

UNBIAS THE NEWS

DEI a year in review

July 2021-July 2022



Editor's note

By Tina Lee

A guiding principle at Hostwriter and our newsroom Unbias the News is that collaboration and diversity are essential for quality journalism. The field of journalism has suffered from a significant loss of trust not only because of efforts to discredit and defund it but also because many people do not see their realities reflected in the news. This is one of the deficits we have attempted to address at Unbias the News by providing a space for journalists who experience structural barriers in reporting.

Although we are a new newsroom, operating with limited resources, we have aimed to cover a wide range of topics, provide underreported context and history, and allow multiple voices to tell stories. And while you can read in the following pages about the journalists and issues published in Unbias the News, I want to briefly state some intentions for improvement based on our annual review.

Regional Diversity

Regionally, we would like to publish more articles from East Asia, the Middle East, and Central and Latin America. Journalists from these countries face barriers ranging from press freedom to conflict, language and more. We will endeavor to go to greater lengths to contact them and share their stories.

We know from our audience reach that we have the most considerable amount of readers in English-speaking countries such as India, Nigeria, and the United States. However, we hope that republication partners can help us reach new audiences and thus new journalists who would like to write for us.

LGBTQI perspectives

We did not collect data about the sexual preferences of our journalists. However, several of our reporters did self-identify as non-binary.

Nevertheless, looking at our stories, it is clear that LGBTQI perspectives were somewhat lacking, with only one piece focusing specifically on the topic ("Visibility as Resistance" by Joyline Maenzanise.) In the future, we would like to ensure more coverage of this community and how it is affected intersectionally by the topics we cover.

Age

While our focus has been on young journalists and those who have not yet had a major byline, that does not mean we only want stories about young people. In the future, we want to show more consideration for different age groups in society. Both the very young and the elderly tend to be overlooked in the media, and we would like to consider that in our journalism more explicitly.

Climate Change

The rapidly changing environment and its cross-cutting effects on our societies are becoming the most important story of our time. They will affect nearly every issue we seek to cover at Unbias the News, from migration to health to media to human rights. We want to sharpen our focus on this issue and ensure that members of the communities most affected have more opportunities to report. That is why we are pleased to have launched the Sinking Cities project (read more below), hopefully, the first of several initiatives aimed at making climate change reporting more inclusive.

No newsroom or group of people can be perfect, and accounting for our weaknesses is not meant to be an exercise in self-flagellation.

We are proud of our accomplishments over the last year at Unbias the News. However, we want to encourage ourselves and other newsrooms to get in the habit of checking for bias and overlooked areas.

Not only is it essential to ensure that coverage changes with the times, but it is also consistent with our demands for the leaders we report on: that they are transparent, reflective, and committed to inclusion and diversity in all layers of society.

We think these efforts make a difference and are so grateful to our readers who constantly help us to change and improve.

Tina Lee, Editor-In-Chief



1 year of Unbias The News

in a nutshell

Our team

11 team members

Gender

10 women 1 male

Nationalities



We published

49 articles

Our stories appeared in

More than 31 outlets over the world

in over 15 languages

Projects

The Sinking Cities Project

Chain Reactions

We commissioned

37 authors



21 females



12 males



3 non-binary



1 visually impaired


Over 2 million


global reach through republications by our partners


17.400.000


pageviews of visitors from 148 countries in the world to our website

Social Media

 [@unbiasthenews](https://twitter.com/unbiasthenews)

 [@unbiasthenews](https://www.instagram.com/unbiasthenews)

 [Unbias The News](https://www.facebook.com/UnbiasTheNews)

 [Unbias The News](https://www.linkedin.com/company/unbias-the-news)

Trainings

9 free training sessions

More than 600 journalists signed up for our monthly training sessions

More than 300 attendees

59%

come from a country with a low ranking on the World Press Freedom Index.

Funders



UNBIAS THE NEWS

www.unbiasthenews.org

www.hostwriter.org

We published 49 articles



37 journalistic pieces

9 personal
narratives

28 investigative pieces

5 collaborations
2 cross-border
3 republications from partner
newsrooms



12 #Behind The Scenes articles



Articles where the editor of the story connects the dots and gives a global perspective of the issue at hand.

500 subscribers to our newsletter

The Unbias the News bi-weekly newsletter, which highlights our story releases and editorial notes, currently has almost 500 subscribers.



About our authors:

43%

speak English as
a second-language

15%

have a migratory
background

97%

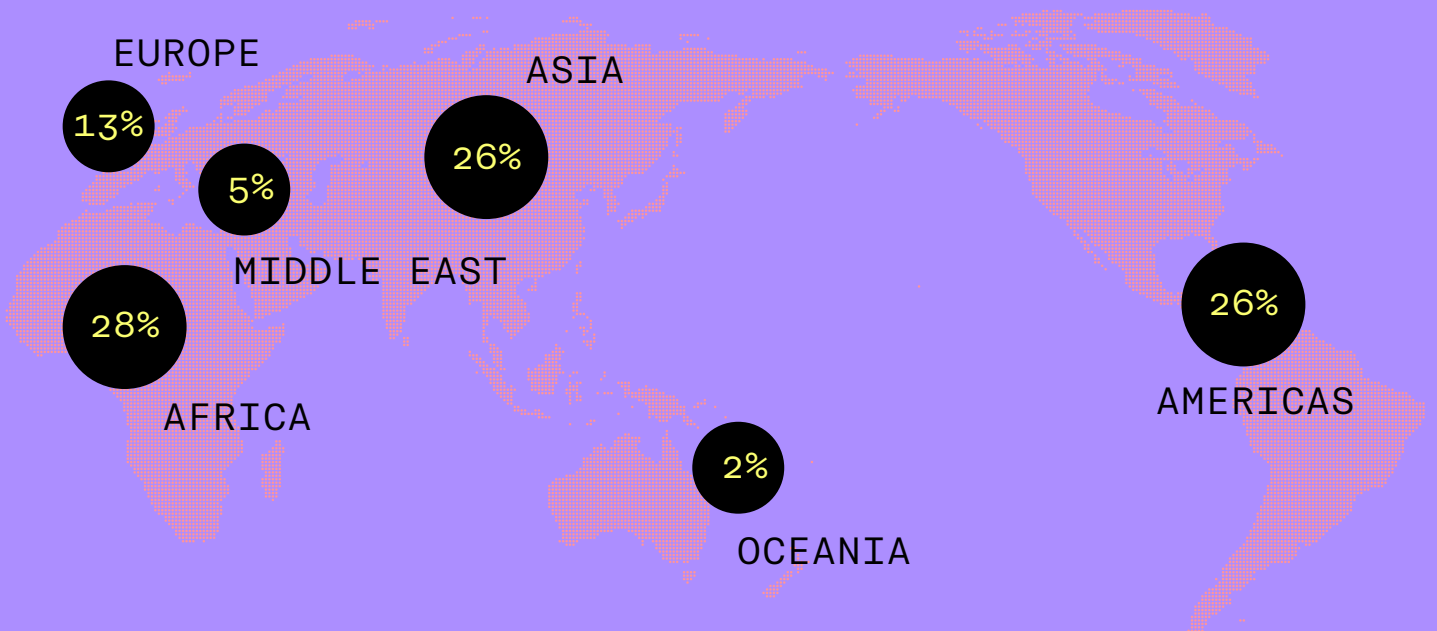
of our authors live in the
countries they are reporting on

20%

Had not published their work before in
an international newsroom

59%

come from a country with a
low ranking on the World
Press Freedom Index.



Almost 90% of our journalists

reported a positive impact after the publication of their story on our website.

"The article will help guide our approach to communicating in communities like Kano to be able to reach more people about the COVID-19 Vaccine."

Nigeria's National Primary
Health Care Development
"Vaccine Hesitancy
- The Pfizer Kano Case"

""[It] was my FIRST EVER experience working with an editor who took my writing seriously AND took the time to be thorough with my story's purpose and position, while being attentive to respect my voice and perspective... Who knew??"

datejie cheko green, Author
"Can you check your activism at the door?"

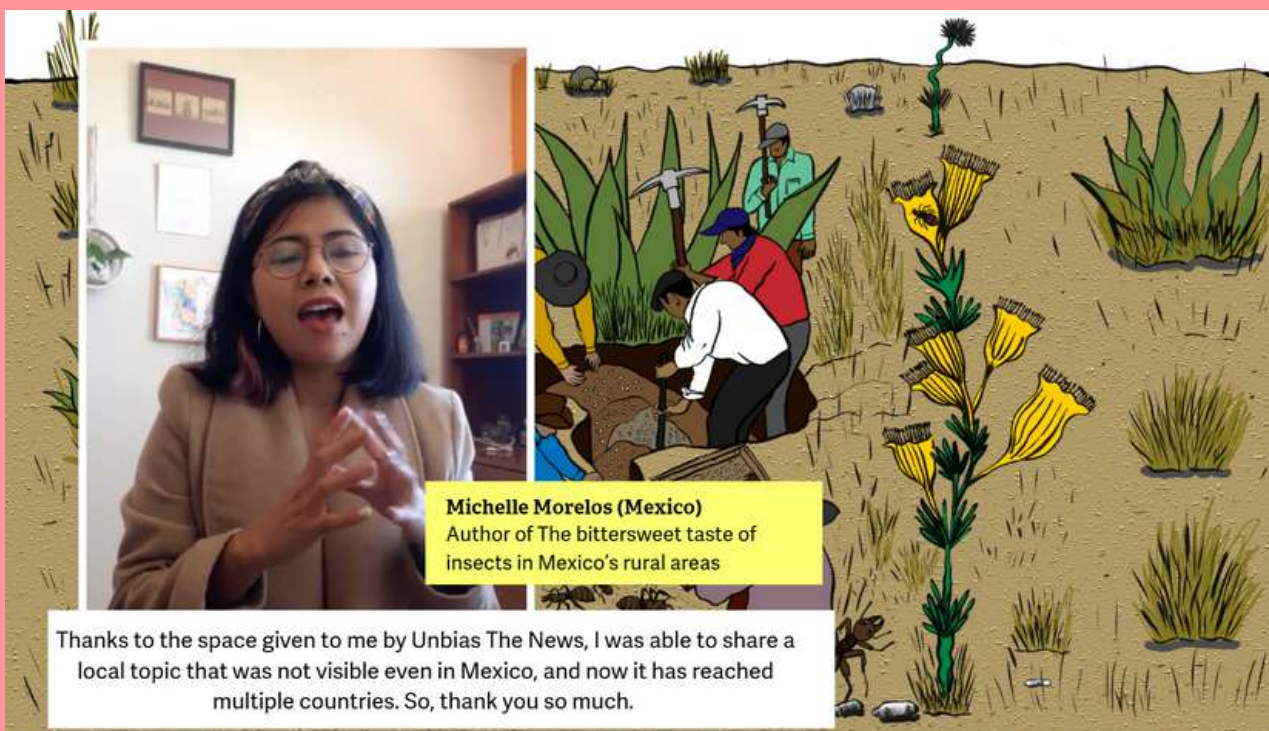
"The story I had pitched to UTN was rejected by 64 publications earlier!

This is why we need media houses like UTN that decolonize journalism and help take pertinent local stories to a global level"

Sanket Jain, Author
"I wouldn't take no for an answer"

"This was the first time I got published by international media."

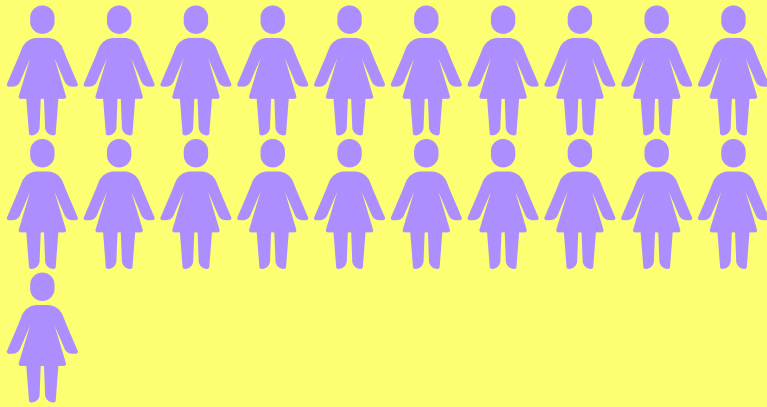
Modupe Abidakun, Author
"Vaccine Hesitancy
- The Pfizer Kano Case"



Michelle Morelos (Mexico)
Author of The bittersweet taste of
insects in Mexico's rural areas

Thanks to the space given to me by Unbias The News, I was able to share a local topic that was not visible even in Mexico, and now it has reached multiple countries. So, thank you so much.

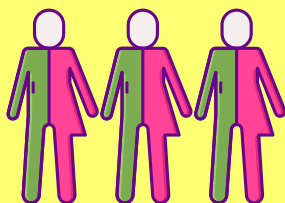
About our authors:



21 females



12 males



3 non-binary



1 visually impaired

Global issues we talked about:

“

Gender violence
Inequality Human Rights
Media diversity
Migration Disability rights
LGBTQ+
Climate change Sustainability Worker rights Health

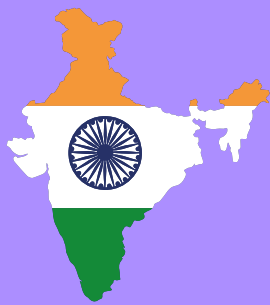
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About our content

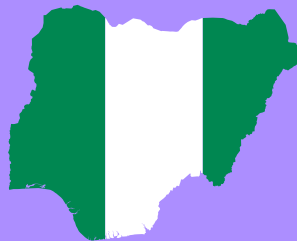
Our articles
brought local
voices from

25 countries

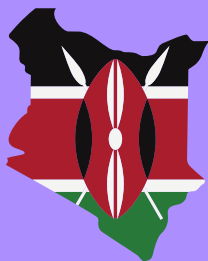
Countries we covered the most:



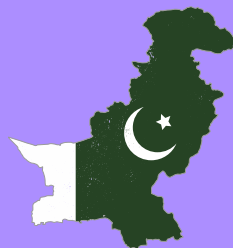
India (16% of
our stories)



Nigeria (8% of our
stories)



Kenya (5% of our
stories)



Pakistan (5% of our
stories)



North Macedonia (5% of our
stories)

At least 1 story related to each of these countries

North America



South America



Caribbean



Africa



Eastern Europe



Central Europe



Asia



We want to see more of...

East Asia

While South Asia was well-represented, only one story in our first year covered East Asia.

Middle East

We were lacking stories from the Middle East, pure and simple.

LGBTQI+

We did not collect information about authors' sexual preferences, but only one story specifically dealt with LGBTQI+ issues.

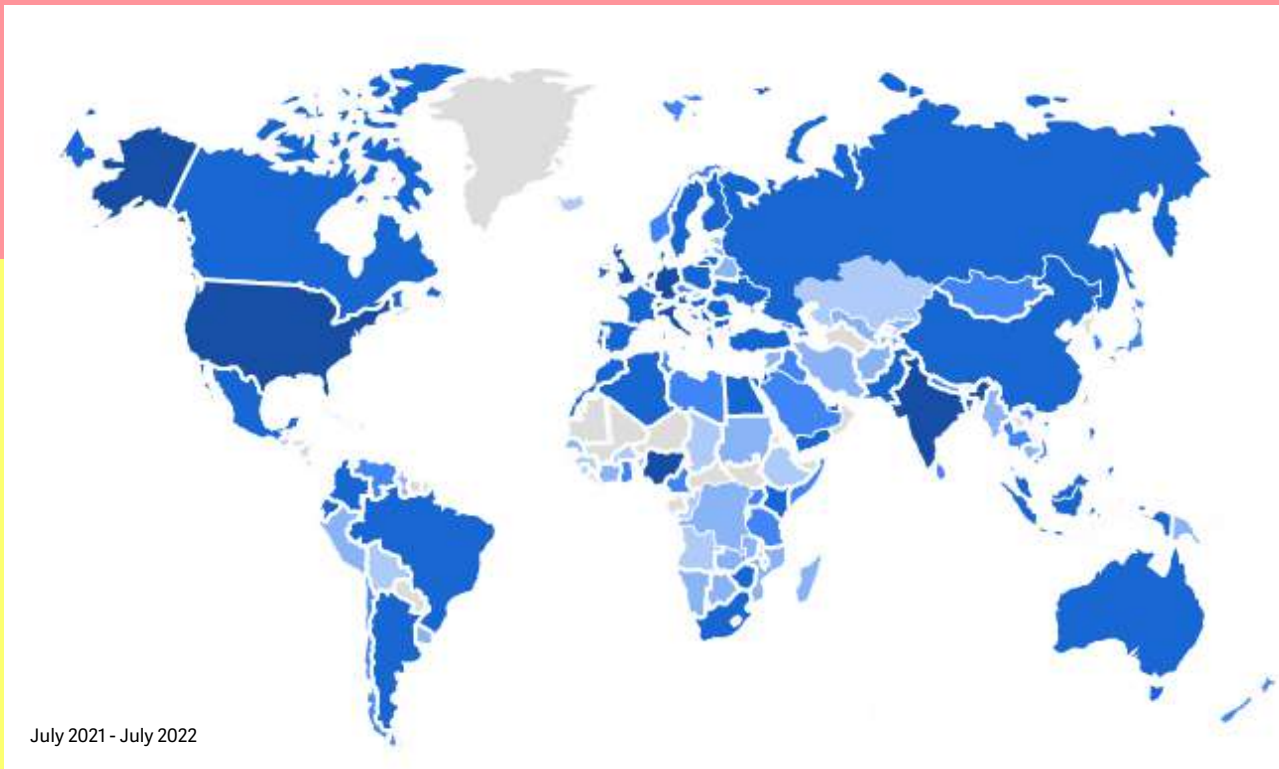
Age

The vast majority of our authors were under 40. While our mission was also to provide a space for younger authors, we would like to ensure that the issues and concerns of the elderly are adequately covered in stories.

Global Reach

www.unbiasthenews.org

148 countries



We published almost 50 stories in our first year on unbiasthenews.org (July 2021-July 2022). Since the launch, our website has received more than 30K visitors from all around the world. 148 out of 197 countries worldwide visited unbiasthenews.org. The top countries are Germany, the USA, India, the United Kingdom, Nigeria, and The Netherlands.

Every 5th website visitor
comes from the U.S



About every 10th
from India and
Germany

+ visitors in the
Philippines and the
United Kingdom

17.400.000

**page views from 148
countries in the world**

Our projects

Sinking Cities: Coming in September 2022



Our newsroom launched the Sinking Cities project at the beginning of this year (2022), intending to train local journalists, particularly those underrepresented in climate journalism.

The Sinking Cities Project gives them publication opportunities to join a global conversation about climate change through our ambitious cross-border investigation into why threatened cities, rather than preparing and mitigating risks, appear to be building at an unabashed pace.

We selected six journalists from Dhaka, Lagos, Karachi, Dublin, Alexandria, and Rotterdam who will cover how rising sea levels and coastal flooding caused by climate change threaten their cities- and what their governments are planning to do about it.

Chain reactions: How the green revolution can reshape sustainable development

With the support of the European Journalism Centre through its program Solutions Journalism Accelerator we launched our project Chain reactions: How the green revolution can reshape sustainable development.



We are continuing our spirit of collaborative journalism and will work closely with Perspective Daily, a Germany-based publication that specializes in constructive journalism.

Our collective aim is to use cross-border solutions journalism to research new opportunities that may arise as a result of the transition to a green economy in Germany, such as food and energy, and the types of secondary effects this will have on local communities in other parts of the world.

Indie Newsroom Alliance

Our work appeared in

31 media outlets **17** languages



Global reach

2 million

Indie Newsroom Alliance

Unbias the News kicked off an “Indie Newsroom Alliance” and started collaborating with independent outlets in countries where press freedom is under threat and civil spaces are rapidly shrinking.

Our publication partners include [Sahara Reporters](#), [Global Voices](#), [NewsWireNGR](#), [Foundation for Investigative Journalism](#), [HumAngle](#), [African Arguments](#), [All africa.com](#), [The print](#), [Dislang Magazine](#), [NewsSense](#), [Streekaal](#), [Mongolia live](#), and [The News Minute](#) to mention a few - they all republished investigations by Unbias the News free of charge, reaching local audiences where stories had the most impact.

We have been published by over fifteen (30) different media outlets across the world, mainly from Africa, Asia, and Europe, over the last year, reaching an estimated audience of [over 2 million readers in more than 15 languages](#): Serbian, Greek, Russian, Spanish, Ukrainian, Hindi, German, Mongolian, Portuguese, Dutch and even Braille.

We intend to [deepen the partnerships](#) we have established by re-publishing stories produced by our partners through our channels and will start off with a series from African Arguments. The journalists of the Indie Newsroom Alliance also have access to and take part in our trainings.

Foundation for Investigative Journalism

ThePrint

NewsWireNGR
telling under-reported stories

WELT-SICHTEN
MAGAZIN FÜR GLOBALE ENTWICKLUNG UND ÖKUMENISCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

The
NEWS
Minute

WHITE PRINT
debate print

HumAngle

SAHARA
REPORTERS



/ AFRICAN
/ ARGUMENTS

Scroll.in

GlobalVoices

र-त्रीकाल
(रबी का समय और राख)

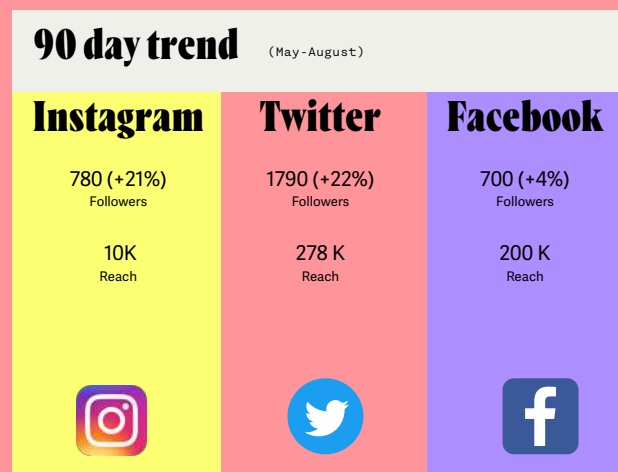


Social Media

Unbias the News is represented on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn. More than half (72%) of our majority-women audience is under the age of 35.

In 2021, we hosted more than 20 live events on social media, where our audience connected with our authors, editors, and experts such as lawyers connected to our stories.

Our most successful IG Live had more than 150 live views and more than 600 plays afterward. On Twitter Spaces, our most engaging conversation attracted over 800 people, and it has more than 200 plays on our audio platform so far. This was a conversation about exploitative practices in the journalism field by mainstream media towards journalists from the Global South based in a personal narrative written by Namupa Shivute: "Mining for stories in Africa: when journalism becomes an extractive industry".

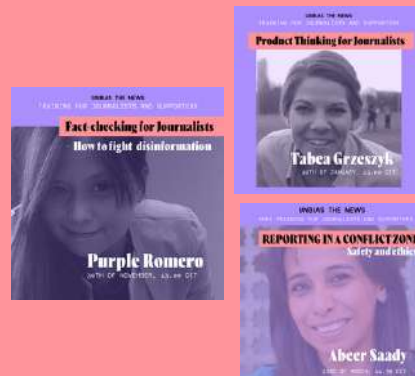


Trainings

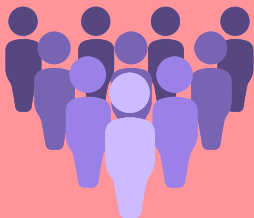
Unbias the News provided access to free training and community-building for journalists facing structural barriers, including all reporters who submitted a pitch, regardless of whether or not their story idea was accepted.

9 free training sessions

More than 600 journalists signed up for our monthly training sessions



More than 300 attendees



75% women 71% BIPOC/Non-white



Journalists who participate in the trainings can access a private group on our forum HostWIRE, to discuss training and share resources. Many are entry-level and look for ways of finding international connections. The group currently consists of over 80 members.

We have partnered with organizations like the Global Investigative Journalism Network, Dart Center for Journalism & Trauma, International Women's Media Foundation and others for expert input.

This year we are developing a new stream of revenue by offering training and consulting on diversity and inclusion o media organizations and newsrooms.

THANK YOU!



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MANAGING DIRECTOR



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ART DIRECTOR



Tabea Grzeszyk
FOUNDER



Ankita Anand
EDITOR



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EDITOR



Purple Romero
EDITOR

Supported by:



**European
Cultural
Foundation**



Luminate
Building stronger societies



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