



**SCHWAB FOUNDATION**  
FOR SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP



Schwab Foundation  
for Social Entrepreneurship

# Annual Report 2024–2025

November 2025



Above and front cover credit: Schwab  
Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship

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Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship  
91-93 route de la Capite  
CH-1223 Cologny/Geneva  
Switzerland  
Tel.: +41 (0)22 869 1212  
Email: [socialinnovators@weforum.org](mailto:socialinnovators@weforum.org)  
[www.schwabfound.org](http://www.schwabfound.org)

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# Introduction



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



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



The Schwab Foundation is dedicated to advancing knowledge on innovations that can address critical and emerging issues that drive our economies and societies by elevating proven approaches.

The Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship was established in 1998 as the foremost global community of pioneering social innovators driving systemic change. It believes in the power of these committed leaders to create systemic change and drive the transition to a stakeholder economy. It aims to accelerate social innovation for a more equitable, sustainable and inclusive world by providing a global platform to recognize, promote and advance proven social innovation solutions.

Each year, the foundation selects a cohort of exceptional moral leaders of the most impactful organizations from around the world who are driving economic inclusion and participation and environmental sustainability. In January 2025, the latest cohort of the Social Innovation Awards was conferred at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos to celebrate and highlight their proven approaches with a global audience of influence. The awards recognize four categories of social innovation: social entrepreneurs, public and corporate social innovators, and collective social innovation leaders. Through the awards, the foundation has built a lasting community of action worldwide, bringing them together with global and regional leaders from the public and private sectors. These leaders receive tailored support and benefit through peer networking, global exposure and learning opportunities, including the highly valued programme on system leadership at the Harvard Kennedy School.

The Schwab Foundation also hosts the most comprehensive multistakeholder coalition in support of the social innovation sector, engaging private- and public-sector leaders to work

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← Image: The Schwab Foundation Summit in Seoul united social innovators, public and private sector leaders, and ecosystem partners from around the world for three days of collaboration, learning, and strategic dialogue.  
Credit: Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship

alongside social innovators in the Global Alliance for Social Entrepreneurship. Its Corporate Leadership Council now represents a coalition of over 50 corporate leaders who have led with commitments like the Rise Ahead Pledge and shared best practices through the Corporate Social Innovation Compass. The Schwab Foundation also offers policy insights, data and best practices to advance the social innovation agenda globally. Through its Policy Leadership Council, its research to advance global data on the State of Social Enterprise and hosting policy roundtables around the world, it has played a vital role in supporting the development and adoption of social economy policies.

The Schwab Foundation is dedicated to advancing knowledge on innovations that can address critical and emerging issues that drive our economies and societies by elevating proven approaches. With reports on artificial intelligence for social innovation, innovative finance and climate adaptation in the past year. Among other highlights in the last year were convenings for the [Collective Social Innovation awardees](#) in Geneva, Switzerland and Bengaluru, India. These meetings aimed to amplify the role of collective action on complicated global issues. This brought together more than 40 organizations from 20 countries to share strategies

We're grateful for the commitment of our Foundation Board, our community and so many partners in helping us to grow the ambition and impact of our community of social innovators and the ecosystem of partners over the past year. We sincerely thank our key support partners, including the Bayer Cares Foundation, Bertelsman Stiftung, the Center for Social Value Enhancement Studies (part of the SK Group), Deloitte, EY, the Frey Charitable Foundation, the Goldman Sachs Foundation, Hyundai Motor Group, Microsoft, the Motsepe Foundation, SAP as well as the many other partners we work with every day.

# Our approach

The Schwab Foundation works alongside its community to advance inclusive, sustainable solutions that create lasting, systemic impact.

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

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

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

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

sectors. Through the Schwab Foundation's Global Alliance for Social Entrepreneurship, it now has a platform to connect actors representing over 100,000 social entrepreneurs with corporations, investors, philanthropists, governments, researchers, the media and industry actors.

The Schwab Foundation now focuses on four areas of work:

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



sector organizations through its Corporate Leadership Council to encourage collaboration and drive meaningful change. By integrating social innovation into their business models, companies can address global challenges more effectively and contribute to a more sustainable and equitable world.

**3 Engaging with the public sector:**

Similarly, the Schwab Foundation collaborates with policy-makers and public-sector leaders (including the foundation's Policy Leadership Council) to reinforce policy frameworks that support social innovation. By working closely with these actors, the foundation helps create an environment where innovative solutions to social challenges can flourish, ensuring that policies are aligned with the needs of communities and the potential of social enterprises.

**4 Driving collective action on emerging themes:**

In a complex, rapidly changing world, no single organization can tackle systemic issues. As the field of social

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

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

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↑ Credit: Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship

# Our impact

The Schwab Foundation's research and data analysis provide valuable insights into the collective progress of the wider community.





Being part of the Schwab network was the first time I was able to interact with my actual peers. That was tremendous.

**Jim Fruchterman**

Founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Tech Matters, US

Published in January 2025, the [Social Innovation in Action](#) report provided a snapshot of the impact and progress of the foundation's community and how the Schwab Foundation can further support its members on their missions. This work analysed data from the 63 social innovators awarded between 2022 and 2025, the 109 community members who participated in the annual survey, as well as the demographic data of the 438 social innovators in the community at the time. Among the findings, the following elements stood out:

**1 Social innovators are mobilizing unprecedented resources:** While funding disparities persist, many awardees are now securing nine-digit investments. These funds are often complemented by in-kind contributions such as pro bono services and technological support – resources that enable them to expand, upgrade and sustain their operations at scale.



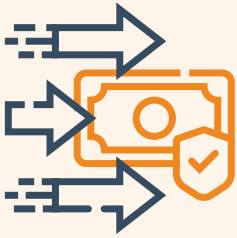
The recognition by Schwab Foundation has brought us a lot of credibility. It has really helped.

**Khushboo Awasthi Kumari**

Evangelist and Designer, Punjab Education Collective, India

- 2 They are strengthening cross-sector collaboration with care and intention:** Trust remains central to how innovators engage with the private sector, forging partnerships that are both cautious and strategic. These relationships are increasingly mirrored across public, private and civil society spheres, creating a dynamic ecosystem of shared value.
- 3 The community continues to accelerate collective growth:** Innovators report tangible gains in idea generation, strategic partnerships and access to networks that amplify their work. The community serves as a platform for exchange, enabling members to evolve through shared learning and mutual support.
- 4 Visibility and recognition are expanding rapidly:** With online engagement doubling since last year, social innovators are gaining traction across digital platforms – reaching wider audiences, elevating their profiles and demonstrating impact more effectively than ever before.

# Revealing the impact



**\$1.25** BILLION

mobilized in the past year by annual survey respondents

**\$902** MILLION

in revenue generated by cohorts 2023-2025



**95%**

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

**931** MILLION

lives directly impacted by community of social innovators



**28,000**

people directly employed in full- or part-time jobs by awardees of the 2023-2025

**69%**

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

**64%**

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

**87%**

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

“

Collaborative partnerships are needed for us to work across all sectors, across all countries, to co-create the space with young people for building youth leadership spaces that nourish love, learning, freedom, ownership and social hope.

**Ashraf Patel**

Co-Founder, Pravah ComMutiny, The Youth Collective, India

↓ Credit: Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship



# A global community of leading social innovators



**24**

cohorts since 2001

**491**

active social innovators



**28**

Age spread  
in community

**78**

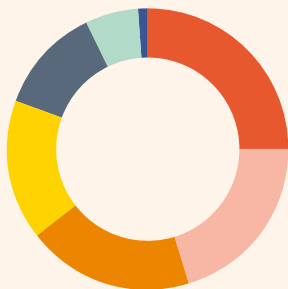
**26**

years of a strong community and trusted social innovation ecosystem



**190**  
COUNTRIES

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

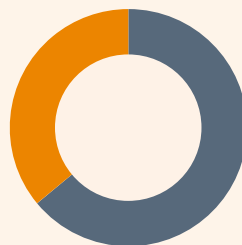


● Asia	26%
● Europe	19%
● North America	18%
● Latin America	16%
● Sub-Saharan Africa	12%
● Middle East and North Africa	6%
● Oceania	1%



**52%**  
FEMALE

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



● Male 63%  
● Female 37%



Headquartered in

**74** COUNTRIES

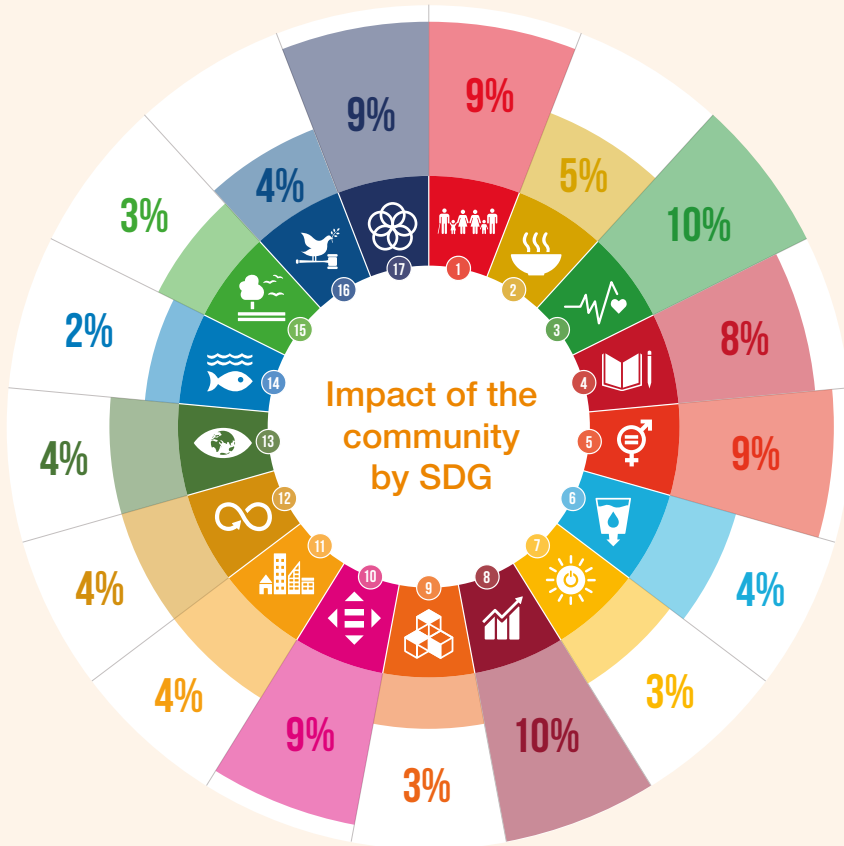


**438**  
organizations



### Award categories

Social Entrepreneurs	26%
Collective Social Innovation Awardees	6%
Corporate Social Innovators	19%
Public Social Innovators	16%
Social Innovation Thought Leaders	18%



- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 No poverty</li> <li>2 Zero hunger</li> <li>3 Good health and well-being</li> <li>4 Quality education</li> <li>5 Gender equality</li> <li>6 Clean water and sanitation</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7 Affordable and clean energy</li> <li>8 Decent work and economic growth</li> <li>9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure</li> <li>10 Reduced inequality</li> <li>11 Sustainable cities and communities</li> <li>12 Responsible consumption and production</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13 Climate action</li> <li>14 Life below water</li> <li>15 Life on land</li> <li>16 Peace, justice and strong institutions</li> <li>17 Partnerships for the goals</li> </ul> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

# Schwab Foundation 2025 awardees

Our community of social entrepreneurs and innovators grows steadily each year through the Schwab Foundation Social Innovation Awards. This year's awardees are addressing health disparities from the US to Zambia, creating income opportunities for displaced individuals, combating deforestation in Central and West

Africa, and improving the lives of vulnerable communities in India and beyond. Selected for their proven track record, impactful solutions and systemic approaches to addressing pressing social issues, these innovators work on different operating models in the most diverse areas of impact creation.

↓ Image: The Schwab Foundation 2025 Awards recognized the transformative work of 18 social entrepreneurs and innovators from 15 organizations across the world. Credit: World Economic Forum / Jason Alden



These exceptional leaders join a focused three-year journey before becoming lifelong members, gaining continued support and access to opportunities through the network. Their affiliation with the Schwab Foundation aims to nurture and develop them as leaders as well as bolster their organizations. The programme includes access to the world's most influential networks through platforms, events, projects, capacity-building activities and opportunities for collaboration and partnership across the community.

Social entrepreneurship and innovation are gaining momentum worldwide, with over 10 million social enterprises creating 200 million jobs and generating \$2 trillion annually. The awards not only honour the achievements of the social entrepreneurs and innovators but also amplify their influence, inspiring others to adopt and support innovative solutions for a better world. By shining the spotlight on these effective models for key decision-makers in both business and government, the Schwab Foundation enables an environment where successful strategies can be diffused and scaled.



# Social Entrepreneur of the Year 2025



**Cecilia Corral**

**Organization:** CareMessage

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**Headquarters:** US

**Region:** North America

**Sector:** Digital communications for healthcare

**SDGs:** 1, 3 and 10



**Mawuse Christina Gyisun**

**Organization:** Sommalife

---

**Headquarters:** Ghana

**Region:** Sub-Saharan Africa

**Sector:** Women farmers

**SDGs:** 1, 2, 5 and 13



**Valmir Gabriel Ortega**

**Organization:** Belterra Agroflorestas

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**Headquarters:** Brazil

**Region:** Latin America

**Sector:** Regenerative agroforestry

**SDGs:** 1, 8, 13 and 15



**Manuel Rosemberg**

**Organization:** ANA Care

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**Headquarters:** Mexico

**Region:** Latin America

**Sector:** Elderly care

**SDGs:** 3, 5 and 8



**Aline Sara**

**Organization:** NaTakallam

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**Headquarters:** Lebanon

**Region:** Middle East and North Africa

**Sector:** Migration and entrepreneurship development

**SDGs:** 8, 10 and 17



**Akshay Saxena**

**Organization:** Avanti Fellows

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**Headquarters:** India

**Region:** Asia

**Sector:** Education

**SDGs:** 4 and 10



**Vineet Singal**

**Organization:** CareMessage

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**Headquarters:** US

**Region:** North America

**Sector:** Digital communications for healthcare

**SDGs:** 1, 3 and 10

## Corporate Social Innovator of the Year 2025



**Caitlyn (Juhong) Chen**

**Organization:** Tencent

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**Headquarters:** People's Republic of China

**Region:** Asia

**Sector:** Healthcare and social inclusion

**SDGs:** 3, 11, 13 and 17



**Eric Cioè-Peña**

**Organization:** Northwell Health

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**Headquarters:** US

**Region:** North America, Global

**Sector:** Healthcare

**SDGs:** 3, 10 and 17



**Fred Hersch**

**Organization:** Google Health

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**Headquarters:** Singapore

**Region:** Global

**Sector:** Digital infrastructure for healthcare

**SDGs:** 3, 10 and 17

# Public Social Innovator of the Year 2025



**Islam Alijaj**

**Organization:** Parliament of Switzerland and Tatkraft

**Headquarters:** Switzerland

**Region:** Europe

**Sector:** People with disabilities

**SDGs:** 3, 8 and 10



**Trinh Thi Huong**

**Organization:** Agency for Enterprise Development, Ministry of Planning and Investment of Viet Nam

**Headquarters:** Viet Nam

**Region:** Asia

**Sector:** Socioeconomic development

**SDGs:** 1 and 17



# Collective Social Innovator of the Year 2025

## Africa Sustainable Commodities Initiative (ASCI)



**Leader:** Abraham Baffoe

**Headquarters:** Ghana

**Region:** Sub-Saharan Africa

**Sector:** Sustainable agriculture and smallholder farmers

**SDGs:** 1, 2, 8, 15 and 17

## Community Health Impact Coalition (CHIC)



**Leader:** Madeleine Ballard

**Headquarters:** UK

**Region:** Global

**Sector:** Community health workers

**SDGs:** 3, 5, 8 and 17

## Responsible Coalition for Resilient Communities (RCRC)



**Leaders:** Ved Mitra Arya, Poonam Muttreja, Apoorva Oza

**Headquarters:** India

**Region:** Asia

**Sector:** Rural development and migration

**SDGs:** 1, 2, 5 and 17

# Social Entrepreneur of the Year India Award 2025

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

On 10 September 2024, Akshay Saxena was awarded as the winner of the 15th edition. His organization, Avanti Fellows, provides free science, engineering, technology and mathematics (STEM) education and career guidance to economically disadvantaged students in India. Their high-intensity tutoring helps top students achieve significant success and improve their families' financial situations. Unique for open-sourcing its educational content, Avanti Fellows programmes are used nationwide.

Avanti's model has reached over 2 million students in seven Indian states, with 30,000

students participating in more personalized coaching. The programme has enabled more than 5,000 students to gain admission to elite STEM institutions. Graduates report a median salary of INR 600,000 (Indian rupees), significantly improving their families' financial outlook and helping to break intergenerational poverty.

What makes Avanti stand out is its commitment to scale and equity – by freely sharing its content, it enables schools and educators nationwide to improve learning outcomes. Through this work, Akshay Saxena is driving systemic change in education and creating lasting opportunities for India's underserved youth.

↓ Image: Akshay Saxena, co-founder and co-Chief Executive Officer of Avanti Fellows, was named the Social Entrepreneur of the Year 2024 in India by the Jubilant Bhartia Foundation and the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship. Credit: Jubilant Bhartia Foundation





# Social Entrepreneur of the Year Brazil Award 2025

In 2024, the collaboration between the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship and the media group Folha de São Paulo celebrated their 20-year anniversary of working together to promote social innovation in Brazil through the SEOY Brazil Country Award.

On 12 November, the Municipal Theatre of São Paulo hosted a historic gala celebrating Brazilian social innovators, with performances and contributions from artists, innovators, and supporting partners. The jury recognized the transformative work of **Valmir Ortega** (Belterra Agroforestas) in the SEOY Award category,

joining the global cohort of Schwab Foundation awardees. **Simony Cesar** (Super Nina) received the Inspiring Solutions Award for her work preventing gender-based violence in urban public transport. Finally, **Luis Cesar da Silva** (Visibilidade da Juventude Rural) was honoured with the Transformative Youth Award for his contribution to youth civic engagement.

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↑ Image: The Social Entrepreneur of the Year 2024 in Brazil was a tribute to the country's social innovators and the celebration of 20 years of fruitful collaboration between the Schwab Foundation and Folha de São Paulo. Credit: Felipe Iruata / Folhapress

# Collective action for the social innovation sector

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



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

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

## 1 Private-sector engagement



### Corporate Leadership Council on Social Innovation

The Corporate Leadership Council on Social Innovation, co-chaired by Bayer and SAP, emerged as a key platform for corporate engagement, expanding to more than 50 global companies in 2025. Notable milestones include its leadership in launching the Rise Ahead Pledge – a corporate commitment to scaling social innovation investments. As of June 2025, 25 companies have signed on, committing to advance impact across six activity areas, including financial and non-financial support, social procurement and integrating social innovation into core business.

The foundation's *Corporate Social Innovation Compass*, launched at the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting 2024, systematizes the case for corporate engagement in social innovation. Co-developed with Deloitte, the report outlines 11 mechanisms and five business benefits and has garnered over 3,600 readers. Paired with a widely read Forum article, these efforts generated over 350,000 impressions on social media and supported member growth in the council and the alliance.

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

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← Image: The Schwab Foundation support private sector actors build partnerships with social entrepreneurs and their intermediaries, creating multi-stakeholder partnerships for scaling social innovations. Credit: Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship



### Rise Ahead Pledge

Launched during the Annual Meeting in Davos in January 2024, the Rise Ahead Pledge is a corporate commitment to increase investments in social innovation. As of December 2024, twenty-four companies have committed to increasing their contributions and investments in social innovation by 2030 in at least two of the following six activity areas:

- 1 Providing financial support to social innovators
- 2 Providing non-financial support to social innovators
- 3 Buying from social innovators (social procurement)
- 4 Providing financial support to organizations in the social innovation ecosystem
- 5 Integrating social innovation principles into core business operations
- 6 Developing impact-first products and services and/or advancing programmes to support employees to develop social innovation products or services

The pledge's signatories have also committed themselves to publishing collective, quantitative targets for their social innovation activities. They will report on their investments in and impact through social innovation by October 2025, and the results will be unveiled at the Annual Meeting in January 2026. With the support of the Schwab

Foundation team, the Corporate Leadership Council has finalized its reporting guidelines for the first reporting cycle, with submissions received by the deadline of 1 October 2024. Data has been collected from all 25 signatories about their 2023 spending levels.

Signatories of the pledge include Automation Anywhere, Banco Davivienda, Bayer Foundation, EDP, EY, Sanofi's Foundation S, GE HealthCare Foundation, Hewlett Packard Enterprise

Foundation, Adecco's Innovation Foundation, IKEA Social Entrepreneurship, Jubilant Bhartia Group, Kale Group, Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation, Medtronic LABS, Melitta Group, Microsoft, Philips Foundation, Reckitt, Renault Group, SAP, Schneider Electric, SK Group's Center for Social Value Enhancement Studies, SUEZ, TikTok and Zurich Insurance Group.

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



## 2 Public-sector engagement



### Policy Leadership Council on Social Economy and Social Innovation

An evolution of the Social Economy Working Group established in 2021, the Policy Leadership Council on Social Economy and Social Innovation brings together more than 30 policy leaders from international organizations, governments, academia and business, united by a shared commitment to unlocking the potential of the social economy and social innovation through effective public policy.

With the transition from the working group to the council, the Schwab Foundation formally handed over the chairing role to members of the council. The council subsequently appointed Jeroo Billimoria, Founder of the One Family Foundation, and Jonathan Wong, Chief of Innovation, Enterprise and Investment at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), as co-chairs.

Among its achievements, the council facilitated two high-level policy roundtables focused on unlocking the social and solidarity economy: the first in South Africa in November 2024, and the second in Kenya in May 2025. These events were co-organized by the Schwab Foundation, World Economic Forum, African Union Commission, International Labour Organization, Catalyst Now, Africa Forward and the Motsepe Foundation.

Further, at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2025, the council launched the second edition of the *Unlocking the Social Economy* report, this time focused on advancing equity in the green and digital transitions. The report highlights the essential role of the social economy – which includes social enterprises, cooperatives and similar models – in creating inclusive innovation. With over 200 million jobs and \$2 trillion in global turnover, the

social economy contributes to affordability, accessibility and job creation while empowering marginalized communities.

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



### Social enterprise data

In April 2024, the Schwab Foundation released *The State of Social Enterprise: A Review of Global Data 2013-2023*, revealing that up to 10 million social entrepreneurs generate \$2 trillion in annual revenue, making the sector larger than the global apparel industry. Notably, half of all social enterprises are women-led and collectively generate an estimated 200 million jobs.

The report also exposed key data challenges, including inconsistent quality, limited comparability and difficulty in measuring social and environmental value. To address this, the Schwab Foundation convened an advisory group of experts from academia, international organizations and industry to harmonize global data collection efforts.

In December 2024, the advisory group met for a two-day in-person workshop in Geneva to align on survey-based data collection. Together, they reviewed over 700 survey questions from around the world and developed a standardized set of core indicators to improve comparability across datasets.

This work culminated in the publication of a standardized set of survey questions and a report, *Collecting Data on Social Enterprise: A Playbook for Practitioners*, which shares lessons and good practices in survey design and implementation.

[Access the standardized set of survey questions and Data Playbook here.](#)

← Credit: Medtronic LABS

### 3 Collective action on key issues for the sector

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

Between July 2024 and June 2025, the foundation published thematic reports on topics such as collective social innovation, AI and social enterprise data. These reports have been widely recognized and have positioned the foundation and its global alliance as a premier platform for social innovation.



#### AI for Social Innovation

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

The initiative's first year, 2024, saw the launch of three reports, which reached tens of thousands of readers and are listed among the top 10% of Forum reports by readership. The workstream activities for 2025 were built on this earlier work to deepen the engagement initiated over the past year. In response to individual engagements with leading technology companies and social innovators alike, the workstream has commenced mapping out the process for



mobilizing financial and non-financial support for social innovators in collaboration with EY and an external consultant.

The workstream was well represented at the Schwab Foundation summit in 2025 as part of an oversubscribed session; the outcomes of which included the establishment of a peer-to-peer session where social innovators along different parts of their AI adoption journey shared lessons and learnings with each other. A case study compendium has been developed in parallel to this. In addition, at the Annual Meeting of New Champions in 2025, a hub session titled “How Can AI Do More Good?” was held. It was facilitated by Francois Bonnici and featured Hon. Cho Ji Ha, member of the Korean National Assembly, and Njideka U. Harry, Schwab Foundation awardee and Founder of the Youth for Technology Foundation (US).

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



## Collective social innovation

In 2022, the Schwab Foundation Board expanded the award categories to include the Collective Social Innovation Awards to celebrate those who expressly define and organize collective work as their core function. In the last two years, the Schwab Foundation has awarded the designation of Collective Social Innovator to 21 innovators representing 11 organizations. The community of collective social innovators has shown much enthusiasm and proactivity in amplifying the narrative of collective social

← Image: Collective social innovation offers a new way forward, bringing together diverse stakeholders to create systemic change. Credit: World Economic Forum / Chris Heenev

innovation and sharing their learnings with key stakeholders across the ecosystem.

These discussions led to the first-of-its-kind Collective Action Convening, which brought together 37 participants in Geneva from 2–4 October 2024 to share strategies on making collective action the norm in creating social change. A subsequent learning journey was held in India from 4-6 March 2025 to dive deeper into collective action through the lenses of South Asia.

Building on the momentum of the convening, the Schwab Foundation published the *Future is Collective: Advancing Collective Social Innovation to Address Society's Biggest Challenges* report and a set of case studies highlighting the values, strategies and organizing models that enable multistakeholder collaborations to thrive.

Following the report's release, the Schwab Foundation was invited to feature insights from it as the cover story of the summer issue of the Stanford Social Innovation Review.

The foundation is continuing the efforts in shaping collective social innovation by developing an action plan together with the community of collective social innovators and an ecosystem mapping exercise to identify key stakeholders to engage in the ecosystem.

[Learn more about the Schwab Foundation's work on Collective Social Innovation here.](#)



## The Future of Innovation is Collective

SSIR Summer Issue  
June 2025

[Read the feature article here.](#)



## Outcome-based finance

As of 2025, the outcome-based and impact-linked funding ecosystem has facilitated the allocation of over \$185 billion towards a myriad of impactful initiatives based on the impact they have achieved. While the merits of outcome-based financing (OBF) are evident, its full-scale implementation and universal adoption encounter challenges. In 2024, the Schwab Foundation launched the [Redefining Value: Innovative Finance for Development](#) initiative to highlight avenues for scaling outcome-based funding, specifically by mobilizing the private sector. The project is funded and supported by the Center for Social Value Enhancement Studies, the corporate foundation of the South Korean K Group.

The initiative explores the 10-year horizon in this space by highlighting innovative concepts for assigning economic value to impact or making impact outcomes tradeable (and through that, more fungible for investors). As part of a multilateral session at the Annual Meeting in Davos in January 2025, the project provided an analysis of existing OBF mechanisms that lend themselves to private-sector mobilization. The outcomes of this discussion and a six-month consultation process with over 100 organizations in the outcome-based funding space are captured in the report [Beyond Compliance: Embedding Impact through Innovative Finance](#).

The initiative highlights scenarios under which impact could be formalized, traded and economically valued. In June, the foundation published a research paper about tradeable impact, titled [Redefining Value: From Outcome-Based Funding to Tradeable Impact](#), which also features the white paper: [A Regenerative](#)

[Monetary System for Impact Credits](#) as a step-change innovation that could unlock an economy driven by verified, community-driven impact. Since the project's launch, more than 100 leading organizations in outcome-based funding and tradeable impact outcomes have signed up to join its advisory group. The foundation secured the support of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors to deliver this project.

[Learn more about the initiative here.](#)

## Social procurement

The Schwab Foundation has been building on the momentum for social procurement in Europe and expanding it to other regions, starting with Latin America. With the support and guidance of local partners and alliance members, the efforts have focused on integrating the principles of social procurement into corporate value chains.

In January 2024, the Schwab Foundation engaged with SAP to support its efforts to convene national roundtables for social procurement in the US, India and Brazil. It has also partnered with 18 organizations to collectively publish the [State of Social Procurement](#) in January 2025, creating insights based on 150,000 new data points on supply chain events gathered by the tech company Prewave. The digital publication was accessed by over 10,000 readers and includes 10 country studies, an assessment of the legal framework for social procurement, insights into the business case for social procurement, and an interactive dashboard to explore supply chain events by region and industry.

[Read more about social procurement here.](#)

INITIATIVE LAUNCH

# Youth & Social Innovation



## Youth and Social Innovation Initiative

Young social innovators are leading powerful, locally rooted responses to our world's most pressing challenges. Yet they continue to face deeply entrenched barriers – such as limited access to capital, under-recognized leadership and overlooked mental health needs – that prevent them from scaling their solutions and shaping the systems that define their future.

Launched in June 2025 at the Schwab Foundation Summit, the Youth and Social Innovation Initiative is a three-year effort by the Schwab Foundation, in collaboration with the Global Shapers Community and with

support from SAP and Hyundai Motor Group. The initiative focuses on three critical levers: unlocking flexible, early-stage capital for youth-led ventures; strengthening the visibility and credibility of young changemakers in institutional spaces; and embedding mental health as a core pillar of sustainable leadership.

Co-created with an advisory group of 15 selected Global Shapers and social innovation leaders, the initiative aims to shift how the global ecosystem funds, supports and collaborates with youth. By facilitating intergenerational partnership and cross-sector action, it is working to ensure young changemakers are not only seen but meaningfully supported to lead lasting, systemic change.

↑ Credit: Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship

# Our activities and events

Schwab Foundation events unite global innovators, leaders and partners to collaborate and learn.





# Sustainable Development Impact Summit 2024

During the Sustainable Development Impact Meetings 2024, the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship hosted a session entitled “Social Economy and the Road to G20”, in collaboration with the G20 for Impact Coalition, a global alliance of 40 leading national and international organizations reaching over 1 billion people worldwide. The session aimed to encourage G20 countries to harness the

potential of social entrepreneurship to advance an inclusive, equitable and regenerative economy. It also served as a timely platform for stakeholders involved in Brazil’s 2024 G20 presidency to engage with counterparts from South Africa, paving the way for the continuation of the G20 social initiative under South Africa’s upcoming presidency, with sustained engagement of social entrepreneurs at its core.

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↑ Image: Hosted by the Schwab Foundation, The Social Economy and the Road to G20 session united public and private sector leaders to integrate social innovation into economic policies, paving the way for potential G20 support. Credit: World Economic Forum

# Collective Action Convening 2024

From 2-4 October 2024, the Schwab Foundation convened a group of social innovators and partners at the World Economic Forum's headquarters in Geneva for the inaugural Collective Action Convening. Co-designed with the Collective Social Innovation awardees, it brought together a diverse group of 37 organizations from 19 countries, each with

unique perspectives and experiences, to share their experiences about collective action, discover common challenges and enablers, and find ways to amplify collective action further across the globe.

Following the convening, the Schwab Foundation released a summary report based on data, insights and ideas generated and collected during the convening. The report was accompanied by an in-depth case study showcasing 10 of the collective social innovation organizations in the Schwab Foundation community.

↓ Image: 37 participants from 19 countries convened over 3 days in Geneva to share their experiences and expertise on collective action. Credit: World Economic Forum / Chris Heeney



# South Africa Roundtable 2024

On 29 November 2024, the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship, in partnership with the World Economic Forum, African Union Commission, International Labour Organization (ILO), Motsepe Foundation and Africa Forward, convened a high-level roundtable on “Unlocking the Social and Solidarity Economy” in Johannesburg, South Africa. This event explored how South Africa’s fast-growing Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) can tackle its most urgent challenges through innovative and inclusive economic models.

Over 60 leaders from government, business and civil society took part. Public sector participants included the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, the Department of Employment and Labour, the Industrial Development Corporation, the African Union Commission and the ILO. Private-sector voices from SAP, EY, Unilever, Anglo American, Standard Bank and others signalled rising corporate engagement with the social economy.

Discussions spanned advancing policy, unlocking patient capital through innovative finance, integrating SSE actors into supply chains through social procurement and building movements that place communities at the centre. Participants also co-created strategies on how to reignite South Africa’s draft Social Economy Policy, align with the African Union’s forthcoming 10-year SSE Strategy, and how to harness South Africa’s 2025 G20 Presidency to champion the SSE as a driver of inclusive growth.

The roundtable reinforced momentum for a locally-led SSE agenda in 2025, led by Africa Forward and South African innovators, connecting actors across sectors to scale purpose-driven solutions nationally and regionally.

↓ Image: On 29 November 2024, South Africa hosted a high-level roundtable on Unlocking the Social and Solidarity Economy to address the country’s most urgent challenges through innovative and inclusive economic approaches. Credit: Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship



# World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2025

Under the theme “Collaboration for the Intelligent Age”, the 55th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum brought together more than 3,000 leaders from government, business and civil society at a pivotal time for the world. The

↓ Image: The 2025 awardees were honoured for their efforts towards a more inclusive, equitable and sustainable world. Credit: World Economic Forum / Jason Alden

meeting provided a unique platform to drive solutions to address the world’s most pressing challenges through public-private cooperation. A group of 42 Social Innovators participated in the Annual Meeting in Davos to share ideas and solutions to societal challenges – and how to implement and scale such solutions. From this cohort, 16 leading organizations were announced as Social Innovators of the Year 2025.



## Plenary session of the Schwab Foundation Awards 2025

The ceremony of the Schwab Foundation 2025 Awards honoured 18 outstanding social entrepreneurs and innovators from 13 countries for their efforts to make the world a better place. Several notable figures, including Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus, Prime Minister of Spain Pedro Sánchez, and former US Vice-President Al Gore, joined the stage. Also present were Hilde Schwab, Co-Founder and Chairperson of the Schwab Foundation, Klaus Schwab, Founder of the World Economic Forum, Gim Huay Neo, Managing Director of the World Economic Forum and various global business leaders.



**It is a great privilege to introduce the 2025 Schwab Foundation Awardees, a remarkable group of social entrepreneurs and innovators who embody integrity, humility and positive values in their work. Their extraordinary achievements reflect on the broader community of leading social entrepreneurs and innovators dedicated to fighting social inequalities and preserving natural ecosystems.**

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

[Session is available to watch here.](#)

## Schwab Foundation Awards 2025 – presentation

In a dedicated livestreamed session, each of the 18 awardees had the opportunity to showcase their work to the onsite and online world audiences. The 2025 awardees are addressing health disparities from the US to Zambia, creating income opportunities for displaced individuals, combating deforestation in Central and West Africa, and improving the lives of vulnerable communities in Mexico and beyond. The Schwab Foundation used the Annual Meeting 2025 to showcase social entrepreneurs and innovators who are already proving that new business models can succeed. The goal was to help expand these solutions and bring their impact to more people worldwide.



**Where you live shouldn't determine whether you live.**

Eric Cioè-Peña, Founder, Center for Global Health, Northwell Health

[Session is available to watch here.](#)

## Social Innovation in Action

This session highlighted the growing role of social innovation in tackling global challenges. Leaders from various sectors discussed the evolution of social business and its economic impact. Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus emphasized shifting from wealth concentration to problem-solving through social business, evolving from microcredit to healthcare and education. Panellists Nicola Galombik, Executive

↓ Image: Featured distinguished panellists, Nobel Laureate and former Schwab Foundation Board Member Muhammad Yunus, this session highlighted the growing role of social innovation in tackling global challenges. Credit: World Economic Forum / Jakob Polacsek

Director of Yellowwoods, and Parks Tau, Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition in South Africa, highlighted the need for collaboration between businesses, governments and social enterprises to support social entrepreneurship. Barbara Frei of Schneider Electric showcased how corporations can embed social business into their operations, driving job creation and CO<sub>2</sub> reduction. Rise Ahead Pledge signatories have already invested \$277 million in social innovation, reflecting growing private-sector commitment. This session was moderated by Raj Kumar, President and Editor-in-Chief of Devex, and featured remarks by Hilde Schwab.

🔗 [Session is available to watch here.](#)



# Media highlights

At the Annual Meeting 2025, the Schwab Foundation amplified the voice of social innovators across global media platforms. During the week of the event, over 120 outlets covered our work, including Caixin Global, CNBC Africa, An-Nahar, India Development Review, Contxto, the Washington Post, Innovators Magazine, Business Fights Poverty Podcast and Deutsche Welle. The foundation also launched several flagship publications and articles, spotlighting the growing role of social innovation in shaping inclusive, sustainable and equitable solutions.

## Reports

### [Unlocking the Social Economy: Towards Equity in the Green and Digital Transitions](#)

This report presents crucial policy recommendations and best practices that support social entrepreneurs in driving economic equity during this transition.

### [Beyond Compliance: Embedding Impact through Innovative Finance](#)

This report provides practical guidance on using innovative financial solutions like OBF to incorporate social impact into core business practices.

### [State of Social Procurement 2025](#)

This digital report uncovers data findings from over five regions and countries, new information on social risks in supply chains, and insights into regulatory trends and financing impact.

### [Social Innovation in Action: Schwab Foundation 2025 Awardees and Impact](#)

This report profiles the 2025 Schwab Foundation awardees and the community's impact worldwide.

## Articles

### [Tradeable Impact: Unlocking Growth through Social and Environmental Value](#)

An introduction to tradable impact markets, highlighting examples like SK Group's Social Progress Credits, which distributes \$52 million to social enterprises in South Korea.

### [Why the social and solidarity economy is key to South Africa's 2025 G20 Presidency and Africa's Development](#)

Emphasizes the importance of the social and solidarity economy movement across Africa and calls for action from governments, investors and citizens to rethink growth in a way that is equitable, inclusive and sustainable.

### [How partnerships with financial institutions can power inclusive development](#)

Aly Zulficar Rahim from the World Bank and François Bonnici on the social economy and how it supports international financial institutions in evolving to better respond to global, interconnected crises.

### [New data highlights global momentum for social innovation](#)

Insights on the 25 Rise Ahead signatories and their commitments to social innovation.

### [Harnessing the Social Economy for an Inclusive Green and Digital Future](#)

Highlights key insights from the foundation's report on how social enterprises lead innovations to combat climate change and promote digital inclusion.

[🔗 Social innovation has moved from the margins to the mainstream](#)

Highlights the journey of social innovation from a fringe concern to widespread recognition and implementation.

[🔗 How 500 Social Entrepreneurs and Innovators have improved the lives of 931 million people worldwide](#)

Uncovers key data from the foundation's annual survey and impact report and the areas where social innovators are making the biggest difference.

[🔗 Schwab Foundation Awards 2025: Announcement of new Social Entrepreneurs and Innovators of the Year](#)

Press release announcing the 2025 Schwab Foundation awardees.

## Live-streamed sessions

### Schwab Foundation Awards 2025

[🔗 Watch the recording here.](#)



### Schwab Foundation Awards Plenary

[🔗 Watch the recording here.](#)



### Social Innovation in Action

[🔗 Watch the recording here.](#)



## Schwab Foundation Social Entrepreneurs and Innovators in other sessions

### Open Forum: All Abilities Welcome

Speaker: **Shanti Raghavan**, Founder, Enable India

### Open Forum: Balancing the Scales

Speaker: **Chantal Line Carpentier**, Head, Trade, Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Branch, Division for International Trade, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

### Open Forum: Levelling the Playing Field

Speaker: **Carmen Correa**, CEO, ProMujer

### Revealing the Real Scale of Modern Slavery

Speaker: **Ashif Shaikh**, Founder and Director, Jan Sahas Social Development Society

### Equity Beyond Identity

Speaker: **Adam Kahane**, Director, Reos Partners

Honoring the 2025 Schwab  
Foundation Awardees

In partnership with the World Economic Forum, the Schwab  
Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship brings together the  
foremost global

# Harvard Kennedy School Executive Education 2025

## Leadership for System Change: Delivering Social Impact at Scale

The Harvard executive education module is one of the flagship experiences in the journey of Schwab Foundation awardees. From 15 to 21 March 2025, 37 social innovators gathered at the Harvard Kennedy School campus in Cambridge, US, for this year's edition of the programme: Leadership for System Change: Delivering Social Impact at Scale, delivered in tandem by the Social Innovation + Change Initiative (SICI) and the Schwab Foundation.

The programme is chaired by Schwab Foundation awardee Julie Battilana, Alan L. Gleitsman Professor of Social Innovation at Harvard Kennedy School of Government, US. It features a practitioner-oriented curriculum designed for the Schwab Foundation's global network of social changemakers across the public, social and private sectors.

Throughout the week, renowned faculty members guide social innovators through modules on innovation and scaling, digital transformation, authority and leadership, financing social change, and more. The programme deepens understanding of systems change, identifies ways to scale impact and develops leadership skills.

The Motsepe Foundation sponsors participants' tuition. It is led by Precious Moloi-Motsepe, Deputy Chairman and CEO, and David Rubenstein, Co-Founder and Co-Chairman of the Carlyle Group. The Schwab Foundation thanks them for their generous support of this programme.

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↓ Image: The module aims to deepen social innovators' understanding of systems change, identify ways to scale their impact, and develop leadership skills that will accelerate their efforts as social impact leaders.  
Credit: Harvard Kennedy School



# Global AI Summit on Africa

Hosted by the Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution Rwanda and the Ministry of ICT & Innovation, in collaboration with the World Economic Forum, the Global AI Summit took place in Kigali, Rwanda, from 3–4 April 2025. The event centred on the theme: “AI and Africa’s Demographic Dividend: Reimagining Economic Opportunities for Africa’s Workforce”.

The summit brought together corporate executives, industry leaders, government representatives and social innovators for high-level discussions on how AI can drive inclusive economic growth, encourage innovation and enhance workforce skills across Africa.

The Schwab Foundation was represented by a delegation of seven awardees whose expertise in deploying AI helped shape the dialogue, influence key outcomes and guide the responsible development of AI across the continent. Their contributions provided valuable insights and forged connections to support their ongoing work.

One of the summit’s most significant milestones was the unveiling of “The Africa Declaration on Artificial Intelligence”, a historic pledge by 52 African nations as well as the African Union to champion Africa-led ethical innovation and strategic investment in AI, shaping the continent’s technological future on its own terms.



**A standout moment for me was the session on inclusive AI governance; it brought clarity and urgency to some of the equity challenges we’re navigating in health innovation.**

**Sabine Zink Bolonhini**

CEO and Co-Founder, SAS Group; Schwab Foundation Awardee (2023)



# Kenya Learning Journey 2025 and roundtable

In May 2025, 35 Schwab Foundation Social Entrepreneurs from five continents gathered in Nairobi for a four-day Kenya Learning Journey, co-designed with awardees in Kenya. These immersive journeys give awardees the chance to step away from their daily work, exchange experiences with peers and learn directly from local innovators responding to complex challenges.

The programme began in Kibera, where participants visited Shining Hope for Communities (SHOFCO) to see how grassroots action can deliver clean water, education and women's empowerment at scale. They then explored agricultural transformation with Sidai, learning how quality livestock services and inputs are building more resilient rural livelihoods. At Safaricom, they heard how M-PESA has opened financial access to millions, followed by sessions with Sprout and Kuza on how digital tools are helping smallholder farmers grow their businesses and access markets.

Health innovation then took centre stage with Medtronic LABS and the Financing Alliance for Health, who showed how technology and new financing models are expanding access to healthcare across communities. The Learning Journey concluded in the iconic Karura Forest in a session led by the Green Belt Movement (GBM), which reflected on Professor Wangari Maathai's legacy and their ongoing work to mobilize community-led environmental action.

Participants left with new peer connections, practical ideas to adapt in their own contexts and a richer understanding of Kenya's social innovation landscape.

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↑ Image: 35 social entrepreneurs and innovators from five continents gathered in Nairobi, Kenya, for a four-day Learning Journey focused on culture, creativity, resilience, innovation, and collaboration. Credit: Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship

# Roundtable on Unlocking the Social and Solidarity Economy

On 6 May 2025, against a backdrop of a shifting development finance landscape, and growing demand for inclusive growth models, the Schwab Foundation, together with the World Economic Forum, Government of Kenya, African Union Commission, ILO, Motsepe Foundation and Africa Forward, convened a landmark high-level roundtable in Nairobi, Kenya, on Unlocking the Social and Solidarity Economy in Africa.

Over 90 leaders participated, including eight African governments – Kenya, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Eswatini, Malawi, Mauritania, Senegal and South Africa – alongside senior G20 representation. Multinationals, African corporations, development

finance institutions, foundations, social entrepreneurs, cooperatives and global networks added to the strong cross-sector presence.

Centred on implementing the African Union's 10-Year SSE Strategy, adopted in February 2025, the discussions produced five priority actions: create enabling policy frameworks, scale financial and technical support, open procurement pathways, strengthen research and data, and raise visibility through strategic engagement.

Concrete outcomes included commitments from multiple governments to explore or accelerate national SSE strategies, growing private sector interest in social procurement and agreement to harness South Africa's 2025 G20 presidency to position SSE globally. The event cemented new alliances to scale purpose-driven solutions across the continent.

↓ Image: 90 leaders and experts convened in Nairobi for a high-level Roundtable on Unlocking the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) in Africa. Credit: Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship



# Schwab Foundation Summit 2025

The Schwab Foundation Summit 2025 brought together nearly 200 social innovators, public and private sector leaders, and ecosystem partners from around the world for three days of collaboration, learning and strategic dialogue. Held in Seoul, the summit explored how social innovation can drive systemic change amidst global uncertainty – from economic disruption and geopolitical shifts to climate impacts and social fragmentation. The event saw strong national engagement, with opening remarks from Tae-Won Chey, Chairman of SK Group and the Korean Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), and participation from other senior representatives of SK Group, Hyundai, CJ Corporation and KCCI. The presence of congressmen from the Democratic Party highlighted the incumbent government’s strong continued support for social innovation.

Widespread coverage in Korean media further underscored the summit’s national relevance and the valuable role the World Economic Forum and Schwab Foundation can play in connecting global and local innovation efforts.

At the summit, two major initiatives were launched to support the future of social innovation. The Youth and Social Innovation Initiative was introduced to strengthen intergenerational leadership and address key barriers faced by youth-led and youth-focused social enterprises. In parallel, the foundation released a new report, *Redefining Value: From Outcome-Based Funding to Tradeable Impact*, proposing innovative financial models that assign real economic value to social and environmental outcomes – unlocking new pathways for private capital to accelerate systemic change. Lastly, a group of social entrepreneurs formed a task group focused on opportunities and distinct challenges that for-profit and hybrid social enterprises face.

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→ Image: Nearly 200 social innovators, entrepreneurs, impact investors, ecosystem organisations, young changemakers, and global corporations united in Seoul for the Schwab Foundation Summit 2025. Credit: Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship



**It was a week of broadening horizons – realizing that many of us are at similar stages, even in very different parts of the world, and learning firsthand from others’ experiences about the value of the network.**

**Juan Jose Ayerza**  
Fundación TECHO, Chile





# Annual Meeting of the New Champions 2025

On 23 June, Schwab Foundation awardees gathered in Beijing to connect with Caitlyn Chen, Vice-President and Head of Sustainable Social Value at Tencent, and a 2025 Schwab Foundation Corporate Social Innovator. Co-hosted by Tencent – a global leader in technology spanning communication, entertainment and enterprise solutions – the event highlighted the company’s commitment to “Tech for Good”. Since 2018, Tencent has focused on harnessing innovation to advance social development, establishing its sustainable social value (SSV) team in 2021 to lead these efforts.

## Entrepreneurship for a new era

The 2025 World Economic Forum’s Annual Meeting of New Champions convened in Tianjin, China, from 24 to 26 June under the theme “Entrepreneurship for a New Era”. As in previous years, the meeting provided a dynamic platform for exchange across business, government, academia and civil society, with discussions centring on AI, emerging technologies, labour market resilience and cross-sector innovation.

The Schwab Foundation, along with the Forum Foundations, curated a programme of sessions dedicated to youth and workforce development, education, social inclusion and AI. Building on the Schwab Foundation’s established thought leadership in AI for impact, it specifically hosted a session titled, “How Can AI Do More Good?”.

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← Image: 25 social innovators from the Schwab Foundation community participated in the Annual Meeting of the New Champions, meeting with Tencent and other Chinese business partners to explore the social innovation ecosystem in China. Credit: World Economic Forum / Pascal Bitz

This session was designed to directly address a critical paradox in the AI landscape: while AI for social good is gaining momentum, current investment levels and adoption models fall significantly short of the technology’s transformative promise, with less than 1% of global AI investment directed towards social impact initiatives. The session explored how companies and social innovators can collaborate more effectively to align AI development with societal needs and opportunities.

It featured a diverse panel that brought together perspectives from social entrepreneurship, policy development and regional innovation ecosystems to examine practical pathways for scaling AI’s social impact. The discussion was moderated by François Bonnici, Director, Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship and Head of Foundations, and featured insights from Njideka U. Harry, Founder and Member of the Executive Board of Youth for Technology Foundation, and Ji Ho Cha, Member of the National Assembly, Republic of Korea.

The session invited participants to consider how companies and social innovators might work together to better align AI’s development with societal needs and opportunities, continuing the foundation’s commitment to bridging the gap between technological advancement and social benefit.

# Governance

The Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship is steered by the Foundation Board. The board serves as an independent governing body of the Schwab Foundation and acts as the impartial jury for the Social Innovation Awards. To maintain integrity and impartiality, each board member serves solely in their individual capacity and does not represent or act on behalf of any institution.



↑ Image: The Schwab Foundation Board at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2025.  
Credit: World Economic Forum

# Foundation Board Members



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



**Charly Kleissner**  
Co-Founder, Toniic, US



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



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



**Tasso Azevedo**  
Founder and General  
Coordinator, MapBiomass, Brazil



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



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



**Nicole Schwab**  
Co-Founder, Ostara,  
Switzerland



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



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



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



**Sebastien Daniel**  
Head of Investments, Treasury  
& Insurance, World Economic  
Forum, Switzerland  
(Treasurer, Schwab Foundation)

The Schwab Foundation is grateful to all its board members for their outstanding commitment and support to social innovation through the foundation. It would like to thank Charly Kleissner and Subramanian Rangan for their dedication and service as they completed their board terms during the past year.

# Partners and supporters

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

Bayer Foundation

Bertelsmann Foundation

Center for Social Value  
Enhancement Studies

Deloitte

EY

Rainer-Marc Frey, Frey  
Charitable Foundation

The GHR Foundation

The Goldman Sachs Foundation

Hyundai Motor Company

Precious Moloi-Motsepe and Patrice  
Motsepe, Motsepe Foundation

Microsoft

SAP



Credit: World Economic Forum / Chris Heeney

# Calendar of activities

## 2024

### 15–19 January

World Economic Forum Annual Meeting  
Davos, Switzerland

### 16–23 March

Harvard Executive Education, Leadership for Systems Change  
Cambridge, US

### 28–29 April

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

### 24–27 June

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

### 10 September

Social Entrepreneur of the Year India Award  
New Delhi, India

### 23–27 September

Sustainable Development Impact Summit  
New York, US

### 1–4 October

Collectives Convening  
Geneva, Switzerland

### 15–17 October,

Annual Meeting of Global Future Councils  
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

### 12 November

Social Entrepreneur of the Year Brazil Award  
São Paulo, Brazil

### 16–21 February

UCT Executive Education, Designing Futures: Africa's Blueprint for Social and Urban Innovation  
Cape Town, South Africa

### 15–22 March

Harvard Executive Education, Leadership for Systems Change  
Cambridge, US

### 3–4 April

Global AI Summit on Africa  
Kigali, Rwanda

### 6–10 May

Roundtable and Kenya Learning Journey  
Nairobi, Kenya

### 19–21 June

Schwab Foundation Summit  
Seoul, Republic of Korea

### 24–26 June

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

### 8 August

Social Entrepreneur of the Year India Award  
New Delhi, India

### 22–26 September

Sustainable Development Impact Meetings  
New York, US

### 1–3 October

Market-Minded, Mission-Driven Convening  
Geneva, Switzerland

### 14–16 October

Annual Meeting of Global Future Councils  
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

### November

Social Entrepreneur of the Year Brazil Award  
São Paulo, Brazil

## 2025

### 20–24 January

World Economic Forum Annual Meeting  
Davos, Switzerland



**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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**WORLD  
ECONOMIC  
FORUM**

91-93 route de la Capite  
CH-1223 Cologny/Geneva  
Switzerland

Tel.: +41 (0) 22 869 1212

[socialinnovators@weforum.org](mailto:socialinnovators@weforum.org)  
[www.schwabfound.org](http://www.schwabfound.org)

