



Capacity-Building  
& Knowledge Sharing  
for Small and Medium  
Organizations (SMO)

## Small and Medium Organizations Impact Journey

# Contributing locally and globally

### About the SMO Impact Journey series

Over the next few months, Spur Change is convening the sector for international cooperation to learn from small and medium organizations (SMOs) supported through the three windows of Global Affairs Canada's [SMOs for impact and innovation initiative \(the Development Impact Window \(DIW\), the Fund for Innovation and Transformation \(FIT\), and the Spur Change program\)](#).

This is an opportunity to celebrate and recognize the unique value and contribution of SMO's work in Canada and abroad. [Learn more about the series here.](#)

This third session will be focused on the work that SMOs conduct both locally and globally. While a great focus is on international initiatives and impact, many SMOs contribute to the wellbeing of their communities here in Canada through programs to support newcomers, youth and indigenous communities, while also raising awareness on global issues and offering services to Canadians. SMOs offer unique perspectives to local and global communities, inviting them to build stronger relationships and initiatives. Overall, Canadian SMOs build bridges between the global and the local resulting in greater social impact and stronger programming.



Jane Goodall Institute  
Canada



Canadian Women for  
Women in Afghanistan  
Making the Right to Learn a Reality



CRÉDIL



In partnership with

Canada



Jane Goodall Institute  
Canada



**Bella Lam**  
*Jane Goodall Institute*

## About the speaker

Bella has worked in the NGO sector in sustainable development and international cooperation for over twenty years, amplifying voices of local partners in Sub-Saharan, South Asia, and Latin America. She joined the Jane Goodall Institute of Canada in 2016 working with the Programs team in community-centred conservation through the lens of gender and climate justice. In June 2022, Bella was appointed as the CEO to lead the Institute in forging a strategic path to address the three crises we face in our world today: climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental inequity. Her background in sustainable development is centred on the understanding that all aspects of the ecosystem: people, wildlife and the environment, are deeply interconnected. Bella is currently the Vice-President of the Ontario Council of International Cooperation (OCIC) Board of Directors, supporting civil society organizations based in the province. She is a strong advocate of working in a multi-stakeholder environment and leveraging collaborative partnerships to scale up impact.

## About the organization

Inspired by our founder, Dr. Jane Goodall, and her legacy of inspiring hope through action, the [Jane Goodall Institute of Canada](#) uses community-centred conservation to mobilize action on the convergence of three crises: biodiversity loss, climate change, and environmental inequity in Canada and in “Chimpscape” regions of Africa. Our international development programs are focused on ecologically significant regions across Africa, addressing the interconnectedness of animals, people and the environment through a One Health lens. In Canada, the Jane Goodall Institute empowers young people to take action through our Roots & Shoots program. We support and amplify the work of Indigenous-led partners in land stewardship and cultural revitalization towards reconciliation and decolonization.

## About the project

Our [Building Community Resilience to Climate Change \(BCR\)](#) project in Senegal is funded under GAC’s SMO Development Impact Window. The overall goal of BCR is to improve resilience of vulnerable rural communities to climate change, especially for poor women in the targeted area. This expected outcome will be achieved through three key pathways:

- support gender-sensitive climate smart agriculture with the production and processing of indigenous drought-resistant crop
- increase women’s role in decision-making for sustainable livelihoods through building the capacity of women’s cooperatives to produce and market biomass briquettes using post-harvest waste.
- enhance forest carbon sinks by supporting agroforestry, including the promotion of indigenous species, along with training local authorities and community members on forest conservation and protection.





**Murwarid Ziayee**  
CW4WAfghan



**Kristin Ignacz**  
CW4WAfghan

## About the speakers

Murwarid Ziayee is Senior Director responsible for program management and supporting public engagement outreach and fund development. Murwarid has a BA in Political Science and Law from Kabul University. Prior to moving to Canada in 2018, Murwarid managed the day-to-day operations at the former country office in Kabul, undertaking the monitoring, evaluation, and reporting on CW4WAfghan’s programs, partners, and projects. Before joining CW4WAfghan, she worked with UNAMA for six years as a National Gender Affairs Officer and later as a National Human Rights Officer. Murwarid has worked closely with the Ministry of Women’s Affairs and served the Office of the President as Program Officer with a focus on analysis of women’s rights issues. She joined CW4WAfghan in 2010.

Kristin Ignacz, Community Engagement Manager at CW4WAfghan, is a communications professional with 15 years of strategic communications experience focused on advancing equity and justice. Kristin joined Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan in December 2022 after leaving a rewarding corporate career as a legal analyst and writer to pursue her passion for women’s rights. Kristin holds a BA in Sociology and English and a PDD in Professional Communications.

## About the organization

[Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan \(CW4WAfghan\)](#) exists to make the right to learn a reality. We have supported human rights and education opportunities for girls and women in Afghanistan since 1998 by providing access to quality, gender equitable education. As of August 2021, Afghanistan became the only country in the world to ban women and girls from receiving an education. Working in partnership with Afghan women, CW4WAfghan adapted programs to offer free virtual courses to connect thousands of Afghan women and girls with quality education.

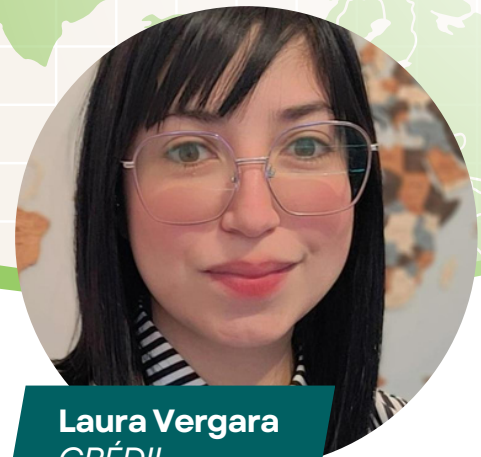
## About the project

The [Gender Equity in Teacher Training \(GETT\)](#) project was implemented in two phases due to the Taliban regime takeover in August 2021. The second phase yielded significant results related to attracting displaced Afghan educators and the public to a Moodle learning platform that offered a variety of relevant online learning courses including: how to teach and learn online, digital literacy, and eSafety. These courses are also extended to Afghans newly arriving to Canada, as they address issues of trauma, mental health, and gender responsive learning practices. The project attracted over 5000 Afghans and others to the learning platform over a six-month period.

[Learn more.](#)







**Laura Vergara**  
CRÉDIL

## About the speaker

With a degree in international studies from Université Laval, Laura has been project manager of the global citizenship education component for CRÉDIL since 2019. Laura coordinates global citizenship education projects and campaigns that address international solidarity issues, including immigration and cultural diversity.

## About the organization

[The Comité régional d'éducation pour le développement international de Lanaudière \(CRÉDIL\)](#) is an international solidarity organization which, for over 40 years, has been rallying the people of Lanaudière around its slogan: "Understanding globally to act locally". Its mandate is threefold: global citizenship education, welcoming and integrating immigrants, particularly refugees in government care, and carrying out international projects and internships in Togo, Peru and Bolivia.

## About the project

In the wake of 2020, a landmark year full of challenges linked to the health, social and economic crisis, CRÉDIL wanted to create a space for young people to express themselves and get involved. Through an International Virtual Forums project, a group of young people from Quebec, Bolivia, Peru and Togo were able to exchange, learn and share their vision of social justice in the context of the pandemic.

This project, led by CRÉDIL in collaboration with partners in Peru, Bolivia and Togo, financially supported by the Ministère des Relations internationales et de la Francophonie of Quebec, has brought together nearly 35 young people, living in urban and rural areas and some from indigenous communities, around a comprehensive dialogue that is translating into concrete action in international solidarity.

From January to May 2021, the young people were able to discuss issues such as gender equity, the environment and climate change, and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals during virtual meetings. The final objective of these exchanges was to draw up a Declaration identifying the issues affecting these young people and their communities. Solutions are also proposed to the citizens of the world, and above all to the authorities and elected representatives, to demonstrate the necessity and urgency of taking action to achieve these changes. This Declaration is a symbol of these young people's shared desire for change and a better future. Learn more about the program in [French](#) or in [Spanish](#).