Handout

Constructive story examples from around the world

Asia

Bangladesh

Watery Bangladesh Works to Prevent Child Drowning Deaths (Solution)
VOA News, East Asia, Amy Yee, 2014
The largest cause of death of children above age one in the country is not malnutrition – it's drowning. A local non-profit organization is teaching thousands of children to swim.
https://www.voanews.com/a/watery-bangladesh-works-to-prevent-child-drowning-deaths/2460992.html (Print)

The remarkable floating gardens of Bangladesh (Solution)
BBC Future Planet, Kalpana Sunder, 2020
In the lowlands of Bangladesh, people are turning to a centuries-old form of hydroponics to keep afloat.
https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20200910-the-remarkable-floating-gardens-of-bangladesh?utm_source=Solutions+Story+Tracker (Multimedia)

On the frontline of the climate emergency, Bangladesh adapts (Solution)
The Guardian - The upside, Sarah Marsh, 2020
Farmers in delta lowlands are discovering innovative responses to floods and storms.
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jan/08/on-the-frontline-of-the-climate-emergency-bangladesh-adapts?utm_source=Solutions+Story+Tracker (Multimedia)

From footpath to Facebook (Solution)
The Daily Star, Mathews Chiran, Aanila Kishwar Tarunnum, 2020
A 32-year-old streetside book business moves online.
https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/footpath-facebook-1931097 (Online)

Once denied treatment, now welcomed – 'Room 110' shows the way (Nuance, beyond stereotypes)
The Business Standard, Tawsia Tajmim, 2021
A hospital demonstrates how transgender people should get access to healthcare in the country.

https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/health/once-denied-treatment-now-welcomed-room-110-shows-way-345178 (Online)

Power Swarm: A revolutionary approach to solar microgrids (Solution)
Aljazeera, Sohara Shachi, 2021
A startup called SolShare has developed a renewable energy solution that connects solar-powered homes to the houses of neighbors who cannot afford a panel themselves.
https://www.aljazeera.com/program/earthrise/2021/6/12/power-swarm-a-revolutionary-approach-to-solar-microgrids, (video, 9:38)

Cambodia

Lucky Iron Fish (Solution)
BBC News, Philippa Roxby, 2015
An iron object shaped like a fish was designed to release iron at the right concentration to provide nutrients that many women and children in the country lack.
https://www.bbc.com/news/health-32749629 (Video, 3:17 + text)

How Cambodian women are using theatre to speak out against domestic abuse (Solution, new perspectives)
The Guardian, 2022
https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/dec/13/how-cambodian-women-are-using-theatre-to-speak-out-against-domestic-abuse (online)

India

How Wayanad became first district to vaccinate all adults (Solution)
National Geographic, Puja Changoiwala, 2021
Wayanad is the first district in Kerala, India, to have vaccinated the entire adult population with at least one COVID-19 vaccine. It did so by addressing fears through awareness campaigns and creating easy access to vaccines.
https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/how-a-village-in-india-reached-100-vaccination-in-the-face-of-misinformation-and-hesitancy?utm_source=Solutions+Story+Tracker (Print, 12 min. read)

Coronavirus: How India's Kerala state 'flattened the curve' (Solution)
BBC News, Soutik Biswas, 2020
Using a local helpline and two WhatsApp groups, a health council encouraged local villagers to accommodate people who were in isolation and didn't have enough space for social distancing at home.
https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-52283748?utm_source=Solutions+Story+Tracker (Multimedia)

Cases Drop but Dharavi still on alert, continues battling COVID-19 (Solution)
The Quint, Ankita Sinha, 2020
From over two dozen cases daily, Asia's largest slum reduced the number of recorded daily cases to single digits.
https://www.thequint.com/coronavirus/dharavi-community-engagement-key-in-controlling-covid-says-bmc (Text, 3 min. read)

Indonesia

Indonesia's Aceh medics offer COVID lifeline for the isolated (Solution)
Aljazeera, Aisyah Llewellyn, 2021

Doctors set up a Whatsapp consultation service to reduce the risk of people dying from COVID-19 when quarantining at home.
https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/8/9/as-home-deaths-rise-aceh-doctors-offer-help-to-covid-isolated (Text)

Why Some Muslim Women Feel Empowered Wearing Hijab? (Nuance, perspectives)
Magdalene, Kalpana Jain, 2021
Muslim women's clothing isn't entirely about adherence to faith. It has been used in the past and present as an assertion of identity.
https://magdalene.co/story/why-some-muslim-women-feel-empowered-wearing-hijab (text)

Transforming tofu residue into biogas, Kalisari (Solution)
Kompas (Sparknews), Megandika Wicaksono, 2017
In Central Java, villagers are making (and using) biogas from tofu waste.
http://impactjournalismday.com/story/transforming-tofu-residue-into-biogas-kalisari/ (Text)

Pakistan

Ending violence in Pakistan starts in the playground (Solution)
Apolitical, 2018
Right to Play, a program funded by the UK's Department for International Development, uses structured play-based activities to teach life skills to adolescents and was able to reduce peer violence and depression scores among participants.
https://apolitical.co/solution-articles/en/ending-violence-in-pakistan-starts-in-the-playground (Text)

The coronavirus effect on Pakistan's digital divide (Solution)
BBC Worklife, Mehreen Zahra-Malik, 2020
40 times more school-age children have access to a television than to digital devices and bandwidth. Therefore, the government set up a dedicated TV channel called Teleschool.
https://www.bbc.com/worklife/article/20200713-the-coronavirus-effect-on-pakistans-digital-divide?utm_source=Solutions+Story+Tracker (Text)

Pakistani feminist comedians challenge taboos (new perspective, fuller view)
DW, Mavra Bari, 2022
Despite all odds and social barriers, women in Pakistan are using comedy to break gender stereotypes, share personal experiences and challenge patriarchal practices.
https://www.dw.com/en/pakistani-feminist-comedians-challenge-taboos/a-63860816 (Text)

Philippines

Junk Not! Upcycling plastic into furniture (Solution)
The Philippine Star, Jan Victor R. Mateo, 2018
The social enterprise JunkNot produces plastic ropes out of discarded plastic packaging and uses them as primary material for innovative furniture.
https://www.philstar.com/world/2018/06/16/1824938/junk-not-upcycling-plastic-furniture (Text)

Community pantry: 'Not charity, but mutual aid' (Solution)
The COVID-19 pandemic made it hard for many Filipinos to feed themselves and their families. A local initiative asked people to donate what they could to help those in need.
https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1420463/community-pantry-not-charity-but-mutual-aid

Africa

Africa's Wikipedia Editors Are Changing How the World Sees Their Continent,
Reasons to be Cheerful, Tolu Olasoji, South Africa, 2021 (Solution)
WikiAfrica Education spreads information about Africa's diverse languages, cultures and
politics by focusing on the voices and perspectives of African people.
https://reasonstobecheerful.world/africa-wikipedia-editors-write-their-continents-story/
(Text)

Botswana

'A bright life ahead': Botswana on path to seeing no babies born with HIV
(Solution)
The Guardian, Kago Kgosietsile in Selebi-Phikwe, 2022
The country may be Africa's first to stop mother-baby transmission as the WHO hails a
"groundbreaking" fall in rates from 40% to 1%.
https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/jul/18/botswana-mother-baby-transmission-hiv-rates-fall-who (Text)

Kenya

Armed with phones and seeds, jobless Kenyans tackle illegal logging (Solution)
Thomson Reuters Foundation News, Kagondu Njagi, 2021
Local rangers are using smartphones, satellite feeds and global mapping to monitor forests.
Because of their efforts, there have been lower incidences of illegal logging and forest fires
from poachers.
https://news.trust.org/item/20210415025427-k44tr?utm_source=Solutions+Story+Tracker
(Video)

Kenya's Water Women (Solution)
Al Jazeera, Karin Slater, 2015, Kakamega
Kenya's female water tank masons are delivering measurable benefits to their communities
and empowering other women to take up leadership roles.
https://www.aljazeera.com/program/women-make-change/2015/9/22/kenyas-water-women, (Video, 24:30)

Internet from the moon (Solution)
Zulani, David Owino, 2021, Nairobi
To make internet connectivity accessible and affordable across Africa, Dr. Harold Omondi
developed "internet from the moon," a technology that uses satellite dishes to communicate
with transponders placed on the moon by NASA.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V38keAmTjKs (Video, 5:58 Min)

**Sharing is Caring: Kenya's Only Breast Milk Bank Expresses Care for Vulnerable
Newborns** (Solution)
Nigeria Health Watch, Christabel Ligami, 2021
To help mothers who can't supply their newborn with an adequate supply of breast milk, a
hospital in Kenya has developed a milk bank.
https://nigeriahealthwatch.com/sharing-is-caring-kenyas-only-breast-milk-bank-expresses-care-for-vulnerable-newborns/?utm_source=Solutions+Story+Tracker (Text)

Phobia of Healthcare Facilities: Community Health Volunteers, Shielding Clinically Vulnerable Families from COVID-19 (Solution)
Science Africa, Henry Owino, 2021
In Nairobi, community health volunteers have played a crucial role during the pandemic by providing reliable health care information to residents.
https://scienceafrica.co.ke/community-health-volunteers-shielding-families-from-covid-19/?utm_source=Solutions+Story+Tracker (Multimedia)

Fighting Laikipia's prickly pear (Solution)
Africa Uncensored, Peris Gachahi, 2022
The spikes of the invasive prickly pear cactus cause injuries and often death of animals in pastoralist communities in Laikipia County. Residents have found a way to control its spread by introducing a biocontrol insect and also by using the plant to produce biogas.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FOfokVcV4po (Video, 10:02)

Nigeria

How to get rewards for your rubbish (Solution)
BBC World Service, 2018
"Wecyclers", an urban waste management company based in Lagos, give households in low-income communities a chance to capture value from their waste, while providing a reliable supply of materials to the local recycling industry.
https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3cswvr9 (Audio, 12:00)

How a Nigerian security guard used football to end tribal conflict (Solution)
TRT World, Kelechukwu Iruoma , 2021
A series of four football competitions in 2017-18 brought peace to two communities whose land dispute had led to violence. https://www.trtworld.com/magazine/how-a-nigerian-security-guard-used-football-to-end-tribal-conflict-45114?utm_source=Solutions+Story+Tracker (Text)

Senegal

The people racing to replant Africa (Solution)
Pioneers Post, Laura Joffre, 2021
Climate change and deforestation have made the region between the Sahara desert and the African rainforest uncultivable. One initiative has started to build an 8,000 km mural of plants and trees along the southern border of the Sahara desert.
https://immersives.pioneerspost.com/great-green-wall/index.html?utm_source=Solutions+Story+Tracker (Multimedia)

Sudan

In the age of social distancing, Sudanese open their homes to Ethiopian refugees (Solution)
The National, Hadeel Imad al-Deen, 2021
Tens of thousands of Ethiopian refugees fleeing to Sudan to escape war ended up in the border town of Hamdiyet, where a refugee camp was quickly overwhelmed. Local residents, despite the pandemic, opened their homes to the refugees.
https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/africa/in-the-age-of-social-distancing-sudanese-open-their-homes-to-ethiopian-refugees-1.1147898?utm_source=Solutions+Story+Tracker (Text)

Uganda

Uganda's bicycle ambulances help the pregnant, sick and injured (Solution)
Al Jazeera, Caleb Okereke, 2019
Bicycles can provide vital access to health care in remote, rural areas that are otherwise inaccessible by vehicle.
https://www.aljazeera.com/gallery/2019/4/1/ugandas-bicycle-ambulances-help-the-pregnant-sick-and-injured/?utm_source=Solutions+Story+Tracker (Photojournalism)

'It's radical': the Ugandan city built on solar, shea butter and people power (Solution)
The Guardian, Caleb Okereke, 2021
Okere City has been rebuilt with a school, a marketplace and solar-powered energy. The project was not approached as a charity, but as a social enterprise that collaborates with the community. Result: Okere generates revenue and has become self-sufficient.
https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/mar/03/its-radical-the-ugandan-city-built-on-solar-shea-butter-and-people-power (Text)

How Banana Waste Is Turned Into Rugs, Fabric, And Hair Extensions (Solution)
Business Insider, 2021
The African country of Uganda is one of the world's largest consumers of bananas. But for every ton of the fruit, plantations leave behind two tons of refuse. TexFad transforms them into tough fiber that can be woven into rugs, place mats, and even hair extensions.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ust6Bh1D3GY (Video)

Zimbabwe

Pandemic Offers Surprising Opportunity for Farmers (Solution)
Global Press Journal, Linda Mujuru, Vimbai Chinembiri , 2020
In reaction to lockdowns and travel restrictions during the Covid-19 pandemic, many farmers participated in bartering networks that have opened new markets closer to home.
https://globalpressjournal.com/africa/zimbabwe/pandemic-offers-new-opportunity-farmers/ (Text)

Middle East

Egypt

Reeling it in: Egypt's fishermen exchange the Nile's plastic waste for cash (Solution)
The National, Toka Omar, 2021
Fishermen use their boats and river knowledge to help collect tons of plastic waste choking Egypt's lifeline.
https://www.thenationalnews.com/mena/egypt/reeling-it-in-egypt-s-fishermen-exchange-the-nile-s-plastic-waste-for-cash-1.1242297 (Video, 3:22, and text)

A Facebook page solved the riddle of my missing child (Solution)
BBC, Dina Aboughazala, 2020
More than 2,500 missing people have been found in Egypt because of work by the Facebook page Missing Children, which compiled a vast trove of photos and uses facial-recognition software to match faces to cases.
https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-53564935 (Text)

In Egypt, online group Qawem saving hundreds of women from sextortion
(Solution)
DW, Ihab Zidan, 2021
Technology has facilitated the sexual exploitation of thousands of women in Egypt. To save others from the same fate, a young Egyptian man launched an online group dedicated to confronting extorters.
https://www.dw.com/en/in-egypt-online-group-qawem-saving-hundreds-of-women-from-sextortion/a-57950634 (Text and videos)

Europe

UK

Nanny Biscuit: Community fights back against the mental health crisis – and urges people to open up (Solution)
Denbighshire Free Press, Aaliyah Rugg, 2021
Coronavirus has affected many people's mental health, but one community has fought back with a new buddy system and outdoor concerts to help combat loneliness and isolation.
https://www.denbighshirefreepress.co.uk/news/19415124.nanny-biscuit-community-fights-back-mental-health-crisis---urges-people-open/ (Multimedia)

Spain

How Spain got to the top of the vaccination ladder (Solution)
DW News, Anne-Sophie Brändlin, 2021
Spain has one of the highest COVID-19 vaccination rates in the world. Nearly 80% of people there are fully vaccinated. They've done this without mandates, health passes or government orders.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7vMuxSasyVw (Video, 8:42)

Germany

My Country Talks (Constructive dialogue)
Zeit Online and other media outlets, 2017 - 2021
Starting in 2017, the ZEIT ONLINE newsroom looked for a way to bring readers together across political divides. Since then, media partners from around Germany have come together once a year to bring political opponents into a personal dialogue.
https://www.mycountrytalks.org/events/deutschland-spricht

Ukraine

The hospital train helping Ukraine's sick and wounded (Solutions)
Aljazeera, 2022
Chronically ill and injured patients are evacuated from the embattled east to find treatment in the west's safer hospitals.
https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2022/9/4/the-hospital-train-helping-ukraines-sick-and-wounded

Ukrainian postal workers brave danger, 2022 (resilience)
DW, 2022

Risking their lives, Ukrainian postal workers are delivering much more than mail and pensions.
http://85.217.170.64/en/postal-workers-bring-supplies-and-comfort-to-ukrainians/video-63142047 (video)

Ukraine's Postal Service, a lifeline in a country at war (resilience)
Le Monde, 2023
Often criticized for its failures, the long-standing postal company today embodies the nation's spirit of resistance. (Online)
https://www.lemonde.fr/en/economy/article/2023/01/30/ukrainian-postal-service-a-lifeline-in-a-country-at-war_6013600_19.html?random=1231577134 (online)

America

Mexico

This Farm in Mexico is Growing a Solution to Climate Change
Vice News / HBO, 2018
Ricardo Romero has turned the land he inherited into the Las Cañadas Farm Cooperative, a place that's at the forefront of an agriculture technique called carbon farming.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SOIdYKWyZ88 (video)

International

The Sinking Cities project (Solution)
Unbias The News, 2022
This global cross-border investigation examines how sea-level rise is impacting six major cities: Lagos, Alexandria, Karachi, Dakha, Rotterdam and Dublin. The team from Unbias The News worked together with local journalists. They spent six months investigating how their governments and coastal cities are responding to the consequences of climate crisis and preparing for a threat that will affect communities, ecosystems, and economies.
https://unbiasthenews.org/sinking-cities/?mc_cid=219007e1c5&mc_eid=90e31a405e
 (Multimedia)

The library where the books are people (Dialogue)
BBC World Service, People Fixing The World, Claire Bates, 2021
At the human library you borrow a person you wouldn't usually meet for a half-hour frank conversation. The volunteers have various book titles from polyamorous to former prisoner. The aim of these face-to-face chats is to break down assumptions and prejudices.
https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3ct1plb (Audio, 23 min)

How five friends can change a refugee's life (Solution)
BBC World Service, People Fixing The World, Claire Bates, 2021
Groups of Dutch friends are helping families settle when they move to a new country.
https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3ct1pl2 (Audio, 23 min)

Coronavirus and the end of globalization? (Future-oriented, Full picture)
DW, Global 3000, Kilian Schütze-Alinsky, 2020
Experts discuss the scenarios for economic cooperation after the pandemic. Undoing globalization, a green deal?

https://www.dw.com/en/coronavirus-and-the-end-of-globalization/av-53424377 (Video, 7:21)