
TURNINGPOINTS

- Because ending poverty requires the end of violence -

TURNINGPOINTS' ACTIVITIES IN 2020



As the year has passed, 2020 has gained its very own identity, and a reputation that everything can happen, and that nothing should therefore surprise us anymore. So, when you didn't receive a Newsletter until now, it is in many ways precisely an expression of this experience of surprising new events and situations, which we have had difficulties in preparing for. We have therefore ended up in a situation à la: 'Brace for impact !!' Or what will happen next ..!?

One of the tasks that took significantly more hours, days and months

Abdinasir in dialogue with the participants during a workshop in E&P Huset in Gellerup. There is great interest in the project, and great commitment in finding a practical model for achieving the project's intentions - in Denmark and in Somalia. Read more here in the Newsletter. Photo: Claus Kold

than anticipated was to get a bank account. Here we came up against the new money laundering rules, which meant that all board members had to be checked very thoroughly before we could actually gain access to something as fundamental as a bank account that members could pay their membership into. Without bank account, no association, and without association no CISU-applications. Well, this is in place now.

After the pilot-study in Guatemala and the one-year birthday of TurningPoints, we could finally write and send in our applications. Well, that's what we thought. We needed to have 5 intense consultations with CISU before the project application came into place. It is actually difficult to transform dreams, hopes, ideas and practices into DANIDA / CISU lingo. So, where we thought the application could be submitted immediately after the one-year anniversary, it took 4-5 more months and a lot of meetings with CISU's advisor. We lift our hats and thank you many times for your patience, Jacob.

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We have a lot of information we would like to share with you, and we also have some upcoming tasks that we would like you to support us in.

This applies to that we must already now prepare to renew our board.

And we need more members, and the stability and weight this provides.

How busy are we - humanity - basically?

The world population is growing rapidly (see next page), and global temperatures are rising (see the different IPCC reports on the TurningPoints website), all the while a person dies of starvation around every three seconds. Research in this area is clear: the house is on fire, and the longer we wait to take action the more social tension will be created, which will create more violence, hunger, poverty and suffering. So, why do we not act? What are we waiting for?

Research shows that more information does not lead to major changes in human behavior. So, no matter how busy we may be in solving the global challenges we face, it does not mean that we also choose to act faster or to a greater extent.

This is due to a large number of deeply entangled causes, which include the paradigms that people use to think about the world, the complexity of the problems and the amount of small challenges and problems we face in the every day life.

In TurningPoints, we have therefore chosen to focus on solutions rather than

problems: What kind of world do we *want* to live in? What kind of society do we *want* to be a part of? This is the basis of our projects...

All people have the right to a good life and it should be easy to be a part of the solution. They must therefore also have a real, concrete and usable choice.

Why Pass It On?

We are trying to create this choice with the establishment of the first Pass It On companies.

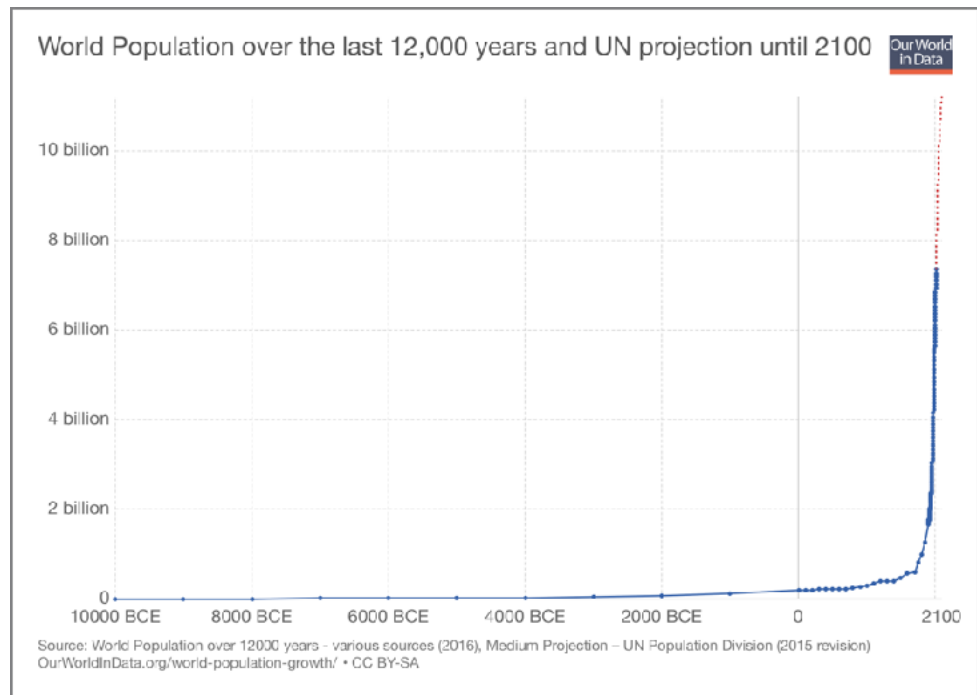
These companies have built-in mechanisms for sustainability, democracy and profit-sharing and a mechanism for growth and development.

With that model, we try to build a kind of cooperative, where the people who do the work learn about social processes - especially with a focus on decisions (leadership) and development (organisation) and economy (profit sharing). At the same time, a Pass It On company is obliged in its articles of association to help other people into employment.

In Africa, 12 million people enter the labor market each year, but only 3 million jobs are created. This means that the unemployment queue gets 8 million people longer every year. This means that there are 8 million people who are relegated to states and a labor markets that do not have the necessary resources to help. Such growth in unemployment/poverty will most certainly create further social tensions that will be met with harsh reactions from the weak state. The harsh reactions will trigger further violence - and flight/forced migration.

If we look at the increase in the graph above to 11 billion people, then population growth means that more than 600 million jobs must be created if we are to keep up. This places new demands on the business model that should drive such a development.

We will therefore briefly present the Pass It On concept.



Pass It On in many respects builds on the Rochdale Society and their “Rochdale Principles.” In addition there are the important thoughts and experience of Robert Owen.

The democratic cooperative was, and is, a form of enterprise which was introduced in 1844, in response to the new economic conditions in England under the new laws of 1834. Today, the cooperative is a recognised and respected business model, which can be found all over the world in both small and very large companies.

Thus, in 2012, the UN was able to proclaim the year ‘the Year of Cooperatives’, and the UN Secretary-General stated that “cooperatives remind the international community that it is possible to reconcile strong economies with social responsibility”.

Strong economies and social responsibility!

The seven cooperative principles:

1. Voluntary & Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Members' Economic Participation
4. Autonomy & Independence
5. Education, Training and Information
6. Cooperation among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community

TurningPoints' principles:

1. A Pass It On must serve humanity
2. A Pass It On must produce sustainably
3. A Pass It On will launch 3 new Pass It On
4. A Pass It On should be based on local needs and interests
5. A Pass It On must develop local production and economy
6. A Pass It On must have democratic leadership
7. A Pass It On must have profit sharing
8. A Pass It On must have the capacity for conflict resolution in the form of an ombudsperson
9. A Pass It On cannot be owned or sold by anyone as it is supported by and meets local needs and interests

“Cooperative societies work for the sustainable development of the local community through policies adopted by the members.”

- KOOPERATIONEN

Karl Polanyi wrote in his famous economic dissertation, *The Great Transformation* (1944), that the theory of economics rested on 3 fallacies that would have major ecological, social and economic consequences. The 3 fallacies were that nature was perceived as a commodity, that people were perceived and traded as a commodity, and that money was also perceived as a commodity.

The consequence of these three forms of commodities is the destruction of nature (climate and biodiversity), the destruction of human capacity and it's control of it's own creative qualities (a destruction which causes alienation among peoples and states, and which causes destructive

neuroses and hostility in individuals), and the destruction of the economy (a devastation that takes the form of economic inequality of such enormous magnitude that states become socially and politically unstable and difficult to govern.)

Each principle in the Pass It On concept has been developed to safeguard and counteract such destructive developments which the world is already strongly influenced by today:

- There is a need for the economy to spread and to be shared
- There is a need for people to be given responsibility and to learn how to participate in decision processes
- There is a need for people to learn to resolve conflicts peacefully
- There is a need for the economy to take nature and people into account
- There is a need for economics, production and development to become a learning process - not an alienating process

Are permaculture and culture of peace the same?

During our pilot-study to Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico, it became clear to us that many (most?) people in the Global South are trapped in a neocolonial and neoliberal economy - both in their own thinking and in the economic opportunities they have.

Most of those we spoke to, interviewed and conducted meetings with, wanted to increase their production in order to expand their export to the markets in the North. Their plan was to produce luxury goods such as coffee, avocados or strawberries - all grown as monocultures.

The cultivation of crops which the local population cannot live from but only export, is one of the reasons why, despite Guatemala's lush and generous nature, approx. 25,000 people die from hunger every year in the country.

An example of the imbalance in this type of production can be seen in the fact that Africa produces approx. 70% of all chocolate. Of all the value the chocolate generates on the world market, only 3% returns to Africa. The coffee production has the same pattern.

A response to the dependence on world market prices and to the deadly hunger could be to change local development into permacultural agriculture production. Permaculture is a specific way of treating the soil and a specific way of growing the crops. This form of farming is economically stable as it is labor-intensive and also because the producers of the crops can actually make a living from what they produce.

There is even much to suggest that training local coffee farmers in permaculture, in addition to the economic aspects, will also be good for food supply, biodiversity and the climate, plus it has a positive effect on the community. But can they produce enough, you might think? There is also much to suggest that.

In 2014, the UN proclaimed the year to be the International Year of Family Farming. On that occasion, the UN published the report: *The State of Food and Agriculture 2014: Innovation in family farming* (SOFA 2014) (see our website under the menu: facts), which is a groundbreaking study of family farming. The report estimates as one of the first reports the number of family farms in the world to be at least 500 million. This means that families run about nine out of ten

farms. Further analysis shows that family farms make up a very large part of the world's agricultural land and that they produce about 80 % of the world's food.

So, local family farms already produce 80% of the world's food! If they now gained more knowledge about sustainability and more knowledge about local economics, then they would be able to work their way out of their current poverty, just as they would be able to increase their production - for the benefit of both nature and people...

In a UN peace research project from the 1980s, Jan Øberg describes security as follows: "Security is, of course, about avoiding direct, physical violence. But security also implies the right to survival. In a project on militarism and alternative security at the UN University, in which I participate, we start from four categories of needs - 1) need for survival, as opposed to violence, 2) need for welfare, as opposed to distress, 3) need for freedom, as opposed to oppression and 4) need for identity, as opposed to alienation. (...) Development and change begin when - and where - people cease to see themselves as objects and act as subjects, and work to take the future into their own hands." - from: *Myter om vor sikkerhed*, 319f.

Permaculture is in many ways similar to what peace and future researchers came up with in the 1980s, and which they called 'positive peace' and 'peace culture'.



The market in Acatenango at 15:00 o'clock. It rained every day at 15:00...

What is local economy?

More and more people are becoming aware of the consequences of the globalised economy for the natural environment and the working environment, and have therefore begun to develop ideas about local economies.

Such economies would result in far less use and transportation of raw materials, products, and labor — all for the benefit of the climate and bio-diversity. To this can probably be added a much more diverse and also interesting local production.

If we return to the local coffee farmers' notions of their economy and production, then the current monocultural production for an economically arbitrary world market will mean that their societies will continue to be increasingly vulnerable to the ups and downs of the world market. They will continue to depend on the fact that the crops they grow are refined to be protected by expensive pesticides that swallow their profits and that they are forced to sell at a loss.

Local communities would not get richer, they would not be able to live off the crops, the global economy would cause the economy of the small community to stagnate - it is already happening - and they will therefore have to look for (illegal?) migrant work in North America or Europe. The result is that small communities are gradually falling economically and socially apart under this pressure. This will lead to the next step which is migration - first to the larger cities, next to the North.

A strong response to this unhappy development could be the development of local economy and permaculture.

Interns in TurningPoints

From mid-August to mid-December 2020, TurningPoints houses two interns, Leslie and Julie, from the Master's program in Human Security at Aarhus University. At Human Security, students study the interplay between political, social and environmental factors in global and local conflicts, and in the third semester have the opportunity to take an internship.

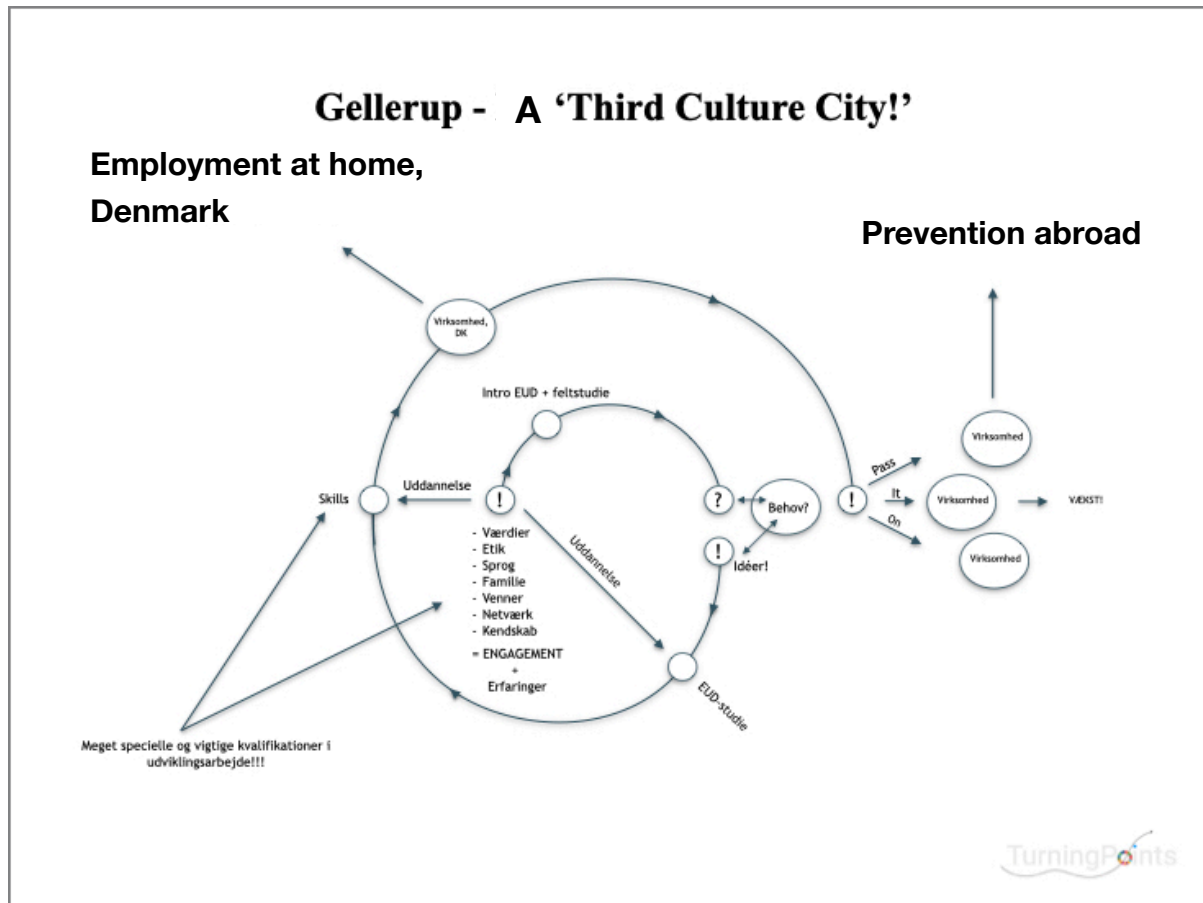
Leslie has a bachelor's degree in Educational Sciences and Julie in Religious Studies. As interns at TurningPoints, Leslie and Julie have collected data and carried out a desk-study about research literature with a focus on how to expand and further develop TurningPoints' models and concepts. They have been making observations at our workshops and a summary about them. In addition, they are introduced to the various application processes in connection with CISU and Genbrug til Syd.

Third Culture City

During the autumn, TurningPoints has initiated and further developed the 'Third Culture City project'. The purpose of the project is to create 'employment at home' and 'prevention abroad' by first establishing a Pass It On company in Denmark, and then abroad in the Global South.



The secretariat - as we looked in August: warm, in shorts and joyous at the prospect of all the things we were going to do together...



The idea is that the profits generated by the Danish company must, together with the entrepreneurs' knowledge and commitment, form the foundation for the start-up of Pass It On companies in the Global South in order to prevent, among other things, poverty and flight from poverty.

The project is designed for the residential area Gellerup in Aarhus, Denmark, partly due to a high number of residents with different nationalities and personal networks in the Global South. The culture that arises when a person has such an in-depth knowledge of several cultures is what we in TurningPoints call 'a Third Culture' - a kind of third culture that we see as a great strength.

Workshops

As part of the further development of the project, TurningPoints has during the autumn of 2020 held three workshops aimed at Danish-Somali citizens. The three workshops were based on the desire for a collaboration with the Danish-Somali population in Aarhus, Denmark, around the start-up of Pass It On companies in Denmark and Somalia. The purpose of the three workshops was therefore to gain insight into different understandings of economics and ethics in Somalia and Denmark, and to gain a greater insight into Somali culture and opportunities for entrepreneurship in Somalia. TurningPoints



The E&P House - In Gellerup the E&P House is a place everybody knows. But for those who do not just live in the area, here is a photo. And 'yes' - the 'house' is a number of containers stacked on top of each other.



experienced good support from the participants, and we have therefore started planning more workshops in connection with the project.

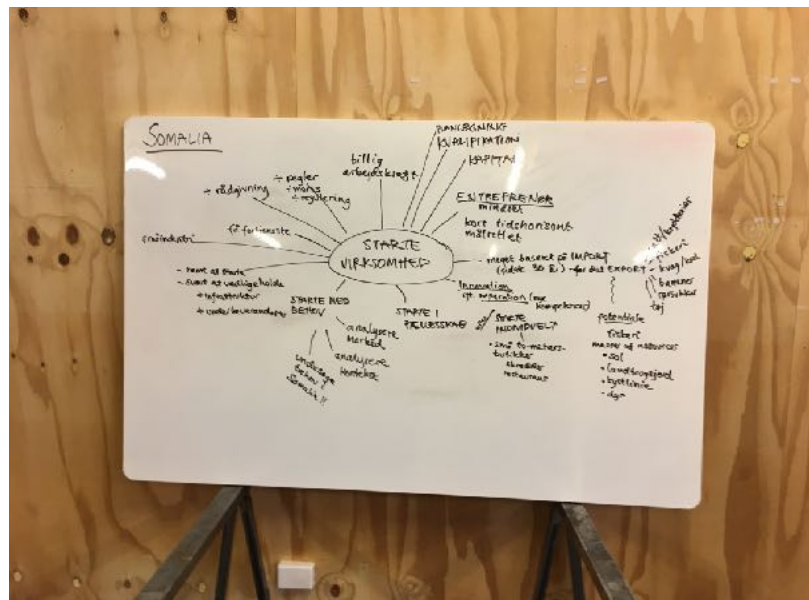
The first workshop was aimed at the age group from around 45 years and up. The next was aimed at people from around 30 to 45 years and the last at young people between 18 and 30 years.

The three workshops began with a welcome and introduction to Turning-

Points and the organisation's ongoing projects. The participants were then asked about their understanding of economics and ethics and possible differences between the way economics is understood in Denmark and Somalia. After a short break, the Pass It On-model and the idea behind the Third Culture City project were introduced. This led to a joint discussion of the opportunities and challenges that may be associated with the execution of the project.

Subsequently, an experience-gathering meeting was held with individual participants from the three workshops. Here we worked on how the further process should take place.

In the three workshops, including persons from TurningPoints, a total of 69 persons participated.



Part of the work in the various workshops consisted of 'mapping' the different ways of thinking and practices when it came to economics and starting a business both in Denmark and in Somalia.

Remittances

Remittances refer to the money that migrants, refugees and diaspora groups send back to their families, friends and networks. In several cases, the amount of money is on a par with or exceed what states provide for emergency aid and development aid. For example, the Somali diaspora in Europe and North America is estimated to send between \$ 1.6 billion and \$ 2 billion to Somalia each year.

A distinction is generally made between individual and collective remittances. The estimated amount of money above refers to individual remittances. Collective remittances denote the amounts that, in addition to the individual remittances, are sent to specific areas, e.g. in connection with relief and development work.

There are research and political discussions about whether remittances constitute a large untapped resource when it comes to development work in the global South. TurningPoints will investigate the possibilities that may lie in remittances in connection with the start-up of Pass It On companies.

The long application process in CISU

CISU is an official Danish Development Fund where ngo's can apply for funding and grow with the tasks and experiences. Because TurningPoints is a new NGO, one of the terms is that we had to wait until we were one year old before we could apply for financial support for our projects. Here, 4 months after becoming legal, we have applied for CISU's Civil Society Pool

Vores CISU			
TurningPoints - User			
Ansøgninger		Pulje	Indstøttype
Søg			Ansøgt periode
		Fre - Til	RYD
☰ Organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>	JournalNo	Titel ↑
☰ Ansøgninger	<input type="checkbox"/>	20-3232-CSP	Strengthening of community self-help capacities in the metro ...
⚙ Bevillinger	<input type="checkbox"/>	20-3204-CSP	TurningPoints-ILEPAZ Socorroprojekt, 2021
🚪 Log ud			Ansøgt Total
			99.590,00 kr.
			199.000,00 kr.

'Citizens' Projects', and 'Rebuilding Civic Space'. As you can see, we have applied for 199.000, - and 99.590, - DKr. The first project we have applied for is aimed at a coffee collective in the village of Socorro, located on the outskirts of Acatenango, Guatemala. The coffee farmers are exposed to the stress that the dependence on the world market entails: they cannot borrow money and they cannot work their way out of the situation.



An advisory meeting at CISU. Thanks to Jacob for his great patience...

The second effort is aimed at the restrictions that vulnerable people experience in Tegucigalpa, Honduras and which also affect the human rights workers who take care of the vulnerable groups. It seems that governments around the world are either using the Corona pandemic to curtail basic democratic rights, or that their executive institutions do not have the necessary capacity to deal with the pandemic in a democratic and professional manner.

We, at TurningPoints, have experienced great help from CISU, and would like to thank them for all their support. We have to learn this special 'application support lingo' when formulating our projects. We have experienced this as a lengthy and also a bit heavy process. But it will probably get better as we familiarise with the new 'development lingo'. On the other hand, it has only been 4 months since TurningPoints could actually first time apply, and now we have handed in 2 applications.

The short application to the Ford Foundation

Ford has a foundation that supports, among other things, ideas for how work life can be improved. On their website, there are two fields in which you can 'submit' your idea. One field is 400 characters and the elaborate is 2000 characters. This means that there is not much room for a complex and comprehensive idea, and it has led to many rewrites and many hours of editing.

At the same time, the Ford Foundation writes that it is only approx. 1% of the ideas which are entering a further proces. So we do not expect to see any money from Ford... But the applica-tion has meant that we have had to go through a lot of considerations about how we could formulate TurningPoints' goals and tasks in very few lines.

After much deliberation and rewriting, we wrote the following in the Ford application:

400 characters:

"Our idea is to create mechanisms in the police and business to make them work together to create security and economical growth. Mechanisms for this can solve more related problems: poverty violence and forced migration. And: the police needs the taxes of business and the business needs the security of the police. The police needs to develop its profession and add the skills of mediation, and business need to cooperate share and build new sustainable companies to the poor."

2000 characters:

"The UN Human Rights has granted humanity a number of inalienable rights, including: the right to life and work.

The world population will reach 11 billion in the 21st century. This creates a need for the creation of 600+ million jobs. At the same time, nature is already under pressure, and it is unknown whether it can cope with the additional pressure which this increased purchasing power will bring. This means that mechanisms for sustainability must be developed and built into economy.

OUR GRANTS

Idea submission

The Ford Foundation is always open to new ideas, and we welcome your input. Please keep in mind that in relation to the large number of worthwhile submissions we receive, our funds are limited: In a typical year, less than one percent of unsolicited grant ideas result in funding.

We ask that you please submit ideas through this form, and refrain from contacting program officers directly. If we are interested in learning more about your idea, you will hear from us within 45 days.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR IDEA TO SOMEONE IN 30 SECONDS OR LESS?
Please use 400 characters or fewer

DESCRIBE YOUR IDEA
Please use 2000 characters or fewer

This development cannot be top-down as nature, cultures and societies are too diverse and complex. No organisation has complete knowledge, method and capacity to do this. Thus, sustainability mechanisms must be built into economy itself, so that people themselves are provided with the means to act.

However, people lack everyday economic tools.

Their economy also lack security. Globally the police is under-educated under-staffed and under-paid which means they become corrupt and violent - as does society.

Problem: Economic development needs social security, and the police needs an active society, to create the basis for taxation and police salary. More studies have shown that the lack of this balance has the same devastating effect as a civil war.

Unfortunately, the relationship between society's creation of economy and the police's creation of security is overlooked in development work.

TurningPoints has integrated both like this:

TurningPoints interventions consist of two programs: the establishing of a new type of company, and police training - respectively with two foci: sustainable economy and conflict resolution.

The company type is called Pass It On. It is a coop that owns itself. It is its employees who are responsible for leadership, organisation, production and economy. The concept implies that the economy and learning that arise in one company will be passed on to 3 other new companies to cope with the rate of population growth. The employees of the new company are free to develop a sustainable product/service. A Pass It On must adhere to its statuses: that production is sustainable, that leadership and organisation is ethically sound. The company has profit sharing.

Police need to develop: recruitment, training, professional identity; and leadership and mediation skills.”

We believe, we have developed some very brief explanations of what we do in TurningPoints, which we can use in future applications.

Genbrug til Syd (Somalia og Guatemala)

The headline of this section means something like: “Recycling to the South (Somalia and Guatemala”. Abdinasir has brought his experiences and ideas into the secretariat’s work, and with him new ideas and efforts develop. Among other ideas have been the idea to help the health situation in Acatenango.

Through Danmission, Abdinasir has gained access to the surplus that Danish hospitals 'produce' of equipment, beds, etc. He has packed a container with equipment and sent it of to Somalia, where the equipment is now in use in hospitals and emergency centers.

“The relationship between society's creation of economy and the police's creation of security is much overlooked in development work.”

- TURNINGPOINTS



In our collaboration with ILEPAZ, we have received information for the application about the situation in Acatenango. This information shows that Acatenango also needs an initiative similar to Abdinasir's operation in Somalia. The information and descriptions we receive are that the people of Acatenango and Socorro with the Corona are now in an even more vulnerable situation than they already were, when we were there. This has led us to a number of considerations about how we can help.

There are only a few public institutions in Socorro and Acatenango, and most are educational institutions. In the area of health, there are only two nurses serving a population of more than 23,000 people, and there is a shortage of both medicine and equipment for care. In contrast, the Danish hospitals have a surplus of equipment that is no longer being used. In Denmark, there are strict restrictions on how long equipment can be used. If the date is exceeded, the equipment is collected in a huge warehouse and eventually burned or otherwise destroyed.

Therefore, we will now work on filling a container with excess hospital equipment from Denmark and send it to Guatemala, based on Abdinasir's experience as described above. Recycling to the South is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which provides support for shipping used equipment from Denmark. We have thus begun to apply for support for a shipment to Guatemala that will hopefully relieve and bring hope to Acatenango while we continue to work on moving forward with the long-term and preventive projects.



Practical information

TurningPoints

The aim is to help pull the world away from poverty and violence by establishing jobs and developing the police.

TurningPoints is the coordinating unit of the two focus areas, each of which forms their branch under TurningPoints: Pass It On (economics) and Politeia (social order).

Pass It On

Creates jobs - that create jobs.

Democratic, self-governing companies. Self-supporting with profit sharing.

Politeia

Teaches the police about conflict understanding, conflict resolution, and how to build a police force that the population trusts and that the population dares to turn to when necessary.

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New members of the board

At the inaugural general meeting, the board members were elected for resp. 2 and 3 years. The intention was to create an overlap so that the entire board of TurningPoints would not have to change at the same time.

This means that we must now prepare for the election of the board members who were elected for a period of 2 years. There are 2 ordinary member positions, and there are 2 deputy positions - both for 2 years.

If you know someone who you think fits well with the tasks of the board position in TurningPoints, we would very much like to hear your proposal and your reasons.

We are working to make this process reflect the deeper values of TurningPoints and Pass It On, so there is no election campaign attached to this process. Rather, we want an open dialogue in which sociocratic decision-making processes are used.

More members for TurningPoints

TurningPoints is growing, and that's great. We need it - and we need to grow even more!

If all the members of TurningPoints each gets just one person to become a member, then we would double our size.

Our membership is what gives the association 'weight' when we apply for funds to help start up Pass It On companies.

The number of members also has a stabilising effect on the association's life and helps to build the association.

Therefore: if you know someone you think would like to support our ideas and the tasks we are doing, suggest him / her to become a member.

It costs only one cup of coffee per. year...

We hope you will... Thanks!