



Welcome

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the inaugural edition of our e-zine newsletter.

It brings me immense joy to introduce you to the Global Partnership Centre, a cornerstone initiative aimed at fortifying GOAL's Partnership portfolio and steadfast dedication to the localisation agenda. At the helm of this endeavour, our newly crafted logo symbolises our unwavering commitment to collaborating with our partners, empowering them to thrive as resilient, independent, and sustainable entities.

Established in mid-2023 with generous support from Irish Aid through a multi-year award, the Global Partnership Centre marks a pivotal milestone in our journey. As GOAL expands its horizons, engaging with a diverse array of partners and enhancing both the quantity and quality of on-granting, the Centre stands as a beacon of support for local partners across all regions where GOAL operates, from Africa and Latin America to the Caribbean, Middle East, and Ukraine.

In this newsletter, we embark on a journey to explore the Global Partnership Centre's objectives, shedding light on who we are and what we aspire to accomplish in the upcoming year. Join us as we delve into the heart of our mission, forging stronger alliances and championing sustainable development.

Warm regards,

Mandy Yamanis

Mandy Yamanis

GPC Director

Mandy Yamanis serves as the Director of GOAL's Global Partnership Centre (GPC), headquartered in Uganda. Assuming this role in October 2023, Mandy brings a wealth of experience, having previously spearheaded GOAL's Global Safeguarding efforts for five impactful years, commencing in July 2018.



In her current capacity as GPC Director, Mandy orchestrates the Centre's strategic vision, focusing on identifying and nurturing partnerships with a diverse array of local agencies, including civil society groups, governmental bodies, private sector entities, academic institutions, and grassroots organisations. Through targeted investments and comprehensive support, she champions capacity-building initiatives, fosters robust leadership and governance structures, and cultivates collaborative networks aimed at catalysing sustainable change.

Mandy's illustrious career, spanning over 20 years, has been deeply rooted in Child Protection programming, Safeguarding and advocacy. Originating with World Vision International in the Middle East and Eastern Europe Region, her journey has encompassed pivotal roles such as Safeguarding Advisor during the Syrian refugee crisis with Save the Children International in Greece. As a Consultant, Mandy's expertise has been instrumental in diverse projects, including the development of child-friendly versions of policy frameworks in Albania and spearheading global initiatives to combat violence against children.

Noteworthy engagements include collaborating with GCPS Consulting to enhance Protection Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) for Global Communities in Turkey and Syria. Mandy's academic foundation comprises a Bachelor of Commerce degree, specializing in Economics and Marketing, from the University of Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. Her dedication to safeguarding vulnerable populations and fostering sustainable partnerships underscores her commitment to driving positive change on a global scale.

Introduction to the GPC team

Meet our dedicated team at the Global Partnership Centre, comprised of skilled professionals bringing diverse expertise to the table.



Mandy Yamanis, the Director of the Global Partnership Centre, is leading the charge. She oversees all facets of our operations and provides expert guidance, technical support, and training to advance our mission.

Working alongside Mandy is **Jimmy Bongo**, our esteemed Global Partnership Coordinator. He offers senior technical leadership in managing GOAL's partnerships. With a focus on onboarding, on-granting, and performance management, Jimmy plays an pivotal role in nurturing our collaborative endeavours.

strategic partners critical to GOAL's mission.

Moving forward, our global model will include representatives from the Middle East, Africa, and the Americas to reflect the diversity of our programming, operating, and cultural contexts.

Together, we are committed to forging robust partnerships and driving sustainable change.

GPC's Objectives

The Global Partnership Centre currently has four objectives under our Irish Aid commitment. As we increase our reach under the GPC, we will include any new objectives.



IDENTIFY LOCAL PARTNERS FOR STRATEGIC INVESTMENT

Acknowledging that local systems comprise local actors, GOAL serves as a facilitator of change alongside these permanent local entities, recognising their pivotal role as catalysts for systemic change on a large scale. Collaborative partnerships foster innovation and drive more efficient solutions. By empowering permanent local actors to lead locally-driven initiatives in development and humanitarian response efforts, investments can effectively enable communities to enact change, yielding robust evidence and learning opportunities.

To this end, the GPC will extend advisory and support services to GOAL country programs, assisting in systems analysis and the identification of potential partners across civil society organisations, local government agencies, private sector enterprises, academic institutions, and community-based organisations.

STRENGTHEN THE LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE OF GOAL'S PARTNER AGENCIES

To enhance the leadership and governance capacities of GOAL's partner agencies, we have delineated two key initiatives. First, we will allocate resources to fund leadership and organisational development initiatives within our partner organisations.

Secondly, the GPC will facilitate the identification of training requirements and the creation of tailored support packages for partners. These packages may include executive leadership and governance coaching, humanitarian response training, as well as safety and access guidance.

Under this initiative, senior leaders receive leadership coaching and training facilitated by certified coaches. They also receive personalised, one-on-one coaching sessions tailored to address their specific needs and objectives.

- **Governance, Leadership & Professional Development:** Activities geared towards equipping boards and staff with the requisite tools and knowledge to advance the organisation's vision, mission, and strategic objectives.
- **Strategic Planning, Learning, Evaluation & Adaptation:** Initiatives designed to aid organisations in evaluating, responding to, and instigating change for continuous enhancement.
- **Technical Skills:** Programs aimed at fostering the development of specific skills crucial for enhancing organisational efficiency and efficacy.



Our objective is to enhance our partners' operational and programmatic capabilities. We plan to initiate a change management process within our partnership framework to pinpoint efficiencies, resolve bottlenecks, and identify areas for improvement.

This includes revising our partnership manuals to ensure they are effectively tailored for the diverse range of organisations GOAL collaborates with. These enhancements will streamline our processes and enhance our agility, particularly in emergency response scenarios.

Support will be provided for monitoring the performance of partner organisations, managing conflicts, and designing appropriate exit strategies as necessary.

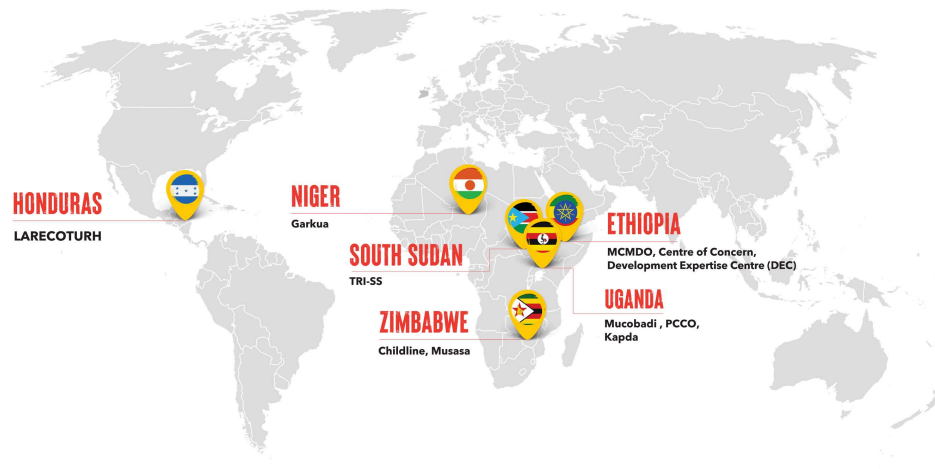
At the country level, each team will designate a Partnership Focal Point among their staff. This global Focal Point Network will serve as a platform for fostering awareness, facilitating information exchange, and promoting cross-country learning on partnership practices for both GOAL personnel and our partners.



FACILITATE STRATEGIC NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION AMONG GOAL'S PARTNER AGENCIES

Our objective is to establish a platform for networking, learning, and collaboration among partners, whether at the country, regional, or global level. This may involve convening webinars to share insights and experiences.

PARTNERS SELECTED IN 2023 FOR GPC'S INITIATIVE



Updates from GPC Initiatives

Organisational Development Fund

The Organisational Development Fund (ODF) was established by the Global Partnerships Centre with the recognition that identifying areas for support is only meaningful if accompanied by flexible funding.

This fund is accessible to both current partners and potential new collaborators, particularly those with a track record of operating for three years or more. Our objective is to collaborate closely with partners to guide them in cultivating new competencies, strategies, systems, and structures to bolster their overall effectiveness.

In 2023, partners already engaged in implementing GOAL programs across six country programs (Uganda, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Honduras, South Sudan, and Niger) submitted applications for the fund. These applications outlined capacity gaps identified either by GOAL through organisational capacity assessments or by other agencies.

Guided by a comprehensive information-sharing meeting organised by the GPC, partners selected gaps deemed urgent for their organisational performance enhancement. A review committee was assembled to assess all applications and awarded grants to 11 partners addressing key areas such as:

- **Reviewing and updating organisational strategic plans** through in-depth and participatory consultation processes.
- **Developing and disseminating institutional policies, guidelines, and manuals**, including Organisational Gender Policy, Organisational Partnership Manual, and Organisational ICT Manual.
- **Developing integrated software systems** for programme and financial management.
- **Conducting training and capacity-building sessions** for boards on oversight and governance, succession planning, and business development alongside the development of board charters.

Following the completion of these activities, partners reported significant improvements in overall performance and staff collaboration, enhanced time management, improved record-keeping, and better resource management and utilisation.

These advancements enabled partners to operate more effectively and efficiently in their daily activities, adapt their working systems, meet partner compliance requirements, and evolve into more competent civil society organisations. Please watch the video below for more information.



Partnership Information Tracker Initiative

The Global Partnership Centre is currently collaborating with our IT department to develop a comprehensive Partnership Information Tracker. This tracker will establish a structured data model aligned with GOAL's core systems, ensuring the quality and integrity of current metrics and reporting. It will serve as a stable, secure data repository with assigned user access permissions and central visibility for Partnership data management.

Transitioning from the current practice of utilising spreadsheets for data collection, we will leverage SharePoint for the collection of partnership data. This shift will enable us to enhance data accessibility and reliability. The Partnership Information Tracker will facilitate data access for the GPC through a Power BI dashboard, meeting both internal tracking and metric requirements, as well as external compliance and donor reporting needs.

The SharePoint data repository will serve as a secure hub for storing tracking information related to Partner Mapping, Partner Selection, Partner Management, and Grant Management across all GOAL locations.

Implementation of this system is poised to bring several benefits:

- Improved data quality to meet GOAL's audit and regulatory requirements concerning Partnerships.
- Enhanced utilization of GPC expertise and resources for Partnership development, as less time will be required for data collection and correction.
- Provision of high-quality data to generate metrics aligned with GOAL's Organisational and Business Transformation Strategies.
- Streamlined oversight and reporting processes for GOAL executive committees (SMT, Board, and ARC) and external stakeholders (Donors, External Regulators, and Auditors).

By investing in this Partnership Information Tracker, we aim to elevate our data management practices, optimise resource allocation, and ensure transparency and accountability in our Partnership endeavours.

Executive Leadership Coaching

In 2023, the GPC collaborated with Sierra Leone-based consultancy firm BCA Leadership to provide **executive leadership coaching** to 10 partners in Africa.

One participant highlighted the program's benefits, saying, "The coaching has enhanced my critical thinking abilities, placing me in a better position to make difficult decisions."

Given the organisational changes, this leadership coaching has equipped me to drive the change process while maintaining team morale."

In this quarter, leadership coaching will be extended to partners in the Middle East and LAC.



Updates on Systems Analysis and Design in GOAL

The GPC has conducted a series of discussions with the Programme Technical Team (PTT) and Innovation Lab regarding the ongoing systems analyses and design works carried out by various country teams.

These updates have played a crucial role in familiarising the GPC team with the progress of 10 ongoing systems analyses across six countries as follows, Sierra Leone (fisheries, sanitation, water operations, and maintenance), Uganda (sanitation, food system, agroforestry), Haiti (fisheries), Ethiopia (health), Niger (health), South Sudan (fisheries).

These analyses align with GOAL's Global Goals 1, 2, and 3, which prioritise supporting people to survive crises, have resilient health, and have food and nutrition security. The GPC extends its best wishes to all teams involved in these endeavours and eagerly anticipates supporting them in their pursuit of excellence.

The GPC has taken a keen interest in the Resilience for Social Systems (R4S) tool, which GOAL Global has designated as the preferred mechanism for all future systems analysis and design efforts. Learning from ongoing analyses, whether conducted independently by country teams or with support from consultants, will serve as the foundation for familiarising and integrating the R4S tool across all

Launch of Partnership Community of Practice

The GPC inaugurated the Partnerships Community of Practice (CoP) in January of this year. This platform functions as a central hub for knowledge exchange, fostering awareness, sharing information, and facilitating learning on partnership and localization practices. Additionally, it aids in institutionalising a systems approach within GOAL and expediting the transition to a culture of systems thinking across all country teams.

Since its inception, the CoP has organised three webinars. The first webinar introduced the GPC team and outlined our four objectives. The second webinar explored the relationship between systems thinking and building sustainable partnerships, while the third webinar centered on systems mapping, a crucial initial step in the partnership cycle.

The CoP brings together all partnership focal persons from across GOAL Global, providing a secure environment for learning and seeking support through vibrant discussions and the exchange of ideas. Webinars are held monthly, with topics collaboratively chosen based on identified areas of interest.

Additionally, quarterly webinars will be conducted for partners to share insights and experiences on cross-cutting issues such as Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI), Safeguarding, Disability and Inclusion, and Safety and Access. These initiatives aim to cultivate collaborative networks that drive sustainable change on a global scale.

For access to ongoing discussions and presentations, we invite you to visit our Global Partnership Coordination Forum teams channel [here](#).

Together, we can enhance our partnership strategies and further our collective impact.

Let's get social

Follow us on social to keep in touch with our events and more.

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