Piracy Law Database*, which serves as a reference for the counter-piracy community and brings transparency to countries’ counter-piracy efforts.

A Trusted Convener in the Global Maritime Community

OBP hosted and participated in meetings around the world with experts from the shipping industry, navies, governments and others working to end maritime piracy and violent crime. These events, which included the Global Maritime Summit and Pan-African Maritime Security workshop, advanced OBP’s work by establishing guidance on security, use of force, and rule of law.

Capacity-Building and Hostage Support

OBP worked with other international agencies and the Somaliland Coast Guard to open the first-of-its-kind Maritime Operations Center in Berbera. The center improves the safety of Somali waters for local fishermen and other maritime traffic, and assists in combating illegal fishing, piracy, and other maritime crimes.

Negotiators from OBP, along with the Hostage Support Partnership and others, worked for years to gain the release of hostages in 2016. These included 26 hostages from the *Naham 3* who were released from Somali pirates after four and a half years in captivity.

*Oceans Beyond Piracy (OBP)* aims to reduce maritime piracy and violence at sea by mobilizing stakeholders from across the maritime community and promoting long-term solutions at sea and on shore.
Looking Ahead

OBP reconfirms its inclusive approach and commitment to ensuring that progress against piracy is not reversed and the maritime community stays focused on ending maritime piracy and violent crime at sea. OBP will continue to shine a bright light on maritime violence so crimes are reported and criminals are prosecuted and incarcerated. With increased monitoring, reporting, education, and collaboration, our seas can be more secure for seafarers, fishers, coastal communities, and all those who rely on our oceans for their livelihoods.

For more information about the Oceans Beyond Piracy program and its initiatives, visit:

www.oceansbeyondpiracy.org

Follow them: 

With increased monitoring, reporting, education, and collaboration, our seas can be more secure and safer for seafarers, fishers, and all those who rely on oceans for their livelihoods. Top photo by Jean-Pierre Larroque, OEF. Bottom photo by Greg Clough, OEF.
Secure Fisheries works to combat illegal fishing and support sustainable fisheries by strengthening maritime policies, engaging in community-supported projects, and fostering regional collaboration and coordination.

2016 HIGHLIGHTS

Leading the Way in Information-Sharing
Secure Fisheries designed a multi-year project in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to establish standard operating procedures for collecting and disseminating data from naval and coast guard fleets. The project was chosen by the U.S. State Department as a pilot project for their new Safe Ocean Network initiative, as announced by John Kerry at the 2016 Our Ocean Conference.

An Authority on Best Practices in Fisheries Management
In order to inform the creation of a Somali federal fishing management agency, Secure Fisheries summarized and compared practices of established agencies in An Exploration of Federal Fisheries Management Agencies in Eastern Africa.

Secure Fisheries also worked with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Bank, and donor representatives to coordinate efforts in support of Somali offshore fisheries management. This would set a precedent for other federal government institutions and create ways for Somalis to gain revenue from the foreign fishing occurring in Somalia’s waters.

Food Security for Regional Communities
Secure Fisheries is principal investigator on a project funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation assessing the impact of cage aquaculture on food and economic security around Lake Victoria. In 2016, the research team completed an extensive socio-economic survey, co-hosted an international meeting of scientists in Uganda, planned upcoming research, and published an original database that has been downloaded nearly 1,000 times by users around the world. Research from this project was presented at the American Fisheries Society annual conference.

Secure Fisheries and PASO Colombia explored partnerships with local leaders in Colombia’s Buenaventura area for a project that will increase both employment within the fisheries sector and sustainable seafood production.
Secure Fisheries continues to work toward an agreement for revenue-sharing and licensing of Somali offshore fisheries.

Somalis and the international development community can benefit from identifying areas of potential resource conflicts and how to mitigate them. Secure Fisheries will launch a spatial data and mapping project that identifies important marine fish habitats and fishing grounds, user groups of marine areas, and possible marine spatial planning scenarios for portions of the Somali coast.

Secure Fisheries’ Lake Victoria project will increase scientific capacity in Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania, improve empirical knowledge of food security around the lake through scientific data collection, and reduce conflict over shared resources.

For more information about the Secure Fisheries program and its initiatives, visit:

www.securefisheries.org

Follow them: twitter, linkedin, facebook
Shuraako (meaning “partnership” in Somali) connects investors with promising Somali businesses to encourage economic development and stability throughout the country. Shuraako’s work drives economic development, expands local markets for goods and services, creates jobs, and encourages investment and trade.

2016 HIGHLIGHTS

Connecting Somalis to Investment Opportunities
Shuraako facilitated 24 investments and hosted two forums that brought together more than 600 entrepreneurs, investors, international organizations, government officials, and many others for discussion, workshops, and investment opportunities.

Shuraako and the Somaliland Ministry of Trade and Investment co-hosted the Somaliland Investment Forum—Hargeisa to promote investment and strengthen private sector development in Somaliland. At the Somali Renewable Energy Forum, stakeholders worked to advance reliable, sustainable, and affordable energy for all Somalis, who pay some of the highest energy tariffs in the world.

Supporting Renewable Energy Technology, Agrifood, and New Jobs
Shuraako launched the Powering Progress Fund with Dahabshiil international bank. Successful applicants demonstrate their ability to create impact by offering products and services through application of renewable energy technology.

Shuraako also completed implementing the Somali AgriFood Fund project with the International Fund for Agricultural Development to promote investment in local agribusiness initiatives. In 2016, it awarded investments to 14 businesses.

Shuraako launched Work in Progress! with a consortium that includes Oxfam. The three-year project will build job skills and stimulate entrepreneurship for young people in Egypt, Somalia, and Nigeria. Shuraako is providing tailored business development services to 10 selected medium and small enterprises with strong potential for employing women and youth in Somaliland.

Investigating for Informed Policy
Shuraako and OEF Research produced a report exploring the nature and motivations behind Somali diaspora investment, opportunities for Somalia-based investments, and policy recommendations for the improved facilitation of this crucial investment.
Shuraako will continue to host development and investment forums in 2017.
The Work in Progress! project will continue to create jobs for women and youth.

The Powering Progress Fund will encourage use of renewable energy technology in Somali businesses.

Shuraako will engage ten new businesses in its second year of the Work in Progress! project with Oxfam.

Shuraako will bring its next Investment Forum to Mogadishu and will highlight fishing issues at the Garowe forum, to be co-hosted with Secure Fisheries. In addition, Shuraako will convene key stakeholders in Hargeisa to address both investment and renewable energy.

Shuraako will also implement the Powering Progress Fund for renewable energy technology application—a projected $750,000 fund.

For more information about the Shuraako program and its initiatives, visit:

www.shuraako.org

Follow them:
OEF Research collects and analyzes data about systems that promote good governance, convenes researchers and practitioners in support of evidence-based practice, and produces actionable, empirical research about the trends in peace and conflict.

2016 HIGHLIGHTS

Research to Inform Policy

In its efforts to ensure availability of high-quality data and analysis, OEF Research published a dozen reports and a variety of associated policy briefs. Many of these publications directly supported the work of other OEF programs. A study on women, peace and security in the context of four different countries gave recommendations for high-impact national action plans. OEF Research worked with Shuraako to produce a report on how Somali diaspora make investment and remittance decisions. With Oceans Beyond Piracy, OEF Research also launched a report on the long-term impact of piracy on seafarers and their families, which has been used in planning and prioritizing assistance for seafarers.

Forecasting for Peace

Eliminating the root causes of political violence requires understanding evidence and long-term consequences. OEF Research developed the “CoupCast” forecasting model, which calculates the risk of a coup d’état in any country on a monthly basis. The model uses a dataset that is unique because it is updated continuously. The dataset has been used to inform other OEF Research resources that explore the relationships between drought and civil conflict, coup and democracy, and women’s representation in politics.

Bringing Perspectives and Innovations Together

OEF Research understands that innovative solutions to conflict benefit from sharing information and forging partnerships among diverse perspectives. In partnership with the United Nations, OEF Research continued a discussion series that brings scholars and policymakers together on topics inspired by the journal that OEF Research hosts with the Academic Council on the United Nations System. OEF Research also partnered with the University of San Diego on a workshop to connect peace-focused technology to practitioners and researchers.
OEF Research continues to examine questions of business and governance, such as how business is conducted in conflict-affected areas.

Every month, the CoupCast forecasts the chances of a coup d’état in any country. Photo by Stringer/Getty Images

OEF Research will release a book on governance for peace, which will show how the work of international organizations supporting peace, good governance, and economic development are connected. OEF Research will also release a study detailing which features of business work in conflict-affected areas and what the implications are for international business, governments, and development agencies.

OEF Research will support the foundation’s multiple programs in their efforts to inform policy decisions and bring about change, whether the topic is maritime violence and crime, economic development, or gender and human rights issues.

For more information about the OEF Research program and its initiatives, visit:

www.oefresearch.org

Follow them:
Established in 2016, PASO Colombia works with local communities in Colombia to identify and develop economic opportunities, spur job growth, and encourage communities to be accountable for maintaining long-term stability and peace.

2016 HIGHLIGHTS

Reinvigorating Local Economies and Infrastructure
In 2016, Colombia reached a peace agreement to end decades of civil war. PASO Colombia established initiatives to allow for smoother reintegration of demobilized ex-combatants and to inspire regional models of reconciliation. PASO Colombia worked with community leaders to reinvigorate an initiative by the peasant community near Buga that had stalled for seven years. The refrigeration facility for local dairy farmers is strengthening community relationships and providing economic opportunities for the region.

PASO Colombia and Secure Fisheries explored partnerships with a team of local public and private institutions to identify ways to revitalize fishing in Buenaventura and to sustainably increase their seafood production, including through training, data collection and management, and establishing a sufficient supply chain.

Strengthening Networks for Long-Term Stability and Peace
PASO Colombia joined with Comisión Interurbana de Reconciliación y Convivencia (CIURC) to develop "Dialoguemos la Paz--¡La Paz es Nuestra!" (Dialogues for Peace--Peace is Ours!)—a series of initiatives designed to engage citizens from vulnerable urban zones in reconciliation and peace.

PASO Colombia played an active role at the Macrorueda for Reconciliation event organized by the Reconciliación Colombia Foundation. The Macrorueda provided a platform for learning, dialogue, and debate between regional peace programs, the public and private sector, and leaders in the field of reconciliation.

As the peace accords were being finalized at the end of 2016, PASO Colombia established alliances and strengthened connections with organizations working to transform the informal economies of the local regions. The team also mapped more than 50 peace initiatives and associations that are contributing to sustainable peace and economic development in the different regions of Antioquia, including the identified transition zones for ex-combatants.
LOOKING AHEAD

PASO Colombia will use Colombia’s peace agreement as a guide to secure sustainable economic opportunities for ex-combatants in its areas of operation in Valle del Cauca and Antioquia.

Specific activities will include an assessment of ex-combatants’ skills, expectations, and aspirations as they begin integration, and supplying the resources to support sustainable economic opportunities they can take part in. PASO Colombia will also continue to partner with communities and organizations involved in the reintegration process in order to combine resources, share information, and work toward shared goals.

For more information about the PASO Colombia program and its initiatives, visit:

www.pasocolombia.org

Follow them: 🐦 📱
Established in 2016, Our Secure Future (OSF) believes women make the crucial difference in achieving more effective governance and lasting peace. OSF strives to bring attention to gender equality in all aspects of international peace and security decision-making.

2016 HIGHLIGHTS

Strengthening the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders

OSF strongly supports and encourages women from around the world in their adoption of National Action Plans (NAPs) to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325. In an effort to inform the women, peace and security (WPS) community and other stakeholders, OSF developed an interactive map showing all countries that have adopted NAPs. The map, available on the OSF website, also includes each country’s Global Peace Index ranking, the percentage of parliament made up of women, and the civil society organizations involved in the NAP process.

In its first year, OSF has focused on outreach efforts including speaking engagements and establishing multiple partnerships in support of the WPS community. These include the Women’s Alliance for Security Leadership, the Carter Center, and the U.S. Working Group on Women, Peace and Security.

Amplifying Women’s Voices

In partnership with Empower Peace, OSF launched the "Dear World, Move Us Toward Peace" project. This letter-writing project provides young women with the space they need to share their personal visions for peace while discovering and exercising their propensity to be change-makers. Letters from young women and girls from around the world are available through the OSF website and serve as inspiration for others to share their thoughts on solving some of the world’s most pressing challenges.
LOOKING AHEAD

To develop a shared vision and resources for the women, peace and security community, OSF will partner with Nobel Women’s Initiative to host the Designing Our Secure Future conference in 2017. OSF will also continue to contribute to curricula and trainings and publish additional resources.

The program continues to build partnerships and strengthen the network of women peacebuilders by supporting policies that help advance the WPS agenda. OSF is continuing to identify new entry points for advancing the agenda by engaging in research and dialogue with stakeholders such as women entrepreneurs, grassroots women peacebuilders, and male leaders in diplomacy, defense, and development. By promoting committed action among the many stakeholders, OSF will work to transform policy into practical benefits for women and girls everywhere.

For more information about the Our Secure Future program and its initiatives, visit:

www.oursecurefuture.org

Follow them: Twitter

OSF will work to transform policy into practical benefits for women and girls. Photo by Jean-Pierre Larroque, OEF
Established in 2016, Shared Resources works to integrate local voices and community participation into how oil, gas, and mining resources are developed to reduce the risk of violence and armed conflict.

2016 HIGHLIGHTS

Local Participation in Resource Development

Our planet is rich with resources needed to power our cities, fuel our lifestyles, and enhance our lives. The extraction of these much-needed resources can drive economic development through job creation, skills development, and the investment of revenues in public goods. But extracting these resources can also significantly impact the environment and livelihoods, leading to disagreements, protest, and even violent conflict.

Shared Resources seeks to reduce the risk of violence and its contribution to armed conflict by focusing on how those who are most impacted by extractives activities can have a greater role in the decisions that determine if, when, and how an oil, gas, or mining project will be developed.

Opportunities for Change

OEF initiated the Shared Resources program in July 2016. By mid-October 2016, the team had developed a program strategy and Theory of Change. This process involved extensive secondary research, stakeholder mapping, and the expert input of seasoned professionals. The team then conducted its first field assessment in Colombia. From North Cauca to Antioquia to Bogotá, the assessment involved a total of 77 interviews with members of communities, government, civil society, and academia. This allowed the team to better understand the range of perspectives on the intersections of mining, conflict, and community participation in governance, particularly in light of the Colombian peace process. Using the information and perspectives, the team analyzed the opportunities for change and developed a strategy to begin work in the regions in 2017.
Shared Resources will build partnerships with local groups in Colombia to strengthen access to the information and expertise needed to address the challenges of legal and illegal mining on their lands. This will include promoting dialogue, collaboration, enhanced participation, and research to ensure local voices are heard at the national level.

In addition, Shared Resources will leverage the lessons learned globally on how communities and local actors can have a greater role in decision-making in extractives development.

For more information about the Shared Resources program and its initiatives, visit:

www.oneearthfuture.org/program/shared-resources
Founded by Marcel Arsenault and Cynda Collins Arsenault, the One Earth Future Foundation is a self-funded private operating foundation.