



## 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

# \$115,000,000

From 2009–2014, IREX returned \$115 million to the people of Kazakhstan through the BOTA Foundation.

# 90%

Ninety percent of IREX teacher trainees go on to train other teachers.

# 2,000,000+

This year IREX helped over two million people.

# 62%

Of all IREX program participants and beneficiaries around the world, 62 percent were women.

# 14,100+

Over 14,100 library patrons received online legal advice through 963 libraries in Ukraine, saving approximately \$113,000.

## DEAR FRIENDS OF IREX,



In October 2014, I was honored to join IREX as the organization's fifth President and CEO. I am proud to lead IREX because it is an organization that has—in my view—exactly the right approach to promoting positive global change: investing in the potential of people to transform their own societies.

For 46 years, IREX has worked to make a better world by connecting people to people and people to ideas. We promote better lives through education, the development of civil society and independent media, and the establishment of strong and enduring institutions that contribute to human development.

Our reach is wide. With the energetic support and dedication of our staff, partners, donors, and participants, we helped over two million people across more than 125 countries in 2014.

I encourage you to read this report online to learn more about our work responding to the Ebola crisis in Liberia, reforming higher education in Iraq, helping journalists protect themselves, and hosting the Presidential Summit for the Mandela Washington Fellowship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristin". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kristin M. Lord  
*President and CEO*





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## *Strengthening Media & Protecting Journalists*

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IREX develops professional media and citizen journalism to increase transparent and effective governance, promote fair and open economies, generate responsible public discussion, and provide the information citizens need to improve their lives and societies. IREX trains and mentors journalists, editors, and news outlets to cover critical social issues and helps citizens obtain high-quality news and information in all media formats. Working closely with our local partners, IREX advances policies and practices that protect and promote free speech, access to information, and the safety of journalists.

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## *Promoting Good Governance & Access to Justice*

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IREX helps citizens, diverse community groups, and governments to build vital, stable, and open societies. IREX supports civil society efforts to be effective advocates to government for basic rights, freedoms, and policies that are inclusive of marginalized groups such as women, youth, and rural populations. From e-governance initiatives to training in constituency building, IREX helps governments adopt practices that are participatory and responsive to citizens' needs.



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### *Sandar's Story: Strengthening Grassroots Advocacy in Burma*

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*"I knew that I could be imprisoned because I had chosen to get involved in politics, and I knew that torture was possible. But I also knew that I was doing the right thing. I was working for peace and democracy in my country."*

Sandar Nyunt is succeeding in her vision to help reform civic engagement and public trust from the bottom up in Burma. After decades of civil war, authoritarian rule, and protracted humanitarian crisis, citizen engagement and repairing public trust in government will be critical to economic and democratic transition in Burma.

During the Community Solutions Program, Sandar participated in IREX's leadership development institute. Through IREX's partner, the CORO Center for Civic Leadership in Pittsburgh, Sandar learned civic leadership in addition to new strategies to address community challenges back home.

As Burma prepares for the 2015 parliamentary elections, Sandar is advocating across the states of Mandalay, Mon, and Yangon to create an informed public. She trained nearly 300 election monitors, and is teaching community organization leaders and local citizens how to hold their representatives accountable and make informed voting choices through tools like her online campaign, "Facts for Voters."

By fostering civic engagement with her extensive activism, public action and trainings, Sandar is helping transform Burma from an isolated nation to an emerging democracy with a growing grassroots advocacy movement.



## Mr. Zeichner’s Global Classroom in Seattle

*“Global education means much more than just learning about the world—it means learning the skills needed to interact with the rest of the world.”*

For most US students, water is a fact of life—sometimes taken for granted and usually forgotten. This is not the case for Noah Zeichner’s students at Seattle’s Chief Sealth High School who are analyzing sanitation systems, racing jugs of water around a track, or posting facts about toilets inside bathroom stalls. What began as one teacher and student created project about global issues is now a school-wide movement, impacting over 1,900 students and dozens of teachers, increasing understanding of the global challenge of access to clean water, and creating a learning community for global engagement.

In 2011, Noah joined IREX’s Teachers for Global Classrooms (TGC) program, learning that global education is about more than just traveling, but rather about building global citizenship, engaging with the world, and empowering students to take action.

Noah’s innovative efforts to enhance global learning for students reach beyond his own classroom. Today, the global issues class is a core 10th grade requirement for CSHS students and World Water Week is an interdisciplinary, school-wide event. He is also supporting Seattle Public Schools’ integration of global competencies by leading global education professional development sessions.



## Educating Future Leaders & Training Educators

IREX provides teachers from the United States and around the world with training, curriculum resources, and access to teaching networks to help them prepare their students for college and careers. IREX also works with institutions and administrators to improve management systems, forge effective links to the employment market, and broaden student services. By providing professional skills training, leadership development courses, networking opportunities, and resources, IREX prepares workforce-ready global citizens and future leaders. Through the Teachers for Global Classrooms program, IREX trains American teachers to develop their students’ global engagement skills and knowledge.

## Expanding Economic Opportunities for Youth

Working in partnership with youth and youth-serving organizations, IREX equips young people with academic, vocational, entrepreneurial, and life skills in order to prepare them for a meaningful adulthood. By establishing career centers and engaging with the business sector, IREX offers practical internships so youth develop market-relevant skills, envision an attainable career path, and secure employment. IREX also advises governments, local institutions, and communities on how to provide services tailored to youth and develop youth as transformational leaders.





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## Connecting People to Information & Technology

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IREX provides access to information and technology to allow people to transform their lives. Such access is a social good that empowers local users and spurs innovation and growth. IREX's Center for Collaborative Technology helps partners and clients identify local information technology needs and advises them on the best ways to leverage the power of technology. Areas of skill-building include digital literacy, incorporating technology in classroom instruction, and social media.

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## Building Peaceful Communities

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IREX promotes positive engagement between governments and citizens and increases civic participation. IREX gives civil society organizations and citizen groups the tools and training they need to advocate on behalf of their communities. Using conflict resolution techniques and cooperative strategies, IREX develops innovative solutions to societal challenges and builds peaceful communities. IREX works in conjunction with NGOs, independent media outlets, and governments to promote justice and accountability at local and national levels.



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### Chuna's Technology Lessons from Nepal

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*"Being able to read and write is not enough in this era of computers and technology. To be able to cope with the new modern society, computer and Internet skills are essential."*

Millions of women across Nepal, like Chuna Devi, are unable to read even basic information like hospital signs. As a girl in rural Nepal, Chuna's education was never a priority. She grew up herding goats and cows for her family, and was married at the age of 16. At the age of 47, Chuna finally learned to read, changing life for herself and her daughters.

Today, Chuna is proud to be the elected leader of her local READ Center, a community library and resource center established by the nonprofit organization READ Global. She is eager to help other women in her village, but the center lacked reliable electricity, computers, and Internet.

Over the past year, IREX advised READ Global in developing information and communication technology strategies and systems to improve their support for literacy and reading in community centers in India, Nepal, and Bhutan. READ Global and IREX helped the center in Chuna's village procure low-power and easily repairable laptops. A solar system was installed, a low-cost option that would not lead to overwhelming costs in the future. The READ Center, armed with technology expertise from IREX, pushed the local telecommunications provider to accelerate the delivery of broadband Internet to the center.



At the Presidential Summit for the Mandela Washington Fellowship, the 500 African Fellows and prominent US figures in government, business, and civil society explored opportunities for Africa's youth and US-Africa partnerships. Fellows presented their recommendations for addressing trade and economic development, peace and regional security, and governance and citizen participation. Select Fellows shared these views with the heads of state at the US-Africa Leaders Summit.



President Barack Obama led a town hall meeting with the Fellows. First Lady Michelle Obama delivered a powerful speech and hosted a roundtable discussion on female empowerment and girls' education.

The Summit included a Congressional panel, leadership development workshops, and an expo with representatives from government agencies, the private sector, and civil society organizations. Other senior US official speakers included US Secretary of State John Kerry, National Security Advisor Susan Rice, USAID Administrator Raj Shah, and US Ambassador to the UN Samantha Power.

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# PRESIDENTIAL SUMMIT THE MANDELA WASHINGTON FELLOWSHIP

*for Young African Leaders*

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Africa's rapid economic growth and rising youth population mean African youth will be key players in their countries' futures. In the summer of 2014, IREX brought 500 exceptional young Africans to the US for six weeks of intensive leadership and entrepreneurship training through the Mandela Washington Fellowship, the new flagship program of President Obama's Young African Leaders Initiative.

Since the Fellows returned to their home countries, IREX has continued to engage and support them with internships, mentorships, and small grants. The next round of Fellows will visit the US in summer 2015.

*"The security and prosperity and justice that we seek in the world cannot be achieved without a strong and prosperous and self-reliant Africa."*

—President Barack Obama



## SUPPORTERS

### Organizations

The Asia Foundation	Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) Namibia	Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	The Netherlands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Bureau of Intelligence and Research (INR), Title VIII Program
Blood Systems Inc.	Norway, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs (NEA)
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### Individuals

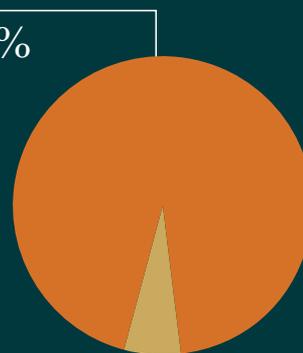
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### FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

*\$75.9 Million Revenue*  
[www.irex.org/financials](http://www.irex.org/financials)

Program Expenses

94%



General Administrative Expenses

6%

## PROGRAM REACH

## ABOUT IREX

IREX is an independent, international, nonprofit organization that works with local partners to solve development challenges and create positive lasting change around the world. We train youth, strengthen women's leadership, advance research and education, and promote access to information through media and technology. Founded in 1968, IREX has an annual portfolio of over \$75 million and a staff of 400 worldwide.

IREX ACTIVITIES

## IREX OFFICES

ARMENIA	MOZAMBIQUE
EL SALVADOR	NAMIBIA
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GHANA	RUSSIAN FEDERATION
IRAQ	SOUTH AFRICA
JORDAN	TAJIKISTAN
KAZAKHSTAN	TUNISIA
KENYA	TURKMENISTAN
LIBERIA	UKRAINE
LIBYA	WEST BANK
MOLDOVA	

## JOIN US IN MAKING A BETTER WORLD

Thank you to the many individuals and institutions that generously support our efforts. IREX combines donations from foundations, corporations, government agencies, and global citizens like you to help over two million people this year across more than 125 countries.

An investment in IREX is an investment in people and their potential—and that is exactly where your money will go. IREX is a registered 501(c)3 organization, and of every dollar you donate, a full 94 cents goes directly to programs. Please make your tax-deductible donation online today at [www.irex.org/donate](http://www.irex.org/donate) or by mailing a check to: IREX • 1275 K Street, NW, Suite 600 • Washington, DC 20005 | USA.

## PHOTO CREDITS

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Participants from Civil Society and Media Leadership Program in Liberia, *Dara Lipton*  
Access to information, *Courtesy of Beyond Access Latin America*  
Chuna Devi, *provided by READ Global*  
Noah Zeichner, *provided by Noah Zeichner*  
Girls learning to read in Indonesia, *Domi Yanto*  
Planning meeting for mobile application, *Colin Guard*  
Press Freedom, *Vasyl Artyushenko for IREX*  
Sandar Nyunt, *provided by Sandar Nyunt*  
Mandela Washington Fellows, First Lady Michelle Obama,  
President Barack Obama, *Kaveh Sardari for IREX*

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