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UNIDO Brussels REPORT

UNIDO - EU
PHOTOGRAPHY
EXHIBITION

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UNIDO BRUSSELS Report

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FOREWORD

It was our honor to gather people from all around the world to enjoy an experience of trust, respect, and innovation.

By inviting Mrs. Elisabetta Lattanzio Illy, UNIDO Goodwill Ambassador, journalist and photographer, we wanted to have a look at UNIDO – EU collaboration from a different angle. Stepping back from numbers and formal agreements, we wanted to address the question of Partnership for Respect.

Through policy convergence and technical cooperation in the field of inclusive and sustainable industrial development, the partnership between UNIDO and the EU is one of hope, one of respect for local communities, especially women and youth, for the environment, for entrepreneurship, and more broadly respect for all. The pictures selected for the exhibition showed that very essence.

In this exhibition experience, visitors took a step forward to contemplate the pictures. Just like in development, if we wish to see challenges addressed, and

solutions proposed, there is no other way but “get close”, watch sensibly, and then align with correct pace and dimension.

The small size of the pictures illustrated the small steps needed to achieve big changes. This is precisely what UNIDO – EU partnership is about: concrete actions on the ground, joint projects, large impacts on people and on the planet.



**Patrick Gilabert, UNIDO
Representative to the European
Union, OACPS and Belgium**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization ([UNIDO](#)) and the European Union (EU) organized a [photo exhibition](#) at [2020 Dubai Universal Exposition](#) (UAE), at the [Austria Pavilion](#) – Opportunity District – running from 23-25 October 2021.

This event was built as an innovative way to experience the UNIDO-EU partnership for inclusive and sustainable industrial development. By inviting the UNIDO Goodwill Ambassador, journalist and photographer, Elisabetta Lattanzio Illy share her vision of the partnership, the EU and UNIDO wanted to “step back from numbers and formal agreements and look at the collaboration from the human centric perspective”, as Patrick Gilabert, UNIDO Representative to the European Union explained.

For the artist, there is no better ways than telling stories. “In a world on the brick of the edge, possibly and hopefully undergoing an epochal transformation, we are in dire need of stories to be told. To open our eyes. To inspire our minds. To power our actions. To motivate our commitment,” she said.

The exhibition showcased a selection of success stories from all around the world which illustrates the essence of the collaboration: a “[Partnership of Respect](#)”. As pointed out by the organizers, “The partnership between UNIDO and the EU is one of hope, one of respect for local communities, especially women and youth, for the environment, for entrepreneurship, and more broadly respect for all.”

The opening ceremony of the exhibition took place on Saturday 23rd (11.30 GST) in the framework of [European Union Honour Day](#). It gathered high-level guests including Wolfgang Sobotka, President of the Austrian Parliament, Maher Nasser, UN Commissioner General Expo Dubai joining the hosts of the exhibition Elisabetta Illy, UNIDO Goodwill ambassador, Patrick Gilabert, UNIDO Representative to the EU, and Stephan Klement, EU Ambassador to UNIDO in Vienna.

In this report you will find a description of the context in which the photo exhibition took place, details of the content of the exhibition, a summary of the other events which UNIDO took part in, as well as a list of references to learn more.

CONTEXT

EXPO2020 “Connecting minds, creating the future”

Expo 2020 is a world's fair holding in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022. Event of international scope, bringing together 192 countries, the exhibition is expected to welcome 25 million visitors over 182 days. The main objective of the event is to present to the world new ideas, inventions and innovations that aim to respond to the planet's challenges.

It is the largest global event since the beginning of the pandemic. Its size and the chosen focus, "sustainable development, mobility and opportunities", present important visibility opportunities for UNIDO.

In 2017, UNIDO and EXPO Dubai 2020 signed a Memorandum of Understanding on strengthening joint cooperation. Click [here](#) for more information.

It should also be remembered that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will host the fourth Global

Manufacturing and Industrialisation Summit ([GMIS](#)) from November 22 to November 27 at the site of Expo 2020 Dubai.



Under the theme of "Rewiring societies: repurposing digitisation for prosperity", the event will provide a platform for leaders from the global manufacturing and technology sectors to discuss the future challenges of Industry 4.0.

Expo Dubai 2020 is at the heart of current industrial concerns. In a context of transformation of economic models, cooperation between UNIDO and the actors gravitating around this event is a priority.

EU Honour Day

[EU Honour Day](#) took place at Expo Dubai on Saturday 23 October 2021, 09:30 to 20:00, and aimed at promoting European unity, diversity and solidarity. It was a series of events organised jointly by the EEAS, European Institutions and the EU Member States.

This flagship day was also an opportunity to strengthen multilateralism and global sustainable partnerships. Besides the more traditional public diplomacy outreach activities during the EU Honour Day, there is an important role given to EU cultural diplomacy.

It will not only show EU diversity and harmony but also highlight EU policies and the importance of multilateralism and global sustainable partnerships.

All these events are woven into each other in the public areas at EXPO2020 and in the 27 pavilions of the EU Member States

UNIDO's photography exhibition was invited to be one of the 20 official events taking place on EU Honour Day, to highlight the success of the EU-UNIDO partnership.

This event was a special occasion to celebrate the partnership between UNIDO and the EU, a "[Partnership of Respect](#)" for people and the planet.



Austria Pavilion

The exhibition was hosted in the [Austria Pavilion](#), a unique place at EXPO Dubai to embody sustainable development and to allow for experiences beyond words.



The "Austria makes sense" programme reflects a holistic and well-thought-out concept from the smart, sustainable architecture to the exhibition inside the pavilion and combines people, technology, and the environment in an engaging

experience for all senses. The Austrian pavilion is made from interlaced cones, plastered with loam rendering. The truncated cones are cut off at different heights, creating openings for light in varying sizes, which results in an impactful experience of the space. The Austrian pavilion brings the advantages of the combination of traditional and state-of-the-art building knowhow to life: pollutant-free, pleasant room climate, striking lighting ambiance, and spectacular and multifaceted room sequences.



PHOTO EXHIBITION “A PARTNERSHIP OF RESPECT”



The Photo Exhibition took place between 23 and 25 October in the Austria Pavilion. The photos selected were all realized by Elisabetta Illy, UNIDO Goodwill ambassador, reflecting the richness of the EU/UNIDO partnership



You will find a description of each of the photos presented at the exhibition in the annex. If you wish to download the event brochure, please scan the QR code.

UNIDO Goodwill ambassador: Elisabetta Illy

Elisabetta Lattanzio Illy is a journalist and photographer with over 25 years of experience advocating for equal dignity for all. Her devotion, commitment, and passion in stimulating sustainable development have brought her to be nominated as a UNIDO Goodwill Ambassador in 2019. She founded [Picture of Change](#), a photo agency, to share stories of positive Change from all over the world and raise awareness of the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals.



Elisabetta Illy's Vision

Tell me the facts and I'll learn. Tell me the truth and I'll believe. But tell me a story and it will live in my heart forever.

Stories move people. They bind us together. They challenge our assumptions.

And in a world on the brink of the edge, possibly and hopefully undergoing an epochal transformation, we are in dire need of stories to be told. To open our eyes. To inspire our minds. To power our actions. To motivate our commitment.

I am a photographer. I use photos to tell stories. I look for the situation that needs no words, that gets to you without further explanations.

For this occasion, though, I do want to spend some words on describing them better.

Because whilst we live in an era of systemic unsustainability, awareness is vital, as much as understanding is:



we can't shy away from our responsibilities. Awareness has to be a spur to act, to pursue ethical principles and behaviors that guide our common life.

I am honoured to be here to share with you some stories of women, men, youth and nature, that represent respect, hope, and heritage.

Stories that are representative of the values of the partnership of UNIDO and the EU. A partnership that is ever so important to demonstrate the power of collaboration in facing today's diverse, yet all so urgent challenges.

**Elisabetta Lattanzio Illy, UNIDO
Goodwill Ambassador**

Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony of the photo exhibition took place on 23 October 2021 at 11:30 (GST). Moderated by Patrick Gilabert, opening speeches were given by the organisers and partners of the exhibition. Each highlighted the importance of the joint work as well as the achievements of the UNIDO-EU partnership.

"This occasion is an opportunity for dialogue on the transformation of our economies. Industrial development in the 21st century must be sustainable and respectful. UNIDO continues to be a key player in this transformation, promoting and advocating the SDGs. Respect for all must be part of the future economic development of us all."



Wolfgang Sobotka, President of the Austrian Parliament



Elisabetta Lattanzio Illy, UNIDO Goodwill Ambassador

"It is an honour to be able to exhibit these pictures in the Austrian pavilion, a concrete example of sustainability and resilience. Through photography, you can identify what a population needs and then determine what you can offer. It is sometimes difficult to convince people to have their picture taken. But it is through dialogue that we will strengthen cooperation and promote mutual support. Respect must be the compass that guides our choices."

"The choice of photos to show respect is relevant because a photo is worth 1000 words. The UN promotes dignity and peace. Achieving the agenda for sustainable and inclusive development is our priority. We need to rethink how we are developing."



Nasser Maher, Commissioner-General of the United Nations at Expo 2020



Stephan Klement, EU Ambassador to UNIDO in Vienna

"When talking about this partnership, it is important to underline the mutual respect and dignity of our two organisations. The EU has been actively funding UNIDO's work for a long time now. I am proud to see this partnership growing stronger every year."

Results



A Global Event



About 40,000 visitors per day



Presence of many private and public sector actors

New cooperation opportunities

Increasing UNIDO's visibility



Future possibilities to replicate the event



STORY TELLING PANEL WITH UNIDO GOODWILL AMBASSADOR

On 25 October 2021, Elisabetta Illy was invited, in the framework of the UN campaign [#TheWorldWeWant](#) at the [Spain pavilion](#) to discuss “the power of visual storytelling”. Moderated by Maher Nasser, Commissioner-General of the UN at Expo 2020, the dialogue gathered Octavi Royo, Agora, Ragy Saro, Dignified Storytelling and Jayashri Wyatt, UN Department of Global Communication.



During the dialogue, Elisabetta Illy stressed the need to promote sustainable and inclusive development across the globe:

“2020 has exposed our weaknesses but it has also shown us our opportunities. Today, we are given the chance to recalibrate our world towards justice, equality and fairness for us, for the nature and for the planet. It is an opportunity we must not miss, but we all need to restart from respect.”

You can download the video [here](#)

STRENGTHENING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

With the European Union

The exhibition was jointly organized with the [EU Delegation in Vienna](#), in particular with Alain Matton Communication & Public Information Officer at EU Delegation to the International Organisations in Vienna. This exhibition resulted from an efficient collaboration to showcase EU-UNIDO partnership. The purpose was to look at the partnership from a different angle to put people and individual stories at the center of the partnership. A “partnership of respect” refers to the respect the EU and UNIDO have in their joint projects for women, for youth, for the environment, and for entrepreneurs, who contribute to an inclusive and sustainable industrial development for all.



By choosing powerful pictures and storytelling, we offered an original event which was coherent with the overall concept of the EU Honour Day at EXPO2020: a day to celebrate international partnerships and multilateralism through cultural diplomacy and arts.



H.E. Stephan Klement, EU Ambassador to UNIDO in Vienna, and Head of Delegation, delivered high-level remarks during the opening ceremony and stressed that “the EU has been actively funding UNIDO's work for a long time now. I am proud to see this partnership growing stronger every year.”

With the United Nations

Expo 2020 represents an extraordinary opportunity for the United Nations to engage millions of people and create lasting engagement, for action and impact. The UN presence at Expo invites visitors to engage in the powerful story of the value of multilateralism through the celebration of International Days, thematic weeks and programming in the Opportunity Pavilion. [The UN events, programs, and International Days](#) at Expo inform, inspire and engage visitors to take impactful action towards a thriving future for people and planet.



Mr. Maher Nasser, Commissioner-General of the United Nations at Expo 2020 and Director for Outreach in the

Department of Global Communications, leads the United Nations' participation at Expo 2020 in Dubai with support from his Deputy Commission-General, Ms. Dena Assaf, Resident Coordinator for the UN in the United Arab Emirates.



By inviting him to the opening ceremony of the exhibition, we engaged in a One UN spirit to highlight the ideas and experiences that unites us, with the convening power of the United Nations and the universality of its work.

As the exhibition was an official event of both EU Honour Day (23rd October) as well as UN Honour Day (24th October), we maintained close contacts with the UN team for joint advocacy and global outreach on the 76th anniversary of the UN.

With Austria

The [Austria Pavilion](#) was our main host during our time there. By allowing us to use their iLab space, they recognized the value of the UNIDO and EU partnership in fostering new solutions, creating innovations and build a better future together.



The President of the Austrian Parliament, Mr. Sobotka, honoured us with his presence at the opening ceremony. He stressed that “this occasion was an opportunity for dialogue on the transformation of

our economies, a transformation for which UNIDO continues to be a key player, promoting and advocating for the SDGs.” He showed great interest in the exhibition and suggested to host the exhibition again in the halls of the Austrian Parliament.



From Vienna first and foremost, as well as from Brussels or Dubai, UNIDO and the government of Austria maintain a privileged relationship, working towards achieving Agenda 2030.

With the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)

On Saturday 23rd, UNIDO Delegation also arranged a meeting with Fatima Aouidat, Deputy Commissioner for La Francophonie (OIF) at Dubai Expo 2020, to discuss opportunities to strengthen the collaboration between UNIDO and OIF.



For the first time, the International Organization of La [Francophonie](#) is present at a World Expo. This global event, organized this year in an associate member country of the OIF, represents an opportunity for the organization to publicize its positions and actions while promoting the values of solidarity and cultural diversity that animate the French-speaking world.



The presence of the OIF is articulated around a playful digital experience [Francophonie](#), as well as events and actions that aims to promote the Francophone talents and the cultural and economic potential of its space.

Among the key take-aways of our meeting was an invitation from OIF to join its event on sustainable investments in Francophone countries at the EXPO in January/February 2022.

The possibility to draft a new UNIDO-OIF partnership agreement was also mentioned, with the idea of renewing the partnership signed in 1990 and strengthening our cooperation to promote ISID in French-speaking countries.

PICTURES









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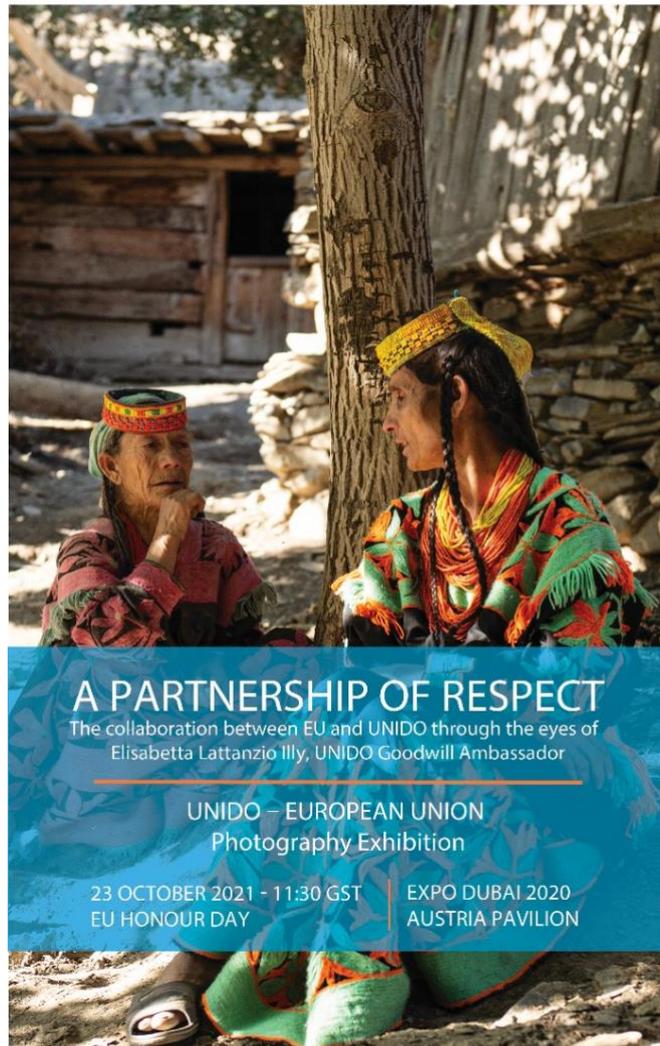
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ANNEX: STORIES OF THE PHOTOS

Text by Elisabetta Lattanzio Illy





China, Lincang.

An example of resilience. A blind elderly lady cleans tea leaves on a plantation in Menghai, in the villages of the Miao minority. She sits proudly under her patio, with her tea leaves on the ground waiting to be carefully chosen by her soft and steady hands. So used and so respectful of her surroundings that her blindness is barely noticeable. She tells me how she always honoured her land and her gifts, and how important it is to follow the course of nature. She too, has bent under the weight of the passing years, but she refuses to break because of her indissoluble bond with Mother Nature. It is only when you arrive in the most remote places on Earth, where everything remains as still as it originally was, that you realize how symbiotic the relationship between man and nature is. And it is only by understanding, appreciating, and respecting that magic balance that we can thrive in overcoming the current crises.

Bolivia, Districts of Cusco.

Dedication, resilience, and education are the most important drivers to ensure a better future for younger generations. Donna Carmencita decided to devote herself to her alpaca pastures, alone. Even in the Andean long and cold nights, she takes care of her cattle, the only source of sustenance for her family. The wrinkles on her face are the stories of her past. Years filled with hard work in strenuous climate conditions, yet she never gave up. Her goal was to obtain quality shearing, with quality pricing. And she did it. Let us never underestimate how far determination can get us and even more importantly, let us find the right determination to make our future sustainable.



Myanmar, Pegu.

Mother Nature is over 4.5 billion years old, twenty-two thousand five hundred times more than mankind. She hosts us, feeds us, and does not need us to survive because she will always be able to adapt to the changes that we Men have reserved for her over the years. Now it is up to us, guests of Mother Nature, to choose whether to continue to live respecting it, enabling it to prosper, and creating a virtuous environment for us humans too. Mother Nature will always survive. Let us think about it before we act. We have no rights to destroy it.



China, Yunnan, Xishuangbanna.

Tea plantation. An almost unbearable heat, with the sun hitting me straight in the head, heavy clothes, wet and dirty. I look up and find myself face to face with one the most elegant, delicate, and fascinating women I have ever seen in my life. Beauty is not a status. It is all that is inside you. At the end of a hard day's work, the woman tea picker looked like she came out of a fashion show. "Everything has beauty, but not everyone sees it", said Confucius. Let us not be blind.

India, Maharashtra.

If one has a hard time imagining how our agriculture dynamics can change because of climate change, well, I would recommend taking a look at India. Increasing competition among farmers has caused water waste and aggravated droughts affected by climate change. The result is that traditional village wells and basins run out in a few days, prompting farmers to use the aquifers aggressively and forcing them to migrate in search of new sources, away from their homes, from their children's schools. Vast regions of the country are drying up and tensions are arising at an almost unprecedented level, breaking up the country. The dire consequences of climate change are already here. To undermine them, even if afar, is to be part of the problem



Myanmar, Chauk.



There is a popular saying in Myanmar: 'the important things are decided by men, the less important things are decided by women, but which things are important and which are not, are decided by women'. And while I look at these women crossing the river, I cannot but wonder; what have they decided is important and what not. Perhaps they have decided to continue to follow the common norms and work for a more dignified and prosperous future. They are walking elegantly, almost dancing, despite enduring a fatigue that wouldn't spare even the strongest. On their heads the weight of a life of sacrifices, a life of those who cannot escape a marked destiny. When you are there, and reality hits you hard, you cannot help but ask yourself how and why we have come to this point, what is wrong with our world, and where we have failed. Women must be treated and respected as the invaluable drivers of growth that they are. With no exceptions must we all work together to make education and support accessible to them.

Madagascar, Antsiranana.

Madagascar is one of the largest cocoa producers in the world. Hundreds of families live thanks to this precious product. They grow it, harvest it, dry it, and collect it in large jute sacks. Sacks that will then be shipped to what for them are magical factories very far away that turn beans into chocolate. Because in Madagascar, very few know what chocolate is. Yes, the very same people that make eating chocolate possible do not know what it is. The question automatically becomes: how is it possible to understand the quality without knowing what the final product is? It underlines a great weakness of the industry. We have fortunately progressed enough to prove that the adequate control of supply chains and professional training ensures that profit is not the sole driver of our economy, but that inclusiveness becomes a new virtuous and regenerative business model for all of us. It remains now to be applied unanimously



Pakistan, Chitral.



The Kalash. A piece of history that persists in an enclave of Pakistan, a population that can boast the origins from Greek mythology as descendants of Alexander the Great. At 3000 meters above nothing, 3500 gazes tell the story of an ethnicity that survived because of its isolation within a chaotic labyrinth of impenetrable mountains. Up here, where the silence is broken only by the flapping wings of eagles, the young Kalash women sew to keep their unique tradition alive. A window of a distant world, to which we bind with the thread of fashion, that must remind us of the respect we owe to tradition.

India, Maharashtra, Denganmal.

The Water Wives. In some Indian villages affected by drought, women are in charge of providing water for the whole family. They are the 'water wives'; second or third wives of farmers, who have the sole purpose of going in search of water while their husbands work in the fields and the other wives look after the house and the children. Kilometers of dirt, heat, and stones separate them from the limited sources of water. In these arid villages, they can experience up to 8 months of drought, hence why having two or three wives is not uncommon. In exchange for a roof over their heads and the social status of wives, these women become "bais paaniwaali" ("water wives"). I asked them what they would like. A chorus of unique voices answered: water. We can no longer pretend not to see these realities, it is time to look at them straight into the eyes.



Myanmar, Inle Lake.



Have you ever been exposed to such overwhelming beauty that all of a sudden tears start falling without knowing why? We are talking about the so-called Stendhal's syndrome. It happened to me while watching a group of women working with maniacal care to turn lotus flowers into precious silk fabrics. I could have not imagined the possibility of weaving such a thin and delicate thread. But as a mother, I do recognize the resilience these women are driven by. A glimpse of a promising future for their children makes everything possible. Behind beauty lies also hard work, resilience, and satisfaction

Togo, Koutammakou, "Vallée des Tamberma".



We are in the ancient village hidden within the Togolese mountains, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which hosts the typical houses built with mud since the 17th century. One may call them "primitive", but it would be a greatly misinterpreted understatement. A young girl looks at me, gently takes my hand and invites me into her home. To enter her room, her magic kingdom, you need not to bend down, but rather crawl on the ground. And while I am on my knees, close to her, gratitude suddenly hits me hard. I realize the enormous trust she has placed in me in introducing me her world. And yet again, I think to myself, shouldn't we be doing more to deserve this kind of pure, genuine trust?

Haiti, Cité Soleil.

A young girl's smile has no limits, no restrictions. She just wants to play and to be happy. Those are her rights. She keeps on running around, laughing cheerfully, unaware of what her playground represents for the world. But the thoughtless actions of people mean the world; firstly theirs, then ours. Perhaps it should be us, the "civilized" ones, to lose our dignity in the face of such situations. We don't have the right to be afraid to watch.



Ghana, Bonyere.



Around here kids grow up in the fields, playing with cocoa pods and hiding among their trees. Amma holds her little sister in pagne, the African method of carrying children. The cocoa here will make it as one of the many chocolate bars that gets on our tables. As consumers of a deeply interconnected world, it has become our responsibility to know where our food comes from: we owe respect. To all the hands who work in the background. To their work. To their product. To their care.

Ivory Coast, Noé.



Millennia of uninterrupted symbiosis with nature have allowed many tribal people to apprehend even the most imperceptible hints of the natural world. The tribes learnt to hunt animals and gather edible roots and berries. They learnt to sense climate change, to predict the movements of ice sheets, the return of migratory geese and the flowering cycles of fruit trees. To the everyday challenges, they have responded with sophisticated hunting, chasing, breeding and navigation techniques. A testimony of human beings' creative potential and of their extraordinary ability to adapt. But, for how long? Nature is more resilient than us. Let us not fall by thinking otherwise.

Myanmar, Mandalay.

They wear humble clothes, shave their heads and often walk barefoot. It is common for every boy to experience life in the monastery at least twice in his life. This "trial" for some may only last weeks, maybe months, while for others it becomes a life choice. They say: "You must become a monk before you can become a man". There are mostly children in the monastery. At dawn, they go out on the streets to collect offerings such as rice, curry, or other food. The monks then go back and have breakfast. The rest of the morning is for studying until 11 am, then lunchtime and the last solid meal of the day. They spend the rest of the time studying, meditating or playing, for the youngest. Joining a monastery is a gift for many, it means having the chance to have an education and maybe one day enter the Buddhist University of Yangon. It shows the power of dedication and community in propelling opportunities.



Myanmar, Inle Lake.

Hla Thein, a petite woman with a shy smile. One would never think she is 75 years old. Her wooden house is magic; invaded by the rhythmic sound of the looms, and other women of the family spinning the lotus flower. A sacred flower for both Buddhism and Hinduism, it symbolizes purity and the ability to remain so despite facing immoral realities. The peculiarity of this flower is that every night it closes and plunges under the water, to re-emerge at sunrise. The fibers, which become silk, are manually extracted from the stem of the flower. The thread is then obtained by joining the filaments of 3-5 stems, to be spun and woven by hand according to traditional methods. It can take up to a full month to produce a kilo of yarn. An extremely delicate job that requires utmost care for the raw material.

Togo, Agomé Tomgbé.

Sometimes it is the really small things that are capable of changing people's destinies. Take Zahina, a 23-year-old with a 4 months old baby and one big dream: to learn, build and sustain a decent life for her family. She signs up for a sewing class, telling everyone that as soon as she understands the art, she will start designing and manufacturing clothes for the people of her village. Her plan doesn't stop there, she knows she will then look for a new home, perhaps closer to the city, and have a place where her child will be able to play and grow. Zahina has many dreams but yet one real, true goal: committing to learn, to become better. It is also from these stories of determination and resilience that we must get our inspiration, today too often skewed by privileges that we are not even aware of having.



Pakistan, Sialkot.



We are in the Punjab region, on the border with Kashmir. About 1.6 million people live in Sialkot; 40,000 of them work in the soccer ball industry and produce between 40 and 65 million pieces per year. 40% of the world's soccerballs are produced here. There are 135 factories, mainly specialized in hand sewing. Women are particularly welcome given their sewing skills, a key feature for putting the last stitch on every ball. For most women it is more than just a job, it is also a reason to finally leave home, to emancipate. That is what Zayn (in Pakistani it means beautiful, and oh if she is!) said to me. She considers herself lucky, as she can socialize, learn and look forward to a brighter future.

India, Mumbai.

Dhobi Ghat is the largest and oldest open-air laundry place in the world. Here, almost 7,500 "washers" (called dhobis) live with their families inside small rooms built in the wash house itself. For a few rupees, they work strenuously non-stop, washing around 750,000 items each day and undergoing exposure to chemical agents. The conditions of the underprivileged dhobis and their families are dire, but it could get worse. Now, these people are also at the mercy of the builders trying to buy the area, exploiting the power of the most corrupt politicians. Industrialization must not be at the expense of the poorest, but inclusive. A prosperous pursuit for all.



Haiti, Port-au-Prince.



In the Port-au-Prince slum, or ghetto, everything is covered by a patina of dust and misery. But if you look closer, you find colours and life all around you. Here a woman cleans a fish. As I get caught up in her gestures, I ask myself how many people she will end up sharing that fish with. Confucius says: "Give a man a fish and you will feed him for a day; teach him to fish and you will feed him for life." Having travelled in many of the most underdeveloped countries of the world, I can testify the value of this saying. There is a fundamental responsibility to take care of the more vulnerable now, not by pitying them but rather by respecting them equally and teaching them to self-sustain their economy.



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