

GLOBAL HEALTH EQUITY: LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

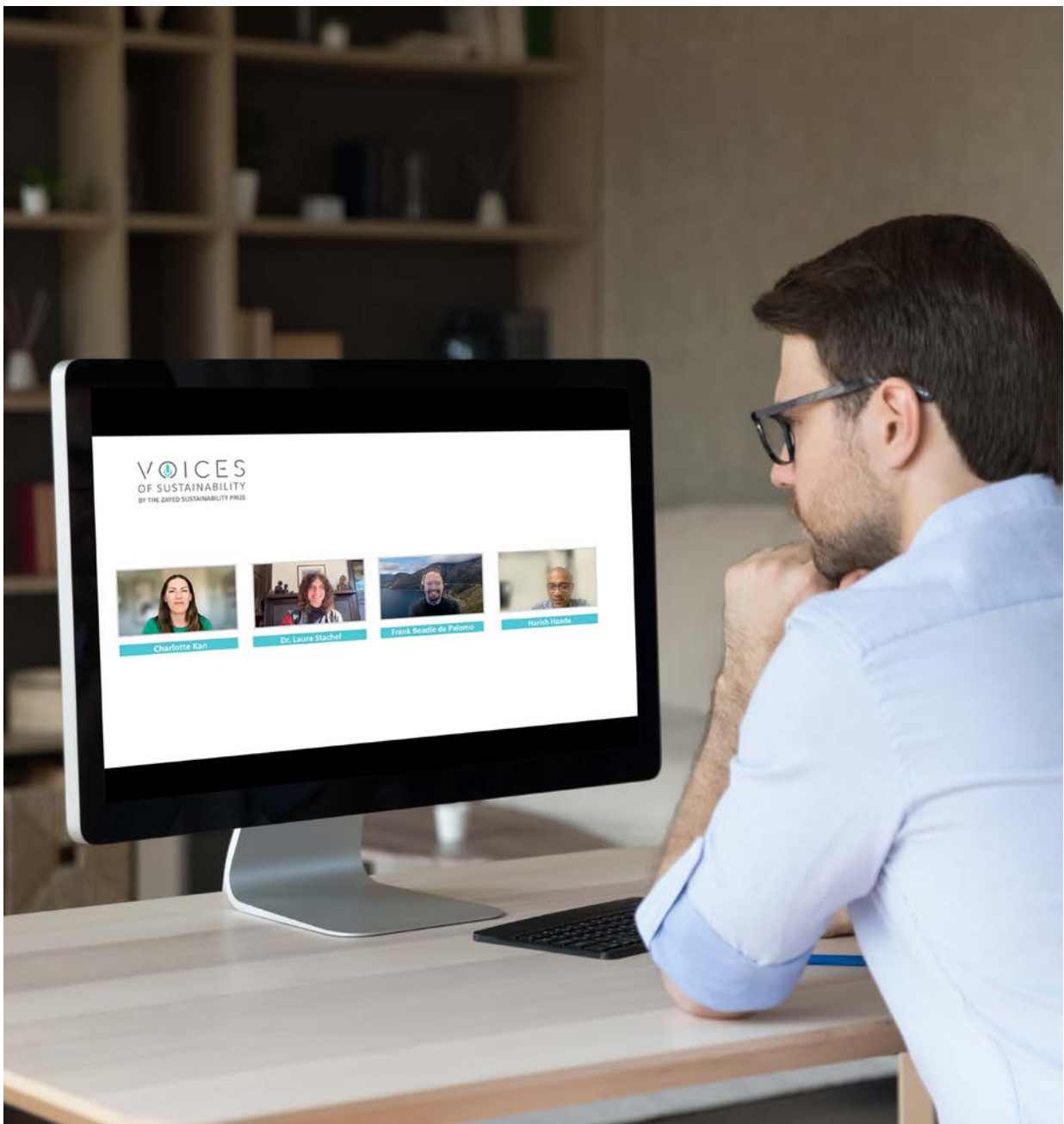


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ABOUT VOICES OF SUSTAINABILITY

Voices of Sustainability is a thought leadership platform launched by the Zayed Sustainability Prize to explore the challenges and opportunities of the global transition to an inclusive and

prosperous future. Each month, the series hosts the world's leading experts to discuss the latest trends and themes in the sustainability agenda.



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INTRODUCTION

On 31 July, the Zayed Sustainability Prize aired its 38th episode of the virtual fireside chat series 'Voices of Sustainability.' This episode featured Dr. Laura Stachel, Frank Beadle de Palomo, and Harish Hande.

The discussion centred on innovative healthcare solutions for vulnerable populations, emphasising the importance of reliable energy access, community-driven models, and scalable technologies.



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SUMMARY

In the 38th episode of 'Voices of Sustainability,' titled 'Global Health Equity: Leaving No One Behind,' moderator Charlotte Kan introduced the topic by highlighting the significance of addressing healthcare needs for vulnerable populations. The panel featured insights from Dr. Laura Stachel, Co-founder & CEO of We Care Solar, Frank Beadle de Palomo, CEO of mothers2mothers, and Harish Hande, Founder & CEO of SELCO Foundation.

Dr. Laura Stachel discussed We Care Solar's mission to provide solar electricity to rural health facilities, particularly focusing on maternal healthcare. She emphasised the importance of reliable electricity for safe childbirth and the training of local solar installers to maintain the systems. Their solution, the Solar Suitcase, has significantly improved healthcare delivery in over 9,000 health facilities, impacting more than 16 million mothers and newborns.

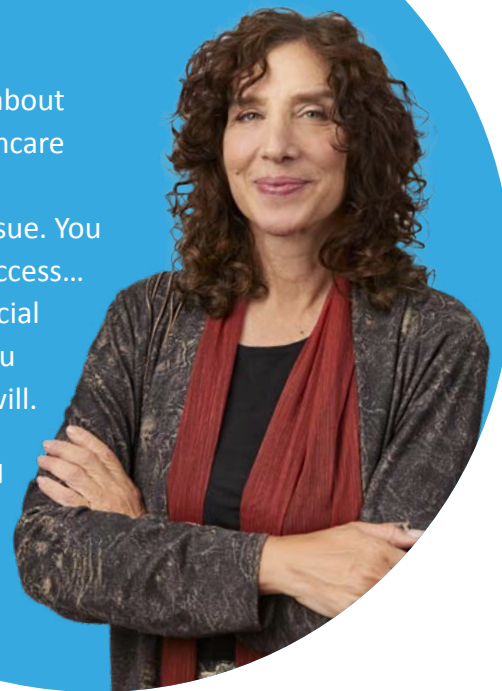
Frank Beadle de Palomo shared the transformative work of mothers2mothers, an African NGO using a peer-led model to combat paediatric HIV infection and provide comprehensive healthcare. He



When we talk about universal healthcare access, it is a multifaceted issue. You need to have access... you need financial support and you need political will.

Dr. Laura Stachel

Co-founder & CEO
We Care Solar



highlighted the power of employing women from the community as Mentor Mothers, who offer support and education to other women. This model has reached over 16 million people and employed more than 12,000 women living with HIV.

Harish Hande elaborated on SELCO Foundation’s use of sustainable energy as a catalyst for healthcare, livelihoods, and education. He discussed the need for innovative, resource-efficient medical equipment and the importance of decentralised energy solutions. SELCO Foundation’s work includes designing robust healthcare facilities and leveraging technology to provide telehealth services, thereby making healthcare more accessible and affordable in rural areas.

Throughout the discussion, the speakers emphasised the interconnectedness of healthcare with other factors such as energy, economic empowerment, and community engagement. They called for a holistic approach to healthcare that includes reliable infrastructure, trained personnel, and sustainable practices.



Part of what we’re trying to do is not just enabling and equipping a ground-based, community-based workforce. We’re also trying to provide technical assistance and advisement.

Frank Beadle de Palomo
CEO
mothers2mothers



The primary way is to innovate from a systems-thinking process of efficiency of appliances...to make sure that development is a way to sustainability and not vice versa.

Harish Hande
Founder & CEO
SELCO Foundation

The conversation highlighted the role of the Zayed Sustainability Prize in fostering innovation and supporting scalable solutions. The speakers underscored the importance of unrestricted funding, which allows organisations to take risks and innovate without the constraints of traditional funding models.

In their calls to action, the guests urged for continued investment in healthcare innovations and stressed the need for political will, financial support, and community involvement to achieve universal healthcare access.

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BIOGRAPHIES



Dr. Laura Stachel

Co-founder & CEO
We Care Solar

Dr. Laura Stachel, Co-founder and Executive Director, worked as an obstetrician-gynecologist for 14 years. She holds an MD from the University of California, San Francisco and an MPH (Maternal Child Health) and DrPH from the University of California, Berkeley, School of Public Health. Her 2008 research on maternal mortality in Nigeria alerted her to the deleterious effects of energy poverty on maternal health outcomes. She co-founded We Care Solar with Hal Aronson in 2010 to bring simple solar electric solutions to maternal and child health care facilities in regions without reliable electricity.



Frank Beadle de Palomo

CEO
mothers2mothers

Frank Beadle de Palomo has an extensive background in HIV prevention, research and advocacy. He assumed the role of CEO at mothers2mothers (m2m) in 2012, following significant positions as Senior Vice President and Director of the Global Health, Population, and Nutrition Group at FHI 360, and Senior Vice President and Director of the Academy for Educational Development (AED). During his tenure, AED played a key role in global AIDS initiatives.



Harish Hande

Founder & CEO
SELCO Foundation

Harish Hande, the Founder and Chief Executive of SELCO Foundation, is a renewable energy entrepreneur with over 30 years of grassroots experience in meeting the energy needs of underserved populations. He is also the founder of SELCO India – a pioneering last mile rural energy enterprise based in India since the early nineties. SELCO sees the pressing need to develop a fertile environment to enhance sustainable energy access solutions for the poor. Harish, a graduate from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur and a master's and PhD from University of Massachusetts, US.



Charlotte Kan

Journalist

The conversation was moderated by:

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OUTCOMES



Reliable solar electricity in health facilities is crucial for improving maternal and neonatal care, particularly in rural areas



Community-driven healthcare models, effectively address healthcare needs by leveraging local knowledge and support networks



Innovative, resource-efficient medical equipment and decentralised energy solutions are essential for making healthcare accessible and affordable in remote and underserved areas



Funding from awards like the Zayed Sustainability Prize enables organisations to take risks and innovate, leading to scalable and sustainable healthcare solutions



Continued investment, political will, and community involvement are necessary to achieve universal healthcare access and address the multifaceted challenges of healthcare delivery

Watch the full episode on the Zayed Sustainability Prize's YouTube channel

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