

MEMORANDUM

To: Ljiljana Coklin, President of the Institute for Social Change
From: Bridget Winthrop, Chair of Selection Committee *BW*
Date: October 13th, 2023
Subject Line: [Two Global Initiatives in Need for Funding]

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter to inform you of two global initiatives in urgent need of funding. As the Chair of the Selection Committee, I am proud to announce the thorough selection of these two global issues as worthy candidates for this award and am confident the Institute for Social Change will make a positive impact. Throughout the letter you will notice the extremity of these issues and the process in which we intend to apply the \$100,000 in an effective manner for both immediate and long term progress.

Emergency Food Relief in Afghanistan Following Devastating Earthquake

Citizens of Western Afghanistan have suffered immensely in the past week since the strike of a 6.3 magnitude earthquake on October 7, 2023. This is one of the largest earthquakes in the Herat region of Afghanistan in decades, and has rapidly displaced, injured, and killed thousands of innocent people. Since October 7th, smaller earthquakes continuously strike the region, causing further destruction to villages, homes, and resources nearby. According to the [United Nations](#), around 2,000 people have been killed by this destruction, and almost all local villages have been completely destroyed, losing nearly a quarter of their population. It is estimated that over [12,000](#) people have now been affected as aftershock earthquakes continue to displace people from their homes with little to no belongings. Communities are actively struggling for survival as they lack food, water, and further humanitarian assistance.

This initiative strives to provide urgent food relief in this region for those suffering. As aid floods into the area for health services and hospitality, food security is needed to support the survival and health of these citizens. To have the most effective impact as possible, we have established three overarching goals for our proposed action:

1. Immediate Relief: Distribution of emergency food supply packets.
2. Medium-Term Relief: Establish hygienic food distribution centers in each village with easily accessible nutritious foods.
3. Long-Term Relief: Re-establish and develop destroyed agriculture, farming, and other food production infrastructures.

With funding and attention split evenly between these three goals, we will help those affected immediately and assist them in re-establishing food production for future development.

Reforestation in Indonesia

Deforestation is one of the largest drivers of climate change around the world and will lead to detrimental consequences for the future of mankind if not regulated. In recent years, Indonesia has been one of the leading countries in deforestation rates and has yet to take the significant action to lower its greenhouse gas emissions (one of the highest in the world). [The Global Forest Watch](#) calculated that from 2000 to 2022, there was an 18% decrease in tree coverage in the country, 96% of which was due to deforestation alone. The main driver behind this high rate of deforestation is the Palm Oil industry. [Palm Oil](#), one of the most used ingredients in the world, is produced in Indonesia by the destruction of Oil Palm Tree forests. Because of the economic drive of Palm Oil, deforestation and pollution continue rapidly without proper environmental regulations.

Mass deforestation does not only harm air quality in Indonesia, but the country's biodiversity is directly damaged, further causing issues in agriculture, destruction, poverty, and beyond. With the proper funding, this initiative hopes to counteract this by setting both local and global goals. The proposed actions for reducing deforestation are the following:

1. Immediate/Local Action: Counteract deforestation with proper tree planting initiatives for the Indonesian ecosystem.
2. Global Efforts: Publicize a global awareness campaign advocating for policy changes in Indonesia and educate the public about the damages of the Palm Oil industry.

Indonesia has one of the biggest carbon footprints in the world, but with adequate funding and motivation this initiative can help limit damages made to the environment.

Once again, it is my pleasure to propose these important initiatives that will benefit greatly from the help of the Institute for Social Change. With proper funding, progress will not only reflect in these regions but will further inspire change on a larger, more global scale. Because of the urgency behind these issues, I kindly request that you respond when convenient within the following two weeks. The faster we act on these issues, the faster we create a change. Thank you for your time and please contact me via email at bridgetwinthrop@ucsb.edu.