




The Elders



A world
free from
war and
poverty

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

“The Elders can speak freely and boldly, working both publicly and behind the scenes. They will support courage where there is fear, foster agreement where there is conflict and inspire hope where there is despair.”

NELSON MANDELA, 2007



As Elders, we know
that when leaders fail
to lead, the people can
make them follow.

Kofi Annan



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear friends,

This past year was an eventful one for The Elders and there is much to report and reflect upon.

Unfortunately, it was a year marked by grave humanitarian crises in many regions of the world. Persistent armed conflict, significant human suffering and devastating natural disasters served to remind us of the scope of the threats we face.

2013 also revealed that persistent global challenges – addressing climate change, tackling poverty and disease, confronting transnational crime and terrorism – remain as pressing as ever and require leadership and concerted action.

Across the world, many in positions of leadership struggled to realise the needs and aspirations of their citizens. As Elders, we know that when leaders fail to lead, the people can make them follow. As concerned citizens, we have the power to act. We can demand the changes that we seek.

Everywhere my fellow Elders and I went this year, from Abidjan to Yangon, we saw a determination to do just that: women and men from all walks of life who are building more peaceful, just and equitable societies for themselves and those around them. They are our cause for hopefulness.

We were reminded of this at the close of the year, when we joined people all over the world in celebrating the life of our friend and founder Nelson Mandela. Over a lifetime of sacrifice in the name of freedom and human rights, he taught us that every individual has the capacity to work towards a better world. We will continue to do our part to carry this lesson forward.

2013 was also a year of transition for The Elders as an organisation. Lesley-Anne Knight joined us as CEO of The Elders in January, bringing with her a wealth of experience in humanitarian and development advocacy. In May, after an exemplary six years leading our group, Archbishop Tutu stepped down from his position as Chair to assume the role of Honorary Elder, and I was honoured to be nominated as Arch's successor. In July, we were delighted to welcome Hina Jilani and Ernesto Zedillo to our group.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge that our work would not be possible without the dedication of The Elders' team and the support of the Advisory Council. We thank them wholeheartedly.

We hope that you enjoy our Annual Report and look forward to staying in touch with you in the year ahead.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Annan'.

Kofi Annan
Chair



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Much of our work takes place below the radar – quiet diplomacy, building trusting relationships.

Lesley-Anne Knight



FOREWORD AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The sense of loss felt around the world when Nelson Mandela passed away was a clear reminder of humanity's need for truly global leaders who can serve and inspire us all.

Mandela himself recognised this need, and in founding The Elders, he sought to establish an enduring body of respected leaders who would continue his work for peace, justice and human rights. He chose people he knew could act independently, unconstrained by political and other vested interests; people whose values and integrity had earned them international respect.

With Madiba's passing, all of the Elders are more acutely aware than ever of the duty they have to carry his legacy forward. It can at times be a daunting responsibility – there are so many issues in which The Elders could become involved, so many people calling out for their support, so many conflicts, so much suffering. In order to provide some clear direction and focus to their work, in early 2013 The Elders drew up a Strategic Framework that set out some key priority goals for the next four years:

A just and inclusive global community – Inspiring ethical leadership and sound global governance.

Freedom from fear – Building peace and tackling the root causes of conflict.

Freedom from want – Eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable development.

Within this framework, certain geographic and thematic priority areas were identified. These included peacebuilding and reconciliation work in Côte d'Ivoire, Israel-Palestine, Myanmar and Syria, as well as public campaigning on climate change and equality for girls and women.

The Elders' activities include both high-level private diplomacy and public advocacy, depending on what is most appropriate for a particular issue.

Diplomatic missions during 2013 included a visit to Washington DC to talk to US Secretary of State John Kerry and National Security Adviser Susan Rice. Members of The Elders also had talks with British Foreign Secretary William Hague in London, and in Dublin they met with members of the Irish government and President Michael D Higgins.

Public advocacy activities in 2013 included a number of high-profile events: a televised discussion in Cape Town broadcast to a worldwide audience by Al Jazeera English; a public event at Chatham House in London on the two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; and in Washington DC, a public event

on the Middle East at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. In addition, throughout the year, the Elders wrote opinion pieces for leading newspapers, conducted media interviews, published over a dozen blogs and a monthly newsletter, and issued press statements.

An important part of The Elders' public activities is their **engagement with young people**. They are committed to helping to create the ethical leaders of tomorrow and encouraging young people to be 'global citizens'. During their visit to Dublin in 2013, the Elders met with 14 young leaders from Northern Ireland in a roundtable discussion on peacebuilding, youth unemployment and social inclusion in their communities. The Elders also encouraged interaction with young people through our website and social media outlets. We were pleased to publish a number of guest blogs contributed by young activists writing on subjects such as the Northern Ireland peace process, the post-2015 development agenda, and political developments in Egypt.

During 2013, The Elders focused their activities on a range of key priority geographic and thematic issues:

The Chair of The Elders, Kofi Annan, made a return visit to **Côte d'Ivoire** in October 2013 to support the country's progress towards reconciliation since the violence that followed the disputed presidential elections in 2010. Mr Annan urged all parties to commit to peaceful elections in 2015 and to step up their efforts towards reconciliation.

Working towards a peaceful solution for **Israel and Palestine** has always been a priority for The Elders and they have made three visits as a group to the region. In 2013 they spoke out against the continuing expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and called on the EU to introduce labelling to identify goods produced in the settlements. In July they visited US Secretary of State John Kerry in Washington DC and lent their support to his efforts to reconvene peace negotiations.

The Elders made their first visit to **Myanmar** in September 2013 to support the country's transition to democracy and encourage peace and reconciliation. Jimmy Carter, Martti Ahtisaari and Gro Harlem Brundtland met President U Thein Sein and other senior political figures including the leader of the National

League for Democracy Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, as well as religious leaders and civil society activists. The Elders were impressed with the country's progress towards becoming a more open society but voiced their concerns over inter-communal violence, particularly the brutal clashes between Rakhine Buddhists and Rohingya Muslims.

Throughout 2013, one of our Elders, Lakhdar Brahimi, worked tirelessly to try to bring an end to the tragic conflict in **Syria**. In his role as the UN-Arab League Joint Special Representative to Syria, he has had the full support of his fellow Elders, who have been discreetly engaged in private diplomacy as well as publicly calling for greater cooperation on the part of regional and international actors. They have also pressed for humanitarian access for the delivery of aid to Syrian refugees and internally displaced persons.

Achieving **equality for girls and women** is a central thematic issue for the Elders. The Elders seized several opportunities during the year to challenge gender inequality and discrimination against girls and women: to mark International Women's Day, Gro Harlem Brundtland spoke about the urgent need to end violence against women and also gave evidence on the subject to a UK parliamentary committee; during a meeting with British Foreign Secretary William



Hague in July, the Elders discussed efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war; and in November Jimmy Carter also spoke out about the discrimination that perpetuates violence against women.

The Elders also strongly promote the role of women as peacebuilders. In January 2013, while in Addis Ababa, Mary Robinson emphasised that women's active participation is the key to achieving sustainable peace in Sudan and South Sudan. And as the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Great Lakes, she has continued to press for greater involvement for women in the peace process, playing a key role in the Regional Conference on Women, Peace, Security and Development in Burundi in July.

In their work on **climate change**, the Elders have emphasised its disproportionate effect on the world's poorest and most vulnerable people – those least responsible for causing the climate crisis. They called for enlightened and transformative leadership on behalf of world leaders to deliver a robust, universal and binding agreement on carbon emissions at the 2015 UN Climate Change Conference.

This is the first time that The Elders Foundation has published an Annual Report of this type. In many ways, The Elders is a unique organisation and its activities do not fit the standard

model of other charities or non-governmental organisations. Reporting on what we have done is relatively straightforward, but quantifying the results is not so easy.

Much of our work takes place below the radar – quiet diplomacy, building trusting relationships. But the Elders have some special talents – they are good listeners and they can talk to people at all levels of society. They have the ability to take grassroots messages to the highest levels of government. And they are listened to. Since becoming their CEO, I have had the privilege of witnessing how the Elders are received by people around the world; I have seen the respect they command and how highly their opinions are valued.

Often, the Elders are preparing the ground for others. They till the soil, plant seeds and nurture them. And some time later, when they have moved on, a flower may bloom.

Lesley-Anne Knight
Chief Executive Officer

The world has lost a visionary leader, a courageous voice for justice and a clear moral compass.

Kofi Annan

NELSON MANDELA: INSPIRING HOPE

The Elders attended Nelson Mandela's memorial service in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 10 December 2013. Kofi Annan gave a statement on behalf of The Elders honouring the life and lessons of their founder.

"I am saddened to be standing before you today as we prepare to say farewell to Nelson Mandela. We send our affection and wishes of comfort to Madiba's wife and our fellow member of The Elders, Graça Machel, and the entire Mandela family.

The world has lost a visionary leader, a courageous voice for justice and a clear moral compass. Nelson Mandela led a singular life of sacrifice in the name of freedom and human rights. He taught the world that the very path to freedom and human dignity lies in love, wisdom and compassion for one another.

He stands as an inspiration to us all. And like few others, he will inspire generations to come. It was here in Johannesburg, three years ago, that the Elders all met with Mandela, as a group, for the last time.

We look forward to continuing his legacy. Madiba believed in the continuity of The Elders. He launched the group when he was 89 years old, determined, as ever, to carry forth an idea that was bigger than any one individual.

When he founded the group here in Johannesburg, in 2007, he said: 'The Elders will support courage where there is fear, foster agreement where there is conflict and inspire hope where there is despair.'

Today, we reflect on the man who uttered those words – how his courage and compassion helped millions around the world to triumph over despair, conflict and fear. As we mourn Madiba's departure today, we also celebrate his life and the lessons he taught us.

And tomorrow we shall return to our work, inspired by Nelson Mandela's life and legacy, in the name of peace, justice and human rights.

Thank you."

Statement by Kofi Annan, Chair of The Elders
Johannesburg, 10 December 2013



It's important that you don't just speak truth to power, but you also show wisdom to power.

Hina Jilani

THE ELDERS IN 2013: A YEAR IN QUOTES

JANUARY

"Civil society in Africa has one major weakness: we don't realise how strong we are." **Graça Machel**, after speaking with activists and campaigners from across Africa at a *Girls Not Brides* meeting on ending child marriage

FEBRUARY

"Someone in Addis said to me that the 21st century is Africa's century: as we see more women lead their communities and their countries, we hope to see fewer conflicts, more peace, and less poverty." **Mary Robinson**, after meeting Sudanese and South Sudanese women leaders in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

"Poverty is not God-given. It is a moral collapse of our society. Poverty strips a person of his or her humanity and takes away freedom. Poverty is day-to-day violence, no less destructive than war." **Ela Bhatt**, accepting the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development

MARCH

"We know that educated, empowered women are more likely to earn a decent income, raise healthy children and invest back into their families and communities. This means ensuring that women enjoy the same rights and opportunities as men." **Gro Harlem Brundtland**, writing on International Women's Day

"For two years now our so-called international community has allowed complex power plays to take priority over the terrible suffering of Syrians. It is so uncaring and cynical. If your loved ones were trapped there, would you not be moved to act?" **Desmond Tutu**, calling on the international community to address the humanitarian crisis in Syria

APRIL

"If you don't have a vision, you should not be in politics or in peace-making. People always say that mediators have to be neutral. That's utter nonsense. Mediators have to be honest brokers; they have to be able to treat different parties objectively." **Martti Ahtisaari**, speaking to *The European* about international mediation

MAY

"As Elders we should always oppose Presidents for Life. After six wonderful years as Chair, I am sad to say that it was time for me to step down... Kofi is a brave, humble and dedicated leader. I have no doubt that he will steer this group to new heights. And with Gro as his deputy, there will truly be no stopping us!" **Desmond Tutu**, upon stepping down as Chair of The Elders

JUNE

"Civil society, in its infinite diversity and complexity, should and must be a constructive partner to any government. It is here to stay, whereas governments – even repressive ones – will come and go." **Fernando Henrique Cardoso**, on the importance of civil society to democratic transitions

"It is shocking to me that in a time of such dazzling technological advances, 1.2 billion people still live in extreme poverty. We should all welcome the Panel's reaffirmation that there is a moral imperative to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030. We have the resources and technology to achieve this; we must now summon up the political will to make it a priority." **Gro Harlem Brundtland**, responding to the report of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

JULY

"As Elders it can be our role to acknowledge the profound global challenges we face, but also to say: mankind can overcome them. Time and time again, acts of leadership have helped build peace and lifted millions out of poverty." **Ernesto Zedillo**, on his hopes for The Elders upon joining the group alongside Hina Jilani



“There will be no military victory – neither today, nor tomorrow, nor the day after tomorrow. This problem, like all problems, has to be solved. And it will be solved through a political process.” **Lakhdar Brahimi**, on his efforts to end the conflict in Syria as UN-Arab League Joint Special Representative

“The meetings we had in Washington convinced me that this is a serious exercise that is being started...this is the only show in town.” **Martti Ahtisaari**, commenting on US-led efforts to restart peace talks between Israelis and Palestinians

AUGUST

“Empowerment is not a thing that can be given or taken back... when women do things, then that brings the empowerment.” **Ela Bhatt**, speaking to UNICEF about how to empower women

“Women’s voices shouldn’t only be heard because they are the victims of the war. The reason why their active participation to peace efforts is essential is that they are the most effective peacebuilders.” **Mary Robinson**, on working with women peacebuilders in her role as UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region of Africa

SEPTEMBER

“Perhaps the one thing that Oslo taught us is that a group of courageous Israelis and Palestinians has the capacity to overcome apparently insurmountable differences.

When they are serious about doing business, they can achieve results.” **Gro Harlem Brundtland**, reflecting on the 20th anniversary of the first Oslo Accord

“This agreement renews hope that diplomacy can still work. The Security Council must now urgently forge a consensus to build on this momentum and ensure that the Geneva II conference is convened soon in order to secure a peaceful and lasting resolution to the Syrian conflict.” **Kofi Annan**, welcoming the agreement reached between the United States and Russia on Syria’s chemical weapons

“The Elders have come to listen and give support to all those committed to a peaceful political transition in Myanmar. Our question to everyone on this visit has been: what kind of democracy do you envisage?” **Jimmy Carter**, at the conclusion of The Elders’ visit to Myanmar

OCTOBER

“Our primary concern should be justice for the victims – the voiceless and the powerless. It is not Africa that is on trial at the ICC, but individuals and the culture of impunity.” **Kofi Annan**, speaking in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, about the notion that the International Criminal Court is unfairly targeting Africa

“It’s important that you don’t just speak truth to power, but you also show wisdom to power.” **Hina Jilani**, discussing ethical leadership at The Elders’ debate in Cape Town, South Africa

“People like the Elders are not here to lead change, or end wars. They are here to remind you that wars can be ended. Our humanity is bound together.” **Desmond Tutu**, on the role of The Elders

NOVEMBER

“Climate change is a problem caused by people, with impacts on people, and must be solved by people.” **Mary Robinson**, writing from the UN climate conference in Warsaw, Poland

“After years of inconclusive negotiations, this is an important step forward in restoring confidence between Iran and the international community.” **Kofi Annan**, responding to the interim agreement on Iran’s nuclear programme between the P5+1 countries and Iran

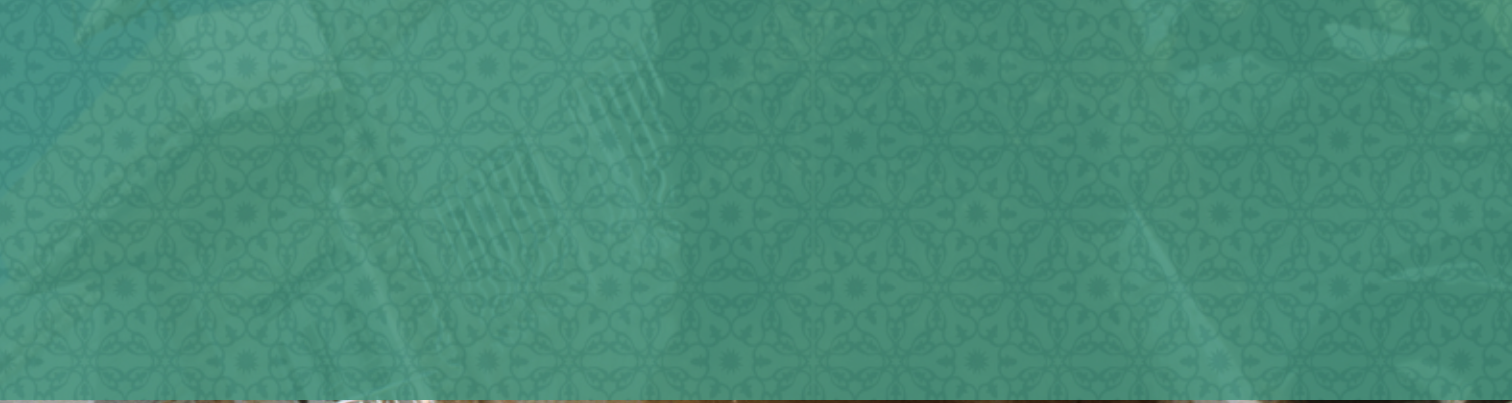
“The abuse of women and girls is the most pervasive and unaddressed human rights violation on earth.” **Jimmy Carter**, on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

DECEMBER

“The world has lost a visionary leader, a courageous voice for justice and a clear moral compass.” **Kofi Annan**, reflecting on the death of Nelson Mandela

GEOGRAPHIC AREAS OF WORK





Reconciliation is a long-term process, not an event. For it to succeed, everyone must be committed.

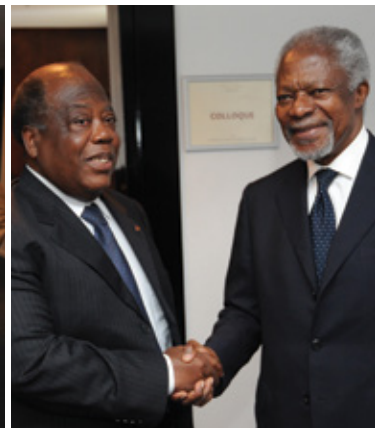
Kofi Annan

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Almost three years since the post-electoral crisis in Côte d'Ivoire, Kofi Annan made a return visit to the country in October 2013 to assess the progress towards reconciliation and discuss the challenges that its people still face ahead of the 2015 elections.

Côte d'Ivoire was plunged into four months of violence following the disputed presidential elections of November 2010. During that period, an estimated 3,000 people were killed and over one million displaced. In the aftermath of the violence, Kofi Annan travelled to Côte d'Ivoire alongside his fellow Elders Desmond Tutu and Mary Robinson in May 2011 to encourage the process of reconciliation.

During his visit to the capital of Abidjan on 8-10 October 2013, Kofi Annan welcomed the progress made by Côte d'Ivoire since the post-electoral crisis but acknowledged that many challenges still remained.



Sia Kambou



Among the many political, business and civil society leaders he met were President Alassane Ouattara; Guillaume Soro, President of the Assemblée Nationale; members of the government; former President Henri Konan Bédié; Charles Konan Banny, President of the Commission on Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation; and several opposition members, including Pascal Affi N'Guessan, President of the Front Populaire Ivoirien. He also met Aïchatou Mindaoudou, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative.

Mr Annan encouraged Ivorians to step up their efforts towards reconciliation. "We have heard disappointments," Mr Annan said. "But reconciliation is a long-term process, not an event. For it to succeed, everyone must be committed. Both government and opposition should understand that compromises are necessary. The past can't be forgotten but I encourage my Ivorian sisters and brothers to work together and look forward to the future."

Mr Annan also emphasised the need to tackle the root causes of conflict and welcomed the efforts to accelerate the disarmament and reintegration of ex-combatants. He called on the international community to expand its support to this crucial step towards security and reconciliation.

The visit received extensive media coverage in both the Ivorian and international press. Taking place ahead of an African Union summit about the International Criminal Court, Mr Annan's comments about the need for international justice to protect victims rather than leaders were widely covered. "Our primary concern should be justice for the victims – the voiceless and the powerless," he said. "It is not Africa that is on trial at the ICC, but individuals and the culture of impunity." In addition to holding a full press conference, Mr Annan was interviewed by ONUCI FM (the UN radio in Côte d'Ivoire), Radiodiffusion Télévision Ivoirienne, Fraternité Matin and Radio France Internationale.

Concluding his visit, Mr Annan urged all parties in Côte d'Ivoire to work towards peaceful elections in 2015. He said: "Preparations for those elections must begin immediately. Tomorrow begins today. The next elections must not become a trigger for a new conflict. Everyone should learn from past mistakes and ensure that the next elections are conducted with integrity."

Molly Riley



Jeff Moore



ISRAEL PALESTINE

History teaches us that great leaders can demonstrate flexibility and make the necessary compromises when peace is recognised as a necessity by the people they govern.

Jimmy Carter

A just and secure peace between Israel and Palestine has been a priority for The Elders since the group was formed in 2007. They remain active in supporting international efforts to achieve a comprehensive and lasting resolution to the conflict.

The Elders have visited the region three times as a group, in 2009, 2010 and 2012. At the conclusion of their most recent visit in October 2012, Gro Harlem Brundtland, Jimmy Carter and Mary Robinson warned that while the two-state solution was in peril, it remained the only realistic path to peace and security for Israelis and Palestinians.

In 2013, The Elders continued to sound the alarm about policies and activities that undermine the two-state solution – and, accordingly, the prospects for peace in the region. They spoke out against the persistent construction and expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank – illegal under international law – and placed their full support behind the peace negotiations being brokered by US Secretary of State John Kerry.



The Elders also encouraged the European Union to play a stronger role in the region and to put pressure on Israel to end settlement expansion in the West Bank. Writing on behalf of the group in an op-ed in *The Guardian* in December 2012, Mary Robinson and Martti Ahtisaari urged the EU to introduce labelling for settlement products, enabling European consumers to distinguish between Israeli goods and those produced in the illegal settlements.

The Elders reiterated their call during their meeting with European diplomats and NGOs in Dublin in May 2013. As part of their public advocacy on the issue, they commissioned a short video featuring prominent Palestinians and Israelis – including Semma Quran, from the Ramallah-based group ‘Palestinians for Dignity’, Avrum Burg, former Speaker of the Knesset, and Alon Liel, former Director-General of the Israeli Foreign Ministry – who argued that consumers should be informed about the provenance of their goods and appealed to Europe to take action on settlement products labelling.

At their meeting with Secretary Kerry in Washington DC in July 2013, the Elders voiced their support for his efforts to reconvene direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. They then travelled to London and discussed the peace talks with British Foreign Secretary William Hague a few days later.

In both capitals, Jimmy Carter, Martti Ahtisaari and Lakhdar Brahimi spoke about the importance of preserving dwindling hopes for a two-state solution at public events hosted by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (Washington) and Chatham House (London). [See the section on high-level diplomacy for further information.]

To mark the 20th anniversary of first Oslo Accord, The Elders published on their website a series of articles, opinion pieces and infographics on the Middle East peace process since 1993. Guest blogs were contributed by Prince Turki al-Faisal of Saudi Arabia, Elisabeth Koek of Al-Haq, and Yossi Beilin and Yasser Abed Rabbo, who both participated in the Oslo negotiations. Gro Harlem Brundtland – who was Prime Minister of Norway when it hosted the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks – reflected on the lack of progress since the signing of the accords in a piece for *Al-Monitor*. In an op-ed published in *Al-Hayat* and *Haaretz*, Jimmy Carter argued that referendums could be the key to a peace deal: “History teaches us that great leaders can demonstrate flexibility and make the necessary compromises when peace is recognised as a necessity by the people they govern.”

The way the country moves forward in developing its resources and sharing the gains and opportunities – that’s also part of the human rights agenda.

Gro Harlem Brundtland

MYANMAR

Kaung Htet



The Elders have long called for meaningful political reforms in Myanmar, having been concerned about the situation in the country since they were brought together in 2007. In September 2013, The Elders made their first visit to Myanmar as a group to support the ongoing democratic transition and encourage peace and reconciliation.

The Elders have welcomed the political reforms undertaken in Myanmar since the inauguration of President U Thein Sein in March 2011. Jimmy Carter (delegation leader), Martti Ahtisaari and Gro Harlem Brundtland travelled to Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon on 24-26 September 2013. Their visit aimed to support the transition to democracy, encourage the peace process between the government and ethnic armed groups and promote local efforts to address inter-communal strife.

During their visit, the Elders met President U Thein Sein and other senior political figures including Minister U Aung Min, Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kwar Swar, and leader of the National League for Democracy Daw Aung San Suu Kyi; religious leaders from many faiths; and civil society activists including former political prisoners, religious minorities and representatives from women’s organisations.



President U Thein Sein welcomed The Elders' involvement in Myanmar, in particular their experience in conflict resolution. Reflecting on the Elders' meetings with government officials, Jimmy Carter said: "We had constructive discussions with President U Thein Sein and members of his government, as well as the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, in Nay Pyi Taw. We were impressed by the pace with which reforms are proceeding. Myanmar is becoming a more open society."

In their meeting with Minister U Aung Min, the government's chief peace negotiator, the Elders discussed the efforts to bring about a national ceasefire agreement between the government and the country's ethnic minority armed groups. Martti Ahtisaari later commented on the prospect of ending Myanmar's decades-long civil war. "Although no two conflicts are ever the same, post-conflict societies share at least one trait: their success depends on the abandonment of an adversarial mindset, on addressing common challenges together," he said. "Ultimately, no one can want peace more than the Myanmar people."

The Elders also expressed their concern about the inter-communal violence afflicting several parts of the country. Addressing the brutal clashes between Rakhine Buddhists and Rohingya Muslims, Gro Harlem Brundtland invoked the equal rights of every individual in society: "The targeted violence against the Muslim minority in Rakhine state should also be halted as a priority. All people in Rakhine state, regardless of their religion, should see their basic rights to food, education and security fulfilled." Commenting on the wider human rights situation in the country, Gro Harlem Brundtland added: "The way the country moves forward in developing its resources and sharing the gains and opportunities – that's also part of the human rights agenda."

At the press conference concluding the visit, Martti Ahtisaari said: "Myanmar is going through an extremely important phase in its history. We would like to support the process and encourage everybody to cooperate so that the necessary reforms can be carried out in a peaceful manner. We hope to be back next year to continue our discussions."

Unimpeded humanitarian access...is a call that no leader, indeed no human being, could in good conscience deny.

Martti Ahtisaari and Fernando Henrique Cardoso

SYRIA

UN Photo/Mark Garten



Since early 2012, The Elders have responded to the tragic events in Syria in the context of having one of their number directly involved in attempts to resolve the conflict. Kofi Annan was initially appointed UN/League of Arab States Joint Special Envoy to Syria in February 2012. His fellow Elder, Lakhdar Brahimi, took over in August of that year, and continued in that role throughout 2013.

The Elders have therefore restricted their *collective* role in Syria to support for the Special Envoy, deferring to him so as not to complicate his work inadvertently. That said, they have also discreetly engaged in private diplomacy and publicly expressed their deep concerns about the plight of the Syrian people. They have called for regional and international actors to work together to bring the violence and suffering to an end, and concentrated their efforts on seeking full humanitarian access for the delivery of aid to Syrian refugees and internally displaced persons.



In 2013, the March BRICS summit in Durban was an early focus of The Elders' activity. Private advocacy by Fernando Henrique Cardoso with the Brazilian government put Syria firmly on the BRICS agenda. He and Martti Ahtisaari also published an op-ed in all the BRICS countries, urging the group's leaders to push for unimpeded humanitarian access. They argued that it is "a call that no leader, indeed no human being, could in good conscience deny." This was followed by a blog by Desmond Tutu and a humanitarian photo story on The Elders' website. The Durban Summit communiqué reflected The Elders' input and concerns.

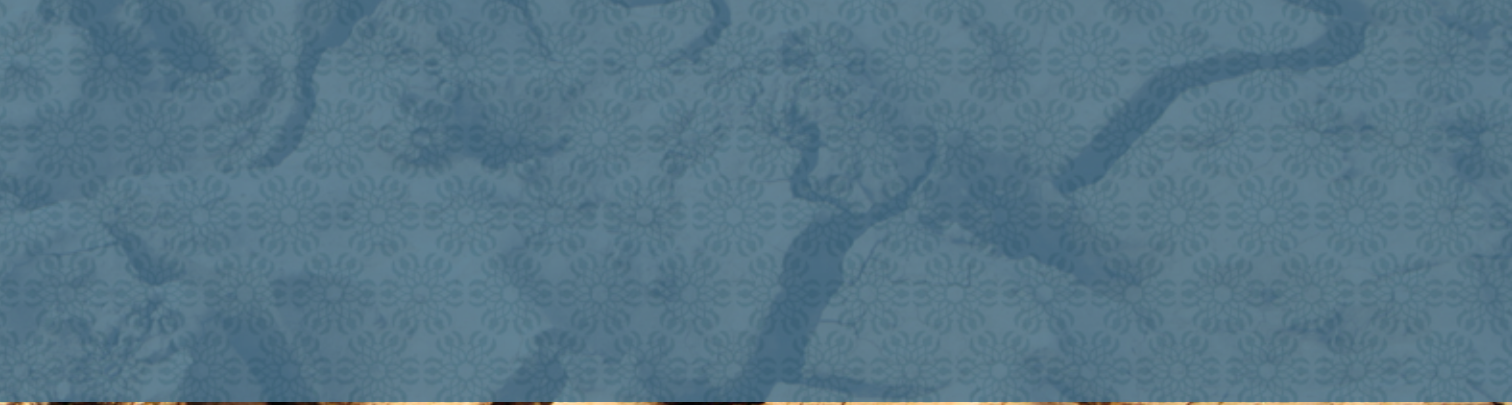
Altogether during the year, 14 items specifically on Syria were published on the website. These included two guest blogs on the humanitarian crisis in May and June – by Valerie Amos, UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, and Jehangir Malik, UK Director of Islamic Relief. In September, Gro Harlem Brundtland was one of the 50 medical signatories to an open letter published in *The Lancet*, which called on all parties to allow medical staff inside Syria to save lives and alleviate suffering without fear of attacks or reprisals. The letter received prominent media coverage in 25 countries.

Some of the other contributions were also published in major media outlets: *The Washington Post* (two articles by Jimmy Carter); *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Cape Times* (by Archbishop Tutu). Kofi Annan's statement after the 21 August chemical weapons attack in a Damascus suburb was quoted in over 100 media outlets around the world and widely shared on social media platforms.

During visits to London and Washington DC in July, Elders' delegations again engaged in both public and private diplomacy on Syria. When the US and Russia later agreed to work together to remove or destroy Syria's chemical weapons stocks, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov publicly thanked The Elders for their quiet engagement on the political aspects of the crisis.



THEMATIC AREAS OF WORK



Violence against women
is rooted in deeply
ingrained social norms
that portray women as
less than men.

Gro Harlem Brundtland

EQUALITY FOR GIRLS AND WOMEN

Achieving equality for girls and women is a core focus of The Elders' work. The Elders believe that for societies to flourish, women must be given the security and opportunity they need to make the most of their talents, participate fully in their communities and live a life free from abuse and neglect. In the six years since The Elders was formed, the group has worked to combat gender inequality and discrimination against women, galvanised civil society cooperation to end child marriage, and promoted the role of women in peacebuilding.

COMBATING GENDER INEQUALITY AND DISCRIMINATION

Working with partners around the world, The Elders have continued their efforts to challenge gender inequality and the widespread discrimination against girls and women. Writing for the Skoll World Forum on International Women's Day on 8 March, Gro Harlem Brundtland argued that the way to end violence against women is to tackle the underlying systemic discrimination against them: "Different forms of violence against women, in different places, are all rooted in deeply ingrained social norms that portray women as less than men."

The Elders also advocated for equality for girls and women in their high-level diplomacy efforts throughout the year. During their meeting with British Foreign Secretary William Hague in July 2013, the Elders discussed the UK government's initiative on ending rape as a weapon of war. They have been encouraged by the UK's efforts on the issue and welcomed the fact that over 115 countries signed the Declaration on Ending Sexual Violence in Conflict at the UN General Assembly in September 2013.

Marking International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on 25 November, Jimmy Carter wrote a blog condemning the widespread discrimination that justifies and perpetuates the abuse of girls and women across the world. Arguing that "[t]here is no country on earth where discrimination against women and girls does not exist in some form," he called on all countries to honour the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).



Ami Vitale/Panos



ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE

Two years after founding *Girls Not Brides: The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage*, The Elders remain committed to working with civil society organisations to end this harmful practice. While *Girls Not Brides* is now an independent organisation, The Elders continue to speak out on the issue and support the partnership's efforts. In November 2012, Desmond Tutu and Graça Machel participated in the first Africa regional meeting of *Girls Not Brides* in Johannesburg, South Africa. Graça Machel subsequently wrote a blog on The Elders' website urging African civil society to unite in their efforts to end child marriage.

In March 2013, Gro Harlem Brundtland spoke at the UK Parliament on ending violence against girls and women. In her oral evidence to the House of Commons' International Development Committee, Gro Harlem Brundtland told legislators about The Elders' experience of initiating *Girls Not Brides* and highlighted the work of organisations in India and Ethiopia that are engaging directly with local leaders and their communities to end child marriage. "When you dare to speak, and talk to people about the dangers, they start to open their minds and ask questions. People can change their attitudes. We have to help them do it."



The Elders



Abate Damte

EMPOWERING WOMEN TO DEFEND RIGHTS AND BUILD PEACE

In January 2013, Mary Robinson travelled to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to emphasise The Elders' message that the active participation of women is the key to achieving sustainable peace in Sudan and South Sudan. She spoke with representatives of the Coalition of Women Leaders from Sudan and South Sudan and stressed the importance of integrating women into the peace process at meetings with African Union officials. Mary Robinson later wrote a blog about "African women driving change," while South Sudanese peacebuilder Philister Baya Lawiri contributed a guest blog for International Women's Day.

Following her appointment in March 2013 as the UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes, Mary Robinson has sought to ensure that the voices of civil society – including women – are brought into the peace process.

As part of this holistic approach to peacebuilding, she partnered with Femmes Africa Solidarité and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region to organise the first Regional Conference on Women, Peace, Security and Development. Held in the Burundian capital of Bujumbura in July 2013, the meeting brought together over 100 women from across the Great Lakes. "Women's voices shouldn't only be heard because they are the victims of the war," Mary Robinson said. "The reason why their active participation to peace efforts is essential is that they are the most effective peacebuilders."



CLIMATE CHANGE

The Elders believe that with brave and transformative leadership humanity can create a future where societies are just, sustainable, peaceful, prosperous and resilient to the impacts of climate change. We can achieve this vision if we act now to solve the climate crisis, conscious of our common humanity and our shared responsibilities, to make the transition to a liveable world for current and future custodians of the planet.

With the conviction that 2014 would be a critical year for action on climate change, The Elders decided in 2013 to prioritise climate change as a principal area of work. Discussing the issues surrounding climate change with key partners including people affected by climate change, policy makers and business, The Elders recognise that climate change represents one of the greatest injustices of our time but also offers a unique opportunity for the world to end its reliance on fossil fuels and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

The Elders see that it is the world's poorest and most vulnerable people – those who benefit least from fossil fuel-powered growth – who are the most affected by the impacts of climate change. Floods, droughts and extreme weather events undermine their basic rights to food, water, health and shelter. We also risk inflicting injustice on future generations, who face a looming catastrophe as a result of the climate crisis.

The Elders believe that globally we have the knowledge and the tools to address climate change, and the sooner we apply these and invest in them, the lower the costs and the greater the return on investment. To make this happen, The Elders call on governments to set the rules of the game and give clear policy signals to business and investors. In turn, businesses need to support governments to make ambitious commitments to address climate change.

In the lead-up to the 2015 UN Climate Change Conference in Paris (COP 21), The Elders are calling for a new robust, universal and legally-binding agreement on climate change, by which every country commits to reducing emissions of greenhouse gases.

As Mary Robinson argued in her blog from the UN Climate Change Conference in Warsaw in November 2013, “business as usual will not deliver climate justice, nor will it deliver sustainable development or inclusive societies. To move away from business as usual requires brave, enlightened and above all transformative leadership.”

Make your voices heard.
If necessary, interrupt!

Mary Robinson

ENGAGEMENT WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

Jeff Moore



In the organisation's Strategic Framework, The Elders commit to using "their convening power to build a meaningful discussion about global citizenship, helping to empower individuals, youth and civil society groups, so that they play a role in global governance."

The commitment to youth, in particular, was implicit in The Elders' mandate since the group was founded. The Elders' talent for engagement with people at all levels is one of the organisation's strengths and lends credibility and legitimacy to their work. A key aspect of this is their ability to connect with young people.

Through public lectures and other engagements, the Elders frequently address youth audiences to encourage them to take up leadership roles, and inspire ethical leadership among the current generation of leaders. As Mary Robinson once put it to the 'Youngers': "Make your voices heard. If necessary, interrupt!"



In Dublin in May 2013, the Elders met with 14 young leaders from Northern Ireland in a roundtable discussion on peacebuilding, youth unemployment and social inclusion in their communities. The team produced a video featuring highlights from the discussion, as well as guest blogs from two participants, Helen Flynn and Fíachra Kelly-McElroy, on the Northern Ireland peace process and the legacy of conflict.

In-person events such as these are complemented throughout the year by online interaction with young people via The Elders' website and social media outlets. Over the course of 2013, The Elders have continued to amplify the voices of the four participants in the 2012 Elders+Youngers project. Nigerian activist Esther Agbarakwe contributed a blog on youth engagement in the post-2015 debates in March 2013.

Following the publication of the UN High-Level Panel's report on the post-2015 development agenda in June, The Elders published a response by Chinese climate activist Marvin Nala. In August 2013, The Elders also published a blog by young Egyptian Emad Karim (who participated in a discussion with the Elders in Cairo in October 2012), sharing his reflections and hopes on the uncertain post-Mubarak era.

Marking International Youth Day 2013, Kofi Annan wrote a blog on the importance of youth leadership. Co-published by the Skoll World Forum and Forbes, the piece was shared several thousand times on social media and caused a significant peak in traffic to The Elders' website.

The Elders' team also supported and helped promote the Kofi Annan Dialogues, a series of online conversations between Kofi Annan and young people, focused on inspiring leadership among youth.

Let's be absolutely candid – this is the only show in town.

Martti Ahtisaari

HIGH-LEVEL DIPLOMACY

As part of their mission to draw attention to pressing global issues and to help resolve and prevent conflicts, The Elders speak with decision makers and opinion formers at the highest level. Armed with the insights gained through their direct engagement with people at the grassroots, they raise the concerns of ordinary people with national governments, multilateral institutions and in international forums. The Elders closely monitor, and hold high-level discussions on, a range of topics, including the geographic and thematic areas of focus detailed in this Annual Report.

Much of this high-level diplomacy takes place in the context of The Elders' work to promote better coordination among the major international and regional powers on geopolitical crises. Thus, in addition to their quiet engagement throughout the year, The Elders undertook an advocacy trip to Washington DC and London in July 2013 to discuss the Middle East peace process and other issues with high-level officials and policy experts. They also met with Irish President Michael D Higgins and Tánaiste and Minister of Foreign Affairs Eamon Gilmore while in Dublin in May 2013.

The timing of The Elders' visit to Washington was fortuitous. Just two days before their meeting with him, US Secretary of State John Kerry had announced the resumption of direct peace talks between the Israelis and Palestinians for the first time in three years. Susan Rice, who had been serving as the US Permanent Representative to the United Nations, had also just taken over as President Barack Obama's National Security Adviser.

The delegation to Washington included Martti Ahtisaari, Lakhdar Brahimi, Jimmy Carter, Mary Robinson and Ernesto Zedillo. The combination of Elders and an agenda covering many of the most serious foreign policy issues of the day – Iran, Israel-Palestine, Syria, North Korea, the Great Lakes and Sudan/South Sudan – meant that discussions with Kerry and Rice were detailed and purposeful. A full day of activities also included a roundtable discussion at the Brookings Institution with foreign policy experts, a public event on the Middle East at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and media interviews with *The Wall Street Journal*, *Al-Monitor*, *The New York Times*, *Agence France-Presse*, *Helsingin Sanomat*, *Reuters* and *Al-Hayat*.



From Washington, three of the Elders – Martti Ahtisaari, Lakhdar Brahimi and Jimmy Carter – travelled directly to London. In London they held a substantive meeting with British Foreign Secretary William Hague. In addition to Israel-Palestine, Iran, Syria and North Korea, they discussed Egypt, Myanmar and the issue of sexual violence in conflict. The Elders continued their visit with a well-attended public event at Chatham House on the two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. During the panel discussion, Martti Ahtisaari urged all actors to support the US-brokered negotiations: “Let’s be absolutely candid – this is the only show in town.”

Jeff Moore



Molly Riley



Ethical leaders are not there for what they can get out of their position; they are there for the sake of the people.

Desmond Tutu

PUBLIC ADVOCACY

In his speech at the launch of The Elders, Nelson Mandela mandated the group to “support courage where there is fear, foster agreement where there is conflict and inspire hope where there is despair.” While these goals may be advanced through quiet diplomacy, they may also require public statements, giving voice to the voiceless and encouraging ethical leadership on the global stage.

SPEAKING OUT TO A GLOBAL AUDIENCE

The Elders’ website (www.theElders.org) and presence on social media aim to provide up-to-date information about the Elders’ work and stimulate conversation about pressing global issues. In 2013, The Elders’ team published online several dozens of Elders’ opinion pieces, blogs, press statements and news articles. A monthly newsletter is also sent out by one of the Elders each month, discussing the group’s main activities during that period.

By some margin, the most popular piece of content – judging by its online reach – was a blog entitled ‘Women live in a profoundly different, more dangerous world’ by Jimmy Carter, published on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of





Violence Against Women in November 2013. With nearly 20,000 views on the website, and reaching 200,000 people on Facebook, it has become the most popular piece of online content since The Elders was founded.

The Elders' global audience grew substantially over the year. The website received 270,000 unique visitors in 2013, compared to 200,000 in 2012. On social media, The Elders' Twitter following grew by a third to over 60,000 and Facebook 'likes' rose by almost two-thirds.

ENCOURAGING ETHICAL LEADERSHIP

In addition to speaking out on specific topics and initiative areas [see the individual sections on their areas of work for further information], The Elders also use their public communications to promote the principles of ethical leadership and good governance.

In May 2013, several Elders were interviewed by Japanese writer and broadcaster Mayumi Yoshinari for a series about 'The Wisdom of The Elders'. Martti Ahtisaari, Gro Harlem Brundtland, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Jimmy Carter and Mary Robinson sat down with Yoshinari for in-depth conversations at The Elders' board meeting in Ireland.

Yoshinari also spoke to Advisory Council member Richard Branson in San Diego, USA in June 2013. The candid interviews covered a wide range of topics, from the Elders' experiences in office to thematic issues including human rights, international justice and conflict mediation. The six conversations were published in serialised form in the current affairs magazine *Chuo-Koron* between October 2013 and February 2014 and broadcast on the TV channel NHK BS1 as the special programme '1000 Years of Wisdom on War and Peace' in December 2013. They were later compiled into a book titled *Brave Acts of Wisdom*, available from NHK Publishing from April 2014.

The Elders also worked to advance the ideal of ethical leadership during an event with Al Jazeera English in Cape Town in October 2013. In two discussions moderated by South African journalist Redi Tlhabi, the Elders spoke in front of an audience of 280 invited civil society representatives. The discussions were broadcast on the show *South2North* in two parts on 1-4 and 8-11 November 2013, and later made available to watch in full on The Elders' website. The two programmes reached millions of homes worldwide.



Jeff Moore

In the first part, Kofi Annan, Gro Harlem Brundtland, Hina Jilani and Desmond Tutu discussed the characteristics of ethical leaders. “Ethical leaders are not there for what they can get out of their position; they are there for the sake of the people,” Archbishop Tutu said.

In the second part, Martti Ahtisaari, Jimmy Carter and Mary Robinson discussed African leadership and the role of the International Criminal Court. Martti Ahtisaari exhorted viewers to consider carefully the kind of leaders who are elected. “We look very carefully at what sort of elections are organised,” he said. “We pay far less attention to those who come – even through good elections – to power. Are they running egalitarian policies and using the wealth of the nation to give a chance to young people – and girls as much as boys? Or are they more interested in enriching themselves?”

REMEMBERING NELSON MANDELA

Following the passing of Nelson Mandela in December 2013, the Elders joined people from all around the world in honouring the memory of their friend and the founder of their group. The Elders released a video tribute and public statement with their personal recollections of Mandela. In the days leading up to his memorial service in Johannesburg, South Africa, several Elders reflected on Mandela’s unique legacy of courage and compassion in opinion pieces and interviews with the international media.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT



THE ELDERS FOUNDATION STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2013

	Restricted 2013 £	Unrestricted 2013 £	Total 2013 £	Total 2012 £
Income				
Donations/Grants	999,744	4,179,592	5,179,336	3,576,222
Interest receivable	-	343	343	2,795
Total Income	999,744	4,179,935	5,179,679	3,579,017
Expenditure				
Charitable activities:				
Conflict resolution	-	1,811,044	1,811,044	1,566,057
Prevention and relief of poverty	999,744	1,001,318	2,001,062	2,044,592
Climate change	-	6,435	6,435	-
	-	2,818,797	3,818,541	3,610,649
Governance costs	-	47,572	47,572	20,379
Total resources expended	999,744	2,866,369	3,866,113	3,631,028
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	-	1,313,566	1,313,566	(52,011)
Fund balances brought forward	-	214,060	214,060	266,071
Fund balances carried forward	-	1,527,626	1,527,626	214,060

Restricted fund activities ceased on 10 December 2013 with the transfer of *Girls Not Brides'* activities to the newly-formed charity *Girls Not Brides: The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage*.

DONORS FOR 2013

Bridgeway Foundation (via Better World Fund)
 HP Capital Partners (via Better World Fund)
 Humanity United
 J Coller Foundation
 Chandra Jesse (via Virgin US)
 The Nduna Foundation (via Better World Fund)
 Netherlands Nationale Postcode Loterij
 Quadrio Curzio Family Trust (via CAF American Donor Fund)
 The Peter Gabriel Trust
 Skoll Foundation (via Better World Fund)
 Swedish Postcode Foundation
 Virgin Unite

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2013

	2013	2012
	£	£
Fixed Assets		
Tangible assets	220,102	294,620
Current Assets		
Debtors	122,651	162,851
Cash at bank and in hand	1,475,396	1,084,366
Total current assets	1,598,047	1,247,217
Creditors (amounts falling due within one year)	(290,523)	(1,216,525)
Net current assets	1,307,524	30,692
Total assets less current liabilities	1,527,626	325,312
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(111,252)
Net assets	1,527,626	214,060
Unrestricted funds		
General income funds	189,108	214,060
Designated income funds	1,338,518	-
Total charity funds	1,527,626	214,060

RESTRICTED FUNDS

GIRLS NOT BRIDES: THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP TO END CHILD MARRIAGE

	2013	2012
	£	£
Movements on the fund during the year were as follows:		
Grants received	999,744	597,583
Resources expended – charitable activities and support costs	(999,744)	(728,405)
Results/(deficit) in year	-	(130,822)
Fund balance brought forward	-	130,822
Fund balance carried forward	-	-
Donors of Girls Not Brides included among others:	£	£
Ford Foundation	292,969	209,066
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation	-	43,583
Human Dignity Foundation	121,153	-
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation	-	40,125
Nike Foundation	184,265	118,112
NoVo Foundation (via the Tides Foundation)	152,493	59,000
Open Society Foundation	122,586	126,263
Sabancı Foundation	62,218	-
Skoll Foundation	64,061	-
DESIGNATED FUNDS	2013	2012
	£	£
Better World Fund (unspent funds to be rolled over to 2014)	1,338,518	-

The Elders are grateful to the members of the Advisory Council, whose support and advice enables them to carry out their work.

Richard Branson
Virgin Unite

Peter Gabriel
The Peter Gabriel Trust

Kathy Bushkin Calvin
The United Nations Foundation

Jeremy Coller
J Coller Foundation

Niclas Kjellström-Matseke
Swedish Postcode Lottery

Randy Newcomb
Humanity United

Jean Oelwang
Virgin Unite

Jovanka Porsche
HP Capital Partners
(until October 2013)

Pam Omidyar
Humanity United

Mabel van Oranje
Girls Not Brides

Sally Osberg
Skoll Foundation

Julie Quadrio Curzio
Quadrio Curzio Family Trust

Shannon Sedgwick Davis
The Bridgeway Foundation

Jeff Skoll
Skoll Foundation

Marieke van Schaik
Dutch Postcode Lottery

Lulit Solomon
J Coller Foundation

Amy Towers
The Nduna Foundation

The Elders' team, led by CEO Lesley-Anne Knight, provides policy, communications and operational support.

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Letter from the Chair: Morteza Nikoubazl.

Contents page mosaic (top left to bottom right): Kaung Htet, Jeff Moore, Molly Riley.

Foreword and Executive Summary: Jeff Moore.

The Elders in 2013 (pages 6-7, top left to bottom right): Morteza Nikoubazl, Kaung Htet, Jeff Moore, Jeff Moore, Abate Damte, Kaung Htet, Tom Pietrasik, Marc Dryden-Schofield/Girls Not Brides, Jeff Moore, Molly Riley, Jeff Moore, Jeff Moore.

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The Elders