Move Humanity
A Justice and Wealth Initiative
Mission Statement

Move Humanity aims to mobilize at least 1% of the wealth of the world’s richest individuals each year towards ending extreme poverty and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations.

About Move Humanity

Move Humanity is a new global initiative by the Human Act Foundation, aiming to establish SDG-focused philanthropy as a global norm. It highlights the power and potential that the world’s wealthiest individuals can have by a taxation of, or donating, just 1% of their wealth each year to addressing this century’s most pressing challenges. The initiative aims to help close the SDG financing gap in the low-income countries (LICs) by mobilizing greater private funding for basic health and education, critical infrastructure, and environmental conservation priorities.
THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 objectives – negotiated and agreed to by all 193 member states of the United Nations in 2015 – to end extreme poverty, achieve decent work for all, promote justice, peace and prosperity, and protect the natural environment from human-caused harms. Highlighting both challenges and opportunities, they are a practical tool for governments, institutions, local communities, civil society organizations and businesses to work together towards a common and clear set of targets. The SDGs are time-bound, represent a universal agenda for every country, rich and poor, and are to be monitored annually.

The SDG Financing Gap

The SDGs constitute a bold, ambitious yet feasible agenda that requires only a small percentage of Gross World Income (GWI). The total incremental costs for achieving the SDGs in the world are to the order of $2–$3 trillion USD per year for major SDG sectors. In the low-income countries (LICs) – where Move Humanity primarily has its focus – the financing gap for these same sectors is much smaller, at $300–$400 billion per year.

Closing the Gap

Achieving the SDGs will require rapid mobilization of financial resources from all sectors of the global economy. Move Humanity aims to close the financing gap in LICs by mobilizing greater funding from the philanthropic sector. Today, an estimated wealth of $128.7 trillion USD in net worth is owned by a mere 0.7 percent of the population. A taxation of this “0.7%” would ensure there is more than sufficient funding to meet all the 17 SDGs by 2030.
The Plan to Move Humanity

Move Humanity is calling upon the world’s highest net worth individuals – those with wealth of $1 billion USD or more – to direct at least 1% of their net worth each year towards reaching the SDGs. By setting a path towards a global norm of giving, we believe that many donors will answer this invitation voluntarily, coming forward to support the SDGs with new resources, regional insights, and business acumen.

For those who do not, Move Humanity will urge national governments to consider an SDG tax on billionaires of 1% of their individual net worth, to raise critical funds to meet urgent SDG needs. Move Humanity will work with civil society, academia, youth, the private sector and the UN to ensure adequate and timely SDG funding through international vehicles like the global fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, as well as several other entities with the capacity to act transparently and at a scale for maximum impact.

The Rise of Private Wealth

The philanthropic sector has the capacity to fill a significant percentage of the total SDG financing gap. Forbes reports that there are now a record 2,208 billionaires in the world. These individuals have a collective net worth of $9.1 trillion USD, and their wealth increases daily. In fact, 42 individuals now hold as much as wealth as the poorest half of the world’s population, 3.7 billion people.* The capacity of the world’s wealthiest individuals to bridge the financing gap and achieve the goals is significant. They could help strengthen the healthcare systems of over 70 countries, save more than 6 million children a year, secure an education for over 200 million children, and provide clean water and sanitation for millions more.

* Oxfam, 2018,
Reporting Accountability for Philanthropy

We find that the requirements for transparency and the availability of reliable data on SDG philanthropy has of yet been insufficient. As it is critical for effective development aid, Move Humanity will promote standardized reporting on SDG philanthropy by supporting efforts to monitor, evaluate, develop and collect relevant metrics.

Achieving Greater Efficiency with Innovative Financing

Private funding should be directed largely towards pooled SDG funds that support national SDG strategies and ensure rigorous monitoring and evaluation. Channelling money through large funds creates opportunities to scale development efforts quickly and to distribute funds more efficiently across regions in support of the specific needs of each LIC. By doing so, it offers more transparency and predictable funding for the long term.

Institute a 1% Tax on Billionaires

In tandem with its promotion of more and better voluntary giving for the SDGs, Move Humanity will also work with governments and international entities like the United Nations to promote an SDG tax of 1% of net worth on the world’s wealthiest individuals (billionaires) to be channeled through Official Development Assistance (ODA). As part of this work, Move Humanity will collaborate with the world’s leading researchers and decision-makers to identify and advocate for policies that optimize justice and fairness for all.
Funding six major transformations to achieve the SDGs

There are six major areas in which timely and significant investments could catalyze transformations to achieve key SDGs:

- **EDUCATION, INCLUSION AND GENDER EQUALITY, JOBS, AND GROWTH [SDGs 1, 4, 5, 8, 10]**
- **HEALTH, WELL-BEING, AND DEMOGRAPHY [SDGs 2, 3, 11]**
- **CLEAN ENERGY AND INDUSTRY [SDGs 7, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15]**
- **SUSTAINABLE FOOD, LAND, WATER, AND OCEANS [SDGs 2, 3, 6, 9, 13, 14, 15]**
- **SMART CITIES AND TRANSPORT [SDGs 6, 8, 10, 11, 13]**
- **DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY AND E-GOVERNANCE [SDGs 8, 9, 10, 16]**

Each of these transformations relies and builds upon a foundation of: peace and security [SDG 16], strong governance and international collaboration [SDGs 16, 17], and adequate financing for the SDGs [SDG 17].
Guiding Principles of
Move Humanity

Move Humanity is organized around the following 10 guiding principles:

01 The 17 SDGs are the world’s global development priorities, constituting the globally-agreed framework for the years 2015–2030.

02 The Low-Income Countries (LICs) require development assistance, both public and private, to achieve the SDGs.

03 Development assistance should be complementary with domestic financing and contingent on strong national financing efforts.

04 Development assistance should prioritize funding for LICs in order to close the SDG financing gaps where there are limited resource alternatives.

05 Each donor country should honor their long-standing commitment to allocating at least 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI).

06 Donor Countries’ ODA commitments should be complemented by private sector contributions of 0.3% of national income as Private Development Assistance (PDA).

07 The world’s wealthiest individuals, those with $1 billion USD or more, should make annual philanthropic contributions to SDG-focused efforts that equal at least 1% of their net worth.

08 Private philanthropic contributions for international development and the SDGs should be monitored and reported on annually for greater transparency, coordination and impact.

09 All Private Development Assistance should be directed largely towards pooled SDG funds that national evaluation to decrease funding redundancies and optimize distribution and efficiency.

10 There are two pathways for mobilizing increased SDG funding from the world’s wealthiest individuals: via voluntary philanthropic giving each year or with an SDG wealth tax on billionaires who do not contribute voluntarily.
"Human beings are members of a whole
In creation of one essence and soul
If one member is afflicted with pain
Other members uneasy will remain
If you have no sympathy for human pain
The name of human you cannot retain.

Saadi