

THE JTI FOUNDATION NEWS

A dog handler from JTI Foundation's Peace Winds Japan Search and Rescue team practices at the Jinsekikogen Town training center, Hiroshima prefecture.



Welcome to the JTI Foundation's first newsletter!

This is not a comprehensive review of all the Foundation's activities – but rather a snapshot of the status of ongoing projects and partnerships that have recently been developed.

A number of themes emerge from our choices, including our commitment to promoting disaster preparedness and relief programming, our focus on smaller scale innovative projects for which the JTI Foundation's support makes a real difference, and developing long term relationships with our partners.

As the number and scope of our projects grow, we look forward to sharing more about their achievements with you in a format that we hope you will find both accessible and engaging.

For those of you who would like to know more about the JTI Foundation's work, please visit our website www.jtifoundation.org



"Women on the move" participants take part in a football game seeking to help women affected by years of conflict in South Sudan become more confident and resilient.

On the border

PSYCHOSOCIAL PROGRAM IN SOUTH SUDAN

The JTI Foundation's support for the 'Women on the move' program is now a year old. Developed by the Swiss Academy for Development (SAD) and local partner South Sudan Psychosocial Program (SSPP), it provides psychosocial support particularly focused on the needs of South Sudanese women in Kajo Keji County, in the aftermath of the country's long running conflict.

Two JTI Foundation representatives made a fascinating journey to South Sudan.

Since inception, the project has helped 500 women develop self-confidence and life-skills through sport- and play-based activities – building community cohesion and resilience as a result.

To learn more about the project and evaluate its progress, two JTI Foundation representatives — made a fascinating journey to South Sudan's border with Uganda. Not only did they witness an inaugural football match for women – they discovered that the program has sparked widespread interest in sport- and play-based therapies across the community.

A welcome start

THE JTI FOUNDATION SAR AND RAPID RESPONSE WORKSHOP—ISTANBUL



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Meet our new partner!

Asie-Tana/Inter-Aide, (ATIA), an affiliate of Versailles-based NGO Inter-Aide, is a new partner of the JTI Foundation. Founded in 2008 to address the humanitarian needs of Asia's urban poor, ATIA has – with the JTI Foundation's support – developed a comprehensive program to improve the resilience of communities in two of Metro Manila's slums to natural disasters, including typhoons and floods.

This project has some interesting features, and we are very eager to follow how it unfolds. In particular, it is developing an innovative Family Budget and Savings Program. Research suggests these schemes allow the very poorest to recover more quickly after disasters – and in more normal times, encourage saving towards healthcare and education.

Over the weekend of June 7 and 9, longstanding JTI Foundation partner GEA hosted a workshop bringing together four organizations specializing in Search and Rescue (SAR) operations.

The organization of this Workshop stems from the thought that the JTI Foundation partners with four world-class disaster relief organizations, Turkey's GEA, Switzerland's REDOG, UK-based ShelterBox, and Peace Winds Japan.

Each has different specialisms – at the same time, they often face similar challenges deploying – around issues such as access, logistics and security.

In this framework, the JTI Foundation wanted to provide a platform through which these partners could share experiences, and perhaps in time resources, to improve their operational effectiveness, and ultimately exploring potential synergies.

The workshop, which began with a day of presentations and brainstorming sessions, was followed by a Sunday morning tour of GEA's impressively realistic training ground on the outskirts of Istanbul.

The formal Saturday session generated some interesting feedback and all

organizations left confident in the thought that there are needs for cooperation particularly in speed of deployment and ground logistics.

Umut Dinçşahin GEA's Coordinator, agreed the workshop was a useful first step. "We'll be continuing bilateral conversations with the other partners to see where specific opportunities lie".

REDOG Vice President and volunteer Ivo Cathomen suggested that "further workshops would be useful, particularly if focused on specific areas of mutual interest".

For the JTI Foundation, this workshop was a platform through which to know its partners better and to help promote their capacity to respond to disasters. The JTI Foundation will continue facilitating, if need be, any collaboration that has emerged from this two-day pilot program.

In the meantime, the JTI Foundation management team hopes that there will soon be more interesting news to report on this novel initiative.

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