



# SHEM HIGHLIGHTS



Member of the  
PLANETARY HEALTH ALLIANCE



In a valley in Cantabria, Spain, ValyTer Ecovillage seeks to promote a return to harmony with nature, alignment between ideals and actions, and the creation of a global network of ecovillages.

## Equity Life Stories: Opening Paths of Shared Responsibility

Juan Garay - SHEM

This first editorial in the new **SHEM Equity Life Stories series** invites us to reflect on how **ethics and metrics** can illuminate a life lived within the equity curve—the vital space between dignity and excess. The **SHEM webinars** and related presentations have shown how equity and sustainability can be measured, guiding societies and individuals toward fairer, more regenerative ways of living. Yet numbers alone are not enough: we need stories that embody these principles.

One such story begins with a conscious choice: to leave a city apartment and move to a small village—**Valyter**—to share life with some 15–20 people committed to solidarity and care for nature. Some companions have been displaced by war or the injustice of borders. Together we learn to live within planetary boundaries, leaving two-thirds of the land free for wildlife, striving for carbon neutrality, nurturing biodiversity and water cycles, and regenerating soils once degraded by human greed—like the dense eucalypt forests that mirror the crowding of our cities.

**Valyter** seeks to live inside the equity curve, where everyone's essential needs are met and privileges beyond that point are shared. This means transforming surplus income or assets into common goods, rather than private accumulation. It is a daily practice of dignity without excess, a choreography of collaboration and tenderness. These choices are not retreats but beacons of hope, inspiring others to break free from aggressive competition and excessive consumption. By weaving ethics with measurable change, we invite you to join this dialogue: to tell your own equity life story, to map how SHEM's tools and insights can guide personal and collective transformation. Let these stories multiply, forming a living network for equity and sustainability—**for the well-being of today and the generations to come.**

## MAGNIFYING WHAT'S POSSIBLE

### The Global Ecovillage Network

El día a día en la ecoaldea  
Valyter un año después:  
"Es una alternativa a la vida  
competitiva de la ciudad"

ValyTer Through  
Gonzalo's Eyes: A Story  
of Connection  
(interview in Spanish)

What Eco-village do you  
live in ? ( video)



AI generate image

## News from the field

### INTERNATIONAL VOICES UNITE AGAINST DISPLACEMENT, CLIMATE INJUSTICE, AND HEALTH INEQUITIES

International aid groups and social movements continue to warn over Israel's actions in Gaza. The [International Committee of the Red Cross](#) has warned that Israel's mass evacuation order for Gaza City is impractical and incomprehensible, stressing that with infrastructure destroyed and extreme shortages of food, water, and medical care, there are no safe or dignified conditions for such a movement. [Oxfam](#) condemned what it described as the mass forced displacement of about one million civilians, calling it impossible, illegal, and a violation of international humanitarian law. [ActionAid](#) cautioned that Israel's planned reoccupation of Gaza City threatens more than half of its local partners and places pregnant women, already living under severe hunger, at extreme risk. [ActionAid](#) also condemned the sanctions imposed by the United States government on three Palestinian human rights organizations, calling the measure an abuse of power and an attack on freedom of expression and dissent. The [People's Health Movement](#) reported that the first ships of the Global Sumud Flotilla are setting sail in the largest effort yet to break Israel's illegal maritime blockade of Gaza. Around 50 boats, carrying civilian crews and humanitarian supplies for the Palestinian people, departed from ports in the Mediterranean. [Progressive International](#) highlighted the Global Sumud Flotilla as the largest civilian humanitarian fleet ever organized for Gaza. The initiative responds to the famine declared by the UN and to the worsening humanitarian crisis caused by the Israeli blockade. Social movements from various countries have joined forces to bring food, medicine, and to denounce international complicity in the Palestinian genocide.

Continue reading [here](#).

## READINGS

[The weaponisation of water](#)

[Men's mental health: we need systems, not symbols](#)

## VIDEO

[Gaza: At UN Security Council, speakers urge action for peace](#)

## PODCAST

[What should humanitarian actors do to stop the genocide in Gaza?](#)



# ENDEAVOURS

## A climate for change: Towards just taxation for climate finance

13 - 14 October 2025  
UNICAMP, Campinas, Brazil and livestream



[Register to watch online](#)

[Apply to attend as a delegate](#)

The convergence of climate justice and tax reform is an ethical, political, and economic imperative. In a world of rising inequality and an environmental crisis that disproportionately impacts the most vulnerable, rethinking public financing through fair and progressive tax systems is urgent. On **13–14 October 2025**, the University of Campinas (UNICAMP), Brazil, will host the **A Climate for Change conference**, bringing together campaigners, researchers and policymakers from across global movements to discuss ongoing research, build shared strategies, strengthen alliances, and shift the terms of debate — from dependency to power, from promises to structural change. The conference will take place in the context of a momentous shift in power in international tax debates, and against the backdrop of Brazil's COP presidency.

Discussions will center on three key questions:

- How can tax sovereignty finance climate justice?
- What joint strategies can strengthen demands across movements?
- How can Global South leadership reshape global rules to serve people, not corporations?

## POINT OF VIEW

SHEM MEMBERS' WRITINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### The Ecovillage Impact Assessment Tool

### Living in harmony with nature is achievable only as a non-ideal vision

### A climate-smart education system for a sustainable future in Cambodia

### 25 books on sustainability and life on Earth

## JOIN SHEM



[Explore the Directory](#)

## LEARN

SHEM CURATED INITIATIVES

### The Foundation for Intentional Community (FIC)

An intentional community is a group of individuals united by shared purpose, commitment, and a collective vision. Typically, members live together to foster continuous collaboration and effectively pursue their common goals. For over 35 years, the Foundation for Intentional Community (FIC) has partnered with hundreds of such communities worldwide. Grounded in the belief that human society can nurture the well-being of all people and the ecosystems we inhabit, the FIC operates on a simple but profound principle: the flourishing of one depends on the flourishing of all. Through their directory, they share inspiring stories, model examples, and a wealth of resources—reminding us that alternative ways of living are not just possible, but already thriving.

At SHEM we link citizens, public health and healthcare advocates, scientists, academics, and related institutions from all regions, cultures, and ideologies pursuing the universal right to health. We aim to promote sustainable health equity as an ethical principle that guides all national and international economic, social, and environmental policies.

**SHEM's Highlights Curators: Andre Luis Sales, Diana Zeballos, Gustavo Buss**