ASHOKA NETHERLANDS

OCTOBER 2026

ASHOKA SUPPORT NETWORK

SUPPORTING ASHOKA FELLOWS ACHIEVE SYSTEMS CHANGE



ASHOKA | SUPPORT NETWORK

BEHIND EVERY CHANGEMAKER IS A NETWORK

Meet Ram Beti. As her eyesight worsened, she increasingly relied on her sons for everyday tasks, from reading labels to sorting grain. That changed when a community health worker tested her eyesight using the Peek app. With a referral and subsidised glasses, she regained her independence.

Behind Peek Vision is **Andrew Bastawrous, an Ashoka Fellow since 2017,** who is transforming access to eye care in underserved communities.

Ashoka identifies and supports exceptional social entrepreneurs developing innovative solutions to society's most pressing challenges. Since 1980, Ashoka has supported more than 4,000 changemakers worldwide, including Andrew, helping them drive lasting systemic change.

Ashoka supported Andrew with a financial stipend, strategic guidance and valuable connections. He also benefited from the Ashoka Support Network (ASN), a global community of more than 350 entrepreneurs, business leaders, philanthropists and investors across over 40 countries. Members share their expertise, time, connections and financial resources to help Fellows overcome challenges and scale their impact. In return, they learn from pioneering social entrepreneurs and discover new ways to create change themselves.

We warmly invite you to join the Ashoka Support Network.

This brochure explores how your involvement can make a meaningful difference to Ashoka Fellows and the wider movement for social change.



Ram Betti

Peek Vision has **screened more than 23 million people** in underserved communities worldwide and **connected more than 2 million people to essential eye care.**

ASHOKA KNOWS HOW TO IDENTIFY EXCEPTIONAL CHANGEMAKERS

Ashoka Fellows scale their ideas across borders, build compelling evidence, influence decision-making and mobilise people who can bring about change.

In doing so, they transform not only individual lives, but also **policies, markets and social norms,** enabling their solutions to be replicated worldwide.

Example of succesfull systemic change 

74% HAVE HAD THEIR IDEA REPLICATED

74% INFLUENCE LEGISLATION

64% INFLUENCE GOVERNMENT FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

90% STILL EXISTS AFTER 10 YEARS

55% INCREASED ACCESS TO EXISTING MARKETS

HOW DO WE SELECT ASHOKA FELLOWS?

Ashoka selects people with the potential to change systems.

Every Fellow undergoes an intensive selection process lasting approximately one year, which focuses on five key criteria. Only a small percentage of the nominated candidates ultimately become Ashoka Fellows.

Read more about the selection process here.

Recommend an Ashoka Fellow here.

ASHOKA FELLOW SELECTION PROCESS:

1. NEW SOLUTION
2. ENTREPRENEURSHIP
3. CREATIVITY
4. SYSTEM IMPACT
5. ETHICAL LEADERSHIP

ASHOKA ACCELERATES THE IMPACT OF FELLOWS

1. PERSONAL LEADERSHIP & STRATEGY

We empower the leader driving the change and help them develop a clear strategy that ensures maximum impact for both people and the system.

- Brainstorming with experienced experts and other Fellows;
- Leadership development and reflection;
- Refining strategy and increasing impact.

92% of the Fellows says that Ashoka has helped their idea to flourish.

96% of the Fellows say that Ashoka has changed the way they lead.

2. INCOME AT A CRITICAL MOMENT

We offer Fellows flexible financial support for three years – so that they can focus 100 per cent on their mission.

- A grant for personal development;
- Introductions to relevant investors and funds;
- Access to funding opportunities and networks.

54% was introduced, via Ashoka, to funders who made the work possible.

47% has secured its first major round of funding thanks to Ashoka.

3. SUPPORT TAILORED TO THEIR NEEDS

We offer tailored support depending on what Fellows need.

- Legal advice and organisational development;
- Wellbeing and personal resilience;
- Support in the area of safety;
- Access to pro bono experts and specialists;
- Tailored support in times of crisis.

36% of the Fellows say that their wellbeing has improved significantly thanks to Ashoka's support.

2,000 Fellows work in dangerous or challenging situations around the world, and Ashoka stands by their side.

4. SCALING AND DISTRIBUTION

We help by connecting them with the right people, resources and platforms to scale up and disseminate their work.

- Access to a global network of partners;
- Connections with the media to amplify their stories;
- Introductions to strategic partners and funders;
- Support with impact measurement and scaling strategies.

75% - 85% of the Fellows are making a greater impact, thanks to Ashoka's support for growth and scaling.

5. A LIFELONG COMMUNITY

Fellows become part of a global community that supports, inspires and challenges them, and which they can always turn to for support.

- Connecting with other Fellows worldwide;
- Support from the Ashoka team, always close at hand;
- Learning, collaborating and empowering one another – in a spirit of trust and reciprocity.

92% of the Fellows recommend Ashoka to their peers. Fellows often collaborate on projects.

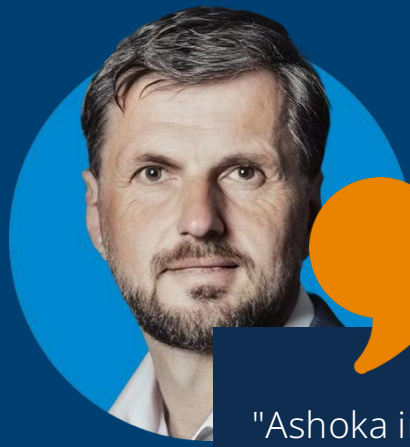
THIS IS WHY WORKING WITH ASHOKA WAS CRITICAL TO ME



> *Paramita empowers local youth in India's red-light areas to break cycles of violence, exploitation, and intergenerational prostitution by leading change within their own communities.*

"Changemaker journeys are often very lonely. One of the biggest sources of support from Ashoka is being the 'unlonely planet' where I can connect with people who have equally lonely journeys. Ashoka has reconfirmed my self-belief in moments of absolute self-doubt. Ashoka has also connected me with an interesting network where I can constantly learn from other changemakers on similar journeys, and people from other walks of life. Ashoka has helped me amplify my voice."

Paramita Banerjee, Ashoka Fellow from India, Founder of Diksha



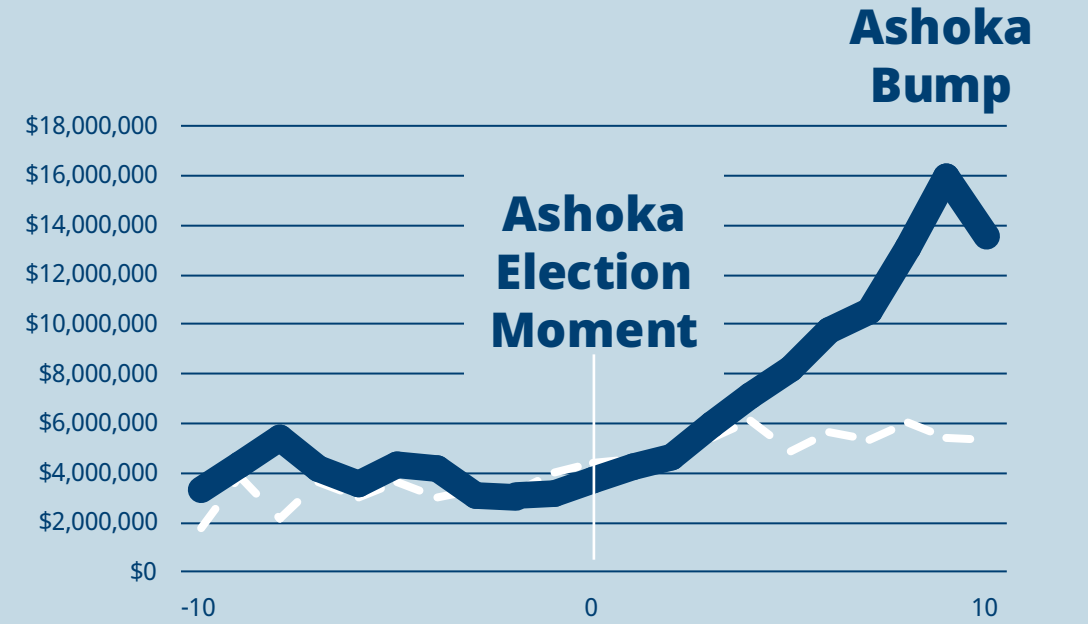
> *Zdeněk is empowering Czech schools and citizens to transform education from within by turning schools into community hubs and engaging parents, experts, businesses and communities as active stakeholders.*

"Ashoka impacted me and my thinking. I know much more about system change and how to use it to influence reality. Ashoka in Czech Republic also started talking about system change with the philanthropists. It changed the whole ecosystem. That was really helpful. It started several cooperations for system change."

Zdeněk Slejška, Ashoka Fellow from Czech Reublic, Founder of EDUin

THE IMPACT OF ASHOKA ON OUR FELLOWS IS MEASURABLE

As a result of joining the Ashoka Network, organisations run by Fellows grow, on average, 2.5 times faster than comparable organisations. We call this the Ashoka Bump. This is also partly thanks to the Ashoka Support Network, we cannot thank you enough!





"Ashoka was instrumental in helping me grow Green Schoolyards America from a tiny organization with big ideas into a robust team with successful programs, strong partnerships, and real impact on the way our country invests in children's outdoor environments at school."

Sharon Danks, Ashoka Fellow from the United States, Founder of Green Schoolyards

THERE ARE 4,000 ASHOKA FELLOWS ACTIVE IN 99 COUNTRIES



Bart Weetjens

Bart Weetjens of APOPO (Belgium) trained rats to detect landmines and later tuberculosis. His innovation makes detection faster, cheaper and safer, saving lives while creating local employment. In doing so, he has transformed not only a technology, but also how humanitarian demining and disease control are tackled worldwide.



Frank Hoffman

As a gynaecologist, Frank Hoffmann (Germany) discovered that, thanks to their exceptionally well-developed sense of touch, blind people are better able to detect small abnormalities in the breast than many doctors. That is why he developed Discovering Hands®: a method in which blind women are trained as Medical Tactile Examiners (MTEs).



Marta Pérez

Marta Pérez (Spain) redefines sport as an essential part of the treatment of people with acquired brain injury. She developed PASABI, a scientifically based sports programme that improves the physical, cognitive and social health of people with brain injury.



Jeroo Billimoria

Jeroo Billimoria (India/Netherlands) saw that India's 48 million street children had nowhere to turn in a crisis, so she created Childline, a 24-hour helpline connecting them to police, healthcare or shelter. A serial entrepreneur, she recently created the State of Social Innovation platform to identify which policies and financing work across countries.

THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN DUTCH FELLOWS SINCE 2010



Wietse van der Werf

Sea Rangers (Wietse van der Werf) has developed a new model in which young people are trained to carry out marine restoration. In this way, Wietse combines marine restoration with sustainable employment and is creating a new economy centred on healthy seas.



Barbara Muller

Babyhuis (Barbara Muller) developed a nationwide network of ‘Protected Cradle Rooms’, ensuring that no pregnant woman has to face this alone and that every baby gets a safe start in life. Through her approach, she transformed the way the Netherlands cares for women about to give birth and newborn babies.



Femke Groothuis

Femke Groothuis created Ex'tax, offering a new tax model in which the tax burden shifts from labour to pollution and the use of raw materials. Ex'tax is shaping the debate on tax reform in Europe and beyond.



Bas van Abel

Bas van Abel saw that a smartphone contains dozens of minerals mined under exploitative conditions, yet buyers simply throw it away after 18 months. So he built Fairphone, the world's first modular smartphone, designed so anyone can swap a broken screen or battery instead of binning the whole device, paired with a transparent, conflict-free supply chain.

FOUR ASHOKA FELLOWS RECEIVED THE THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE. WE HAVE AN EYE FOR EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE, AND A RIGOROUS PROCESS TO SELECT THEM.



Carlos Nobre

Carlos Nobre contributed to the scientific work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with Al Gore for building knowledge and awareness about human-caused climate change and its risks. Nobre's work focused on the Amazon and the need to protect it through sustainable development.



Kailash Satyarthi

Kailash Satyarthi received the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize, jointly with Malala Yousafzai, for their struggle against the suppression and exploitation of children and young people and for every child's right to education. Satyarthi has spent decades rescuing children from child labour and slavery and campaigning internationally for their rights.



Jerry White

Jerry White helped lead the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), which received the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts to establish an international ban on landmines. After surviving a landmine explosion himself, White became an advocate for survivors and helped build a global movement to prevent others from suffering similar harm.



Muhammad Yunus

Muhammad Yunus and Grameen Bank jointly received the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize for creating economic and social development from below. Through microcredit, Yunus pioneered a way of providing small loans to people living in poverty, helping them create businesses and become more economically independent.

ABOUT THE ASHOKA SUPPORT NETWORK

Behind every changemaker is a network. The Ashoka Support Network (ASN) brings together more than 350 entrepreneurs, business leaders, philanthropists and investors across over 40 countries.

Members share their **expertise, connections and financial support** to help Ashoka Fellows overcome challenges and expand their impact. In return, they learn from pioneering social entrepreneurs and discover new ways to drive change themselves.

Local ASN circles connect members within their countries and link them to a global community, with a particularly strong presence in Europe.



THE ASHOKA SUPPORT NETWORK PLAYS A VITAL ROLE FOR FELLOWS

93% VERSUS **81%** WITHOUT ASN

Greater social impact

Ashoka helps Fellows to increase their impact when they collaborate with ASN members.

88% VERSUS **71%** WITHOUT ASN

Strategic guidance

ASN members act as mentors, sparring partners and critical friends to Fellows.

71% VERSUS **46%** WITHOUT ASN

Gain access to funders

ASN members open doors to relevant donors and investors.

85% VERSUS **63%** WITHOUT ASN

New partnerships

Collaboration with ASN members often leads to new partnerships and coalitions.



ASN MEMBERS COMMIT TO A THREE-YEAR TERM AND CONTRIBUTE A MINIMUM OF €10,000 PER YEAR TO ASHOKA'S WORK.

YOUR CONTRIBUTION /

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

Minimum 3-year donation supporting Ashoka's core activities, including fellow selection and lifelong support.

EXPERTISE & INSIGHTS

Supporting and engaging with Ashoka Fellows and Young Changemakers by sharing your expertise (in marketing, finance, etc.) and insights as sparring partners.

ACCESS TO NETWORKS

Providing social entrepreneurs and Ashoka with valuable connections to your network.

TIME

Investing time to attend events, advance your knowledge around social topics and share expertise and insights with with social entrepreneurs.

WHAT YOU GET /

CONNECT

Access to a global network of social entrepreneurs, committed business leaders and companies

LEARN

Access to resources and training programs in a variety of formats and for all skill levels, while supporting and collaborating with social entrepreneurs.

COLLABORATE

Co-develop initiatives with social entrepreneurs and Ashoka to achieve deep impact on the critical challenges of our society, such as diversity and inclusion, biodiversity, youth, migration or health

EXPLORE

Absorb yourself in our changemaking repository of manuals, handbooks, toolkits and reports developed by our community.



ASN MAURITS SCHOUTEN



“Being part of ASN opens doors to people and experiences I wouldn’t otherwise encounter. Through meaningful relationships with Fellows and other members, I exchange ideas, learn from different perspectives and contribute my own expertise, investments and network.
Ashoka also set me on the path to impact investing, allowing me to support social entrepreneurs in new ways. That combination of personal connections, continuous learning and meaningful impact is something I haven’t found anywhere else.”

ASN INNE TEN HAVE



“For me, Ashoka’s online courses have been a real treasure. Some were outstanding in quality, and connecting with like-minded people was invaluable. My interests span young people’s education and search for purpose, peacebuilding and the prevention of extremism, and community-led change. Ashoka gives me opportunities to explore these topics alongside people who share my commitment to making a difference.”

JOIN THE ASHOKA SUPPORT NETWORK



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