



Ashoka Africa Impact Highlights Report 2024



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HIGH LEVEL FINANCIAL REPORT

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Welcome to our 2024 Impact Highlights Report

Across Africa, communities face complex social challenges requiring bold, innovative solutions. Systems-change is essential to building a thriving, sustainable future. At the heart of these transformative efforts lies Ashoka Africa, a network of changemakers who believe everyone has the potential to create positive social impact.

For over 3 decades, Ashoka has been a catalyst for systems change and social innovation. By identifying and supporting social entrepreneurs, Ashoka Fellows, who challenge the status quo and create scalable solutions, we have empowered changemakers to reimagine what's possible. Our vision is a world where everyone, regardless of age, geography, or economic background, is equipped to solve problems, leads impactful change, and co-creates resilient systems.

Our strategy in Africa is deeply rooted in collaborative efforts with Fellows, governments, NGOs, investors, and the leading companies to tackle regional challenges through innovative, inclusive, and sustainable solutions. From fostering access to clean water in rural areas to pioneering digital tools for civic participation, Ashoka Fellows are redefining how systemic challenges can be addressed and transformed.

This report celebrates Ashoka's remarkable progress across our four regions: West, East and Southern Africa, Sahel as well as the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It highlights our impact, the collective efforts of partners and funders, and the opportunities that lie ahead. As we reflect on these achievements, we remain committed to empowering changemakers and building an Africa where everyone can drive meaningful change.

*Angelou Ezeilo, Okey Uzoechina and Yashveer Singh
Africa Diamond Leadership Team*

Key Achievements in 2024

19

Ashoka Fellows elected on the continent totalling 516 across Africa.

9

Young Changemakers elected with 23 AYCs leading across the continent.

99

Graduates from the Visionary Program.

780,000 USD

invested in stipends for African Fellows.

USD 4.1mn

mobilized in additional funding for Ashoka Fellows through Ashoka's connections.

4M+

people reached through social media storytelling.



Our Strategy



Ashoka is on an audacious mission to create a world where everyone is a changemaker, and where everyone has the agency and skills to make a positive change in their communities and thrive.

Such a world is one in which solutions to societal issues surpass the problems themselves. In Africa, we believe in the power of collaboration to bring about positive change at large scale in communities throughout Africa. To support these efforts, our focus lies on three main lines of action:

- **Finding and Supporting System-Changers**
- **Seeding a Culture of Changemaking**
- **Building Ecosystems for Changemaking**

Our Core Pillars

FINDING AND SUPPORTING SYSTEM - CHANGERS

We identify, select, and support leading social entrepreneurs (Ashoka Fellows) to drive positive change at scale. We also learn from them and share back the insights to influence society's next big goals.

SEEDING A CULTURE OF CHANGEMAKING

Launched in response to the transformative experiences shared by leading social entrepreneurs in the youth sector, we are building a robust network of influential partners who transform the growing up years ecosystem for all socio-economic levels. Where every young person is equipped with the power and support required to lead change.

BUILDING ECOSYSTEMS FOR CHANGEMAKING

We endeavour to create interconnected, value-aligned networks that transcend silos across organizations and sectors, establish new societal norms, and promote co-development of projects that foster lasting change.



Our Footprint in Sub-Saharan Africa



33+ years of experience

24 Countries

5 Regional offices

CENTRAL AFRICA:

- Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

EAST AFRICA (NAIROBI OFFICE)

- Kenya
- Uganda
- Tanzania
- Rwanda

SOUTHERN AFRICA (JOHANNESBURG OFFICE)

- South Africa
- Zimbabwe
- Zambia
- Botswana
- Mozambique
- Malawi

ANGLOPHONE WEST AFRICA (LAGOS OFFICE)

- Nigeria
- Ghana
- Cameroon
- Liberia

SAHEL: (DAKAR OFFICE)

- Burkina Faso
- Senegal
- Mali
- Togo
- The Gambia
- Benin
- Cote D'Ivoire
- Guinea Bissau
- Niger

Ashoka Fellows in Africa

516+ Fellows Elected

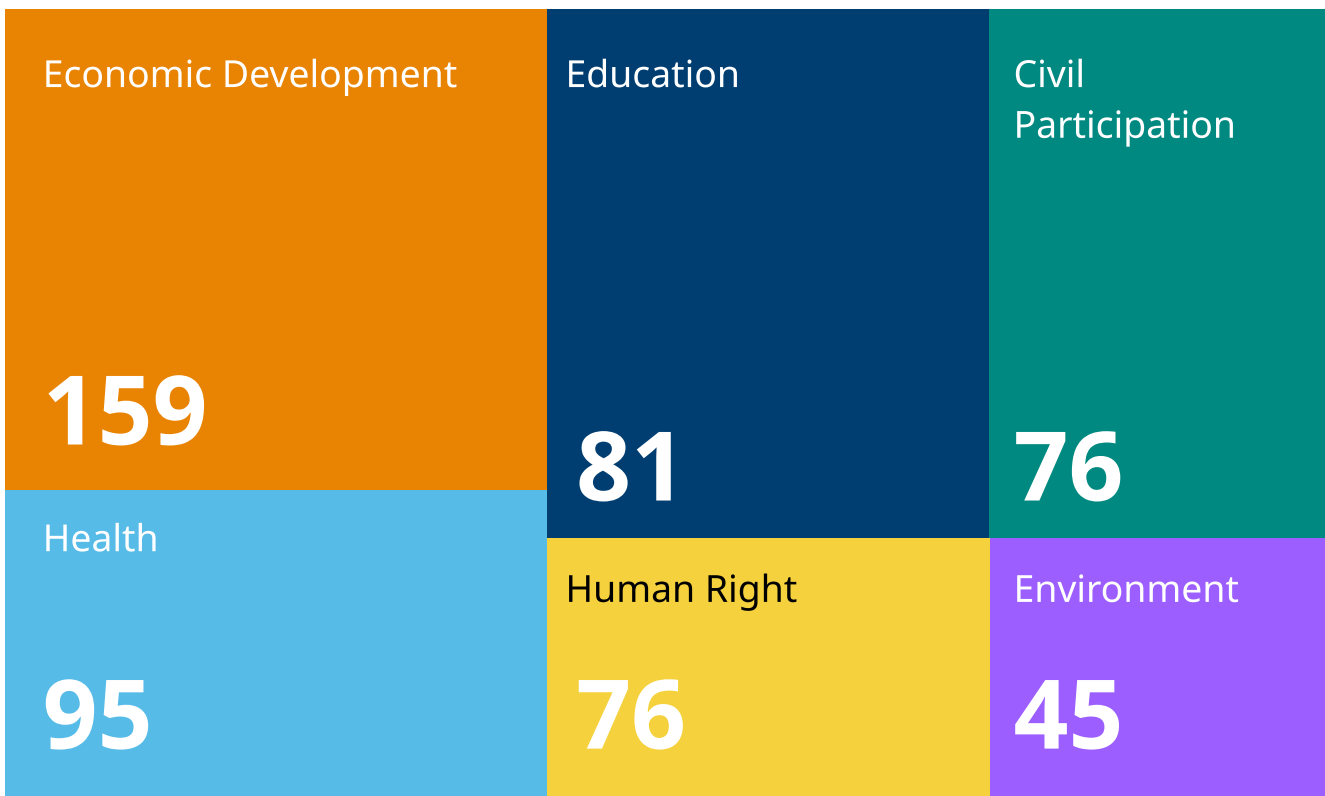
45% of Ashoka Fellows in Africa are women.

95%

of Ashoka Fellows elected in Sub-Saharan Africa are African entrepreneurs.

Areas of Work

Ashoka Fellows work across fields of work on critical societal issues, with concrete results on key SDGs





Our priority topics in Africa



Education



Human Rights



Health



Climate & Planet



Tech & Humanity



Youth Employment



Civil Participation

Finding and Supporting Leading Social Entrepreneurs

Ashoka invests in people with entrepreneurial mindsets. We search the world for leading social entrepreneurs through an intensive, human-centered “Venture” process. Venture constitutes Ashoka’s flagship program and serves as the process for the identification of Ashoka Fellows. This program involves a meticulous process that spans 4 to 8 months, resulting in the selection of exceptional social entrepreneurs with innovative, system changing solutions to the world’s most urgent problems. Over the past four decades, globally, this program has identified over 3,900 unique innovators in over 95 countries, connecting them to the people, ideas, and resources needed to grow and deepen their impact. Newly elected Ashoka Fellows in Africa were chosen based on their creativity, innovation, entrepreneurial quality, ethical fibre, and social impact.





5 Criteria for the Ashoka Fellowship

Ashoka's selection criteria are anchored by five elements against which all Fellow candidates are evaluated:

New Idea:

A new solution or approach to a social problem that will change the pattern in a field, be it human rights, the environment, or any other.

Entrepreneurial Qualities:

Entrepreneurial qualities define leaders who see opportunities for change and innovation, and devote themselves entirely to making that change happen and for all.

Social Impact:

Ashoka is interested in solutions that address a key social or environmental issue and have the potential to have a positive impact at scale including systemic impact.

Creativity:

Successful social entrepreneurs must be creative both as goal setting visionaries and as problem solvers capable of engineering their visions into reality.

Ethical Fiber:

Trusted and inspiring social entrepreneurs across different stakeholder groups to deliver major structural changes to society.

Venture Goals for 2025 to 2027

In 2024, we guided 19 social entrepreneurs through the selection process, effectively increasing the number of Ashoka Fellows in Africa with the highest number being from Democratic Republic of Congo, a new country for us. Our goal is to further expand this network by electing between 25 to 30 Fellows annually for the next three years. Our new goal is to:

- Increase the annual elections of new Ashoka Fellows in Tech & Humanity, Planet & Climate and Gender through the mobilization of flexible funding that supports social entrepreneurs with groundbreaking ideas, irrespective of their field of work.
- Foster meaningful engagement for newly elected Fellows to enable them scale their impact deeper and wider.





Meet the new Ashoka Fellows

Education



Gideon Olarenwaju
AREAI

Gideon has developed an alternative transformative educational model for out-of-school, displaced children affected by the refugee crisis in Nigeria addressing the gaps in the traditional educational system and meets the unique needs and challenges of refugee youth through a three-pronged approach. Gideon has reached over 18,000 children across 290 Internally Displaced People camps and communities in Nigerian states like Benue, Borno, and Kano, helping more than 11,600 children reintegrate into formal schooling. His innovative learning hubs ensure that education is accessible, relevant, and inclusive.



Grace Mathape
Smart Start

Grace is improving the educational outcomes of children from underserved and marginalized communities in South Africa by recruiting, training and equipping unemployed individuals from local townships to operate their own SmartStart centers that provide quality early learning programs. Through Smart Start, Grace has trained over 10,400 Early Childhood Development practitioners, who are now providing affordable, quality early learning to 120,000 children in underserved communities.



Elvis Nshimba
Umoja Sport
Foundation

Elvis aims to create a generation of changemaker families who are cultivating empathy and teamwork through playing and creating new games with their immediate, extended families and social circles. His goal is to remove restrictive attitudes about the roles of girls and women, as well as notions of what constitutes gender and related social acceptance. Elvis trained 10,000+ coaches, teachers, and leaders, impacting numerous youths and students across Africa, benefiting over 34,000 communities.

Environment



Blessing Limbi
Ecological Balance
Cameroon

Blessing is empowering communities in Cameroon to have a voice and agency to develop sustainable economic alternatives to deforestation, as well as protect their forests from the activities of loggers destroying natural forests. So far, Blessing has impacted 50 forest communities across three regions of Cameroon and engaged over 200,000 people through targeted campaigns. Her initiatives have led to the planting of 300,000 trees and the restoration of 10,000 hectares of degraded watersheds, improving local economies while preserving vital ecosystems.



Nicole Menemene
Plastycor

Nicole incubates new solutions in the DRC by leveraging social networks to test and develop plastic recycling initiatives rapidly. By focusing on creating social benefits over profit and engaging youth, she aims to create sustainable wealth opportunities through plastic waste valorization. Plastycor recycled 280,000+ bottles for bags, repurposed seven tons for paving stones, and used 80,000 bottles for the Tilatopia project, crafting an artificial island on Lake Kivu.

Access to Healthcare



Umra Omar
Safari Doctors
Limited

Umra is at the forefront of transforming healthcare in remote Kenya, delivering high-quality services directly to underserved communities. Through youth health ambassadors leading outreach and mobile clinics, she is forging a future where equitable healthcare access knows no boundaries. Umra is reaching 40 remote villages monthly, offering critical services where they are most needed. In 2023 alone, these ambassadors engaged 10,564 people in health education, and Umra has trained 227 young health leaders to drive change in their communities.



Mawuko Anani A. Ekuhoho
ANAVIE

Anani is putting in place a nationwide system of Senior Clubs, the aim of which is to improve the health and well-being of its 60+ population by putting the emphasis on seniors leading active lives, offering the gift of their giving through extended networks in their communities. With partnerships across the Togolese government, his initiative is already reaching 500+ seniors annually through medical consultations and social services, and is on track to expand nationwide.

Human Rights



Jacques Mbusa
UPDECO

Jacques, through his organization UPDECO, developed a comprehensive step-by-step blueprint for the full reintegration of child soldiers with their families. In 2023, over 10,000 former child soldiers were successfully reintegrated across DRC. This pioneering approach by Jacques has gained official recognition and adoption by a consortium comprising DRC federal agencies, international NGOs, and national NGOs.



Hénoc Muhindo
PPSDR

Hénoc advocates for full economic citizenship rights for Pygmy communities in Africa. He has established a network of schools accessible to Pygmies and disadvantaged individuals from various tribes, facilitating education and economic integration for marginalized communities.

He has empowered over 125,000 Pygmy families, enabling them to cultivate their own food and lessen dependence on Bantu farms. More than 800,000 individuals have received training in agri - food processing, encompassing skills such as bread-making and maize flour production.



Funke Adeoye
Hope Behind Bars

Funke is transforming the entire prison experience by engaging directly with inmates, offering legal aid, providing psychosocial support, and introducing innovative income-generating initiatives within the prison walls. Through her initiative, Hope Behind Bars, Funke and her dedicated team of over 200 pro bono lawyers have logged more than 1,000,000 hours providing legal representation and support in 12 prisons across Nigeria.

Human Rights



Al Kags
Open Institute

Data collection has predominantly been through the government lens, prioritizing government perspectives and agendas hindering genuine development progress. Al foresees a world where citizens steer development through "citizen-generated data." The Open Institutes SABASI platform has democratized data collection, enabling over 60,000 citizens to actively participate in monitoring and evaluating local government performance.



Mamounata Ouedraogo
REPAFER BURKINA

Mamounata has created a systemic process for ending the discriminatory norms and practices of hereditary rulers who exercise customary authority over the daily lives of people living in rural communities and small cities in Burkina Faso. Her work has touched 27,580 lives across six regions in Burkina Faso, and she's expanding her efforts to build a regional network for gender equality and human rights.



André K. Afanou
CDFDH

Andre is creating a continent-wide network of young human rights defenders informed by the experiences of their elders and equipped to lead efforts to respond to familiar as well as new threats. He has trained 250 fellows across 20 African countries, equipping them to tackle pressing issue—from defending imprisoned journalists to promoting agroecological farming practices. With over 500 young leaders trained and 800 rights holders receiving legal aid, André's work is reshaping human rights advocacy across the continent

Economic and Rural Development



Janet Maro
Sustainable
Agriculture Tanzania
(SAT)

Janet represents a new era in agricultural development in Tanzania by centring small-scale farmers as the key drivers of change.

Through the Farmer Training Centre and farmer field schools (Vikundis), she is equipping small-scale farmers with practical skills and fostering a culture of peer-to-peer knowledge exchange. Her approach extends to academia, where she has had curriculum reforms at the largest agricultural university in East Africa, shaping a sustainable future for agriculture in the region. Janet is revolutionizing the future of farming for 90,000+ people across East Africa.



Vanessa Zawadi
Women for Peace
and Dignity

Vanessa is spearheading a national network of women engaged in agriculture. She optimizes the agricultural value chain, introducing innovative processing techniques and value-added products, empowering women farmers to maximize the potential of available resources and create sustainable solutions for their communities. Her expanded impact has facilitated 10,000 households to access agricultural loans at reduced interest rates, aiding small-scale producers. This endeavour has positively affected 50,000 children by granting them access to nutritious food.



Alef MEULENBERG
Rhiza Babuyile

Alef is transforming marginalized township communities by providing local individuals with multiple pathways and opportunities to improve their socio-economic outcomes. To date, Alef's initiatives have impacted over 150,000 individuals annually through programs in education, skills development, and entrepreneurship across South Africa.

Economic and Rural Development



Sage Rutakaza
Sage Entrepreneurs
Academy

Sage revolutionizes value chains for small-scale entrepreneurs by establishing public production facilities that function as incubators, utilizing previously wasted products to generate wealth for food industry entrepreneurs. Starting in South Kivu, Sage expanded his impact province by province, fostering a conducive business environment for startups and local entrepreneurs. He trained 20,000+ entrepreneurs in DRC and Uganda.



Héritier KITUMAINI
RAVEC

Three-quarter of DRC citizens lack access to bank accounts and microfinance services. Héritier initiated community savings groups, introducing an innovative incentive system for ground banking agents to drive financial inclusion rapidly through financial literacy. His efforts led to regulatory reforms that transition shared savings groups into formal financial services associated with health insurance, now expanding across the DRC. He is forming a proximity banking network of 3,000 agents within the DRC with a first-stage goal of reaching approximately one-third of all the 22 million unbanked citizens in the DRC within the next 5-7 years.



Serge Raemaker
Abalobi

Serge is enabling climate resilience, financial inclusion, and strengthening the position of small-scale fishers in the marine supply chain. His new insight is that the marine ecosystem extends to every stakeholder in the system including the small-scale fishers, the marine species, and every actor in the value chain (from the restaurants, home buyers, retailers, and other market players). By building platforms that capture information and collect data across this entire ecosystem, Serge is influencing the policies, practices, and behaviors of every stakeholder in the fishing industry.



Creating Meaningful Engagements through Fellowship

The Ashoka Fellowship is a unique blend of financial support to the entrepreneur and lifelong support through the network. We continue to engage and support Ashoka Fellows based on the five Cs approach:

- Capital
- Community of Peers
- Connections
- Capacity Building
- Collaboration.

Here are some illustrations of how we have supported our Fellows in Africa through the five Cs in 2024:

Capital:

New Fellows who need funding are awarded a three-year unrestricted stipend to enable them focus full-time on their social mission and reduce their risk. In addition, Ashoka is actively looking for opportunity to nominate or connect Fellows with Foundations, corporate partners or other possible funding partners.

- In 2024, we disbursed over **781,509 USD** in new Fellows' stipends.
- In addition, over **4,100,000 USD** was mobilized by Ashoka Africa Fellows thanks to Ashoka connections.

Community of Peers

Peer-to-peer conversations, consultations and network of support.

- New Fellows were connected to peers working in the same sector or key areas of interest. As a result, new Fellow Henoc Muhindo from the DRC is starting a community radio with Ashoka Fellow from Sri Lanka Darin Gunesekera.
- Regular regional newsletters and whatsapp groups enable the sharing of key information to support the network.

Connections

Connections to opportunities for growth and to possible supporters for visibility, funding, etc. For example:

- Isabelle Kamariza, Ashoka Fellow in Rwanda was featured in an episode of Ashoka Welcome Change series on nutritious meals and hospital care.
- Grace Matlhape, Ashoka Fellow in South Africa was also featured in an episode of Ashoka Welcome Change series on Expanding Early Learning, facilitated by Ashoka Fellow Nneka Mobisson.
- A conversation exploring the shift in Nigeria's youth narrative from despair to hope, featured newly elected Ashoka Fellows: Gideon Olanrewaju, Funke Adeoye, Omowunmi Ogunrotimi, and Nelson Olanipekun, who shared insights from their work in education, prison reform, women's rights, and youth empowerment as part of the Everyone a Changemaker Metropolitan Area initiative in Abuja.
- A culminating event of the Ashoka Visionary Program held in Nairobi in August 2024, showcased innovative initiatives from Ashoka Fellows including David Mupenzi, Haron Wachira, Jonathan Mativo, Clemens Mulokozi, Dr. Wamuyu and Lucy Wairimu. Several Fellows, including David Mupenzi, were also featured in the report Towards Improving the Livelihood of Smallholder Farmers.

Capacity Building

Strategic support on core priorities such as systems-change, financial sustainability and personal sustainability as well as pro-bono support from Ashoka partners to help Fellows scale their impact through critical expertise.

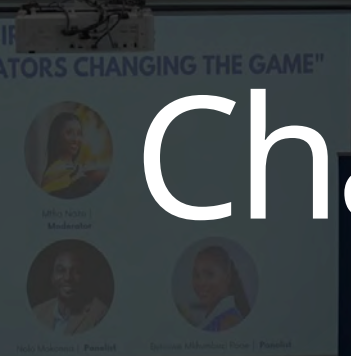
- Susannah Farr, founder of goldyouth and Ashoka Fellow from South Africa participated in Ashoka's Aspire accelerator in India.
- Hastings Nhlane, founder of ACADES and Ashoka Fellow in Malawi actively worked with his “Thought Partner” Alex Schaber, Ashoka Builder from Germany.
- A regional webinar on the connection between personal wellbeing & effective social change brought together approximately 65 participants from across West Africa. The session featured insights from Karima Grant, Ashoka Fellow and founder of ImagiNation Africa; Mohamed Fall, National Coordinator of the YES Program Alumni; and Dr. Mamadou Sy, Ashoka Changemaker.

Collaboration

Bringing together “mosaics of solutions” around a given field of work and building synergies for greater impact.

Over 30 Ashoka Fellows across Africa are working as co-leads with the Ashoka teams to spread the Everyone a Changemaker on the continent.

Seeding a Culture of Changemaking



Ashoka's vision is of a future where all of us play a role, no matter how small, in solving problems for the good of all, as second nature. We call this an Everyone a Changemaker (EACH) world. In a world that is changing fast and in ways it never has before, it is more important than ever that we all have a voice and power. And that also means having the changemaker skills to both navigate and drive change: conscious empathy for the common good, fluid team of teams, changemaking leadership, and changemaking practice. Beyond access to quality education, a new inequality is emerging between those who are equipped to navigate change and the others and it is urgent to take action.

We are working through a systemic approach based on the following lines of action:

Youth as Ambassadors:

Selecting Ashoka Young Changemakers (AYC). These young people 12-20 selected for their existing changemaking endeavours, work hand in hand with Ashoka and our partners to ensure that every young person realizes their power to create change.

Network Connections:

Creating Peer-to-Peer Allies for AYC's. Enabling connections across changemaker networks, creating a space for ongoing connection and collaboration, builds identity, and enables changemakers to learn and share inspiration.

Influential Partners:

Increasing impact by engaging influential players through partnerships to transform the way children and young people grow up. These partners - teacher unions, education schools, publishers, media companies and government - work alongside Ashoka to develop unique ways of creating large societal shifts that lead to empathy and changemaking as required skills in growing up.

Storytelling:

Spreading #EverydayChangemaking stories. A storytelling initiative that aims to convey the power and agency of a young person who has identified a problem, formed and led a team, and created a solution. These stories help everyone see the new reality, that the world is changing fast and this requires redefining what "growing up" means.

Tools and resources for changemaker makers:

For example: supporting parents and guardians through YourKids. The Your Kids workshop is designed for employees, parents, etc., as a way to convene with like-minded peers to create their own unique ideas for practicing changemaking skills with those they love most: their kids

Who do we call a changemaker?

MINDSET:

"I AM POWERFUL. I CAN CREATE CHANGE."

CONSCIOUS EMPATHY

Awareness and understanding of others' perspectives to drive action

SHARED LEADERSHIP

Leading with purpose



TEAM OF TEAMS

Ability to mobilize others fluidly around problems and opportunities

PRACTICING CHANGEMAKING

Creating new solutions for the good of all

Youth as ambassadors:

Electing Ashoka Young Changemakers In Africa

Ashoka Young Changemakers are a carefully selected network of young people aged 12 - 20 who have found their power to create change for the good of all around them. They engage their peers and societies in realizing a world where everyone is a changemaker.



Learn More:

<https://www.ashoka.org/en-ng/ashoka-young-changemakers-africa>

Stories of Impact - Newly Elected Ashoka Young Changemakers





Favour Effiom, (19)

Founder, We Are Reality Foundation

Favour is a young changemaker from Nigeria who is advocating against teenage pregnancy, sex trafficking, child marriage, rape, gender inequality, and other violent practices against women, girls, and children. She is empowering victims to reduce the stigma that they face in society.

As a victim of sexual abuse, Favour is ensuring that more women, girls, and children do not have to experience the trauma that comes from abuse without support and that society is aware of these vices and is taking collective action towards tackling them. Through her work, she is supporting victims through rehabilitation, access to education, and skills training which allows them to become more self-confident and financially independent as they are assisted to reintegrate into society.



Dawn Cobham, (17)

Founder, Go Learners

Dawn Cobham is a young changemaker from Nigeria who is an advocate for supplementary education as support to classroom lessons. She is determined to help students boost their academic performance by promoting access to high quality education through online coaching and the provision of educational resources that help young people achieve better learning outcomes.

As a child who did not have access to after school educational support, due to lack of funds and had to navigate online for scarcely available virtual learning resources to completely understand certain school topics, she is now on a mission to bridge the gap for access to supplementary education by providing easily accessible and relevant online resources and organizing peer to peer learning opportunities for young people.

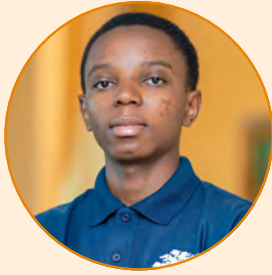


Saviour Iwezue, (19)

Founder, Team Illuminate

Saviour is a young changemaker from Nigeria who is ensuring that students in the formal education system and out of school are aware of the climate issues plaguing Nigeria and the world, are receiving adequate climate education and are acting towards protecting the environment.

Saviour started by leading recycling interventions in schools, to ensure that students are learning in healthy environments, reduce waste pollution and help students understand the dangers of poor waste management. Saviour is accelerating impact through 3 methods. Climate Education: bridging the gap between formal education and climate education by supporting green clubs and empowering educators. Climate Leadership: by activating young people to lead action and drive advocacy through workshops and training. Youth Mobilization for Action: by mobilizing young people to take concrete actions to protect the planet and lead advocacy efforts.



Ashraf Maisikeli, (18)

Founder, Inspire Change Foundation

Ashraf Maisikeli is a young changemaker from Nigeria dedicated to eradicating the issue of street children and helping out-of-school children in Northern Nigeria to harness their abilities, helping them upskill and connecting them to opportunities that keep them engaged, ensuring they do not feel marginalized or excluded, undermining their agency and resilience.

Ashraf combines Participatory and Bottom-up approaches to address these issues while leveraging spoken word poetry and calligraphy as mediums for awareness and inspiration. The Participatory approach involves engaging community members, including young people, in decision-making processes, problem-solving, and program implementation.



Naomi Bamgbose, (18)

Co-founder, The Girls Techie

Naomi Bamgbose is a young changemaker from Nigeria committed to bridging the gender gap that exists in STEM fields. She is committed to ensuring more young girls are in the STEM field, as she has been the only girl in certain STEM spaces.

Despite this being the 21st century, she believes young girls are still affected by stereotypes and are allowing societal biases to prevent them from venturing into the STEM field. Naomi is connecting, empowering, and inspiring young girls in STEM. Through hackathons, girls-focused workshops, mentorship programs that pair up ambitious young girls in STEM with seasoned mentors, and an online support and collaboration network, she is creating a more equitable and diverse tech ecosystem.



Eunice Omojola, (20)

Founder, Tech In Edu

Eunice Omojola is a young changemaker from Nigeria addressing the digital literacy gap in unserved and underserved communities. As a young person from an underserved community, she ensures that she continues to create learning opportunities for young people from underserved communities to become digital literates, as she did not have the opportunity to learn digital skills while in secondary school.

Eunice is bridging the gap between information, resources, skills, and guidance for young people who need help navigating the digital world and ensuring that no young person struggles with finding resources, a support structure, and access to digital opportunities. Eunice offers training on 21st-century digital skills via online workshops, mentorship sessions, in-house activities, and physical outreaches.



Flourish Alonge, (17)

Founder, Global Insight MHI

Flourish Alonge is a young changemaker from Nigeria who is addressing the wide gap that exists between the awareness (information) and treatment of mental health issues which often persists because of miseducation, stigma, and cultural orientation.

Based on her struggles with her mental health, she has made it her life's mission to improve young people's

access to relevant mental health resources and access to quality care for people living with mental health issues. Through a dual approach of virtual and in-person gatherings, Flourish is increasing awareness about the importance of mental health through webinars, social media platforms, and physical outreaches to schools. She is creating a safe space for young people to discuss and become enlightened about mental health, symptoms, and treatment of mental health issues while empowering them with self-care mechanisms and healthy habits for ensuring mental well-being.



Precious Damian, (17)

Founder, The Rabah Initiative

Precious Damian is a young changemaker from Nigeria who is passionate about championing young people and equipping them with the relevant skills to be exceptional leaders. As a young person who grew up hearing that young people are future leaders, he realized that

young people are often without the requisite support structures to nurture their capacity for action and ownership of their desired futures. Using the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a guiding framework, Precious is inspiring young individuals to become proactive agents of change, fostering a generation that actively shapes the world they wish to inhabit. He has designed a comprehensive strategy aimed at fostering engagement and education among youth focused on change-making, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and social impact planning.



Peter Adebawale, (19)

Founder, ESD For Communities

Peter is a young changemaker from Nigeria who is ensuring that young Africans are equipped with the skills, resources, and opportunities to become problem solvers, transformational leaders, and changemakers in their communities and globally.

He is dedicated to inspiring and empowering young people to gain 21st-century skills that they need to thrive in today's world. Peter works with innovation hubs, public schools, community centers, and expert trainers to tackle the glaring problems of non-transformative leadership and digital illiteracy that are often seen across many low-income communities.

Co-leading the Everyone a Changemaker Movement



Ashoka continues to unlock the changemaking potential of young people across Africa by identifying, equipping, and supporting young leaders to thrive as problem-solvers and social innovators in their communities.

Key Achievements

- **Investing in Educator Training:**

Over 237 teachers in Nigeria and South Africa were trained through a specialized changemaking education program designed to embed the skills of empathy, leadership, and collaborative problem-solving in the classroom.

- **Scaling Reach Through Digital Platforms:**

Through targeted storytelling campaigns, multimedia content, and strategic partnerships, we reached over 4 million people via social media, amplifying the voices of young changemakers and spreading the message of youth-led impact.

- **Capacity Building Through Quarterly Workshops:**

A new virtual workshop series was rolled out for all Nigerian AYCs to deepen their skills and expand their impact. Topics included Fundraising and Grant Writing (Nov 2024), with plans to run the workshop through 2025.

Activating Youth Agency Through the Young Changemakers Festival in Nigeria

In 2024, Ashoka West Africa hosted the Young Changemakers Festival in Lagos State - a touchpoint of the CTEACH Program, a dynamic gathering designed to connect young people, including Ashoka Young Changemakers, for a once-in-a-lifetime changemaking experience. Rooted in Ashoka's Everyone a Changemaker vision, the festival aimed to ignite the power of youth leadership through cross-cultural engagement, collaborative learning, and public celebration of youth-led innovations. The Festival was structured around three core strands—Youth Activation, Partnership Ignition, and Media Engagement, with the overarching goal of showcasing youth-led ideas, sparking a sense of agency in young attendees, and inspiring deeper public and institutional support for youth changemaking.

Key Achievements

- **320+ participants** gathered for the Festival, including students, educators, innovators, and key partners from both public and private sectors.
- **Strategic partners** in attendance included:
 - Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education
 - Nigeria Union of Teachers
 - Teach For Nigeria
 - TRACE TV
 - Ubongo
 - United Way for Greater Nigeria
 - Junior Achievement Nigeria
 - Lantern Books, among others.
- The Festival served as a showcase for 9 newly elected Ashoka Young Changemakers, offering them a public platform to share their stories and inspire peers.
- **High-impact media coverage** amplified the voices of young changemakers, with features on major Nigerian outlets including Channels TV, Arise TV, Guardian Nigeria, TechCabal, Sun News, and Vanguard News.

Scaling Changemaking Education in Nigeria & South Africa

The CTEACH initiative (Changemaker Educator Activation Program) is a transformative educational journey focused on changemaking in education. It empowers educators and school administrators to collaboratively design changemaking experiences, fostering an environment where students can thrive.

CTEACH's cross-continental work in Nigeria and South Africa is redefining education by embedding changemaking into schools and universities, ensuring that young people are not only prepared for the future but equipped to shape it.

Key Achievements

- **Empowering Educators in Nigeria:** Trained over 100 junior secondary school teachers across Lagos State through Cohort 2 of the CTEACH program. These educators participated in workshops such as YourKids, equipping them with the tools to embed empathy, leadership, and collaboration in classroom instruction and nurture student changemakers.
- **Institutional Collaboration:** Strengthened partnerships with the Lagos State Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, the Nigeria Union of Teachers (NUT), and the All Nigeria Confederation of Secondary School Principals (ANCOPSS) to embed changemaking into the mainstream education system across the state's six education districts.
- **Student Changemaking in Practice:** Established Changemaker Squads in schools where students work together on social and environmental projects. Through initiatives like the Changemaker Idea Pitchathon, students ideate and present solutions to real-world problems, demonstrating agency and innovation.
- **CTEACH South Africa - Higher Education Focus:** In partnership with the Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education (EDHE) program, CTEACH SA convened 137 participants from 21 universities in May 2024. Educators were trained to integrate changemaking into entrepreneurship curricula, empowering students to adapt to change and drive inclusive economic growth.

- **New Strategic Partnerships:** Initiated collaboration with eCubed, a national program that reaches over 14,000 South African schools. Together, we co-facilitated changemaking sessions, including a workshop for eCubed’s internal team on embedding changemaking into their processes and curriculum.
- **Train-the-Trainer Expansion:** Nine facilitators from leading organizations, including Activate Leadership, Girl Move, and the Trevor Noah Foundation—were certified through Ashoka’s Our Kids Training of Trainers program. These facilitators are now delivering community-based workshops that help parents and educators raise a generation of young changemakers.



Elevating Youth Agency for Climate Action Through The Young African Climate Changemakers Challenge

The Young African Climate Changemakers (YACC) Challenge is a pan-African initiative that empowered young people aged 16–25 across South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia, and Botswana to lead transformative solutions for climate justice. Running from February to December 2024, the challenge invited youth to share bold ideas and existing initiatives, unlocking their creativity and potential as changemakers. Through a dynamic learning journey powered by Ashoka and the Anglo-American Foundation, the challenge catalyzed collaboration and amplified youth-led impact, sparking cross-border partnerships, elevating climate leadership, and shifting perceptions of youth agency in Africa’s green transition.

Key Achievements

- **Widespread Youth Engagement:** 152 youth-led teams applied to the challenge, sharing climate action ideas and existing initiatives rooted in local impact.
- **Amplifying Impact through Funding:** 10 outstanding teams were selected as winners and received \$1,000 each in seed funding to scale their projects and increase their community impact.
- **Regional Collaboration and Capacity Building:** The 10 winning teams convened in Johannesburg, South Africa for an in-person capacity-building and knowledge-sharing summit, fostering peer learning, collaboration, and exposure to new networks.
- **Transformational Growth and Mindset Shift:**
 - **93%** of participants reported a significant development in their changemaking skills
 - **91.3%** now feel motivated to inspire others to become changemakers
 - **95.6%** view changemaking as a core part of their identity
- **Media Visibility and Storytelling Impact:** Youth climate stories gained visibility through features in articles, radio interviews, live TV appearances, and online publications, broadening their digital reach and unlocking access to mentorship, funding, and recognition.
- **Expanding the Ecosystem:** The YACC Challenge also fostered new partnerships with organizations like Greencape and LEAP Schools, integrating changemaking sessions into climate clubs and youth programs to deepen the Everyone a Changemaker (EACH) movement in schools and communities.



“At the Anglo American Foundation, we believe Africa’s future lies in the hands of its young people. Their ideas, their boldness, and their refusal to wait their desire to drive change. Through Ashoka’s Young African Climate Changemakers Challenge, we had the privilege of supporting youth-led innovation across Southern Africa. We witnessed over 150 young leaders take action on climate issues in their communities, sparking change and inspiring others. From township innovators to rural problem-solvers, these young changemakers are not waiting for permission - they’re building the future, one solution at a time.”
Shingi Bimha, Head of Partnerships and Programmes for Southern Africa, Anglo American Foundation

Nurturing Young Changemakers Through Strategic Partnerships in East Africa



In 2024, Ashoka East Africa, in partnership with Mtoto News, accelerated its efforts to nurture a generation of young changemakers. This collaboration was designed to equip children with the knowledge, skills, and networks needed to thrive as changemakers, fostering a culture of agency and leadership from an early age.

Rooted in the Everyone a Changemaker (EACH) vision, the initiative offered young people meaningful platforms for participation, visibility, and growth.

Through activities like the Spark Lab and the inaugural Mtoto Changemaker Baraza, Ashoka and Mtoto News co-created inclusive spaces for children to showcase their changemaking ideas, connect with peers, and build relationships with supportive adult allies. This work was further deepened through engagement with two Ashoka Changemaker Schools: Nova Pioneer Tatu International and Kibera Girls Soccer Academy, where changemaking is becoming embedded in the educational experience.

Key Achievements

- **Empowering the Next Generation:** 70 children aged 8–15 were equipped with core changemaking skills and introduced to the values of empathy, teamwork, leadership, and creative problem-solving.
- **Celebrating Milestones:** 50 young changemakers in Nairobi participated in the first-ever Mtoto Changemaker Baraza, where they were awarded certificates recognizing key milestones in their changemaking journey.
- **Expanding the Changemaker Ecosystem:**
 - 3 organizations committed to partnering with Ashoka to embed changemaking in their youth programming.
 - 15 adult allies formally committed to supporting young changemakers, serving as mentors, coaches, and champions of youth-led impact.

Building Stronger Ecosystems for Changemaking

Ashoka is an ecosystem builder thanks to our extensive experience and networks. The initiatives below illustrate how we create opportunities, solve problems, and scale-up social impact by breaking through walls between sectors and within organizations to work together in fluid, open, and communicative teams.

Improving the Livelihood of Smallholder Farmers in East Africa

Ashoka, in partnership with the Mott Foundation, is driving forward a regional initiative to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in East Africa through innovative solutions that integrate agriculture and renewable energy. The project leverages ecosystem building, collaborative entrepreneurship, and strategic partnerships to advance climate-resilient farming practices.

Key Achievements

- **Mapping of Innovative Solutions:** We identified and mapped 140 innovators working at the intersection of agriculture and renewable energy, including 28 Ashoka Fellows. The findings were published in a comprehensive mapping and research report, spotlighting key insights, barriers, and emerging opportunities in the sector.
- **Collaborative Entrepreneurship Program:** 12 innovators were selected to participate in an 18-month program offering leadership training, mentorship from 10 Ashoka Fellows, and strategic partnership connections. The program focuses on nurturing collaborative projects that scale impact in agriculture and renewable energy.
- **Catalyzing Collaboration and Investment:** 8 innovators received funding to co-create collaborative projects, which will be pitched at the final event. These initiatives are designed to showcase scalable models of climate-smart agriculture that can transform the smallholder farming landscape.
- **Fellowship and Ecosystem Growth:** In alignment with Ashoka's global climate strategy, one new Ashoka Fellow was elected in the agriculture and renewable energy space, with another currently in the selection pipeline. The project also contributed to ecosystem strengthening by convening four major events across East Africa, including the Global Youth Climate Summit (Tanzania), Social Entrepreneurship Forum (Uganda), Ashoka Africa Changemaker Baraza (Kenya), and the Mapping Report and Program Launch (Kenya).

Building System-Changing Leaders Through the Visionary Program

The Ashoka Visionary Program is an executive leadership initiative designed for social entrepreneurs, changemakers, and leaders from business, government, and civil society who are driving systemic change across Africa. Grounded in Ashoka's Everyone a Changemaker vision, the program equips participants with the mindset, tools, and network to create innovative, high-impact solutions to complex social challenges.

Key Achievements

- **Fourth Cohort Milestone:** In 2024, the program welcomed its 4th cohort, bringing together 14 changemakers from across the region. Of these, 12 leaders participated through the Towards Improving the Livelihood of Smallholder Farmers project, advancing leadership in sustainable agriculture and rural development.
- **Measurable Leadership Growth:** Participants reported increased confidence and capability in leading teams, engaging stakeholders, mobilizing resources, and building cross-sector partnerships.
- **Catalyzing Collaborative Action:** 8 leaders from the cohort co-designed collaborative projects during the program, which are now in active implementation—demonstrating the program's emphasis on practical, systems-level impact.
- **Expanding Reach and Vision for 2025:** Since its inception in 2020, 99 leaders from East Africa have now participated in the program. In 2025, Ashoka will expand the Visionary Program's regional footprint and deepen its integration with other Ashoka initiatives to build a continent-wide ecosystem of system-changing leaders.

Activating African Diaspora Leadership for Policy and Systems Change

In 2024, Ashoka Africa through the Ashoka Diaspora initiative launched bold new projects to mobilize the power of African students and diaspora-led organizations to influence policy, scale changemaking, and bridge global networks for the good of Africa. Central to this effort was the launch of the Diaspora Advocacy Influencers Program (DAPI), a unique leadership and advocacy program developed for members of the National African Students Association (NAfSA) in partnership with The Diaspora Academy (TDA). Sponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, this program aims to equip socially conscious African students in the United States with the tools to navigate and influence U.S. policy to advance systemic development outcomes across Africa.

In parallel, Ashoka Africa signed a transformative partnership with Kwanda, a second generation game-changing diaspora organization, to support the work of Ashoka Young Changemakers and Ashoka Fellows across the continent. These collaborations signal Ashoka's deepening commitment to unlocking the potential of diaspora changemakers as catalysts for impact.

Key Achievements

- **Secured funding from the Gates Foundation** to support African students in the U.S. in building policy advocacy skills that influence U.S. policy in support of development aid across Africa.
- **Launched the first cohort of the Diaspora Advocacy Policy Influencers (DAPI) Program**, with **19 NAfSA student participants** engaging in capstone projects across **Health, Education, Climate, and Economic Development**.
- **Convened an African Business Leaders Confab**, a strategic gathering to expand the **Ashoka Africa Business (AAB) Network**, with a focus on engaging the private sector in supporting youth-led and systems-changing innovations.

- Launched Changemaker Journeys in partnership with LSE (London School of Economics) to spotlight and amplify the journeys and impact of Ashoka changemakers globally.
- Signed a **new partnership with AND-Japan** to pilot the **Japan-Africa Matching Entrepreneurs Program**, a co-creation platform for entrepreneurs across Japan and Africa to design joint solutions that positively transform communities and economies in both regions.



Call To Action

JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN TO SUPPORT MORE SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS IN AFRICA

Every year Ashoka searches the continent to identify amazing social entrepreneurs who have the potential to create large-scale change. Donating to Ashoka enables us to elect new social entrepreneurs into our Fellowship, provide support services to existing Fellows, and launch collaborations between Fellows, corporations, and citizen sector organizations to promote continued innovation in areas of pressing global need.

We are on an ambitious growth plan to elect 70 new Africa Fellows a year in five years from approximately 20 Fellows a year currently. We have a strong pipeline of amazing candidates addressing critical social and environmental issues with passion, dedication and creativity. Ashoka's network of social entrepreneurs directly impacts the lives of millions of people in Africa. Help us invest in a new generation of innovators for the public on the African continent.

Help us Reach Our Ambitious Goals!

[DONATE ONLINE](#)

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

[BECOME A FUNDING PARTNER](#)

JOIN THE ASHOKA SUPPORT NETWORK: THE ASHOKA AFRICA BUILDERS GROUP

The Ashoka Support Network (ASN), a visionary initiative launched with the aim of cultivating a community of accomplished business leaders and founders dedicated to bolstering the impact and growth of Ashoka Fellows and Ashoka as a whole. Launched 20 years ago, ASN has provided unparalleled support and has blossomed into a network of 300 members spanning 25 countries. Today, our focus is on expanding this network globally, but also with a particular emphasis on Africa to engage partners who deeply understand the continent.

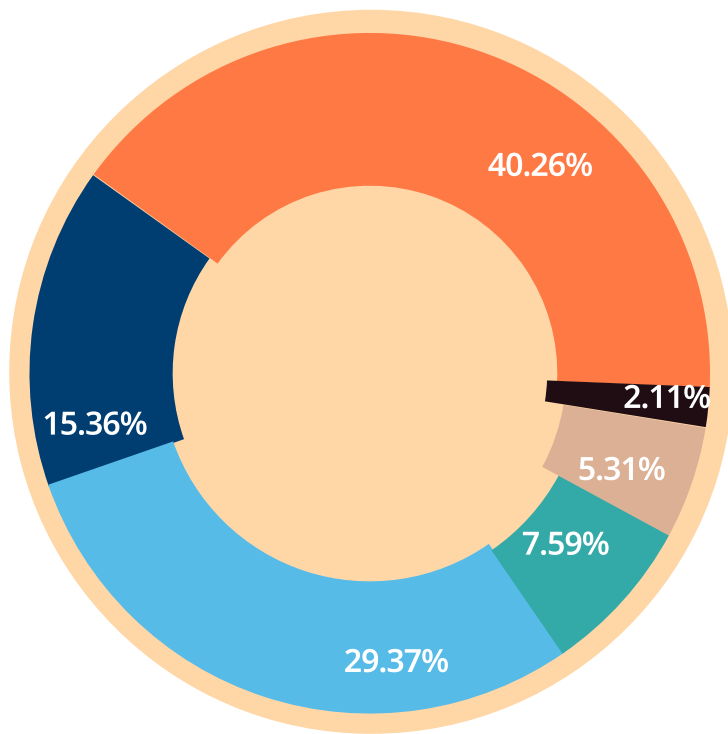
THE ASHOKA AFRICA BUILDERS: We have launched the Africa Builders group within the ASN and are actively seeking individuals to join us in this journey. Joining the ASN offers you the opportunity to forge enduring social impact by collaborating with exceptional social entrepreneurs matched with your areas of interest and expertise. You'll gain invaluable insights into social innovation and emerging trends in social entrepreneurship while connecting with like-minded individuals from around the world.

Come Join Us on A Transformative Journey.

[CONTACT](#)

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

HIGH LEVEL FINANCIAL REPORT



Total Expenses:

USD 2,661,229

People

1,071,699

New Fellow Stipends

781,509

Support of Global Ashoka Network

408,700

Travel

201,829

Operations

141,217

Panel costs, Events and Conferences

56,275

Our Partners

Ashoka's approach is to work collaboratively to support social entrepreneurs across Africa. Thank you to all the partners that trust us.

Giving Partners



Pro Bono and Strategic Partners



Institutional Partners



Academic Partners



JOIN US! HOW YOU CAN PARTNER WITH US:

Ashoka offers several ways to partner with Ashoka:

- **BECOME A FUNDING PARTNER:** Our giving partners generously provide grants to support Ashoka's core strategy to drive
- **BECOME A STRATEGIC PARTNER:** Our strategic partners leverage their networks, infrastructure and influence to help Ashoka and Ashoka Fellows scale impact.
- **BECOME A PRO-BONO PARTNER:** Our Pro Bono Partners share their know-how and professional expertise to support. Ashoka and Ashoka Fellows in their social missions. It provides inspiring engagement opportunities for employees.
- **BECOME A NOMINATOR:** Our nominators help us identify new Ashoka Fellows and Ashoka Young Changemakers across fields of work and countries.

Ashoka Africa 2024 Impact Report

