



IREX
Make a Better World

2013 AT A GLANCE



DEAR FRIENDS OF IREX,

IREX is proud to celebrate our 45th anniversary this year. Since our start in 1968, we have greatly extended our geographic reach and expanded our ability to deliver innovative programs in developing countries. The highlights of our work in 2013 show our impact touching over a million lives this year. With our dedicated staff, supporters, partners, and participants across the globe, we are making positive, lasting change, improving lives, and building vibrant societies. We invite you to read more about our work online and join us in our work to make a better world.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Robert Pearson'.

W. Robert Pearson
IREX President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edward M. Fouhy'.

Edward M. Fouhy
IREX Board Chair

1,000,000+

This year IREX helped over one million people.

\$1 million

In Liberia, 21 civil society organizations trained by IREX received 46 grants from national and international funders totaling more than \$1 million.

8,000

IREX worked with 8,000 local institutions around the world including libraries, NGOs, media outlets, schools, and universities.

405,000+

Closing the ICT gender gap—over 405,000 women and girls trained or accessed information through IREX technology projects.

68%

Georgian newspaper, radio, and TV outlet partners in the New Media Initiative have seen an average 68 percent increase in their website visitors.



SUPPORTING GOOD GOVERNANCE

Participatory governance is vital to the development of stable and democratic governments, sustainable economic growth that benefits all citizens, and stabilization of societies affected by conflict. IREX supports mechanisms for civil society, educational institutions, the media, and government to work together to ensure that laws, political processes, and governance promote inclusion, economic development, and social justice. IREX provides assistance for the development of legal frameworks and accountability processes that promote citizen participation and good governance. IREX programs train and support advocates to promote policies and projects that benefit their communities.

The women's radio listening group in Kamara Town, Liberia, is creating awareness and promoting citizen participation in the country's national development. Calling-in to a program on the Liberian Women Democracy Radio brought representatives from the Constitution Review Committee and an official suggestion box to the community.



LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY

IREX technology programs respond to local priorities, build on human capital, strengthen existing institutions, and improve formal and informal education. IREX supports journalists and citizens in using digital tools to improve and expand the flow of news and information. IREX programs reform and modernize public libraries, strengthening their role in civic engagement, education, and economic opportunities. IREX tailors on-line learning, training, and collaboration tools to fit the needs of education and civil society development programs.

Inspired by his experience in a US classroom and working with his peers, Indonesian physics teacher Berry Devanda found a way to produce a less costly and lower maintenance interactive whiteboard. With this new technology, Devanda enhanced his students' learning experiences and fostered an exciting and challenging environment in his classroom.





YOUTH VOICE & ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

The rising global youth population presents great potential for dynamic economic growth and social change, but it also challenges governments and communities to educate, employ, and provide youth-friendly services. IREX strengthens enabling environments for meaningful youth participation at all levels of society, including national and local-level policy; partnerships to strengthen opportunities for youth; facilitating effective youth-adult relationships; and ensuring youth leadership and input in programs and communities. IREX provides academic, vocational, entrepreneurial, and life skills programs, establishes career centers, and offers internships to help youth

develop market-relevant skills, envision an attainable career path, and secure meaningful employment.

Houda is challenging stereotypes and earning a professional certificate in local area network administration at a US community college. As a part of the Thomas Jefferson Scholarship Program in Tunisia, she is gaining skills to boost the economic outlook for herself and her country.



IMPROVING LITERACY & EDUCATION

IREX focuses on teacher training and support to schools to improve literacy and extend the cascading benefits of basic education. Effective links between higher education and the employment market are key to long-term economic growth. IREX trains master teachers in student-centered teaching methods, interactive technology for the classroom, curriculum development, and lesson planning. IREX supports tertiary institutions to update curricula, teaching methods, and management systems to better meet the needs of their students. IREX prepares workforce ready global citizens through professional skills training, linkages, and resources.

High school students in Mindanao province of the Philippines are helping their peers prepare for higher education and future jobs. Through a reading support group established by teacher and ILEP alumna Christine Guinacaran, strong peer readers help struggling readers improve their literacy and reading comprehension skills.





STRENGTHENING MEDIA & ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The development of professional media and citizen journalism builds more transparent and effective governance, promotes fair and open economies, generates responsible public discussion, and provides the information citizens need to improve their lives and communities. IREX trains journalists and news outlets to cover critical social issues and helps citizens obtain high quality news and information. IREX supports laws, regulations, and practices that protect and promote free speech, access to information, and the safety of journalists. IREX uses digital tools to empower citizen journalists, improve professional reporting, and provide citizens with the

news and information they need to participate in the development of their communities.

In the community of Ninotsminda, Georgia, Radio NOR is promoting civic engagement and community development while improving access to news and information for its town. The country's first and only community radio station is broadcast online with support from IREX.



RESPONDING TO CONFLICT

IREX addresses conflict around the world by strengthening connections among civil society actors, educating citizens, ensuring the spread of accurate and balanced news and information, and promoting good governance. IREX programs demonstrate the benefits of collaboration and inter-faith dialogue by increasing positive interactions between faith leaders and their followers. IREX assists media partners to deliver news and civic messaging across multiple platforms to give citizens information on mechanisms for peaceful democratic transitions. IREX promotes justice and accountability through enhancing the engagement and understanding of local leaders and citizens of transitional justice mechanisms and dispute resolution strategies.

An independent evaluation recently found IREX's Uniting Communities Through Multifaith Dialogue in Iraq program improved the abilities of Iraqi faith-based organizations to facilitate dialogue, mitigate conflict, and advocate for religious tolerance through the media. Successful community projects led to sustained, positive contact among different faith groups.



Agnes Kwenda, *Social Entrepreneur, Zimbabwe*

Former sex workers in Zimbabwe are making and selling their own peanut butter to quadruple their incomes thanks to Community Solutions leader Agnes Kwenda.

As the Founder and Executive Director of Precious Life Foundation (PLF), Kwenda works with vulnerable women and teenage mothers, helping them become self-sufficient through vocational training, community support, and social services. PLF traditionally had difficulty keeping former sex workers in training and jobs because of their low education levels and need for quick money-making projects.

Through her time working at a shelter in the United States, as a part of the Community Solutions Program, Kwenda learned the essentials to teaching women basic literacy and business skills while giving them an avenue to start earning money immediately. To date, PLF has helped seven women start a peanut butter cooperative which sells and markets their product throughout the city of Bulawayo.

“The literacy and formal education has worked so well. I saw these women become confident and enjoy being taught how to read and write and record things for their business.”



Rodrigo Ponce, *Environmental, Peru*

“One of the main issues [in the Amazon] is unsustainable farming practices, which are a result of a lack of education on issues related to water sustainability and resource management.”

Communities in the Amazonian city of Tarapoto, Peru, are increasing their access to clean water and learning sustainable agriculture skills through education and training from environmental activists like Rodrigo Ponce.

As founder of Eco Aldeas Peru, a community-based ecotourism organization in the Peruvian Upper Amazon, Ponce runs educational travel projects to inspire local youth to work in agriculture, community development, and environmental protection. He also works on bridging the societal gaps exacerbating the water conflict in Peru. Although Ponce recognizes that access to clean water in the Amazon is a complex issue, he focuses his energy on training farmers in sustainable agricultural techniques such as rainwater harvesting—a concept he learned about as a Community Solutions Program leader in Oakland, California.

He is now training local farmers and youth groups in beekeeping, edible gardens, and ecotourism; offering them alternatives to traditional farming practices to protect their environment.

Olena Yurchenko, *Journalist, Ukraine*

“Just a year ago I was an editor at a local radio station and now I am the manager of the Kerch edition of the international publication Argumenty Nedeli. This is a great responsibility and a great opportunity,” says Olena Yurchenko. She adds, *“It was a qualitative leap that allowed me to reconsider my views on journalism, community involvement, and my ability to change the world around me.”*

Yurchenko credits the Ukraine Media Partnership Program with developing her newsroom management skills, ability to lead staff and delegate, and think creatively about using information. *“Now I have many more responsibilities: I coordinate the work of five people (reporter, photographer, cameraman, editor, and driver), plan assignments for the crew. I personally write articles, do the interviews, and shoot stories. Our editorial office covers the life of our city and surrounding villages: we do reports from the courtroom, City Hall, factories, and businesses. Often after our publications officials become more active, they begin to solve the problems of the people and the city.”*



TOGETHER WE'RE MAKING A BETTER WORLD

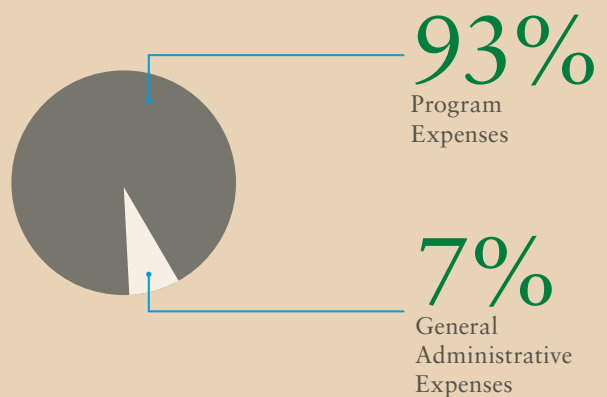
Our heartfelt thanks to all of the individuals and organizations that have generously supported our efforts in 2013. IREX combines donations from foundations, corporations, government agencies, and global citizens like you to help over 1 million people a year across more than 125 countries.

Join the growing number of supporters who are helping people to share knowledge and build lasting, global connections. IREX is a registered 501(c)3 charitable, nonprofit organization. Out of every dollar you give, a full 93 cents goes directly to programs. Please make your tax-deductible donation online today at www.irex.org/ donate or by mailing a check to: IREX, 1275 K Street, NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20005, USA.

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\$69 Million Revenue



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