



POSNER CENTER

## INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION FUND

### 2022 International Collaboration Fund Semi-Final Report

In 2022, we reimagined the International Collaboration Fund. This year, it has been an opportunity to practice more equitable grantmaking, to support projects requested and led by people working in their own communities, and to require each project team undergo a power and historical analysis to incorporate an understanding and recalibration of the current and historical power dynamics in their work. While collaboration is still at the core of these projects, it is the means rather than the end to transformative change. Below, you will find updates from each of the ongoing projects in the International Collaboration Fund, two of which have completed and two of which are continuing until October 2023. You can learn more about the International Collaboration Fund [here](#).

Your support of this fund provides direct support to the specific projects funded and also supports the ICF's overall goal, thereby contributing to the advancement of the Posner Center's mission and vision.

Thank you to [Harvey Family Foundation](#) and [PB and K Family Foundation](#) for generously supporting the International Collaboration Fund in 2022 and in previous years.



Left: Shadhika's Leaders for Change Summit in Kolkata, India



Right: Program participants with ROMP-Guatemala

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## PB and K Family Foundation Annual Environmental Grant

### Uganda: I am a Green Leader | \$20,000

#### *The Recreation Project (TRP) and Takataka Plastics*

This project tackles two intersecting issues: youth unemployment and low recycling rates. TRP will pair their existing programs on life skills and social innovation/ entrepreneurship with training on plastic recycling from Takataka Plastics. In one year, 120 students will establish plastic recycling collection points in their communities and start environmental protection social entrepreneurship projects of their own – reclaiming 8 tons of plastic that otherwise would not have been recycled. Takataka will then buy the plastic collected by the youth groups for their line of recycled plastic products, providing new life for this pollutant and financial support and employment opportunities for youth.



*Youth in the second cohort sorting plastics after the day's collection*

#### **Project Achievements and Milestones:**

- So far, 80 youth have completed their life skills, Climbing Club, and green entrepreneurship training, have built and launched their plastic collection site, and begun their Social Innovation Bootcamp. So far, 7,229 kilos of plastic have been collected –, 4,819 by youth and 2,410 from their parents, who were also excited to get involved.
- The first cohort of this program was the first time that 100% of students graduated the Climbing Club program for out-of-school youth, likely due in part to the transportation support they are providing to participants. This trend has continued, with 100% graduation rates in the second and third cohorts as well.
- The partners conducted three parent days to teach parents about Adverse Childhood Experiences, their effects, and how to overcome them.
- Due to difficulties transporting plastics, the team has reprioritized their plans. Instead of having larger, more centralized collection groups, the youths have divided themselves into smaller groups to which Takataka will send collection trucks for easier transportation. This has increased income for program participants but reallocated part of the construction budget.
- Cliff attended a City Council meeting in which the collaboration was highlighted by council members as an initiative bringing meaningful change in the Gulu community.
- Note that this project is still ongoing and will end by late October 2023. A report with the final project achievements and milestones will be shared at that time.
- There is a stigma attached to plastic collection for the youth, as that is something that is associated as shameful. By providing participants with PPE, vests, and branded collection carts, given Takataka's



positive reputation in the community, this has legitimized the practice of plastic collection which is typically stigmatized.

**Next Steps:**

- Feedback from participants demonstrated a need for wheeling the collected plastics as the youths go about their collection exercise. Takataka will support the launch of “Taka-carts.”
- The third cohort, which has just finished their three months of Climbing Club and training for plastic collection, will begin collecting plastic in May.
- There are additional youth in the community who still need these programs to build life skills and earn income beyond the scope of this project. The partners are interested in seeking funding to continue the project and launch a “train the trainers” model for more sustainability.



*Third Cohort youth groups pose for a picture after receiving their certificate*

## India: Climate Change Initiative Part 2 | \$15,000

[Shadhika](#), [Sayantoni Datta](#), [STOP Organization](#), [Jabala Action Research Organization](#), [Sahiyar](#)



Photo of Sayantoni and the participating fellows

Although women and girls are more likely to be affected by climate change, they will not have equal access to the resources necessary to cope with the consequences. Home to 20% of the world's girl population, and expected to be one of the countries most affected by climate change, it will be girls in India who are most affected. This partnership is a continuation of the incredible work done by this partnership for the 2020-2021 ICF Grant Cycle to incorporate environmental and climate change learning and community action projects into Shadhika's existing programming supporting girl leaders. This 6-month Fellowship on Climate Justice allowed four

fellows to continue the work on their climate action projects within their communities while being paired with a mentor. Under Sayantoni's guidance, the fellows participated in continuous learning sessions to broaden their scope of knowledge about climate justice in India.

### **Project Achievements and Milestones:**

- On July 29th, Shadhika hosted its annual 3-day Leaders for Change Summit in Kolkata where Scholars, Alum, Partners, and Fellows attended, cultivating leadership skills and building a support network among young women leaders. Each fellow held a session on climate change, with outdoor, physical activities helping them to engage with questions around self, nature, current problems, and how they may act in solidarity with one another through a Web-of-Life Game, Diversity in Nature activity, Women in Environment Discussion, and Solidarity Tree.
- Four Fellows planned and implemented a Climate Action Project, which they began during the 2020-2021 ICF grant cycle. Project topics include water access, a college campaign on environmental issues (for which the college received first place), a national questionnaire on water access that led to a group of "Water Friends" that hosts discussions and take action, and creating community groups around starting a kitchen garden and upcycling household waste.
- Allowing the Fellows to go at their own pace with their community work proved to be a large success. Allowing the Fellows to lead at their own pace gave them ownership over the Fellowship which gave them a purposeful motivation to learn, teach and impact their community's awareness of climate change.
- Through the Power and Historical Analysis, the partners and Fellows discussed how language played a part in bridging complex narratives of communities, education, and the journey to independence for young women in India. They discussed the relationship between the English language and whether people in India will listen to you, trust you, and believe in your leadership. They also discussed the power dynamics between Shadhika as a funder and Sayantoni and Fellows as grantees and the influence this can have on the programmatic impact and goals.

- Highlight: *Beauti's Water Campaign*
  - Beauti conducted a village meeting with her community on the right of access to water. Beauti lives in an area that gets less rainfall and is dependent on the state to release water through irrigation canals. Many of the poor communities in the village depend on rainwater and do not have good access to water for drinking and domestic purposes. Beauti held sessions in her community talking about the water crisis and how this will aggravate erratic rainfall. She also influenced them to write to the Panchayat member (rural city official) asking for water connections. The Panchayat member has recently heeded the demands and initiated a solar-powered drinking water project with tap connections in the community. Now her community members do not need to schedule their day around the water supply timings and do not have to walk so far to fetch water.



**Next Steps:**

- The climate justice work will no longer be funded, so the



Fellowship has concluded, though [a participant in Beauti's Water Campaign](#) the Fellows plan to continue their efforts with their community action projects in their own communities and on their own terms, with Sayantoni's support as needed.

- Shadhika will continue to support Fellows as Shadhika Alum and invited to various events and discussions throughout the year.
- Shadhika will engage in future Fellowship programs under the Ready for Work program, and will start working with local businesses and corporations in India to provide mentorship and internship opportunities to 3rd year and graduate Scholars.

[Shadhika's Leaders for Change Summit in Kolkata, India](#)



## Guatemala: Community-Based Rehabilitation for Children with Amputation due to Cancer | \$15,000

[Range of Motion Project \(ROMP\) Guatemala](#), [ROMP USA](#), [Mariano Galvez \(UMG\) Escuela De Fisioterapia](#), and [Unidad Nacional de Oncología Pediátrica \(UNOP\)](#)



Photo from Range of Motion Project

In Guatemala, many children lose a limb due to osteosarcoma (bone cancer), but no public institution provides prosthetic care and community-based rehabilitation services to them. In this project, UNOP will refer children with amputation to ROMP, and physical therapy students from UMG will serve as Mobilizers to provide check-ins and coordinate physical and mental healthcare, physical therapy, and occupational therapy for each patient. These organizations will expand their impactful partnership to support children with amputations. The initial pediatric cohort will support 15 children to be paired with 15 Mobilizers as a model for their expansion to all 22 provinces of Guatemala by

2026.

### **Project Achievements and Milestones:**

- ROMP was awarded grants from the Dorothea Haus Ross Foundation, Tawingo Fund, Barr Amputee Assistance Fund, and RA5 Foundation, to supplement the Posner Center ICF grant and finance the expansion of the program in 2023.
- In 2022, ROMP provided 27% more care in Guatemala than in 2021, delivering a total of 47 prostheses.
- All patients' success can now be measured by standardized Outcome Measures (Oms), recognized by the International Society of Prosthetics and Orthotics.
- The CBR program graduated 40 participants and covered 14 provinces - 33% and 50% higher, respectively, than in 2021.
- During 2022, ROMP trained 49 new volunteer Mobilizers to offset home visits from staff Mobilizers, most of whom were physical therapy students from UMG. Each volunteer was assigned to one participant, and they provided twice-per-month virtual home visits to their respective participant.
- In February, they contacted physicians in the public hospitals in the ten targeted provinces of Cohort 8, municipal governments, community leaders, and past participants, with emphasis on recently-amputated patients who did not yet have a prosthesis. They also made a special call for pediatric patients of the UNOP, allowing them to substantially increase the proportion of children in the program from 7% to 40% of all participants.
- All participants received home visits, physical therapy, prosthetic care, group fitness, medical care, group therapy, and vocational during the five months of the cohort. Participants were also paired with a graduate of a past cohort to serve as a peer mentor and a community contact to connect them to local resources.
- Outcome data were taken for participants at the baseline, midpoint, and endpoint of the intervention. They were digitized, combined, cleaned, and analyzed for net improvements and declines.

**Next Steps:**

- In 2023, the partners plan to train 40 volunteer mobilizers who will conduct entire home visits under the supervision of ROMP staff.
- A new patient selection process will be used for the CBR program to ensure the most socioeconomically vulnerable patients will receive priority access.
- In 2023, ROMP will conduct a formal scientific study comparing the effectiveness of the CBR Program to the prosthetic standard of care. This study will be conducted in partnership with Dr. Cody McDonald, an Assistant Professor in the University of Washington Department of Rehabilitation Medicine. In both Cohorts 10 and 11, they will collect the outcome measures for ROMP patients who participate in the CBR Program as well as ROMP patients who simply receive the prosthetic standard of care during that same period of time. This will allow us to evaluate the added benefit of the CBR Program, in an accurate way, for the first time ever.



A patient participating in physical therapy with her new prosthesis, surrounded by her support team



ROMP staff adjusting a prosthesis



## Peru: The Restoration and Protection of Bofedales in Alpaca Herding Communities | \$11,000

*The Chijnaya Foundation, Association for Integral Development of the Altiplano in Peru (The Pro-DIA Association), and Asociación Wichay*



Photos by Chijnaya Foundation, The Pro-DIA Association, and Asociación Wichay

Bofedales, high-altitude wetlands that make alpaca herding possible, are disappearing due to climate change, overgrazing, and economic pressure. The alpaca herders that created Asociación Wichay are looking to combat the wealth inequalities and create more viable economic opportunities in the alpaca industry. As the first step of this longer-term venture to develop a sustainable hand-spun yarn business, teams will collaborate to restore and protect the alpaca's habitat. In 2022, this collaboration will address water scarcity with the pre-colonial practice of cosecha de agua by building canals, berms, swales, and infiltration ditches that direct limited water supplies to strategic areas; strategically rotate the pastures in which animals graze to restore and recuperate overgrazed pastures; and introduce native grasses and trees. By training 80 community leaders with the support of a local agronomist, this partnership aims to recuperate and protect 40 hectares of bofedales.

### **Project Achievements and Milestones:**

- Created 61 individual intervention plans to support all participating alpaca farmers, most of which have already been executed. These plans were based on each farmer's needs, reality, and goals to establish mutual commitments.
- The partners held participatory community workshops in order to build a work plan for each of the identified activities in water collection and diversion (such as excavating wells or natural dams or harvesting rainwater) and pasture management (such as fencing to rotate grazing and planting of cultivated pastures).
- The Equity and Power Analysis was applied to the participatory community workshops and meant that the activities for the water and pasture components were proposed by the alpaca farmers themselves.
- Note that this project is still ongoing and will end by late October 2023. A report with the final project achievements and milestones will be shared at that time.

### Next Steps:

- In 2022 and 2023, several areas in southern Peru including Puno were declared a state of agrarian emergency due to drought. In these areas, agricultural activity relies solely on rainfall, so some of the activities for this project had to be delayed.
- Due to disagreements with the Central Government, residents of Puno joined a general strike that involved blocking roads, closing businesses, and even shutting down the international airport. The program partners had to pause face-to-face services until recently reopening on March 20th. This has meant that the program partners could not travel to beneficiary communities to complete activities. Now, the team has reprioritized and will focus on construction of wells with geomembranes; installation of cattle mesh fences for pasture recovery; organization for collective work on sites; pasture fertilization, and channel cleaning.
- The teams hope to get the activities back on track now that the roads have reopened and the weather reports indicate more rain is coming.
- The final stage of the project, focused on monitoring and evaluation, will help the teams observe the results and outcomes of this work and determine further next steps.



Installing a post for fencing to rotate grazing pastures