



Phoenix Zones Initiative Fast Facts

About Phoenix Zones Initiative

Based in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Phoenix Zones Initiative is a global nonprofit organization that advances the interconnected rights, health, and wellbeing of people, animals, and the planet through education and outreach, research and evaluation, and advocacy for policy change.

Led by physicians and an interdisciplinary team, Phoenix Zones Initiative promotes advancements in social, economic, and environmental policy to uplift the most vulnerable, and the organization provides resources so others can do the same.

Programs and Activities

Phoenix Zones Initiative programs center on three areas:

1. **Just One Health:** advancing the interconnected rights, health, and wellbeing of humans, other animals, and the planet through global and local policy, research, and practice;
2. **Child Protection:** improving social and environmental determinants of health for children; and
3. **Animal Protection:** ending animal trafficking and exploitation and advancing research protections for animals.

Phoenix Zones Initiative has an evidence-based 10-year strategic plan, and a monitoring and evaluation plan, with specific, measurable benchmarks.

Phoenix Zones Initiative is a member of the Harvard FXB Health and Human Rights Consortium, and the organization has built alliances with other individuals and organizations, including local, national, and international organizations that further human rights, animal protection, and environmental conservation.

Over the past two years, Phoenix Zones Initiative has built bridges between individuals and organizations in medicine, public health, the sciences, ethics, law, media, advocacy, and government affairs. The organization has hosted events to inform and engage professionals and advocates across six continents, and it has published or been featured in various influential articles, editorials, and webinars.

History and Values

In 2019, Dr. Hope Ferdowsian and Dr. Nik Kulkarni co-founded Phoenix Zones Initiative after two decades of global work as physicians caring for individuals and communities impacted by social and environmental injustices.

Around the world, they witnessed how humans and animals suffer and how they can heal if provided the opportunity. Dr. Ferdowsian wrote about this phenomenon and its implications for society in *Phoenix Zones*, a book named after the term “Phoenix Effect,” a transformational recovery that can occur after trauma, much like the proverbial phoenix who rises from the ashes.

Leading up to the publication of *Phoenix Zones*, Dr. Ferdowsian’s work across six continents included collaboration with the Office of the Surgeon General of the United States and the development of medical, public health, and educational resources for nongovernmental organizations, national governments, and intergovernmental organizations. Her work has been featured by *Scientific American*, the Huffington Post, the BBC, Voice of America, and other international media outlets. In 2017, she was named a Humanitarian of the Year in the American College of Physicians.

As a practicing anesthesiologist, before co-founding Phoenix Zones Initiative, Dr. Kulkarni also provided support to organizations focused on the promotion of human rights, animal protection, and environmental conservation.

Today, Phoenix Zones Initiative’s cross-sectoral team prioritizes efforts that expand the common ground of different movements, and the organization works to help scale and accelerate solutions that advance the interconnected rights, health, and wellbeing of some of the most vulnerable and marginalized humans and animals.

Its organizational values are centered on ethics, evidence, leadership, and impact.