RISKING INTEGRITY & EMBRACING FAILURE IN GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

Jordan Levy • Unite For Sight • April 2017
The Generic Non-Profit Foundation

Boy did we screw this one up.

Yikes! Now what?

CEO
Can't lie to you. This project was a total failure.
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We saved the whole dang world!

Yay! Now what?

CEO
I’m the best, and most innovative CEO ever. You’re welcome.
Embracing failures leads to success.
Ubuntu Education Fund

2003 · 

Computers are going to transform the lives of poor students in township schools. Technology is the future!

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School Officials Wait, where are the new students? The extra funding?
Like · Reply

Parents Sounds great, but will computers help me feed my child?
Like · Reply

Donors What a great solution to poverty! Very exciting.
Like · Reply

Students How do we use these things?
Like · Reply

Ubuntu Education Fund This doesn’t seem to address the township’s issues the way we’d hope. Time to go back to the drawing board.
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WE’RE NOT ALONE.

Failure is an inherent part of every organization’s growth.
1. Make risk a priority.

Boris
A little worried these monitoring and evaluation assessments. Are they thorough?

Good question.

Zainab
Worth investigating. Let’s start talking, and stop pitching.
1. Make risk a priority.
2. You cannot create deep impact without first taking care of yourself.
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2. You cannot create deep impact without first taking care of yourself.
3. Change doesn’t happen overnight.
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4. **Commit to the highest-quality services.**
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5. **Authentic collaboration takes trust and persistence.**
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2. You cannot create deep impact without first taking care of yourself.
3. Change doesn’t happen overnight.
4. Commit to the highest-quality services.
5. Authentic collaboration takes trust and persistence.
6. **Solutions are complex, and should not be oversimplified.**
The Generic Non-Profit Foundation

We're getting there.

Makes sense! Now what?

These things take time, but we're on it!

CEO
THANK YOU.

JORDAN LEVY
Chief External Relations Officer
Ubuntu Education Fund

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