



SCHWAB FOUNDATION
FOR SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Schwab Foundation
for Social Entrepreneurship

Annual Report 2023-2024

October 2024



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← Image: At the Brazil Learning Journey 2023, environmental and indigenous leaders shared their vision for protecting biodiversity. Credit: Schwab Foundation/Renato Stockler

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Introduction



Hilde Schwab
Chairperson and Co-Founder,
Schwab Foundation for Social
Entrepreneurship



François Bonnici
Director, Schwab Foundation
for Social Entrepreneurship;
Head of Foundations,
World Economic Forum



We know that over these past few decades, social innovation has moved from the margins towards the mainstream.

The Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship was established in 1998 as the foremost global community of pioneering social innovators driving systemic change. From the beginning, the foundation's mission was guided by social innovators' need to curate and nurture a community of exceptional moral leaders geared towards social change and guided by a spirit of mutual inspiration, support and ambition for action.

The foundation has since built communities of action in many countries and organized convenings around the world to engage with global and regional leaders from the public and private sectors, striving to shift systems in favour of people and the planet. Each year the foundation selects the pioneering social change leaders from around the world who are driving inclusion and sustainability on key social and environmental issues.

In January 2024, the latest cohort of the Social Innovation Awardees were announced at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos. The awards recognize four categories of social innovation: Social Entrepreneurs, Corporate Social Innovators, Public Social Innovators and Collective Social Innovation leaders. We welcomed the new cohort to our community and celebrated their achievements.

← Image: A 2024 Schwab Foundation awardee, Tibu Africa, aims to unlock the potential of young people and women across the continent and become an engine of development through sport. Credit: Tibu Africa

We will continue to deliver our tailored support to new awardees through peer networking, global exposure and learning opportunities, including the highly valued programme on systems leadership at the Harvard Kennedy School.

In 2020, the Schwab Foundation initiated the Global Alliance for Social Entrepreneurship as the most comprehensive multistakeholder coalition in support of the social innovation sector. Through the alliance, the Schwab Foundation has engaged private- and public-sector leaders to work alongside social innovators in advancing key agendas.

We know that over these past few decades, social innovation has moved from the margins towards the mainstream. Our report, "[The State of Social Enterprise 2024](#)," documents the existence of 10 million social enterprises across the world, generating around \$2 trillion in revenue each year and creating nearly 200 million jobs, while bridging the gender gap. Also, one in two social enterprises worldwide are led by women.

We are grateful for the commitment of so many partners in helping us to grow the ambition and impact of our community of social innovators and our efforts to mainstream social innovation. We sincerely thank our key support partners, including Bayer Cares Foundation, Bertelsmann Stiftung, Center for Social Value Enhancement Studies, Deloitte, EY, Frey Charitable Foundation, GHR Foundation, Goldman Sachs Foundation, Microsoft, Motsepe Foundation, SAP and the many other partners we work with every day.

Our approach

The Schwab Foundation provides platforms for social innovators to drive systemic change, influence policy and mobilize diverse actors for transformative solutions.

In partnership with the World Economic Forum, the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship is the foremost global community of pioneering social innovators driving systemic change.

The foundation's ambition is to support change leaders from across the world in tackling systemic challenges that drive inequality and exclusion, helping them to create real change for people and the planet. As the foundation works towards this ambition with its partners and community of social innovators, it aims to influence three core outcomes:

- 1 Adopt, adapt and scale outstanding models** of social innovation across sectors, increasing their impact and deepening their value.
- 2 Play systemic roles for creating transformative change in novel ways**, from unlocking new financing solutions and influencing policy decisions to shaping the mindsets of key stakeholders and working to shift power and resources to the people.
- 3 Mobilize and develop the social innovation ecosystem**, including diverse actors, to collectively transform society.

The Schwab Foundation's initiatives to support and mainstream social innovation have grown significantly over the past year. In addition to a new cohort of leading and highly impactful social innovators, the foundation team has intensified its engagements with the social innovation

ecosystem as well as the private and public sectors. Through the Schwab Foundation's Global Alliance for Social Entrepreneurship, it now connects actors representing over 100,000 social entrepreneurs with corporations, investors, philanthropists, governments, researchers, the media and industry actors.

The Schwab Foundation now focuses on four areas of work:

- 1 Building a community of social innovation leaders:** For over 25 years, the Schwab Foundation has built a diverse community of nearly 500 seasoned social innovators from more than 190 countries. These innovators are selected for their impactful solutions and systemic approaches to addressing pressing social issues. By shining the spotlight on these social innovation models for key decision-makers in both business and government, the foundation fosters an environment where successful strategies can be scaled and replicated. This recognition not only honours the achievements of these social innovators but also amplifies their influence, inspiring others to adopt and support innovative solutions for a better world.
- 2 Engaging with the private sector:** The Schwab Foundation's community of social innovators represents a transformative approach to business. These innovators demonstrate that business can be a force for good, creating both social impact and



economic value. Recognizing this potential, the foundation partners with private-sector organizations to foster collaboration and drive meaningful change. By integrating social innovation into their business models, companies can address global challenges more effectively and contribute to a more sustainable and equitable world.

- 3 Engaging with the public sector:** Similarly, the Schwab Foundation collaborates with policy-makers and public-sector leaders to reinforce policy frameworks that support social innovation. By working closely with these actors, the foundation helps create an environment where innovative solutions to social challenges can flourish, ensuring that policies are aligned with the needs of communities and the potential of social enterprises.
- 4 Driving collective action on emerging themes:** In a complex, rapidly changing world, no single organization can tackle systemic issues. As the field of social innovation evolves, the Schwab Foundation

works with its community, its partners and the broader ecosystem to identify emerging themes that are crucial for the sector and society at large. By doing so, the foundation works collaboratively with key partners to shape the agenda for social innovation, providing a platform for innovators to present their solutions to cutting-edge issues such as artificial intelligence (AI), innovative finance and climate adaptation. This proactive and collective approach ensures that social innovation remains relevant and effective in addressing the most pressing challenges of today.

Hand-in-hand with its community, the Schwab Foundation supports sustainable, inclusive solutions that are more likely to be systemic in nature, and empower millions of excluded, vulnerable and low-income groups to address social and environmental challenges, both local and global.

↑ Image: Frontier Markets enables digitally savvy rural women entrepreneurs to drive long-lasting social impact in their communities. Credit: Frontier Markets

Our impact: Social innovation in action

The Schwab Foundation's research provides valuable insights into how our community progresses.

Credit: VisionSpring



Building on the 2020 report *Two Decades of Impact*, in January 2024, the Schwab Foundation published a new comprehensive document, *Trusting in Humanity: The Power of People to Lead their Own Change*, providing valuable insights into how our community progresses and how we, at the Schwab Foundation, could further accompany them on their missions. This work analysed data from the 64 social innovators awarded during the period 2022-2024, the 101 community members who participated in the annual survey, the 26 recorded interviews with qualitative data from awardees, as well as the demographic data of the entire community. Among the many insights that the data revealed about the way our community works, these stood out:

1 Social innovators are more effective in their mission when they encourage people to take control of their lives: By listening to their beneficiaries and involving them in the design and governance of the programmes, their work goes deeper and lasts longer. This sense of agency helps people have faith in their ability to handle change and find their own solutions.



My affiliation with the Schwab Foundation contributed to the adoption of my work and advocacy by governments and international organizations.

Maria A. Villalba
Founder and Director, Unlad Kabayan Migrant Services Foundation, Philippines

2 They don't hesitate to question their models, leading to pivotal moments in their careers: Their change is not always incremental. Instead, most of them report to have undergone strategic shifts spurred by the questioning of their own models and starting all over with new, more effective ones. Agility and humility are two of the greatest strengths that enable these decisive transitions.

3 Local knowledge is their key to successful work: When it comes to designing and implementing programmes, their success relies largely on the integration of local knowledge and local networks. In that context, the role of social innovators is to identify and harness the capacity of local partners to come up with products or services after truly understanding the difficulties faced by local people so as to respond to them in a robust and resource-efficient way.

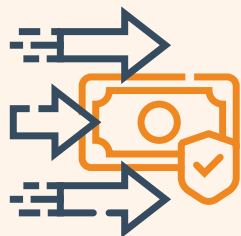


When I co-founded my organization, I started thinking and acting locally. Joining the Schwab community in 2010 allowed me to see that in order to achieve the impact I wanted, I needed to scale up regionally and globally.

Essma Ben Hamida
Co-Founder and Chairperson, enda inter-arabe, Enda Tamweel, Tunisia

4 Impact can multiply when control is voluntarily loosened: Rather than forming strict, hierarchical organizational structures, we observed that progress was amplified by collaborating in networks or partnerships based on a shared philosophy, principle or purpose, as a successful way to scale impact. This breaks with the rule of keeping direct control and translates into diverse models, from franchising to replication, which are freely available for other like-minded people to adopt.

Revealing the impact



\$1.2 BILLION
mobilized in the past year by annual survey respondents

\$902 MILLION
in revenue generated by cohorts 2022-2024



90%

of awardees in annual survey trust their peers within the Schwab Foundation community

891 MILLION
lives directly impacted by community of social innovators



28,000
people directly employed in full- or part-time jobs by cohorts during 2022-2024

77%

of annual survey respondents reported high or very high levels of progress on their **partnering goals** over the past year

72%

of annual survey respondents reported high or very high levels of progress in their capacity **to influence others** to evolve mentalities and **change practices, policies or power dynamics** over the past year

92%

of annual survey respondents have spoken at global, regional or national events to **increase awareness** and further expand their work over the past year



The Schwab Foundation has had a lasting influence in my work. Receiving the Social Entrepreneurship Award in 2011 changed the impact scale of Lumni, allowed us to become sustainable, and redefined our notion of what is possible to achieve.

Felipe Vergara
Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Lumni, Peru

↓ Image: Social innovators learning from local entrepreneurs in Brazil about restoration of a favela. Credit: Schwab Foundation/Renato Stockler



A global community of leading social innovators



474

active social innovators



28

Age spread
in community

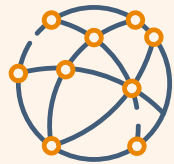
86

23

cohorts since 2001

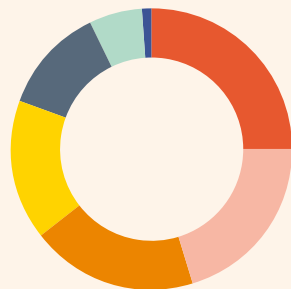
26

years of a strong community and trusted social innovation ecosystem



190
COUNTRIES

Operating in 190 countries with an improved geographical spread across countries in recent cohorts

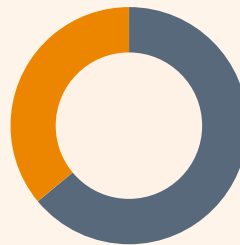


Asia	25%
Europe	20%
North America	19%
Latin America	16%
Sub-Saharan Africa	12%
Middle East and North Africa	6%
Oceania	1%



49%
FEMALE

across the last three cohorts, marking a significant and intentional progress on gender parity in the composition of the community



Male	64%
Female	36%



Headquartered in

74 COUNTRIES

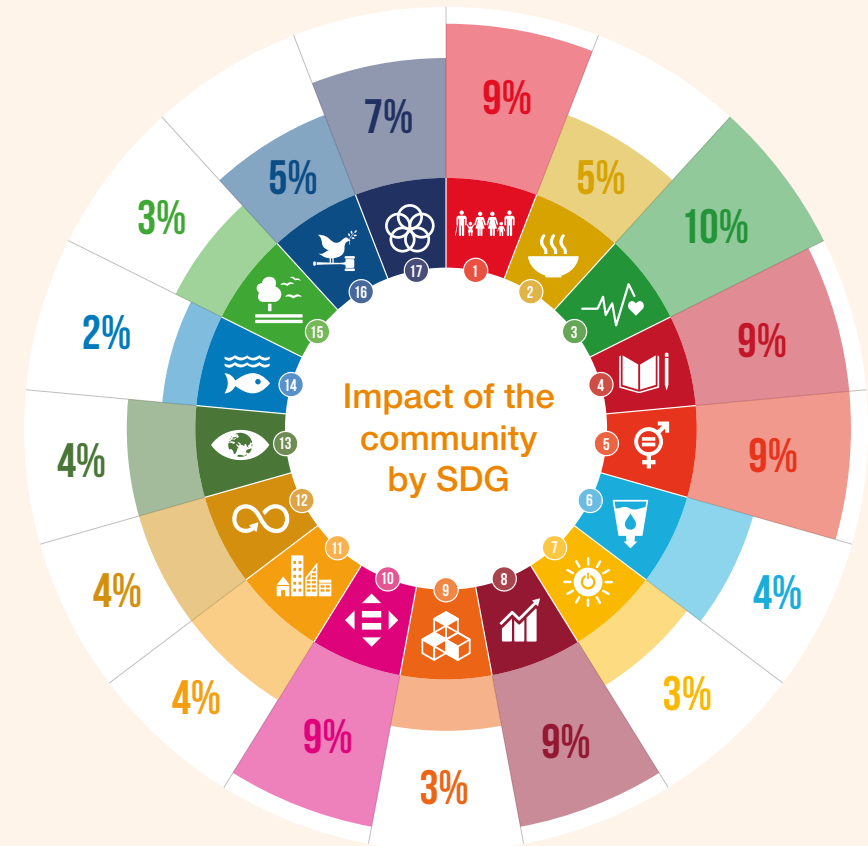


423
organizations



Award categories

Social Entrepreneurs	85%
Collective Social Innovation Awardees	4%
Corporate Social Innovators	4%
Public Social Innovators	3%
Social Innovation Thought Leaders	3%



- 1 No poverty
- 2 Zero hunger
- 3 Good health and well-being
- 4 Quality education
- 5 Gender equality
- 6 Clean water and sanitation
- 7 Affordable and clean energy
- 8 Decent work and economic growth
- 9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- 10 Reduced inequality
- 11 Sustainable cities and communities
- 12 Responsible consumption and production
- 13 Climate action
- 14 Life below water
- 15 Life on land
- 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions
- 17 Partnerships for the goals

Schwab Foundation 2024 awardees

Our community of social innovators grows every year, thanks to the Schwab Foundation Social Innovation Awards, an initiative at the core of the Schwab Foundation for 26 years now. The awards serve as a key mechanism to curate our global community and stay in touch with the key issues facing people around the world.

↓ Image: Schwab Foundation Social Innovation Awards 2024 at the Annual Meeting in Davos.

The awards recognize the outstanding and well-established work of a cohort of social innovators and invites them to join a three-year development pathway before becoming lifelong members, gaining continued support and access to opportunities through the network. The programme aims to nurture, support and enable their growth as leaders, as well as the growth and impact of their organizations.

In January 2024, 16 social innovators from 13 countries were announced as the winners of this year's awards in a plenary session led by Chairperson and Co-Founder Hilde Schwab, which was [livestreamed](#) during the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

The new awardees presented their work at the 2024 [Social Innovation Awards](#) session. They were joined by Schwab Foundation Board Member Pascale Bruderer, Founder, Chairwoman, Swiss StableCoin, Switzerland. We're pleased to introduce here the winners of the 2024 Social Innovation Awards.



Social Entrepreneurs 2024

Founders or CEOs of a for-profit, hybrid or non-profit organization (a social enterprise) with the explicit mission of solving a social or environmental problem to benefit society.



Rudayna Abdo

Rudayna Abdo is Founder, CEO and President of Thaki, a social impact non-profit organization that delivers learning tools to schools catering to refugee and vulnerable children in the Middle East. By providing used computer hardware and ed-tech software, it has delivered hope and educational opportunities to tens of thousands of children since its foundation in 2015. It works in partnership with companies that donate their second-hand electronic devices and educational content. Rudayna previously had a successful career in urban planning tackling housing, land use and urban transportation issues in North America and the Middle East.

Organization: Thaki

Headquarters: Lebanon

Impact region: Middle East and North Africa

Sector: Education, culture and sports

SDGs: 4, 5 and 9



Thaki, Lebanon



Gerald Abila

Gerald Abila is Founder of BarefootLaw, a non-profit group based in Uganda that uses innovative digital technology to empower people with free legal information and advance access to justice across Africa. It helps people and communities resolve legal issues and disputes on a pro-bono basis through a team of full-time, trained attorneys, supported by an AI lawyer called Winnie. Over the past decade, it has grown from a basic Facebook page to a hi-tech legal advice service that has assisted approximately one million people. Gerald has also established a presence in The Hague to spread the message about legal tech in Africa.

Organization: BarefootLaw

Headquarters: Uganda

Impact region: Sub-Saharan Africa

Sector: Human rights and social justice

SDGs: 10, 16 and 17



BarefootLaw, Uganda



Shuchin Bajaj

Shuchin Bajaj is the Founder Director of Ujala Cygnus Hospitals. He was inspired to give up his work as a doctor in Delhi and open hospitals to provide high-quality, low-cost healthcare to communities without access. He currently operates 21 hospitals in five states in North India, supported by a network of providers and services, to ensure community access to quality healthcare services regardless of their financial, geographical or social status. He aims to expand to 25 hospitals offering 3,000 beds by the end of 2025.

Organization: Ujala Cygnus Healthcare Services

Headquarters: India

Impact region: Asia

Sector: Health and healthcare

SDGs: 3 and 10



Catalina Cock Duque

Organization: Fundación Mi Sangre

Headquarters: Colombia

Impact region: Latin America

Sector: Peace-building and post-conflict resolution

SDGs: 4, 5, 16 and 17

Catalina Cock Duque is Co-Founder of Fundación Mi Sangre, a Colombian social organization dedicated to helping new generations build a culture of peace in the country. It works to develop life, leadership and social entrepreneurship skills in young people, while activating ecosystems that will enable their participation and amplify their voice. Mi Sangre began its journey by improving care for victims of violence but has since established itself as a systemic transformation model, impacting more than two million people in Colombia. Catalina has over 25 years' experience of catalysing systemic change and is a serial social entrepreneur.



Temie Giwa-Tubosun

Organization: LifeBank

Headquarters: Nigeria

Impact region: Sub-Saharan Africa

Sector: Health and healthcare

SDGs: 3, 8, 9 and 17

Temie Giwa-Tubosun is CEO of LifeBank Group, Africa's foremost healthcare technology and logistics company, with operations in 11 cities across Nigeria, Kenya and Ethiopia. LifeBank provides end-to-end services to healthcare facilities in multiple segments, including the distribution of blood, oxygen, medical consumables and medical equipment. Temie has extensive health management experience having previously worked with the UK Department for International Development, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the Lagos state government, among others.



Xia (Susan) Li

Organization: Shenzhen Power-Solution

Headquarters: People's Republic of China

Impact region: Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa

Sector: Environment, energy, natural resources and circularity

SDGs: 1, 7 and 17

Xia Li is Founder of Shenzhen Power-Solution, a Chinese supplier of off-grid solar home systems designed for the 730 million people worldwide who lack access to electricity and rely on candles and kerosene for lighting. To date, her company has provided solar-powered lights to nearly 50 million people in more than 7 million households, with a heavy focus on sub-Saharan Africa. In the process, it has protected tens of thousands of children from respiratory diseases caused by the use of kerosene and candles. She was inspired to bring solar lighting to the poor after visiting India's slums in 2007.



Ajaita Shah

Organization: Frontier Markets

Headquarters: India

Impact region: Asia

Sector: Gender-based initiatives

SDGs: 5, 8, 10 and 17

Ajaita Shah is Founder and CEO of Frontier Markets, an Indian social commerce platform that works with and for women to offer an essential last-mile connection to rural households. Using convenient smartphone technology, it helps a fast-growing community of women entrepreneurs connect to more than a million women customers in thousands of villages. It aims to serve 100 million rural households by 2030. Ajaita has more than 18 years' experience working in rural India through microfinance, rural distribution, marketing and gender-inclusive business models.



Mohamed Amine Zariat

Organization: Tibu Africa

Headquarters: Morocco

Impact region: Middle East and North Africa

Sector: Education, culture and sports

SDGs: 3, 4 and 8

Mohamed Amine Zariat is Founder of Tibu Africa, a non-governmental organization that is pioneering social innovation through sport. A former international basketball player, he founded Tibu Morocco in 2010, evolving the enterprise into Tibu Africa. His organization aims to unlock the potential of young people and women across the continent and has a vision to become the locomotive of development through sport in Africa by 2030. In addition to his experience as a top sports person, Mohamed has held several leadership positions in educational organizations in Morocco. With this one, Mohamed Amine is changing youngsters' self-image by institutionalizing sports as a means to achieve self-efficacy.



Corporate Social Innovators 2024

Leaders in a multinational or regional company who drive the development of new products, services or business models that address societal and environmental challenges to benefit low-income or vulnerable populations.



EssilorLuxottica, Singapore



Saugata Banerjee

Organization: EssilorLuxottica

Initiative: Eye Mitra

Headquarters: Singapore

Impact region: Asia

Sector: Health and healthcare

SDGs: 1, 3, 8 and 17

Saugata Banerjee is Global Head of Sustainable Programming at leading eyewear group EssilorLuxottica. An industry veteran based in Singapore, he has championed innovations in affordable eye care as part of the company's ambition to help eliminate uncorrected poor vision around the world within a generation. In 2012, he pioneered the Eye Mitra programme, which trains young people to become primary vision care micro-entrepreneurs in rural India. The scheme has since been extended to countries such as Bangladesh, Indonesia and Kenya and is now the world's largest rural optical network.



Ruchika Singhal

Organization: Medtronic LABS

Initiative: Medtronic LABS

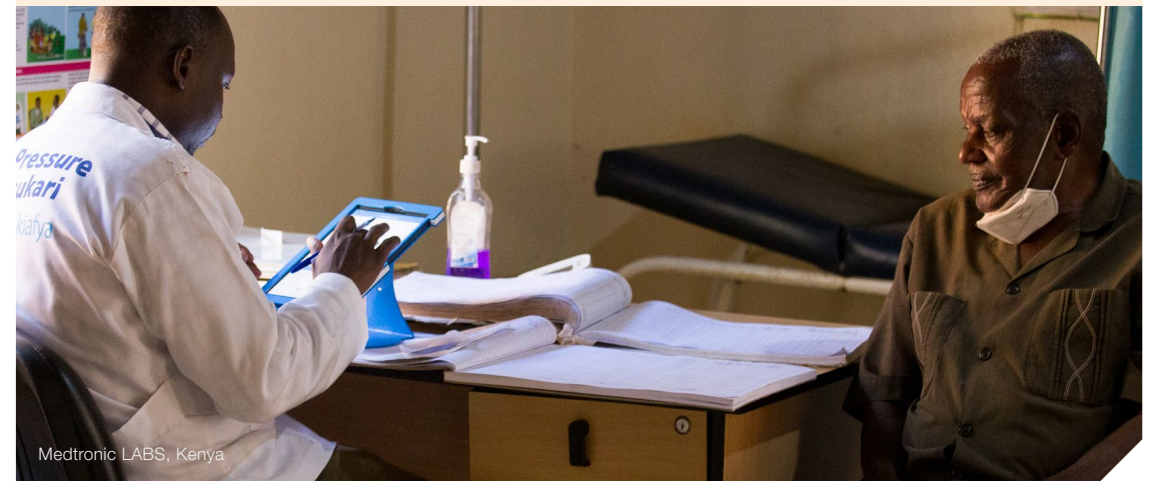
Headquarters: USA

Impact region: North America, Global

Sector: Health and healthcare

SDGs: 3,10 and 17

Ruchika Singhal is President of Medtronic LABS, a non-profit offshoot of medical technology group Medtronic that incubates new ideas for global health access. She leads a team of more than 100 technologists, designers and field operations experts across the US, Africa and Asia, designing and implementing healthcare delivery models for under-served communities. LABS has reached more than one million people by leveraging cutting-edge digital technologies to improve clinical outcomes through the optimal utilization of limited healthcare system resources. Ruchika has led technical and business functions in the healthcare technology industry for over 15 years.



Medtronic LABS, Kenya

Public Social Innovators 2024

Government leaders or leaders in international organizations who experiment with ways to harness the power of social innovation to create public good through appropriate policy and regulatory tools.



Chantal Line Carpentier

Chantal Line Carpentier is Head of the Trade, Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development branch of the UN Conference on Trade and Development's (UNCTAD) Division on International Trade and Commodities. She was previously Chief of UNCTAD's New York Office of the Secretary General. She's a campaigner in inter-governmental processes for new economic models for sustainable development and an advocate for the critical role of small businesses and entrepreneurs in the economic empowerment of women. She also co-chairs the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on the Social and Solidarity Economy.

Organization: UNCTAD

Headquarters: Switzerland

Impact region: Europe, Global

Sector: Socio-economic development

SDGs: All



Chantal Line Carpentier/UNFSSSE, Switzerland



Juan Manuel Martinez Louvier

Juan Martinez Louvier is Director-General of the National Institute for Social Economy in the Mexican government, responsible for designing, implementing and evaluating national public policies aimed at promoting the social and solidarity economy (SSE). He's a passionate believer in creating market enterprises with a social mission that can combat inequality and poverty. His team nurtures SSE enterprises that address gender issues, overhaul healthcare systems, create collaborative energy initiatives, facilitate internet access and help preserve wildlife.

Organization: Instituto Nacional de la Economía Social

Headquarters: Mexico

Impact region: Latin America

Sector: Socio-economic development

SDGs: All



Juan Manuel Martinez Louvier/INAES, Mexico



Vivi Yulaswati

Ibu Vivi Yulaswati is Director of Indonesia's Ministry of National Development Planning and Head of the National Secretariat for the UN SDGs. She has extensive experience in developing poverty reduction programmes in Indonesia, including working on subsidy reforms, community development and conditional cash transfer projects. She has also been involved in developing the country's national social security system and has been instrumental in a range of other initiatives covering financial inclusion, social protection and the use of big data for research.

Organization: Ministry of National Development Planning

Headquarters: Indonesia

Impact region: Asia

Sector: Social inclusion

SDGs: 1 and 17

Collective Social Innovators 2024

Cross-sector leaders who lead or facilitate a group or network of organizations committed to addressing the problem of social inequality and vulnerable ecosystems that is larger than an individual organization can take on.



Amazon Sacred Headwaters Alliance

Amazon Sacred Headwaters Initiative (ASHI) is a coalition of 30 Indigenous nations in Ecuador and Peru. It aims to protect 35 million hectares of tropical rainforests by establishing a protected region that is off-limits to industrial-scale resource extraction under Indigenous peoples' stewardship. It advocates a new economic model that prioritizes the well-being of Indigenous communities, as well as the ecological integrity of the whole bioregion.

Headquarters: Ecuador

Impact region: Latin America

Sector: Environment, energy, natural resources and circularity

SDGs: 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17



Amazon Sacred Headwaters Initiative, Ecuador



Uyunkar Domingo Peas Nampichkai

Uyunkar Domingo Peas Nampichkai is President of the governing board for ASHI. Domingo is an Achuar leader from Ecuador with a 30-year history of serving the Indigenous movement.



Atossa Soltani

Atossa Soltani is Director of Global Strategy for ASHI. Atossa is also the Founder of Amazon Watch, where she served as the first Executive Director for nearly two decades.



Belén Páez

Belén Páez serves as general secretary of ASHI. Belén is a specialist in climate change with 25 years' experience in implementing conservation programmes.



Financing Alliance for Health (FAH)

Headquarters: Kenya

Impact region: Sub-Saharan Africa

Sector: Health and healthcare

SDGs: 3, 5, 8 and 17

Financing Alliance for Health (FAH) is an Africa-based, African-led partnership collaborating with governments, donors and the private sector to address systemic financing challenges to scaling primary and community health programmes in Sub-Saharan Africa.



Financing Alliance for Health, Kenya



Angela Nyambura Gichaga

Angela Gichaga is CEO of the Financing Alliance for Health. Angela works with ministries of health across Africa in developing community health strategies, while also engaging with the ministry of finance to secure funding that can help address an annual community health budget gap of more than \$4.4 billion. She previously worked for Kenya's Ministry of Health and McKinsey's Africa Delivery Hub.



StriveTogether

Headquarters: USA

Impact region: North America

Sector: Education, culture and sports

SDGs: 1, 4, 10 and 17

StriveTogether is a national network of nearly 70 communities across the US working to build a world where a child's potential is not dictated by race, ethnicity, personal circumstance or zip code. It provides coaching and resources to eliminate inequities in education, housing and other areas, and its StriveTogether Cradle to Career Network reaches 14 million young people – more than half of them children of colour.



StriveTogether, USA



Jennifer Blatz

Jennifer Blatz is President and CEO of StriveTogether. Jennifer began her career in education and for two decades has designed, developed and implemented strategies that drive improvements through local partnerships.



Vanessa Carlo-Miranda

Vanessa Carlo-Miranda is Chief Operating Officer at StriveTogether. Vanessa has more than 15 years' experience in school, district and state-level education systems.



Colin Groth

Colin Groth is Chief Advancement Officer at StriveTogether. Having previously worked for Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority, he is responsible for growing the organization's impact and expanding its national reach.

Social Entrepreneur of the Year India Award 2023

In 2010, the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship and Jubilant Bhartia Foundation came together to promote social innovation in India through the Social Entrepreneur of the Year (SEOY) India Award, which has since recognized and supported the growing field of social innovation in India.

On 25 August 2023, Shuchin Bajaj was awarded as the winner of its 14th edition. His organization, Ujala Cygnus, is a chain of low-budget, patient-friendly, tertiary-care hospitals that enables access to high-quality integrated healthcare infrastructure and services for underserved communities in smaller (tier 2 and 3) cities in India.



Social Entrepreneur of the Year Brazil Award 2023

Since 2004, the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship and the newspaper *Folha de São Paulo* have worked together to promote social innovation in Brazil through the Social Entrepreneur of the Year (SEOY) Brazil Country Award.

On 24 October 2023, the jury awarded three winners whose work is having a profound effect in their communities: **Ana Fontes**, Founder of [Rede Mulher Empreendedora](#) (Entrepreneur

Women Network), **Robson Melo**, Founder of [Estante Mágica](#) (Magic Shelve) and **Aline Odara**, Founder of [Fundo Agbara](#) (Agbara Fund). Their initiatives tackle challenges ranging from structural racism to illiteracy, and support marginalized communities such as Black women in informal work.

↑ Image: Finalists of the Social Entrepreneur of the Year Brazil Country Award 2023. Credit: Folhapress.



Collective action for the social innovation sector

The Schwab Foundation engages with the private and public sectors to enable collective action on the key issues affecting social innovators.

In 2020, the Schwab Foundation created the [Global Alliance for Social Entrepreneurship](#), the most comprehensive multistakeholder coalition supporting the social innovation sector. Through this coalition, the Schwab Foundation has

developed a platform that mobilizes private- and public-sector leadership to work alongside social entrepreneurs. It also serves as an opportunity to help social innovators and their ecosystems to advance key topics most relevant to the sector.

1 Private-sector engagement

Corporate Leadership Council on Social Innovation

Established in early 2023, the Corporate Leadership Council on Social Innovation has become the premier mechanism for the foundation to engage the private sector, specifically corporate actors. As of July 2024, it has grown to over 40 leading companies. The peer-led group, currently co-hosted by SAP and Microsoft, allows the Schwab Foundation to systematically tap into and collaborate with the private sector to drive the social innovation agenda.

The group met multiple times between July 2023 and June 2024. In November 2023, the council held its first physical meeting in Turin, Italy, with over 30 attendees and guest members from Impact Europe (formerly European Venture Philanthropy Association). The meeting's success led to a follow-up meeting in The Hague in June 2024.

The group launched a series of collective actions, including an open letter to the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Social and Solidarity Economy (UNTFSSSE), presented during the Sustainable Development Impact Meetings in New York in September 2023. In addition, in January 2024, the council launched a public corporate commitment to social innovation, the Rise Ahead Pledge.

[Read more about the council here.](#)

← Image: Nilus is increasing access to healthy food and groceries in low-income areas across Mexico, Argentina and Peru. Credit: Nilus

Rise Ahead Pledge

Launched during the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting in Davos in January 2024, the Rise Ahead Pledge is a corporate commitment to increase investments in social innovation. Twenty-four companies have committed that by 2030 they will take greater action in at least two of the following six activity areas:

- 1 Providing financial support to social innovators.
- 2 Providing non-financial support to social innovators.
- 3 Buying from social innovators (social procurement).
- 4 Providing financial support to organizations in the social innovation ecosystem.
- 5 Integrating social innovation principles into core business operations.
- 6 Implementing or expanding programmes to support employees to develop social innovation initiatives internally.

The pledge's signatories have also committed themselves to publishing collective, quantitative targets for their social innovation activities. They will report on their investments in and impact through social innovation by January 2025. With the support of the Schwab Foundation team, the Corporate Leadership Council has finalized its reporting guidelines ([available here](#)) for the first reporting cycle, with submissions due by 1 October 2024.

Signatories to the pledge include Automation Anywhere, Banco Davivienda, Bayer Foundation, EDP, EY, Sanofi's Foundation S, GE Healthcare Foundation, Hewlett Packard Enterprise Foundation, Adecco's Innovation Foundation, IKEA Social Entrepreneurship, Jubilant Bhartia Group, Kale Group, Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation, Medtronic LABS, Melitta Group, Microsoft, Philips Foundation, Reckitt, Renault Group, SAP, SK Group's Center for Social Value Enhancement Studies, SUEZ, TikTok and Zurich Insurance Group.

[Read more about the pledge here.](#)

Corporate Social Innovation Compass

The Corporate Social Innovation Compass, published during the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2024, serves as a foundation for the Schwab Foundation's increased efforts to engage the private sector in social innovation. It outlines 11 different mechanisms

and five business benefits for corporate engagement in social innovation. The report was published in collaboration with Deloitte and a broad range of ecosystem actors. It compiles years of ecosystem research on this issue, and presents a compelling view of the dynamic intersection of business and social impact.

The report complements the work of the Corporate Leadership Council and the Rise Ahead Pledge. It has enabled outreach to new companies, who have joined the council and/or signed the pledge.

The report is based on a range of expert interviews, extensive research and inputs from a group of over 40 ecosystem actors. It highlights the increasingly transformative role of social enterprises in the business world, and demonstrates how companies can effectively engage with these innovators at various stages of their social impact journey.

[Read the full report here.](#)



10 million social enterprises are working across the world, generating around \$2 trillion in revenue each year and creating nearly 200 million jobs.

2 Public-sector engagement

Social economy working group

Established in 2021, the Working Group on Social Economy Policy is one of the foundation's key engagement mechanisms for public-sector actors, with members such as the African Union, ASEAN, European Commission, International Labour Organization (ILO) and OECD. Together, this group promotes, informs and supports public policy development in support of the social economy. Its objectives include:

- Enabling peer exchange.
- Co-developing relevant insights and research.
- Launching joint initiatives to drive policy action.

The working group convened four times in 2023-2024, holding its last meeting in March 2024. It has been expanded and renamed as the Policy Leadership Council on Social Innovation in September 2024. All members have renewed their engagement and recommitted to the ambition of the group.

Among its achievements is the inclusion of a paragraph on the need for the Group of Twenty (G20) alliance to recognize the contribution of social entrepreneurs and innovators to development plans and national economies in the [B20 India Communiqué](#), and the publication of a [global dataset on social enterprise](#).

Social enterprise data

There is a significant lack of consistent data for the social enterprise sector, which constricts further uptake of policy action and stronger engagement from the private sector. In 2024,

the Schwab Foundation invested in strengthening the data landscape of social enterprises through its Working Group on Social Economy Policy and various ecosystem partners. A six-month research project led to a report, "[The State of Social Enterprise: A Review of Global Data 2013-2023](#)". Its data informed dialogues with public- and private-sector actors during the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting 2024. The full report was later published on the one-year anniversary of the UN Resolution on the Social and Solidarity Economy on 18 April 2024.

The report builds on data from more than 80 country surveys, published between 2013 and 2023 by organizations such as the British Council, Catalyst 2030, Euclid Network and Oxfam. It informs policy-makers and business leaders about the underestimated contribution of social enterprises towards global GDP, employment and the Sustainable Development Goals.

It finds that as many as 10 million social enterprises are working across the world, generating around \$2 trillion in revenue each year and creating nearly 200 million jobs. Social enterprises are also bridging the gender gap, with one in two social enterprises worldwide led by women, compared to one in five for conventional enterprises.

Following the publication of the report, the Schwab Foundation is engaging with ecosystem actors, the academia and public-sector actors to further strengthen efforts for gathering data on social enterprises, with the goal of contributing to consistent, regularly updated data on social innovation worldwide.

[Read more about the State of Social Enterprise report here.](#)

3 Collective action on key issues for the sector

As the field of social innovation evolves, the Schwab Foundation works collaboratively with its community, partners and the broader ecosystem to identify emerging themes that are crucial for the sector and society at large. By doing so, the foundation helps social innovators and their ecosystem to shape the agenda for social innovation and provides a platform for innovators to present their solutions on cutting-edge issues such as AI, innovative finance and climate adaptation. This proactive and collective approach ensures that social innovation remains relevant and effective in addressing the most pressing challenges of our time.

Over the past year, this work has gained significant attention and recognition within the ecosystem. The community of members in the

Schwab Foundation's Global Alliance for Social Entrepreneurship has grown by 14%, with 15 new organizations joining the global alliance and increasing the total membership from 104 to 119. All new members had to meet stricter membership criteria, including endorsement from at least three member organizations, a proven track record in the ecosystem, and regional and sectoral significance.

In the 12 months between July 2023 and June 2024, the foundation has published eight thematic reports on topics such as circularity, climate adaptation, AI, racial and ethnic equity, and social enterprise data. These reports have been widely recognized and have positioned the Schwab Foundation and its global alliance as a premier platform for social innovation.



The foundation helps social innovators and their ecosystem to shape the agenda for social innovation and provides a platform for innovators to present their solutions on cutting-edge issues.



Circular solutions

Discussions about circularity, no-waste supply chains and closed-loop economies often focus on material flows and environmental aspects. However, the experience of the Schwab Foundation community showcases the relevance of the social impact dimensions within circular business models – both positive and negative. In October 2023, the foundation launched a report on these aspects in partnership with IKEA Social Entrepreneurship, TechnoServe, a broad range of social innovators from the community and the Schwab Foundation ecosystem. It presents the “inclusive loop framework”, a model that combines considerations of material flows with social impact aspects, and includes a list of over 50 social innovators in circular supply chains.

[Read the full report here.](#)



Climate adaptation

In many ways, social innovators are key contributors to successful climate action. Awardees of the Schwab Foundation directly create positive environmental impact or ensure that green projects are aligned with and contribute to the needs of local communities. The Schwab Foundation therefore invests in

← Image: Social enterprises can play a vital role in building and scaling up the circular economy, delivering social and environmental benefits across the globe. Credits: RLabs/ Zach Thomas

the visibility of social innovators in the climate agenda, starting with their role in climate adaptation and resilience.

Building on previous World Economic Forum insights, the Schwab Foundation released the report “Grassroots to Boardrooms: Social Innovation Partnerships for Climate Adaptation” during COP28 in Dubai. It provides concrete avenues for businesses to act on climate change by partnering with leading social innovators, especially in low- and middle-income countries. The report was introduced at a COP28 session of the World Economic Forum by Helmy Abouleish, CEO of SEKEM Group and a Schwab Foundation awardee. SEKEM is one of the four in-depth case studies of Schwab Foundation awardees featured in this report, which includes a directory of over 50 social innovators in climate adaptation.

The report led to the launch of a two-year research collaboration between the Schwab Foundation and the University of Cape Town in South Africa. It is supported by a Hoffmann Fellowship and funding from Foundation S. The collaboration will strengthen the evidence base for the impact of social innovators on community resilience and climate adaptation. Based on this data, it will highlight concrete avenues to increase access to finance and private-sector engagement opportunities.



Grassroots to Boardrooms:
Social Innovation Partnerships
for Climate Adaptation
November 2023

[Read the report here.](#)

AI for social innovation

During the Schwab Foundation Summit 2023, a diverse group of social innovators highlighted their enthusiasm and concerns about the potential impact of AI on their work and the social innovation sector at large. Based on these discussions, the Schwab Foundation launched the AI for Social Innovation initiative in October 2023 with the support of Microsoft and contributions from EY.

The initiative is a collaborative project between social innovators and companies such as Microsoft, EY and SAP. It encourages dialogue between technology leaders and social innovators to inform the future development of AI, mobilizes resources for the impactful application of AI for impact and builds capacity in the social innovation ecosystem.

As part of its work, the initiative has launched two reports in 2024. The [first report](#) includes a global landscape study, spanning 300 social innovators, and provides insights into how, where and in which impact areas social innovators are currently applying AI. The [second report](#) features the “PRISM Framework”, which is based on best practices from ecosystem organizations and social entrepreneurs. It provides pathways for social innovators to adopt AI for their own organizations, while safeguarding their impact mission and taking ethical considerations into account. The report's insights reached over 58,000 social media users.

Following this report series, the Schwab Foundation team is now focusing on resource mobilization in support of social innovators and enabling a dialogue between social innovators and technology leaders through a “Meet the Leader” series in 2024 and early 2025.

[Learn more about the AI for Social Innovation initiative here.](#)

Innovating for equity

Following discussions with a group of innovators working for racial and ethnic equity during the Annual Meeting 2023, the foundation partnered with Echoing Green, GHR Foundation and Dalberg to study partnerships between social innovators and corporations that advance equity.

Launched on the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the [Innovating for Equity](#) report highlights how racially and ethnically marginalized communities offer untapped potential for global economic growth. It focuses on how working with social innovators advancing racial and ethnic equity is not just a moral imperative, but also a smart business decision. It highlights how the widening racial wealth gap threatens to slash economic growth by up to \$1.5 trillion by 2028 in the US alone. Yet social innovators manage to create an opportunity from this monumental challenge. The report offers actionable pathways and case studies that show promise in addressing systemic inequities while creating business opportunities.

The report was featured in the [Financial Times](#).



Innovating for Equity:
Unlocking Value for
Communities and Businesses
March 2024

[Read the full report here.](#)



Social Innovation at the intersection of climate and health

Inclusive health, sustainable agriculture and climate change are interconnected, requiring collective action for sustainability and justice. During the Annual Meeting 2024, the Schwab Foundation, in partnership with Bayer Foundation, the Bertha Centre for Social Innovation, Impact Hub and Impact Intelligence, published an open dataset based on 2.5 million data points from Latin America and the Asia-Pacific, highlighting the role of social innovation at the intersection of climate

[Image: Launch of the AI for Social Innovation initiative at the Annual Meeting 2024, in the presence of social innovators and technology leaders.](#)

change, food systems and inclusive healthcare. It enables impact investors and other stakeholders to identify geographies where issue areas ripe for social innovation lack investment – from access to water and sanitation to food security.

An accompanying report is set to be launched during the World Health Summit 2024 and supports the foundation's efforts to mobilize funders to invest in social innovation in climate and health – a key focus area for 2025. Already today, the data has supported a new collaboration between MovingWorlds, Bayer Foundation and other corporate foundations to partner on a challenge for early-stage innovators in this space.

[Strategic Intelligence Collection](#)


[Interactive Dashboard by Impact Intelligence](#)

Redefining value

As of 2022, social impact bonds had facilitated the allocation of over \$460 million towards a myriad of impactful initiatives based on the impact they had achieved. While the merits of outcome-based financing (OBF) are evident, its full-scale implementation and universal adoption encounter challenges. In 2024, the Schwab Foundation launched a research project to highlight avenues for scaling outcome-based funding, specifically by mobilizing the private sector. The project is funded and supported by the Center for Social Value Enhancement Studies, the corporate foundation of the South Korean SK Group.

The initiative explores the 10-year horizon in this space by highlighting innovative concepts for assigning economic value to impact or making impact outcomes tradeable (and through that, more fungible for investors). By the Annual Meeting in Davos in January 2025, this project is set to provide an analysis of existing OBF mechanisms that lend themselves to private-sector mobilization. It will also publish a white paper on new paradigm shifts to attribute value to social and environmental impact, including concepts such as impact currencies and carbon assets.

Since the project's launch, more than 100 leading organizations in outcome-based funding and tradeable impact outcomes have signed up to join its advisory group. The foundation has secured the support of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors to deliver this project.

 [The initiative was featured in the Stanford Social Innovation Review.](#)

Social procurement

The Schwab Foundation has been building on the momentum for social procurement in Europe and expanding it to other regions, starting with Latin America. With the support and guidance of local partners and alliance members, the efforts have focused on integrating the principles of social procurement into corporate value chains. As a result, Agora Partnerships and the Schwab Foundation have successfully initiated a series of roundtable discussions with the private sector in Latin America. The foundation has also been actively engaging with the Forum procurement team to incorporate social procurement principles. We hope to use upcoming foundation events as an opportunity to test and further refine the concept of social procurement for other Forum events.



The Schwab Foundation has been building on the momentum for social procurement in Europe and expanding it to other regions, starting with Latin America

→ Top image: Launch of the AI for Social Innovation initiative at the Annual Meeting 2024, in the presence of social innovators and technology leaders.

Bottom image: Schwab Foundation awardee Temie Giwa-Tubosun, Founder of LifeBank, presenting at the “Healthy planet, healthy people” session at the Annual Meeting 2024.



Our activities and events

At the Sustainable Impact Meeting 2023, leaders came together to present an open letter to the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on the Social and Solidarity Economy, offering the support of the private sector in the implementation of the UN resolution on the social economy.



Sustainable Development Impact Summit 2023

During the Sustainable Impact Meeting 2023, the foundation organized a session entitled “Business of Impact: Private Sector Responses to UN Resolution on Social Economy”. The session brought together social economy representatives, social innovators, public-sector representatives and companies to discuss the implementation of the UN resolution on the social economy.

At the meeting, Alexandra van der Ploeg, Senior Vice-President, Corporate Social Responsibility, SAP, and Jean-Philippe Courtois, Executive

← Image: Social Innovators from 15 countries convened in Brazil to learn from each other and local entrepreneurs about challenges and opportunities in the region. Credits: Renato Stockler/Schwab Foundation

↑ Image: Alexandra van der Ploeg, Chantal Line Carpentier, Jean-Philippe Courtois and Åsa Skogström Feldt presenting the [open letter](#) at SDIM 2023.

Vice-President, Microsoft, presented an [open letter](#) to the chair of the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on the Social and Solidarity Economy, offering the support of the private sector in the implementation of the resolution. The letter represented the Corporate Leadership Council and its more than 40 private-sector members. These organizations reiterated that they are eager to continue their partnerships with social innovators around the world and to explore the growing opportunities to integrate principles of the social economy into the way they work.

The session uncovered examples that show how collaboration between the public and private sectors is already supporting the development of the social economy. These include social procurement, outcome-based funding and employee ownership. The outcomes of the session were published in an [agenda article](#), “This is why the private sector just came out in support of the social economy”.



Brazil Learning Journey 2023 and roundtable

On 8 November, the Schwab Foundation co-hosted a high-level [Ministerial Roundtable on Social Economy](#) together with Catalyst 2030, Aliança pelo Impacto and the Vice-Presidency of Brazil. The meeting convened 50 decision-makers in government, business and social enterprise to discuss the contribution of the local social economy to Brazil's national economy and the opportunities it opens to foster a more inclusive, equitable and regenerative economic system. The Portuguese version of the [Unlocking the Social Economy](#) report, published last year by the Schwab Foundation and the World Economic Forum, was released on this occasion, offering insights to support the discussions.

Following this event, the Schwab Foundation hosted a Brazil Learning Journey on 9-12 November in the state of São Paulo. Entirely co-created with local Brazilian awardees, the programme brought together 35 social

innovators from 15 countries for four days of exchange, learning, cultural immersion and collaboration. It was a moment to deconstruct prejudices, discuss challenges and leverage peers' expertise to find solutions, striving for harmony in diversity and celebrating life.

The social innovators who took part in this learning journey credit it as the origin of collaborations between their organizations, giving them a deeper understanding of system change. "[This learning journey] helped me realize how to organize key players and champions in the ecosystem to get a full understanding of an "operating system" for a change-making network," said Njideka U. Harry, Founder, Youth for Technology Foundation (YTF), Nigeria.

↓ Image: 35 social innovators from every corner of the planet participated in the Brazil Learning Journey. Credits: Renato Stockler/Schwab Foundation



↑ Image: YTF addresses skills gaps in established education systems, encouraging young people to see entrepreneurship as a viable career. Credit: Youth for Technology Foundation

World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2024

Under the theme “Rebuilding Trust”, the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2024 brought together more than 3,000 leaders from government, business and civil society, at a pivotal time for the world. The meeting provided a unique platform to drive solutions to address the world’s most pressing challenges through public-private cooperation. A group of 40 Social Innovators participated in the Annual Meeting in Davos to share ideas and solutions

to societal challenges – and how to implement and scale such solutions. From this cohort, 16 leading organizations were announced as Social Innovators of the Year 2024.

Image: Raj Kumar, Julia White, Sabrina Soussan and Geoff Martha speaking at the “Why Social Innovation Matters for Business?” session at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2024. Credit: World Economic Forum/SAE



2024 Social Innovation Awards plenary

Increasingly, the world is recognizing the contribution of the social and solidarity economy to sustainable development, with the United Nations calling on governments to implement policies supporting social enterprise and other social economy actors. Given this context, the award ceremony took place during a session on “Climate and Nature: A Systemic Response Needed,” featuring Ajay Banga, President, World Bank Group, Katharine Hayhoe, Climate Scientist, Distinguished Professor and Endowed Chair in Public Policy, Texas Tech University, Chief Putany Yawanawá, Chief of the Yawanawa Tribe, Jesper Brodin, Chief Executive Officer, Ingka Group (IKEA), Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director, International Monetary Fund, and André Hoffmann, Chairman, Massellaz.

2024 Social Innovation Awards presentation

This awards presentation celebrated the 16 organizations that have received the Schwab Foundation 2024 Social Innovation Awards, who come from grassroots organizations, major corporations, public-sector institutions and collective entities. Each awardee presented their work and the mission of their organization.

These leaders have shown innovative approaches to solving deep-seated problems in areas such as healthcare, youth, law, poverty alleviation, peacebuilding and countering the effects of climate change. They work closely with the communities they serve, empowering individuals and groups to develop their own solutions. “Dialogue is critical, but what makes a difference is action,” said Pascale Bruderer, Founder, Chairwoman, Swiss Stablecoin and Board Member, Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship.

Watch the session [here](#).



Increasingly, the world is recognizing the contribution of the social and solidarity economy towards sustainable development, with the United Nations calling on governments to implement policies supporting social enterprise and other social economy actors.

Why social innovation matters for business

During this session, representatives from globally recognized companies addressed the \$500 billion market opportunity in social procurement. In the \$2 trillion annual market for climate adaptation, social innovation holds high potential for business growth. Julia White, Member of the Executive Board and Chief Marketing and Solutions Officer, SAP, called for more collaboration with social enterprises because their impact is necessary for a stable, thriving economy. Jean-Philippe Courtois, Executive Vice-President and President, National Transformation Partnerships, Microsoft, emphasized the importance of scaling solutions from social enterprises that work towards profitable and sustainable solutions for people and the planet. Anna Marks, Global Chair, Deloitte, highlighted the importance of embedding social entrepreneurship in the core of business to attract millennial employees who prioritize working for organizations that have impact at the core of their mission. Geoff Martha, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, Medtronic, emphasized that working with social innovators is integral to the company’s mission.

Media highlights

Video

Launch of [short film](#) about social innovators

Press releases

- [Social Innovators of the Year 2024](#)
- [Landmark pledge to help mobilize up to \\$1.1 trillion for social innovation](#)

Reports launched

- [Corporate Social Innovation Compass](#)
- [Trusting in Humanity: The Power of People to lead their own change](#)
- [Inclusive Health, Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Change](#)

Three livestreamed sessions by the Schwab Foundation generated additional visibility for social entrepreneurs during the Annual Meeting:

Social Innovation Awards announcement

[Watch the recording here.](#)



Social Innovation Awards presentation

[Watch the recording here.](#)



Why Social Innovation Matters for Business session

[Watch the recording here.](#)



Healthy planet, healthy people session



Agenda articles and impact stories

- [Social Innovation Awards](#)
- The [Rise Ahead Pledge](#) unites businesses who are committed to addressing the \$1.1 trillion funding need that is hindering the full potential of 10 million social enterprises worldwide
- [How change-makers have improved 891 million lives worldwide](#)

News

In addition, activities of the Schwab Foundation were covered in the news:

- Op-ed in *Forbes*: [10 million Enterprises put People and Planet first](#)
- Op-ed in *Financial Times*: [A business must tap the talent of diverse groups to be successful](#)



Harvard executive education module 2024

The Harvard executive education module is acknowledged as one of the flagship experiences and a special milestone in the journey of the awardees of the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship. From 16 to 23 March 2024, 37 social innovators and senior members from their leadership teams gathered at the Harvard Kennedy School campus in Cambridge, USA, for this year's edition of the programme on [Leadership for System Change: Delivering Social Impact at Scale](#), delivered in partnership with the Social Innovation and Change Initiative (SICI) and the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship.

The programme is chaired by Schwab Foundation awardee Julie Battilana, Alan L. Gleitsman Professor of Social Innovation, Harvard Kennedy School of Government, USA. The week-long intensive course features a practitioner-oriented curriculum designed specifically for the needs of the Schwab Foundation's global network of late-stage social innovators working across the social, public and private sectors.

Throughout the week, the social innovators are joined by renowned faculty members who

guide them through various modules, including innovation and scaling, digital transformation, authority and leadership, financing social change, power dynamics, and more. It aims to deepen their understanding of systems change, identify ways to scale their impact, and develop leadership skills that will accelerate their efforts as change-makers. This year's participants shared their reflections [in this article](#) on how impactful the programme was for them and how the skills they acquired and the knowledge they exchanged with fellow social innovators will support their journey as leaders implementing social change at scale.

Participants' tuition fees are sponsored by the Motsepe Foundation, under the leadership of Precious Moloi-Motsepe, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Motsepe Foundation, and David Rubenstein, Co-Founder and Chairman of the Carlyle Group. The Schwab Foundation would like to thank them for their long-standing support and belief in this programme.

↑ Image: 37 social innovators from the Schwab Foundation community attended an education module at Harvard to deepen their knowledge of social change. Credit: Harvard Kennedy School

Special Meeting 2024

on Global Collaboration, Growth and Energy for Development in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Gathering over 700 leaders from across sectors and industries on 27-30 April, the deliberations in Riyadh focused on new approaches to economic policy, the energy landscape and the implications of geopolitical developments for business decision-making.

Schwab Foundation Awardees joined a cohort of Young Global Leaders and Global Shapers from across the globe, representing diverse sectors

and perspectives, united by their commitment to shaping a better future. At a lunch session, participants had the chance to engage in dynamic discussions on how to advance global collaboration, growth and energy for development, ensuring that no one is left behind.

↓ Image: LifeBank in Nigeria uses innovative technology solutions to improve healthcare delivery in underserved areas. Credit: LifeBank

Annual Meeting of the New Champions 2024

The World Economic Forum AMNC 2024 took place in Dalian, China, from 24-27 June. The event brought together leaders from government, business and academia, as well as social innovators and representatives of international organizations, media and civil society. It focused on building upgraded platforms for dialogue, stronger partnerships and agile policy frameworks that can unlock global economic recovery. Fifteen social innovators participated and the community led two sessions as part of the official programme.

Responsibility Initiatives, SAP Asia, who shared insightful comments on SAP's education and skill initiatives and the role of tech companies in upskilling workers during each major digital transformation over the past 50 years. It also featured Sabine Zink Bolonhini, Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder, SAS Group, Brazil, who highlighted the importance of the human side of AI and how it can be enabled, as well as the need for private-sector partnerships for social innovators.

Deploying AI for impact

According to the International Telecommunication Union, up to 134 of the 169 targets set out by the Sustainable Development Goals can be positively affected by AI. Building on the "AI for Social Innovation" workstream, a dialogue was hosted by François Bonnici, Director, Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship. It featured Eugene Ho, Global Director, Future Skills Corporate Social

Driving inclusive transitions

Innovating and scaling solutions for social progress, social entrepreneurs can be critical partners to government in delivering on an inclusive, green and digital transition of the economy. In this session, the Schwab Foundation convened industry leaders, academics and policy-makers to develop insights into the current roles of social entrepreneurs in the green and digital transition, and the challenges that lie ahead.



Governance



↑ Image: The Schwab Foundation Board at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2024.

Foundation Board Members

The Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship is steered by the Foundation Board.



Hilde Schwab
Chairperson and Co-founder,
Schwab Foundation for
Social Entrepreneurship



Charly Kleissner
Co-Founder, Tonic, USA



H.M. Mathilde of Belgium
H.M. Queen Mathilde of the
Belgians, Belgium (Honorary
Board Member)



Johanna Mair
Professor of Organization,
Strategy and Leadership,
Hertie School, Germany



Pascale Bruderer-Wyss
Member of the Executive
Board, Crossiety,
Switzerland



Subramanian Rangan
The Abu Dhabi Crown
Prince Court Endowed
Chair in Societal Progress,
INSEAD, France



Mirai Chatterjee
Chairperson, SEWA Social
Security, Self-Employed
Women's Association, India



Nicole Schwab
Co-Head, Nature-Based
Solutions, Centre for
Nature and Climate, World
Economic Forum



Ernest Darkoh
Founding Partner and
Board Member, Broadreach
Healthcare, South Africa



Helle Thorning-Schmidt
Prime Minister of Denmark
(2011-2015)

Partners and supporters

For their generous support, the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship wishes to express its deep gratitude to:

Bayer Foundation

The GHR Foundation

Bertelsmann Foundation

The Goldman Sachs Foundation

Center for Social Value
Enhancement Studies

The Motsepe Foundation

Deloitte

Microsoft

EY

Salesforce

Frey Charitable Foundation

SAP



Over the past year, we have seen a remarkable change in how social innovation is embraced by both the private and public sectors. The Schwab Foundation and its Global Alliance for Social Entrepreneurship have been instrumental in helping the ecosystem forge stronger connections with business leaders and policy-makers globally. Their support and the valuable insights from the social innovation community drive real progress towards making social innovation a mainstream approach. At SAP, we are witnessing this change first-hand among our business leaders.

Alexandra van der Ploeg

Senior Vice-President, Corporate Social Responsibility, SAP

Calendar of activities

2023

25 August

Social Entrepreneur of the Year India Award
New Delhi, India

18-22 September

Sustainable Development Impact Summit
New York, USA

16-17 October

Annual Meeting of Global Future Councils
Dubai, UAE

24 October

Social Entrepreneur of the Year Brazil Award
São Paulo, Brazil

8-9 November

Ministerial Roundtable on Social Economy
Brasilia, Brazil

9-12 November

Schwab Foundation Brazil Learning Journey
São Paulo, Brazil

23-27 September

Sustainable Development Impact Summit
New York, USA

1-4 October

Collective Action Convening
Geneva, Switzerland

15-17 October

Annual Meeting of Global Future Councils
Dubai, UAE

12 November

Social Entrepreneur of the Year Brazil Award
São Paulo, Brazil

2025

20-24 January

World Economic Forum Annual Meeting
Davos, Switzerland

15-22 March

Harvard Executive Education,
Leadership for Systems Change
Cambridge, USA

June

Schwab Foundation Bi-Annual Summit

24-26 June

Annual Meeting of the New Champions
Tianjin, People's Republic of China

September

Social Entrepreneur of the Year India Award
New Delhi, India

Sustainable Development Impact Summit
New York, USA

October

Annual Meeting of Global Future Councils
Dubai, UAE

November

Social Entrepreneur of the Year Brazil Award
São Paulo, Brazil

2024

15-19 January

World Economic Forum Annual Meeting
Davos, Switzerland

16-23 March

Harvard Executive Education,
Leadership for Systems Change
Cambridge, USA

28-29 April

Special Meeting on Global Collaboration,
Growth and Energy for Development
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

24-27 June

Annual Meeting of the New Champions
Dalian, People's Republic of China

10 September

Social Entrepreneur of the Year India Award
New Delhi, India





SCHWAB FOUNDATION
FOR SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

In partnership with the World Economic Forum, the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship is the foremost global community of pioneering social innovators driving systemic change.



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