



2024

Social Innovator Awardees

Social Entrepreneurs



Rudayna Abdo

Rudayna Abdo is the Founder, Chief Executive Officer and President of [Thaki](#). This social impact non-profit organization delivers learning tools to schools catering to refugee and vulnerable children in the Middle East. By taking used computer hardware and edtech software, it has delivered hope and educational opportunities to tens of thousands of children since it was founded in 2015. It works in partnership with companies that donate their second-hand electronic devices. She previously had a successful career tackling housing, land-use and urban transportation issues in North America and the Middle East.



Gerald Abila

Gerald Abila is the Founder of [BarefootLaw](#), a non-profit group based in Uganda that uses innovative digital technology to empower people with free legal information and to advance access to justice across Africa. It helps people and communities resolve legal issues and disputes pro bono through a full-time team of trained attorneys supported by an artificial intelligence (AI) lawyer called Winnie. Over the past decade, it has grown from a basic Facebook page to a high-tech legal advice service that has assisted 1 million people. He has also established a presence in The Hague to spread the message about legal tech in Africa.



Shuchin Bajaj

Shuchin Bajaj is the Founder Director of [Ujala Cygnus Hospitals](#), which operates 20 hospitals in Delhi, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana, providing super-speciality and emergency healthcare in parts of India where no such facilities exist. It aims to expand to 25 hospitals offering 2,500 beds by the end of 2025. As well as being a physician, he is also an investor in health tech. He is part of the founding team of Medpho, a digital health start-up providing quality healthcare to communities that have been left behind, which is already ensuring surgeries for hundreds of patients per month at zero out-of-pocket cost.

Social Entrepreneurs



Catalina Cock Duque

Catalina Cock Duque is a 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 and since then has become a systemic transformation model, impacting more than 2 million people in Colombia. She has over 25 years of experience catalysing systemic change and is a serial social entrepreneur.



Temie Giwa-Tubosun

Temie Giwa-Tubosun is the Chief Executive Officer of [LifeBank Group](#), Africa's foremost healthcare technology and logistics company, operating in 11 cities in 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. She has extensive health management experience, having previously worked with the United Kingdom Department for International Development, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the Lagos State Government.



Li Xia

Li Xia is the 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. Her company has provided solar-powered light to nearly 50 million people in more than 7 million households, focusing heavily on sub-Saharan Africa. In the process, it has protected tens of thousands of children from respiratory diseases caused by using kerosene and candles. She was inspired to bring solar lighting to low-income households after visiting India's slums in 2007.

Social Entrepreneurs



Ajaita Shah

Ajaita Shah is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of [Frontier Markets](#), a social commerce platform in India 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 1 million women customers in thousands of villages. It aims to serve 100 million rural households by 2030. She has more than 18 years' experience working on microfinance, rural distribution, marketing and building gender-inclusive business models in rural India.



Mohamed Amine Zariat

Mohamed Amine Zariat is the Founder of [Tibu Africa](#), a non-governmental organization pioneering social innovation through sport. A former international basketball player, he founded TIBU Morocco in 2010, which has now become Tibu Africa. His organization aims to unlock the potential of young people and women across the continent and has a vision to become a locomotive of development through sport in Africa by 2030. In addition to his experience as a top sportsman, he has held several leadership positions in educational organizations in Morocco.

Public Social Innovators



Chantal Line Carpentier

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



Juan Martinez Louvier

Juan Martinez Louvier is the General Director of the [National Institute for Social Economy](#) in the Mexican Government. He is responsible for designing, implementing and evaluating national public policies promoting the social and solidarity economy (SSE). He believes in creating market enterprises with a social mission that can combat inequality and poverty. His team fosters SSE enterprises in rural and urban areas that address gender issues, overhaul healthcare systems, create collaborative energy initiatives, facilitate internet access and help preserve wildlife.



Ibu Vivi Yulaswati

Ibu Vivi Yulaswati is the Director of Indonesia's [Ministry of National Development Planning](#) and Head of the National Secretariat for the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). She has extensive experience developing poverty reduction programmes in the country, including working on subsidy reforms, community development and conditional cash transfer projects. She has also been involved in developing Indonesia's National Social Security System. She has been instrumental in initiatives covering financial inclusion, social protection and the use of big data for research.

Corporate Social Innovators



Saugata Banerjee

Saugata Banerjee is the Global Head of Sustainable Programming at 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 worldwide within a generation. In 2012, he pioneered the Eye Mitra programme, which trains young people to become primary vision care microentrepreneurs in rural India. The scheme has since been extended to countries such as Bangladesh, Indonesia and Kenya and is now among the world's largest rural optical networks.



Ruchika Singhal

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 1 million people by leveraging cutting-edge digital technologies to improve clinical outcomes through the optimal use of limited healthcare system resources. She previously worked at Medtronic for 14 years in various roles.

Collective Social Innovation Award



Uyunkar Domingo Peas Nampichkai

Uyunkar Domingo Peas Nampichkai is President of the governing board of the [Amazon Sacred Headwaters Alliance](#), 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. He is an Achuar leader from Ecuador with a 30-year history of serving the Indigenous movement.



Belén Páez

Belén Páez is General Secretary of the [Amazon Sacred Headwaters Initiative](#). She also serves as President of Fundación Pachamama, which supports the permanent protection of the Amazon basins and Indigenous territories in the face of accelerated destruction caused by the extractive industries. It contributes to the "sumak kawsay" (well-being) of the Ecuadorian and Peruvian Amazon by promoting alternative models that strengthen climate justice and the self-determination of Indigenous peoples. She is a specialist in climate change with 25 years of experience implementing conservation programmes.



Atossa Soltani

Atossa Soltani is Director of Global Strategy for the [Amazon Sacred Headwaters Alliance](#), supporting a coalition of 30 Indigenous nations in Ecuador and Peru that aims to protect 35 million hectares of tropical rainforests by establishing a protected region that is off-limits to industrial-scale resource extraction. It advocates a new economic model, under Indigenous peoples' stewardship, that prioritizes the well-being of Indigenous communities, as well as the ecological integrity of the whole bioregion. She is also the Founder of Amazon Watch, where she served as the first Executive Director for nearly two decades.

Collective Social Innovation Award



Jennifer Blatz

Jennifer Blatz is President and Chief Executive Officer of [StriveTogether](#), 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. Its StriveTogether Cradle to Career Network reaches 14 million young people – more than half of them children of colour. She 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 of [StriveTogether](#), 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. Its StriveTogether Cradle to Career Network reaches 14 million young people – more than half of them children of colour. She has over 15 years of experience in school-, district- and state-level education systems.



Colin Groth

Colin Groth is Chief Advancement Officer at [StriveTogether](#), 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. Its StriveTogether Cradle to Career Network reaches 14 million young people – more than half of them children of colour. He is responsible for growing the organization's impact and expanding its national reach. He previously worked for the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority.

Collective Social Innovation Award



Angela Gichaga

Angela Gichaga is Chief Executive Officer of the [Financing Alliance for Health](#), 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. She works with ministries of health across Africa to develop community health strategies while also engaging with ministries of finance to secure funding to 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.