

**WORLD
MERIT**



**SIX MONTHS OF
WORLD MERIT**

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to 6 month Impact Report 2019, where we reflect on the past 6 months of World Merit. In order to fully appreciate the following pages, below is an outline of the descriptions used throughout this document.

World Merit

World Merit is a global youth movement and international charity that works directly with the United Nations to try and achieve their 17 Sustainable Development Goals. It aims to empower millennials in countries around the world to come together, providing them the resources and opportunities to tackle social problems in their communities and providing rewards for their work. The incredible diversity of World Merit is one of our strengths. We already represent every country and most communities. To maintain our relevance and ability to scale impact, we have lived the World Merit principle we call the 80/20 rule. This means that 80% of the strategy and implementation of World Merit comes from its members. This builds insight, trust, and a sense of ownership for the community. The other 20% is the framework offered by the global HQ to create an environment of support.

World Merit Councils

World Merit ensures their global reach by a network of Councils. National Merit Councils (NMC) are teams of volunteers who represent World Merit in their respective countries. Each country has one NMC but can have many Local Merit Councils (LMCs). Each city, village or village, school or university can start their own World Merit chapter.

Global Citizen

Someone who identifies with being a part of World Merit's emerging global community and whose actions contribute to building our community's values and practices, in particular unison with tackling the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Total People Impacted

Our global citizens by far make some of the greatest impact in their local communities. Those impacted can be defined as persons who were involved or attended a local impact event and are now aware and inspired by World Merit and the Global Goals to take action.

Total Developed

Developed Global Citizens are members who are trained through various programs i.e - Team2030; and commit to positively impacting the world by taking action and logging those actions through World Merit's Impact App.

How does one Develop Councils?

Global Council members are trained in structure, management and on-boarding through online workshops and modules. National Presidents are sent a virtual Councils Handbook and invited to take part in learning modules to boost knowledge on finance, community and project management. They then transfer this knowledge to Local Presidents and their various council members.

Team2030

Team2030 is the best global challenge for teams of young global citizens. 200 teams of five, all committed to tackling the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, all working together to make their community and the world better. This project was launched on May 1st, 2018 and put on hold in March 2019. With more funding and resources, it is our aim for Team2030 to be the vehicle to accelerate our impact.







FOREWORD

As we reflect on the first six months of the Misk Merit initiative, I am proud of the collective impact we have made.

Together we have impacted more than 217,192 people across the globe. In total, our community has spent over 64,459 hours creating waves of change. We have introduced the Sustainable Development Goals to hundreds of thousands of people and have developed 106,733 global citizens.

We have made the biggest impact in Nigeria, Tanzania, Pakistan, South Africa and Bangladesh, but our impact has rippled into every continent.

We have made a strong start to our partnership. The hypothesis has been proven and the potential demonstrated. It serves as the foundation of, what I believe should be a long-term collaboration. It is encouraging to note that through the many lessons we have faced in the past six months, the momentum has continued to build and that reflects in the remarkable impact stories from our community.

Every story is touching. Whether it is someone from Bangladesh rescuing an owl, or someone from Latvia reaching out to 4000+ children to introduce the SDG's. Whether it is focused on green spaces in South Africa or a Haitian developing a fellowship to enhance employability. Our community is working tirelessly and selflessly to make the world around them a better place.

This report looks back on the impact made in the past six months but also highlights some interesting facts. It is an introduction to some of the most impactful and touching stories but also a follow-up on how some of these projects are doing now. It gives the floor to our Global Ambassador and The Presidents of some of our high-performing countries to reflect on their journey over the past 6 months and the plans they have for the next 6 months.

As always, it has been humbling and exciting for us to hear of so many young people being introduced to the SDGs and to know that our community has played a key role in mobilising large numbers of people towards activism, towards the SDGs and the development of global citizens.

As ever, we continue to look forward to the rest of the year with the hope and pride that we know you share.

Together we will reach our fullest height.
All my best,

Marlou Cornelissen
Chief Executive Officer
World Merit CIO

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Marlou Cornelissen', with a stylized flourish underneath.





OUR GLOBAL AMBASSADOR

My name is Shaan and I have been the Global Ambassador of World Merit since 15th December 2018.

What are you most proud of in the last 6 months?

I am proud to have reached out to the Merit community and beyond through monthly Live Chats on the Sustainable Development Goal of the month. It has been a journey based on learning more about the specific targets and indicators within each SDG and to find how much progress we have made, as well as how far we still have to go. Moreover, these Live Chats give an opportunity for members of World Merit to learn more about each SDG, and gives people from outside of the community a chance to learn about World Merit, the projects of our councils and give them the motivation to join and create impact.

What was the most impressive impact you made in the last 6 months?

I took up teaching the English Language to women and children in Thailand. Since Thailand is a vastly Thai speaking country, learning English is a way for children to grow and have understanding and access to opportunities that they did not have before. For women it is an opportunity to expand their clientele since Thailand has a large population of foreign nationals residing here and an opportunity for them to gain confidence in speaking as well as learning new topics. I am proud of the fact that I lead these classrooms in an interactive and contextualized manner, building interest and investment in learning the language. For me this was not a one off activity and I gave time to teaching on weekends for the past 5 months. This activity directly aligned to Goal 4 and 8 and this was a chance for me to truly go out of my comfort zone and use creative ideas to implement teaching a new language to people whose language I did not speak!

How has interaction with the World Merit community inspired you?

My interactions with different council members have given me the opportunity to learn and expand my perspectives. I have always been passionate about education, gender and climate action. However, being the ambassador has given me an opportunity to learn more about each of the 17 SDGs, a bigger platform to reach a wider audience and credibility to inform and inspire people to create impact and join the community. Individually in this role, I have felt motivated more than ever to act and lead by example - which has led me to work for different causes within my city. I had the courage to get up and strike for climate action this year on the streets of Bangkok. I spoke to young environmental enthusiasts from different organisations, sometimes even dialing in online (to speak with participants from India) to lead sessions where I informed them about the current environmental crisis in relation to plastic pollution, air pollution and climate change and to motivate them to act. I consistently taught a new language to children and women in a brand new city. I worked on waste management initiatives - picking up trash all over the city and spreading awareness about segregation and recycling in the last 6 months in order to lead by example. This in turn inspired people around me - colleagues, students, friends, acquaintances to change their habits and contribute to solving the problem. In my day to day work I helped over 200 women gain opportunities for leadership development and facilitated two programmes on gender equality in the last 6 months.

What are your plans for the next 6 months?

I plan to grow the World Merit Network - by spreading more awareness about each SDG in relation to World Merit and the projects the community is currently working on - I envision increasing awareness, impact and membership by doing this. As an individual who is a member of the merit community I will continue to work for education, gender and environment through on ground and online activities. As a Global Council member I look forward to supporting the team to achieve the goals that World Merit has set out for this year.

What is most rewarding about being the Global Ambassador?

The most rewarding part about being an Ambassador is the privilege of representing a World Merit community that is full of passionate individuals who have come together to create an impact in the lives of others. It is by using this platform and the connections with people who are like minded and purposeful - that we have found there is a lot to learn - starting from experiences, perspectives, best practices to a lot of inspiration and new ideas.

"I have always been passionate about education, gender and climate action. However, being the ambassador has given me an opportunity to learn more about each of the 17 SDGs."



A vibrant, close-up photograph of a diverse group of young adults, likely students, at a social gathering. They are all smiling and laughing, creating a joyful and energetic atmosphere. The background is slightly blurred, showing more people and colorful decorations. A dark semi-transparent box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing white text.

IMPACT STATS

Last six months in numbers



THE PAST SIX MONTHS

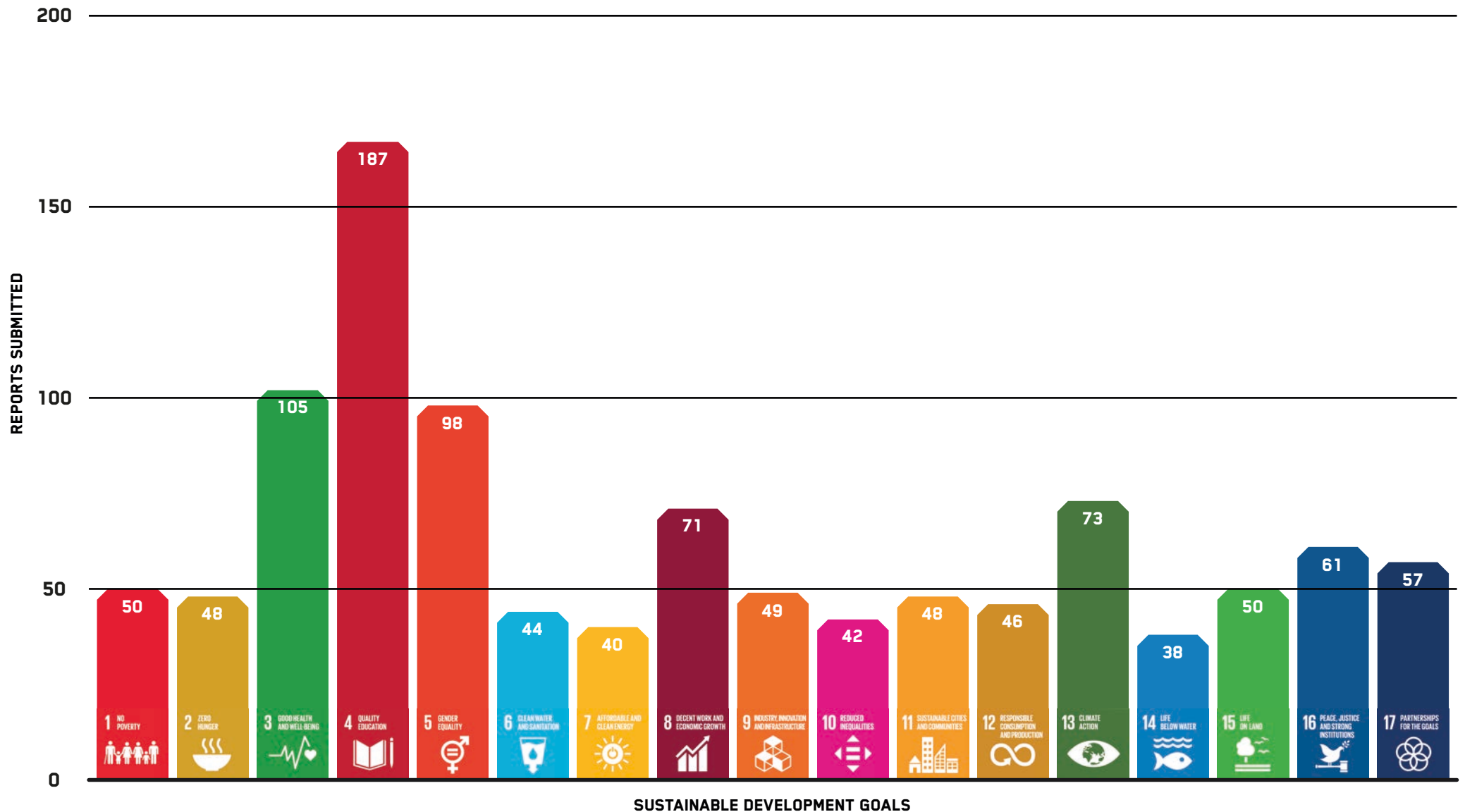
In a nutshell

TOTAL PEOPLE IMPACTED: 217,192

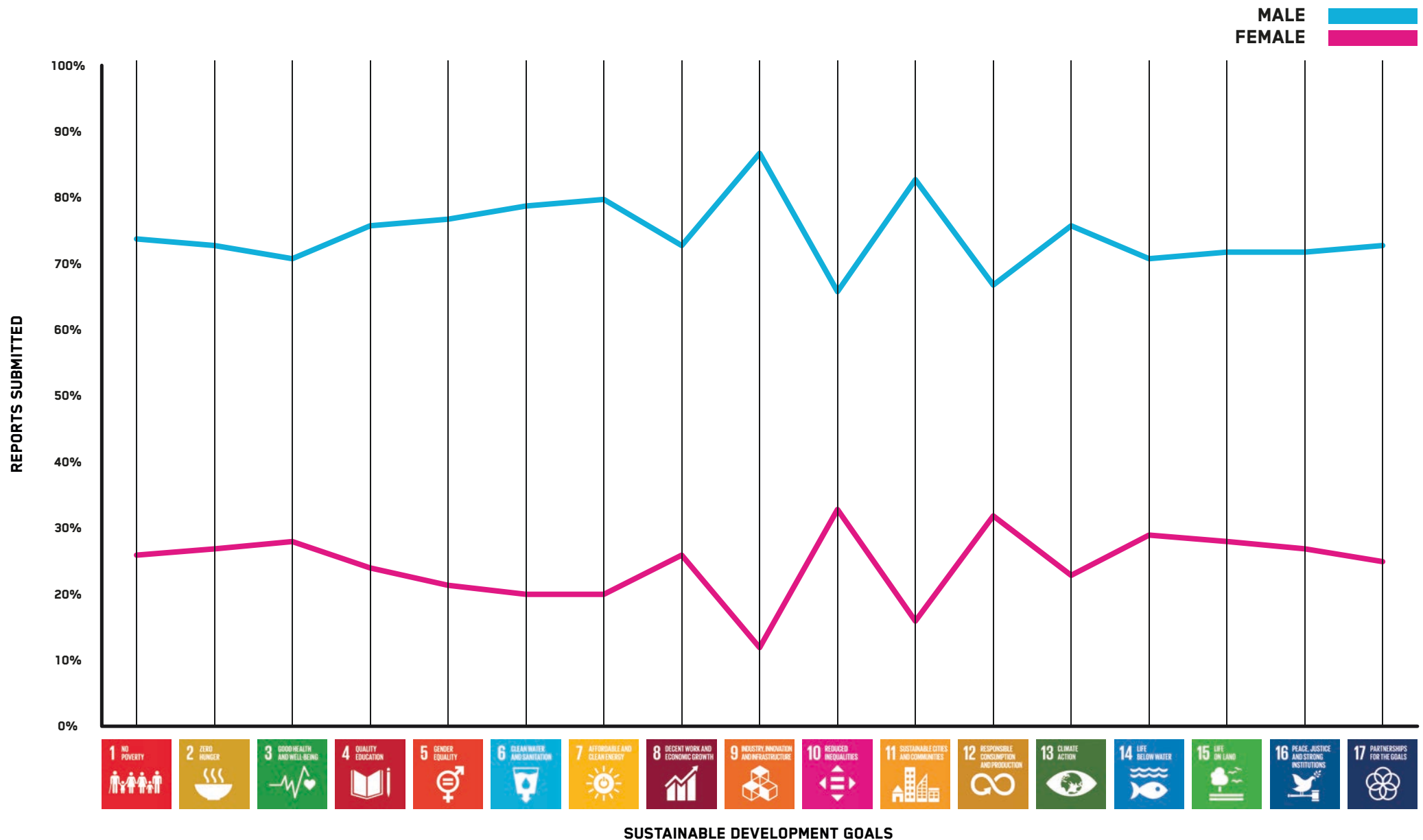
TOTAL HOURS SPENT: 64,458

TOTAL DEVELOPED: 106,733

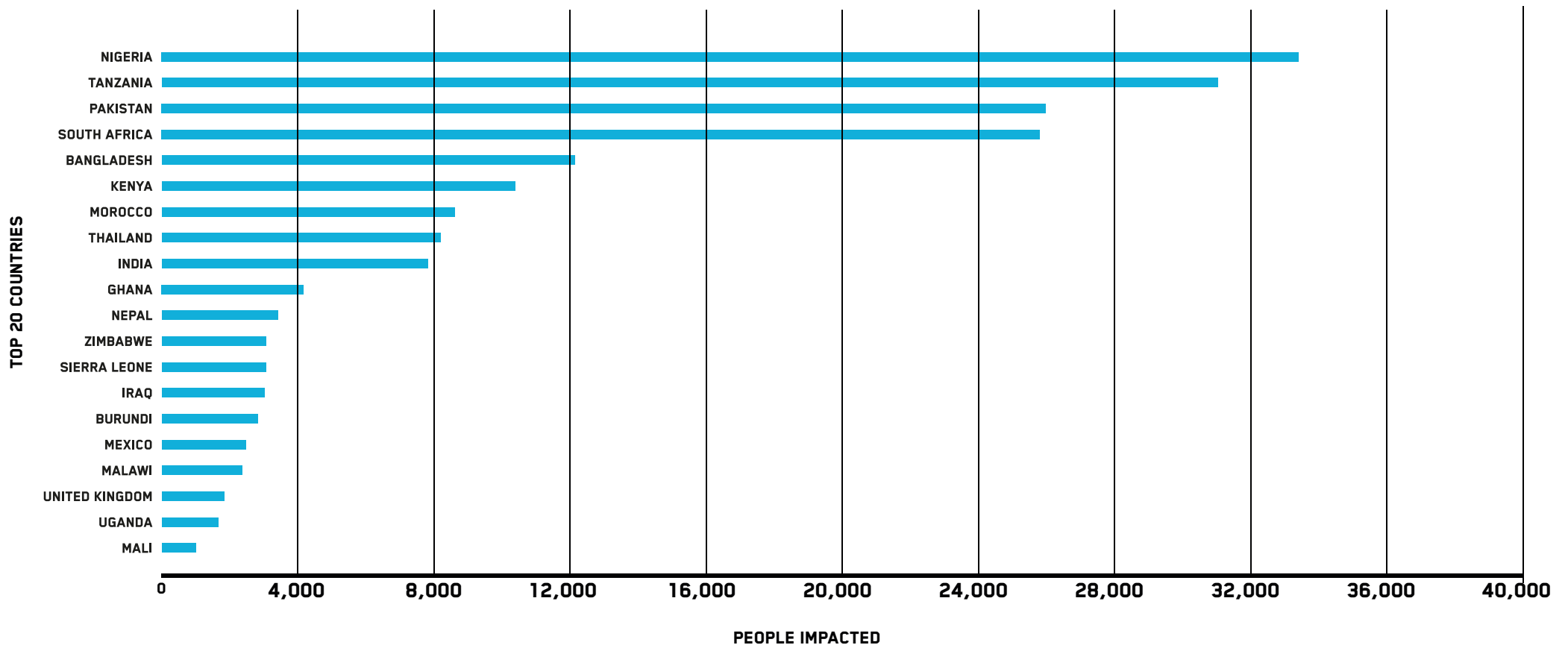
REPORTS SUBMITTED PER SDG



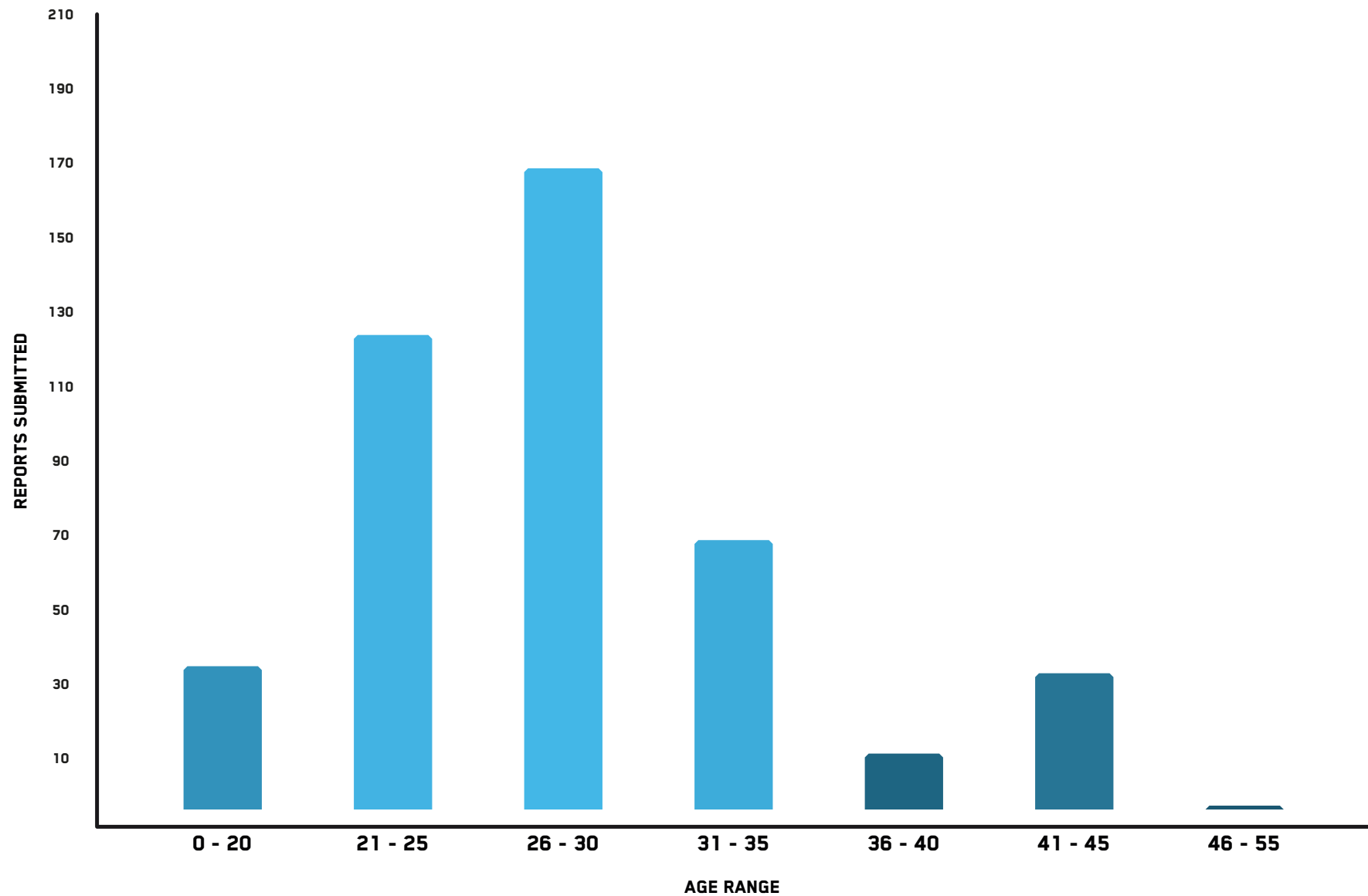
GENDER/SDG BREAKDOWN



PEOPLE IMPACTED PER COUNTRY



AGE BREAKDOWN



WORLD MAP



1. Bangladesh Impacted - 2678

A consultation workshop as part of "Citizen's Platform for SDGs" to develop a citizen's review on the progress of SDG 8 and to outline recommendations on how we can together achieve the targets. World Merit members were joined by High-level government officials, CSOs, NGOs and private sector associations.

2. Burundi Impacted - 45

World Merit members supported the launch of the International Student Environmental Coalition (ISEC) Burundi was hosted at National Institute of Public Health by the National Director. 45 members decided to join and get involved in resolving environmental problems facing Burundi.

3. Cambodia Impacted - 800

Children at the Feeding Dreams School were taught the 17 SDGs using a picture book that was translated into Khmer. Each child had the opportunity to read the book aloud, improving their confidence and literacy skills.

4. Colombia Impacted - 65

In Nariño, being responsible with our environment is also a good practice that started with this government. The World Merit team From the south have joined forces with Secretaria de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible to drive the campaign #plantfortheplanet #Notadeldía

5. Côte d'Ivoire Impacted - 100

World Merit members participated and contributed to a TedX style event that focused on innovative solutions to the worlds biggest issues, as defined by the SDGs.

6. Germany Impacted - 65

Two amazing weeks filled with unforgettable experiences, surrounded by precious people. During this time, the World Merit members demonstrated their patience, their thoughtfulness and active participation.

7. Ghana Impacted - 300

World Merit Ghana hosted a Girl Child Education program for New Valley School in the Kpone Katamanso District. A team from the Youth Coalition for Girl Child Education gave students great insights on girl child education.

8. Haiti Impacted - 40 Training on Gender Equality

9. Indonesia Impacted - 100

Global Peace Ambassador

10. Iraq Impacted - 120

The World Between Death and Life

11. Kenya Impacted - 2060

Good health and wellbeing in Turkana county

12. Lebanon Impacted - 30

Memeber of World Merit Beirut hosted a one day information session about SDG 3 Good Health and Wellbeing and connected the SDGs to the Millenium Development Goals to show global progress in health.

13. Liberia Impacted - 64

Members of World Merit Liberia went the renowned Peter Kokoi School of Journalism presenting certificates to participants at the Liberian Youth for Sustainable Development workshop.

14. Lithuania Impacted - 100

We support teachers, we have today expressed our participation in Lietuvos mokytojų ir juos palaikančiųjų meeting. We are happy to have a lesson of teachers citizenship, criticism and persistence for all of us we are watching in recent days. Only Active, fighting for their rights teachers can pass these values to students.

15. Malawi Impacted - 250

We support teachers, we have today expressed our participation in Lietuvos mokytojų ir juos palaikančiųjų meeting. We are happy to have a lesson of teachers citizenship, criticism and persistence for all of us we are watching in recent days. Only Active, fighting for their rights teachers can pass these values to students.

16. Malaysia Impacted - 300

World Merit members spent a day focusing on SDG 4 (Quality Education) with a series of lessons about numeracy, maths and basic financial literacy, which is relevant for SDG 8 also (Decent Work and Economic Growth)

17. Mali Impacted - 1000

Aminata cissé - member of the National Advisory Council for children and youth of #mali, strongly advocates for access to a fair and quality education for girls, engine for the development of Mali

18. Mexico Impacted - 30

Members of World Merit Mexico hosted a conference "Youth in the face of Climate Change" and the children were taught using interactive gamification methods that proved to be both fun and informative. The council will roll out this program nationwide in 2020.

19. Morocco Impacted - 50

The Moroccan Kingdom's Ministry of Health, dealing with a significant decline in blood supplies, launched a national campaign for blood donations. World Merit members across Morocco, have since donated blood.

20. Nepal Impacted - 131

Dhairya Cancer Foundation has successfully organized Youth Awareness Program related to the Impact of Mental Condition to Cancer Patients in British Gurkha College. Such programs usually are conducted only in countries with advanced healthcare models, so this is a wonderful program for Nepalese cancer patients.

21. Netherlands Impacted - 50

Members created the Zero Waste Globetrotter online social media campaign and held an offline conference to mobilise support for climate action.

22. Nigeria Impacted - 50

The World Merit team were amazed at the level of knowledge, skills and expertise demonstrated by the children, towards working collaboratively to develop sustainable driven ideas, using the "Design Thinking Methodologies of: Empathizing, Ideating, Prototyping, Testing, and Launching" of a scalable model for a social impact projects.

23. Pakistan Impacted - 50

Govt Girls Elementary School Sohawa Dhillwan is located in Gujranwala District of Punjab Province in Pakistan. There is no computer lab or computer students, and no library for students is available. World Merit members held an SDG Chart Discussion session followed by a group activity and a Q & A session about rural education issues.

24. Philippines Impacted - 80

Members of World Merit attended a day-long series of educational discussion and workshops in partnership with the SIKAT Solar Foundation, Inc. It taught the residents of Sitio Haduan on proper waste management in the context of a rural and agricultural community while emphasizing on livelihood opportunities from living a cleaner and greener lifestyle.

25. Saint Lucia Impacted - 30

World Merit members held an event for LEZ Connect, an advocacy group for LGBTQ rights. The event focused on the place of LGBTQ women in sustainable development, and how sexual orientation is protected by the SDGs.

26. Saudi Arabia Impacted - 126

In line with SDG 12 (Responsible production and consumption) a member of World Merit Saudi Arabia has produced artwork that is made using sustainable materials and with the theme of the beauty and majesty of wildlife to highlight the danger many species are facing.

27. Sierra Leone Impacted - 1000

Representatives from the National Youth Commission, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security joined World Merit members in the harvesting of 135 acres of rice farm at a sustainable project site in the Port Loko District.

28. South Africa Impacted - 50

Founder & President Mr Mtembu and Co-Founder gave a career talk at Pretoria West High school on becoming a professional within the Water sector in South Africa and beyond. They outlined how employment in the water sector can be rewarding and essential for the SDGs to be realised.

29. Tanzania Impacted - 52

Primary school education is free in Tanzania but people are still unable to pay for school materials and even simple things like footwear. By donating to Hope Movement we can help parents to afford these materials.

30. Thailand Impacted - 113

Every 6 months young people from all over Asia gather to learn more and problem-solve for the Sustainable Development Goals at the Asia Pacific Youth Exchange. Since 2017 the World Merit Global Ambassador has continued on her journey with them.

31. Tunisia Impacted - 20

The topic was "Woman and Digital Transformation" and included workshops in team building, personal development, leadership and communication. The focus was on building a network of business women and female experts in STEM fields and to strengthen the presence of women in decision-making positions.

32. Turkey Impacted - 450

A group of members from World Merit in Turkey spent a morning delivering a series of lessons on how to implement the SDGs in everyday life. The aim was to be make the SDGs relatable to the individual and to showcase tangible methods for contributing to the SDGs.

33. Uganda Impacted - 280

Members of World Merit Uganda went on a tour to show their appreciation to the environmental clubs that were established in seven schools selected for "Clean Environment Initiative Project" in Soroti Municipality. They learned about the usability and construction of energy saving stoves and were trained by facilitators from YLEC Uganda and JEEP.

34. United Kingdom Impacted - 280

The team at World Merit HQ were inspired by the litter clean-ups taking place around the world by our community. With litter being a big problem in Liverpool, the team decided to spend a day cleaning the streets of Liverpool. They spoke with passers-by and general public about the importance of proper waste management and how it relates to a better city for all.

35. Zimbabwe Impacted - 374

A World Merit member who is a social media 'influencer' asked her instagram followers if they have ever heard of the United Nations SDGs through polls and interactive questions. From the results, the member analysed the data of a total of 374 responses and then proceeded to explain how they can contribute to achieving the SDGs. A significant number of the 374 have gone on to become members of World Merit too.



A group of young adults are celebrating on a stage, with their arms raised in the air. They are wearing lanyards and some are wearing World Merit t-shirts. The background is dark with the words "WORLD MERIT" visible in white. The overall mood is joyful and energetic.

WORLD
MERIT

IMPACT REPORTS

Then and Now

JANUARY

DATE: 5th January 2019

LOCATION: Nigeria

PEOPLE IMPACTED: 547

HOURS SPENT: --

TITLE: Maternal Health Checks

On the 5th January, six members of World Merit Nigeria plus 1 doctor, 2 registered nurses and 9 community health workers spent the day delivering health education and offering health checks to over 500 people in a Northern Nigerian community. Many of the beneficiaries were lactating mothers who benefited from specialist medical advice and were availed of free vitamins and supplement, provided by the team. This pro-active World Merit group, focused on SDG 3 "Health and Wellbeing" featured on Nassarawa State Broadcasting Station who interviewed team members about the incredible impact they were having on the community. Reporters from Nassarawa State Broadcasting Station shared the audio clips so listeners around the environs and neighbouring state had access to listen. The day long campaign was even attended by the Commissioner of Agriculture (the man pictured wearing light blue without the gourd) and the "Aki mi", the emir of Sabon Garin, Keffi.



PRESENT



In January a group of World Merit members took healthcare professionals to a Northern Nigerian community to deliver health education and health checks for 500 people, particularly new mothers. The activity was featured on Nassarawa State Broadcasting Station and the campaign was attended by the Commissioner of Agriculture.

On the day of the health checks, a woman was identified as being seriously ill. The doctor assessed her and in the following days, continued to visit the woman and administer the medication she needed. After a week the doctor reported that the new mother was a lot better and would make a full recovery. The World Merit team were later informed that this woman had been gravely ill, and through the initiative, they developed that day, had likely saved the life of the woman. Aside from this acute case, the maternal health checks that day benefitted hundreds who were given access to medication and essential vitamins they were lacking.

Following on from the activities in January, the maternal health initiative has progressed well. Due to the media coverage, the community representatives visited the World Merit members and asked if they could carry out these health checks on a regular basis. As such, the group are planning to revisit the community and undergo two more outreach sessions before the end of 2019. World Merit member Bukola Olalere, who led the initiative explained how the initiative piqued the interest of healthcare staff and increased local World Merit membership:

“We worked with local youth who are community healthcare workers. When we asked them to volunteer and support our impact, they did not know about World Merit. We introduced them to World Merit, gave them an overview of our mission and vision for the SDGs and an overview of what World Merit stands for. I was delighted with the response, several of them expressed a desire to join World Merit as this was exactly the type of network they had been looking for. They asked us to always keep them informed on subsequent maternal healthcare outreach days because they would love to assist, even if the next outreach was further afield from our locality. For our World Merit council, this was a great delight; to have medical professionals in our council!”

JANUARY

DATE: 27th January 2019

LOCATION: Nigeria

PEOPLE IMPACTED: 208

HOURS SPENT: --

TITLE: World Leprosy Day

Issue

This year's theme of World Leprosy Day is ending discrimination, stigma and prejudice. The majority of people affected by leprosy are believed to experience some form of stigma and discrimination. Up to half of them will face mental health issues, such as depression or anxiety.

To mark this day, World Merit members around the world supported #WorldLeprosyDay to help raise awareness about the impact discrimination and social stigma have on people affected by leprosy, and how these negative attitudes hamper efforts to stop the spread of the disease.

The Action

All this week, World Merit members and the leprosy community are working for increased social inclusion and mental well-being, and how women and men affected by leprosy are making the case for greater participation, demanding their rights and mobilising to overthrow discriminatory laws and practices. By working together to end the discrimination and stigma of leprosy, we will be one vital step closer to a world without leprosy and to reaching SDG 3, Health and Wellbeing for all.

In Focus

ERCC TB and Leprosy Center, Alushi, Nasarawa State. (The only Leprosy Center in the state of Nasarawa, Nigeria) In the weeks preceding World Leprosy Day, a team from World Merit Nigeria established a relationship with the Manager of the facility, Mr Thomas, explaining to him the intent and he got clearance from his boss for the team to proceed and arrange an event.

The facility is home to twenty people living with leprosy, and their caregivers. The team were also told that some 75 people who were not full time admitted in the centre, however they come to the facility to receive treatment on a Sunday and return home.

Initially when the team arrived, the people living there were surprised and were amused to see strangers wanting to relate with them. Once the team explained that they were from World Merit and they wanted to share a day in the facility to show they were supportive and non-discriminatory, then they people living there "cheered up, smiled and laughed with us".

The team spent a full day at the facility and even shared refreshments they had brought along. The most important part of the day was to perform a traditional dance together and this was a perfect way to demonstrate how important inclusivity and non-discrimination are to the World Merit team.



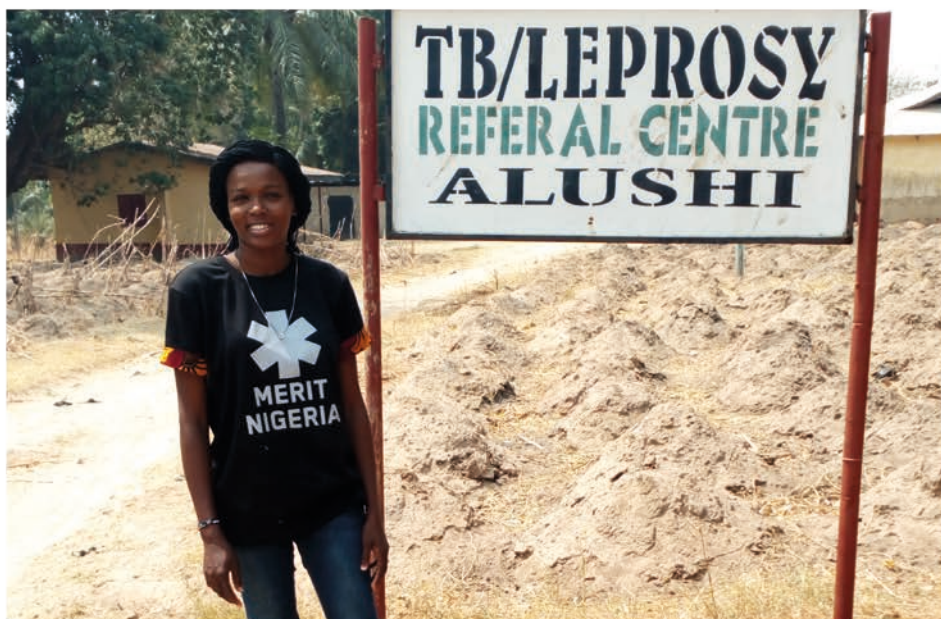
PRESENT

In celebration of World Leprosy Day in January, World Merit members and the leprosy community worked together in the weeks prior to increase the social inclusion and mental well-being of leprosy sufferers, reduce discrimination against them and help them advocate for positive change.

The World Merit member who led the initiative in January to increase inclusion for those living with Leprosy, Bukola Olalere, reported great progress following the event in January. Since then, the World Merit group have formed a partnership with the leprosy centre and have agreed to quarterly visits to build up friendships and ongoing activities. As part of World Merit Day, celebrated on the 24th of July, World Merit are hosting a movie screening at the centre, which is an SDG related series of films provided by SIMA, one of our challenge and opportunity providers.

In terms of the lasting impact made to those living at the centre, Bukola reported that “making the people living with Leprosy feel the love and care we have for them was incredible. We hope that with the work we have done, it might and change the view of many people and decrease the stigma and discrimination they face.

When asked how the event had helped other World Merit community members grow and develop as individuals to inspire others to become changemakers as well, Bukola said, “*they believe they can also create change. People that saw us there now want to visit as well. Educating the youth about leprosy by standing against stigmatization is a perfect example of how World Merit members really are radically inclusive.*



FEBRUARY

DATE: 23rd February

LOCATION: South Africa

PEOPLE IMPACTED: 50

HOURS SPENT: 30

TITLE: Vibrant Park Event

ISSUE

The “Vibrant Parks” idea originated from an overgrown area in a UK park that has been turned into a community space for sports, education, wildlife and a lot more. The project began when staff and young people from a local youth initiative called HYPE (Helping Young People Everywhere) noticed an overgrown, disused fenced off area of the park, which would be perfect for educational workshops and to inspire the love of outdoors and to see the value in spending time in parks for good health. After many meetings and applications the park was regenerated. HYPE is a collaborator with World Merit and so the World Merit team in South Africa decided to roll out this idea to Green Point park in Cape Town.

ACTIVITY

The team from World Merit and HYPE designed the event with the ambition to improve the quality of life and wellbeing for the young people living within the most deprived communities. The aim of this event was to increase green-space engagement. This was done through a fully facilitated football tournament to encourage ‘Good Health and Wellbeing. Educational information sessions took place where children had the opportunity to learn about the biodiversity of the Park and get their hands dirty. The local council invited young people from different communities around Cape Town mainly aged between 15- 24 years to join in and help to inspire, engage, empower and educate the next generation. Being outdoors is proven to benefit our physical and mental wellbeing.

OUTCOME

The time of the actual event was from 11am to 4pm. However the World merit team met from 9am to 11 am to go through final preparations with HYPE team. From 11am to 4pm was the event and from 4pm to 6pm there was a debrief session.

35 young people were given education in natural ecosystems of the parks and green spaces and how they can contribute to ensuring the parks are maintained. The group of 35 then took part in a football tournament which allowed them to work together as teams, to focus and to push themselves physically. The 35 young people ended the day in high spirits and the general consensus was that they would most definitely want to spend more time outdoors in the park as they can see the mental and physical health benefits.

VERIFICATION

During the debrief, the 10 facilitator and 5 HYPE members worked in pairs to evaluate the event through semi-structured interviews. Each person had the opportunity to identify way in which the event could improve and what they felt were the most effective elements of the day. Each of the 35 participants provided contact details and have pledged to fill in an online survey in four weeks so see if the event has had an impact on their behaviours.

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

The event focused on the value of ‘Quality Education’ through nature. The participants were also taught about ‘Life on Land’, the importance of maintaining our environments and also engagement with local kids about the United Nations SDGs with a great focus on challenges they face as Global Citizens.

PRESENT

In February World Merit Cape Town held an event to increase green-space engagement in partnership with HYPE organisation. That day 35 young people were given education in the natural ecosystems of parks and green spaces and their maintenance, followed by a fully facilitated football tournament to encourage good health and wellbeing.

Following the event, President of World Merit Cape Town reported that; “the best thing about that event was working and engaging with young kids from different areas in Capetown. The event helped a lot of community members and educated them about parks, green spaces and their maintenance also helped me to be a better leader”.

There has been no progress with HYPE since the event in February and this was largely out of the control of World Merit South Africa. Our biggest challenge in organising the event with HYPE was funding because they required multiple meetings and engagements with the stakeholders, students and community. Travelling to different meetings requires taxi fare money and none of these costs were covered by HYPE which was a huge drain on the very limited resources the council in Cape Town had saved.

That said, the most rewarding element of organising the Vibrant Parks event and activities was how World Merit Cape Town were able to bring change to the community. As such, the national council of World Merit South Africa and World Merit Cape Town are focused on other projects. For example, in July the councils will roll out the campaign, “what will I do for my 67 minutes?” to celebrate the late Nelson Rolihlahla on the Mandela Day. Later in the year, World Merit South Africa is working towards assisting the “Haven Night Shelter” in Woodstock by volunteering and raising awareness to get sponsors and donations to help keep them operational and assist the homeless people.



MARCH

DATE: 16th March

LOCATION: Tanzania

PEOPLE IMPACTED: 650

HOURS SPENT: --

TITLE: Empathy Development Vision

Activity

EDV is a partnership of World Merit Tanzania, Youth Vision on Society Development and Raleigh Tanzania Society. We combined to lead an educational session to re-introduce the Members to the general principles set by the Sustainable Development Goals.

Earlier this month we facilitated the launch of a fresh new Youth Club, to which all 640 students of Morogoro Secondary were invited! As part of our set-up, all Club Members had a part in electing the Club Leaders, whom tenure after tenure, will set the direction of the Club for years to come. Elected was a Chairman & Assistant Chairman, General Secretary & Assistant, Treasure & Assistant, a Discipline Committee of 4 members, a Gender Issues Officer as well as a Communication Officer. Inevitably, a key objective of all empowered Members and Leaders will be to continuously encourage others to join the Club, as well as set up their own extra-curricular groups. Throughout the day, we were gradually more and more encouraged by the feedback from Club Members; most began expressing a true enthusiasm to become a champion of the SDGs of some sort, or 'Active Citizens'. A particularly powerful activity the Club took part in was a 'Group Testimony', the sharing of stories amongst one another about who and what they wanted to become when they were young, and what they wish to do upon leaving school. This encouraged one another to put in the effort to make sure they had as great a chance as possible to become everything they wanted. This student-to-student advice structure helps all Members take ownership of own lives, but also their wider community and its structures.

Outcomes

Across the event, all Club Members dedicated themselves to the day's activities, and in the long run, agreed to take their time to work together and contribute in making the world a better place, step by step from the lowest local level to the most senior players. In particular, the Club's collective agreement to focus on improving good hygiene awareness, and safe menstruation highlights their knowledge of local issues that affect their fellow students across primary and secondary school level. As part of this, they have set about planning their own visits to surrounding education centers, wishing to challenge them to partner with NGOs so that they themselves can become 'Active Citizens' in a Youth Club arrangement.

Verification

Less than a week on from our on-project event, Morogoro Secondary's Social Teacher called EDV, confirming they have continued to encourage the Club and its Members to keep mobilizing, encouraging one another to identify and establish further Club Goals. Whilst this feedback mechanism is informal at present, a key responsibility of the Club Leaders over the coming months will be to report back progress to EDV.

Global Citizenship

With our student generation producing 'Active Citizens' of the future, education has always been and will continue to remain key to the global NGO agenda. At EDV, we believe that when the community are engaged and empowered with accurate information and a formal outlet, they are able to make the best decisions for the community. Over the years, this ownership of the students percolates throughout the wider area. A key focus and aim of Empathy Development Vision is to greet and engage as many student and youths in this overarching process to encourage community change makers across the country, as well as internationally by setting a good example, sharing these different experiences and displaying a collective, strong community.

PRESENT



The Empathy Development Vision (EMV) a partnership of World Merit Tanzania, Youth Vision on Society Development and Raleigh Tanzania Society. EMV established a Youth Club to help young people champion the SDGs and encourage them to become community change makers in Tanzania and beyond. The March report featured a report detailing how 640 students of Morogoro Secondary school were invited to join the EDV.

Our Youth Club in Morogoro Secondary School brings a big Impact to their community through different schools by visits the schools and encourage other students to be change makers and did some group talks. They also engaged other youths who are not in school and talk to them encourage them to be SDGs champions.

Our Youth Club in Morogoro Secondary School started visiting different schools and talked to students to help them to start their own clubs. Their school let them share and solve ideas and help students in need. Also in Morogoro Secondary School on graduation day we were invited by the school as the guest of honor and received a financial prize. This money helped to spread SDG messages and make a more Active Citizenship. The day we launched our Youth club the number of members was 640, after the many activities which Youth Club did to different schools and big impact we managed to obtain more members and the number is now 1345 combined between A-lever and O-lever (High School students and Secondary Students).

From the day we launched our Youth Club in Morogoro Secondary school, many members wanted to do something positive for their community concern SDGs. We have already written an introduction letter to more than 50 of our Youth Club members. There has been a large amount of interest in different activities back home on their holiday. Until now 6 of them and the 2 groups of more than 5 members already did activities.

We just want to share with you that we now have a very strong relationship with different stakeholders including Government to provide adequate provision of education about SDG.

MARCH

DATE: 31st March

LOCATION: Ghana

PEOPLE IMPACTED: 750

HOURS SPENT: --

TITLE: Climate Action Club

ISSUE

Education undoubtedly can accelerate progress towards the achievement of each of the proposed sustainable development goals between now and 2030 in a multiplicity of ways. A carefully conducted pilot survey in 2016 revealed that despite the fact that the Global Goals have been in the public realm since their inception in 2015, most of the people of Ghana remain largely unaware of the 17 targets and the extraordinary impact they will have should we as a world finally manage to meet them. Fully 82% of Ghana's population remains largely unaware of these important targets, and unconscious of their right to see them implemented. The World Merit Ghana members believe that the people of Ghana need a much more inclusive, grassroots approach toward tackling the resistance to the changes required to meet these Global Goals if there is to be any hope of achieving the targets. With this in mind, the remarkable World Merit team led by Joshua Kobla Adzakpa came up with the Sustainable Development Awareness Campaign (SDAC), a project designed to empower, inform, and enlighten the youth of Ghana: the Changemakers. After all, they are the people who stand to benefit from the realization of these Global Goals, and they are the ones who will suffer the most, should we as a world fail to meet them. In 31st March, 2019, the team embarked on the SDGs Awareness Campaign at Mfantsipim School Auditorium which brought together 750 students from 8 clusters of schools.

ACTIVITY

Two speakers from World Merit Ghana gave 45 minutes factual and visual presentations on SDGs to students using SDGs icon cards, projected screens as well videos explaining what the SDGs seek to address in our lives. The session with these students was designed to be an interactive session where the curious students asked relevant questions on the SDGs for 30 minutes which were answered by the World Merit Ghana Team.

Outcomes

Over 750 students were engaged and their knowledge of the SDGs was clearly evident than before as students were asked about what they learnt during the presentation on the SDGs and they answered the questions satisfactorily. Students from Mfantsipim School few days after the session have formed the Climate Action Club to tackle SDG 13. Students were empowered and most of them spoke to the World Merit Team on the sidelines to find out more about the SDGs, who they could talk to about their creative ideas for mentoring and coaching and how to maintain a relationship with World Merit.

Verification

Students from Mfantsipim School have formed the Climate Action Club after the SDGs Awareness Creation Campaign. The club is officially accepted by Mfantsipim school. There have been calls by authorities of the schools for the World Merit Team to visit on regular basis to organize more practical training on the SDGs for students.

Global Citizenship

Mfantsipim School, Ghana National College, St Augustine's College who participated in the event are now taking part in the Sage Competition 2019 in August with their creative ideas which sought to address one or more SDGs. Five (5) students have contacted the team so far for assistance in the Unleash Lab 2019 application which is a clear manifestation that the SDGs message sent to them has really resonated with them.

*Note that this group of 750 was only counted at the time of the event.

PRESENT

World Merit Ghana developed the Sustainable Development Awareness Campaign (SDAC), a grass roots project designed to empower, inform, and enlighten the youth of Ghana. SDAC brought together 750 students from 8 clusters of schools and these activities were featured in the March Impact Report. World Merit Ghana gave presentations on SDGs to followed by questions and answers. As a result, students from the host school have formed the Climate Action Club.

Following on from the report in March, the Climate Club organisers are pleased to announce that the impact has been sustained and consistent. “Mfantsipim School” after the SDGs Awareness Session organized by World Merit Ghana has since led the crusade to champion the SDGs and achievement in the Central Region of Ghana. Students from the Climate



and SDGs Clubs since the last session on SDGs at Mfantsipim School have visited their colleagues in Wesley Girls High School, Ghana National College, Aggrey Memorial School to educate them on the SDGs and taken their campaign to the locals in the nearby communities. Since the report in March, the Climate Club has organized litter clean up sessions and tree planting exercises in some communities within the Cape Coast Municipality.

The highlight of the campaign has focused more on engaging young people within the Central Region to take action on achieving the various SDGs. The Club currently has forty (40) active members. The club meets each Friday after school, from 14:30GMT to 1700GMT. All members meet to read and discuss on some materials provided by the World Merit Ghana team on climate action. They discuss on issues affecting Ghana in terms of Climate and possible ways to help address them. Also, members meet to deliberate and share ideas on tasks given to every member of the team, after every meeting, members are given assignments to talk to at least five people about climate related issues.

Excitingly, members of the Climate Club have registered to take part in the SAGE Ghana National High School entrepreneurship competition which comes off on the 11th – 14th July 2019 at the University of Ghana. SAGE is an acronym which stands for Students for Advancement of Global entrepreneurship, SAGE is worldwide and has a Ghana chapter, so year students working towards a project to solve a global problem come together to compete and the winners are awarded. Members of the Climate Action Club have started sending letters out for support to get tree seedlings to plant in their school and some communities around. Members are also planning r community outreach programs during vacations to sensitize the general public on SDGs and Climate actions.

Since reporting in March, it is clear that the Climate Club has been an initiative that has really excelled and is a model that has brought youth together and mobilised them to take action for the SDGs.

APRIL

DATE: 27th April 2019

LOCATION: Ghana

PEOPLE IMPACTED: 125

HOURS SPENT: 2

TITLE: SDG awareness campaign

Issue

Technology and innovation have, over the last century, proved to be major accelerators for global change and intensive development. Technologist and Scientist are day in day out producing technology and equipment to solve problems facing humanity in areas like health, transport and energy. Creating solution to the problems we are facing in turn causes us other environmental and health-related effects. In view of this the World Merit Ghana team partnered with the Internet of Things Network Hub, which is a society of Electrical Engineers, Computer Programmers, business men and women, Lecturers and students to educate them on the Sustainable Development Goals and the Internet of Things (IoT) at the Accra Digital Centre (Ghana Tech lab) in Ghana on the 27th of April 2019. In attendance, there were 125 people from different walks of life and a vast array of professions.

The Activity

Confidence Mawusi, a member of World Merit Ghana gave a one hour presentation on the topic, Sustainable Development Goals and IoT, the presentation focused on,

1. What the SDGs are
2. The link between the SDGs with IoT
3. Sustainable practices as Engineers in the field of IoT

Sustainable practices in different industries and workplaces were discussed, focusing on how the SDGs can be at the core of work, business

Sustainable practices in different industries and workplaces were discussed, focusing on how the SDGs can be at the core of work, business and technology. The session culminated in a questions and answers session and an discussion where ideas were raised to consider moving forward.

The Outcomes

Through the brainstorming section on how Technocrats could work around the SDGs the World

Merit Team was surprised as the IoT community member raise some suggestion and promise to work day in day out with the SDGs in mind and as well tell friends and families about how the SDGs is very important in the field of Internet of thing, Engineering and all walks of life.

Verification

Through the brainstorming section on how Technologists could work around the SDGs, the World Merit Team was impressed as the IoT community members raised some excellent suggestions. They also pledged to work day in day out with the SDGs at the forefront of their practice, as well as to tell their colleagues, friends and families about the importance of the SDGs in their respective professional fields. The Internet of Things Community Hub has proposed to create a new SDG item on the agenda of their daily meeting. They plan to pick a different SDG each day, and discuss how, as a workplace and professional team, they can work to reduce critical issues facing the world, with a particular focus on CO2 emissions, water pollution and mental health.

Global Citizenship

Members of IoT pledged to educate their friends and coworkers on the SDGs. Additionally, student participants from the Accra Technical University signed up to be World Merit Ghana members, expressing their desire to join a global community and continue campaigning for and creating impact towards the SDGs.



PRESENT

In April, the report outlined how World Merit Ghana presented a 45-minute presentation given by Confidence Mawusi using videos and images on a projected screen focusing on an introduction and explanation of the Sustainable Development Goals. This activity brought together 350 students. The students' understanding of the SDGs was seen to be deeper following the event; general environmental issues were raised and were linked to the SDGs, different topics surrounding the goals were explored and complex scenarios were discussion.

After the SDG Awareness Session held on “World Book Day” in March 2019 at Senya Senior High School, students in Senya Senior High School have developed a different culture. Students keep on doing things in their own small way to attain any of the SDG’s they can do at their level.

One example is related to SDG 3, Good health and well- being. The dining hall Prefect always ensure that basins which contain clean water and soap is in place at the entrance of the dining hall and ensures that every student who enters the dining hall to eat washes their hands and now, out of their own free will, all students do it as they know personal hygiene is essential to maintain a healthy school. In addition, there has been an active campaign to ensure that washrooms are always supplied with soap for washing hands.

Several large waste bins have been bought by the school through the suggestion by the Climate Action Club that was formed. For now some points have two bins, one for paper waste collection and one for rubber waste collection. The paper waster is now buried in the soil to decompose in the soil, the rubber s waste now is put in containers as the members of the club are looking for more appropriate ways to recycle them.

Students in Senya SHS say they have been educating other friends and family members on the need for the SDG and its importance to the world. The highlight of the campaign, following the SDG session on World Book Day, is that the school is now more focused on specific SDGs that they feel are important to them, particularly SDG 3, Good health and well-being.





DATE: 7th - 27th May 2019

LOCATION: Cambodia

PEOPLE IMPACTED: 30

HOURS SPENT: --

TITLE: Reduce NEETs in the DTC

Issue

A significant challenge facing Cambodian youth is a lack of employment opportunities. Those who are employed often find themselves working in exploitative conditions, earning less than the minimum wage and without a contract. Approximately half of Cambodian youth are employed in agriculture with 46.8% working for their families (ILO, 2016) earning little more than enough for subsistence. With the rapid growth of the Cambodian tourism industry, there is a significant shortfall of skilled staff in the hospitality sector. There are just four hospitality training schools in Siem Reap. These schools often exclude the most disadvantaged youth by requiring high levels of educational attainment. There is need for a vocational training school that can provide the same opportunities for disadvantaged youth.

The Activity

World Merit Siem Reap have established a local partnership with the Dreams Training Centre, ten month training program designed to deliver vocational training for the hospitality sector. Most of the course is centered around the technical skills required and is delivered by specialists in each area. The role of World Merit Siem Reap is to engage the young people, to keep them motivated and inspired and to teach them soft skills needed to ensure a long and successful career. World Merit Siem Reap will facilitate monthly workshops, each focusing on one particular skill. This month, there were two workshop with the first being an introduction to career development and financial literacy. The second workshop this month focused on leadership skills and there were role play activities in the afternoon.

The Outcomes

Over 30 young people who have just embarked on a vocational training course, have been engaged and introduced to the additional skills required to excel in a role in hospitality. In addition, they have engaged with World Merit Siem Reap members and now have an introductory understanding of the SDGs as well basic financial literacy concepts.

Verification

The Dreams Training Centre program manager gave feedback on the first two workshops and was pleased with how they were delivered. According to the centre manager, the staff are under-resourced and can only deliver the technical skills, so to have World Merit Siem Reap come in voluntarily to deliver workshops, has increased the quality of the program greatly. The sessions with World Merit Siem Reap were “opt- in” so the team were very pleased that 100% of the young people opted in and also gave positive feedback after the second session, commenting that they were looking forward to the next session.

Global Citizenship

Many of the young people on this vocational training program have never left the local area and have limited knowledge about the world around them. By being employed by the hotel industry, they will encounter guests from all around the world, which will widen their worldview. The developing of soft skills, delivered by World Merit Siem Reap will support the new recruits to have the confidence required to speak with guests and to engage with others outside of their locality, and this global interconnectedness is key to developing as a global citizen. The activities from World Merit Siem Reap, supported by the Dreams Training Centre, is actively contributing to Target 8.6 “By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training”.



PRESENT

Throughout the month of May, World Merit Siem Reap established a local partnership with the Dreams Training Centre. This was a ten month training program designed to deliver vocational training for the hospitality sector. World Merit Siem Reap engaged 30 young people who have just embarked on a vocational training course, and have been engaged and introduced to the additional skills required to excel in a role in hospitality.

Since the first of the monthly workshops that started in May, the topic being Financial Literacy, there have been some impressive developments. Following on from the financial literacy workshop, the students expressed interest in opening bank accounts. The team, in partnership with the DTC, facilitated this process and ensure all students who wanted to open a bank account had the necessary identification and support letters. Since May 24 of the young people have a bank account where they can save part of their salaries once they begin working. The other six did not have identification at this stage but the management of the DTC are working to rectify this.

In June the team held workshops focused on leadership skills, soft skills that are essential for progressing through a career in hospitality. In July the workshop will be on career development and showcasing how to create a personal development plan for yourself that will help youth to achieve a stable career and place in society. The feedback from management on the total of three monthly workshops thus far, has been very positive. All 30 youth remain engaged and continue to participate in the workshops.





MEET SOME OF OUR PRESIDENTS
Leading, Inspiring & changemaking



JOSEPH ARCHIBALD WHADJI



*My name is Joesph, the President of **World Merit Ghana** and I have been the president since 10th July 2017.*

What are you most proud of in the last 6 months?

Our team though small was able to put together very important events in collaboration with some partner organizations in Ghana. In the past six months, we held a gender-based program, commemorated by World Environment Day and World Oceans Day. We collaborated with Aiesec in Ghana to put together an impactful

Ghana Youth Speak Forum out of which you have a new team of youth dedicated to implementing SG3 projects in their community.

What was the most impressive impact you made in the last 6 months?

Our impact during the Ghana Youth Speak Forum was awesome. We had the privilege to hold a workshop on Good Health and Well-being out of which participants were tasked to take up projects that sort to make an impact in SDG3 related issues. Our Impact during the World Environment Day celebration so gave us the opportunity to school students of Buwjiase Senior High School on the effect of air pollution as well as to inaugurate an environment club to ensure that the 500 trees we planted on the school campus where well natured.

How have you seen your council members develop during their time with World Merit?

Most of our members took up tasks which were traditionally not their main field of study. It's evidently clear that the SDGs cut across all facets of life and one would need to study them to be able to make that needed impact it requires. This has given members of the team the quest to inquire more into other fields they not used to hence their leadership and organizing skills heightened.

How has your council helped your community members grow and develop as individuals to inspire others to become changemakers as well?

Our philosophy is to ensure that everyone has their hands on deck and holding the fort wherever they find themselves. This has given individual members strong leadership and communication abilities.

What are your plans for the next 6 months?

We are currently looking at going on a countrywide SGD tour as implementing projects in selected districts in Ghana.

What is the biggest challenge being a President?

Funding for projects, because our membership is made up of students in college it's therefore difficult getting members to contribute towards projects and seminars. Making all financial issues the Presidents burden. For example, it is expensive to get World Merit branded T-shirts and teaching materials for SDG advocacy seminars we hold nationwide.

What is most rewarding about being a President?

I'm motivated by the fact that we are having considerable impact in the lives of people in our communities and helping meet the UN's vision 2030.

"Our philosophy is to ensure that everyone has their hands on deck and holding the fort wherever they find themselves."

ODWA NTSIKA MTEMBU



*My name is Odwa and I am the President of **World Merit South Africa** and I have been president since 1st May 2017.*

What are you most proud of in the last 6 months?

1. Signing off our project document with 13+ projects and 50% of them already piloted and launched
2. Our Career programme: workshops, talks and exhibition
3. Improved marketing strategy and social media presence

4. Increased number of global citizens and members recruited and educated

5. Increased local to global presence: representation, engagement and participation

What was the most impressive impact you made in the last 6 months?

500+ learners impacted through career programmes. 1500+ impacted through collaborations. 5000+ impacted through local to global stakeholder engagement and increased participation and accountability from council members. We now even have supporters who are part of us but not serving in a council position.

"We now launched a platform for supporters to sign up as volunteers and be change makers and global citizens of Merit beyond borders"

How have you seen your council members develop during their time with World Merit?

World Merit South Africa has created an environment of magnifying impact together, building our net worth, advocating for accountability, transparency and improved communication and leadership skills: we have seen this from each member and we continue to improve daily.

How has your council helped your community members grow and develop as individuals to inspire others to become changemakers as well?

Through advocacy and awareness and inviting people to meetings and activities. We now launched a platform for supporters to sign up as volunteers and be change makers and global citizens of Merit beyond borders

What are your plans for the next 6 months?

July: Mandela Day and World Merit Day

August: Women's day event (sanitary drive), Tree plantation, Career Expo, World Water Week, Council's Summit

September: Fund-raising event (Black Tie Dining and Fashion Show), Heritage Day celebration, UN SG Climate summit engagement, Environmental clean up and awareness

October: Council training and recruitment and webinars on SDG 4, 5, 10 AND 17

November: International Water Week, Social end-year event, Hiking event

December: World Aids Day event, 16 days of activism against women and children abuse

MONTHLY BASIS SINCE FEBRUARY 2019: visit to homes and the homeless to volunteer and make donations such as clothes, food, sanitary towels etc. Also aiming at having monthly webinars.

What is most rewarding about being a President?

Being able to impact, train and learn from fellow Meriters.

SANJAY BHANDARI



*My name is Sanjay Bhandari, President of **World Merit Pokhara, Nepal** and I have been the president since 24th July 2017.*

What are you most proud of in the last 6 months?

The impacts we have created.

What was the most impressive impact you made in the last 6 months?

Connecting 250 plus youth leaders from different districts and schooling

150 plus high school students on Financial Literacy.

How have you seen your council members develop during their time with World Merit?

Progress has been made on basic skills enhancement to organizational approach making and so.

How has your council helped your community members grow and develop as individuals to inspire others to become changemakers as well?

We do have a very good reputation throughout our region and people do have greater expectations. People hate change yet it's the only way to bring positive progress. So there are many youths who want to get into this process after watching the impacts we have created but it's so tough to find the ones who really want to take action rather than just taking membership.

What are your plans for the next 6 months?

We're trying to work on Securing Cyberspace of our province at first and Nepal as a whole by next year. Plus we'll continue our two campaigns: "Enlightening the Rural" and "Unfolding the Chapter". We want to host Merit 360 in Nepal on 2020 as it's our Tourism Year here in Nepal.

What is the biggest challenge being a President?

Managing Finance and building a good team with people having right intention plus dedication.

What is most rewarding about being a President?

The support and praises by the ones at need whom we've been helping and honor by high ranking officials.

"We want to host Merit 360 in Nepal on 2020 as it's our Tourism Year here in Nepal."

GUSTAVS UPMANIS



My name is Gustavs Upmanis and I am the President of
World Merit Latvia

What are you most proud of in the last 6 months?

Considering that we started the council only half a year ago I'm really proud of actually getting the council up and running. It means finding a couple of passionate people, who are now taking the lead in organising the activities and recruiting separate workgroups. Within this I'm the most

proud about our first meeting where we actually defined what is the role of World Merit in Latvian society and how to best address the social needs. We realised that the information gap is one of the largest problems in Latvia, and we will try to proactively collaborate with many organisations who work towards various SDGs to collectively tackle the challenges.

What was the most impressive impact you made in the last 6 months?

Around one and a half months ago in collaboration with youth opportunity platform Visas iespējas (All Opportunities), we were participating with some assignments at the largest competition for high-schoolers in Latvia "ZZ čempionāts". In the event itself there was around 14000 pupils from all around Latvia. And during the three days we reached around 4000 kids by explaining them about World Merit, SDGs, Visas iespējas and possibilities that are available in Latvia. Every day 4 of us participated and at the end of every evening we were exhausted. But all in all - it was totally worth it!

How have you seen your council members develop during their time with World Merit?

I see the growing in confidence and ability to take the lead. Understanding that they need to make decisions by themselves, and that if they try their best then also making mistakes is part of the process.

Now I truly see that they are able to take some ownership and lead some additional teams, that's why we are starting another wave of recruitment in the following weeks.

How has your council helped your community members grow and develop as individuals to inspire others to become changemakers as well?

We have a new council, so the first six months were mainly to figure ourselves out. However, as all of us are quite outspoken individuals, we have given lectures in universities and youth events telling the youth about how to start their business or how to choose their career path. By collaborating with Visas iespējas (youth opportunities), where part of our team also works, we have succeeded in bridging the information between youth organisations and youth about various opportunities available to them.

What are your plans for the next 6 months?

We are currently planning to recruit another around 40 people, who are going to be divided in their respective SDGs (at least the ones which are pursued). And then we want to map the organisations in Latvia tackling existing challenges within each SDG and start communicating with them and actively trying to organise events together and inspire our youth to work together with them.

What is most rewarding about being a President?

The most rewarding moment for me is when I see that the council's activities are happening without my involvement. That I just need to have my hand on the pulse, but everything will be done by the members that I can almost fully trust in.

That is when I can see the fruits of choosing the right people and giving them freedom!

SAMUEL P ACCIUS



My name is Samuel P Accius and I am the President of
World Merit Haiti

What are you most proud of in the last 6 months?

Celebrating the third-year anniversary of our first project called Young Merit Leaders (YoMerit-L). Since February 2016, we already organized 28 events showcasing the work of 54 young leaders, presenting them as role models young people in Haiti can follow.

What was the most impressive impact you made in the last 6 months?

Celebrating the third-year anniversary of YoMerit-L and launch the Merit Haiti Fellowship Program to connect the Young Merit Leaders to young people looking for mentors to develop their initiatives.

How have you seen your council members develop during their time with World Merit?

Some of them are more responsible, committed and willing to take initiatives. We still have to find the best approach to get more of them involved.

What are your plans for the next 6 months?

- Finish up with the legal registration of World Merit Haiti
- Launch our website to showcase our projects
- Develop new partnerships (at least 5 new organizations/institutions)
- Engage around 50% of our members.

What is the biggest challenge being a President?

The biggest challenge being a President is definitely working to improve me every day to be a better leader for the group.

What is most rewarding about being a President?

Being able to contribute to the development of my community is already rewarding for me. Have the opportunity to do it in a leading role makes me more grateful about it.

“Being able to contribute to the development of my community is already rewarding for me.”

LEONIDAS NZIGAMASABO



*My name is Leonidas Nzigamasabo, and I have been the President of **World Merit Burundi** since 22nd May 2015.*

What are you most proud of in the last 6 months?

I am most proud of our events and the millions of people that have been impacted. One example being the project “Kids VSLA Initiative” which is the Kids Bank (VSLA: Village Save and Loans Association). I am proud that we pulled together a

week of environment celebration followed by Celebration of International Environment Day 2019. Activities developed during that week included raising awareness of the threat of air pollution due to poor waste management and the effect of plastic bags. The awareness raising campaign was heightened through appearances on different radio and TV shows operating in Burundi. The team took a strategic approach to raising awareness on social media, and in public spaces through messages by using microphones and loudspeakers. We held an amazing conference using a debate model, between various stakeholders of the waste management sector in Bujumbura Town. We ended the week with a council wide clean up through our campaign “Zero Plastics in Burundi”.

How have you seen your council members develop during their time with World Merit?

World Merit Burundi has created an environment of magnifying impact together, building our net worth, advocating for accountability, transparency and leadership skills. We foster a culture of learning from one another and we have seen how this helps us to improve daily.

How has your council helped your community members grow and develop as individuals to inspire others to become changemakers as well?

Through advocacy, awareness building and inviting all council members to our planning meetings, I have watched as many members have begun to flourish. Members, who before lacked confidence, are now participating in programs on radio and TV shows. We have a structure that allows for two kinds of members. One is for ‘changemakers’ who are Volunteers and there is no charge to them. The other level is full members, who must write an official letter asking to be full members and pay a nominal membership fee and make a commitment to serve World Merit Burundi and the community.

What are your plans for the next 6 months?

July: Clean Up Plastics in Political Capital Gitega. Debate Conference on environment in Gitega, Merit First Program Burundi (University of Burundi, Campus Mutanga), Kids VSLA Initiative Gitega

August: 3 events of Merit First Program Burundi (University of Burundi: Campus Kiriri, University of Light Bujumbura: Campus Kinindo, Great Lakes University: Campus Saint Michel), Kids VSLA Initiative Gitega

September: Kids VSLA Initiative Gitega, World Merit Burundi National Council Meeting, Recruiting New Local Merit Councils in different areas (Provinces)

October: World Merit Burundi General Assembly for approving new laws of conducting World Merit Burundi and approving new full members, Councils training and recruitment, workshops and coaching for new Local Merit Councils

November: Raising support for World Merit Office and equipment , Application for grants, partnerships for our initiatives

December: World Aids Day event, one week of activities and free AIDS test in different areas, Raising awareness about AIDS through interactive DVDs Lessons in different area

What is most rewarding about being a President?

The most rewarding part of being a President is being able to recruit, partner, impact, train, lead, and learn from fellow World Merit members.

A MESSAGE FROM WORLD MERIT

Dear fellow changemakers,

With extreme pride we are looking back at your work in the first 6 months of this year, the countless hours spent on raising awareness of the SDGs, inspiring change and getting out there to doing everything we can to make tomorrow more beautiful. Your actions inspire others to step up and take action and your impact ripples further than you could ever imagine!

Change does not come overnight, and hence we are required to be patient, persistent and powerful to deliver the SDGs. We might be looked at as different in our communities, as caring millennials we want to do everything in our power to get justice, equality, peace and a healthy world, but together we are a strong, active and a fun community with endless energy and motivation to keep going, no matter what your background is, you are with us.

From all over the world, from every global citizen today and tomorrow, we thank you for your drive and work, of which only a part is shown in this report. Together we stand strong and keep fighting, only at the beginning of our battle to disrupt the world. We are super excited to see the impact in the coming months, where we keep learning and growing from and with each other.





