

## PRESS RELEASE

# MASH Project Foundation wins Goalkeepers Global Goals Award 2020 by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, USA

**New Delhi, September 23, 2020** – [MASH Project Foundation](#) (MASH) is the recipient of Goalkeepers Global Goals by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for its work on empowering young people towards UN Sustainable Development Goals (Global Goals). MASH is the winner of **The 2020 Campaign Award**, which celebrates a campaign that has raised awareness or built a community by inspiring action and creating change, recognizes the work done by MASH for furthering global cooperation and partnership (Global Goal #17).

“While the pandemic and the inequalities it highlights will undoubtedly define this era, the world is seeing the very best of humanity emerge,” said Melinda Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. “We’re inspired by the energy and drive of this year’s award winners to create a safer, healthier, and more equitable world.”

### **About Goalkeepers**

[Goalkeepers](#) is the Gates Foundation's campaign to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (Global Goals). By sharing stories and data behind the Global Goals through an annual report, it hopes to inspire a new generation of leaders—Goalkeepers who raise awareness of progress, hold their leaders accountable, and drive action to achieve the Global Goals.

The annual Goalkeepers Summit has attracted high-level speakers including Bill and Melinda Gates; President Barack Obama, Prime Minister Jacinda Arden; Prime Minister Erna Solberg; Prime Minister Justin Trudeau; Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Amina Mohammed; Executive Director of UNICEF, Henrietta H. Fore; Richard Curtis; Priyanka Chopra; Christiane Amanpour; Angélique Kidjo; Trevor Noah; Malala Yousafzai and Naomi Campbell.

Past performers at the Awards ceremony include award winning choreographer, Sherrie Silver; Ed Sheeran, Fatoumata Diawara and Lily Allen.

Past recipients of the Global Goals Awards include Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Aya Chebbi, African Union Youth Envoy; Gregory Rockson, Founder mPharma; Nadia Murad, 2018 Nobel Peace Prize winner; Amika George, Period Poverty campaigner; Ria Sharma, Founder Make Love Not Scars and Yusra Mardini.

### **Goalkeepers Global Goals Award 2020**

This year’s Global Goals Awards are presented to Aashish Beerg of MASH Project Foundation from India, Hauwa Ojeifo of Nigeria, Bonita Sharma of Nepal and Dr. John N. Nkengasong, Director of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC). Each was recognized for playing a role in addressing the effects of COVID-19 in their communities. More details about each of the awards and their winners follows.

**The 2020 Global Goalkeeper Award** recognizes an established individual demonstrating significant commitment to health and development, specifically in response to the pandemic. The award is being presented to Dr. Nkengasong, a central voice for Africa’s scientific community. As co-chair of the [Africa CDC Consortium for COVID-19 Vaccine Clinical Trials \(CONCVACT\)](#), Dr. Nkengasong is leading the securement of a variety of late-stage vaccine clinical trials on the continent by bringing together global vaccine developers, funders, and local facilitators. This work will be vital to ensure that the most promising vaccine candidates for the African population are identified and scaled up.

**The 2020 Changemaker Award**, which celebrates an individual who has inspired change using personal experience or from a position of leadership, recognizes Hauwa Ojeifo of Nigeria for her work promoting gender equality (Global Goal #5). Ojeifo is a sexual and domestic abuse survivor and the founder of [She Writes Woman](#), a women-led movement giving the issue of mental health a voice in Nigeria.

**The 2020 Progress Award**, which celebrates an individual who supports progress via a science, technology, digital, or business initiative, recognizes Bonita Sharma of Nepal for her work promoting good health and well-being (Global Goal #3). Sharma is the co-founder and CEO of [Social Changemakers and Innovators](#) (SOCHAI), a youth-led nonprofit working to improve the nutritional health of nursing mothers and young children and to economically empower marginalized women through business opportunities.

**The 2020 Campaign Award**, which celebrates a campaign that has raised awareness or built a community by inspiring action and creating change, recognizes the [MASH Project Foundation](#) and its founder & CEO Aashish Beergi for furthering global cooperation and partnership (Global Goal #17).

The foundation also announced two dynamic, cross-sector partnerships called Goalkeepers **Accelerators**. These partnerships catalyze progress by bringing together partners from different sectors to pool their collective investment, knowledge, and big ideas to tackle one or more of the SDGs. The 2020 Accelerators—led by Sanergy and Educate!—are actively helping stem the spread of COVID-19 in Kenya while defending against the ripple effects of the pandemic on the country's economy and a multitude of health issues.

**Safe Sanitation for a Healthy, Sustainable World:** Led by [Sanergy](#), this Accelerator will scale access to safe sanitation services in Kenya's informal settlements and help stop the spread of COVID-19 by providing soap, PPE and hand-washing education for residents, with the goal of reaching 1.3 million Kenyans by 2025. As part of this Accelerator, Sanergy will expand to Kisumu—Kenya's third-largest city and the company's first market outside of Nairobi—to bring its proven sanitation services to 300,000 Kisumu residents by 2025. Partners involved in this Accelerator driving progress toward SDG 6 include the Kisumu and Nairobi county governments, the Kisumu Water and Sanitation Company (KIWASCO), AFD, and Who Gives a Crap.

**Preparing Youth to Thrive in the Informal Economy:** This Accelerator, led by [Educate!](#), will launch a new series of skills-based, intensive training bootcamps to provide a pathway to a safe and sustainable livelihood by equipping out-of-school youth with the skills they need to succeed in Kenya's high-growth informal economy. Partners involved in this Accelerator driving progress toward SDG 8 include the Kenyan ministries of health and trade, Accenture Development Partners, Aspira, the Atlassian Foundation, Imaginable Futures, the Ray & Tye Noorda Foundation, Rippleworks Foundation, Sendy, the Umsizi Fund, and the Waterloo Foundation.

The announcement of the Goalkeepers Global Goals Awards and the Accelerators follows the release last week of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's annual [Goalkeepers Report](#). This year's report shows how economic damage caused by COVID-19 has reinforced inequities and derailed achievement of the Global Goals, but also spotlights countries innovating to meet the challenge and outlines a path for a shared global response.

Biographies, images, and a film of the Goalkeepers Global Goal Award winners can be downloaded at: [www.gatesfoundation.org/goalkeepers/about-event/awards](http://www.gatesfoundation.org/goalkeepers/about-event/awards)

More information and a video about this year's Goalkeepers Accelerators can be found at: <https://www.gatesfoundation.org/goalkeepers/accelerators>

#### **About MASH Project Foundation**

MASH Project Foundation is a social enterprise based out of New Delhi, India. The organisation focuses on the SDG 17, Partnerships for the Goals, and has thus, created a unique model of empowering youth by engaging with various stakeholders including Civil Society Organisations, Corporations, Policymakers, and Media to bring them together for facilitating a higher

degree of engagement and taking action towards partnerships that create greater impact. As part of an unique ecosystem-building model for the youth, it undertakes a diverse set of initiatives focusing on spreading awareness, educating, skilling and co-creating programmes with leading organisations that empowers young people.

**About the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**

Guided by the belief that every life has equal value, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation works to help all people lead healthy, productive lives. In developing countries, it focuses on improving people’s health and giving them the chance to lift themselves out of hunger and extreme poverty. In the United States, it seeks to ensure that all people—especially those with the fewest resources—have access to the opportunities they need to succeed in school and life. Based in Seattle, Washington, the foundation is led by CEO Mark Suzman and Co-chair William H. Gates Sr., under the direction of Bill and Melinda Gates and Warren Buffett.

**About the Global Goals**

On September 25, 2015, at the United Nations headquarters in New York, 193 world leaders committed to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (Global Goals). These are a series of ambitious objectives and targets to achieve three extraordinary things by 2030: end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and fix climate change.

**Media Kit can be found at:** <http://bit.ly/MASHGoalkeepers>

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