

WAR
IN PLACE OF
WAR

CREATIVITY CONQUERS COVID

A photograph showing a woman in a green long-sleeved shirt and a white face mask handing a small blue box to another woman wearing a red headscarf. The woman in green is also wearing white gloves. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be an outdoor or semi-outdoor setting with some foliage. The entire image has a dark overlay and a grid of small blue circles.

Learnings from Lockdown: Supporting Change-Makers in the Global South whose Communities are Facing Critical Challenges

OUR COVID RESPONSE

In Place of war have to date distributed \$50,000 to change-makers from 27 communities, in 13 countries. With this funding, the change-makers have organised community kitchens, distributed food packages, and fed thousands.

We are seeking \$150,000 to support an additional 100 grants across 26 countries, to not only continue providing emergency food and support, but to also begin addressing other longer-term community vulnerabilities as the crisis continues.



Photo: Kenyan Community elder photographed by IPOW change-makers 'Greenstring Network' (May 2020)

SUMMARY

Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, In Place of War worked with grassroots change-makers in music, theatre, and across the arts to use artistic creativity to transform cultures of violence and suffering into hope, opportunity and freedom. Our changemakers work in some of the world's most challenging contexts - post-conflict, urban gang affected communities, and conflict zones where other international organisations rarely have a presence. They are resourceful, resilient and responsive to the critical issues facing their communities.

With the coronavirus crisis, we have leveraged the local connections and wisdom of our changemakers to enable direct, bespoke, and grassroots support determined and led by those located in communities facing the pandemic. Many of the challenges these communities are facing during the crisis are not a consequence of the virus per se; rather Covid-19 has exacerbated critical issues the communities were already facing (conflict, food insecurity, lack of basic sanitation, access to information).

In COVID times, these communities are hit the hardest for a number of reasons, including lack of PPE, lack of medical infrastructure, increased conflict/violence, lack of education, lack of authentic news, and precarious and informal employment which is impossible to carry out in lockdown (street vendors, couriers) - resulting in people unable to buy food, medicine and other essentials.

By providing financial assistance and a global support network to community organisers in these fragile contexts, we are building resilience and supporting community driven solutions for sustainable development in places too often left behind by global humanitarian aid and development communities.

Photo: members of community in the Kathputli colony awaiting arrival of food donations (April 2020)



UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF COVID IN COMMUNITIES FACING CONFLICT

'Hunger isn't in lockdown' Medellín, Colombia



NORTHERN UGANDA HIP HOP CULTURE, KITGUM

Benny Muding works with musicians in the North of Uganda engaging them in creative entrepreneurship to improve livelihoods in a region devastated by a brutal 20-year civil war.

'...people are living in fear of COVID-19, many are testifying that this is worse than a physical war, our team has already seen that government forces have been using excessive force to enforce lockdowns'



Photo: COVID Lockdown Enforcement, Uganda (April, 2020)



ELEMENTO ILLEGAL – MEDELLIN

Nathalia Garcia is a community leader from hip hop organization Elemento Illegal. She explains:

‘Communities in El Faro, an informal neighbourhood on the outskirts of Medellin where many displaced families forced to flee violence are based, have been severely affected by COVID-19. The area is home to 400 vulnerable families living in dire conditions, working in informal and precarious employment. Lockdown has left them unable to generate income and 98% of them are struggling to cover their basic needs with hunger being the most pressing issue. Preventing the spread of COVID-19 in the area is further compounded by lack of basic sanitation and hygiene products’

Photo: the community queue for a hot meal from the kitchen set up by Elemento Illegal

MAU MAU ARTS, NAIROBI

Robert Mukunu engages young people out of poverty using music, film and art as the mechanism in Nairobi, Kenya, where police brutality is extreme and speaking out against the government is forbidden. Robert says:

‘A young boy was also shot by police at the balcony of his home in Kiamaiko, Nairobi, because ‘he was out during the curfew’ which seems like a dark irony that a citizen was killed by police who were ensuring he was indoors to protect him from COVID-19. Questions still remain unanswered on why the government is charging for treatment of corona-related ailments.’



Photo: People surge for food aid during lockdown in Nairobi (April 2020)



KATHPUTLI COLONY, DELHI

Vijay Kumar is a community leader in the Kathputli Colony Deli, an artist community forcibly displaced from their homes by the government and now living in transit camps with few facilities. Vijay explains:

‘There is simply no support from the government, some families are on edge of starvation during these days.’ Our team note, “India has some of the most extremely high-density urban populations, social distancing is simply not an option for most of these people, and the consequences of lockdown is costing lives through hunger, and lack of medicine.”

Photo: Vijay distributing limited supplies of donated food to the community (April 2020)

MOBILISING FUNDING

In Place of War has been issuing small grants of between \$1,000 and \$2,000 to change makers from our existing global network of 26 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. With this support, the change-makers have been able to amplify the impact of their COVID-19 projects as they are able to leverage additional support, scale work or develop new projects that respond to issues in real time.

A call for applications was sent to an invited group of change-makers, resulting in 45 applications.

A small panel from the In Place of War Board and team reviewed applications, selected 27 recipients, and funds were distributed, having immediate impact. The overall process took *only two weeks*.

Photo: In Place of War Change-Maker in El Salvador distributing food parcels to vulnerable families (May 2020)



UNIQUE QUALITIES OF THE NETWORK

- Peer learning and knowledge exchange amongst community leaders from diverse contexts and cultures that often share common challenges resulting in new knowledge and lateral thinking.
- Creative responses that facilitate changes in behaviour and habit through the arts – a key element in preventing the spread of Coronavirus and promoting long term community development.
- Ability to galvanise more support and community participation
- Ability to leverage support in-kind through volunteers, space, resources etc
- Community leaders that are part of and rooted in the communities they serve and thus have a commitment and drive to support their community
- Unparalleled understanding of the local context, the often complex dynamics at play and the critical issues facing the community
- Negotiate directly with local businesses to secure goods at the best prices whilst supporting local enterprises, farmers and manufacturers

HOW IS THE NETWORK SUPPORTED?

- The change-makers meet twice a week on Zoom and share their responses to COVID-19, resources and practice. There is a WhatsApp group that enables change-makers to share challenges and responses.
- Change-makers receive mentoring from the In Place of War board and team.
- IPOW board and team also sign post change makers to connect with others who can share insights and knowledge on the development and delivery of similar projects.



IMPACT COMPARED TO OTHER FUNDERS

IN PLACE OF WAR VALUE FOR MONEY

Average cost to feed one person a day via In Place of War change-makers in Colombia (based on providing a food kit of essentials priced at £11.90 for an average family of five for 7 days):

0.33p

Average cost to feed one person per day via In Place of War change-makers in South Africa:

0.25p



CASE STUDY COMPARISON

SPANISH NGO V'S IN PLACE OF WAR CHANGE-MAKERS

Educo, a Spanish NGO's COVID-19 campaign to feed children in El Salvador states that a donation of €29.95 (£27) would provide food for a family of 8 for over 10 days. The food kit includes oil, oats, beans, cornflour, sugar, rice, coffee and water. That is the equivalent of **0.33 pence person/day for a food kit of 8 items.**



The image shows a Facebook post from Educo. The post text reads: "EMERGENCIA COVID-19. Entregamos cestas de alimentos para cubrir las necesidades básicas de niños y niñas en El Salvador. Con una aportación de 29,25€ podemos alimentar a una familia de hasta 8 miembros durante más de 10 días. Ahora, más que nunca, si puedes colabora." Below the text is a photo of a woman holding a food kit. The kit includes: Aceite, Avena, Alubias, Harina de maíz, Arroz blanco, Azúcar moreno, Café, and Agua. The Educo logo and website (educ.org) are also visible. At the bottom, there is a call to action: "Ayúdanos a no dejar a ningún niño atrás en España y otros países" with a "DONATE NOW" button.

IPOW Change-Maker Una Frecuencia, a hip hop organization based in the capital El Salvador, received a \$1000 from the IPOW COVID-19 emergency fund. With the grant they provided food & hygiene kits to 60 families (average 5 people per family= 350 people) for 10 days. Each food kit cost (£16.40) The kits consisted of oil, corn, rice, sugar, beans, soup, coffee, potatoes, toilet paper, toothpaste, soap, washing detergent, bleach, a mask and matches. The cost of providing a food and hygiene kit consisting of **15 items is 0.32 pence person/day.**



CASE STUDY COMPARISON

WORLD VISION V'S IN PLACE OF WAR CHANGE-MAKERS

- World Vision: 85p per child per day



World Vision

For **every child**, life in all its fullness

careers.wvi.org #WeAreWorldVision



THE AMAZON, BRAZIL

Change Maker: Takumã Kuikuro

Community: Xingu Territories, The Amazon, Brazil

Challenge: It is predicted that 50% of indigenous people of the Xingu region of the Amazon exposed to COVID-19 will die. The community may be exposed to COVID-19 when members visit the city for essential supplies.

IPOW is supporting: IPOW is supporting the community so that no one has to leave to go to the city and that (disinfected) provisions are brought to the community.

Impact: The entire indigenous population in the Zingu Territories is protected from COVID-19 (c. 2000 people)



KATHPUTLI COLONY – DELHI INDIA

Community: The Kathputli Colony

Challenge during COVID-19: Due to lockdown, this community of 12,000 performing artists (the lowest caste in India, considered to be the criminal caste), who are living in slum conditions, are unable to earn money and therefore unable to afford any food.

IPOW is supporting: IPOW is supporting the provision of essential food supplies to the community.

Impact: 12,000 people



LAVENDER HILL SPORT AND RECREATION PROJECT, CAPE TOWN

Change Maker: Ralph Bowers

Community: Lavender Hill, Cape Flats, South Africa

Challenge during COVID-19: The Cape Flats is a gang affected area of Cape Town, with huge unemployment and all living in extreme poverty. There is no food provision for children in the Cape Flats.

IPOW is supporting: The provision of 130,000 meals through ten community kitchens to date

Impact: 3,000 children receive food each day





OLD GUNS – MEDELLIN COLOMBIA

Change Maker: Alejandro Rodriguez

Community: Comuna 13, Medellin, Colombia

Challenge: Community members in Comuna 13, Medellin can not make a living as they work in the informal and precarious employment as street vendors, builders, collecting rubbish and recycling due to lockdown living them without access to food and essentials...

IPOW is supporting: Hip hop Collective Old Guns decided to develop a community kitchen to address the issue of food insecurity in the area. They had secured a building, partnered with a local community organization, got permission from the gang leader who controls the area and enlisted an army of volunteers to work in the kitchen. However, they were unsure of how to implement their plan as they had no experience of organizing a kitchen, the practicalities of feeding 100s of people or how to do this safely during the COVID-19 crisis.

In Place of War connected Old Guns (via a Zoom call with translation) to community leader Ralph Bowers in the Cape Flats who had already had 10 operational kitchens to share knowledge and insights that have proven to be invaluable.

Impact: Since the call with Ralph and thanks to an IPOW grant, the team in Medellin have fed over 750 people and continue to improve their processes and expand their reach. The two communities continue to exchange ideas and share achievements via Whatsapp.

Photo: Old Guns finishing painting their new community kitchen





TIUNA EL FUERTE, CARACAS

Change Maker: Piki Figeroua

Community: Tiuna El Fuerte, El Valle, Caracas

Challenge: People living in tower blocks feel isolated and disconnected and mental health is deteriorating

IPOW is supporting: A mobile sound system and radio station, which travels across the streets playing music and sharing messages over the sound system from loved ones across the community, helping people feel less isolated.

Impact: most families in Caracas live in 19 story tower blocks. It is estimated the mobile sound system reaches over 20,000 people in the local community every week.



UTOPIA, TRIPOLI

Change Maker: Chadi Nachabe

Community: Syrian refugees and people living in extreme poverty in Lebanon's second city, Tripoli.

Challenge: The humanitarian challenges created by the ongoing economic crisis and the influx of refugees fleeing conflict in Syria have been compounded by the current COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown.

IPOW is supporting: IPOW has supported the local NGO UTOPIA for Social Justice in providing food and essential items to families in refugee camps and the poorest neighbourhoods in the city.

Impact: Food/essentials packages are in the process of being distributed, & to date been delivered to more than 150 high risk families.





LLUVIA DE ORION, MEDELLIN

Change Maker: Róbinson Usuga Henao

Community: Displaced and vulnerable communities living in informal rural settlements in Comuna 13, Medellin Colombia.

Challenge: Tackling ongoing food insecurity, its impact on health and wellbeing and generating alternative incomes.

IPOW is supporting: Emerging from Robinson's creative work on memory and promoting cultural heritage, he is developing the idea of encouraging communities to be self-sufficient by setting up a community allotment so communities can grow traditional and healthy food. The project hopes to provide food for the community in the long term, facilitate alternative income sources and enable people to reconnect with their cultural heritage through food and cooking. Whilst this project is in the planning stages, Robinson and his team at Lluvia de Orion have been distributing food to communities living in poverty with transport and security provided by the local police.

WHY IN PLACE OF WAR?

In Place of War has 16 years of working with an incredible network of 84 change-makers. Our vision is to live in a world where creativity conquers conflict. In Place of War is a global organisation that uses artistic creativity in places of conflict as a tool for positive change. We enable grassroots change-makers in music, theatre and across the arts to transform cultures of violence and suffering into hope, opportunity and freedom.

In Place of War started in 2004 as a research project at the University of Manchester. Initial research findings spurred practical programming. Today, we work in conflict situations across 26 countries, primarily in Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and the Balkans. We have large programmes of work in the UK - bringing our learning, networks and change-makers from the Global South to engage with marginalised communities.

A group of young people, including a woman in a cap, looking intently at something off-camera. The image is dark and serves as a background for the text.

Through an iterative approach of practice backed by and informing robust academic research, we support grassroots change-makers through 3 strategic pillars:

- Cultural spaces: we support communities to develop safe creative spaces, particularly targeting youth
- Education and entrepreneurialism: we provide a University-certified 'Train the Trainer' programme that enables young entrepreneurs to set up new creative businesses.
- Artistic collaboration: we provide performance opportunities for women musicians of colour, and theatre training and community performance with able-bodied and disabled actors.

In Place of War is a registered charity in the UK, with a board of 12 trustees and a 501c3 in the USA.

HOW WE WORK

FUNDING IN

- Commercial partnerships
- Trusts & foundations
- donors

FUNDING PROCESS

IPOW defines the funding process to ensure it is not prohibitive to community organizations in the Global South

FUNDING DELIVERY

IPOW undertakes due diligence process to comply with UK fiscal standards and the Charity Commission requirements

PROJECTS DELIVERED

Change maker network delivers bespoke projects building resilience and responding to Sustainable Development Goals

MONITOR & EVALUATE

reporting, monitoring & evaluation to understand impact and ensure proper use of funds

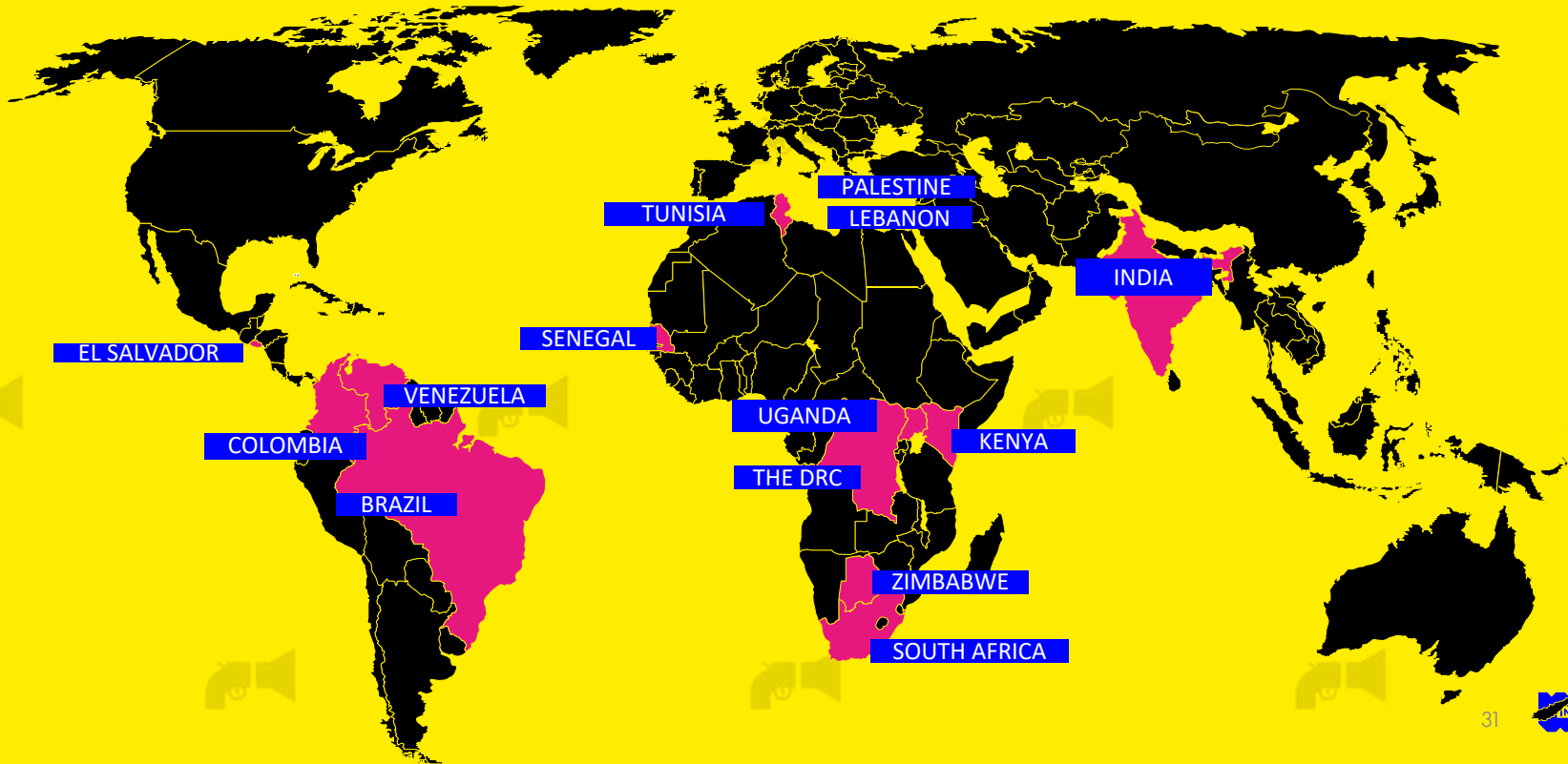
PROTECTING & SAVING LIVES

Change-makers reaching thousands of community members that would otherwise be without help.



SUPPORTED TO DATE

Through the change-maker network our In Place of War Emergency Fund has to date supported communities in the following countries:



CHANGE-MAKER NETWORK

How the changemaker network and existing partnerships were developed:

- Identify communities across the world with the most critical need (criteria: insecure areas, no other agencies/international NGOs operating in the area, those suffering conflict and the consequences of conflict, (food insecurity, informal housing, limited access to sanitation, education and employment) extreme poverty, no governmental support, those hardest hit by COVID)
- Identify community leaders and undertake needs analysis with them.
- Build a working relationship over many years through collaborative project development and delivery in communities.
- In COVID times, these communities are hit the hardest for a number of reasons (including: lack of PPE, lack of medical infrastructure, precarious and informal employment which is impossible to carry out in lockdown (street vendors, couriers) resulting in people unable to buy food, medicine and other essentials, increased conflict/violence, lack of education, lack of authentic news)



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