



SCHWAB FOUNDATION
FOR SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Schwab Foundation
for Social Entrepreneurship

Trusting in Humanity

The Power of People to Lead their own Change

2024 Awardees and Impact Report



Classwing International, El Salvador

Contents

About us	04
Welcome	06
Key impact insights	08
Introduction	10
Social Innovation Awards 2024	12
Our theory of change	26
Creating impact together	28
Revealing the impact	40
Community outlook	42
Mainstreaming social innovation	44
Looking ahead	46
Report methodology	47
Acknowledgements	48

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access the
digital report



About us

The Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship was established by Co-Founders Hilde and Klaus Schwab in 1998 to advance social innovation and bring together the foremost global community of pioneering social innovators driving systemic change.



The Foundation's purpose is to catalyse a social innovation movement that transforms society for a more inclusive, equitable and sustainable world. The Foundation was created as a sister organisation of the World Economic Forum. It operates independently and works in partnership with civil society organisations, businesses, philanthropic and academic institutions as well as through social innovation networks to nurture the community, mobilise the ecosystem and drive action.

Over its 25-year history, the Foundation has grown a community of the world's foremost social change leaders, united in their focus on creating positive societal impact. Its annual flagship Social Innovation Awards honour leaders who have developed innovative and proven impact models to reduce social inequalities and preserve vulnerable natural ecosystems. Awardees embark on a 3-year journey to grow their visibility, find support systems through a trusted peer community, collaborate and deepen their knowledge and practice towards systemic change.

In 2020, the Schwab Foundation initiated the [Global Alliance for Social Entrepreneurship](#) as the most comprehensive multi-stakeholder coalition in support of the social innovation sector.

The Alliance and its 100+ members represent over 100,000 social entrepreneurs and bring together a rich and growing ecosystem of corporations, investors, philanthropists, governments, researchers, media, and industry actors. It focuses on mainstreaming social innovation by helping private sector actors build partnerships with social entrepreneurs and their intermediaries, by creating multi-stakeholder partnerships for scaling social innovations, and by engaging with the public sector to support policy implementation in support of the social economy.

The Schwab Foundation, together with our coalition of partners in the Global Alliance for Social Entrepreneurship, calls for collective action by amplifying the community's work and advancing knowledge in the field of social innovation. We achieve this by sharing insights and publications that bring vital messages and contributions from the sections into the mainstream. Our latest publications include:

Unlocking the Social Economy: Towards an inclusive and resilient society

MAY 2022

Inclusive Loops: The Crucial Role of Social Enterprises in the Circular Economy

NOVEMBER 2023

Grassroots to Boardrooms: Social Innovation Partnerships for Climate Adaptation

NOVEMBER 2023

The Corporate Social Innovation Compass: Accelerating Impact through Social Enterprise Partnership

JANUARY 2024



Welcome

The **Trusting in Humanity Report** celebrates both the significant values and achievements of the Schwab Foundation community of leading social innovators and spotlights how they are transforming societies and practices to be more inclusive, equitable and sustainable.



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



Pascal Bliz/Schwab Foundation Annual Summit 2023



We need to kick-start progress, where the prescient models and lessons of the last few decades of social innovation become a mainstream system for change.

The report complements the Schwab Foundation Annual Report 2023 and profiles the 2024 Schwab Foundation Awardees, all leaders in their fields.

We are facing significant instability, polarisation, and disenfranchisement in a time of geopolitical, social, and environmental challenges. With just seven years left to meet the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the challenges we face have only grown in scale and complexity.

In this context, the work of social innovators continues to be not only relevant, effective, and impactful, but also fundamental in changing the status quo across many aspects of daily life, such as healthcare, education, poverty alleviation and the effects of climate change.

We are inspired by these leaders in social innovation who are playing an outsized role in implementing local sustainable solutions – and on a global scale - that are changing the systems in which we live for the better. Through values-based approaches focused on inclusivity, collaboration and sustainability, this community of leaders has directly improved the lives of over **891 million people** around the world, while overcoming and transforming persistent and systemic challenges. Their proven approaches

offer alternative models to others and continue to demonstrate that such models can transform society and be economic models of success.

The world is now paying attention to the full potential of social innovators. In April 2023, the United Nations passed the first resolution recognising the social and solidarity economy and its contribution towards sustainable development agenda. Research has shown that actors operating in the economy under diverse models but with a common ambition to create a more inclusive and sustainable economic paradigm, account for about 7% of gross domestic product worldwide and increase employment across economies¹. These models offer a huge opportunity for people and planet and have been shown to be more resilient than many traditional economic sectors, proving both agile and effective in sustaining employment and creating economic value.

The transformation taking shape in our economic, societal, and environmental systems through such social innovation requires brave and bold leadership. For such leaders to continue to flourish and for such models to be adopted into mainstream practices, decision makers need to scale up and fast track the political recognition, investment, and infrastructure necessary for them to thrive for the benefit of all.

1. World Economic Forum Insight Report on Unlocking the Social Economy



Esoko, Ghana

Key impact insights

Social innovators reimagine social and economic systems to be more inclusive of people and more sustainable for our planet. Their models put purpose before profit and have proven to be effective and economically viable in creating social and environmental progress where market or development approaches have failed. In this report drawing on survey, research and interview data from our community, we distill the key insights that mark a social innovator's approach to driving these changes.



Instilling agency among individuals or communities enables them to shape their future – with far-reaching benefits

By listening to their real-world experiences and involving them in design and governance, social innovators put individuals and communities at the heart of their work, strengthening their agency and enabling them to drive their own solutions. This approach shifts entrenched power dynamics and nurtures networks of communities to create lasting change.



Reimagining operating models can generate a step change in impact

Change doesn't have to be incremental. A great strength of social innovation is its agility, with innovators able to critique and reconceive models as they're developing them. This willingness to pivot means innovators can address new opportunities, benefit more people and tackle a broader scope of issues, supercharging their impact.



Ecosystems of local partnerships are integral to solving challenges

Solutions are rarely a single product or service. Instead, they're often a tapestry of existing services or capabilities offered by local partners, carefully sewn together into a specific pattern that provides targeted support for a particular outcome. Social innovators' skill is in identifying and harnessing the capacity, local knowledge and networks, and complementary products or services that solve challenges in a robust and resource-efficient way.



Growth multiplies when control is relinquished

Rather than forming strict, hierarchical organizational structures, social innovators demonstrate that networks and collaborations based around a shared philosophy, principle or purpose are often the most successful pathways to scaling. In some cases, their models are freely available for other like-minded people to adopt.



Feedback loops with increasing ownership unlock greater social change

Solutions created with people in mind can reveal new opportunities, thanks to feedback loops that provide social innovators with data and insights to improve their programme and fuel a culture of innovation. Efforts to encourage education, for example, may unearth security risks or healthcare needs, enabling the solution to respond to the needs of the community it serves.

Introduction

It's an immense privilege to work with leaders from around the world who embed integrity, humility and positive values into building organizations, technologies and partnerships, who trust in humanity to generate deep social and environmental change in our world.



François Bonnici
Director, Schwab Foundation
for Social Entrepreneurship

In 2020, we released our first comprehensive impact report, *Two Decades of Impact*, that provided a compelling overview of the reach and scope of the organizations in the Schwab Foundation community on many complex issues in over 190 countries.

The process of compiling that report also provided crucial insights into how we at the Schwab Foundation could further our impact. By building on our close partnership with the World Economic Forum, collaborating with social innovators and engaging with public and private sectors, we can help mainstream social innovation as a proven way of accelerating progress across the sustainable development agenda.

Through our annual Social Innovation Awards, we continue to build a community of leaders implementing high-impact models across the world. We've also expanded our work to help embed social innovation in the public and private spheres and highlight the fundamental necessity of innovation in organizing our collective efforts to achieve common goals.

We're grateful for the commitment of so many partners in helping us to develop the Global Alliance for Social Entrepreneurship. The Alliance has emerged as a platform to mobilize private and public sector leaderships to work alongside social entrepreneurs in advancing key agendas.

Through all our activities, we aim to catalyse the adoption of proven impact models across sectors and accelerate the transformation of the world's social and environmental systems. We undertook this new impact assessment to better understand the direct and systemic impacts that social innovators achieve.

From the social innovators surveyed in our report, we learned that most are partnering with other organizations to scale their collective impact and influence stakeholders towards institutional and policy change. Those collaborations are truly taking place across the full breadth of global society: 27% are with the public sector, 26% private sector, 24% civil society and 23% philanthropic organizations.

Social innovators in this community are aiming for and achieving higher goals as they dive deeper to drive transformative, sustained change. What makes them so distinct is the way they invest their work with a powerful belief in human beings and their capacity for self-determination. When equipped, empowered and trusted, people can change their own futures, as well as the lives and the ecosystems around them.

As we continue to confront challenging times, this report underlines that social innovators provide visible progress and also great hope – to the citizens they work with, to the natural ecosystems they restore and for a more humane and sustainable global community.



There is a very underutilised force for social change that is existing everywhere and that is hidden in plain sight. People do know how to come up with their own solutions: our role is to leverage the power of positive deviance to help them remove systemic barriers.

If you focus on growing the relationships of people, how they come together informally to clean up their neighbourhood or whatever, if you actually reinforce that, then it starts scaling very quickly, from Liberia to Uganda to the Philippines. That's peer-driven change, people helping each other, because they can actually do it themselves when you unveil and support their hidden force.

Mauricio Miller

Centre for Peer Driven Change, Social Entrepreneur 2020, USA

\$1.2B

resources mobilized by
surveyed awardees
in the past year to
advance their work



Renato Stookler/Brazil Learning Journey 2023

Social Innovation Awards 2024



Every year, our community of social innovators grows thanks to the Schwab Foundation Social Innovation Awards. The awards identify a diverse cohort of high-impact social innovators and invites them to join a focused development pathway before becoming lifelong members, gaining continued support and access to opportunities through the network.

The three-year journey aims to nurture and grow social innovators and their organizations. The programme includes access to some of the world's most influential networks through platforms, events, projects, capacity-building activities and opportunities for collaboration and partnership.

Here, we're pleased to introduce the leaders who have been awarded a Social Innovation Award for 2024.



The Schwab Foundation has opened doors for us. The imprimatur of being part of the Foundation's network meant that other donors were ready and willing to come in and to support us. The networking opportunities in which we get to meet other social innovators...this Foundation has created a network that isn't just a network in name. It's a network that knows how to pull the levers, that knows how to create influence and to share influence. And it's a community of people who do, and they wrap your arms around you and they help you do what you do better.

Frank Beadle
mothers2mothers, Social Entrepreneur 2014, South Africa

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: Digital inclusion, refugees and education

SDGs: 4,10,17



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: 10,16,17



BarefootLaw, Uganda



Shuchin Bajaj

Dr. 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 high 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 Hospitals

Headquarters: India

Impact Region: Asia

Sector: Health, healthcare and hygiene

SDGs: 3,8,17



Catalina Cock Duque

Organization: Fundación Mi Sangre

Headquarters: Colombia

Impact Region: Latin America

Sector: Youth and peace building

SDGs: 4,5,16,17

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 Group

Headquarters: Nigeria

Impact Region: Sub-Saharan Africa

Sector: Health, healthcare and hygiene

SDGs: 3,8,9,17

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 Ltd

Headquarters: People's Republic of China

Impact Region: Asia, Global

Sector: Environment, energy, natural resources and circularity

SDGs: 1, 7, 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 light 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 using 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: 5,8,10,17

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 1 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 building 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: 3,4,8

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 sportsman, Mohamed has held several leadership positions in educational organizations in Morocco" with this one: "Mohamed Amine is changing youth's 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
Headquarters: Singapore
Impact Region: Asia, Global
Sector: Health, healthcare and hygiene
SDGs: 1,3,6,17

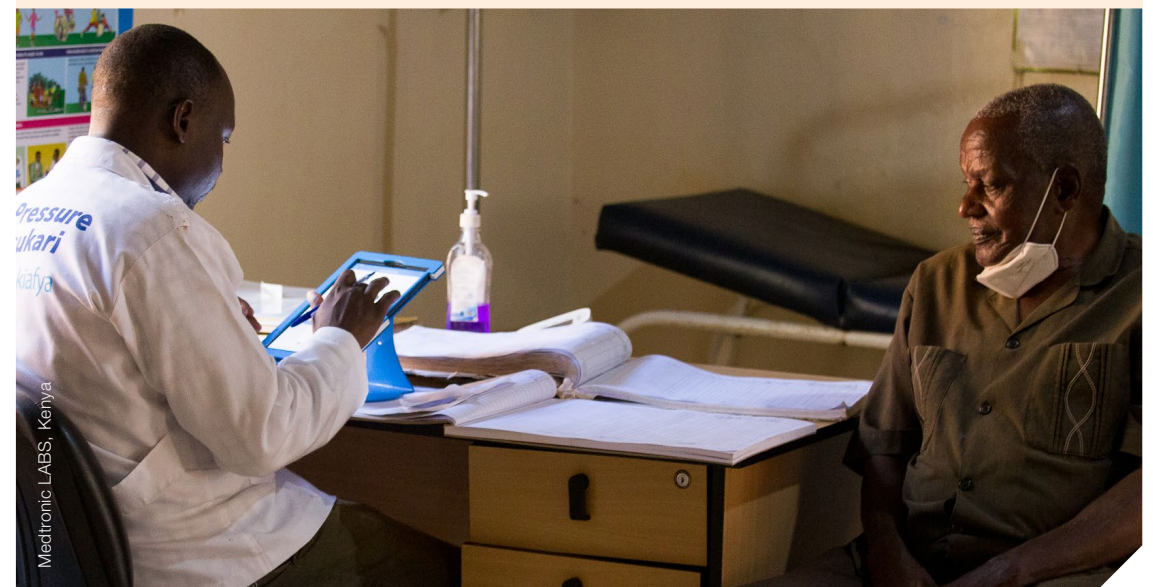
Saugata Banerjee is Global Head of Sustainable Programming at leading eyewear group EssilorLuxottica. An industry veteran, based in Singapore, he has championed innovations in affordable eye care as part of the company's ambition to help eliminate uncorrected poor vision around the world within a generation. 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
Headquarters: USA
Impact Region: Global
Sector: Health, healthcare and hygiene
SDGs: 3,10,17

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 U.S., 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 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 of the critical role of small businesses and entrepreneurs in the economic empowerment of women. She also chairs the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on the Social and Solidarity Economy.

Organization: United Nations Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Headquarters: Switzerland

Impact Region: Europe, Global

Sector: Socio-economic development

SDGs: All



Chantal Line Carpentier/UNTFSSSE, Switzerland



Juan Manuel Martinez Louvier

Juan Martinez Louvier is General Director 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/NAES, Mexico



Ibu 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, Indonesia

Headquarters: Indonesia

Impact Region: Asia

Sector: Socio-economic development and social inclusion


SDGs: 1,17

Collective Social Innovation Organizations 2024

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



Renato Stockler/Brazil Learning Journey 2023



Strive Together

Headquarters: USA

Impact Region: North America

Sector: Education and social inclusion

SDGs: 1,4,10,17

StriveTogether is a national network of nearly 70 communities across the U.S. 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.



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. Colin, who previously worked for Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority, is responsible for growing the organization's impact and expanding its national reach.



Financing Alliance for Health (FAH)

Headquarters: Kenya

Impact Region: Sub-Saharan Africa

Sector: Health, healthcare and hygiene

SDGs: 3,5,8,17

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 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 ministries 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.



Amazon Sacred Headwaters Initiative

Headquarters: Ecuador

Impact Region: Latin America

Sector: Environment and native populations

SDGs: 13,14,15,16,17

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.



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 implementing conservation programmes.

Our theory of change

Developed through two and a half decades of practical experience, our theory of change acts as our north star, guiding our ambition to catalyse a social innovation movement that transforms society for a more inclusive, equitable and sustainable world. To achieve this, we focus on delivering against three essential long-term outcomes.



Pascal Bitz/Schwab Foundation Annual Summit 2023

Our ambition
A social innovation movement that transforms society for a more inclusive, equitable and sustainable world



Creating impact together

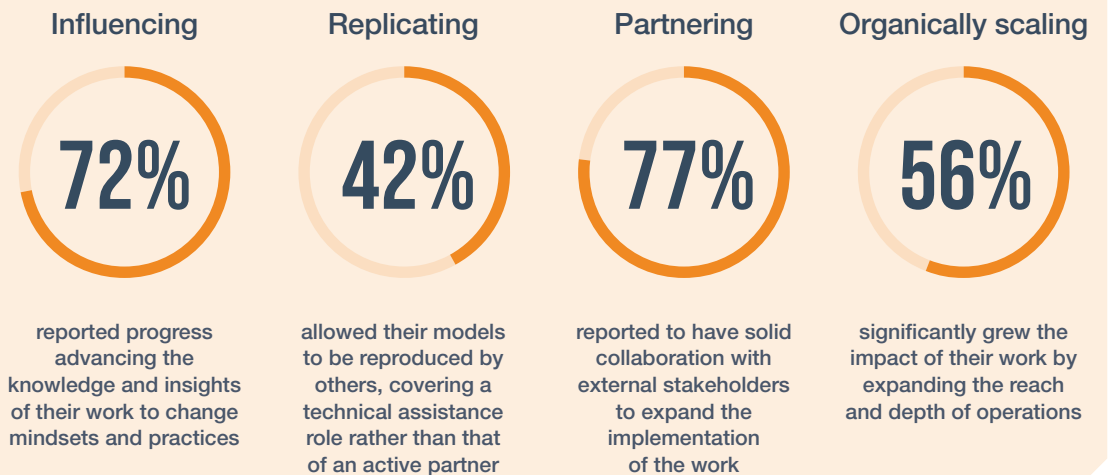
Social innovators step up to address the most diverse social and environmental needs, often adapting their **operating models** to ensure the people and communities they work with have the **agency** to make the greatest impact. In their quest for effective solutions, they don't hesitate to combine different adoption **methods** to increase the reach and depth of their impact.



Diffusing and adopting innovative social models

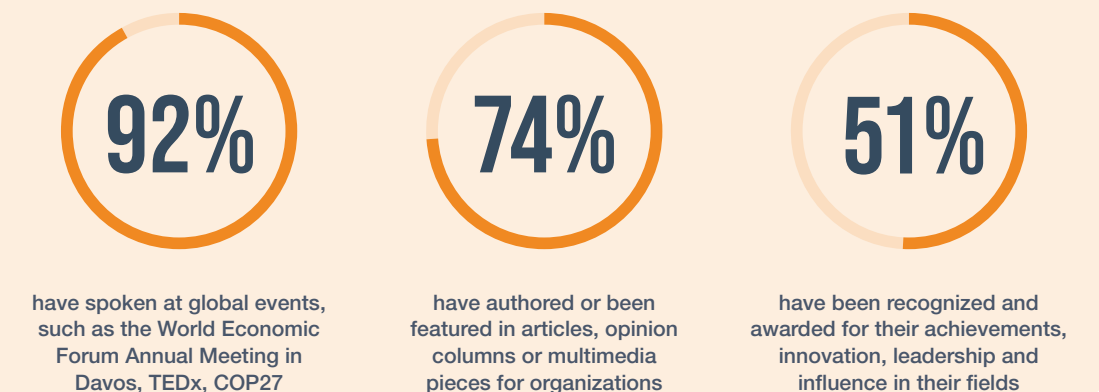
Making change happen

Our annual survey revealed that our community employs a diversity of approach to advance its work. Over the past year, the respondents reported a **high or very high level of progress** in these areas:



Visibility and legitimacy help propagate adoption

Over the past year, our community of social innovators has been raising awareness of its work in multiple ways. Of those surveyed:



Community spotlight



Andrew Baird and Ronald Bruder, the social entrepreneurs behind **Education for Employment (EFE)**, are bridging the gap between education and the job market for unemployed and marginalized youth, women and refugees, providing them with the skills and training they need to succeed and linking them to tangible opportunities. EFE opted for an affiliate model, identifying local leaders with local insights. A network of civil society organizations have sprung up from the original model – today, EFE operates in ten countries and has connected nearly 180,000 young people in the Middle East and North Africa to the world of work.



As Special Adviser on Social Investments to the Nigerian President between November 2015 and May 2023, Maryam Uwais, a Schwab Public Social Innovator, pioneered the supervision of the 4 **Federal Government National Social Investment Programmes**, which had a direct impact on at least 13 million poor and vulnerable persons: the home-grown school feeding programme, the development of a National Social Register, a job creation for youth programme and a micro-credit programme targeted at those at the bottom of the financial pyramid. In January 2020, Maryam began a new federal programme focused on transforming school attendance for hard-to-reach children, which later expanded to support their caregivers and healthcare issues. The programme had supported well over 350,000 children by the time she exited public service in June 2023.



Al Nayzak, Palestinian Territories



Our main concern for a while had been the decay in urban centres. So I collaborated with the municipal government to ensure sustainability of sanitation across Kenya, and we managed to leverage resources, loans, grants and angel investors to help us build sanitation facilities across the country. When I look back at the last 15 years, I have to say that I've seen serious transformation.

David Kuria

Chief Officer, Housing and Urban Development, Nakuru County,
Social Entrepreneur 2009, Kenya



Social entrepreneur from Singapore, Jack Sim, legitimized the taboo subject of toilets. He brought global attention to the issue of sanitation through the **World Toilet Organization**, mobilizing celebrities and politicians and galvanizing governments to create policies and invest in toilet construction. The United Nations has now designated 19 November as World Toilet Day, and in the last 23 years, Jack's leadership has helped two and a half billion people gain access to sanitation facilities.



Rene and Marlon Parker, social entrepreneurs and Co-Founders of **Reconstructed Living Labs (RLabs)**, a social movement aiming to “Make Hope Contagious”, catalyse collective action and strengthen individual agency by providing training opportunities and empowerment programmes to unemployed, inappropriately skilled and underprivileged youth. Coupled with creating common spaces where people can come together to be agents of change, RLabs enables marginalized young people to participate in the economy. Its platforms are creating real, long-term and sustainable impact, giving opportunities to many who would have ended up jobless or in gangs. Since inception, around 15 million people have benefitted from digital services across RLabs' platforms. By adapting to an open model for like-minded people to join the movement, RLabs has expanded to 23 countries across five continents.



Sekam, Egypt

Mobilizing for collective action

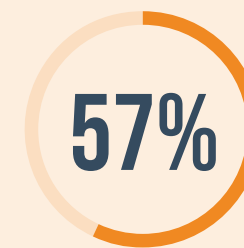
The world's experiences of COVID-19 confirmed the necessity of collective action for effective and sustainable change. Social innovators are leaders at building ecosystems of local partners with an array of skills, knowledge and networks that make them best placed to understand and respond to the needs of those in their communities.

Shared perspectives drive collaboration

Successful, collaborative, community-led action relies on sharing goals, values, beliefs and trust. Among those surveyed:



agreed that they share **goals, values and beliefs** with their peers in the Schwab Foundation community, while 82% agreed the same for the broader social innovation ecosystem



confirmed they had **shared activities** – and 76% had **shared programmes** – with fellow innovators



expressed a high level of **trust** in their Schwab Foundation community peers, and 82% trust the broader social innovation ecosystem equally.



We all want to believe that we can have a better future. Many people started joining us and we realized early on that we had to make hope contagious, and that they would then be in charge of their own future.

Rene Parker
RLabs, Social Entrepreneur 2022, South Africa

Community spotlight



Adriana Mallet and Sabine Zink Bolonhini, social entrepreneurs at **SAS Brazil**, are working to change the game in terms of access to health for Brazilians. They aim to create a digital medicine service that's accessible to patients in remote and underserved areas. To make such a meaningful difference, it was critical for them to change mindsets and policies. As part of that transformation, their collaboration with federal government became a major turning point that enabled them to effect essential systems changes.



Anna Zucchetti, social entrepreneur and Founder of **Ciudad Viva**, leads an alliance of citizens' movements in metropolitan Lima, Peru to protect urban ecosystems. Her work has created more than 5,000 urban orchards and transformed perceptions of the importance of urban ecosystems to health and wellbeing. The alliance has evolved into an urban agricultural platform comprising over 40 organizations and established a municipal ordinance that formalized their programme. Anna's subsequent appointment as a public officer for the metropolitan municipality of Lima allowed her to institutionalize her ideas. The goal of Ciudad Viva today is to implement more than a thousand pocket forests by 2025 and promote the approach across Ecuador and Colombia.



Michel Ducommun, Social Entrepreneur and Co-Director of **Velafrica**, collects disused bicycles and refurbishes them for export to Africa, generating employment, income and government-supported certified vocational training and apprenticeships for marginalized communities. As a result, the bicycles not only provide valuable and affordable transport but also become resources that create community impact. Velafrica's collaboration with the government has proved essential for ensuring legitimacy and facilitating the social integration of groups such as refugees and prisoners.



Social Entrepreneur Sameh Ghaly, Founder of **Together Association for Development and Environment**, develops water and sanitation infrastructure that builds the capacities of local communities to implement development projects within their regions. Families contribute to the decision-making and costs and in seeking approvals from local governments. Working for the Ministry of Housing, Sameh has honed his model, implementing it in over 150 villages and benefitting more than 2 million families in Egypt.



Tommy Tjiptadjaja and Sugianto Tandio, Social Entrepreneurs and Co-founders of **Greenhope**, research, develop, and manufacture patented bio-based, biodegradable and compostable resins for more than 40 different applications from renewable resources. These products have lower carbon footprints than the standard market alternatives, reducing climate impact and plastic pollution. Greenhope sources raw materials from small and middle farmer cooperatives, creating direct positive impact. They collaborate with factories, brand owners, farmers, waste management, NGOs, and governments to create systemic solutions; the Greenhope ecosystem replaces more than 22,000 tons of conventional plastics per year with biodegradable or bio-based alternatives across ten countries globally.



In this ever-fragmented world, we need to urgently develop the mindset and skills to build bridges and form effective collaboration.

Tommy Tjiptadjaja

Greenhope, Social Entrepreneur 2018, Indonesia



The Schwab Foundation has been an amazing network worldwide to meet other people working in the same field ... people who share our values, our integrity, the excellence in the way we do things, and who share the passion that we have as social entrepreneurs to be part of the solution to so many challenges.

Gisela Sánchez

Nutrivida, Corporate Social Innovator 2022, Costa Rica



Barefoot College International, India

Achieving systemic change

To transform systems in lasting and inclusive ways, it's vital to adopt long-term, multidisciplinary approaches. Through shifts in perceptions, policies, practices, power dynamics and relationships, social innovators unlock new economic opportunities, creating sustainable change by redefining resource flows, incomes and people's engagement with economic markets.

The effective application of these skillsets is the pathway to ensuring that change is sustained over time.



Success, I stress, is not a privilege of the rich, but rather the fruits of relentless effort and dedication. When in front of children at school I want them to understand that their origin stories don't determine their end. So my message today is clear. Stand out. Chase excellence. Make the change you want to see and foster a community where everybody has a chance to rise. Where dedication pays off. Where dreams are limitless. Where we can equip the next generation to harness that potential. Break the norms and affect change.

Lindiwe Matlali

African Teen Geeks, Social Entrepreneur 2020,
South Africa



Delivering economic benefits

Today, social innovation is synonymous with the creation of economic value. Among the 64 awardees that comprise the three most recent cohorts to have joined our community, 60% work in organizations that include some form of for-profit component. Together, they've created significant and far-reaching value:

\$902M

combined revenue of the 64 organizations in our three most recent cohorts at the time of joining the community

28,000

people are directly employed by these awardees, providing economic stability to a wide range of communities. Of these employees, a third work full time, while two thirds are part-time workers.



of revenue generated through economic activity while also delivering positive social and environmental outcomes. The balance was earned through grants or government funding.

Skills to tackle systems change

Our annual survey among social innovators explored the connection between theory and practice in effecting systems change:



of respondents said they were highly skilled at **identifying and addressing the root causes** of the issues they're working on, and 87% believed they are highly effective in putting this into practice.



perceived themselves as highly skilled at **applying social and environmental considerations to their solutions**, while 82% believed they're highly effective at putting this into practice.



reported being highly skilled at implementing their work in a way that results in **changes to mainstream practices and power dynamics**, while 74% believed they're highly effective at putting this into practice.

Community spotlight



Chetna Sinha, Social Entrepreneur and Founder of **Mann Deshi Foundation**, created the first rural women's bank in India at a time when women were considered unbankable. Her work radically transformed rural communities, as access to and control of their finances let women decide how to use their money – and they often choose to invest in education, health and businesses. The businesses these women created brought stability and allowed them to provide jobs to others. Mann Deshi Foundation changed deeply rooted perceptions around loan repayments, leading to the banking sector of India modifying its practices and providing credit to women. Chetna's vision and Mann Deshi's tech-driven empowerment model exemplify inclusive economic development for last-mile rural women with a global impact.



We Love Reading is changing mindsets across the globe through reading to nurture change makers. Social Entrepreneur, Founder and Director Rana Dajani works with local and international organizations using a grassroots approach that empowers communities through local volunteers. During its evolution, We Love Reading shifted its business model to enable a wider range of partnerships, helping it to scale and become a social movement. Today, the programme has expanded to over 65 countries, published 32 children's books in Arabic, distributed over 270,000 books and founded more than 8,400 libraries in rural and urban communities and refugee camps. The programme has reached over 530,000 children, cultivating a love for reading in many languages through a people-led approach.



When Claudio and Suzana Padua, social entrepreneurs and Founders of **Instituto de Pesquisas Ecológicas (IPE)**, began their conservation work, the black lion tamarin – a primate endemic exclusively to one region of Brazil – was about to become extinct. Since then, they've restored 3,000 hectares of forest in 30 years, creating corridors for wildlife and biodiversity to flourish and providing sustainable income sources for local communities in key forest areas of Brazil. Working successfully in reforestation with farmers, small settlers, the private sector, government and academic institutions, their peer conservation model has taken a systemic approach to improving biodiversity, habitat, education, economy, landscape and policy. Today, alongside their students, Claudio and Suzana are leading their third generation of researchers and are proud to share that black lion tamarins are no longer listed as critically endangered.



Lindiwe Matlali, social entrepreneur and Founder of **Africa Teen Geeks**, teaches children and unemployed youth how to code, exposing them to computer science and inspiring a generation of technology entrepreneurs and innovators. In partnership with universities and governments, Africa Teen Geek is building a community of trained youth. These young people are then charged with introducing computer science to students in disadvantaged schools, closing the opportunity gap, addressing the lack of qualified IT teachers in black townships and inspiring even more black African youth to learn STEM skills.



Njideka U. Harry, social entrepreneur and Founder of **Youth for Technology Foundation**, has equipped close to 1.7 million people in across Africa and in low-income communities in the U.S with digital literacy skills, empowering them to be changemakers in emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things, robotics and 3D printing. These skills prepare young people for employment, confronting traditional education models and engaging the private sector to develop education solutions that meet employers' needs. Her work reflects her belief that working towards a more structurally equal society starts with giving all young people the right skills and experiences early on in life, so they can thrive in this rapidly changing society.



We need to find solutions that address the root causes so that we can achieve those goals that are practical and sustainable. The only way to do that is not to create shortcuts but to foster a feeling of agency and responsibility in every human being to solve the challenges they face. Every human being is a change maker, and every human being has the capacity to change.

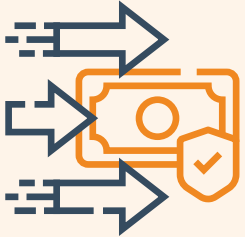
Rana Dajani

We Love Reading, Social Entrepreneur 2022, Jordan



Streetfootballworld, Germany

Revealing the impact



\$1.2B

mobilized in the past year by annual survey respondents

90%

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

891M

lives directly impacted by community of social innovators



\$902M

in revenue generated by past 3 cohorts

85% through earned income

11% from grants

4% from government funding



Generating

28,000

people directly employed in full or part time jobs

Collaboration stakeholders

- **27%** Public sector
- **26%** Private sector
- **24%** Civil society
- **12%** Knowledge organisations
- **11%** Philanthropic institutions



Top and right: Pascal Bliz/Schwab Foundation Annual Summit 2023
Left: Renato Stockler/Brazil Learning Journey 2023

Community outlook



23
Cohorts since 2001


477
Active social innovators



55
AVERAGE AGE

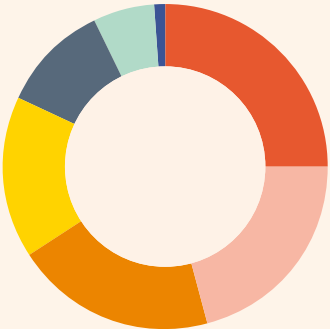
Age spread
in community: 27 to 85

There has been a notable shift in recent years to a younger demographic working in social innovation




190
COUNTRIES

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




Asia	25%
Europe	21%
North America	20%
Latin America	16%
Sub-Saharan Africa	11%
Middle East and North Africa	6%
Oceania	1%




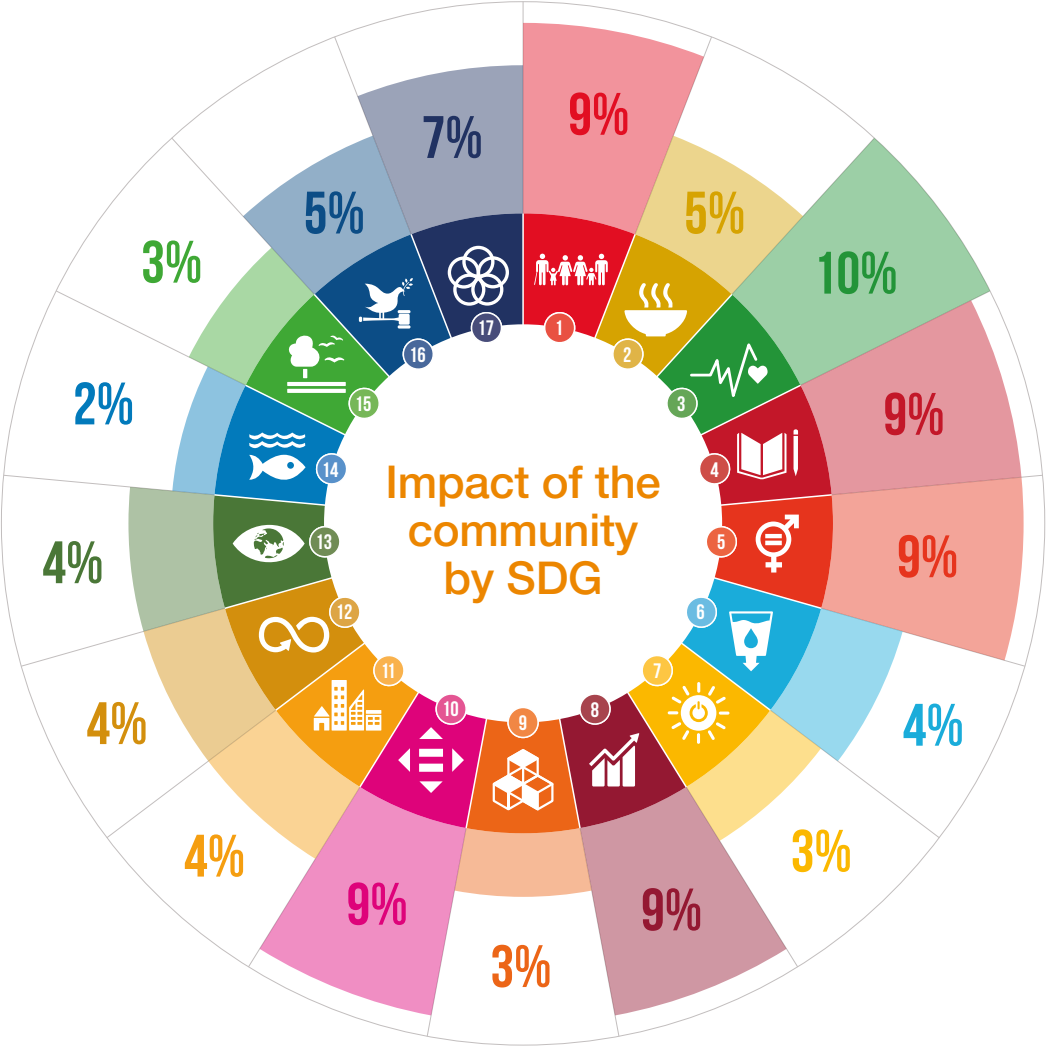
63%
FEMALE

Gender parity has greatly improved over the last 5 cohorts, with latest cohort 63% female



Gender profile (2001-2024)

Male	64%
Female	36%

- 

GOAL 1
No poverty
- 

GOAL 2
Zero hunger
- 

GOAL 3
Good health and wellbeing
- 

GOAL 4
Quality education
- 

GOAL 5
Gender equality
- 

GOAL 6
Clean water and sanitation
- 

GOAL 7
Affordable and clean energy
- 

GOAL 8
Decent work and economic growth
- 

GOAL 9
Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- 

GOAL 10
Reduced inequalities
- 

GOAL 11
Sustainable cities and communities
- 

GOAL 12
Responsible consumption and production
- 

GOAL 13
Climate action
- 

GOAL 14
Life below water
- 

GOAL 15
Life on land
- 

GOAL 16
Peace, justice and strong institutions
- 

GOAL 17
Partnerships for the goals

Pascal Blitz/Schwab Foundation Annual Summit 2023

Mainstreaming social innovation

Evidence gathered through the impact assessments of this latest report indicates that progress is being made to enable proven social innovation models to thrive, but challenges remain in integrating them into every aspect of society and the economy.

Our *Two Decades of Impact* report, published in January 2020, provided crucial insights into our future role and offered a guide to decision-makers looking to mainstream social innovation as a way of transforming society for a more inclusive, equitable and sustainable world. The report laid out six areas of priority focus for the Schwab Foundation and the work we do with our community. As it went to print, COVID-19 became a major societal disruptor, affecting social innovators in many significant ways.

The collective is powerful

The most effective way for social innovators to achieve their impact goals and build stronger, more resilient and impactful organizations is through extensive collaboration with stakeholders with shared values and beliefs, complementary skills and resources to enable wider adoption of social innovation models.

The foundation is also contributing to collaboration in the field of social innovation, creating the Collective Social Innovation award, establishing the Global Alliance for Social Entrepreneurship and launching and supporting Catalyst 2030 to encourage collective effort where it's needed most.

Partnerships enable scale

Social innovators have made strong progress in achieving scale through strategic partnerships reported as one of the most effective ways of scaling. Through the Global Alliance and collaboration with organizations including Deloitte, SAP, the ILO and several UN agencies, the foundation has built new partnerships to grow the social innovation ecosystem.

Technology is an equalizer

Social innovators increasingly harness technologies like Internet of Things, blockchain, cloud computing, artificial intelligence and machine learning to drive efficiencies and expand programme reach. For those focused on education, it's important that emerging technologies also inform the skills being offered to ensure they match opportunities in the job market.

Through partnerships with technology partners, the Schwab Foundation has accelerated technology adoption and development and established a new agenda for AI in social innovation through the Global Alliance for Social Entrepreneurship, ensuring social innovators can utilize these new tools to amplify their impact.



Funding models must evolve

Some social innovators are still recovering from significant income losses incurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, while close to 70% of those surveyed are prioritizing scaling their organizations over the coming year having mobilized the necessary funds. However, social innovation models aren't sufficiently recognized by the mainstream financial system, so funding still comes mostly from governments and philanthropic organizations. We believe this is a missed opportunity, as evidence shows that such models unlock new revenue streams and enrich the lives of marginalized individuals through enhanced income and economic participation.

Making the case for further investments, the foundation co-authored the report [Embracing Complexity: Towards a Shared Understanding of Funding Systems Change](#), and contributes to several groups reflecting on the evolution of philanthropy.

SDGs are rallying cry for action

With values that promote the betterment of people and planet and models that are not yet mainstreamed, social innovators are making a huge impact on progressing the SDGs. However, global progress in achieving the sustainability goals continues to lag.

Systems are changing

More than 81% of awardees report high or very high effectiveness in their abilities to transform society's systems for the benefit of people and planet. Taking a systemic approach to the issues of our time remains the most effective method for creating meaningful long-term change. More work is needed to embed systems thinking across all decision-making.

Looking ahead

In this report, *Trusting in Humanity – The Power of People to Lead their own Change*, we recognize that the six priorities areas outlined above and the people-centred models that we explored in depth earlier are critical pathways for transitioning towards a more inclusive and equitable world.

The Social Innovation awardees highlighted in this report are putting those approaches into practice. For example, the Amazon Sacred Headwaters Initiative drives collaborative work and partnerships for a future bioeconomy that is

led and represented by the indigenous people of the Amazon. Organizations like RLabs are putting technology in the hands of young people who have been excluded from education or economic opportunities, enabling them to design and build solutions for their own communities.

Financing Alliance for Health is advocating for financial healthcare commitments that prioritize front line community health workers. Community Independence Initiative and Poverty Stoplight allow people to support each and measure their impact as they work towards achieving the SDGs.



Social innovators are leading a shift to leave behind top-down, blueprinted approaches. Instead, they're creating platforms that empower citizens and local groups with agency and decision-making powers to effect their own change.

This study has demonstrated how social innovators hold a powerful belief in human beings and their capacity for self-determination. Channelling these approaches into mainstream business models could transform the state of our planet and the lives and livelihoods of people everywhere.

Which is why it's crucial that, right now, the conditions for encouraging social innovation through people and planet-centred business models are starting to be created, including the recently adopted United Nations General Assembly resolution promoting the social

and solidarity economy for sustainable development, and that there is growing commitment from the private sector to work alongside social innovators.

Emboldened by this international momentum, we at the Schwab Foundation, together with our community of social innovators and key partners in the Global Alliance for Social Entrepreneurship, will continue to advance the priority areas we identified in 2020.

Alongside the World Economic Forum, we recognize that our platform presents a valuable opportunity to promote the adoption, mainstreaming and integration of proven social innovations into larger systems. We are committed to working towards equitable societies on a sustainable planet, and we invite you to join us in this shared future.



Report methodology

For this report, we collected and analysed data from a variety of sources, ensuring we heard from a representative sample of our community and gaining valuable insights into the collective progress of the wider community. The data collected consisted of:

26

social innovators recorded interviews to explore the most significant change they have catalysed. The qualitative data was analysed in relation to the Schwab Foundation's long-term outcome objectives

64

awardees from the three most recent cohorts contributed data through the award application process

101

social innovators from across the community provided input through a comprehensive annual survey

477

social innovators, our entire community, were considered for the analysis of specific elements, like gender, age, geographical spread and SDG

Pascal Blitz/Schwab Foundation Annual Summit 2023

Acknowledgements

The Schwab Foundation recognizes our incredible community of social innovators who, along with their teams, are leading pioneering work around the world, supporting each other and the foundation, and consistently working hard to create change in the service of other people and the planet we all share.

We'd like to thank the Schwab Foundation Board, which has steered the organization over the years, and our partners who support the Foundation, in particular the Motsepe Foundation, Frey Charitable Foundation, the Goldman Sachs Foundation, the GHR Foundation, Bayer Foundation, SAP, Salesforce, Deloitte and Microsoft.

With gratitude to the Schwab Foundation and Global Alliance teams – Adam Gavin, Adedoyin Omidiran, Chelsea Jackson, Christa Odinga-

Svanteson, Daniel Nowack, Danson Gichini, François Bonnici, Frederic Paulet, Goy Phumtim, Gwendoline de Ganay, Katerina Hoskova, Maria Inés Martin, Sophia Otoo, Trang Vergari, Veerle Klijn and Winnie Chu – and our colleagues at the World Economic Forum who work tirelessly to make this community's impact visible, supported and integrated.

Special thanks to our partners who supported us in bringing to life the work and impact of our social innovators – Georgie Passalaris on the content creation, Chris Parsons on the editing, and Alistair Millen, Oliver Turner and Phoebe Barker from Studio Miko on the design.

Last but not least! Thank you to all the social innovators and their teams who contributed to the annual survey and to the stories of change that are profiled in this report. They are listed below.

Argentina

Ady Beitler
Nilus

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Leijla Radoncic
Bosnian Handicrafts

Brazil

Adriana Barbosa
Instituto Feira Preta

Adriana Mallet and Sabine Zink Bolonhini
SAS Brasil

Claudio and Suzana Padua
IPÊ - Instituto de Pesquisas Ecológicas (Institute for Ecological Research)

Claudio Sassaki
Geekie/Stanford University

Gisela Solymos

CREN Centre of Nutritional Recovery and Education

Helio Mattar

Akatu Institute for Conscious Consumption

Vera Cordeiro

The Dara Institute

Cambodia

Pierre Tami
Shift360

Sebastien Marot
Friends-International

Cameroon

Gisele Yitamben
Association pour le Soutien et l'Appui à la Femme Entrepreneur (ASAFE)

Canada

Adam Kahane
Reos Partners

Liz Weaver

Tamarack Institute

Chile

Gonzalo Muñoz
TriCiclos

Colombia

Clara Victoria (Vicky) Colbert
Fundación Escuela Nueva
Volvamos a la Gente

Costa Rica

Gisela Sanchez
Nutrivida

Denmark
Thorkil Sonne
Specialisterne Foundation

Egypt
Helmy Abouleish
Sekem

Laila Kamel
CID Consulting

Sameh Ghaly
Together Association for
development and Enviroment

Germany
Andreas Heinecke
Dialogue Social Enterprise

Henrike Schlottmann
ProjectTogether gGmbH

Jürgen Griesbeck
Common Goal

Markus H. Seidel
Off Road Kids Foundation

Norbert Kunz
Social Impact gGmbH

Rose Volz-Schmidt
wellcome

Global
Sally Roever
WIEGO

Guatemala
Philip Wilson
Ecofiltro

Hong Kong SAR, China
“KK” Tse Ka Kui
Impact Partners HK

Kam Wah Ma
Ma Kam Wah Co.

India
Aniket Doegar
Haqdarshak Empowerment
Solutions

Ashraf Patel
Pravah and ComMutiny -
The Youth Collective

Chetna Sinha
Mann Deshi Foundation

Khushboo Awasthi Kumari
Punjab Education Collective

Poonam Bir Kasturi
Daily Dump

Shelly Batra
Every Infant Matters

Shrashtant Patara
Development Alternatives

Thulasiraj Ravilla
Aravind Eye Care System (AECS)

Indonesia
Bambang Ismawan
Bina Swadaya Foundation

Hadi Wibowo
PT Bank BTPN Tbk

Silverius Oscar Unggul
Telepak

**Tommy Tjiptadaja and
Sugianto Tandio**
Greenhope

Tri Mumpuni
IBEKA

Israel
Offer Cohen
Shekulo Tov

Yuval Wagner
Access Israel

Jordan
Rana Dajani
We Love Reading/Taghyeer

Kenya
David Kuria
Naruku County

Mexico
Francesco Piazzesi
Echale a tu casa

Javier Okhuysen
salauno

Martha “Pati” Ruiz Corzo
Grupo Ecológico Sierra Gorda IAP

Myanmar
**Debbie Aung Din and
Jim Taylor**
Proximity Designs

Netherlands
Jeroo Billimoria
One Family Foundation

Nigeria
‘Gbenga Sesan
Paradigm Initiative

Cosmas I. Okoli
Mobility Aid and Appliances
Research and Development Centre

Maryam Uwais
Former National Social Investment
and Welfare Programmes

Ndidi Okonkwo Nwuneli
African Food Changemakers

Njideka U. Harry
Youth for Technology Foundation

P. R. of China
Wei Wenfeng (Jim)
DADDYLAB

Pakistan
Roshaneh Zafar
Kashf Foundation

Palestine Territories
Maysoun Odeh Gangat
NISAA Radio Broadcasting Company

Paraguay
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Poverty Spotlight

Peru
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Ciudad Viva

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Dylan and Anna Wilk
Human Nature

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Entrepreneurship in Asia (ISEA)

Mark Joaquin Ruiz
Hapinoy

**Therese Clarence
Fernandez-Ruiz**
Intentionality Inc.

Singapore
Jack Sim
World Toilet Organization

Kenny Low
O School, CHCSA

South Africa
Andrew Muir
Wilderness Foundation Africa

Christie Peacock
Sidai Africa

Ernest Darkoh
BroadReach Group

Frank Beadle
Mothers2Mothers

Garth Japhet
Heartlines

Lindiwe Matlali
Africa Teen Geek

Luvuyo Rani
Silulo Ulutho Technologies

Patrick Schofield
Thundafund & BackaBuddy

Rene and Marlon Parker
Rlabs

Shona Mcdonald
ShonaquipSE

Spain
Colin Mcelwee
Worldreader

Switzerland
Michel Ducommun
Velafrica

Patrick Struebi
Fairtrasa International

Tunisia
Essma Ben Hamida
Enda Inter-Arabe, EndaTamweel

Turkey
Tulim Akin
Tabit

United Arab Emirates
Naif Al
The 99

United Kingdom
Safia L. Minney
REAL Sustainability/
Fashion Declares

USA
Andrew Baird
Education for Employment

Catherine Clark
Duke University

Dan Viederman
Working Capital Fund

Eleanor Allen
B Lab

Elizabeth Hausler
Build Change

Erin Ganju
Echidna Giving and Room to Read

Hahrie Han
Johns Hopkins University

Jesus Gerena
Up Together

Jim Fruchterman
Tech Matters

Jonathan Jackson
Dimagi

Jordan Kassalow
Dimagi

Joseph Kenner
Greyston

Kyle Zimmer
First Book

Martin J. Fisher
KickStart International

Mauricio Miller
Center for Peer-driven Change

Mel Young
Homeless World Cup

Ned Tozun
d.light

Phillip Atiba Solomon
Center for Policing Equity

Rosanne Haggerty
Community Solutions Inc.

William Warshauer
TechnoServe Inc.

Venezuela
Claudia Valladares
Impact Hub Caracas

Vietnam
**Grzegorz Dajer and
Trang Tuyet Nga**
Medical Technology and
Transfer Service (MTTS)



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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