



SCHWAB FOUNDATION
FOR SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP



Schwab Foundation
for Social Entrepreneurship

Built to Last: Social Innovation in Transition

2026 Awardees and Impact Report



Front cover credit: TECHO International
Above credit: Safaricom

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About us



SCHWAB FOUNDATION
FOR SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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



34

policyholders, multilateral institutions and national governments engaged by the Policy Leadership Council

51

leading companies convened by the Corporate Leadership Council for Social Innovation

130

partner organizations connected by the Global Alliance for Social Entrepreneurship

510

active social entrepreneurs and innovators

950 MILLION

lives positively impacted by this community

Founded in 1998 by Hilde and Klaus Schwab, the Schwab Foundation empowers purpose-driven leaders to transform economic and social systems for the benefit of people and the planet, leveraging its leading global platforms to mainstream social innovation and accelerate the transition to a stakeholder economy.

Over the past 27 years, the Foundation has built a dynamic community of impact leaders driving solutions to systemic issues across sectors — from **social entrepreneurs** and **corporate social innovators** to **public social innovators** and **collective organizations**. Together, they represent hundreds of organizations that deliver inclusive and sustainable innovations improving millions of lives worldwide.

To support these innovators and scale the work of social entrepreneurship at large, the Foundation convenes a series of ecosystem platforms. **The Global Alliance for Social Entrepreneurship** connects partner organizations that together represent over 100,000 social enterprises. The **Corporate Leadership Council for Social Innovation** brings together leading companies that integrate social innovation into their business strategies and supply chains. The **Policy Leadership Council** engages policymakers, multilateral institutions and national governments to shape environments that facilitate a social economy.

Across these platforms, the Foundation enables its community of innovators to advance collective action and thought leadership on critical issues that require collaboration. These include **AI for social innovation, innovative finance, social procurement** and **social economy policy**. Through the **State of Social Enterprise** initiative — a global effort to harmonize data collection — the Foundation helps align research methodologies, making the field of social entrepreneurship more transparent and measurable.

Each of the areas we work across builds bridges between sectors and demonstrates how social innovation is an essential capability of future-ready economies and a powerful policy tool for the challenges of our time. Together with its community and partners, the Schwab Foundation continues to champion a world where innovation serves society, impact is valued as much as profit and collaboration across sectors becomes the norm for achieving systemic change.

Introduction



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



Klaus Schwab
Founder of the World Economic
Forum, Co-founder Schwab
Foundation for Social
Entrepreneurship

The 2026 Built to Last report honours the resilience and ingenuity of social innovators. Amid a year of profound, multidimensional disruption, they have reimagined their models and pivoted to new opportunities to remain both viable and impactful. Their collective response reveals a sector in transition – one that is redefining sustainability through collaboration, adaptability and a renewed commitment to making society a better place for all on a liveable planet.



It is a privilege to introduce the 2026 Schwab Foundation awardees — an inspiring group of social innovators who remind us that leadership can be grounded in purpose and integrity while still displaying ambition and innovation in the public interest. From entrepreneurs and movement-builders to public- and private-sector change-makers, they embody the belief — and the proof — that our economies and societies can serve people, planet and progress.

\$1 BILLION+

in resources mobilized in the past year to transform healthcare, education, climate action and economic inclusion.

This year's report comes at a pivotal moment. The world faces economic shocks, geopolitical shifts and contractions in social funding that have tested even the most resilient organizations. Yet, despite these pressures, the social innovators in our community continue to deliver extraordinary results, directly improving the lives of over 950 million people worldwide since founding their organizations and mobilizing more than \$1 billion in resources in the past year alone to transform

healthcare, education, climate action and economic inclusion.

Over the years, the Foundation's mission has sharpened its focus on building a collective movement for systemic change — one that connects innovators across sectors and geographies and strengthens an ecosystem capable of reshaping institutions and markets.

Encouragingly, there are early signs of convergence: public, private and social innovators are beginning to align around shared outcomes and hybrid models that generate both social and economic value. The business models they employ continue to evolve, using collaboration as a catalyst for change to deliver impact through diversification, expansion and adoption.

This is a field in transition. As this movement of building sustainable models for progress continues to grow, so too does its influence on mainstream business and policy. The Schwab Foundation remains deeply committed to supporting these leaders and amplifying their collective impact.

We invite you to explore their stories and the vision they share: a future of global value creation that is more inclusive, sustainable and profoundly human.



The next five billion people are not a niche market — they are the future of global growth. Serving them demands enterprises that are both market-minded and mission-driven, because if we are not both, we will soon be neither.

The real opportunity today lies in building models where empathy fuels innovation and efficiency amplifies equity — enterprises that see underserved communities not as beneficiaries, but as co-creators of a more just, sustainable and inclusive economy.

Shuchin Bajaj

Ujala Cygnus Healthcare Services, India

Our community of social innovators



25

cohorts since 2001

510

active social entrepreneurs and innovators



48
AVERAGE AGE

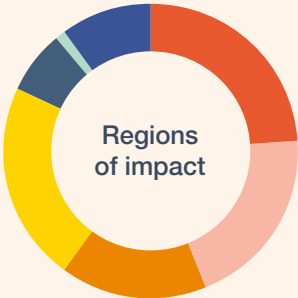
29 Age spread in community 70

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



190
COUNTRIES

Operating in 190 countries, with a greater geographical spread across countries in recent cohorts

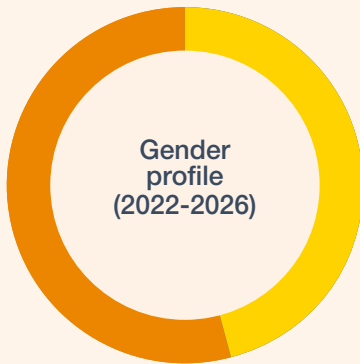


Region	Percentage
Asia	24%
Europe	20%
Latin America	16%
North America	22%
Middle East and North Africa	7%
Oceania	1%
Sub-Saharan Africa	10%



52%
FEMALE

Gender balance has been consistently strong across the last five cohorts, with the 2026 cohort at 52% women



Male	46%
Female	54%



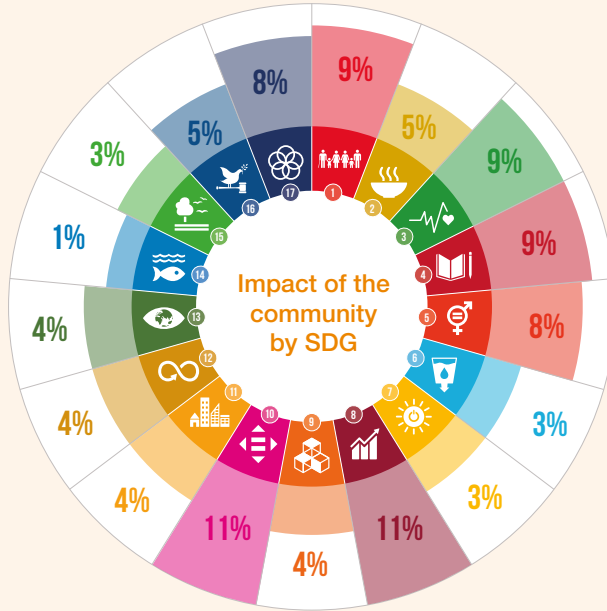
439

organizations



Award categories

Social entrepreneurs	84%
Collective social innovation awardees	5%
Corporate social innovators	4%
Public social innovators	4%
Social innovation thought leaders	3%



GOAL 1
No poverty



GOAL 2
Zero hunger



GOAL 3
Good health and well-being



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



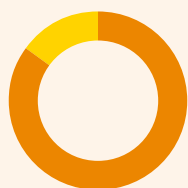
GOAL 17
Partnerships for the goals

The ecosystem advancing social innovation

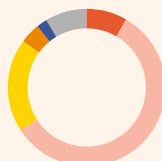
Global Alliance for Social Entrepreneurship

130
MEMBERS

representing **52** countries
from **22** industries/sectors



Over
85%
OF MEMBERS
are director-level
or above



Regional composition

● Asia	9%
● Europe	57%
● North America	19%
● Latin America	4%
● Sub-Saharan Africa	2%
● Global (operating in >2 regions)	9%

Stakeholder type

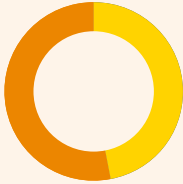
- **43%** Social innovation & entrepreneurship networks & platforms
- **28%** Private sector
- **21%** Civil Society, Foundations & NGOs
- **4%** Academic & research institutions
- **2%** Multilaterals & international organizations
- **2%** Government Agencies & National Ministries



Policy Leadership Council on Social Innovation

34
MEMBERS

representing **21** countries
of which **44%** are
social innovators
Over **80%** of members
are director-level or above



● Male **53%**
● Female **47%**



**Regional
composition**

● Asia	18%
● Europe	15%
● Latin America	12%
● Middle East and North Africa	3%
● Sub-Saharan Africa	15%
● Global (operating in >2 regions)	37%

Stakeholder type

- **32%** Multilaterals & international organizations
- **21%** Social innovation & entrepreneurship networks & platforms
- **15%** Civil Society, Foundations & NGOs
- **12%** Government Agencies & National Ministries
- **11%** Private sector
- **9%** Academic & research institutions



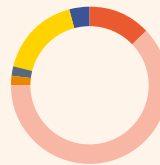
Corporate Leadership Council on Social Innovation

51
MEMBER
COMPANIES

from **16** industries
representing **18** countries
Over **80%** of members
are director-level or above



● Male **38%**
● Female **62%**



**Regional composition
based on company's
headquarters**

● Asia	13%
● Europe	62%
● Latin America	2%
● Middle East and North Africa	2%
● North America	17%
● Sub-Saharan Africa	4%



Key impact insights from the Schwab Foundation

Our role in driving systems change

We strive for a social innovation movement that helps shape a more inclusive, equitable and sustainable world, accelerating the transition to a stakeholder economy.

The Foundation pursues its mission through its global community of social entrepreneurs and innovators and its impact ecosystem that includes public and private sector actors. It supports its vibrant community of peers by raising awareness of their work, shining a light on innovative responses to complex societal issues, facilitating opportunities for collaboration and partnership, and offering capacity-building resources and learning. It engages the social innovation ecosystem through the Global Alliance for Social Entrepreneurship, the Corporate Leadership Council on Social Innovation, the Public Leadership Council on Social Innovation and a series of workstreams that address emerging themes in social innovation.

Over the long term, the Foundation works to ensure that the foremost models of social innovation are adopted across sectors, that the ecosystems in which they operate promote collective action and that social innovators play a leading role in the systemic transformation of society and the economy. By engaging with the private and public sectors, the Foundation further advances the transition to a stakeholder economy, creating a world where social innovators positively influence businesses to become purpose-driven and where the public sector adopts social innovation to address systemic challenges.

Analysis for this report highlights the value that awardees gain from their collaboration with the Foundation. More than 80% believe the Foundation has significantly contributed to **diffusing and progressing** their work and **strengthening their systems thinking and practices**, while over 70% report a positive role in **enabling the conditions to develop collaborations**.

The findings also show that the Foundation makes a consistent contribution to the learning and knowledge sharing of its community of social innovators, particularly in helping innovators develop a deeper, **more systemic understanding** of the challenges they address. Around three-quarters report increased engagement in **thought leadership**, and over 80% say they were inspired to **spark new ideas** or **share knowledge** with external audiences.

Finally, 50% state that the Foundation's support has been helpful in **strengthening operational capacities**, such as adopting a more strategic approach to talent decisions or intentionally building team capacity in specific areas of expertise. Innovators also note a minor contribution to improving their strategic use of finances or planning.

Models of social innovation are diffused and adopted across sectors

Social innovators report mobilizing over **\$1 billion** in financial and in-kind resources between July 2024 and June 2025. Although this is slightly less than the previous year, it remains a substantial contribution. Changes in the sources of these funds hint at the **geopolitical disruption affecting the sector**. The data shows a drop in grants from public and private sectors, equity investments and earned revenue, while debt, loans and public funding acquired through a tender process have all increased. There have also been significant changes to the types of in-kind resources given, including fewer offers of land, infrastructure and technological support but increases in receipts of materials and public-sector resources.

85%

of awardees report in the annual survey that their engagement has inspired them to spark new ideas

80%

believe the Foundation has significantly contributed to strengthening their systems thinking and practices

72%

report a positive role in enabling the conditions to develop collaborations



Despite the challenging global context, when it comes to methods for scaling impact, 74% of social innovators prioritize diversification and over 80% put expansion and practice adoption before duplication, policy transformation or social mobilization. This approach has borne fruits for innovators, evidenced by the ways in which they have grown their impact over the past year. These successes are explored further below.

Social innovators report a **sustained level of visibility** over the past year, with 54% receiving at least one recognition, 74% authoring or being featured in publications and close to 90% speaking publicly. The Schwab Foundation itself published 15 reports over the last two years, all featuring social innovators as key case studies of innovative solutions or as best practice in their sectors. Across social media during the past year, the Foundation doubled its impressions, making it twice as visible compared to the previous year.

Nurturing an ecosystem of actors

Through its ecosystem platforms, the Foundation **convenes 130 actors** in support of social innovation, including 55 companies and more than 30 policy actors.

Of the members of the Corporate Leadership Council, 27 have also signed the Rise Ahead pledge to enhance the social economy by 2030. In the first two years of reporting, the signatories contributed over \$500 million in support of social innovation.

The areas that ecosystem members sought to enhance the most over the past year include social procurement, the standardization of data collection on social enterprises and outcome-based or innovative finance – suggesting an intent to operationalize or mainstream innovative models once considered niche into broader organizational practices.

More than half of the organizations surveyed or interviewed view the work of the Global Alliance for Social Entrepreneurship as *extremely effective* or *very effective*. Around two-thirds believe it has helped to raise the profile of social innovation as a driver of social and environmental impact, foster new partnerships and strengthen organizational learning. Organizations particularly value the opportunity for organizational learning and peer exchange, noting that participation in the platform has helped them form new or deeper partnerships and apply best practice within their own operations.

The Alliance's activities were also seen as effective in advancing the mainstreaming of social innovation across both the private and public sectors. About one-third of respondents rate its influence on social procurement and data on social enterprise as *significant* or *very significant*.

76%

state they are better able to mobilize networks outside of their immediate reach

74%

highlight stronger support systems built on shared values and mutual trust

88%

report a positive role in deepening their understanding of the social innovation sector

Mobilizing for collective action

This year's survey results indicate that, supported by the Foundation's community-building efforts, social innovators deepened relationships with their **community of peers**. Most report establishing closer connections with peers and gaining a deeper understanding of the social innovation sector, while 74% highlight stronger support systems built on shared values and mutual trust.

Survey responses also highlight a 10 percentage-point year-on-year increase in **mobilizing networks and resources** beyond their usual reach, from 50% to 60% effectiveness. In addition, 76% of respondents report better access to new allies and 66% say they have developed non-financial partnerships, collaborations and strategic contacts.

Systemic role in society

Four out of every five social innovators feel that they are **effective in driving systems change** by addressing the root causes of social issues (rather than their symptoms), implementing innovation in a way that results in changes of practice or applying social, environmental and economic considerations when designing programmes, thereby ensuring change is sustained through time. Furthermore, a majority report successfully implementing their work so as to bring about changes in behaviours or mentalities or to create shifts in power dynamics.



Financial sustainability: strengthening business models

Over the past year, significant headwinds in the form of donor funding cuts, legal barriers, misaligned values and incentives, and ongoing cash-flow constraints have challenged social innovators to reprioritize and think differently. Donor funding cuts, especially the sudden withdrawal of government development aid, were catastrophic for some innovators and their customers, impacting revenue and forcing organizations to reassess their approach.

In response, social innovators continued to evolve beyond single-source donor dependence towards blended, mission-centred finance, though with varying levels of maturity, financial resilience and readiness to scale. This shift took shape through the creation of a range of hybrid structures, including combining for-profit and non-profit objectives, fee-for-service models, impact-aligned investments such as patient equity or concessional debt, and outcome-based and co-funded public partnerships. Some founders also

experimented with incentive mechanisms linking pay, reinvestment commitments or other forms of compensation to impact rather than profit.

Against these pressures, 82% of survey respondents report being affected by shrinking financial and in-kind resources, as constrained budgets and delayed disbursements forced difficult decisions. Many expanded their funding portfolios, tapped domestic and corporate social responsibility capital and reorganized operations to maintain continuity. Several also achieved new efficiencies by accessing digital tools and AI or by leveraging community and private-sector partnerships to sustain momentum.

While the initial shock forced many to make difficult choices, a significant number managed to turn this disruption into an opportunity, broadening their revenue base, prioritizing funding sources aligned with their mission, rethinking cost structures and, ultimately, strengthening their financial foundations.



“

The decline of traditional international cooperation funding has pushed us to become more strategic, proactive and creative—building alliances, diversifying income sources and developing our own ventures.

Belén Paez

Fundación Pachamama/Amazon Sacred Headwaters, Ecuador

Collaboration as a catalyst

The social innovation field is increasingly developing structured systems of collaboration, with partnerships sharing governance and measurement mechanisms to catalyse change.

Over the past year, the most enduring alliances have been built on trust, co-creation and shared ambition, reflected in long-term agreements with governments, UN agencies, major corporates and community-led groups.

The most effective partnerships share three defining characteristics:

- 1 Community authority:** engagement has evolved from basic participation or consultation toward shared decision-making, where local communities hold legitimacy and leadership, defining priorities and co-creating interventions. This echoes a core finding from last year's report.
- 2 Alignment on outcomes:** partners blend value systems – funders, investors and corporates achieve return on investment through measurable outcomes, while communities gain dignity, inclusion and empowerment through greater respect and long-term benefits. The most effective partnerships use co-design, transparent metrics and shared accountability to achieve their goals.
- 3 Operational openness:** data sharing, joint governance and transparent communication about constraints or performance drive shared accountability, adaptability and credibility, building trust and resilience.

The nature of stakeholders has also continued to evolve. Among social innovators, collaborations with philanthropic organizations have increased,

while those with international agencies have declined. Partnerships with the private and public sectors have remained steady, and notably, collaborations facilitated by the Foundation have doubled. Given the significant upheavals faced by the sector this year, further shifts in the composition of partnerships are likely.

Our annual survey shows that 68% of social innovators saw their collaborations and partnerships affected over the past year due to changing conditions in the sector. This reflects both strain and renewal. While some alliances slowed as partners lost funding, others deepened, with organizations pooling resources and expertise to bridge gaps and co-fund interventions. Even those not directly affected experienced ripple effects through their partners, absorbing disruptions in joint programmes, funding flows and coordination across the ecosystem, yet responding with solidarity and shared problem-solving.



To respond to disruptions, DOT has taken steps to streamline operations and funding, putting greater effort into collaborative partnerships and a networked approach to development impact, leveraging skills and expertise within the network to fulfill project roles.

Janet Longmore
DOT, Canada

“

We have made strides toward reimagining how maternal healthcare is delivered, accessed and sustained in low-resource settings, developing protocols for integrating the baby delivery kits and data into public health workflows. This policy engagement, while ongoing, reflects growing institutional trust and a shift toward formal recognition of Traditional Birth Attendants as frontline partners in maternal health.

Muzalema Mwanza

Safe Motherhood Alliance, Zambia



Evolving models: navigating disruption with determination

Despite facing cuts in donor funding, regional instability and price sensitivity among low-income customers, our social entrepreneurs and innovators continue to advance their missions, reporting tangible increases in access to new sources of funding and services, such as clean water, food, energy, healthcare and education, as well as to jobs, diverted waste and public funding. The efforts of our community have directly improved the lives of over 950 million people worldwide since founding their organizations.

Many deepened their impact by expanding into new countries or scaling through government systems, retail platforms or franchise models. Others launched complementary products and services, such as digital wallets for women entrepreneurs or maternal 'save-and-pay' platforms, accelerating adoption of these initiatives by influencing policy and standards. Several also consolidated and strengthened their core programmes to ensure long-term viability.

950 MILLION+

lives directly improved worldwide by the social entrepreneurs and innovators in our community since they founded their organizations.

These evolutions often emerged from necessity as much as from vision. Our 2025 community survey reveals the tangible effects of global funding cuts and shifting political dynamics across multiple dimensions of social innovators' work, reaching far beyond considerations of finance and collaboration.

Programme rollout was affected for 70% of survey respondents, and innovation, scaling or growth plans were disrupted for 72%. As a consequence, some were forced to postpone or reduce activities while others pivoted toward market-based or blended-finance models to ensure sustainability. Overall, the community's emphasis shifted from expansion to consolidation, strengthening what works and safeguarding core operations.



Confidence in one's experience and sincerity has been a great positive in the work that we do, irrespective of funding cuts.

Maryam Uwais

Isa Wali Empowerment Initiative, Nigeria

Internally, 54% of innovators found staff retention a growing challenge. Teams handled reduced headcounts through cross-training, making roles more flexible and sharing responsibilities, underscoring a strong culture of adaptability under pressure.

Community engagement and trust was the dimension impacted the least by the external challenges, affecting only half of respondents. Reassuringly, this area remained relatively stable, with innovators anchoring their work locally and maintaining open dialogues with constituents, though polarization and economic stress did affect participation in some regions.

Together, these findings portray a community navigating disruption with determination – re-aligning strategies, strengthening local ecosystems and evolving its operating models to continue delivering impact amid uncertainty. The data points to **a sector not retreating but reshaping itself** to build resilience and sustainability in a highly unstable landscape.



Despite investor withdrawal, we engaged new strategic partnerships and maintained growth metrics. This response ensured project continuity and the advancement of the organization's long-term objectives.

Valmir Ortega

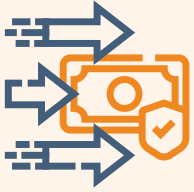
Belterra Agroflorestas, Brazil



Revealing the impact

Across the community

The social innovators in our community have helped directly improve the lives of 950 million people worldwide since founding their organizations



\$970 MILLION

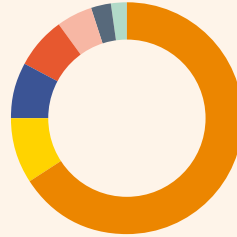
mobilized in the past year by annual survey respondents



● Debt/loans	26%
● Grants from philanthropic organizations	25%
● Earned revenue	17%
● Others	16%
● Public funding	7%
● Grants from the private sector	5%
● Equity investments	4%

\$89 MILLION

Financial equivalent of in-kind resources mobilized during the past year



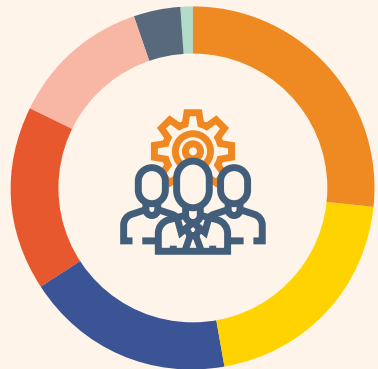
● Vehicles and materials	66%
● In-kind from the public sector	9%
● Technological support	8%
● Pro-bono services	7%
● Volunteering	5%
● Land and infrastructure	3%
● Others	2%

DIVERSIFICATION, EXPANSION AND PRACTICE ADOPTION

The three areas of progress where our community was the most effective over the past year

Collaboration stakeholders

● 26%	Private sector
● 20%	Public society
● 18%	Civil sector
● 16%	Philanthropic
● 12%	Knowledge organizations
● 4%	International organizations
● <1%	Development organizations



Across our three most recent cohorts (2024-2026)

\$125 MILLION

in financial resources mobilized by the past three cohorts

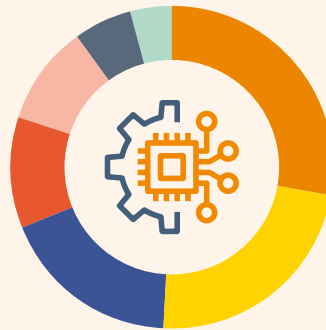
- **46%** through earned income
- **53%** through grants
- **1%** from government funding



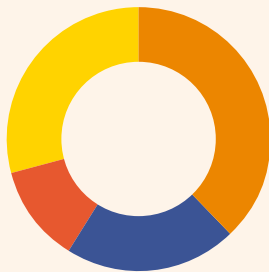
GENERATING
10,600 JOBS

People directly employed in full- or part-time jobs

Main technologies used



Operating models



- | | |
|---|------------|
| ● For profit | 38% |
| ● Not for profit | 21% |
| ● Hybrid | 12% |
| ● Collectives | 29% |

- | | |
|--|------------|
| ● Mobile technology | 28% |
| ● AI and machine learning | 23% |
| ● Others (industry specific, drones, blockchain, 3D printing) | 18% |
| ● Automation | 11% |
| ● Internet of things (IoT) | 10% |
| ● Digital platforms for community management | 6% |
| ● Data analytics | 4% |

Revealing the impact

Creating value through ecosystem collaboration



Measuring our impact



73% of respondents state the Global Alliance is effective in advancing its mission, 53% state that it is “very” or “extremely” effective.

Specific dimensions of effectiveness



Creating new partnerships



Improving organizational learning and insights

Comparative perception

Members see strong complementarity and minimal overlap with others in the field

Collaboration and learning are key strengths

Influence on decision-makers remains a growth area

Perceived as fairly distinctive within the field



Rise Ahead Pledge



Annual spending

Amount invested collectively through the pledge signatory organizations in the baseline year 2023



Average annual spending increase

Expected in signatories’ corporate social innovation budgets in the following reporting year



For social procurement

One-third of corporate social innovation spending was allocated to social procurement, prioritizing purchases from social enterprises



Non-financial support

Corporate social innovation budgets contributed to non-financial support, such as pro-bono services and technology access



Financial support

17% of corporate social innovation spending was attributed to financial support (corporate impact investing, grants, etc.) for social innovators



Internal social innovation

Corporate social innovation spending was invested in internal innovation to develop impact-first products and services



The value of better data

Why it matters?

- Without consistent and comparable data, measuring impact, shaping effective policies and attracting investment is hard.
- Accurate, comprehensive and shared data empowers social enterprises and their communities.

CASE 1:

Collecting Data on Social Enterprise: A Playbook for Practitioners, a practical resource

- Developed in collaboration with the Advisory Group on Social Enterprise Data and the World Economic Forum
- The playbook offers technical guidance on how practitioners can collect consistent, reliable and comparable data on social enterprises through robust surveys
- Launched in May 2025, it aims to harmonize global approaches and strengthen evidence for policy and investment

25

leading organizations in the social innovation sector came together to improve data collection on social enterprises

20

global experts interviewed to further shape recommendations

30+

surveys analysed

700+

questions compiled into a database to identify common themes and assess data comparability

CASE 2:

The state of social enterprise: unlocking inclusive growth, jobs and development in Africa

- Eighteen-month study implementing the Data Playbook with specific focus on Africa
- Steered by the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship and the World Economic Forum in collaboration with the African Union Commission, Africa Forward, Motsepe Foundation and SAP
- Governments engaged: South Africa, Kenya, Ghana, Ethiopia and Cameroon
- Eight national and regional social enterprise networks contributed to survey design
- Engaged 45 leading specialists on social enterprise through interviews
- Launched at the G20 Social Summit in South Africa, November 2025

2.18 MILLION

social enterprises identified across Africa

55%

women-led and 33% youth-led (aged 35 or under)

12 MILLION

jobs created

\$96 BILLION

in annual revenue (3.2% of Africa's GDP)

The Schwab Foundation Awards

Every year, our community grows as new social entrepreneurs and innovators are added through the Schwab Foundation Awards. Recognized for their proven results, transformative solutions and systemic approaches to social challenges, these leaders operate across a wide spectrum of models and impact areas.

Awardees embark on a tailored three-year journey before becoming lifelong community members. Through their affiliation as awardees, they gain ongoing access to opportunities, peer exchange and tailored support to strengthen both their leadership and their organizational impact. The programme connects them to the world's

most influential networks, global events, collaborative projects and capacity-building initiatives that foster mutual growth and collaboration across the community.

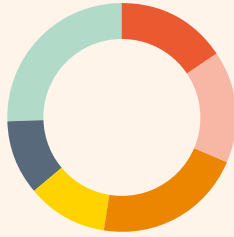
This recognition not only honours the achievements of social innovators but also amplifies their influence, inspiring others to adopt and support innovative solutions for a better world. By spotlighting effective models that are of relevance to decision-makers in business and government, the Schwab Foundation helps create conditions where these innovative approaches can successfully spread and scale.



Credit: World Economic Forum / Jason Alden

2026 cohort organizations

Impact region

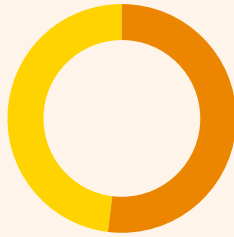


● Asia	18%
● Europe	18%
● Latin America	24%
● North America	13%
● Middle East and North Africa	12%
● Sub-Saharan Africa	29%

Scope of work

Capital access, social and solidarity economy	Circular textile economy
Civic participation	Clean water access
Creative economy	Digital tools for development
Emergency medical services	Environmental sustainability
Human trafficking prevention	Menstrual poverty
Open government	Road safety
Skills of the future	STEM education
Sustainable retail	Water, sanitation and hygiene
Wildlife conservation and ecotourism	

Gender



● Male	48%
● Female	52%



Social Entrepreneurs

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.



Kibret Abebe

- Organization:** Tebita Ambulance
- Headquarters:** Ethiopia
- Impact Region:** Sub-Saharan Africa
- Focus:** Emergency medical services
- SDGs:** 3, 8, 10, 11

Kibret Abebe Tuffa is the Founder and CEO of Tebita Ambulance Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Service in Ethiopia. A nurse anaesthetist by training, he established the organization to address the critical lack of emergency medical services in the country. Under his leadership, Tebita Ambulance has become a pioneer in emergency response, offering pre-hospital care, ambulance transport and first aid training. It has played a vital role in building a professional emergency medical system in Ethiopia, saving lives and advocating for stronger health infrastructure.





Ioana Bauer Sandescu

Organization: eLiberare

Headquarters: Romania

Impact Region: Europe

Focus: Human trafficking prevention

SDGs: 5, 8, 16

Ioana Bauer is Chairwoman and President of eLiberare, a Romanian organization dedicated to preventing human trafficking and sexual exploitation. A lawyer and advocate for human rights, Ioana has led national efforts to strengthen prevention strategies and survivor support. Under her leadership, eLiberare partners with schools, communities and law enforcement to raise awareness and create safer environments for vulnerable populations. Ioana's work has contributed to shaping national policy and fostering public dialogue on ending exploitation.



Minhaj Chowdhury

Organization: Drinkwell

Headquarters: Bangladesh

Impact Region: Asia

Focus: Technology, access to clean water

SDGs: 3, 6, 9

Minhaj Chowdhury is Co-Founder and CEO of Drinkwell, a social enterprise providing affordable, safe drinking water through patented filtration technology. He launched the company after working on arsenic mitigation efforts in Bangladesh, witnessing first-hand the devastating health impacts of contaminated groundwater. Drinkwell operates more than 800 water ATM systems in Bangladesh and India, providing over 47 million litres of clean water monthly to 3 million people while creating dignified jobs for hundreds of operators—one-third of them women. Chowdhury's public-private partnership model, backed by development banks and powered by patented HIX-Nano ion exchange technology, has positioned Drinkwell as a global leader in decentralized water infrastructure.



Mario Haberfeld

Organization: Onçafari

Headquarters: Brazil

Impact Region: Latin America

Focus: Wildlife conservation, ecotourism

SDGs: 4, 8, 10, 13, 17

Mario Haberfeld, a former racing-car driver from São Paulo, founded Onçafari after witnessing wildlife conservation in Africa. He mobilized leaders to reintroduce jaguars and protect over 33 endangered species, shifting regional mindsets from extraction to conservation through self-sustained systems. Onçafari combines science, technology, ecotourism and philanthropy to restore ecosystems across 17 conservation bases in four biomes. The organization has protected 2.6 million hectares, raised \$13 million in 2025 for new ecological corridors and benefited 5,900+ people through education and social programmes. Its model is now scaling across Latin America, aiming to protect 10 million hectares.



Omar Itani

Organization: FabricAID

Headquarters: Lebanon

Impact Region: Middle East and North Africa

Focus: Circular textile economy

SDGs: 1, 12, 13

Omar Itani is the General Manager of FabricAID, a Lebanese social enterprise working to establish a socially and environmentally conscious value chain for the clothing industry. He co-founded the organization to tackle textile waste while improving access to affordable clothing for marginalized communities. Under his leadership, FabricAID has built one of the largest second-hand clothing collections in the Middle East, combining circular economy principles with social impact. Omar's work demonstrates how business innovation can advance sustainability, dignity and inclusion across regional markets.



Olivia Onyemaobi

Organization: Pad-Up Creations

Headquarters: Nigeria

Impact Region: Sub-Saharan Africa

Focus: Menstrual poverty

SDGs: 4, 5, 6, 12

Olivia Onyemaobi is the Founder and CEO of Pad-Up Creations, a Nigerian social enterprise producing sustainable, reusable sanitary pads. With a mission to improve menstrual health and hygiene in Africa, she has built one of the region's most impactful women-led manufacturing enterprises. Under her leadership, Pad-Up Creations has trained hundreds of thousands of girls and women on reproductive health, created more than 500 jobs and distributed over 18 million reusable pads across 21 countries. Olivia's work has earned recognition from the Tony Elumelu Foundation, Acumen and the Mandela Washington Fellowship. She holds an MSc in Business Management and is pursuing a PhD.



Credit: Pad-Up Creations



Ana María Raad Briz

Organization: Fundación Reimagina

Headquarters: Chile

Impact Region: Latin America

Focus: Educational systems and skills of the future

SDGs: 4, 8, 10, 17

Ana María Raad is the Founder of Reimagina, a non-profit organization based in Ecuador that focuses on educational innovation and social transformation. An anthropologist and social entrepreneur, Ana María has dedicated her career to developing initiatives that strengthen education systems and empower youth. Through Reimagina, she works with educators, public institutions and communities to co-create learning models that foster inclusion, collaboration and creativity. Ana María's leadership has positioned Reimagina as a catalyst for rethinking education in Latin America, blending research, policy advocacy and grassroots engagement.



Credit: Fundación Reimagina



Piyush Tewari

Organization: SaveLIFE Foundation

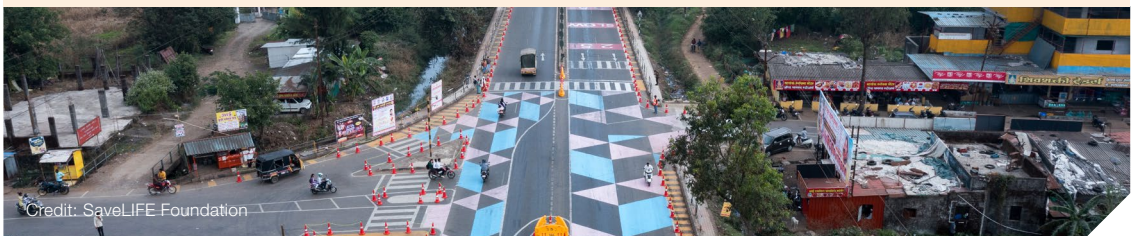
Headquarters: India

Impact Region: Asia

Focus: Road safety

SDGs: 3, 10, 11

Piyush Tewari is the Founder and CEO of SaveLIFE Foundation, an Indian non-profit organization committed to improving road safety and emergency response systems. After witnessing a fatal road crash, he dedicated himself to addressing India's road safety crisis through policy reform, enforcement and citizen action. Under his leadership, SaveLIFE Foundation has pioneered the Good Samaritan Law, introduced evidence-based interventions to prevent crashes and improved post-crash care. Piyush's work has saved countless lives and established a model for systemic change in road safety.



Credit: SaveLIFE Foundation

Corporate Social Innovators

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.



Karen Basiye

Organization: Safaricom

Headquarters: Kenya

Impact Region: Sub-Saharan Africa

Focus: Digital tools for development

SDGs: 4, 10, 17

Karen Basiye is the Director of Sustainable Business, Social Impact and Foundations at Safaricom, one of Kenya’s leading telecommunications companies. A sustainability leader, she oversees Safaricom’s corporate responsibility strategy, environmental management and the Safaricom and M-PESA Foundations. Karen’s approach integrates purpose and profit, ensuring that Safaricom’s business operations drive social and environmental impact. Her leadership has positioned the company as a sustainability pioneer in Africa’s private sector.



François-Ghislain Morillion

Organization: VEJA

Headquarters: France

Impact Region: Global, Latin America

Focus: Sustainable retail

SDGs: 12, 13, 15

François-Ghislain Morillion is the Co-Founder of VEJA, a French footwear brand that combines environmental consciousness with social responsibility. After studying economics, he and co-founder Sébastien Kopp founded VEJA to challenge the traditional sneaker industry model. VEJA works directly with small-scale organic cotton farmers and wild rubber producers in Brazil, ensuring fair trade conditions while using sustainable materials and transparent supply chains. The company reinvests profits into social projects and sustainable innovation, proving that ecological design can coexist with commercial success. VEJA exemplifies how ethical business can transform global consumer industries.



Hamzah Sarwar

Hamzah Sarwar is the Global Head of Social Impact and Innovation at Reckitt, a British multinational company specializing in health, hygiene and nutrition. A mission-driven executive, he leads initiatives that integrate social innovation into Reckitt's core business strategy. His work focuses on partnerships that drive positive health outcomes, strengthen communities and promote equity. Hamzah's leadership has helped position Reckitt as a key private-sector partner in addressing global health and hygiene challenges, aligning business goals with measurable social impact.

Organization: Reckitt

Headquarters: United Kingdom

Impact Region: Global

Focus: Water, sanitation and hygiene

SDGs: 3, 5, 6



Credit: Reckitt

Public Social Innovators

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



Mamadou Ndiaye

Organization: Ministry of Microfinance and Social and Solidarity Economy, Government of Senegal

Headquarters: Senegal

Impact Region: Sub-Saharan Africa

Focus: Capital access, social and solidarity economy

SDGs: 8, 10

Mamadou Ndiaye is Director of Cabinet at Senegal's Ministry of Microfinance and Social and Solidarity Economy, where he promotes inclusive economic development. He has championed Islamic microfinance for youth and women entrepreneurs in rural areas and spearheaded a new digital platform to assist social and solidarity economy (SSE) actors. Mamadou led negotiations for an Africa-wide SSE framework endorsed by African Union Heads of State, including an African SSE Observatory for data collection and knowledge sharing. He also played a pivotal role in adopting Senegal's National SSE Strategy, providing legal recognition, tax incentives and funding access to cooperatives and social enterprises.



Credit: Africa Forward



Orlando Rojas

Organization: The Government Lab, Ministry of Finance, Chile

Headquarters: Chile

Impact Region: Latin America

Focus: Open government and citizen participation

SDGs: 9

Orlando Rojas Romero is the Executive Director of Chile's Government Laboratory, the national unit driving public innovation. Under his leadership, LabGov has launched initiatives such as the Public Innovation Index, the Public Innovators Network and the Public Innovation School, training over 45,000 public officials and strengthening innovation across 70 institutions. Previously, he co-founded the Fiscal Expenditure Observatory and led Business Intelligence at the Office of the Comptroller General. A member of the World Economic Forum's Global Council on GovTech and Digital Public Infrastructure, Rojas promotes mission-driven innovation and collaboration between government, startups and civil society, redefining how the state creates public value.



Credit: LabGov Chile



Viviantie Sarjuni

Organization: Sabah Creative Economy and Innovation Centre (SCENIC)

Headquarters: Malaysia

Impact Region: Asia

Focus: Creative economy and rural development

SDGs: 9, 10

Viviantie Sarjuni is the Chief Executive Officer of Institut Keusahawanan Negara (INSKEN), Malaysia's national entrepreneurship development institute. With more than 20 years of leadership experience across multinational corporations, academia, grassroots communities and government agencies such as MaGIC, she bridges innovation, policy and social impact. Under her direction, INSKEN strengthens Malaysia's entrepreneurship ecosystem through training, mentorship and business development programmes that help entrepreneurs succeed in a changing economy. Sarjuni is deeply committed to inclusive growth, supporting women, youth, rural and underserved entrepreneurs and advancing Malaysia's social enterprise mandate by linking business success with social value creation.

Collective Social Innovation Awardees

Cross-sector innovators who confront social inequalities and vulnerable ecosystems by leading or facilitating a group of organizations committed to addressing a problem bigger than any one organization can tackle alone.



Emad Adly

Organization: Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED)

Headquarters: Egypt

Impact Region: Middle East and North Africa

Focus: Environmental sustainability

SDGs: 4, 11, 13

Emad Adly is the General Coordinator of the Arab Network for Environment and Development and has more than 40 years' sustainable development experience. He has worked with international agencies, governments, civil society and the media to advance environmental and social progress across the Arab, African and Mediterranean regions. Emad is the Founder or Co-Founder of several landmark initiatives, including the Arab Office for Youth and Environment, the Egyptian Sustainable Development Forum and the Nile Basin Discourse. He has built strong partnerships with institutions such as the League of Arab States, the European Union and UN bodies, shaping regional cooperation on sustainability.



Credit: RAED



Ghada Ahmadein

Organization: Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED)

Headquarters: Egypt

Impact Region: Middle East and North Africa

Focus: Environmental sustainability

SDGs: 4, 11, 13

Ghada Ahmadein is Program Manager at the Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED), where she leads initiatives that strengthen civil society engagement in sustainable development. With more than 18 years' experience in communications, networking and partnership building, Ghada has worked extensively with civil society organizations, international agencies, governments and local authorities. Her professional background spans sustainable development, climate change, water management and disaster risk reduction. Since joining RAED, Ghada has helped empower Arab civil society organizations to participate effectively in policy dialogues on sustainability and environmental protection.



Talia Milgrom-Elcott

Organization: Beyond100K

Headquarters: USA

Impact Region: North America

Focus: STEM Education

SDGs: 4, 8, 10

Talia Milgrom-Elcott is the Founder and Executive Director of Beyond100K, a US-based organization tackling the STEM teacher shortage through collaboration and diversity-driven innovation. With over a decade of leadership in education reform, she has built cross-sector coalitions uniting schools, non-profits and corporations to strengthen STEM teaching. Talia's work centres on building a future where every student – regardless of background – has access to excellent STEM education led by a diverse, well-supported teaching force.



Credit: Beyond100K



Maya Morales Garcia

Organization: Beyond100K

Headquarters: USA

Impact Region: North America

Focus: STEM Education

SDGs: 4, 8, 10

Maya Morales Garcia is the Chief Program Officer at Beyond100K, a US-based organization working to end the STEM teacher shortage in under-resourced schools. She leads the organization's efforts to cultivate a diversity of educators and create inclusive learning environments. With extensive experience in education and social impact, Maya is committed to ensuring that every student has access to excellent STEM teaching. Her leadership focuses on collaboration and community building to achieve systemic change in education.



Mariana Díaz

Organization: Movilizadorio

Headquarters: Colombia

Impact Region: Latin America

Focus: Civic participation

SDGs: 11, 13, 16, 17

Mariana Díaz Kraus is the Co-Founder and Institutional Director of Movilizadorio. A Colombian lawyer and public policy expert, she oversees strategic partnerships and institutional relations for the organization. Marina works to connect civic innovation with systemic change by fostering collaboration among citizens, private sector actors and public institutions. Her leadership has strengthened Movilizadorio's regional influence, advancing democratic participation, social inclusion and collective action across Latin America.



Credit: Movilizadorio



Lina Torres

Lina Margarita Torres is the Co-Founder of Movilizadorio, where she leads initiatives that empower citizens to co-create innovative solutions for social challenges. Based in Colombia, she brings experience in civic technology, design thinking and community mobilization. Lina works to bridge the gap between grassroots movements and institutional decision-making, helping to translate local experiences into public impact. Her leadership has been instrumental in shaping Movilizadorio's participatory methodologies, which have strengthened civic innovation ecosystems throughout the region.

Organization: Movilizadorio

Headquarters: Colombia

Impact Region: Latin America

Focus: Civic participation

SDGs: 11, 13, 16, 17



Juliana Uribe Villegas

Juliana Uribe Villegas is the Co-Founder and CEO of Movilizadorio, a Latin American social innovation lab that promotes civic engagement and collective action. A Colombian social entrepreneur, she has dedicated her career to building bridges between citizens, governments and institutions to strengthen democracy and social cohesion. Through Movilizadorio, Juliana has led regional campaigns that inspire civic participation, encourage youth leadership and use data-driven storytelling to spark social change. Her work has positioned Movilizadorio as a reference in citizen innovation across Latin America, demonstrating the power of technology and collaboration in advancing inclusive societies.

Organization: Movilizadorio

Headquarters: Colombia

Impact Region: Latin America

Focus: Civic participation

SDGs: 11, 13, 16, 17



Closing reflections



François Bonnici
Director, Schwab
Foundation for Social
Entrepreneurship, Member
of Executive Committee,
World Economic Forum



María Inés Martín
Selections, Community
and Impact Lead, Schwab
Foundation for Social
Entrepreneurship

This year's impact report captures a **moment of profound transition** for the social innovation sector. Amid a turbulent global context, constrained funding and growing demands for systemic change, social innovators have shown not only exceptional adaptability but also the capacity to redefine how impact is created and sustained. Their evolution this year is less a continuation than a response and is a testament to their leadership, resilience and commitment to their chosen pathways.

The community's progress shows us that positive change is possible even in times of uncertainty, often when it is needed most. Whether through evolving business models that ensure financial sustainability, new or deepened trust-based partnerships that catalyse change or innovative ways to deliver impact, these leaders are **showing how systems can adapt** to serve both people and planet. Their resilience has led them to improve the lives of nearly a billion people in three decades and mobilize over \$1 billion for social and environmental impact during the past 12 months alone. The collective achievements of our awardee community are proof of what is possible when purpose is paired with tenacity.

When asked about their priorities for the year ahead, our community described a sector entering **a new phase of maturity**. This phase will require new collaborations among peers and with other sectors that are grounded in mission alignment. The ongoing accelerated development of technologies like artificial intelligence provides opportunities for operational modernization and efficiency, and blended financing ensures



Credit: Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship



Credit: VEJA

stability at times when individual funding models are disrupted. Innovators seek to underpin all these efforts with deeper local ownership, strategic adaptability and leadership renewal – which in many cases includes a shift to the next generation of leaders.

The Schwab Foundation's role in this transformation goes beyond simply recognizing outstanding social innovators. We work to **strengthen the ecosystem around them** at a time when resources have become more scarce and the boundaries between social entrepreneurship and mainstream business are fading. Across sectors, there is growing recognition that no single organization can solve complex challenges alone – progress requires collective action.

Through the Global Alliance and Corporate Leadership Council, we hope to provide the necessary platform, as many private and public sector actors, as well as ecosystem organizations, continue to learn how to fully collaborate beyond the limited horizons of individual or organizational priorities. Social enterprises offer a living example of how shared purpose, accountability and trust

can drive change across systems, **yet they still face important structural barriers:** financial markets remain driven by short-term returns, policies for social innovation remain uncommon and data on the sector is fragmented. Our work brings together those ready to change this reality and build the foundations for a more resilient, impact-driven mainstream economy with social innovation at its heart.

Our call to action remains clear: **the path forward requires all actors – governments, businesses, investors, civil society and innovators – to work together, combining the impact of social innovators with the scale and influence of mainstream systems.** Only through this greater collaboration can we build economies that serve both people and planet sustainably. The coming years of social innovation must move decisively from the margins to the mainstream, **transforming not only the markets but the mindsets that drive them.** In doing so, these actors will help shape a more human, regenerative future that is shared by all.

Contributors

Special thanks to the team who led and brought to life the work and impact of our social innovators: María Inés Martín and Ignacio Moreno leading on impact and selections content, Georgie Passalaris on narrative development, Chris Parsons on editing and Studio Miko on design.

Report methodology

This report presents the findings distilled from data collected and analysed across a variety of sources, capturing the voices and experiences of a highly representative sample of our community and ecosystem platforms, to offer a thorough picture of our shared progress. Our data sources include:



19

recorded interviews with social innovators in our community to further understand their journey in making their models and impact sustainable and resilient

55

participants of our ecosystem platforms provided their perspectives through interviews and an in-depth impact survey

61

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

123

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

510

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

Acknowledgements

The Schwab Foundation recognizes our incredible community of social innovators, as well as their teams, for their pioneering work to build a better world, their support for each other and their dedication in the service of others and the planet. We equally honour the commitment of our ecosystem community, whose active role helps build bridges between sectors, enabling collective action to address today's challenges.

We would like to particularly thank the Schwab Foundation Board, which has steered the organization over the years: Hilde Schwab, Tasso Azevedo, Pascale Bruderer-Wyss, Mirai Chatterjee, Ernest Darkoh, Johanna Mair, Nicole Schwab, Helle Thorning-Schmidt and Honorary Board Member, H.M. Mathilde of Belgium.

Our appreciation also goes to the partners who support our vision and efforts: the Bayer Foundation, Center for Social Value Enhancement Studies (SK Group), Deloitte,

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With gratitude to the Schwab Foundation team, whose commitment, care and thoughtful work continues to shine a light on the impact of our community and ecosystem. Their dedication supports and is integrated into a larger collective effort: Mara Airoidi, François Bonnici, Lia-Marie Fillies, Adam Gavin, Danson Gichini, Katerina Hoskova, Steffi Mahery, María Inés Martín, Ignacio Moreno, Daniel Nowack, Christa Odinga-Svanteson, Adedoyin Omidiran, Sophia Otoo, Sophia Simmons, Trang Vergari and Anushree Warrie.

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Pro Mujer

USA

Eleanor Allen

Catapult for Change

Jennifer Blatz

StriveTogether

Eric Cioè Peña

Northwell Health

Cecilia Corral

CareMessage

Erin Ganju

Room to Read

Colin Groth

StriveTogether

Darell Hammond

KaBOOM!

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Wendy Kopp

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Safe Motherhood Alliance

Zimbabwe

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StreetNet International



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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