



**EARTH DAY**

**2024**

*The Peace Department*

# **TOGETHER FOR PEACE IMPACT REPORT**



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# INTRODUCTION

**The Peace Department is an organization catalyzing peace through sustainable development. For Earth Day, we sought to foster community action for the care of our shared home.**

The Peace Department launched the second annual Together for Peace campaign this April, a global Earth-Day-centered climate action campaign.

In 2023 we collaborated with partner organizations to maximize the impact of 7 activations across 5 countries, mobilizing communities for strategic tree plantings to support the mitigation of erosion while protecting against natural disasters in various regions, beach clean-ups paired with environmental education, climate ceremonies, and interfaith gatherings, and planting of community gardens while supporting continued education for youth.

This year, as official partners of EarthDay.Org, we empowered 18 projects in 14 countries with 20+ partner organizations. We're creating a global movement of peacemakers uniting in climate action through targeted, strategic support via micro-grants, message amplification, educational programming, and connection to a global community of aligned partners. The Peace Department deployed \$17,600 for its Earth Day efforts in April 2024.

This impact report offers into The Peace Department's work as well as an overview of all Earth Day activations and metrics collected from our partner organizations.



# MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER



Since 1970, Earth Day has been an opportunity for people all over the world to come together for a common cause, Mother Earth. As we face an uncertain future, threatened by violence and climate change, it is now more important than ever that we remember and serve to protect this shared treasure. In this spirit, The Peace Department strives to catalyze action across a growing coalition of partners in the name of peace for all mankind.

We thank all those who have supported the organization since its inception in 2021 and are committed to continue working towards a better future through our various initiatives, like Together for Peace.

**James K. Sternlicht**

**THE PEACE  
DEPARTMENT  
STRIVES TO**

*CATALYZE*

*COLLABORATE*

*COALITION BUILD*

# OUR EARTH DAY EFFORTS



- Ecological Teach Ins
- Plantings
- Interfaith
- Clean-Ups

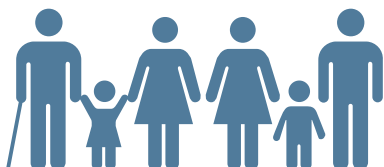
1. Bedouin Women for Themselves
2. Campus Phi
3. Daily Table
4. EcoPeace Education
5. Education Plus
6. Family Life Academy Charter School I
7. Komera
8. Latino Pastoral Action Center + Micah Table
9. LimPiaR
10. Muslim Hands

11. One Vibe Media x Madaraka Festival Bujumbura
12. One Vibe Media x Madaraka Festival Kisumu
13. Oceanic + Clean Miami + 1 Hotel
14. Pad Project
15. Plating Peace
16. Sadhguru School
17. Universal Peace Sanctuary x Shyalpa Monastery
18. Watts Empowerment Center

Partnering with **20+ organizations**, Together for Peace brought out over **40,000** global community members from **14 countries** to take action on Earth Month. Our initiative focused on activating local organizations dedicated to community action tackling environmental & social issues.

## 39,575

Participants



## 12,700

Youth



# OUR COMMUNITY ACTIVATIONS

Our partner organizations tackled various community needs through activations like clean-ups, ecological teach-ins, and plantings. Many organizations focused on multiple actions for their communities and incorporated spiritual teachings as a way to connect faith and the Earth.

## 18 ACTIVATIONS



**10**

Clean Ups



**11**

Teach Ins



**7**

Plantings



**3**

(Inter)Faith Event



**4,700 LBS**

Debris Collected



**2,000 LBS**

Plastic Collected



**170 LBS**

Glass Collected



**160 LBS**

Paper, Textile, & Aluminum Collected



**1,800**

Trees & Other Flora Planted

# TACKLING THE SDGS

Incorporating the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals is key for The Peace Department's programmatic efforts. We asked our partner organizations to integrate SDG targets and sub-targets into their activations as we sought to include at least 2 Goals-per event to ensure maximized impact.

<p><b>1</b> NO POVERTY</p>	<p><b>Bedouin Women for Themselves</b></p>	<p><b>11</b> SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>	<p>Bedouin Women for Themselves</p>
<p><b>2</b> ZERO HUNGER</p>	<p><b>DAILY TABLE</b></p>	<p><b>12</b> RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p>	<p>Bedouin Women for Themselves</p>
<p><b>3</b> GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>		<p><b>13</b> CLIMATE ACTION</p>	<p>Bedouin Women for Themselves</p>
<p><b>4</b> QUALITY EDUCATION</p>	<p><b>Bedouin Women for Themselves</b></p>	<p><b>14</b> LIFE BELOW WATER</p>	<p>Bedouin Women for Themselves</p>
<p><b>5</b> GENDER EQUALITY</p>		<p><b>15</b> LIFE ON LAND</p>	<p>Bedouin Women for Themselves</p>
<p><b>7</b> AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p>	<p><b>CampusPHI</b></p>	<p><b>16</b> PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>	
<p><b>10</b> REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p>	<p>Bedouin Women for Themselves</p>	<p><b>17</b> PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p>	

The Peace Department strives to tackle SDG 17 in all its initiatives, as we see cross-sector collaboration as the only way to achieve sustainable development and the 2023 Agenda.

# CONCLUSION

The Peace Department's Together for Peace 2024 Earth Day Campaign brought together thousands of people and hundreds of youth to care for our shared home and create a positive change in their communities.



## Micro-Grants to Maximize Impact

Micro grants maximize impact by providing targeted, accessible funding that empowers individuals and small organizations to drive meaningful change within their communities, often with innovative and localized solutions.



## Youth is key for change

Young people bring fresh perspectives, innovative ideas, and a long-term commitment to addressing environmental, social, and economic challenges, ensuring a resilient and inclusive future.



## Collaboration is vital

Cross-sector collaboration fosters the exchange of knowledge, resources, and diverse perspectives, enabling comprehensive and effective solutions to complex global challenges.

**"It's the little things citizens do. That's what will make the difference."  
- Wangari Maathai**



# PARTNER APPENDIX

Organization	Activity / Project
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**Bedouin Women for Themselves**

On April 28, 2024, an Earth-themed event was held with over 50 children and 25 mothers participating in nature-based activities, including educational discussions, crafts, and painting a collaborative fabric artwork. The event aimed to teach children about environmental stewardship and the climate crisis, culminating in waste collection and recycling activities. Participants were delighted, expressing interest in more community partnerships, and the event addressed Sustainable Development Goals 1, 4, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 15, fostering educational and community impacts.

**CampusPHI**

On April 22, Earth Day was celebrated at CampusPHI with 40 participants engaging in various activities, including a guided tour, planting aromatic plants, acroyoga, a vegetarian lunch, a forest bath, and installing nesting boxes for birds. The event also promoted several Sustainable Development Goals, including climate action, ecosystem health, clean energy, and well-being, while fostering environmental awareness and community connection.



On April 22nd, Earth Day, Daily Table hosted an event with community partners The Food Project, Brewer’s Crackers, and Cindy’s Kitchen to promote environmental stewardship and food security. Customers received complimentary seedlings from The Food Project and learned about the benefits of growing their own crops, while sampling sustainable products from Brewer’s Crackers and Cindy’s Kitchen. The event fostered community connections and highlighted sustainable practices, with 160 participants planting vegetables and gaining knowledge about food self-sufficiency, sustainable agriculture, and supporting local businesses.

# PARTNER APPENDIX

## Organization

## Activity / Project



The Earth Day celebration hosted by Ecopeace Educations on April 22, 2024, unified a diverse community to advocate for peace and climate action. The event featured a heartfelt address by Greshma Raju, founder of Ecopeace Teen Café, followed by the launch of the Ecopeace Intergenerational Movement for Peace and Climate Action, led by Sally Mahe of the United Religions Initiative. Highlights included the inauguration of the Ecopeace garden, sapling planting, a short film screening, and a communal dinner, fostering bonds of camaraderie among 31 local participants and 15 global leaders online, with positive feedback and a commitment to sustainability.



From April 22 to 26, Education Plus hosted a series of Earth Day events, starting with a recycling fair where 120 children presented garbage cans they made, followed by neighborhood clean-up and mural proposal presentations. High school students attended talks on pollution, and the week concluded with a reforestation activity at Mombacho volcano farm. The events involved 300 students and 120 adults, collected 82 pounds of waste, planted 50 trees, and received positive feedback, promoting environmental awareness and community involvement.



On April 18, 2024, The Peace Department supported the Earth Day celebration at Family Life Academy Charter School I in The Bronx. 400 elementary school students and 20 school staff learned the importance of reducing plastic consumption and how waste can be used for art with plastic pollution artist Alejandro Durán. South Bronx Unite also shared a presentation on pollution and air quality and their work around the Bronx with their air quality testers. Students received seedlings to take home, planting pencils with basil seeds, and the school worked on a garden revival continuing the efforts of Earth Day 2023.

# PARTNER APPENDIX

Organization	Activity / Project
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On April 22, 2024, the Komera team and local communities, including staff, teen mothers in the tailoring program, and post-secondary students, gathered to promote climate justice by planting trees and grass at the Komera Leadership Center. The event featured discussions on environmental conservation, the causes of soil degradation, and the impact of deforestation, aiming to raise awareness and engage participants in protecting the environment. A total of 75 participants, predominantly female youth, planted 94 fruit trees to combat future malnutrition, expanded children’s play areas, and extended security lighting, all contributing to sustainable development and community well-being.



**+ Micah Table**

On Earth Day, The Peace Department collaborated with Bishop Ray Rivera’s Latino Pastoral Action Center and Micah Table interfaith group to bring the only ecological interfaith event in NYC. The 65 community members celebrated our shared home with a gathering at Union Theological Seminary. Leaders from Jewish, Christian, and Buddhist faiths, along with Karenni Gore, delivered special remarks, emphasizing the importance of Mother Earth, the teachings embedded in spiritual teachings, and the unity needed to protect it among humanity. Special performance by the NYC Labor Chorus elevated the gathering, and a post-event reception created the opportunity to further partake in conversations around this topic with like-minded attendees in the interfaith and ecology space.



On April 20, 2024, we hosted a cleanup event in Piñones, Puerto Rico, beginning with an orientation on local coastal ecosystems and waste sorting. 76 participants, including students, teachers, and local business staff, collected and sorted 500 pounds of waste from the beach and mangrove forest, with recyclable materials properly disposed of or repurposed. The event concluded with a reflection and educational talk by LimPiaR’s educators on waste reduction, contributing to a cleaner environment and raising community awareness on responsible waste management.

# PARTNER APPENDIX

Organization	Activity / Project
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Muslim Hands organized a comprehensive Earth Day celebration in 2024 across schools in Pakistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and Afghanistan, engaging 35,000 community members, in over 10,000 students in various sustainability initiatives. Activities included speeches, cleanliness drives, waste management, poster campaigns, plantation drives, and plastic-free campaigns, all aimed at fostering environmental stewardship and inspiring community action. This cross-border collaboration, amplified through social media, underscored the collective power of youth in driving climate action and highlighted the importance of global cooperation in protecting the planet.



**Kisumu**

One Vibe Media was able to engage the region in a series of activations that led to working with 20+ partner organizations, government on the local and national level, and various municipalities to tackle plastics pollution in the region. 950 participants, including 647 young people, came together to clean up Lake Victoria at Hippo Point, attend an Eco-Fashion show to bring awareness to plastics pollution and single-use plastics waste, and create a system with the local municipalities to tackle plastic waste in the region. The later part of the event was impacted by the flooding of Lake Victoria which further amplified the message of how climate change is impacting the communities/countries surrounding the lake at scale.



**Bujumbura**

Madaraka Eco Fashion Bujumbura was a partnership with Jean-Pierre "Kidum" Nimbona who is a Burundian musician. He was named Best Male Artist of East Africa at the 2012 Kora Awards. He was named as an Ambassador for Peace, a position that helps to foster hope and reconciliation in East Africa. Madaraka Eco Fashion Bujumbura featured clean-up activities along the shores of Lake Tanganyika in Bujumbura and a live acoustic performance by Kidum that attracted over 1,257 participants, including 859 young people. Overall, the event created awareness about climate change and how it is affecting the country, and the pollution of Lake Tanganyika and the surrounding region. It was followed by a community-wide clean-up paired with a fashion show to bring awareness to issues around single-use plastics.

# PARTNER APPENDIX

## Organization

## Activity / Project



Oceanic, Clean Miami, and 1 Hotel collaborated with the Peace Department to host an Earth Day cleanup on April 19, 2024, at Miami Beach. The event brought together around 100 volunteers who collectively collected 107 pounds of waste. After the cleanup, volunteers gathered at Tala Beach at 1 Hotel South Beach for community drinks, where they connected with like-minded individuals to discuss the importance of the oceans, Earth Day, and climate action.



With support from The Pad Project, SumArth has been operating a disposable pad-making unit in Bihar, India since 2020, and has initiated a menstrual cups program to offer a more sustainable option. In collaboration with The Peace Department, SumArth created a cohort of 15 women leaders who received free menstrual cups and training on body literacy and hygienic use, with plans to train an additional 15 women. Community women reported positive experiences with the menstrual cups, noting they are economical and easy to use, and the education programs have significantly increased awareness and body literacy. By the end of 2024, the program aims to reach at least 100 girls and women with menstrual cups and 3,000 girls and women with menstrual health awareness, fostering long-term educational and community impact.



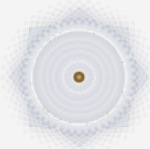
On April 25, 2024, Planting Peace founder and CNN Hero, Aaron Jackson, partnered with the Peace Department to address the critical issue of ocean pollution. Team members spent time off the West Coast of Florida, utilizing a specialized trash-seeking boat to collect ocean plastic and other debris. In a matter of a couple of hours, combined efforts resulted in the collection of approximately 30 pounds of waste.

# PARTNER APPENDIX

Organization	Activity / Project
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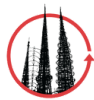
Year 7 kids at the Sadhguru school in the village of Kayakatama , bringing together over 100 youth and 250 community members, partake in a number of activities for Earth Day. The community led plastic clean-ups, created an educational program focusing on waste management and environmental sustainability, set up a small biogas facility working with a Ugandan Undergraduate student at Northwestern University, and installed compost and recycling bins throughout the local communities to help tackle the waste problems in the region. The kids worked closely with local leaders and government to ensure waste management within these communities and sustainable practices would continue beyond Earth Day.



The Universal Peace Sanctuary

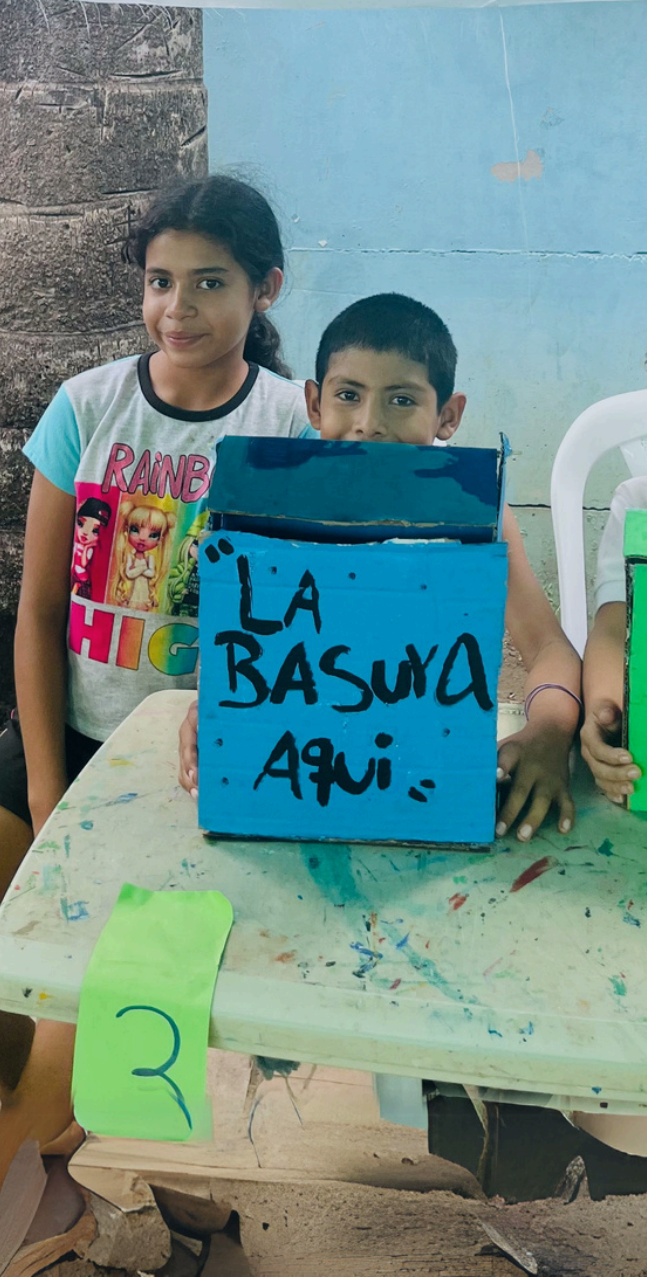
**x Shaylpa Monastery**

The three-day Heritage Clean-Up Campaign in Kathmandu, Nepal, held in collaboration with the Peace Dept. for Earth Day, was a great success. From April 20 to 22, over 300 volunteers, including students, locals, NGOs, politicians, foreigners, celebrities, and monks, cleaned sacred sites Swoyambhu, Pashupatinath, and Boudha. Participants were organized into groups to collect and sort ~545 pounds of plastic, glass, metal, textiles, paper, and waste, followed by a closing ceremony with refreshments and a dance circle; feedback was overwhelmingly positive, inspiring future regular clean-up events.



**WATTS**  
EMPOWERMENT CENTER

On April 20th, the Watts community came together for an Earth Day Celebration, starting with a cleanup effort and a fun game of trash BINGO, aimed at finding plastic waste. Approximately 150 people, including 90 young attendees aged 4-18, participated in activities like trash collection, raffles, a softball game, and a BBQ. Over 200 bags of trash were collected, highlighting the community's commitment to sustainability, while discussions focused on Sustainable Development Goals such as promoting good health, responsible consumption, climate action, and preserving life below water.



We extend our heartfelt thanks for your incredible support in our Together for Peace Earth Day 2024 Climate Action Campaign. Your dedication and contributions were vital to our success.

To our partners, thank you for your collaboration and expertise. To the participants, your enthusiasm, and actions made a significant impact. To our donors, your generosity made our efforts possible.

Together, we are making a significant impact on our environment and community. Thank you for making this Earth Day truly remarkable.



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