

Good Change for the World

Good Neighbors

Winter 2015 / Vol. 77



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ERADICATION
THAT BEGINS
WITH A MEAL**

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Cover
Yona School of Good Neighbors helps little girls dream of their bright future. It is the beginning of good changes in Chad.
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DEAR PARTNERS AND COLLEAGUES,

In September, I attended the United Nations Development Summit and the 70th UN Assembly aiming to set a new agenda for the post-2015 era as an NGO granted with General Consultative Status.

As an international NGO that will work toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the new globally-adopted agenda, we reviewed the direction of our own projects while engaging in discussions with worldwide representatives attending these meetings.

As the first step toward achieving the goals, we will explore changes in the future of international development with our field managers at our Annual Meeting in October.

We continue to strive for sustainable development that centers on residents with autonomy and respect, and will serve as a global NGO that has expertise in education and protection, health, water, sanitation, and income generation.

We expect your steadfast support into next year, as we work toward creating a world where our children--our future--can grow up healthy and safe, and where our efforts create good change in the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ilha Yi".

President, Good Neighbors International Ilha Yi

We welcome your comments or address changes. Please direct letters to editor@goodneighbors.org

OCTOBER 11TH

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD

GIRL LIKE A BLOOMING FLOWER

"IF YOU LOVE A FLOWER, DO NOT PICK IT UP."

"Little girls with dreams become women with vision."
They have a right to access education, nutrition, gender equality, medical care, as well as protection from discrimination, violence and child marriage.



©Chantak Park / Good Neighbors

Good Neighbors actively organizes campaigns to protect the rights of the most marginalized people, in particular children and women, by raising awareness on the national and local level and advocating for policy changes at the government level.

[SERIES] GOOD CHANGE FOR THE WORLD

POVERTY ERADICATION THAT BEGINS WITH A MEAL

10.16 CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL DAY
OF THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY

BY HYOWON JUN / GOOD NEIGHBORS INTERNATIONAL

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The Sustainable Development Summit was held in September 2015 to officially adopt 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in order to fight global poverty and enhance the quality of life for millions around the world. The unsolved issues of worldwide poverty and hunger still remain at the forefront of the SDGs. It is said that the world's population in extreme poverty now has been reduced by almost half, compared to 1990, from about 1 billion to now around 790 million.* The reduction, however, is attributed to an increase in food production in Asia and Latin America. In Africa, however, there are still many children suffering from hunger, whose dreams have faded away due

to an unstable supply of food caused by extreme weather patterns, diseases such as Ebola, and civil wars.** As a result, Good Neighbors provides emergency relief support in regions with serious food crises. We implement food distribution projects and nutritious meal projects in Ethiopia, Chad, Niger, and other famine-prone African regions.

* The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015, the United Nations

** The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2015, FAO
(Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)



FAMINE TAKING ITS TOLL ON LIFE

The Addis Zemen Primary School, located in Ethiopia's Gulele Community Development Project, has had low attendance rates. Unable to have even one meal a day, students had little motivation to study at school, because they were forced to figure out where their next meal would come from.

Good Neighbors conducted nutritious meal projects for students who were unable to eat at school due to their family's low income.

"I used to skip lunch almost all the time. Now that I can have lunch every day thanks to the food project, I can focus more in class and I am happy to go to school."

- Sara Getenet, student from Addis Zemen Primary School -

"We harvested more corn than expected. We paid back the first borrowed portion to the community development committee and shared corn with my family. We sold the remnants and opened a store. My family now can fight poverty without worrying about hunger."

- Mrenga, Participant of Malawi Corn Cultivation Project -

WITH ENDING HUNGER

Good Neighbors helps residents prioritize the healthy growth of children in their communities. In particular, our partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP) is improving food security and seeks to further integrate the development of communities.

In Chiwoza, Malawi, residents cultivate and sell corn as a cooperative, strengthening the community's self-reliance since 2013 when they forged a partnership with the WFP. The Corn Cultivation Project provides professional farming education, seeds, and fertilizers to residents who engage in corn farming.

From fighting children's hunger, to seeking the integrated development of communities through the self-reliance of residents, Good Neighbors strives to fight poverty around the world by committing to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

- 01 Rwandan residents waiting for food
- 02 Community development committee meeting in Malawi
- 03 Nutritious meal supplied for school lunchtime in Ethiopia



STORY GOES BEYOND SPORTS

BY BIMAL SINGH BIST / GOOD NEIGHBORS NEPAL

Organizing a sporting event is one of the extracurricular activities spearheaded by our Good Neighbors community development projects in Nepal in an effort to promote the holistic development of children. It is our belief that without educating girls, we cannot imagine a sound family and community. The documentary, SUNAKALI*, is the story of a women's football team from Mugu in Western Nepal, and their journey to the national championship. It beautifully depicts how a girl's passion for football helps her pursue a dream and break free from the fate of most girls in her village.

* The name, 'Sunakali' references an actual girl from Mugu on the G-football team. 'Suna' means 'gold' and 'Kali' means 'girl', meaning, 'golden girl.'



Sunakail

Teenage Girls' Journey to Glory



Produced by Good Neighbors Nepal **Director** Bhojraj Bhat **Concept Story** Bimal Singh Bist
Editor Bharat Mani Regmi **Camera** Prakash KC, Jeevan Shrestha & Manoj Maharjan
Music Rubin Shrestha (Kutumba)

Sunakali Budha, 16 year-old player of G-football



Players of G-football on the way to practice football for the match



Opening ceremony of the football match

© Good Neighbors

■■■■■■■ A ROUGH START

In rural areas of Nepal, the role of young girls within the community is extremely limited. However, when given an opportunity to be involved, girls have shown incredible abilities, which could lead to the beginning of good change.

In 2013, a group of girls were given the chance to play football, surrounded by thousands of people who had come to watch the match—the type of fanfare usually given only to boys. For most, it was the first time the girls had kicked a ball in their lives. Some of elderly residents had reservations about female football players, but eventually were convinced to support the girls after the team from Mugu won the match.

The topic ‘girls playing football’ became a popular news headline that was highlighted in both local and national media throughout Nepal.



“I was thinking, I’m just a girl and unable to do remarkable work but after G-football, I realized I can also do better in life. I want to continue my education and keep my name famous by playing football.”

- Sunakali Budha, 16 year-old player of G-football -

■■■■■■■ ON THE PATH TO GOOD CHANGE

The girls’ football match became recognized on a national level because of the ability to empower disadvantaged girls to claim their rights to an education. Good Neighbors unified this support and organized a ‘G-football’ league for girls nationwide, regardless of geographical constraints and operational challenges.

‘G-football’ refers to ‘good girl football,’ which consists of 14 different girls football teams that participated from different areas of Nepal. Through this program, Good Neighbors has helped players discover their hidden talents, and improved their physical & emotional development so that they can become active participants in their community.

Because of this incredible story of transformation, Good Neighbors wanted to share their story and produced the documentary, ‘Sunakali’, which focuses on a G-football team from Mugu and their journey to the national championship. The film has already won 6 international awards, including the Best Documentary Diamond Award at the CINEROCKOM International Film Festival in the United States. The documentary proves how important furthering the rights of girls, empowering them, and eliminating gender inequality are.

Good Neighbors continues to empower girls, advocate for their rights, and support them to achieve access to education.

A GLOBAL TRANSFORMATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:

THE UNITED NATIONS SUMMIT FOR THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

BY HA EUN SEONG / GOOD NEIGHBORS INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OFFICE IN GENEVA



© Chanhak Park / Good Neighbors



Dr. Ha Eun Seong, President Ilha Yi and Director Sun Kim after the Plenary Meeting of the Summit

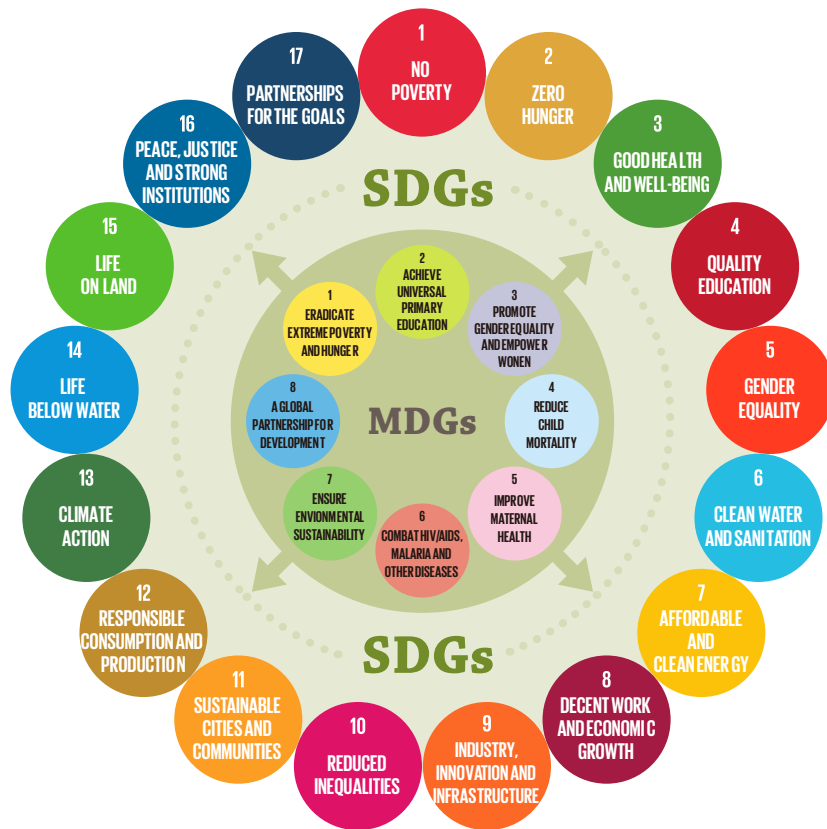
Good Neighbors International participated in the United Nations Summit for the Post-2015 Development Agenda that took place at the UN Headquarters in New York, from 25 to 27 September 2015. The Summit was one of the most important international events of the 21st century as it strengthened the common international framework for fighting poverty, hunger, inequality, climate change and all core global challenges of development for the next 15 years.

Good Neighbors' delegation to the Summit was led by President Ilha Yi, who was joined by Mr. Sun Kim, Director of International Development Division and Dr. Ha Eun Seong, Representative of the Geneva International Cooperation Office. Good Neighbors, the first non-religious civil society organization from Asia to receive General Consultative status from UN ECOSOC, was invited to participate in the Plenary Meeting of the Summit and its high-level side events that addressed key global development issues such as food security, education and partnership.

Approximately 150 heads of states across the world, including Pope Francis, President Barack Obama, President Vladimir Putin, and President Xi Jinping, joined the Summit to show their commitment towards the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and emphasize the importance of this historic initiative.



www.un.org



The SDGs are not meant only to help poor states or disadvantaged people solve their problems. They engage both poor and rich countries, public and private sectors, men and women, young and old, in a common effort to transform the world toward socially, economically, and most importantly, environmentally-sustainable development.

During the Summit at the UN Headquarters, the delegates from Good Neighbors shared ideas, concerns and policy perspectives with government delegates, NGOs and UN agencies about how to translate the SDGs into action, based on its rich experience in 35 countries across the world.

Leaving behind the euphoria of New York after reaching a global consensus, we now face the daunting challenge of translating the 169 targets of the SDGs into action. No single entity on earth can achieve those ambitious goals. Since ‘business as usual’ is unacceptable and wider partnership is mandatory, Good Neighbors will engage into a deeper and more dynamic partnership with donors, the public and private sector, and local communities to amplify the action for our common, but specific, responsibilities toward sustainable development. Good Neighbors will also further its policy transformation to better advocate for environmental sustainability, human rights, good governance, and social justice for a world where children can freely pursue their dreams.

As UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon noted earlier this year, the 2015 Summit comes along as “the last chance to avoid the worst impacts of climate change and our best chance to end poverty. We are the first generation that can put an end to poverty and we are the last generation that can put an end to climate change.”** Accordingly, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its 169 targets adopted by the UN General Assembly extensively address coherent and systematic action through all levels of our society in order to uphold the dignity and needs of all people in harmony with the ecosystem.**

In comparison to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the SDGs interpret “inequality” among people and countries as the source of underdevelopment. The SDGs call for “structural changes” for good governance, rule of law, transparency, human rights, and social infrastructure to address global challenges for development. The SDGs demand us to “change our way of life” in producing, consuming, and exploiting resources so we don’t threaten our future generations and then irreversibly destroy the ecosystem. The SDGs challenge the world to “develop and share data and information,” so that all people perceive their rights and duties, and that the goals are objectively achieved.

* Ban Ki Moon, “UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s remarks upon receiving an honorary degree from the Catholic University of Leuven, Leuven, Belgium,” 28 May 2015. UN Doc. No. SG/SM/16800.

** See United Nations General Assembly, “Draft outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda,” 12 August 2015, UN Doc. No. A/69/L.85.



Haiti children surrounding Good Neighbors staff in Wharf Jeremie, one of the most affected area from devastating earthquake in 2010

A FUTURE OF HOPE

BY HYEON CHO / GOOD NEIGHBORS INTERNATIONAL

The Dagon Seikkan Township in Myanmar is the typical suburb of a metropolitan area, where various industrial infrastructures and agricultural economy are mixed. For the last decade, many migrants poured into town, resulting in a serious lack of social infrastructure such as housing and educational or medical facilities. This, in turn, led to poor housing environments, severe pollution, and traffic congestion, all posing a risk to children. Good Neighbors is working to help children grow up healthy in a clean environment by providing educational facilities and conducting environment improvement projects.





01



02

||||||| **SCHOOL, WHERE CHILDREN'S THANAKHA* SHINES EVEN MORE**

* Thanakha is a yellowish-white cosmetic paste made from ground bark that has been traditionally used for women and children.

Due to traffic congestion in the Dagon Seikkan Township, most children attend school in the next town, approximately one hour away from home. The school, however, could not provide quality education because of the number of students having to be divided into morning and afternoon classes. Many children fell victim to serious dangers such as child labor, abduction, and sexual violence because there were no facilities to provide care for children whose both parents worked.

Good Neighbors opened a school in the Dagon Seikkan Township in March, in partnership with the Korean IT company Kakao. The school, consisting of a kindergarten and elementary school, includes a number of facilities such as a cafeteria, computer room, health office, library, and a soccer field. Children can now be protected properly and also have opportunities to quality education such as basic learning, sanitation education, and physical education.

The school also helped raise awareness within the local government, as well as residents, regarding education and environment, which drew greater interest, participation, and cooperation for the development of the community as a whole. Good Neighbors is committed to providing better education through continuing our cooperation programs with the school, and contributing to various social education and sanitation projects.

- 01 Children enjoying a track meet
- 02 Children looking forward to learning in a new classroom

||||||| **CLEAN VILLAGE, BRIGHTER FUTURE**

Good Neighbors also works to raise awareness within the local government and community residents regarding sanitation environments.

The Dagon Seikkan Township in Myanmar is the typical suburb of a metropolitan area, where various industrial infrastructures and agricultural economy are mixed. For the last decade, many migrants poured into town, resulting in a serious lack of social infrastructure such as housing and educational or medical facilities. This, in turn, led to poor housing environments, severe pollution, and traffic congestion, all posing a risk to children.

We created a new dumping ground that is more organized and maintained. We engaged residents within the community to participate in the process by forming a committee. In addition, we provided education on personal hygiene and disease prevention education, and held a campaign explaining the separate collection of waste.

- 01 Dumping ground left unattended
- 02 Children campaigning for the separate collection of waste
- 03 Children participating in sanitation education

Good Neighbors will continuously help children grow up healthy in a clean environment by providing educational facilities and conducting environment improvement projects.



01



02



03

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN THROUGH TRAINING

GOOD NEIGHBORS PHILIPPINES



If an earthquake hits, will children be safe? When it comes to disasters, children face higher risks and dangers compared to adults. They are more likely to be injured, lost, and unable to access help or health care. In addition, children are exposed to greater dangers due to separation from their families and adults. An estimated half of all those affected by a disaster are children, and in most disasters, between one-third and one-half of reported deaths are children. Since disasters increase children's vulnerability, we have to lessen the risk and reduce the effects of hazards by preparing for these circumstances.

For these reasons, Good Neighbors Philippines hosted a series of earthquake training programs in partnership with the Metro Manila Development Authority. Children in our San Isidro and South Vill Education Centers experienced the 'MMShake Drill' on July 30-31, 2015.

Participating in earthquake drills will help children understand what to do if an earthquake occurs. They

were trained how to protect themselves by hiding under the table and following instructions from a teacher in this danger situation.

To remain safe, students were taught to maintain the position of 'Drop, Cover, and Hold' for 45 seconds during an earthquake. These practice drills helped children recognize the importance of earthquake evacuation, such as moving to nearby buildings or other safe places.

Good Neighbors Philippines continues to make every effort to prevent dangerous situations and teach the basics of earthquake safety for children to safely evacuate in unexpected situations.



ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2015



Good Neighbors International held the Annual Conference 2015 from October 27-29 in South Korea. The conference, under the theme of "Good Neighbors, Good Change for the World!", was attended by 101 participants including staff from International Headquarters, 35 field countries, 3 support countries and International Cooperation Office in Geneva. The attendees discussed achievements and sustainability of projects in the areas of education, health, income generation, and cooperation with international organization for 2016.

DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOL UNIFORMS AND SUPPLIES



Good Neighbors Laos distributed school uniforms and supplies from August 18-22 in seven villages of the Mok-mai Community Development Project (CDP) site to 962 sponsored children, in preparation for the new semester. The school uniforms and supplies were donated by the Ivy club, Korean company, and Good Neighbors Laos also plans to provide school uniforms and supplies to over 3,000 children in 21 villages of two CDPs, relieving the economic burden on their families and encouraging a cheerful start to the new semester.

EMERGENCY RELIEF TO MUKURU SLUM FIRE VICTIMS



Good Neighbors Kenya provided emergency relief support for five months starting in April in three villages of Mukuru, Kenya. A total of 11,775 residents, including 400 children, from 2,355 households received assistance as a result of a fire in March as well as heavy rainfall in May. The displaced victims were provided with daily necessities to improve their current living conditions, while children received post-traumatic psychological support in an effort to achieve a sense of normalcy.

Good Change for the World



Good Neighbors is an international humanitarian development NGO and has conducted professional social welfare and international development cooperation projects around the world to make the world a place without hunger, where people live together in harmony