

What action will you take for world environment day?

James Flynn
June 2, 2026
Hyun Jin Moon's Global Peace Foundation



Global Highlights

Creating a Culture of Service and Environmental Stewardship



As we celebrate **World Environment Day**, we are reminded that protecting our planet starts with local action and shared responsibility. Across Africa and Asia, Global Peace Foundation is working with communities, youth leaders, schools, and partners to advance environmental stewardship through tree planting, conservation education, clean-up campaigns, and sustainable development initiatives.

Together, these efforts are helping build healthier communities, stronger leadership, and a more sustainable future for all.

[Discover the Initiatives](#)



7 Ways Global Peace Foundation Supports the Well-Being of the Planet

From tree planting and clean water initiatives to youth leadership and sustainable living programs, GPF is empowering communities worldwide to protect the environment through practical, people-centered action.

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Plogging for Peace: Korean Youth Unite Along the Han River

Youth from diverse Korean backgrounds came together along Seoul's Han River for a joint plogging activity that combined environmental service, friendship, and shared identity, reflecting the growing people-centered movement for peace and unity on the Korean Peninsula.

[Read More](#)

“By involving young people and schools in tree-growing initiatives, we are nurturing a generation that understands sustainability not as a choice, but as a shared moral obligation.”

— Mr. Japheth Ouda, Environment Program Manager, GPF Kenya



Building Sustainable Communities Through Environmental Stewardship

GPF Nepal is empowering communities through environmental education, water conservation, zero-waste initiatives, and women-led sustainability programs that promote healthier and more resilient communities.

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Grassroots Development Transforming Orang Asli Communities in Malaysia



GPF Malaysia is advancing inclusive, community-led development among Orang Asli communities through sustainable farming and livelihood initiatives that restore land, strengthen food security, and expand economic opportunity while building long-term environmental and social resilience.

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7 Ways Global Peace Foundation Supports the Well-Being of the Planet

Anu Lama

April 20, 2026

On International Mother Earth Day, it is easy to feel the weight of everything that is going wrong: rising temperatures, polluted rivers, and disappearing forests. The scale of it all can make individual action feel small, even insignificant. But real change rarely begins at the global level. It starts in communities, in shared effort, and in the quiet decision to care.

Across continents, the Global Peace Foundation (GPF) is helping turn that decision into action. Its work does not rely on grand promises or distant solutions. Instead, it focuses on people and on what happens when communities come together to protect the environment they depend on every day.

While International Mother Earth Day offers a timely moment for reflection, the work of caring for the planet continues every day in communities around the world.

1. Turning Service into Everyday Environmental Action



Preparations are in full swing at Kabuyefwe Primary School in Trans Nzoia County for the official launch of the 18th Chandaria Tree Nursery

At the heart of GPF's approach is a simple idea: people protect what they feel connected to. Through its Development and Service initiatives, communities do not just learn about sustainability; they practice it

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Environmental stewardship is something GPF has long advanced through its Development and Service initiatives. Whether through planting trees, restoring public spaces, or organizing clean-up drives, these activities bring people side by side. And something shifts in that process. The environment stops being “out there” and becomes something personal, something worth maintaining, protecting, and passing on.

Read more about it here:

[GPF’s Development and Service Initiatives Strengthen Environmental Stewardship Globally](#)
[GPF’s Global Drive for Sustainable Peace and Development through Service](#)

2. Growing More Than Trees in Kenya

In Kenya, GPF’s partnership with the Chandaria Foundation has led to the Chandaria Tree Nursery initiative, but what is growing there is more than just seedlings. Schools and local communities are actively involved in nurturing trees from the very beginning. Students water them, monitor their growth, and eventually help plant them in their communities. It is a process that builds patience, responsibility, and pride.

The result is not just greener landscapes, but a deeper understanding of why those landscapes matter in the first place.



A marathon participant holds seedlings donated by GPF Kenya and the Chandaria Foundation

Read more about it here:

[GPF Kenya, Chandaria Foundation and Partners Strengthen Environmental Conservation through the Chandaria Tree Nursery Initiative](#)

3. Letting Young People Lead the Way



GPF Kenya works with partner to establish a tree nursery at Wareng High School.

There is something powerful about seeing young people take ownership of environmental

change. Through initiatives like the Mbogi Green Tree Nursery, GPF is giving students more than knowledge; it is giving them responsibility. They are not just participating; they are leading, organizing activities, managing nurseries, and encouraging their peers to get involved. When young people are trusted in this way, they rise to it.

It is not just about building skills. It is about

building confidence and a lifelong sense of accountability to the planet.

Read more about it here:

[Empowering Climate Champions: GPF Kenya Supports Wareng High School's "Mbogi Green" Tree Nursery Launch](#)

4. Promoting Sustainable Living Through "Green Homes, Green Kathmandu"

In Nepal, the "Green Homes, Green Kathmandu" initiative brings sustainability to life right where people live. GPF trains



GPF Nepal organizes the Green Home Green Kathmandu project to empower local communities.

households in eco-friendly practices such as composting kitchen waste, growing rooftop or balcony gardens, conserving water, and adopting energy-efficient habits.

The initiative goes beyond individual homes. Families and neighbors share knowledge, support one another in implementing these practices, and collectively build greener, more resilient communities. By combining education with tangible action, GPF makes sustainability practical, measurable, and lasting.

Read more about it here:

[GPF Nepal Expands Green Homes; Green Kathmandu Project with New Eco-Friendly Training](#)
[GPF Nepal Builds Sustainable Communities through Knowledge and Service](#)

5. Connecting Communities Through Global Collaboration



In her keynote address, Ms. Charlene Ruto, Founder and CEO of SMACHS Foundation, emphasized the importance of transformative partnerships in driving localized and continental aspirations

Environmental challenges do not stop at borders, and GPF recognizes the power of collaboration. Through events like

BioEnviroCon 2025 in India and partnerships such as the SMACHS Centre of Excellence in Africa, GPF brings together students, researchers, educators, and community leaders to share knowledge, develop innovative solutions, and scale successful local practices.

These platforms connect grassroots action with global expertise, ensuring that solutions are informed, adaptable, and far-reaching. By fostering dialogue and collaboration, GPF helps communities think bigger while still staying grounded in local action.

Read more about it here:

- [Uniting Minds for a Sustainable Future: BioEnviroCon 2025 at IIT Delhi](#)
- [GPF Africa Partners in the Launch of SMACHS Centre of Excellence and 2025-2030 Strategic Plan](#)

6. Connecting Clean Water to Dignity and Health

In Malaysia, GPF's work around clean water highlights something we often overlook: environmental challenges are deeply human challenges. Access to safe water changes everything. It improves health, reduces strain on local ecosystems, and gives communities a sense of stability and dignity. It is not just about infrastructure; it is about creating conditions in which people can thrive. When communities are healthier and more secure, they are also better able to care for the environment around them.

Read more about it here:

- [Collaborating in Malaysia to Provide Communities Access to Clean Water](#)

7. Restoring Biodiversity Through Regenerative Farming in Malaysia

In Malaysia, where biodiversity loss has affected both ecosystems and local livelihoods, GPF



Malaysia

partnered with indigenous Orang Asli communities to introduce syntropic agroforestry, a regenerative farming system that mimics natural forests. By planting trees, shrubs, and crops together, the initiative restores soil, supports wildlife, and improves food diversity. Families have gained sustainable ways to feed themselves while protecting their surroundings, another strong example of community-driven environmental action.

Read more about it here:

- [Roots of change: fighting biodiversity loss in Malaysia](#)

A Small Action Can Go Further Than You Think

What stands out across all of these efforts is not just what is being done, but how it is being done. It is not about quick fixes or one-time projects. It is about people showing up, again and again, for the places they live.

That is something worth holding onto. Change does not have to start big. It simply has to start. And if you are wondering how to be part of that change, supporting the work already happening on the ground is one of the most direct ways to do it.

The Global Peace Foundation is already helping

communities plant trees, train young leaders, expand access to clean water, and make sustainability part of everyday life. But to reach more communities and deepen that impact, it needs collective support.

If this work resonates with you, consider making a donation to support GPF's sustainability initiatives. Your contribution, no matter the size, helps turn small, local actions into lasting global change.

Because caring for the Earth is not just about protecting what we have. It is about choosing, together, what kind of future we want to build.

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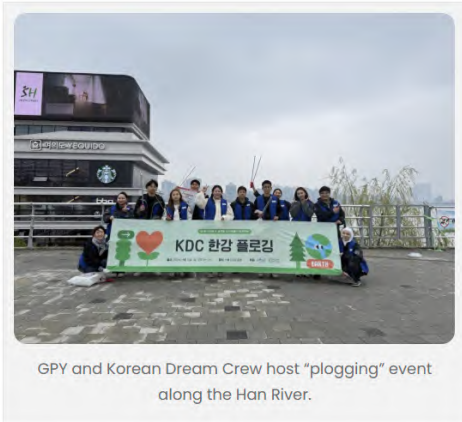
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Youth Plogging at Han River Builds Momentum for One Korea

Wairimu Mwangi

May 25, 2026



GPY and Korean Dream Crew host "plogging" event along the Han River.

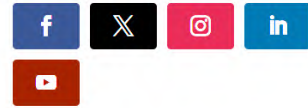
On April 10, 2026, youth from diverse Korean backgrounds gathered along Seoul's Han River for a volunteer

"plogging" activity co-hosted by Global Peace Youth (GPY) and the Korean Dream Crew. Participants, including South Korean youth, North Korean escapees, Koryo-jin, overseas Koreans, and international students, worked in teams to collect trash scattered after the rain, turning a simple environmental effort into a collaborative, high-energy experience. Through jogging, conversation, and shared service, the event created space for interaction among young people whose life paths are often shaped by division.

The activity combined environmental stewardship with intentional community-building. As participants moved across riverbanks, walkways, and green spaces, collecting plastic waste and other debris, they also formed connections and exchanged perspectives. The shared experience of wearing vests symbolizing a unified Korean Peninsula reinforced a sense of belonging and common identity, while the informal nature of plogging allowed relationships to develop naturally. For many, the event made the idea of unity more tangible through direct, personal engagement.

This initiative reflects the broader vision of the [One Korea Global Campaign](#) led by Global Peace Foundation, which advances peaceful

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reunification of the Korean Peninsula through values-based, people-centered action. By bringing together youth across divides in practical activities that build trust and shared purpose, programs like the Han River plogging help lay the social foundation for lasting peace. Efforts like this demonstrate how local, youth-led engagement contributes to a growing global movement to realize “One Korea” through collective action.

Read the full original article for more insights and participant perspectives as shared on [The Korean Dream Times: GPY Korean Dream Plogging Event Successfully Held](#)

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Community, Care, and Climate: GPF Nepal's March for Environmental Stewardship and Peace

Anu Lama

May 19, 2026

March was a powerful month for GPF Nepal, marked by a series of environmental stewardship initiatives that brought communities together around a shared vision: a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable environment.

Through projects spanning WASH education, the Green Homes: Green Kathmandu campaign, World Water Day, and International Zero Waste Day, GPF Nepal demonstrated how locally rooted initiatives, especially those led by women and community members, can create practical and meaningful impact.

Environmental peacebuilding begins when communities care for their shared spaces, work

together to protect natural resources, and take ownership of solutions that strengthen both people and the planet.

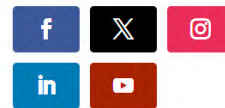
1. Project Sparsha: Promoting Health and Sanitation through WASH Education

March began with Project Sparsha, where GPF Nepal educated students of Shree Janak Siddhikali Madhyamik School on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH). Thirty-six students participated in the program and learned about “the importance of washing hands, the role of soap in killing



Project Sparsha: Promoting Health and Sanitation through WASH Education

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bacteria and viruses, and the proper use of toilets in their daily lives.”

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2. World Water Day



On World Water Day, March 22, GPF Nepal collaborated with Smart Paani to hold a workshop for residents of

Madhyapur Thimi, Bhaktapur. The workshop focused on water conservation techniques and effective water management, including rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, and WASH.

Laxmi Kesari Prajapati, one of the participants, reflected on the scarcity of drinking water in her area and shared how relevant the program was to her community. She said, “Knowledge will help us contribute to better health and sustainable water management in our community.”

3. Green Homes: Green Kathmandu Training on Making Soaps, Liquid Soaps, and Sanitizers

From March 25 to 27, 2026, GPF Nepal conducted a training program on making soaps, liquid soaps, and sanitizers as part of its ongoing Green Homes: Green Kathmandu campaign. The Nepal chapter provided essential materials and practical guidance for the workshop.

The training empowered women to practice environmental conservation by encouraging the reuse of used oils in soap-making. It also offered long-term potential to support household livelihoods by helping participants turn newly learned skills into income-generating activities.

Participants expressed joy and enthusiasm for the program. Shreeya shared, “I plan to practice making these

hygiene products at home, and in the future, I hope to use this skill to sell them and earn a small income.”



4. Zero Waste Exhibition on International Zero Waste Day

Lastly, from March 30 to 31, GPF Nepal conducted a zero-waste exhibition as part of its Green Homes: Green Kathmandu River of Peace Campaign (ROP). ROP is an environmental initiative of GPF Nepal that promotes environmental stewardship

and sustainability. The exhibition was held in observance of International Day of Zero Waste and organized in partnership with the Rotary Club.



Zero Waste Exhibition on International Zero Waste Day

Sunita Manandhar, one of the participants in the exhibition, said, "We had the opportunity to showcase

our group's upcycled products made from milk plastic, eco-friendly sanitary pads, and plants. We felt very happy and encouraged when our products were sold and received positive feedback from visitors."

She further shared that the experience boosted her confidence and deepened her understanding of the importance of teamwork and ownership.

GPF Nepal's initiatives show that meaningful change does not always require large-scale interventions. It can begin with small, consistent actions that bring people together, strengthen local ownership, and create lasting impact.

As these efforts continue to grow, they offer a powerful reminder: caring for the environment is not only about major projects or investments. It is also about everyday choices, grassroots action, and communities working together to protect the places they call home. To support GPF and its environmental initiatives, please visit:

<http://give.globalpeace.org/>

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A week of grit and giving in Ulu Semul, Kuala Lipis

Sofia Aminudin

March 9, 2026

Would you spend a week deep in the forest without electricity, cell service, and soft beds?

That’s exactly what 10 Global Peace Volunteers (GPV) signed up for—leaving behind the convenience of modern life to spend seven days in the hills of Kuala Lipis, building a gravity-fed water system for an Orang Asli village in Ulu Semul.



Global Peace Volunteers in Ulu Semul

Organized by Global Peace Foundation Malaysia with support from Yayasan Hasanah, this seven-day project went beyond the task of building a water system. It became an experience shaped by human connection and where physical labour gave way to shared purpose.

In fact, in the quiet hours of work and rest, many discovered that resilience grows stronger in the presence of community, and that’s what we are happy to share with everyone today.



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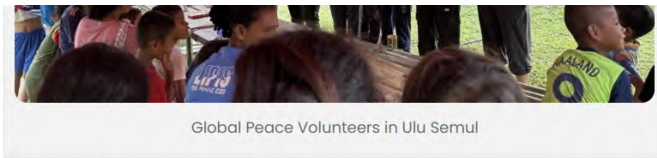
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Global Peace Volunteers in Ulu Semul

One village, One Goal

Set among the dense green landscape of Kuala Lipis, Pahang, the village had long depended on an inconsistent and aging water system. Leaks, broken pipes, an old system, and unsafe routes meant some villagers still collected water from rivers or rain, which meant the need for a safer, more reliable water source had become urgent.

That's where the GPV team came in.

Under the guidance of Sylvia and Jo, our on-site partners and technical lead, along with Jaclyn, a returning volunteer turned facilitator, the group was tasked with building the dam as well as repairing and extending the water system, a project that required both physical endurance and mental resilience. The villagers worked alongside the volunteers from the very beginning, helping to carry materials and guide the group through the terrain they knew best. By the end of the week, the sense of accomplishment was not just in seeing water flow again but in the shared effort that made it happen.

"Living off-grid without the internet made me reflect on the difference between what I think I need and what I truly need. It hit me that the things I often overlook or complain about back home are the very things these villagers long for and would cherish deeply. This experience expanded my view of the world. I realized how much I didn't know until I stepped beyond my comfort zone." – Pheona

[Read Pheona's article here \(Clean Water Seems Ordinary for Many, but Scarce for Others\)](#)



Global Peace Volunteers in Ulu Semul

From strangers to a team

The volunteers hailed from many different states. Among them, we had Safeer, an international student and our own GPV alumni, and Batrisyia, returning for her fourth volunteering program. Some were students, others were young professionals. Many had never been to an Orang Asli village or built a water system before, yet together they quickly grew into an amazing, capable team.

"What I enjoyed most was collaborating with the villagers to build the water system. I learned so much about laying pipes, constructing the dam,

and how vital teamwork really is. It also gave me a deeper appreciation for rural life and how much difference a little help can make.” – Norley

Days started early, with the buzz of the forest and the clanking of tools. Volunteers hiked to the water source, cut through undergrowth, cleared paths, and laid out pipelines.

The first major task took place at the dam site. The team transported bags of soil, sand, and cement to the remote location. The work was repetitive and physical, of course, but it also brought so much experience.

Later, the focus shifted to the piping system. The water pipes were thick and heavy, coiled in massive rolls that required physical strength for people to move. It was the kind of teamwork that felt almost choreographed, like pushing a giant wheel through the forest. Still, the task never felt overwhelming. Everyone helped: men, women, even children.

There was no division of roles, only a shared sense of responsibility. The atmosphere was communal. If someone grew tired, others stepped in. Under the sun, with little shade, the work demanded both focus and stamina.

Despite the conditions, the spirit of the team never wavered. What began as a group of strangers had, by the end of the week, become something much closer, a team of volunteers shaped by shared purpose and mutual respect!

Something unforgettable somehow always comes through food. It's not an everyday occurrence where we get the chance to eat in a simple setting at the same place we camp out for work construction. What made it even more special was the touch of tradition that gave the moment its meaning, lunch served in wrapped leaves, with rice, sambal, bamboo shoots, and hot broth with meat, all lovingly prepared together.



Not without challenges

The journey wasn't without its trials. Muddy and challenging trails, sore muscles, and a lack of electricity tested everyone's endurance. With limited cell service, one often had to stand at one precise spot just to stay connected; one step away and the reception would fade. But every challenge became a story, and every obstacle became part of the shared experience.

“One of the most powerful lessons came from water itself. In the city, we take it for granted. but

here, it's survival. Building the dam from scratch helped me understand the effort and struggle behind every drop of clean water." – Luqman



Global Peace Volunteers in Ulu Semul

A farewell and a beginning

As the final water pipe was fitted and the last tank secured, the team gathered for a farewell dinner, a simple, joyful celebration of hard work, along with community in celebrating one shared purpose.

"Ulu Semul taught us that kindness doesn't need words, it lives in quiet gestures and open hearts. When the water finally flowed, so did hope. This village is no longer just a place we visited, but a home we'll carry with us always." – Jamuel



Global Peace Volunteers at the end of the 7-day gravity-fed water system project

Beyond the project, WHAT'S NEXT?

The GPV program is a JOURNEY. In fact, it's a leap into the community and into services. Often time we may think we are there to "GIVE" yet without fail, we always "RECEIVE". Be it friendship, perspectives, challenges, or gratitude – it all came full circle in the spirit of making a difference.

It reminds us that making a difference doesn't always happen in big moments; sometimes, it happens when you carry a pipe up a slippery hill and feel the weight of purpose in your hands and share a meal with those who welcomed you as family.

At the end of the day, you don't need much to make a difference, just the courage to show up and give your best.

Special acknowledgement to Yayasan Hasanah for supporting this initiative

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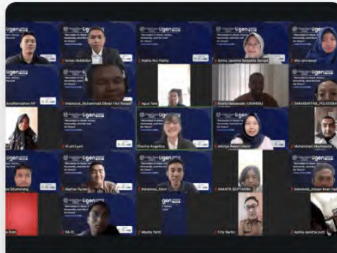


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Each year, Mongolia faces growing desertification and dust storms—threatening communities, ecosystems, and neighboring countries. But hope is growing through the Peace Park: an international tree-planting and peacebuilding project led by youth.

In August 2026, Mongolia will host the UN COP17 Desertification Summit—a milestone for global climate action. The Peace Park is our youth-led contribution: thousands of pine trees planted in Mongolia's heartland by young leaders from Korea, Mongolia, Japan, India, and beyond.

Led by Global Peace Foundation (GPF) Mongolia, in partnership with My Club NGO, GPCorps, and others, this initiative is a symbol of environmental renewal and cross-border unity.

This campaign supports Mongolia's official role at COP17 UNCCD and highlights youth-led climate action aligned with the SDGs and global peacebuilding.

This isn't just about trees. It's about planting peace.

"When we plant a tree together, we plant peace." — Youth Leader, GPCorps Mongolia

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Why This Matters:

- Environmental Stewardship: Combat desertification in one of the world's most affected regions
- Peacebuilding: Engage youth from across Northeast Asia in cross-border cooperation
- Sustainable Impact: Track your tree's growth and ecological contribution over time

Be a part of the Green Diplomacy and Action. Contribute to planting hundreds of trees in the Mongolia Peace Park. Your donation will directly fund pine tree planting, maintenance, and water systems for at least 3 years. Together, we grow peace through trees.

What Your Donation Supports

- Tree Purchase and Planting (Mostly Native Pine Species and Some Mongolian Poplar and Salix)
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- Youth Leadership and Peacebuilding Programs (via Global Peace Leadership Corps)
- Educational Outreach with Local and International Partners (My Club Online Eco Community, COP 17 UNCCD, and others)
- Global Recognition and Visibility
- Carbon Sequestration and Carbon Storage Calculation
- Photo sharing every year for Each Tree Planted

Why Mongolia?

Mongolia is at the frontlines of environmental degradation—but also holds the key to regional climate and environmental leadership.

- The country loses 60,000 hectares of forest annually.
- Over 70% of land is affected by desertification.
- Dust storms originating here impact Korea, Japan, and beyond.

Yet, Mongolia is also becoming a bridge nation—welcoming youth from Russia, Japan, and even representatives of the North Korean community to plant seeds of peace.

Youth: Planting the Future

Meet some of the amazing youth behind the campaign:




Enkhjin Bayartsogt, a My Club Volunteer from Ulaanbaatar, partnered with North Korean Participants and is mobilising students to plant hundreds of trees.



Jihey Kim, a South Korean student, visited Mongolia during the Mongolia Forum and planted trees alongside participants from 10 other nations.



Kier Aventurado, a GPCorps member from the Philippines, witnessed the green diplomacy and environmental action during his recent engagement with the Mongolian tree planting.

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They aren't just planting trees—they're building a network of environmental peacebuilders.

Join the Movement

Your tree is a message. A gesture. A promise of peace.

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Get your community involved

"In planting this tree, I believe I am healing a land, uniting nations, and growing the future."

— GP Corps Member

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Volunteer service and community development are important components of sustainable peacebuilding. Global Peace Foundation engages community members and local organizations as assets and partners to find sustainable solutions to development challenges. Through workshops, training, enterprise development, and cross-cultural service initiatives, GPF is building vibrant communities, fostering self-reliance, and supporting entrepreneurial empowerment.

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