



Revitalising Scout Organisations

2024-2028 World Scouting
Funding Priority Summary

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Strengthening the organisational capacity, governance, volunteering systems, and digital infrastructure of National Scout Organizations (NSOs) to ensure sustainable and impactful Scouting worldwide.

The Challenge

Many NSOs face structural and organisational challenges that limit their ability to grow, remain sustainable, and effectively deliver quality programmes for young people. Key challenges that weaken the ability of NSOs to grow membership, manage resources effectively, and deliver impactful Scouting programmes globally include:

- **Weak governance systems:** Limited board effectiveness, inconsistent decision-making, and weak strategic oversight.
- **Leadership instability:** Frequent leadership transitions leading to loss of institutional memory and disrupted strategic implementation.
- **Volunteer system pressures:** Declining recruitment, volunteer burnout, rigid training pathways, and weak succession planning.
- **Limited organisational capacity:** Challenges in planning, monitoring, communications, and adapting to societal changes.
- **Fragmented digital infrastructure:** Difficulty managing data, recognising learning achievements, and providing modern digital services.
- **Operational challenges during international events:** Ensuring safety, sustainability, accessibility, and consistent global standards.

The Solution

World Scouting proposes an integrated organisational strengthening initiative that supports NSOs to become resilient, modern, and sustainable institutions. The solution focuses on four interconnected pillars that seek to strengthen World Scouting to deliver on its core mandate, enable sustainable scaling, more proactive operations, and higher-level impact at grassroots:

- **Governance strengthening:** Using the Global Support Assessment Tool (GSAT) (World Scouting's quality standard for good governance and best management practices) to improve governance systems and strategic leadership.
- **Modern volunteer systems:** Developing flexible and inclusive frameworks and systems for recruiting, engaging and retaining volunteers.
- **Digital transformation:** Implementing a digital strategy and introducing ScoutPass, a digital credential wallet recognising the learning achievements of young people.
- **Improved international experiences:** Strengthening governance and operational systems for global and regional Scouting events.

Activities

- Conducting GSAT governance assessments and a 10-year impact review
- Developing strategic plans and governance frameworks and delivering advisory and organisational development support to NSOs

Impact

- Training and deploying World Scouting consultants to support capacity strengthening
- Organising workshops on volunteer system reform and supporting pilot reforms in selected NSOs
- Creating toolkits and competency frameworks for volunteer development
- Designing and implementing World Scouting's digital transformation strategy
- Piloting and rolling out the ScoutPass digital wallet and integrating digital platforms for data management and learning recognition
- Strengthening safety, sustainability, and governance standards for international Scout events
- Establishing capacity-building programmes and training for event organisers
- Introducing digital and hybrid international experiences
- 80% of NSOs achieving 70% or higher GSAT governance scores, increased implementation of GSAT action plans and improved board effectiveness and leadership continuity.
- More NSOs adopting modern volunteer development frameworks and showing improved volunteer recruitment, engagement, retention, and succession planning.
- Improved digital adoption across NSOs, increased number of Scouts registered on ScoutPass and growth in digital badges issued, and learning credentials recognised.
- More Scouts participating in safe, inclusive, and sustainable international events and record higher participant satisfaction and educational outcomes.

Overall, the initiative aims to produce stronger, more resilient NSOs, increased membership growth, and higher-quality Scouting programmes worldwide.

Beneficiaries

The initiative will benefit National Scout Organizations across all World Scouting regions (Africa, Arab, Asia-Pacific, Europe, and InterAmerica). Primary beneficiaries will be NSO leadership bodies (boards, executives), adult volunteers and Scout leaders, youth members participating in Scouting programmes, and regional and global World Scouting support structures. Indirectly, millions of young people will benefit from stronger organisations delivering better programmes and opportunities.

Why Partner with World Scouting?

World Scouting is uniquely positioned to deliver this initiative due to its global network of National Scout Organizations in 176 countries, over 100 years of experience in youth development and proven organisational strengthening tools such as GSAT, all supported by established global partnerships and governance frameworks and powered by millions of volunteers. By partnering with World Scouting, you'll benefit by supporting one of the world's largest youth movements to advancing youth leadership, civic engagement, and sustainable development, drive innovation in volunteering and digital learning and create measurable global social impact. Join World Scouting in strengthening the institutions that empower millions of young people to lead, serve, and build a better world.

"Scouting created a safe space for me to learn, grow, and try things I was interested in without necessarily having the skills or experience some might deem relevant.

The non-formal education aspect of scouting gave me ample opportunities to develop 'soft' or 'transferable' skills without ever opening a book. I was then challenged to apply those skills in new, often more daunting contexts. Each success I experienced helped to build my confidence so that I was ready for what came next."

~ Máire Fitzgerald - Coordinator
Innovation Area of Operations
European Scout Region

"GSAT is a complete and very powerful tool to identify an NSO's strengths and areas of improvement and helped my NSO to do this across many dimensions. The tool allowed us to go from 'I think', to having an objective basis in making better decisions with a higher quality of information."

~ Iván Limaco
Vice-Chairperson National Board
Asociación de Scouts del Perú



Ready to Partner?

Reach out to partner@scout.org to explore how we can collaborate to deliver transformative learning experiences for every young person, everywhere.

You can also visit scout.org to learn more about World Scouting's work and impact.