



WOMEN EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

Celebrate Women's Day with Unity Foundation



Unity Foundation

ONG DEPUIS 1991

Created in 1991, **Unity Foundation** is a Luxembourgish NGO officially recognized by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs.

Unity Foundation collaborates with a network of **local partners** in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Our main objective is to provide financial resources to our partner organisations that carry out educational projects within the framework of three lines of action: Community Schools, the Preparation for Social Action (PSA) program and Training Centers.

All projects supported by Unity Foundation are **co-financed by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Luxembourg.**



The world of humanity is possessed of two wings — the male and the female. So long as these two wings are not equivalent in strength, the bird will not fly”.

From the Bahá'í writings



WHAT IS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY?

Dear readers,

Celebrated on March 8th, International Women's Day is a day that marks the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women and calls to action for accelerating gender parity.

International Women's Day is all about unity, celebration, reflection, advocacy and action-values which Unity Foundation strongly supports. In the words of Gloria Steinem, world-renowned feminist, journalist and activist, "The story of women's struggle for equality belongs to no single feminist nor to any one organization but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights."

We invite you to celebrate International Women's Day with us by making a difference for women and communities alike and thus contributing to a better and more hopeful future.

Fernand Schaber
President



ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY UNITY FOUNDATION

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

- 5.408 Children
- 32 Schools
- 159 Teachers
- 40 Students
- 11 Tutors
- 75 Trained Individuals
- 8 Organizations

MALAWI

- 4.324 Children
- 69 Schools
- 161 Teachers
- 32 Trained Individuals
- 5 Organizations

UGANDA

- 540 Students
- 36 Tutors

CAMBODIA

- 646 Children
- 30 Schools
- 38 Teachers
- 185 Students
- 24 Tutors

COLOMBIA

- 424 Students
- 53 Tutors

ZAMBIA

- 281 Students
- 30 Tutors

INDONESIA

- 962 Children
- 26 Schools
- 78 Teachers

Community Schools

Preparation for Social Action

Training Centers

OUR VISION OF EQUALITY

Together with our partner organisations we share the belief that achieving equality between women and men is a prerequisite for prosperity. Unity Foundation believes that education is key to alleviating poverty, achieving sustained community transformation and gender equality. Therefore, all our partners are committed to give women the same opportunities than men and offer them educational and training opportunities that encourage their participation. All the activities supported by Unity Foundation are based on a methodology that combines study and community service, a methodology that encourages **women and men to work together and learn how to trace the path of their communities' development.**

As a consequence of our partners' efforts, more than 50% of students in community schools are girls. How is this achieved? Mainly through raising awareness among parents about the importance of educating their daughters, who will in turn be the primary caregivers. Another challenge which is addressed is that many older girls have to take care of their younger siblings while their parents are working. Our partners acknowledge this reality and accommodate for these girls to attend classes with their younger siblings. In other projects, the local partners organize special daycare for the children of mothers who want to follow the teacher training. As a result, **the percentage of female teachers in the community schools is way above the national average.**

We hope that the following accounts will give you insight into how the educational programs supported by Unity Foundation have empowered women to become actors of social change in their communities.

PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN OUR PROJECTS

55% of the students in PSA program

49% of the tutors in PSA program

52% of the children in Community Schools

69% of the teachers in Community Schools



Listerwati was about to give up until she participated in a meeting organized by YBTI.

THE FRUIT OF PERSEVERANCE

From discouragement to hope

In July 2017, after nearly ten years as a teacher, Listerwati thought her teaching career was coming to an end. For the last six years, local religious authorities had advocated the inhabitants of Paninjoan, Indonesia, to not send their children to YBTI (our partner organization in Indonesia) schools. This led to a gradual decline in the number of students to a mere three children. Disappointed, Listerwati was about to give up until she participated in a meeting organized by YBTI, which had a transformative effect on her. At this meeting, the focus of the reflection was on the sacrifice of a teacher in serving the needs of local communities and the crucial role they play in laying a solid foundation for a child's development. Following this meeting, Listerwati and another young teacher, with a renewed energy, began to face the challenges that would arise.

Raising parents' awareness of the importance of education

It became evident that the key to ensuring access to education for children required predominantly the parents support. An experienced teacher was sent by YBTI to support and accompany Listerwati and the young assistant during their visits to parents. After just one week, 3 new children joined the school. With more help and resources, a parental study program was organized with four new mothers participating. The learning experience from this program was shared with neighbors and the larger community and Listerwati began to receive more requests from parents in the village. The word then began to spread to the neighboring village, and one month later, another program was organized with 20 mothers, then another with 15 parents.

The enthusiasm shown by these parents and their appreciation of the program had by now set Listerwati and her assistant teacher on fire. By the end of this cycle of parental study, the number of children in the school had risen to 8.

Collaboration with local institutions

Seeing the interest from parents encouraged Listerwati to contact the local head of the village and ask for their support in helping raise awareness on the importance of child education and the role of parents and society. Two months of preparation and hard work ended with a parental seminar jointly organized by YBTI and the local government of Paninjoan. As a result, an astonishing 86 participants joined the seminar.

The fruit of sustained efforts

After the seminar, the number of children enrolled at Paninjoan Community School had risen to 25, with 3 teachers and Listerwati as the head of the school.

Listerwati, who intended to close her school twenty months earlier, is now taking the key lead in training new teachers and assisting in the growth of the nascent school. Since then, she has been providing her services as a teacher trainer and assists in conducting parental study programs in other community schools.



A parental study program organized by Listerwati



Jessie was offered the position of operating the Mphatso Nursery school.

MPHATSO NURSERY SCHOOL

Mphatso Nursery school is located in the Southern Region of Malawi. It is among the first 10 schools Bambino Foundation (our partner in Malawi) established in 2008. The school is owned by the Mkaombe community and Jessie Custom is the sole teacher that has been working there since its establishment.

Jessie Custom and her husband were simple subsistence farmers in the Southern Region of Malawi and struggled to survive solely on their farming income. After participating in a teacher training from Bambino Foundation, Jessie was offered the position of operating the Mphatso Nursery school with 25 students attending the first year. The training she received at Bambino Foundation gave her the possibility to provide quality education to the children in her community and offer them a good foundation for primary school. By the end of the first year, 17 students were able to graduate. This result amazed the Head Teacher of Mkaombe Primary School so much that she started a personal campaign to recommend parents to send their children to her school. With this



support and encouragement, Jessie managed to not only increase the number of students attending her school but also broadened her knowledge and skills to give tutorial classes to students in need.

The sustainable growth of the Mphatso Nursery School is very much a result of the community's efforts. It soon became necessary to build an appropriate school infrastructure to meet the increasing number of students. The community mobilized to construct a classroom block by molding bricks and contributed some money to buy iron sheets. A member of parliament from the community even donated some chicks to be raised as an income generating activity to support the school.

Not only has the school gained strong grounds, but Jessie managed to construct a roof for her house and is able to pay for her daughter's secondary school fees with the money she is generating from the school. She has also been able to create work for others in her community by hiring people to work in her garden while she is busy teaching at the school.



The children enrolled from Prisca's training were performing at an exceptional level.

PRISCA'S STORY

Prisca Ilunga is a young lady from Samuteba, Zambia. She joined the PSA program offered by Inshindo Foundation (our partner in Zambia) in 2013. One of the courses she took is called "Nurturing young minds". While offering preschool classes to the children in her community, which is an integral part of the course, she developed her capacities as a teacher and attained her desire to contribute to the betterment of her community. To her surprise, her hard work paid off and as a result the majority of her students managed to successfully enroll to a higher grade in the government-run primary school called Samuteba Primary School. The children enrolled from Prisca's training were performing at an exceptional level compared to the other children and the teachers and parents began to notice this amazing difference.

In 2015, after getting married, Prisca moved to her husband's community in Nyangombe and continued her efforts to teach young children, building on her previous experience. In addition to teaching

preschool classes, she formed another PSA group with the intent to build more resources and to encourage her participants to develop their capacity to teach young children. Parents and community members alike realized that there was an increased need for more children to participate in pre-school education. Therefore, with the help of Prisca, the Nswana Community School was formally established in May 2016 with an initial enrollment of 25 students-15 girls and 10 boys.

As a tutor of the PSA program, Prisca helped to increase the number of capable teachers in her community. In return, the program encouraged her to pursue her own academic education in order to perform her duties more effectively. She is currently pursuing her academic studies to become a qualified teacher and contribute more effectively to the education of children in her community.



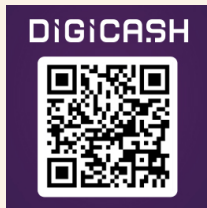
THE JOY OF GIVING

As Unity Foundation is an NGO accredited by the MFEA, **all donations made in our favour are tax deductible.**

Each contribution, no matter how small or large, helps us to support our partners in carrying out their education projects.

OUR BANK ACCOUNT

BIL: IBAN LU39 0028 1030 9750 0000



WHERE TO FIND US?

A: 17, Allée Léopold Goebel

L-1635 Luxembourg

T: (+352) 25 26 20

E: info@unityfoundation.lu

W: www.unityfoundation.lu

f /UnityFoundationLuxembourg

in /company/unity-foundation-luxembourg



Create your birthday fundraiser on Facebook

- Say no to gifts and yes to solidarity!
- Create your own campaign in a few clicks.
- Mobilize your Facebook network.



VIREMENT

Veillez consulter les indications figurant au verso
Un caractère MAJUSCULE (BLEU ou NOIR) ou signe par case en cas d'écriture manuscrite

Code BIC de la banque du bénéficiaire		EUR ou	Montant
C C P L L U L L			
N° de compte du bénéficiaire			
I B A N L U 0 3 1 1 1 1 1 3 2 6 8 3 8 4 0 0 0 0			
Nom de la banque du bénéficiaire (uniquement si code BIC non indiqué)		Code Pays	
Nom et adresse du bénéficiaire		Code Pays de résidence	
U N I T Y F O U N D A T I O N O N G			
1 7 , A L L . L E O P O L D G O E B E L L - 1 6 3 5 L U X E M B O U R G			
Communication au bénéficiaire		Avis de débit	
D O N 2 0 2 0 / 1			
N° de compte du donneur d'ordre			
Nom et adresse du donneur d'ordre (Max 4 lignes)		Date d'exécution souhaitée	Date et Signature
		Frais à charge (par défaut = PARTAGÉS)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> ou <input type="checkbox"/> ou <input type="checkbox"/> PARTAGÉS Bénéficiaire Donneur d'ordre	