Transforming Communities One Girl at a Time

HESHIMA KENYA 2013/2014 IMPACT REPORT



Heshima stands for respect, honor, and dignity

OUR VISION

The children and youth Heshima Kenya serves today become tomorrow's advocates, creating social change, both individually and collectively.

OUR MISSION

Heshima Kenya specializes in identifying and protecting orphaned, unaccompanied and separated refugee children and youth, especially girls, young women and their children living in Nairobi, Kenya.

OUR APPROACH

Heshima Kenya's integrated model provides holistic support, empowering refugee girls and young women to become catalysts for positive change in their communities, and leaders in their own right.

HESHIMA KENYA'S

education THE GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

Basic education, life skills and leadership building, tailoring training, culminating with The Maisha Collective

income The maisha collective

THE MAISHA COLLECTIVE

learn financial literacy and build savings while earning monthly cash stipends and small grants

childcare

NURSERY AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION Parenting support, nutrition, and child development

shelter

THE SAFE HOUSE

A transitional shelter that provides protection, increases independence, and fosters community

case management

Medical assistance, legal aid, mental health and trauma counseling, and foster care support

outreach & advocacy

Research and data collection; workshops, mobilization, and Women's Ambassadors Groups



Dear Friends,

The refugee girls and young women we serve call Heshima Kenya *family*. Since our founding in 2008, we have been at the forefront of protecting the most vulnerable refugee girls and young women: making them visible and providing them with the tools, community and confidence to thrive. In 2013, we served over 450 girls, young women and their children. Our revenue from individual and foundation support grew over 25 percent. Sales from the Maisha Collective increased by 18 percent as we ventured into new partnerships and collaborations.

Over the years – notably the last two – the Heshima Kenya family has flourished while operating in a climate of political uncertainty. Our girls have experienced many challenges because of the government encampment directive issued in March. We've witnessed the courage and resilience of our girls in the face of extortion, fear and xenophobia. We're so proud to say that our team has not only weathered these challenges but that we continue to grow significantly, and are full of hope for the future.

In less than a decade, the number of refugee children and adolescent girls Heshima Kenya cares for has tripled and we are anticipating a watershed 2015. Heshima's community outreach program now extends to more than half a dozen urban communities throughout Nairobi. Every day, the scope and scale of Heshima's work is making a real and lasting difference in the lives of hundreds of refugee girls and women. As our numbers and services continue to increase, so too have our donors and supporters—those of you who make Heshima Kenya's work possible.

As we look forward to a new year, we are ever grateful for your continued commitment. Thank you for your incredible support.

From our Heshima family to yours, we wish you a fabulous 2015.

Sincerely,

Ann Laatsch *Chair, US Board*

Rosalind Raddatz *Chair, Kenya Board*





We were honored to host a tea honoring **Dr. Hawa Abdi, a Nobel Peace Prize nominee** and member of the Heshima Kenya Board of Advisors.



Heshima Kenya ambassador Dahabo Hassan Maow was honored with a **Voices of Courage Award** from the Women's Refugee Commission for her work with the Maisha Collective and refugees with disabilities.



Our first research report, "The Moved and Shaken: How Forced Relocation Affects the Lives of Urban Refugee Women and Girls," provides a look into the life of refugee women in Nairobi and their thoughts on relocation to the camps.



The Global Fund for Children honored us with a **Global Catalyst award** in recognition of our work with under-served children and for aspiring to new levels of financial and programmatic development.



Our Safe House was registered with the Government of Kenya as a Charitable Children's Institution, the first serving refugees to receive this designation under Kenya's Children's Act.



Over seven years after cofounding Heshima Kenya, Anne Sweeney transitioned from her role as Executive Director while continuing to serve as an advisor for policy and development.

We partnered with **UN Women** to provide financial literacy and micro-loans to refugee women



Our partnership with **UN Women** also supported workshops and peer education among our Women's Ambassador Groups about human rights, peace building, and sexual and genderbased violence prevention.



Alisa Roadcup was named Executive Director, bringing more than 15 years' experience in human rights, advocacy and programming that focuses on vulnerable girls and young women.



Alice Eshuchi was promoted to Kenyan Country Director. She brings 30+ years' leadership experience to Heshima Kenya.



We were honored to attend Women Moving Millions 2014 Annual Summit in NYC to feature our Maisha Collective scarf line.



Our **2014 Fashion Challenge**, emceed by Windy City LIVE's Val Warner and judged by members of Chicago's fashion community, raised over \$40,000.



We continue to work with UNHCR's Advocacy Working Group to combat xenophobia and advocate for a fair and just Refugee Bill, which we expect to be passed in 2015.



In our new formal partnership with **UNHCR** we will serve as the agency's partner for child protection in Nairobi, enhancing our ability to identify vulnerable children and advocate and protect their rights.





Dear Heshima Supporters,

Since joining Heshima Kenya in 2012, and now stepping into my new role as Executive Director, it is a tremendous honor to lead Heshima Kenya in providing the highest quality of care for the most vulnerable of the world's refugees. Over 100,000 refugees live in Nairobi alone, and among the most defenseless are refugee girls and young women. Lacking protection, they are at extreme risk of sexual and gender based violence and face higher rates of illiteracy, early pregnancy, forced marriage, FGM, and depression. Heshima Kenya is the only organization dedicated to serving this population in Kenya.

In 2013, the Westgate terrorist attack, ongoing insecurity in Somalia, and stricter refugee policies heightened political unrest and xenophobia in Nairobi. The resulting climate intensified the challenges vulnerable girls face. Already prone to slipping through the cracks of traditional aid agencies, they were even more susceptible to police brutality, extortion, and increased violence.

Simply put, this is why Heshima Kenya exists: we provide a lifeline for refugee women and girls. As we expand, our programs continue to be at the forefront on response and protection, even during the most precarious times. In 2014, while hundreds of refugees were being rounded up and sent to refugee camps, we kept those in our care safe. When law enforcement was demanding ID's at random checkpoints, we created the Heshima Kenya Educational Center identification card for all of our girls to ensure their safety. Contingency plans across all programs were established and implemented.

In this report, you'll meet three girls we serve: Asha, Fatuma and Elizabeth. Each girl's story follows her unique journey within our programs. They are eager students. They are teen mothers with hopes for their babies. They are friends, sisters, and young women who imagine a brighter future. With the case management and long-term support Heshima Kenya provides, you'll see how they are on their way to healing, happiness, and independence.

Looking ahead, 2015 promises to be a landmark year in terms of our growth. In January of 2015 we will be entering into formal implementing partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The Maisha Collective is on the verge of tremendous growth and our number of beneficiaries will be growing significantly. We couldn't have done it without you.

Recent challenges have helped Heshima Kenya to become stronger and more resolute in our mission, which is beautifully conveyed by the girls and young women who form our community. They are our greatest testimony of success. Thank you for your ongoing support, and for believing in their future.

Sincerely,

Alisa Roadcup Executive Director

SHE IS NEWLY ARRIVED

"I can afford to smile now, thanks to Heshima Kenya."

Asha is 15 years old. She fled an abusive situation in Ethiopia in January 2013 and arrived in Nairobi alone on a truck. She did not know what to do or where to go. She was taken in by a man who abused her and kept her captive in his home. When she became pregnant, he forced her out onto the street. She gave birth to her son eight months ago.

Asha was afraid and unsure of how she would care for her new baby. Fortunately, she was identified by one of Heshima Kenya's Junior Ambassadors in the community and was immediately accepted into our Safe House to meet her first and most pressing need: a safe and secure place to live.

Asha is feeling hopeful and anticipating what the future holds. She has food, clothing, and is learning how to care for her baby. Her basic needs are being met as she begins to heal. Next, Heshima Kenya will help her register for legal status with UNHCR and enroll her in our education program. She is happy to finally feel peace. Heshima Kenya has served **650** young refugee women, girls and their children since 2008.

They obtain an education and gain confidence.

They attend our alternative education program, which is designed for fast-track learning and for students of all education levels

478 SINCE 2008 22% INCREASE SINCE 2008

Their children are growing and learning, too.

Their children are cared for in our nursery and early education program

162 SINCE 2008

They are made safe, physically and emotionally.

We arrange and pay for medical care 1,023 SINCE 2008

The most vulnerable live at our Safe House

492 SINCE 2008

We provide food baskets for host families

70% INCREASE SINCE 2012

They have a chance to earn an income and succeed.

They learn a marketable skill in our tailoring program

76 GRADUATED SINCE 2008

They participate in the Maisha Collective after graduating

62 ENROLLED SINCE 2010 70% NOW SELF SUFFICIENT

SHE IS ON HER WAY

"Everyone needs protection and safety so that they can enjoy life and be happy. Heshima gives us that."

Fatuma fled Somalia after her father was killed. She arrived from Somalia with a group of neighbors in 2012. She found Heshima Kenya in 2013 through our community outreach workshops, which we conduct in Nairobi's refugee communities. Fatuma told our staff about her struggles—she was not enrolled in school, she had no way to earn money, and was living with a host family who could not provide her with clothing or a bed.

She was immediately enrolled in our Girls' Empowerment Project, where she finally began to learn. Our case management team provided her host family with food baskets, clothing, and a mattress. Fatuma worked hard and excelled in school. Now, only one year later, she is enrolled in Heshima's tailoring program and looking forward to joining the Maisha Collective where she can earn a stipend and save her money so she can afford an apartment.

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On the Ground: The Plight of Kenya's Refugees

Today, Kenya's refugee crisis is facing a new set of challenges, primarily due to the outbreak of war in Southern Sudan and the country's ongoing conflict with Somalia to secure its borders. These new developments affect both urban refugees and the organizations, like Heshima Kenya, that serve them. Despite these challenges, we continue to be a leading protection organization, critical partner, and voice for the most vulnerable. We track trends and data to strengthen not only our own programs, but also inform the larger international community about the children and youth we serve.

As of July 2014, Kenya had 575,334 registered refugees and it is projected that by 2015 this number will increase to 662,850. Of these, nearly 25 percent are children who fled without their parents to Kenya. In December 2012 and again in March 2014, the Government of Kenya issued a directive stating that all refugees in urban areas were to relocate to Kakuma or Dadaab refugee camps.

Kenya's refugee camps are overcrowded; basic humanitarian assistance and services are grossly overstretched. It is estimated that one in three girls in the camps are likely to suffer sexual violence before the age of 18. The camps are not suitable places for vulnerable children to live.

The government also launched a security operation, known as Usalama Watch, this past spring. This mandated the forcible relocation of refugees. Many were arrested and forced to move to camps or repatriate to their countries of origin. Hundreds of parents were relocated without their children; over 300 unaccompanied children were left abandoned in the Nairobi area. Heshima Kenya coordinated with partners to conduct assessments and provide assistance to these children.

To raise awareness of the plight of unaccompanied refugee women and children, Heshima Kenya conducted sensitization workshops with government officials and partners on the special needs of refugee children, particularly young girls who have survived gender based violence. We also published our first formal field report, *The Moved and the Shaken: How Forced Relocation Affects the Lives of Urban Refugee Women and Girls* that focuses on the unique vulnerability and needs of refugee women.

Heshima Kenya is a leading stakeholder advocating for the rights of Kenya's refugees, especially children. We continue to work on the ground to identify the most vulnerable, as well as develop critical partnerships and awareness campaigns to ensure that other organizations and the Government of Kenya supports and protects this population.

SHE IS STARTING HER NEXT CHAPTER

"Because of Heshima, I am hopeful for myself and my daughter."

Elizabeth arrived in Nairobi in 2010 after fleeing the Congo to escape war. All alone and without family, she was raped and became pregnant. She and her daughter were enrolled in Heshima Kenya in 2011, where they both thrived. Elizabeth joined the Girls' Empowerment Project, then the tailoring program, and graduated to the Maisha Collective. Upon graduating, she received a small grant to start her own business selling fabric in the market. She is able to pay rent and care for her daughter in her own apartment in Nairobi.

This past summer, Elizabeth was arrested by the police as part of the government's roundup of refugees. With the confidence and language skills she developed while at Heshima Kenya, she was able to communicate with the officers to secure her release.

Now 20, Elizabeth has enrolled in a business and finance course at a local college. She is grateful for her life, her daughter, and her ability to work in the community. To Elizabeth, success means "being independent and giving my child the best medical care, food, and attention. I've learned how important these things are."

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IMPACT REPORT

Women "

Women's Ambassador Groups mobilize and empower, creating safe spaces and sharing vital knowledge.

They focus on strengthening community networks through life skills certification, literacy courses, and micro-loans.

233 AMBASSADORS TRAINED

Our graduates serve as Junior Ambassadors, igniting dialogue among their peers about human rights and SGBV

12 JUNIOR AMBASSADORS HAVE BEEN TRAINED AND ARE MOBILIZING THEIR PEERS Community workshops generate awareness about gender-based violence, reproductive health, community resources, and human rights.

4,365 REFUGEES FROM THE COMMUNITY HAVE BEEN REACHED TO DATE

Heshima Kenya provides outreach services for all Nairobi's refugees.

We focus on earning trust and respect.

Our goal is to receive referrals **set** from those closest to girls in need.

330 GIRLS HAVE BEEN REFERRED TO HESHIMA KENYA BY COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO DATE Heshima Kenya is grateful to the individual donors and foundations who supported our programs in 2013, including those who purchased scarves, attended our events, hosted scarf parties, and donated in-kind materials, services, and their generous time throughout the year.

We couldn't serve the most vulnerable without you.

2013 MAJOR FOUNDATION AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORTERS

Refugees, and Migration NoVo Foundation UN Women The Global Fund for Children Dining for Women Bright Future International Zakat Foundation of America The Manaaki Foundation The Sweeney Family Foundation Christopher Family Foundation The Sarah and John Sommers Family Foundation Frankel Family Foundation Casey/Connolly Family Fund The Gladys Randall Charitable Tartan Realty Group

2013 INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS

Alexa Rosenberg Alfredo Septian & Diane Alancraig Alisa Roadcup Allison Shabino Andrew and Jenny Mason Ari Greenburg Arno Mayorga Barbara Sweeney Bob & Sue Frank Brent & Jill Rasmussen Carol Altshuler Catherine Olson Daphne Ortiz Darren Swimmer David & Jessica Mozersky Deborah Evans Debra Drew Donald & Kye Hilliker Eileen Gelick Elizabeth Johns Fidelity Brokerage Services

Frank Budd George & Barbara Sofianos Humanity United Huyen Tran Jennifer Rose Jennifer Schweitzer Jennifer Sewall Jessica Mackinnon Jim & Birgit Sweeney John Zaccari Joseph Steele Julia Rapp Kaitlin Hasseler Karin Wilson Kendall Gordon Krijn DeJonge Laura Budd Lawrence Berman Lindsey Weiss Margaret & Mario Powell Marily Frank Marilyn King Mary Grimaldi Mary McCue Michael & Sherry Taylor Molly Arbogast Noah Garon Peggy Harden Peter Darrow Philip & Anne Tomforde Philip O'Connor **Phyllis Nolan** Prairie Management & Development, Inc. Rabbi Shosh Dworsky & Mitch Multer Rachel & Todd Slavkin Robert Goffman Ron Boring Rose Rutzer Santoro & Co. Sararose Krenger Scott & Chris Gordon Seth Bockley

St. Peter Catholic Church

Susan Cortez

Susan Hague Sylvia Bisangwa Thomas Boman Tim & Shirley Farrell Tim Moore UBM, LLC Uma Venkataraman Walter Eckenhoff Walter & Sarah Good William G Laatsch Women's Refugee Commission

The Maisha Collective has grown its marketplace of stores and events in Kenya and the US. We thank these partners and all those who made purchases online, at events, at private parties, and in our workshop in Nairobi. We also thank the ambassadors who brought together their networks to raise awareness about Heshima Kenya and bring attention to the work of our Maisha artisans.

US RETAILERS

American Artworks Gallery, Forest Park Comfort Me, Chicago Deedee and Edee, Forest Park Embelezar, Milwaukee Greenheart Shop, Chicago Hazel, Chicago Illinois Holocaust Museum Retail Store, Skokie Lollipop Seeds, Chicago Maiden Nation Niala Conte, Chicago Strut, Geneva Ten Thousand Villages, Evanston Ten Thousand Villages, Glen Ellyn The Green Goddess, Chicago The Mustard Seed, Lake Forest Maiden Nation (online)

US EVENTS

Andie K Designs Creative Collaboration Dose Market Edelman Holiday Fair Groupon Holiday Fair Junior League of Chicago Gazebo Holiday Market Kansas City Holiday Boutique LaSalle Street Church Holiday Fair Lillstreet Art Center Holiday Fair Randolph Street Market The Square Roots Festival Wrigleyville Summerfest

KENYA RETAILERS

Banana Box The Museum Shop International School of Kenya Sankara Hotel International Organization for Migration Blue Rhino Spinner's Web

KENYA EVENTS

US Embassy Holiday Fair German Embassy Holiday Fair British High Commission Holiday Fair UN Headquarters women's events BizzBazz Village Market sales events Kuona Trust

Heshima Kenya and the Maisha Collective were featured in the following television, radio, and press outlets:

Fox News 12 Days of Giving, Chicago Fox Nightly News, Chicago WGN's Chicago's Very Own The U Network, Chicago NBC News, Chicago NPR-WBEZ, Worldview, Chicago Chicago Tribune Christian Science Monitor The Daily Beast Huffington Post Thomson Reuters Foundation Today's Chicago Woman Wall Street Journal Online Tavi Gevinson's Style Rookie



A Conversation with Nairobi's Leadership

Alice Eshuchi (pictured above, right) is Heshima Kenya's Country Director and has been with the organization since 2009. Caroline Sakwa (pictured above, left) has been Heshima's Safe House Program Manager since 2011.

What differentiates Heshima Kenya's model from other NGOs?

Caroline Most other NGOs respond to a specific problem, they don't talk about an integrated approach. Working with an organization where one girl can receive all the services she needs, and to find safe spaces and friendship among her peers, is inspiring.

Can you speak to how Heshima has responded in times of crisis?

<u>Alice</u> Since I started working with Heshima Kenya, the environment had always been somewhat stable. However, when the Government of Kenya issued the directive, life became very shaky for urban refugees in Nairobi, especially those who had been living here for a long time.

In response to the directive, we developed a contingency plan. We anticipated that our Safe House would become a rescue center for those too afraid to live in their homes—we bought mattresses, supplies and extra food to accommodate more girls. Then Westgate happened. The insecurity affected the operations of all organizations serving refugees. The government decided that because Westgate was attacked by Al-Shabaab, the Somali terrorist group, that all Somalis should be targeted, relocated, or arrested. Heshima girls were terrified. Two of our girls were arrested on their way to our school. We rushed to the station and were able to convince the police to release them.

Except for those living in our Safe House Program, the insecurity reached a point where we all felt threatened. Even some of our Somali staff were targeted. Our goal throughout was to sustain our programs so our residents could maintain their sense of routine. This was fundamental to us.

Caroline We made sure we maintained our good relations with the government and found creative ways to protect the girls as they traveled to and from our programs. We implemented school ID cards, which the government accepted. We also received a letter of support from the head of the Children's Department stating that the ministry supported our programs.

How are Heshima's programs transformational?

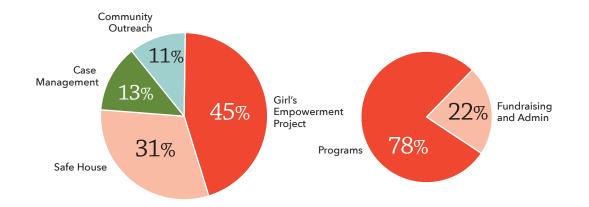
Caroline I have a special case that often serves as my inspiration as a manager, especially during tough times. There is this girl who came to us when she was pregnant and 16 years old. She was raped when she was fleeing her country and was infected with HIV. When she came to Kenya, she was looking for her big sister, but she couldn't be traced. She lost her parents during the war. When she came to the Safe House, she cried and cried—she didn't want to stay. After significant counseling, she agreed to stay.

She was around five months pregnant when she arrived and we took her to the hospital for every visit. She gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, named Blessed. She didn't want to bond with her baby, but finally accepted her after six months. When she learned her baby was HIV-negative, she was crying.

I had seen her withdrawn at times, even suicidal. When she learned Blessed's status, she became strong and exuded energy. When you see her smiling and dancing, you can't believe it was the same girl. We were able to trace her sister with help from UNHCR. As she waits for resettlement, which can take years, she is going to school—she dances at all the events... she always finds a reason to smile! This is why I do what I do.

Financial Statements

FOR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY UNRESTRICTED	TOTAL		
REVENUE, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT					
Direct Public Support					
Foundation Grants	\$201,000	\$307,445	\$508,445		
Gifts-in-Kind	\$32,236		\$32,236		
Individual & Business Contributions	\$28,528		\$28,528		
Total Direct Public Support		\$307,445			
Federal Financial Assistance		\$256,423	\$256,423		
Foreign Exchange Loss	-\$881		-\$881		
Income Generating Program	\$90,171		\$90,171		
Miscellaneous income	\$1,603		\$1,603		
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	\$608,202	-\$608,202			
Total Revenue, Gains, & Other Support	\$960,859	-\$44,334	\$916,525		

EXPENSES

\$309,724		\$309,724
\$210,250		\$210,250
\$87,183		\$87,183
\$74,627		\$74,627
\$681,784		\$681,784
\$87,068		\$87,068
\$108,532		\$108,532
\$195,600		\$195,600
\$877,384		\$877,384
183,475	(44,334)	39,141
13,712	23,573	137,285
\$97,187	\$79,239	\$176,426
	\$210,250 \$87,183 \$74,627 \$681,784 \$87,068 \$108,532 \$195,600 \$877,384 183,475 13,712	\$210,250 \$87,183 \$74,627 \$681,784 \$87,068 \$108,532 \$108,532 \$195,600 \$877,384 183,475 (44,334) 13,712 23,573

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$159,188
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets	\$12,876
Total Current Assets	\$172,064
Non-current Assets	
Property & Equipment Net of Accumulated Depreciation of \$25,345	\$16,085
Total Non-current Assets	\$16,085
Total Assets	\$188,149

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$11,723
Total Current Liabilities	\$11,723
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	\$97,187
Temporarily Restricted	\$79,349
Total Net Assets	\$176,426
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$188,149

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Change in Net Assets	\$39,141
Adjustments to Reconcile Change in Net Assets to Net Cash Provided by (Used In) Operating Activi	
Depreciation	\$10,305
Unrealized & Realized Loss on Foreign Currency Translation	\$35
Donated Vehicle Included in Revenues & Other Support	-\$8,690
Changes in Assets & Liabilities	
Prepaid Expenses & Other Assets	-\$4,913
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	-\$3,409
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	-\$6,672
Net Increase In Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$32,469
Cash & Cash Equivalents: Beginning	\$126,719
Cash & Cash Equivalents: End	\$159,188

Independent audit prepared by:

E.C. ORTIZ & CO., LLP Chicago, Illinois December 31, 2013





COURCE BUTOTO CHANCE (18 YRS OLD) HESHIMA GIRL AND MOTHER

Courage is doing what is right Courage it takes to speak the truth Courage it takes to be yourself Courage to stand out Courage to be me

Courage is love, it brings hope

Courage gives you the strength to all weakness

Courage is something any one can achieve

The heart of love is courage

Don't close your eyes on the world,

There are many who care for you,

Face your life and its trials with a quiet mind and courageous smile

Courage is my last name

US Executive Board of Directors Ann Laatsch (Chairwoman) Phyllis Nolan (Treasurer) Talyn Good (Secretary and Co-Founder of Heshima Kenya) Daphne Ortiz Jill Rasmussen

Kenya Board of Directors

Rosalind Raddatz (Chairwoman) Payal Patel (Treasurer) Patricia Amira Talyn Good (Founding Member and Director) Luz-Adriana Leahy Zubin Talib (Founding Member and Director)

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Photography provided by Shravan Vidyarthi. Graphic design by Lorett Marketing Communications and Jihad Lahham.