(Caption Test)   
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Live captioning by Ai-Media   
  
JOANNE CARTER:   
Welcome everyone, and Joanne Carter, negative director of RESULTS.   
  
I am joining you today with a heavy heart. After the horrific attacks in Israel on October 2, another terrible violence and the resulting humanitarian catastrophe that is unfolding in Gaza even as we speak. The massive scale of loss and displacement and suffering.   
  
There are no words for the grief and the horror of such dehumanizing violence. For the children and the families we have lost, and also for the generational trauma this violence inflicts. I know this is also deeply personal for many people.   
  
As Congress considers new emergency funding right now, we have been pushing for critical humanitarian aid to protect the health and nutrition and basic needs of civilians affected by conflict in Gaza and elsewhere in the Middle East. In other places and beyond.   
  
And outfit is the most volatile and oppressed to bear the brunt of the suffering.   
  
Is a terrible moment in the world and grateful to be in community with each of you, both as partners and advocates working to undo the systems of oppression at the root of poverty and the root of conflict and violence around the world, and working to create the systems that empower people facing poverty and oppression. For this work we need strength and we need community.   
  
I know that many of you have had the chance to gather together in person again after far too long a time apart. Just this last month RESULTS group's organizing events in St. Louis, bringing together folks across the Midwest region in North Carolina, and in Virginia for the capital region. These events really were community in action.   
  
In Virginia, RESULTS Experts on Poverty [Name] delivered powerful Keynote Address's, looking at the policies and advocacy practices that can make the biggest impact, and their insight and expertise created meaning full discussion, creating space for advocates to dig into complex issues, troubleshoot advocacy challenges and also the connections.   
  
These are the types of moments RESULTS aims to continue to support in 2024. Grounded in community, strengthening our connections and our skills, and guided the expertise that comes from lived experience of poverty. We hope to create spaces that are accessible to all from within our wide and diverse network of advocates.   
  
I do want to say some of you already know after my email announcement that unfortunately we won't be holding one central international conference in DC in 2024. I want to acknowledge this likely comes as a big disappointment to many of you, and it is for me too.   
  
Before the epidemic RESULTS had a large gathering in DC each year for lobbying on Capitol Hill, learning inspiration and community building.   
  
As of right now, our plans to hold our next major international conference in 2025, likely toward the start of the year. So earlier. It will be a powerful timing after a major election had a chance to come together in DC to Set The Agenda for Congress and the administration early.   
  
This decision about 2024 is primarily driven by the considerable cost for a big event like this. I do want folks to be clear we are in a strong and stable financial position, but we just can't promise we will have the capacity to hold the conference in 2024.   
  
And critically, for any conference we hold, we are committed to do it in a way that aligns with our values. That means ensuring we have the resources to deliver on our commitment to equity and access and participation. Including and especially making sure those who are currently expressing poverty are able to be there as leaders.   
  
This is a hard choice but I am also committed to continue to find ways to connect and advocate together in the meantime. Building on all the successful regional events this year from the Pacific Northwest, to Texas, to the ones I just mentioned, and our staff is meeting this month to talk through support for these kind of impactful gatherings in 2024, and also other great ideas to connect with each other over the next year in our communities, states, regions and online.   
  
I also want to say I know that the dysfunction in Congress has been incredibly frustrating, but I do want to point that if you had asked anyone in DC a year ago if there was space for a bipartisan action on the CTC, I think they would have said no way.   
  
You hear more in a moment, while the exact legislator pact isn't there, and that you will find there leaders on both sides and chambers who believe it is possible. You will have played a huge part in creating that space with your meetings with Congress, your media work and your persistence throughout the year.   
  
The also persistent our advocacy to pass that End TB Now Act and The READ Act. Despite the broad clinical dysfunction. These bills are primed and ready to move because of your work. We have seen this many times before. Bills can get stuck right before the finish line. But eventually we break the (Indiscernible) and we are not stopping and were showing bipartisan element to action is possible, even in the face of these in fractures.   
  
Before hand things over I want to extend a special thanks to members of our community who are working to secure support for all of the shared work for the friends and family fundraisers. A particular shutter to the groups in Dallas, Austin, New Mexico, as well as 20 individuals who are out rallying critical financial support for this work. I am really so grateful for your support, energy and commitment to sustaining and growing our work and our network.   
  
Finally I want to say I'm grateful that in the webinar today not only will we have amazing external guests, we will also share more about the RESULTS Fellowship, which brings together young leaders in the fight against poverty and inequity to build skills and build communities as advocacy leaders.   
  
Without a doubt one of the most important, impactful programs we have, with over 600 alums. The fellows and other young advocates that are out in our network have had a transformational role in our work, I know you know this. They are not only the future leaders, their critical leaders right now.   
  
So thank you in advance to the panel today for sharing and all you do, and thank you to all of you for your commitment to our values and to this work.   
  
DAVID PLASTERER:   
Thanks Joanne.   
  
Good afternoon everyone, thank you for joining us today. We are in the middle of a busy and important legislative season that will have huge ramifications on a Child Tax Credit advocacy.   
  
Members of the Senate Finance Committee and House Ways and Means Committee are heavy cover sessions about the tax package that could pass soon, and it is vital we make our voices heard by our elected Representative Smith and tell them they must expand the CDC are families with low incomes and any tax bill this year.

**[REDACTED]**  
  
KEN PATTERSON:  
I'm going to do a quick thing then headed off to Yolanda and Sara.   
  
We want to know who was in the room today. If you would, how may people gathered for today's webinar, you can fill out the poll for us that would be great. Just a couple of moments.   
  
I see people are answering, fantastic. This is really helpful. It helps us know what the attendance looks like on some of these webinars and if people are getting together and all of that.   
  
Just getting a few more of you to fill out that poll. While you are doing that I will go ahead and bring Yolanda on board here along with Sara. One second.   
  
My colleagues there, great to have you both on.   
  
I think we're slowing down responses. Last chance to get your responses in on the poll. Great. Excellent. Very good, thanks.   
  
I am going to just and the poll will stop you to see what things look like in terms of who is on this. 92, 412 alliance.   
  
I will hand this over to my colleagues, Yolanda Gordon and Sarah Leone he. Take away folks.   
  
YOLANDA GORDON:   
Thank you Ken, can hear me?   
  
KEN PATTERSON:   
Yes we can.   
  
YOLANDA GORDON:   
Hello my name is Yolanda Gordon I'm the manager of (Indiscernible) and advocacy. I'm responsible for the results mac organizing and advocacy fellowship.   
  
The RESULTS fellowship is 1/11 month-long leadership program that provides selected volunteers with the tools to be amazing advocates.   
  
It has of four years today since I joined the RESULTS team and I can also say I have the best job in the organization.   
  
Every year I have gotten the opportunity to recruit and share with a new class of leaders through the fellowship.   
  
It is an amazing journey every year, and I learned so much from them.   
  
2024 will be the 10th anniversary of the fellowship. I am proud to say I have seen every class since the beginning as volunteer and a staff member.   
  
The RESULTS fellowship, formally real change, started with Sadie Amick group of individuals ready to make changeable. -- Dynamic group of individuals met making change of the world, and they have.   
  
... Who worked for the World Bank and now works for UNICEF and (Unknown Term).   
  
Alumni have been doing dynamic things. We have had 21 alumni, five currently serving as staffers on the hill. Not only that, we also have researchers, housing coordinators, policy analysts, policy directors, global health advocates, PhD students, doctors, pharmacists, and entrepreneurs.   
  
One of our alumni who started his own fellowship to climate -- to combat climate change. Our alumni also serve on a Grassroots Board as regional coordinators and leaders.   
  
We have over 600 alum, and I'm proud of their work, passion and advocacy.   
  
I want to sit in the class next year 2023, lecture will be your last webinar you will join the alumni network. I want our network to know you are the best part of RESULTS. It was a joy to recruit each of you and watch you grow as advocates.   
  
Congratulations on your compliments.   
  
Lastly, the recruitment window has been extended. The application now closes at 11:59 PM on November 15. Thank you to each group and volunteer who has worked with 2023 Fellow this year and in the past. Your hard work has been in addition to the skills they have learned.   
  
Now over to my colleague Sara Leone.   
  
SARAH LEONE:   
Wonderful, can you will hear me OK? Awesome.   
  
Like the letter said, my name is Sarah Leone, abrazo she/hers 1011 (Indiscernible) NENA the Senior Associate on the RESULTS Grassroots impact team.   
  
As Senior Associate there were a few different hats within the team. You have probably most likely see me working with West Coast advocates, additionally I manage our motivational interviewing trainings and resources. And other resources. And additionally I provide direct support to Action Network Managers Webinar new advocate mentors. So I might be a familiar face to you.   
  
I actually was a real change fellow back in 2016. That is actually how I got started with RESULTS. I was a newly minted 19-year-old in 2016. I had never been on an airplane before, and yet I was flying halfway across the country to spend five days with people I didn't know and an organization I was still finding out about. Still learning about.   
  
Come from a family of immigrants and refugees, so working hard has always been something that has been instilled in me at a young age. So I was up for the challenge of doing something that was a bit outside of my comfort zone, and that was attending my first international conference in 2016, which was just such an amazing experience.   
  
So as somebody who lived above the poverty line as a child and didn't qualify for certain programs, what you start to see as a young girl, and you don't necessarily have a name for it but it's just something you start to notice. How much harder it is for certain populations to live a good life here without barriers being put into place.   
  
So with those barriers being placed strategically as well, especially in my home state here in Indiana.   
  
So even with all of my family struggles I was still very blessed and still consider myself very fortunate, even when things were tight financially. I always knew I wanted to help people in some way, which brings me to my first experience with RESULTS which was the fellowship like I mentioned, which I can say honestly impacted my life in such a positive way.   
  
I always thought politicians were untouchable and above us common folk until I heard a pretty common RESULTS catchphrase, which is revolted them in, we can vote them out and as a democracy we have the power to do so.   
  
So after I did the fellowship and went on to graduate degree in social work which is also heavily influenced by my spirits of the fellowship. So I graduated with my degree in 2018. From there I started working various direct service â€“ social service programs. Using my advocacy skills I learned at RESULTS plus my social work degree to advocate for better treatment and services for my clients. I went on to work with immigrants and refugees, and also domestic violence shelter. So I did a couple of different jobs after the pandemic started.   
  
Along the way I stayed involved with RESULTS Indy which is about two hours from where I lived at the time. So for folks far away from the group or if you are a free agent, I feel you, I hear you. It's difficult advocating when you are on your own. But don't give up because staying involved and holding myself accountable to take action each week taught me a lot about myself and also the advocacy skills I knew I wanted to build upon.   
  
My journey since the fellowship is just one of many that have taken place since the fellowship started in 2014. Since then in February 2021, that's when I joined RESULTS staff as an associate, I am no Senior Associate. I'm so grateful to have had the expense which gave me lifelong prejudice, powerful speaking and advocacy skills, and a love to learn about things that don't necessarily affect me. I think that is something RESULTS taught me. You don't have to be experiencing poverty to care about ending poverty. You don't have to be experiencing whatever the things we try to focus on to care about it. RESULTS does a good job I feel like of letting folks know you are important here no matter where you come from, no matter where your background is.   
  
With all that said Oprah said you are listening about my story and why I am here and what the fellowship gave me and how it brought me so much joy and happiness.   
  
I am excited to facilitate and introduce our next panel where you will actually hear from past fellows and current group leaders who have had success within the fellowship.   
  
Please join in welcoming our group leaders, Kathleen Duncan from Texas, and Lesley Heilig from Massachusetts, and fellowship alumni and a speaker from Indianapolis and Bree Olwan from Philadelphia.   
  
Will come, thank you for taking time out of your Saturday to come and share your experiences with the results network. We will start by asking a few questions and have you will share your experiences.   
  
The reason we are having group leaders on and fellows on as we wanted to get different perspectives of what the Fellowship looks like, what it is like having a fellow in the group and how the dynamic works.   
  
So we will actually start with our fellows. Candace and Bree, question for you too. What did you learn in the Fellowship you didn't know before you started? And I will actually go ahead and start with Miss Reed. -- Three.   
  
BREE OLWAN:   
Hi everyone, thank you for having me today. During the fellowship I was new to results overall. So I really had no experience with contacting by members of Congress. And that can be a bit intimidating.   
  
With Yolanda's guidance I really learned how to use my voice, and I learned that (Indiscernible) offices that give us a harder time, and despite opposition, reps care about what we have to say. I needed the leverage and push and how to tell my story, which is why really enjoyed the storytelling portion of the fellowship.   
  
SARAH LEONE:   
Thank you Bree. What about you Candace? What was something you learned during the fellowship you did not know before hand?   
  
CANDACE BAKER:   
Good afternoon everybody, I'm Candace, Indiana.   
  
So I have been a part of RESULTS, all pulled back for a minute because I just have a lot going on. I came back just in time to get involved in fellowship, but David and everybody in the group in Indiana was super amazing. I'm always here for you.   
  
So a big take away for me was I was never pushed or felt inadequate or anything. They always made me feel really comfortable within our cohort in Indiana.   
  
So what's the fellowship came up and I applied for it, I was kind of nervous because I was over the age. I am married and I have children. So a lot of the other fellows, they didn't have family but there were still young. I was like oh my gosh, I don't know what I'm doing here, but I just knew to be myself. I know where my heart and passion was already was growing up around poverty and things like that. So I knew my heart and my passion.   
  
I said I'm going to take this with a grain of salt, and I'm going to take in everything and learn what I can to use my voice. So that was one of my biggest takeaways, knowing how to use my voice to have the confidence to speak out, be bold and know how to share my story and the language.   
  
So that was my biggest take away. Knowing the Fellowship is a huge support system for when you guys say, "I am here for you, just reach out and ask for help." That is what you mean. And that's amazing to have that.   
  
So it's just all a matter of reaching out and asking for it, asking those questions because they will give it to you (Laughs). That's why â€“ that is made major take away for top   
  
SARAH LEONE:   
Wonderful, thank you Candace. I had the joy of advocating alongside Candace in our Indiana joint group. -- Joy group.   
  
We will turn it over to the group leaders now. We will hear their perspectives.   
  
As group leaders, what was something you learned from your past and current fellow status date with you? We will start with Kathleen.   
  
KATHLEEN DUNCAN:   
Here in Houston, we tend to follow the RESULTS model. This is responding to what groups need to hear from fellows and group leaders. So, when we are notified by RESULTS, we endeavor to send an email text or if we have a phone number or both quickly, of course you want to talk with them before the next Houston webinar. Or before the next National Webinar.   
  
What I have learned from is the fellows over the years is, just exuberant, fun. I really like to get to know them, as much as they want to share. We always ask what led them to the fellows program. We are very mindful, or we try to be very mindful, of what is the fellows program asking of them and how can we support that to make that happen.   
  
Such as asking for those meetings before they have a conclave in DC and what I have learned. They are just amazing people.   
  
And should I stop now and let Leslye respond? I do have some more to say, but let's let Leslye to talk.   
  
SARAH LEONE:   
Let's pass it over to Leslye, thank you, Kathleen.   
  
LESLYE HEILIG:   
I am a retired pediatrician in far Western Massachusetts. Anything what I have learned from working with the fellows is, how they are like sponges. They want to learn anything and everything that you can possibly impart to them.   
  
They are busy. They are really busy people. So, what I have done, is made myself as available as I can possibly be. So, that when they have questions, I am there to answer them.   
  
And just welcome them. Share life experiences with them. You know, they - sometimes they do not stay with it, sometimes they just come in and they do not know very much about what is going on, so I assume that it is my responsibility to bring them in the fold and show them how to do things.   
  
And support them. And it works! So, and then they become friends. And they stay with us and it is just fabulous. And I will turn it back to you, Sarah.   
  
SARAH LEONE:   
Thank you. I am sensing aâ€¦ Maybe they prefer it receiving text messages over email. Building sort of, like I think those of smaller logistical pieces can have an impact in the long run.   
  
Just because some people like do not check their emails, some people would rather check their text messages, it was just kind of depend. That is why it is important to build that relationship with that fellow. Wonderful. So, this what is going to be for all four of you. So, -- this one. So, what were some assumptions you have, whether it be as a group leader welcoming a fellow, or as a fellow coming into the program, that got adjusted by learning either the content or just from each other.   
  
I will let you choose which one you would like to speak, just because I am not sure if you want to take a few moments to think.   
  
LESLYE HEILIG:   
I am sorry.   
  
KATHLEEN DUNCAN:   
Go ahead, Leslye.   
  
LESLYE HEILIG:   
What I have learned is how much they need to learn. So, I tried to reach out immediately, as soon as Yolanda lets me know that there is a fellow, I reach out to them. And I tell them who I am. I share my personal life and why I am involved with RESULTS and how I became involved with RESULTS.   
  
And I invite them to a Zoom meeting, really as soon as they can arrange that with myself or with another group coleader. I asked them what they know and what they need. I want to hear from them, I want to hear their story. I have learned and found is that, if you get them right in the beginning, they know something about RESULTS.   
  
But they really have not had the time to be guided through everything. Or even a part of it. So, I take my first step is walking them through the website. I walk them through the website.   
  
You know, that is because that is what Ken Patterson did with me when I started. So, I walk them through the website, I show them things, and I try to end up with them finding their legislator and writing a letter to the editor.   
  
Through the media action and hitting submit. Before we end. And that just seems to be, you know, a nice intro for them. So, that is all that I have to say.   
  
SARAH LEONE:   
Wonderful, thank you, Leslye.   
  
KATHLEEN DUNCAN:   
Maybe not little things, when sending the Houston meeting notice, I tell the group that there will be a Fellow joining us, as everyone to introduce themselves, ask (indiscernible) (static) to introduce themselves.   
  
And again, make it clear to the group and when it comes to setting up a meeting, ideally have the point person, again, if we are working in Houston, there are 10 members in Houston. Have the person ideally work with the fellow to get the meeting.   
  
And here is - I wanted to share with you all. About them staying with the group after the program is completed, it just depends. Are they staying in the area after fellowship ends?   
  
And if yes, what will they be doing? And my experiences include hearing that they have been accepted into medical school or grad school. Or a job.   
  
I listen really closely about, does it sound like they will have time to be on twice a month meetings plus a National Webinar (Laughs).   
  
Here is what is fun for me. And if they ask you to go out to eat with them, you do it. If they ask you to prepare a letter of recommendation for whatever reason, you write it.   
  
If they want to host a National Webinar where they are currently living, we move the whole group over there (Laughs).   
  
And that is - it has just been a really great experience for me.   
  
SARAH LEONE:   
Wonderful, thank you, Leslye, thank you, Kathleen. What about you, what were some assumptions you had going into the fellowship that now you are coming out of it, you're sort of like, I was really wrong, or I was right about this, or sort of neutral.   
  
CANDACE BAKER:   
For me, I believe as a Fellow, when you are already in a group, already it makes it easier because you are able to piggyback off of your group or lean onto your group for support.   
  
Also, -- lien onto your group. If you have -- lean on.â€¦ So, they will fill in where you are. So, oh, my gosh, I have to know everything, I have to know the language, I have to know the language of politicsâ€¦ Oh, that had broken down for me like that. You know, that assumption.   
  
You do not have to. You just go in with your story, you go in with your lived experience, because no one can take that from you, it is your story, it is your experience. When you're able to speak from where you came from, it comes -- turns out is more passion rather than someone who will be relatable to it, it will be something that you say that will speak with a person.   
  
Especially when it is from your heart and just being as authentic as possible. That is what I really pride myself on is being authentic. Coming in as a fellow, it was like, oh, my goodness, it was so nervous.   
  
But it is like once you get in there, you and your cohort groups form a Zoom and everything, it is called. That personal experience. When I went to DC, it opened up everything for me, it made me feel like I was super wanted. You cannot tell me nothing. The lake now, I am waiting to be published. -- So like now. I am writing (indiscernible). It is like a conviction for me that this is something I say yes I will do.   
  
So, that is what the fellows have done for me. I went and let those assumptions go down. It has been good since.   
  
SARAH LEONE:   
I love that! That is wonderful.   
  
BREE OLWAN:   
I will piggyback about what Candace said, but earlier. Going into the fellowship, I was a bit nervous. I know most fellows, we see our students, and I am also a student, but I was also a mother of three young children. I was actually on my third child. While in the fellowship. But RESULTS did a really good job and group leaders, like Kathleen and Doctor Leslie did a very good job of fostering a very welcoming environment. Inclusive. And so, my nerves were settled.   
  
Very quickly. And I did initially go in. With the assumption that, "OK, I would complete the 11 month program and maybe that would be it." I would take those skills acquired and move on. But the relationships I made within my local group and, you know, with staff as well, we worked well together.   
  
We complemented each other. And I really learned that there was opportunity for growth after the fellowship. And I think that is an important take away.   
  
SARAH LEONE:   
Absolutely. I think that is wonderful. It can be nerve-racking. When you are joining a fellowship. Especially because RESULTS has such an amazing reputation on the hill. And then within our international organizational partners. So, we have a lot of heavy hitters that -- in our organization. So, apologies if you are hearing my puppy in the background.   
  
I will ask you one last question. What has been your favorite thing about the Fellowship in its entirety? Or maybe about a certain fellow and we will start with Leslye.   
  
LESLYE HEILIG:   
Sorry about that. My favorite thing has been personal relationships. It is just like building a relationship with congressional offices, it is the people, it is how we interact. One of the things that I meant to say before was, keeping our fellows engaged is - we have invited three fellows over the past two years to join our best -- to join us as group coleaders after they finish the fellowship.   
  
It is just a perfect match to do that. In the Boston area especially. It is hard because you will come and go. So, we had people coming in for a couple of years and then they move out for a couple of years. So, yeah. That is, you know, trying to keep them with us.   
  
SARAH LEONE:   
Thank you, Leslye. Let's go to Kathleen, what has been your favorite thing about the fellowship?   
  
KATHLEEN DUNCAN:   
I just wrote myself a note. I am looking at the future of America. When I see this. I love the diversity. America's phase is changing. Part of what we are going, as white people. That is my favorite.   
  
SARAH LEONE:   
Wonderful, thank you, Kathleen. Let's go to Bree, what has been your favorite thing?   
  
BREE OLWAN:   
Like Doctor Leslie said, the personal relationships. I know I am still connected to a few of the fellows that were in the same cohort as me. We actually connect through social media and I feel like as the cohorts move on, we see a bigger presence on social media than the visuals.   
  
Yes, building his personal relationships outside even of the work of RESULTS.   
  
SARAH LEONE:   
Wonderful, thank you, Bree. Go ahead, Candace. What has been your favorite thing?   
  
CANDACE BAKER:   
My favorite thing has been relationship building as well. And being able to communicate. I stay in touch with some of my fellows that I met, and we connected, you know, on the webinars. But when we met in person, we make those connections. So, some that I stay in touch with even now, knows that I do not - being in the solo seats when I did that weekend was amazing.   
  
So, when I see them flourish, I am like, "OK, I see you." I get a chance to say that I knew them. I worked with them. We were on the same team.   
  
So, that is what is really big for me. We -- whether we talk everyday or not, knowingly made that connection when we did. And those that I did connect to, you know, on a deeper level. Just encouraging them to keep going to bigger states and, you know, it is more Members of Congress that they have to try to advocate. And you know, different things.   
  
Encouraging them to keep pushing. So, that is my biggest take away, just a relationship building and coming you know, just reach out, stay connected, that is the biggest thing. We are stronger together. So.   
  
SARAH LEONE:   
Thank you Candace.   
  
I want to be respectful of the time so thank you all four of you for your amazing advocacy work and mentoring you provide to our fellows and the program itself. I personally would not be here if it was not for folks like you. Shadow to Jos Linn, he always kept me engaged, so the relationship building pieces so important.   
  
We hope you enjoyed hearing from a few of our fellows and group leaders. If you would like to learn more about the program you can contact Yolanda.   
  
With that I am passing it over to my colleague Colin to talk about our global poverty issues, to take it away.   
  
SPEAKER:   
Folks know we are in our campaign and equity impact in global poverty programs, including global education. And The READ Act Joanne mentioned at the start of the call.   
  
We are about to hear from just an extraordinary leader in this and pushing for equity impact in education in particular. And especially for children to not only make it into school but also get the quality learning that is their right.   
  
So I am delighted we are joined by our file special guest today, Dr Oby Ezekwesili.   
  
Dr Oby is president and founder of Human Capital Africa focused on global education, and also a Senior Advisor for the Africa Economic Development Policy Initiative as you see on the screen there.   
  
But she has just an extraordinary biography, and more importantly as a history of impact on the world on education, democracy, corruption.   
  
She is the former minister of education of Madura, also the former minister of the roles of Nigeria. She was an instrumental leader of the bring back our girls movement. She was a cofounder and Director of transparency International, a former vice president of the World Bank, and many many more roles throughout her career. And really a long list of honors to go with it too from the time 102 being considered for the Nobel Peace Prize.   
  
So we are so lucky to be advocacy partners with you Dr Oby, and so thrilled you are here.   
  
And before I had things over to you all want to mention whether the part -- one other part of your biography to share a bit more about you with the group today, because I think this is your first official RESULTS event.   
  
Dr Oby was also the founder and chair of the Fixed Politics initiative in Nigeria. So this is a grassroots group focused on, from the website, the centrality of citizens and nurturing a democracy that works for everyone.   
  
So Dr Oby, what I wanted to say to you is you have a zoom room full of allies and that mission here today. I'm really glad we are able to hear from -- you were able to hear from some of her advocates -- some of her advocates just a second ago.   
  
For context, this group of advocates on the phone and her peers, all across the country, all volunteers, has had hundreds of meetings with the U.S. Congress this year, hundreds of pieces of media, and as I mentioned we are in the middle of a grassroots push right now to hold US AD accountable for its role in support country partners on education and foundational learning.   
  
We have a few questions, but first I will hand it over to you for some opening comments. So welcome.   
  
DR OBY EZEKWESILI:   
Thank you so very much Colin. I am so delighted to be a part of this conversation, because as you probably already know, I place so much weight in the power of the citizens to determine how we are governed and how well our world is run.   
  
Is a matter of fact, use constricted the concept of the office of the citizen, being the highest office, the most important office in many democracies. So to be appointed the RESULTS group, those are the heroes we don't see on the front pages of the newspaper, yet they are the ones working behind the scenes to get the political powers and authorities to really focus on the critical issues that matter for the progress we desire in our world. Not just progress for a few people, but progress that's equitable, inclusive, and offers opportunity to everyone.   
  
That is why I am happy we are focused on looking at how the bilateral institutions and multilateral institutions like the World Bank, bilateral's like the US aid or its counterpart, (Unknown Term) in the UK for what they do in terms of supporting a critical venture that matters for the reduction of poverty.   
  
I think that my number one point is that we now know that if you want to reduce poverty, you need economic growth. The higher economic growth that countries have, the more probable it is for them to reduce poverty. So economic growth is definitely essential.   
  
It may not be a conclusive pathway, (Indiscernible) necessary condition but efficient condition, but you do need it to grow.   
  
So this first concept of making sure that the economies are growing is so important, and I do believe we know there is sufficient data to show us that economic growth is particularly important for the sub-Saharan Africa, my continent, which has lagged behind in terms of its economic growth performance in many of the decades.   
  
So what we know of economic growth also is that if it were to be enough to be endowed with natural resources, and then we would grow, we would have been the continent that would have achieved growth faster than any other continent.   
  
But why usually in doubt, that kind of economic growth and therefore (Indiscernible) and therefore poverty reduction, and therefore prosperity that we should have seen has not happened. The reason is that an essential component for economic growth is productivity and competitiveness of the human being in a region, any country, any community.   
  
It is that impact that the importance of education for growth, education for prosperity really (Indiscernible) us as to why do we have educational attainment gaps still on our continent even by the 21st century? And that is a whole lot of college I found the conversation to get into, but in order to go through all that and focus more specifically on the kind of challenge that RESULTS, the volunteers, my goodness you are all heroes that do knock on the doors and try to get agendas set for this kind of topic across the US were a lot of people hardly understand why you should be doing that. You don't have (Indiscernible) to do for your time sent to advocate for something that appears so far-fetched, so I first want to acknowledge you are doing incredible work of (Indiscernible) and compelling people to discuss topics that would not resonate normally, because there are enough domestic challenges that get the attention of the people. So (Indiscernible) for the agenda to become a public agenda table. You're doing an incredible job anything before.   
  
Number two thing to speak to on this matter of access as I do believe very much that â€“ my mantra actually is that I trust in God, one of the other person was (Indiscernible) data.   
  
So is this a problem that really requires our attention with a fair sense of urgency? Yes it does, and the reason is that most African countries are really off-track for achieving the SDG goal for which talks about quality education to all children, so the situation where we are just about six years away from 2030, the (Indiscernible) goals wonderful date, and yet we are a continent where there 63 million children out of school, some 36 or 34 million of them are in Africa. That is huge. Out of schoolchildren (Indiscernible) globally that (Indiscernible) children out of school, that's terrible in our world today. And what were we say paying attention to inequality, when we know lack of access to education is the greatest driver of inequality. So we have this large number in Africa, but even worse in data as of the ones in school, it says nine out of every 10 of them on my continental not achieving anymore proficiency level in literacy and numeracy.   
  
Provide the age of 10, 9/10 are not actually getting the kind of quality of teaching, quality of instruction, quality of science, learning, whatever you call it that enables them to have those basic skills.   
  
And we do know that foundational literacy and numeracy determines future learning.   
  
If you don't attend those competencies by the age of 10, it might us even more difficult for you to learn in the future. So we see higher levels of inability to transition from primary school to secondary school and children who are not achieving many more proficiency levels.   
  
See the impact this has on poverty. It escalates poverty within communities where people, where children are not attending skills because they fall out of school and then they fall through the cracks and no one is looking out for them.   
  
So in order to really ensure ourselves to create a more productive workforce for our world, we need children being able to have this minimum skills, the minimum learning skills.   
  
So for me, I think making the case for education is good, but making the case for education were children actually have a solid foundation is better.   
  
So when the conversation of this kind today, we focus on the impact that the kind of work you are doing, getting congresspeople, getting the government of the United States to address this.   
  
The first question would be, why does this concern the US at all? Well it concerns the US because the US have always been a voice and think we do need a world of global prosperity, gives the stability and a sense of resilience of society. That if we have greater prosperity across the world, we have a harmonious world where you don't have to worry too much about the issues of insecurity and the dual threat of risk, of the kinds we are dealing with today.   
  
So in the case of Africa, just seen the World Bank, the US AID have to be the drivers of the kinds of investments that are necessary to support education to achieve this kind of outcome that desirable means we do need to make sure they are not losing the focus. They are losing focus because there are many other priorities that are considered important, and sometimes we have priorities within priorities because people can safely say, (Indiscernible) 21st century so the most important thing is just give them all the technology they need. Giving them everything about Higher Education and give them something about technical and vocational. All of these are important priorities, but it is even more important that we should correct the distortion in the foundational learning. Because without it, as a solid base, then the investments and all these other important priorities not really come true.   
  
So what's critical in the conversation concerning transforming education that we should pay attention to how the argument, the Boston quarter prioritization because that is critical to ensure we are not leaving the children of the poor.   
  
When you look at these 9/10 children were not achieving the minimum perfectly level, you see a TrackBack to the children of the poor. If the children of the poor aren't achieving and therefore aren't able to break through the barrier, the lack of capacity to gain the minimum skills (Indiscernible) to them, it means we will have intergenerational diversity of poverty.   
  
If that is something we know we need to breach. Education is the fastest way to break it, but it is not simply education in a broad sense. It is really laying a solid foundation for future learning that matters.   
  
And then my fourth set of point is that look, even in your conversation, one thing that needs to be part of your toolkit is how the US has fallen behind in terms of looking at the continent of Africa not as a humanitarian case, but as a business case.   
  
As I said, leveraging the partnership in terms of the focus is important. So where's the US Aid and the World Bank are important, but even more important would be what is being done in the respective countries.   
  
So I focus on an approach that looks at the continent as a viable destination for investment, where growth happens. Therefore a foreign direct investment even from US companies more and more would be a good way to tie in our reason why it should matter to the US that attention is given to investing in those aspects, interventions that we know improve learning outcomes. That we know, number five, their evidence proven measures that actually get through to learning better.   
  
Letterheads (Indiscernible), programs done at scale, they do help. Or the program of the catch-up, the scale up -- scale up, they do help. They help from two out of every hundred children having those skills in the case of Canada, over the space of less than five years. They have moved to 24%. That's concrete. That's concrete improvement.   
  
Need to invest in those measures that improve the learning outcomes and get their reward from it.   
To close as that of the session to transition us to the question-and-answer session, what I was trying to say in terms of quitting to look at Nigeria or any country in Africa from a humanitarian perspective, is that a support for education is actually a support for converting the continent into an economic growth pool for the world.   
  
The median age of the African is about 18.2 years. Compare that to about 37, 44, you know, across Asia, across Europe, at 44. The US at about 35. You can see the wide (indiscernible). Therefore, the global workforce that will be coming from Africa in about a couple of decades from now, by 2050, it is estimated that the African young person will be one out of every three members of the global workforce.   
  
So, it means that in sharing ourselves that we have a productive, super productive workforce. -- Insuring. For the US, for the world. It is so important. Because we need to continue to have economic prosperity in our world in order to ensure that it is spreading.   
  
Because the culture of growth, of prosperity, is striking. The more that we have that, the less we can tolerate people who will try to assault our common civilization. Our common civilization is that there is dignity of life and that it is something that everyone says and that dignity of life is enhanced to the transformative power of education.   
  
COLIN SMITH:   
Really excellent advice for all of these leaders in the offices of the citizen. Such powerful arguments and both the base of data that you have talked about about the challenge but also the solution.   
  
Just really powerful. And thinking about how to more equitably reach everyone. And ensure the rights of everyone, especially for all of the young folks you were just talking about. So, maybe switching gears a little bit, many of -- one of the many goals you have had as a regional Vice President for the Royal Bank, right now the bank is going through a series of reforms. You and I got to have lunch together a few months ago.   
  
And we talked about this. I was so moved by what you said. So, could you address for us, with so many urgent crises facing the world, you're talking about priorities a few minutes ago, climate, conflicts. How do we make sure that core human needs like education, like health, like nutrition, are not left behind?   
  
DR. OBY EZEKWESILI:   
Like I said, there is nothing that beats evidence, right? So, evidence is something that RESULTS is also about. It is really about the granular aspect of the world. Where we can track how decisions go all the way down to touch the human (indiscernible).   
  
We do know that her world and the progress that we have sensed so far really goes a lot to the kinds of investment decisions, what kind of investment decisions that have been made concerning access to basic services, like health and education.   
  
To the citizens. So, countries and regions that have done better at that, you have seen the benefit. So, there is clearly, all evidence, a lot of studies, people have tried to sort of study to disprove that. (Laughs) Have found that they could not disprove it because the evidence that came out of their research showed basically validated the importance of investing in that human being.   
  
Although we do need to keep generating this kind of data, this kind of evidence, but you know that sometimes people become jaded towards data. So, we do not need to put faces behind the data, we need a lot of storytelling. And we do need to be more disciplined -- more disciplinary in the way we are doing our research. Right? Because part of what is going on is, we are building silos.   
  
And just sort of not looking at some of the issues from the multidisciplinary integrated kind of way. Some of the things that we talked about do not have to be trade-offs. We just need to design solutions in ways that enable us to get to the kinds of outcomes that are necessary for the segment of our -- poorer segment of our global population.   
  
COLIN SMITH:   
I think that that false choice that we do not have to make trade-offs is so, so true. I know we are short on time. Just a close, what is bringing you help right now? For this network of advocates, what makes you hopeful?   
  
DR. OBY EZEKWESILI:   
What makes me hopeful is how in the last two years that I decided to start the human capital Africa, which was really my response to being exhausted by the joy I see on the faces of our political leaders.   
  
Whenever I am -- oil find is announced in any place or a gold field is found or some corporate deposits are found. And I just get in dated by it because the truth is, we have had many of these fines, but the outcome, we still wallow in poverty. So for me, I put my feet down and I said, "OK, it is time to divert their attention from oilfields and all of that." those are important because if they are well managed, then they have more physical space to try and save them from national resources to Human Development and to, you know, capital assets like infrastructure that I bought.   
  
But that is not is what is going on. A lot of it is now contested for in politics and conflict. So, I wanted that my confidence should divert its attention and begin to look at an economic development strategy that is underpinned by a focus on human capital. So broadly, I decided that I will approach the continent leaders attention to human capital. The human capital center development approach and strategy.   
  
But as I got to the design of the Human Capital Africa, the data from the World Bank and learning property shows up and I realize that, oh, talking about human capital in a broad sense is not sufficient. If you have a problem with the house, you do not go to the rooftop and start, you know, fixing the windows and all of those things. You go right to the integrity of the foundation.   
  
Because that is what you have to correct. And that is what then made me focus on saying, "OK, you know guys, this data is out. That we are in really bad state. And we now need to focus on correcting the foundation."   
  
And I say the political sentence of that we brought to the issue through the obstacles that we have held on this matterâ€¦ Need that awakening to move from evidence to action. And then holding people to accountability. So, I see a bright light in the fact of, like Uganda, a place like Malawi, where political leaders, policy leaders, are listening to the kind that data is showing them. I see brightness and the fact that we have many more African re-signatures who are also designing solutions, so whether it is teaching at the right level, or it is from (indiscernible), so there are different kinds of organizations. I see a bright light in the fact that people like you are focused on this kind of a topic.   
  
And building communities to continue to push for this kind of an agenda. To be one that well serves the people that we all care about. And I just take joy in the fact that we are never going to get tired. It is, do we have too much privilege? Do not care about the things that we currently do. In getting more children to have the skills necessary for lifelong, you know, success.   
  
COLIN SMITH:   
No, I mean, they give so much. You are saying some of the bright lights. And your leadership -- thank you so much. Your leadership is one of ours for sure. So, they get so much for joining. You started the day in Legos now, now you are in Abuja. It is 7:30 PM now, it is dinner time, we are so grateful. Thank you very much for joining us.   
  
DR. OBY EZEKWESILI:   
Thank you very much.   
  
COLIN SMITH:   
Thanks, Doctor Obyâ€¦ You all have Genex ordinary work building support for the READ Actâ€¦ Support the kind of work that Dr. Oby was just talking aboutâ€¦ Right now we want to keep adding cosponsors. And really critically push congressional leadership to bring about to say that, like, whatever they are bringing to the floor of Congress this fall, we want to read act to hitch a ride.   
  
We can jump to the next slide. Because while we're at it, the same thing on the End TB Now Act. This is another key piece of artwork this year that is in basically the same position. They are also already passed out of the committee in addition to the Senate, so keep upâ€¦ Congressional leadership now. And in the media. Which I will hand over to my colleague Jos to give some updates on. And close us out. Over to you, Jos.   
  
JOS LINN:   
Thanks, Colin. Really appreciate it. How do we take and translate the information we have gotten from today's webinar through action? Well, it will be through our Build the Buy-in Campaign that David mentioned earlier in the call.   
  
As you heard, our issues are very much in the mix right now and decisions on what can happen on the Child Tax Credit, on tuberculosis, global education, could be made in a matter of weeks, maybe even days. So, if we went Congress to Brian on these priorities before the end of the year, we need to build the pressure for them to do so.   
  
  
-- Buy-in. The main part of the Build the Buy-in Campaign is a strong media push between the timber first and the end of the year. We want to get 250 media pieces in that time. With at least one media piece from every state. And one media piece published from each RESULTS group and free agent.   
  
So, where are we on those goals? Welcome on the National Webinar in September, which is September 9, this is where our media map looks like. We had one piece of that point. As of today, this is what it looks like. That map! Now, that is advocacy. -- Look at that map. We are nearly halfway to our total goal and 70% were state goal. You can see the 14 states. Just 14 states where we need media in the slide there.   
  
So, congratulations. An excellent work. If we wanted -- Congress to take action on these issues this year, this is the kind of effort we need. From results group -- RESULTS group getting published, we are doing pretty well. We still have some work to do. Here is a list of groups that have been published since September 1. There is a great start, but I would love to see this list overflowing.   
  
Number one is invested in seeing pile -- Ozzie priority become a reality. If your group is not listed here, keep cementing your letters to the editor. If your group is on the list, keep submitting your letters -- letters to the editor. The key is quantity. The more letters you submit, the better chance to get published. When you get published, you bring us one step closer to meaningful change. So, here are some Build the Buy-in resources for you.   
  
Media specific. Please check those out. Of course, if you have questions or need help with anything, please do not hesitate to root drought to me is what -- reach out to me as well. I will run through the -- run through some quick announcement as we close out the call. In addition to with the fellowship recruitment that we talked about earlier in the call, or Experts on Poverty are also seeking new members.   
  
You know, this program gathers a diverse cohort of advocates with first-hand experiences of poverty to push for more effective government policies to combat poverty. If you're interested, applications are due November 30 and if you want to learn more about the program, check out our EOP information session this Tuesday night at 8 o'clock Eastern time. Also, we all know that we learn best from each other. So, if you have a story from your advocacy with RESULTS that you think could inform, educate, or inspire others, please cherish.   
  
Also, if used have supported an advocate who joined RESULTS just in the last two years and want us to acknowledge their accomplishments, share that information with us, help us celebrate these new leaders. So, we just have some other announcements, I will just zipped through these real quick. You can demo the slide or check them out on the weekly update on the events calendar. We have another anti-oppression call coming up. This week.   
  
And as well as the last installment for group leaders training series. And so, I will just - if you want to nominate someone for the Bob Dickerson award or the Cameron Duncan media award, please do so. The deadline is Monday. So, we left to get nominations for those in, we will announce those in December. And then just going to another one.   
  
â€¦ Are no policy forms this month due to the holidays, staff planning in DC, so we will be doing a joint policy forum on Thursday, December 14 at 8:30 PM Eastern time.   
  
So, be sure to register for that and we will have more details about that in the coming weeks. So, finally, I wanted to let you know that our next webinar is Saturday, December 2 and we have a new registration and a new Zoom link for that webinar. So, that means everyone needs to register to attend it. Even if you have registered for a previous National Webinar, you have to register again for the December webinar.   
  
Go to TinyURL.com?RESULTS2024. Here is a bonus, when you register you should not have to register for National Webinar again until the end of next year. Here is why you want to register for the December webinar. We are thrilled to welcome best-selling author and TV activists John Green. John is passionate about tackling inequity individually. He would drive to discuss his efforts to address the adjust -- injustice of TB and why it is imperative to take action now.   
  
Interviews he has said, "Death tuberculosis caused by human choice, caused by human built systems. So that is terrifying, horrifying and deeply upsetting. It means we are doing a good job of assigning equal by every human life.   
  
Then he added in another interview, I sometimes see people say (Indiscernible) change is impossible but this is just not true. Social change is inevitable. When it isn't inevitable is that (Indiscernible) of the social change which we decide what isn't inevitable I should say is the shape of that social change when â€“ in which we decide together. We are looking forward to hearing more from Mr. Green next month, and would urge you to invite others that you know to join us, stay tuned for resources and how to get the word out to networks and how to get this webinar, but for today make sure you are there for this powerful conversation by registering for the webinar today.   
  
With that I will close it out and open it up to folks, we can wish each other happy thanks giving or whatever holiday you are celebrating this month, and hope you will have a safe holiday season.   
  
Live captioning by Ai-Media

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