

Social Entrepreneurs

World Economic Forum on Africa 2014

Abuja, Nigeria 7-9 May 2014



Patrick Awuah, Ashesi University, Ghana

Ashesi was founded to address Africa's biggest roadblocks to progress: the need for ethical leadership and innovative thinking. Ashesi University College is a secular, private, non-profit liberal arts college located in Ghana, West Africa. Ashesi aims to make a significant contribution towards a renaissance in Africa by educating a new generation of ethical, entrepreneurial leaders. Ashesi's unique curriculum combines a rigorous liberal arts core with practical, high-impact majors in business, computer science, and MIS, and a 4-year focus on leadership development and community service. To date, 100% of Ashesi's graduates have found quality placement within a few months of graduating and over 95% have stayed to work for progress in Africa.



Martin Burt, Fundación Paraguaya, Paraguay

Fundación Paraguaya was the first microfinance institution in Paraguay and continues to be a pioneer in sustainable agriculture education. The Foundation promotes entrepreneurship among people with limited resources, particularly underprivileged youths, enabling them to find jobs or start their own enterprises in the agricultural sector and beyond. Through a national programme in rural and urban schools, the foundation has helped to mobilize over 1,000 members of the business community to mentor more than 50,000 young people.



Andrea Coleman, Riders for Health, United Kingdom

Riders for Health works with health ministries and NGOs in Africa to maintain and manage more than 1,000 motorcycles and other vehicles that enable healthcare workers to reliably service remote areas. In addition, Riders' innovative transport systems incorporate driving skills training, daily maintenance procedures, fuelling supply-chain logistics for replacement parts, and interval preventative maintenance. The organization places great emphasis on building local capacity to manage and maintain its vehicles. A conservative estimate shows that 11 million people are receiving regular, reliable healthcare thanks to Riders' programmes.



Godwin Ehigiamusoe, LAPO, Nigeria

LAPO is the leading microfinance institution in Nigeria with over 240,000 clients. It is recognized for delivering sound financial and social services to alleviate poverty and empowering the disadvantaged. Alongside its financial services offering, LAPO supports enterprise development in diverse areas such as food processing, craftworks, merchandising, fabrication and farming, while the LAPO Development Foundation provides social and health empowerment programmes addressing issues of empowerment, nutrition, health, discrimination, injustice and gender equality.



Martin Kariongi Ole Sanago, Institute for Orkonerei Pastoralists Advancement (IOPA), Tanzania

IOPA facilitates transformation and diversification of the economic system of the Maasai through social business, social entrepreneurship and innovation - through radio programs, roundtable discussion, and festivals, the Institute prepares a fertile ground for self-examination and collective action. The Institute also teaches the Maasai veterinary services and techniques and sensitizes them about the use of both modern and traditional veterinary medicine, carries out vaccination campaigns that have enabled pastoralists to use modern treatments and methods of livestock management, allowing animals to live healthier, longer, more productive lives.

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Jay Kimmelman & Shannon May, Bridge International Academies, Kenya

Bridge International Academies is a chain of nursery and private schools in Africa delivering high-quality education for just \$5 a month on average. The model of Bridge International Academies is centred upon the Academy-in-a-Box solution, delivered through data-enabled tablets, enables thousands of teachers to deliver world-class lessons to children who had struggled to simply have a teacher show up at their previous schools. Just over four years since its first academy opened. As of January 2014, Bridge operates 259 academies in Kenya employing over 3,000 people and educating approximately 80,000 pupils. By 2025, Bridge plans to be educating 10,000,000 pupils in over a dozen countries.



Martin Fisher - KickStart International (Africa)

KickStart develops and promotes tools and technologies that help unlock business opportunities for thousands of poor entrepreneurs. By offering these technologies for sale to cash-poor entrepreneurs it enables them to start and run profitable and productive small and micro-enterprises. It operates in Kenya, Tanzania, Mali, and Burkina Faso and is expanding in Africa. More than 140,000 new micro-enterprises have been started using its equipment and more than 1,300 are being started each month. These businesses generate over US\$ 86 million each year. It has taken 700,000 people out of poverty.



Anne Githuku-Shongwe, Afroes, South Africa

African youth present an interesting paradox to the continent's future: the mobile revolution has created massive potential to inform, connect, and educate youth; on the other hand, these 400 million youth are disempowered, jobless, and considered a threat to the stability of countries or a burden to states. Afroes is utilizing interactive mobile learning strategies to teach youth about entrepreneurship and leadership, and to empower them as citizens to address their countries' challenges. To date, Afroes has achieved this through mobile games for social change, including: award winning MORABA, which addresses difficult questions on gender-based violence; and HAKI, a game series built for Kenya by Kenyans to promote national cohesion.



Ashifi Gogo, Sproxil, Nigeria

Sproxil has developed and trademarked a Mobile Product Authentication (MPA) solution that enables consumers to verify that the pharmaceutical product they are buying is genuine. Consumers use a scratch card, similar to those used to replenish cellular talk-time, to reveal a one-time-use code on pharmaceutical products. Sproxil has set up Africa's first national, mobile-based anti-counterfeit service in Nigeria and has already sold more than 250 million anti-counterfeit labels.



Njideka U. Harry, Youth for Technology Foundation (YTF), Nigeria

Since 2001, YTF has worked in regions of Africa plagued by poverty and pervasive unemployment, especially among youth and women. YTF Academy provides beneficiaries with life skills and resources to join the economic mainstream. Since inception, 40% of YTF Academy graduates have been employed by local companies in YTF's partner network, and are being paid three times the average salary, while 38% have gone on to become self-employed. YTF Academy has impacted the lives of over 1.5 million youth in Nigeria, Uganda, Cameroon, South Africa, and Kenya and, most recently, Colombia.

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Cosmas I. B. Okoli, Mobility Aid and Appliances Research and Development Centre (MAARDEC), Nigeria

MAARDEC addresses the lack of adequate mobility aids and appliances as well as the architectural and attitudinal barriers facing persons with physical disabilities in Nigeria, a country with an estimated 24 million disabled people. It facilitates rehabilitation, re-orientation and integration into society by providing standard and adapted mobility aids and appliances, enabling meaningful employment and enhanced quality of life.



Kristin Peterson, Inveneo, USA

Inveneo is a San Francisco-based non-profit social enterprise that designs and delivers sustainable computing and better access to broadband Internet to those who need it most in the developing world. Inveneo enables organizations working in developing countries to better serve people in need, transforming lives through access to education, healthcare, economic opportunity and relief. Inveneo and its partners have delivered projects in 25+ countries, impacting the lives of over 3 million people in some of the poorest and most challenging regions in the developing world.



Juliana Rotich, Ushahidi, Kenya

Ushahidi is a non-profit technology company, started in 2008 in the midst of Kenyan election violence, which seeks to build tools for democratizing information, increasing transparency and lowering the barriers for individuals to share their stories. Ushahidi specializes in developing free and open source software for information collection, visualization and interactive mapping. With these tools, Ushahidi has strengthened democracy by verifying election results across Brazil, facilitated market efficiency by mapping bio-gas market prices, and it has helped aid workers in Haiti and Japan reach those affected by natural disasters.



'Gbenga Sesan, Paradigm Initiative Nigeria, Nigeria

Paradigm Initiative Nigeria's (PIN) vision is to connect underserved young Nigerians with ICT-enabled opportunities in order to improve their livelihoods. Solving these twin problems – unemployment and cybercrime – are at the heart of Paradigm Initiative Nigeria's strategy. Its model involves a two-pronged approach including Capacity Building/ICT Empowerment and ICT Policy interventions. PIN offers income-generating ICT training and Social Media consultancy to private or non-profit organisations that need them, working with Paradigm Initiative Nigeria's graduates as implementing partners. Current partners include the Peery Foundation, Internews, Microsoft, and Google.



Ned Tozun, d.light, USA

Founded in 2007 as a for-profit social enterprise, d.light manufactures and distributes solar lighting and power products designed to serve the more than 2 billion people globally without access to reliable electricity. Through over a dozen field offices and four distribution hubs in Africa, China, South Asia and the United States, d.light has sold 6 million solar light and power products in nearly 60 countries, improving the lives of nearly 30 million people (as of February 2014). d.light is dedicated to providing the most reliable, affordable and accessible solar lighting and power systems for the developing world and reaching 100 million people by 2020.



Allen Wilcox, Village Reach, Mozambique

VillageReach is a non-profit social enterprise with a mission to save lives and improve health by increasing access to quality healthcare for the most underserved communities. VillageReach develops, evaluates and proves system innovations that improve health system performance. Through collaboration with governments, non-governmental organizations and communities, VillageReach seeks to extend the reach of health systems in scalable and sustainable ways by strengthening health service delivery, enhancing information and communication technology systems, and engaging the private sector.