

Scouts for SDGs Final Evaluation

July 2023



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World Scout Foundation
Fondation du Scoutisme Mondial



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Creating a Better World

Foreword

Around the globe, Scouts have answered an urgent call to action to contribute to the development of their communities by making the world's largest coordinated youth contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Since 2018, Scouts for SDGs has mobilised millions of Scouts from around the world to take direct action to tackle the most pressing challenges facing our planet and young people today. The initiative has also equipped National Scout Organizations and young people with the skills, competencies, resources, and tools lead change in their communities and beyond.

The Scouts for SDGs initiative was built on a longstanding partnership between Alwaleed Philanthropies, the World Scout Foundation, and the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) with a focus on promoting youth-led sustainable development, increasing volunteerism, and raising awareness about the most important global issues of our time. Scouts for SDGs is also a global mobilisation effort to inspire and enable young people through Scouting's educational programme and local projects to be global citizens who are taking action for the SDGs worldwide.

This evaluation focuses on measuring the impact of the Scouts for SDGs initiative since its inception. Conducted by Owl RE, an external evaluation and research consultant company, the evaluation demonstrates the results and return on investment of the Scouts for SDGs initiative, while also highlighting key lessons that can enhance the Scouts for SDGs mobilisation effort for the future.

We are grateful to HRH Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal, Chairman of Alwaleed Philanthropies, and HRH Princess Lamia Bint Majid Al Saud, Secretary General of Alwaleed Philanthropies, for their unwavering commitment to invest in young people and their communities through Scouting. We would also like to thank all National Scout Organization leadership, Scout Leaders, and Scouts for activating this incredible mobilisation effort and contributing to the evaluation.

While this evaluation marks a key milestone of the initiative and its remarkable achievements, we look forward to seeing how millions of Scouts around the world will continue to learn, develop their skills, and take action to transform lives and communities through their contributions to the SDGs.



Mark Knippenberg

Chief Executive Officer
World Scout Foundation



Ahmad Alhendawi

Secretary General
World Organization of the
Scout Movement

Executive summary

Since its launch in 2018, Scouts for SDGs has successfully mobilised millions of young people around the world to take direct action in their communities and tackle the biggest issues facing our planet and young people today.

Building on Scouting's long tradition of non-formal education and developing resilience, community engagement and skills for life, the initiative has been a catalyst for development across the Scout Movement through the three core pillars of Inspire, Enable and Deliver.

Scouts for SDGs began as a six-year partnership with a budget of USD 3.9 million provided by Alwaleed Philanthropies. The initiative aimed to be implemented worldwide and to inspire and motivate 54 million young women and men, 20-30% of whom were to be from the Africa and Arab Scout Regions. In addition to the funded project activities supported by Alwaleed Philanthropies, Scouts for SDGs also aimed to inspire and motivate Scouts worldwide to carry out SDGs activities that were not funded by the initiative. The evaluation used a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods collating data and information from Scouts, leaders, and WOSM staff. In total, information and data was consulted from 164 out of 173 recognised National Scout Organisations (NSOs), representing 95% of all NSOs.

Scouts for SDGs-funded activities have positively inspired, informed, and motivated NSOs in all regions to take non-funded actions towards achieving the SDGs. Together with contributions from other WOSM initiatives, NSOs, and Scouts themselves, the Scouts for SDGs initiative has had extensive reach across the Scouting Movement and in the communities in which Scouts live and volunteer:

- 164 NSOs have integrated Scouts for SDGs in their youth programmes
- 73 NSOs have benefited from funded projects under Scouts for SDGs
- Over 60,000 participants in funded projects under Scouts for SDGs
- Over 112 million participants in non-funded actions under Scouts for SDGs
- 112 funded capacity building and community projects
- Over 16.4 million non-funded actions for the SDGs
- Over 2.7 billion service hours carried out in non-funded actions under Scouts for SDGs
- Over 521,000 service hours carried out in funded projects under Scouts for SDGs
- Estimated 5 million beneficiaries of funded projects under Scouts for SDGs
- Estimated 7.9 million beneficiaries of national action plans funded by Scouts for SDGs

Inspire supported millions of young people in gaining awareness about the SDGs through communication, outreach, advocacy, training, and education and, consequently, motivating them to take action. Scouts for SDGs supported the development of four World Initiatives from WOSM: Earth Tribe, Peace and Community Engagement, Skills for Life (launching in 2023), and Health and Wellbeing (launching in 2023).

“

Scouts for SDGs brings new activities with a new approach. It's exciting and engaging for the young people and, even more importantly, our Scouts feel it is worthwhile for themselves and the planet, which is their future - Scout leader from Madagascar

”

Enable focused on strengthening the capacity of NSOs, directly supporting 62 NSOs in improving the delivery of quality Scouting through growing membership, strengthening governance, structures, and strategic planning, expanding resource mobilisation and partnership, and implementing storytelling for SDGs.

“

The capacity building provided by Scouts for SDGs led to concrete changes within our NSO. For example, we now have many more women and young people in decision-making roles - NSO staff from Tunisia

”

Deliver supported Scouts in taking millions of actions in their own communities and actively contributing to the SDGs. While the vast majority of these actions were not funded by Scouts for SDGs, they were often part of an NSO's programmes or initiatives and drew from the Scouts for SDGs materials, resources, training, or guidance.

“

Scouts are helping to create a safe and healthy environment. By implementing the SDGs, the boys and girls are developing into decent citizens to give something back to their community. They are the future and the backbone of the community - Scout leader from India

”

Value for money



The Scouts for SDGs projects demonstrated good value for money. The average number of beneficiaries per funded project was 45,716 persons, indicating that the average amount spent per beneficiary reached was USD 0.40. A comparison of the activity level between funded to non-funded projects showed that for every funded project there were some 15,000 non-funded actions, and that for every funded service hour there were some 500 non-funded service hours recorded.



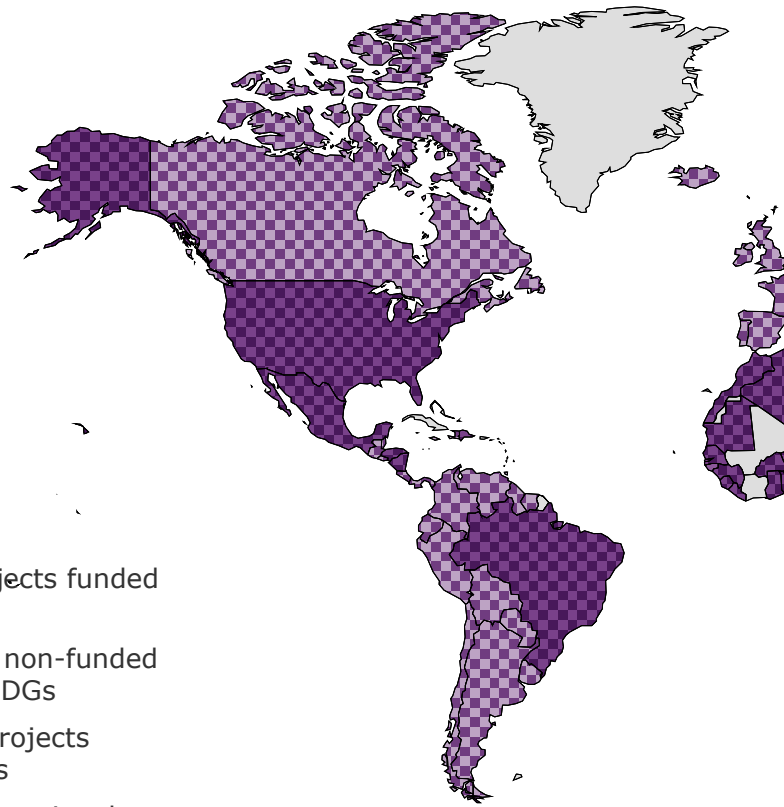
For Scouts for SDGs to better meet the needs of NSOs, the following actions are proposed:

- In supporting WOSM World Initiatives, Scouts for SDGs should ensure that a standard set of pre-tested resources are available and accessible that have been adapted to the varying levels of SDG integration of NSOs.
- In supporting the community-level projects of NSOs, Scouts for SDGs should consider larger funding allocations and extending them to regions other than the Arab and Africa regions, as well as providing guidance to NSOs on the priorities of Scouts for SDGs.
- In reinforcing the capacities of NSOs, Scouts for SDGs should consider funding a system / mechanism to better monitor and track the capacity development of priority NSOs.
- In advocating globally and regionally on key SDGs issues, Scouts for SDGs should work with global and regional youth representatives to develop a set of priority areas, identify opportunities for influence, and create relevant policy briefs to ensure consistent messaging.
- In supporting the “backbone” of Scouts for SDGs, funding should be continued for the Scouts for SDGs hub, grant management, communication activities, World Initiatives, reporting, and monitoring and evaluation. Suggestions for improving project processes and efficiency, as found in the evaluation report, should be considered.

Our reach and impact

Global reach

- **95% of NSOs** have integrated SDGs into their youth programmes
- **73 NSOs** have benefited from projects funded by Scouts for SDGs
- 7.6 million people reached through Scouts communication channels
- 1 million followers on social media



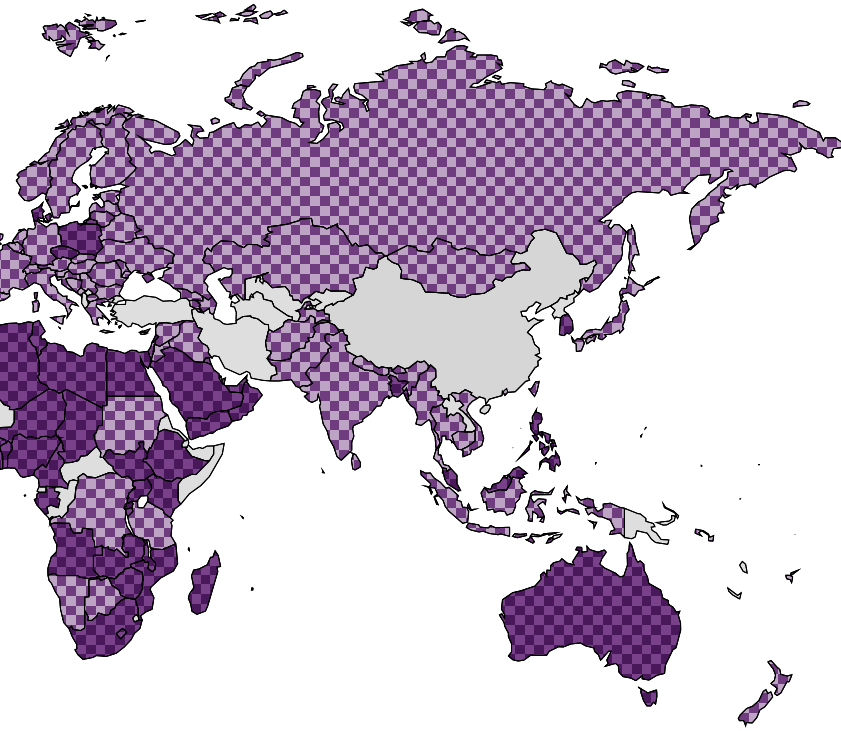
Youth engagement

- 60,000 participants in projects funded by Scouts for SDGs
- 112 million participants in non-funded actions under Scouts for SDGs
- 5 million beneficiaries of projects funded by Scouts for SDGs
- 7.9 million beneficiaries of national action plans funded by Scouts for SDGs

Value for money

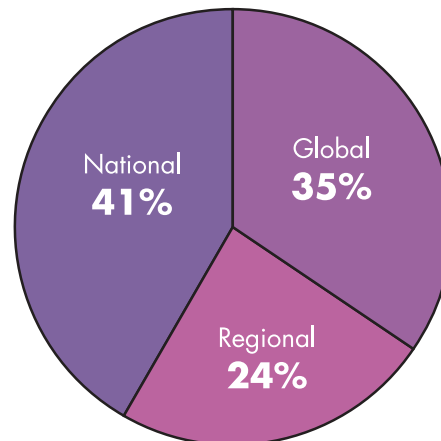
- USD 0.40 spent per beneficiary reached by funded projects
- USD 0.001 spent per beneficiary reached by non-funded projects
- USD 0.17 spent per non-funded project
- 948 service hours carried out by non-funded projects for every USD 1 spent
- 0.3 service hours carried out by funded projects for every USD 1 spent

Impact - Snapshot



Funded projects

- 135 funded projects
 - 69 capacity building projects
 - 66 community development projects
- 521,000 service hours carried out by Scouts



Scouts for SDG budget: 2018-2023 – by geographical usage

Non-funded projects

- 20,000 posts from Scouts sharing projects online
- 16.4 million SDGs actions delivered
- 2.7 billion SDGs service hours carried out



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