Vision for the Future 2025

Capturing Inspiring Stories from Leaders and Changemakers

An Initiative of the Global Partnerships Forum
In collaboration with Long Island University
and Geneva Global LLC.



GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS FORUM

Vision for the Future 2025

Capturing Inspiring Stories from Leaders and Changemakers

An Initiative of the Global Partnerships Forum In collaboration with Long Island University and Geneva Global LLC.

Vision for the Future 2025

Capture Inspiring Stories from Leaders and Changemakers

© 2025 by Global Partnerships Forum. All rights reserved.

This ebook may be reproduced, distributed, and transmitted for non-commercial purposes, provided proper credit is given to the publisher, Global Partnerships Forum. No part of this ebook may be used in a commercial manner without the prior written permission of the publisher. For permission requests, write to the publisher at the address below:

Global Partnerships Forum

333 East 46th Street

New York, NY 10017

visionforthefuture2024@gmail.com

First Edition, 2025

This ebook is provided for educational and informational purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and reliability, the publisher makes no representations or warranties regarding the completeness or accuracy of the content. The publisher assumes no liability for any reliance on the information contained in this ebook.

This ebook was designed to be enjoyed digitally, in consideration of the environment. Please refrain from unnecessary printing to help reduce paper waste.

Contents

Introduction 7

Curator: Amir Dossal, President and CEO, Global Partnerships Forum 8

Foreword 11

Bridging Innovation and Impact: The New Frontier for Global Partnerships
Howard W. Buffett, Professor, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University 12

Charting Pathways for the Future 14

Rebuilding Multilateralism: Charting a Future for Cooperation, Trust, and Impact, Catherine Bertini, 2003 World Food Prize Laureate, former Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Program, and former UN Under-Secretary for Management 15

Empowering a Connection Mindset, Stanley M. Bergman, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Henry Schein 18

Voices of Impact 21

Ms. Shilpa Alva, Founder & Executive Director, Surge for Water 22

Mr. Bocar A. BA, Chief Executive Officer, SAMENA Telecommunications Council 27

Mr. Gleb Babiy, CEO and Co-Founder, Aspect Health 32

Mr. James Barrood, Founder and CEO of Innovation+ | INNOVATE100 36

Mr. and Mrs. Erai and Kyleigha Beckmann, Founding Partners, Peace Through Trade Blockchain 39

Dr. Osvald Bjelland, Editor/Entrepreneur, Hope for Life on Our Planet 43

Dr. Dan Brenner, Executive Director, United Nations International School (UNIS) 48
Mr. Mushtaq Chhapra, Chairman and Founding Director,
The Citizens Foundation 52
Mr. Marcus Chidgey, CEO, Loqiva 57
Mr. Gary Cohen, CEO and Co-Founder, Maternal Newborn
Health Innovations, PBC 61
Ms. Evie Evangelou, Founder, Fashion 4 Development 66
Lord Fatafehi Fakafānua, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Tonga,
Kingdom of Tonga 70
Ms. Ying Gong, Executive Director, Chairlady of the Board,
and Founder, Yidu Tech 74
Mr. Jonathan Granoff, President, Global Security Institute 78
Mr. Jack Hidary, CEO, SandboxAQ 81
Mr. Azim Kidwai, CEO, Mercy Mission UK 84
Mr. Lacina Koné, Director-General, Smart Africa 89
Ms. Melissa Kushner, Founder, Yamba Malawi 94
Ms. Daniela Ligiero, CEO & President, Together for Girls 99
Mr. Poonacha Machaiah, Co-Founder and CEO, Cyberhuman.ai 102
Dr. Vin Menon, Co-Founder and CEO, AQUAE 106
Mr. Tom Milana, Founder, ManCave Health 110
Mr. Boaz Paldi, Chief Creative Officer, UNDP 114
Ms. Susanna Pollack, President, Games for Change 118
Ms. Praveen Prasad, Head of Innovative & Blended Finance
(Global Partnership for Education), World Bank 123
Mr. Bhuwan Ribhu, Founder, Just Rights for Children 126
Ms. Kim Samuel, Founder, Belonging Forum 131
Dr. Jordi Serrano-Pons, Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Universal Doctor 134

Executive Team 139
Project Director: Dr. Gregory W. Barton, Dean of the Honors
College and Global College, Long Island University 140
Project Director: Dr. Maryalice (Ali) Mazzara, President, Geneva Global LLC 142
Creative Director: Mr. Matthew Barton, Creative Director, GALE Partners 144
Content Director: Mr. Zecki Dossal, Senior Director, Henry Schein 146

Collaborators 148
Geneva Global LLC 149
LIU 150

Strategic Partners 151
Global Mental Health Task Force (GMHT) 152
P3 Connect ONE 153
PVBLIC Foundation 154
TheSocialArchitects 155
Winning VS 156

Introduction

Mr. Amir Dossal

President and CEO, Global Partnerships Forum (Curator)

LinkedIn / X / Facebook
LinkedIn (GFP) / X (GFP) / Facebook (GFP)



Introduction by Amir Dossal

Welcome to the *Vision for the Future 2025*

This year's edition arrives at a pivotal moment. The United Nations celebrates its 80th year while confronting profound tests to multilateralism, shrinking resources, and a rapidly shifting technological landscape. Around the world, societies face widening inequality, climate stress, and geopolitical tension—yet extraordinary innovators and leaders prove daily that progress is not only possible but already underway.

A World in Transition

The 2030 Agenda remains an unfinished promise. We are well behind on the Sustainable Development Goals, and no government, institution, or sector can close the gap alone. But we are also witnessing a new energy for cooperation: cross-sector alliances, bold social enterprises, and a generation of thinkers who view emerging technologies—especially artificial intelligence and frontier science—not as threats but as tools for inclusion, prosperity, and planetary health.

Voices of Bold Action

This collection highlights 25 such changemakers from a variety of disciplines: pioneers advancing food security and health equity, re-imagining finance, forging peace through

trade, and unlocking the promise of digital transformation. From the wisdom of seasoned industry leaders to the fresh perspectives of entrepreneurs, from Stanley Bergman's call for a "connection mindset" to the visions of quantum-tech innovators, every story underscores a common truth: partnership amplifies impact.
Their narratives are intentionally concise, readable in a single sitting, yet each offers a wealth of insight and a compelling invitation to act.

Partnership at the Core

Vision for the Future is an initiative of the Global Partnerships Forum, in collaboration with Long Island University and Geneva Global LLC. Our original collaborators embody the spirit of multistakeholder action on which this project rests.

We are also proud to work with a growing circle of **Strategic Partners** – from GALE and PVBLIC Foundation to SDG News, Winning VS, the Global Mental Health Task Force, and P3 Connect ONE – who demonstrate how academia, business, civil society, and media can align to accelerate solutions. You will read how emerging technologies serve as accelerators for economic opportunity and social wellbeing.

Gratitude

I am deeply grateful to every contributor for sharing their journey and to the outstanding team that brought this edition to life. My heartfelt thanks to **Dr. Maryalice (Ali) Mazzara** and **Dr. Gregory W. Barton**, who once again co-led the project with exceptional care and vision; helping us make the publication more compelling and forward-looking. I am equally thankful to **Matthew Barton**, whose creative direction gives these stories their elegant form and makes them engaging reading; and to Zecki Dossal, whose strategic guidance has been invaluable in shaping the content.

A special thanks to **Julia Gorlovetskaya** for her expert guidance in digital outreach, ensuring our messages reaches far and wide, and to **Abhishek Sharma** of P3 Connect ONE, for his invaluable support in leveraging his audience-activation platform to connect people in meaningful ways!

I remain deeply grateful to our advisor **Howard W. Buffett** whose early counsel and continuing guidance has been instrumental in shaping and strengthening our anthology. We remain equally thankful to our collaborators and strategic partners, whose steadfast support and willingness to assist at every turn have meant so much. Above all, my endless thanks to my wife and partner, **Tas**, whose wisdom and encouragement are a constant source of strength.

Gratitude

As you turn these pages, I hope you will find more than inspiration. May you discover practical ideas you can adapt, alliances you can join, and a renewed belief that collective action – powered by trust, technology, and shared purpose – can help us meet the challenges of our time.

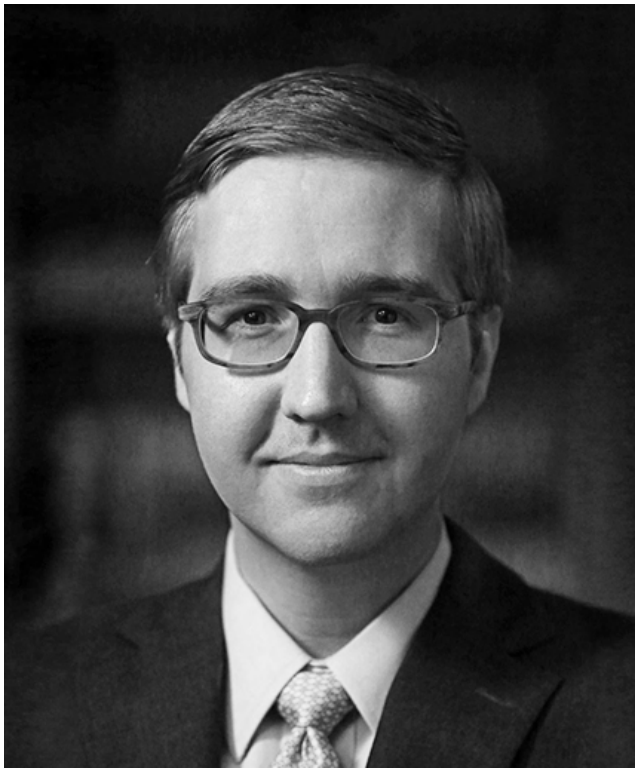
This is our invitation to you: **join us in shaping a future that is just, inclusive, and sustainable.**

Thank You
Amir Dossal

Foreword

Mr. Howard W. Buffett

Professor, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University (Advisor)



Bridging Innovation and Impact: The New Frontier for Global Partnerships

The world's most urgent problems are far too complex for any one sector, institution, or country to solve on its own. Whether we are addressing climate change, advancing food security, or ensuring equitable access to health care, these challenges demand that we build bridges between business, government, civil society, and local communities. And when values and innovation align, partnerships can expand their reach, moving faster and delivering change that lasts.

In my work as a board director and through developing the Social Value Investing framework, I have seen that long-lasting impact depends on three things: aligning incentives, measuring results, and ensuring accountability. Emerging technologies, especially artificial intelligence, will add a new and critically helpful layer to this effort. It will allow us to more easily identify shared objectives, create common frameworks, understand stakeholder needs, and discover important results and indicators in our data. But an important question remains: are we adequately training and preparing students, entrepreneurs, and employees to use these new tools to maximize the societal value of such partnerships? They are already using these tools, and the real test will be whether or not we are cultivating the judgment to use them responsibly, creatively, and with deep critical thinking.

Used well, AI can amplify human ingenuity, scale proven solutions, and deepen collaboration across borders. But it cannot replace human decision-making or substitute for the hard work of discernment. Like any tool, its value depends on the hands that wield it. The challenge before us, and the opportunity for global partnerships, is to design systems where innovation sharpens our thinking and strengthens our choices, leading to more inclusive outcomes.

The stories and perspectives in this volume remind us that progress does not come from innovation alone, but from people choosing to act together with a shared sense of purpose. By linking ideas with action, and technology with human compassion, we can chart a future that is more prosperous, more just, and more sustainable.

About Howard Buffet

Howard W. Buffett is a professor at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, where he published his award-winning research, *Social Value Investing: A Management Framework for Effective Partnerships* (Columbia University Press, 2018). He is also a member of several corporate boards where he focuses on effective governance and sustainability strategies, including Case New Holland (NYSE:CNH), Toyota Motor North America (NYSE:TM), and Inari Agriculture. Howard was previously the executive director and trustee of the Howard G. Buffett Foundation, which strengthens food security for vulnerable populations and is active in nearly 100 countries throughout Africa, Asia, and Latin America. While at the foundation, he co-authored the New York Times bestselling book *40 Chances: Finding Hope in a Hungry World* (Simon & Schuster, 2013). Prior to that, he oversaw economic development and stabilization programs for the U.S. Department of Defense in Afghanistan and Iraq, and was awarded the Joint Civilian Service Commendation Award—the highest-ranking civilian honor presented by the Joint Chiefs of Staff requiring the approval of the Combatant Commanders. Prior to that, Howard was a policy advisor for the White House Domestic Policy Council, where he co-authored the President's cross-sector partnership strategy, and he was a member of the 2008-09 Presidential Transition Team. He also held roles at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the United Nations Office for Partnerships. Howard has a BS from Northwestern University, an MPA from Columbia University, an MBA from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and executive education certificates from Harvard Business School. He also chairs the Advisory Council for Harvard's International Negotiation Program.

Charting Pathways for the Future

Rebuilding Multilateralism: Charting a Future for Cooperation, Trust, and Impact

Catherine Bertini
2003 World Food Prize Laureate, former Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Program, and former UN Under-Secretary for Management

More important than anything else in changing an organization the United Nations – know what you want to achieve. Is it saving money? Is it gaining credibility? Is it using resources more efficiently? Is it because the mission has changed?

At WFP in the 1990s, we realized that we had to start with a mission statement. We didn't have one. Without it, we were primarily transporters of food. But why? We decided that our mission was: End Hunger. In every place where we worked, that was our That was our objective. Now we had to know not just how many tonnes of food we moved and to where, but how many people we fed, and what their status was before and after they consumed this food.

But we still moved food. We didn't prepare and serve it. Who does that? Most of the time, that answer is women – mothers, grandmothers, aunts, daughters. So to end hunger, we had to get food to women. Which meant, we should know what food the women, the cooks, needed in order to feed their families. Therefore we had to ask them. But almost all our field staff were men and in many cultures, strange men could not have conversations with local women. In addition, in many regions, if there was some sort of meeting in the community, it was more often the role of the men to attend, not the women. Therefore, our next priority was to hire more women so that we could facilitate communication with the cooks. Ending hunger. These were steps toward being better able to meet our goal.

But we still had a system where all decisions were pushed up the ladder from the community to the country office to the headquarters in Rome. Collectively, our organization thought that to best meet our mission and to move swiftly to save lives in emergencies, we needed to move faster. One answer was – change the decision process to the extend possible to the field. One mantra was: "Our mission is to serve the hungry poor. They do not live in Rome."

We rearranged our organizational chart to list the field offices at the top and the executive director at the bottom. We invested in developing a new IT system (we had a bare minimum one built in the 1970s) that could provide everyone – from the country director to the executive director – updated information on all aspects of our work – the level of pledges for specific projects, how much had been spent, how many staff were assigned, how many positions were vacant, and so on. Once this system was in place, we added hiring guidance and financial training; then we could and did delegate much more to field managers.

We moved regional offices from the headquarters to the field. Months after our Latin America bureau moved to Managua from Rome, Hurricane Mitch devastated much of Central America. Our senior decision making leaders were on the ground, instead of 8 time zones away. The president of Honduras commended WFP for its fast movement of food and life saving results.

This took time and money and the support and patience of our donors and governing board. We kept them informed of every step along the way. We even started the process by showing them, through audit reports we commissioned, about significant weaknesses in the system. They stayed with us through this journey.

WFP received many accolades, but none were as important as knowing that millions

more people had access to the right food in the right place at the right time, because our always first rate transport and logistics teams were now part of a larger strategy around which all our systems were built – to END HUNGER.

For more information about this and other organizations' initiatives, read:
"Leading Change in United Nations Organizations" by Catherine Bertini, Rockefeller Foundation Fellow, 2017.

Mr. Stanley M. Bergman

Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, Henry Schein



Empowering a Connection Mindset

After more than 36 years as the CEO of Henry Schein — the world's largest provider of health care products and services to office-based dental and medical practitioners — it's incredible to reflect on how much the landscape of care has evolved. Yet despite all the advances in technology, medicine, and education, one lesson has always stood out as the foundation of better health: it's all about people.

This was a lesson imparted to our team by our late-mentor and former CEO, Jay Schein, and we have strived to ensure that we put people at the center of everything we do as a business and as a partner. We also believe that by joining forces with like-minded organizations and embracing emerging technologies, we can truly make the world healthier. This work happens because of people, and when galvanized by a powerful sense of purpose and mission, and bonded together by trust, amazing things happen.

We have long understood that public-private partnerships are an effective way to help us achieve our mission to "help health happen," because nobody can do it alone. We're often reminded of the African proverb, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." After 93 years, Henry Schein has gone far by living these words while embracing public-private partnerships as true engines of progress. Business plays a crucial role

alongside nonprofits, government agencies, local community organizations, and industry stakeholders in making tangible improvements to the health care challenges affecting communities around the world.

At our best, Henry Schein's commitment to creating shared value creates positive societal and environmental impact while driving long-term business success.

And that success is increasingly driven by technological advancements, which can be a powerful force for change. The real challenge — and opportunity — lies in leveraging these innovations while preserving the power of human connection. This isn't about replacing it, but amplifying it. Trust is the foundation for introducing new technologies and ensuring adoption. Without it, even the most advanced tools will falter. When trust is earned — through transparency, fairness, and a clear demonstration of value — technology can link a patient in a rural community to a specialist hundreds of miles away and strengthen a health center's ability to deliver preventive care in its neighborhood.

One of the most important takeaways from my time as CEO is that the most profound advancements in health are born from partnerships formed by those committed to innovation, purpose, and care.

Looking ahead, I am filled with optimism for the future and encourage the next generation of leaders to remember the words of Maya Angelou: "People will forget what you said. People will forget what you did. But they will never forget how you made them feel."

About Stanley M. Bergman

Since 1989, Stanley M. Bergman has been Chairman of the Board and CEO of Henry Schein, Inc., a Fortune 500® company and the world's largest provider of health care products and services to office-based dental and medical practitioners, with approximately 25,000 Team Schein Members worldwide and operations or affiliates in 33 countries and territories. Henry Schein is a member of the S&P 500® index. In 2024, the Company's sales reached $12.7 billion. Ethisphere named Henry Schein as one of the World's Most Ethical Companies® in 2024 for the 13th consecutive year.

Mr. Bergman serves as a board member or advisor for numerous institutions including: as Chair, Dean's Strategic Advisory Council, New York University College of Dentistry; Chairman of the Board, the University of the Witwatersrand Fund; Governor and Former Co-Chair, Global Health & Healthcare Governors Community, World Economic Forum;

and Director Emeritus, Board of Overseers, Penn Dental Medicine. Mr. Bergman is an honorary member of the American Dental Association and the Alpha Omega International Dental Society. Mr. Bergman is a recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor; the CR Magazine Corporate Responsibility Lifetime Achievement Award; the 2017 CEO of the Year award by Chief Executive Magazine; the National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors (NAW) Dirk Van Dongen Lifetime Achievement Award; Honorary Doctorates from The University of the Witwatersrand, Western University of Health Sciences, Hofstra University, A.T. Still University's Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health, Case Western Reserve University, Farmingdale State College (SUNY), and The Hebrew University of Jerusalem; and Honorary Fellowship from King's College London - Dental Institute and the International College of Dentists. Stan and Dr. Marion Bergman and their family are active supporters of organizations fostering the arts, higher education, cultural diversity and grassroots health care and sustainable entrepreneurial economic development initiatives in the United States, Africa and other developing regions of the world.

Voices of Impact

Ms. Shilpa Alva

Founder & Executive Director, Surge for Water

LinkedIn



"Progress cannot rest solely on external aid. It must be grounded in community ownership and government collaboration, ensuring that solutions endure and expand."

Objective:
As Founder and Executive Director of Surge for Water, I work to tackle the urgent lack of safe water, sanitation, hygiene, and menstrual health in rural, underserved communities across Haiti, Indonesia, and Uganda. Our Water+ model recognizes that water alone is not enough; lasting transformation requires a comprehensive approach that integrates these elements. By combining infrastructure with education and women's leadership, we create community-owned systems that drive improvements in health, education, income, and overall well-being.

Impact:
Since 2008, Surge has impacted hundreds of thousands of people across 12 countries, evolving into a global nonprofit currently serving over 448,000 people daily. By 2030, we plan to expand to a service area of 1 million people.

To date, we have:
- Built or repaired 790 water sources (deep wells and rehabilitations, spring protections, rainwater harvesting systems)
- Constructed 275 toilets at schools, health centers, and homes
- Installed 9,000+ water filters in households and institutions
- Delivered WASH and Menstrual Health education to over 250,000 people

These interventions are community-owned and designed for sustainability, ensuring that long after installation, local leaders and governments can maintain and scale solutions. The result is measurable improvements in education (attendance, performance, enrollment), health (reduced waterborne disease), income (time savings and productivity), and overall well-being. Women and girls, in particular, are now able to lead, learn, and earn, transforming the trajectory of their families and communities.

Partnerships:

Our key partners are community-based organizations in Haiti, Uganda, and Indonesia who anchor Surge's work in local wisdom, trust, and ownership. We also collaborate closely with local governments, health systems, and schools, aligning with district priorities and strengthening systems so that solutions are sustained long after implementation. Finally, our network of strategic funding partners—including corporations, foundations, and individual donors—provides the investment and visibility needed to scale. This three-tiered partnership model ensures that every project is community-owned, government-aligned, and globally supported, unlocking value that no single stakeholder could achieve alone. Together, we create lasting, scalable impact.

Investments:

In the early days, Surge was funded by grassroots support from family and friends who believed in our vision before we had networks or recognition.
As we began to deliver results, this trust grew into lasting relationships with corporate partners, foundations, and individual donors who recognized the strength of women-led, community-owned solutions.

Over time, this support has provided not just funding, but also technical expertise and increased visibility. The greatest lesson learned is that long-term partnerships rooted in trust and shared values create far deeper and more sustainable impact than short-term or transactional approaches.

SDG Impact:

Surge advances SDG 6 (Clean Water & Sanitation) through 790+ water systems, while also driving SDG 3 (Health), SDG 4 (Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities). Our Water+ approach ensures daily access to WASH and menstrual health, improving health, learning, income, and long-term equity for underserved communities.

Success Factors & Challenges:

Surge's success is anchored in community ownership, women's leadership, and long-term partnerships. By placing local organizations and women leaders at the center, solutions are trusted, maintained, and scaled. Our holistic Water+ model—integrating safe water, sanitation, hygiene, and menstrual health— creates measurable improvements in health, education, income, and dignity.

Yet the challenges are significant. We work in countries affected by climate disruptions, political instability, and shifting government policies that can slow progress or redirect priorities. In rural areas, infrastructure is harder to build and maintain, and funding cycles often do not align with community needs.

What enables us to succeed is staying adaptive and community-driven, investing in local leadership, and working alongside governments to strengthen systems. A key takeaway is that long-term impact depends on solutions that communities embrace and institutions support—ensuring progress continues even when external factors shift.

Personal Story:

As a U.S. immigrant of Indian origin raised in Dubai, my worldview was shaped by living between cultures of abundance and scarcity. Visiting family in India as a child, I was struck by how children my age spent hours collecting water instead of playing—a moment that stayed with me. At 21, while volunteering as a teacher in India, I saw how waterborne illness and water collection kept students from school. That experience sparked a lifelong commitment to make safe water an accessible right for all.

With a background in chemical engineering and management consulting in the corporate world, I eventually chose to dedicate my career to social impact and founded Surge in 2008. What began as a volunteer effort has grown into a global nonprofit serving hundreds of thousands daily. Guided by deep partnerships, Surge's women-led, community-owned model was born from these experiences and continues to inspire my work today.

Looking Ahead:

By 2030, Surge will reach 1 million people daily, expanding district-wide impact across Haiti, Uganda, and Indonesia. Our Water+ model—anchored in community ownership, women's leadership, and government collaboration—is designed to be scaled, replicated, and adapted globally, offering a practical blueprint for long-term, sustainable access to safe water and sanitation.

Vision for the Future:

The future I envision is one where safe water, sanitation, hygiene, and menstrual health are universal rights —not privileges.
But access alone is not enough. To truly advance the SDGs, we must create systems that improve health, education, and income while empowering communities—and especially women—to lead the way.

My call to action is simple: let us shift from projects to systems, charity to justice, and short-term interventions to long-term partnerships. Progress cannot rest solely on external aid. It must be grounded in community ownership and government collaboration, ensuring that solutions endure and expand.

With nearly 800 water systems, 275 toilets, 9,000 filters, and education for 250,000 people, Surge has shown what is possible when solutions are co-created. If we collectively embrace this model of equity and inclusion, we can transform not only villages, but entire regions, and ensure no one is left behind.

Biography:

Shilpa Alva is the Founder and Executive Director of Surge for Water, a global nonprofit advancing safe water, sanitation, hygiene, and menstrual health through a women-led, community-owned model. Since 2008, she has guided Surge's growth from a grassroots effort into an international organization that has impacted hundreds of thousands of people across 12 countries. Today, Surge serves over 448,000 people daily, with a strategic goal of sustainably serving 1 million people by 2030.

Shilpa's background in chemical engineering, combined with her corporate experience in supply chain management and strategy, informs her systems-driven approach to nonprofit leadership. Her vision emphasizes integrating infrastructure with education, local leadership, and enterprise to deliver lasting change.

Her leadership has been recognized globally: she has delivered a TEDx talk at Johns Hopkins University, been named a "Woman to Watch" by the Minneapolis–St. Paul Business Journal, and is a frequent speaker on women's leadership, community ownership, scaling sustainable development solutions, and decolonization practices.

Beyond her professional work, Shilpa is an aspiring herbalist and is trained in permaculture design, reflecting her passion for holistic approaches to health, sustainability, and the interconnection between people and the environment.


surge
TEAM
Dbacks

Mr. Bocar A. BA

Chief Executive Officer, SAMENA Telecommunications Council

LinkedIn / X



"Technology should serve as a bridge between people, not a barrier; a platform for collaboration, not exploitation."

Objective:
I advocate for a future where digital technologies are driven by ethics, inclusion, and responsibility. My work supports transforming digitalization into a shared development strategy by embedding fairness, ensuring connectivity as a right, and aligning stakeholders through advocacy. The goal is to redefine technology as a central force for sustainable growth, while inspiring leaders to use diplomacy, navigate complexity, and lead ethically in the digital age.

Impact:
Through leadership and strategic engagement, the SAMENA Council has played a role in shifting the global narrative on technology from technical deployment to inclusive development. By engaging in multilateral dialogues and global initiatives, the SAMENA Council has helped shape policy discussions, promote regulatory innovation, and create alignment among stakeholders on investment priorities and ethical tech use. The Council's efforts have contributed to redefining access to digital infrastructure and services, elevating them from optional amenities to foundational elements of human and economic development. The result has been increased visibility and legitimacy for initiatives that emphasize ethical use of digital technologies, cross-border collaboration, and SDG-focused innovation. In this regard, fostering consensus and building bridges between regions and nations for shared prosperity has also been a key element of my work.

Partnerships:

The SAMENA Council operates as a hub of multilateral engagement, forming meaningful partnerships with organizations such as the Broadband Commission, the Edison Alliance, and the ITU IAGDI-CRO. These alliances allow for coordinated efforts in bridging digital divides, shaping tech policy, and advocating for inclusive and sustainable growth. Additionally, our work supports collaboration between governments, the private sector, academia, and civil society through emerging models such as tech diplomacy. The Council's role as a convener and thought leader makes it possible to unify diverging agendas while using the global platforms for their convening power.

Investments:

Progress in digital development and ethical tech deployment relies on financial investment, innovation, and policy reform. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and closing the digital divide cannot depend solely on public funding. Private-sector investment and new business models are essential for advancing infrastructure, affordability, and access. We must advocate for environments that attract investment in connectivity, especially in underserved regions, and support inclusive, long-term growth. Telecom operators and the broader private sector play a central role, with contributions from infrastructure to service innovation enabling inclusive, future-ready digital ecosystems. Their impact depends on sustained, supportive policy and investment frameworks.

SDG Impact:

Ethical digital technologies are vital to achieving the SDGs: telemedicine (SDG 3), AI in education (SDG 4), inclusive digital economies (SDGs 5 & 10), and climate-monitoring tools (SDG 13). The SAMENA Council advocates for responsible, inclusive tech and collaboration across sectors to ensure digital progress aligns with all Sustainable Development Goals.

Success Factors & Challenges:

The primary success factor in advancing ethical digital transformation is advocacy, which requires a shared language and trust among diverse stakeholders. Other key enablers include multistakeholder collaboration, consensus on ethical frameworks, and the ability to create investment-ready environments. A foundational element of this success has been building trust with governments and various stakeholders, enabling smoother alignment on policy, regulation, and shared objectives. However, challenges remain. The digital divide continues to affect 2.6 billion people globally, with over 520 million in South Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa. These gaps are not solely technological but structural. This reflects deficits in leadership, policy alignment, and regulatory

readiness. Without synchronized action and investment, marginalized communities risk being left further behind. In space and terrestrial networks alike, technical advancement must be matched by sustainability, governance, and ethical management of resources.

Personal Story:

A central theme in my professional journey has been a personal commitment to advocacy as a means of leadership. This path has taken shape through my roles in the SAME-NA Council, the Broadband Commission, the Edison Alliance, and the ITU IAGDI-CRO. Through these platforms, the experience has consistently reinforced the belief that technical expertise alone is not sufficient; what truly drives progress is the ability to convene, align, and advocate.

I realized 20 years ago that when top leaders come together, they always make a deal. This insight has been a guiding principle throughout the journey and has reinforced the importance of high-level dialogue, diplomacy, and consensus-building to achieve meaningful outcomes. Engaging with stakeholders across sectors and geographies, the focus has remained on promoting ethical principles in tech and ensuring that digitalization benefits all segments of society.

Looking Ahead:

The future lies in shaping a fair, ethical, and sustainable digital world. This demands regulatory reform, inclusive innovation, and leadership to advance the SDGs. As technologies evolve, so must diplomacy, and it must become more inclusive, values-driven, and action-oriented to build digital economies rooted in resilience, fairness, and shared opportunity.

Vision for the Future:

The vision is for a digital future that empowers individuals, strengthens communities, and safeguards the dignity of future generations. This future must be built on ethical foundations, shaped by inclusive dialogue, and driven by advocacy that turns principles into action. Technology should serve as a bridge between people, not a barrier; a platform for collaboration, not exploitation. By leveraging ethical tech diplomacy, embedding ethics in every layer of innovation, and engaging leaders who think beyond short-term interests and are committed to building cooperation and achieving new milestones in diplomacy, a global digital society can emerge, where the benefits of technology are shared, the risks are managed, and the values of humanity remain at the center.

Biography:

Bocar BA is Commissioner at the UN Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, Chair of ITU's CRO/IAGDI, Member of the ITU Digital Innovation Board, and CEO of SAMENA Telecommunications Council. A renowned industry advocate, he champions sustainability in digital transformation, infrastructure investment, access to capital, and regulatory reform to advance the global Sustainable Development Agenda, especially across the South Asia–Middle East–North Africa (SA-ME-NA) region.

A sought-after speaker at international conferences, BA collaborates with policymakers, investors, and leaders to foster private-public partnerships and cross-border cooperation throughout Africa and the Middle East.

In 2020, he was a member of the G20 Summit Advisory Board's Digital Economy Task Force (Saudi Arabia) and continues contributing to Global Cybersecurity Forum (GCF) initiatives, including child online protection. He has led policy consensus-building on ICT funding models to accelerate digital infrastructure.

In 2025, BA contributes to digital economic initiatives under South Africa's G20 Presidency. In the space and satellite segment, he advises the UAE's MBRSC on promoting space sustainability. He is a Fellow at the Academy of Engineering and Technology of the Developing World (AETDEW).

He is based in Dubai, UAE.



Mr. Gleb Babiy

CEO and Co-Founder, Aspect Health

LinkedIn / X



"When we move from "content" to completion, millions will have fewer symptoms, more energy, and more agency."

Objective:
Most health apps "tell" but don't do. Aspect Health is building an AI health coach that performs the hard parts of care—scheduling labs, nudging medication routines, ordering groceries, and coordinating with clinicians—so people actually follow through. We began with PCOS, a leading driver of infertility and mental-health burden, and are expanding to adjacent women's metabolic-hormonal journeys (perimenopause, postpartum, fertility). Our aim: translate clinical guidance into completed actions at population scale.

Impact:
We focus on completion, not content. In PCOS cohorts, our AI coach converts plans into automated next steps: it turns continuous glucose monitor and hormonal data into weekly "do" lists, books tests with partner clinics, and simplifies meal planning via integrated carts—reducing cognitive load and dropout. Members report improved cycle regularity, weight, mood, and energy while sustaining adherence longer than with advice-only programs. Operationally, we progressed from a pilot to multimillion-dollar ARR, enabling faster protocol iteration and better care navigation. Our north star: a measurable rise in "care task completion rate" (e.g., labs done on time, meds taken as prescribed, weekly food plans executed) that correlates with outcomes—then generalize this "action layer" beyond PCOS to broader women's health.

Partnerships:

We work with OB-GYNs and endocrinology clinics to co-design PCOS protocols and run shared appointment pilots; with device ecosystems (e.g., CGM vendors via standard integrations) to power continuous feedback; and with registered dietitians and health coaches to human-supervise the AI. We also engage academic and clinical advisors to stress-test safety and equity in real-world use. For example, recently we partnered with the University of Southern California. We're also exploring partnerships with the Cleveland Clinic and with Flo Health (our investor).

Investments:

We secured $12M from Lux Capital, Valor, and the founders of Flo Health, Deel, Thirty Madison, among others—operators who understand both regulated care and consumer UX. We paired early clinical traction with fast product cycles and rigorous data practices. Beyond capital, backers opened doors to clinical pilots, distribution, and regulatory counsel. Lessons: (1) Raise around a capability (the action layer), not a niche; (2) design for clinical safety from day one; (3) choose investors who bring operating muscle. If starting today, we'd formalize reimbursement pathways earlier to accelerate payer and employer distribution.

SDG Impact:

SDG 3 (Good Health & Well-Being): improved women's metabolic-hormonal outcomes.
SDG 5 (Gender Equality): access to care for an underserved condition.
SDG 9 (Industry/Innovation): privacy-first AI for care execution.
SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities): protocols designed for diverse populations.
SDG 17 (Partnerships): clinics, advisors, and ecosystem integrations.

Success Factors & Challenges:

What helped: pairing medical rigor with product speed; making "done" the product surface (e.g., pre-filled lab orders, calendar-aware routines, grocery auto-builds); building a cross-functional team fluent in AI, clinical care, and behavior change. Challenges: earning trust in women's health (privacy, safety), navigating evolving rules for AI in care, integrating disparate systems (devices, labs, pharmacies), and keeping adherence high over months. Key takeaway: advice changes little without execution. The leverage is an action engine that removes friction at every step, escalates to humans when needed, and proves impact with completion and outcome metrics—then reuses those playbooks across adjacent conditions.

Personal Story:

At 9, I was diagnosed with genetic hyperinsulinemia and told I might never have children. That prognosis became purpose. At 15, I enrolled in a medical university to understand my own biology and help others. At 16, I published research on hormonal health and began collaborating with MIT-affiliated scientists on longevity and proteomics—learning how to turn frontier science into practical tools. At 18, I started building what became Aspect Health. Working as a coach, I saw that people aren't failing for lack of knowledge; they struggle at the moment of doing. That insight shaped our thesis: build an AI health coach that removes friction and completes the hardest steps—testing, planning, and follow-through—alongside clinicians. At 22, I became the youngest Forbes 30 Under 30 Europe honouree in Healthcare. My story is the throughline for Aspect: transform care from information into actions so more people can own their health and future.

Looking Ahead:

Yes—our "action layer" is a platform: reusable playbooks, APIs, and safety guardrails that generalize beyond PCOS. We're expanding to perimenopause, fertility, and postpartum, and exploring payer/employer and clinic channels to scale access while preserving privacy, equity, and human oversight.

Vision for the Future:

Health's biggest gap isn't data; it's doing. My call to action: let's measure success by completion and outcomes, not downloads or step counts. Build ethical AI teammates that schedule, order, remind, coordinate—and defer to humans when nuance matters. Open up action playbooks so clinics and innovators can adapt them locally. Pair this with multisector coalitions—clinics, public health, device and data ecosystems—to take friction out of everyday care. When we move from "content" to completion, millions will have fewer symptoms, more energy, and more agency.

Biography:

Gleb Babii is the founder & CEO of Aspect Health, a U.S.-incorporated digital-health company building an AI health-coaching agent that does, not just tells. Diagnosed at 9 with genetic hyperinsulinemia and warned he might never have children, he turned prognosis into purpose: at 15, he enrolled in medical university; at 16, he published on hormonal health and began collaborating with MIT-affiliated scientists on longevity and proteomics; at 18, he started building Aspect to help others do the hard parts of care. At 22, he became the youngest Forbes 30 Under 30 Europe honouree in Healthcare.

Aspect began with PCOS, pairing hormone and CGM data with an action engine that books labs, structures routines, auto-builds grocery carts, and coordinates with

clinicians and coaches. The company has raised $12M from Lux Capital, Valor, and the founders of Flo Health, Deel, and Thirty Madison, alongside leading operators and clinicians. With a privacy-first, human-supervised approach, Aspect is expanding its action playbooks to perimenopause, fertility, and postpartum, and partnering with clinics and benefits channels to reach more women. Babii's north star: shift health from content to completion so millions can feel and function better.

Mr. James Barrood

Founder & CEO, Innovation+ | INNOVATE100

LinkedIn / X / Instagram



"Each of us has the capacity to highlight others' work and bring it to audiences both near and far–and to friends and strangers alike."

Objective:
We launched INNOVATE100 to spotlight and connect New Jersey's top innovation leaders and organizations, solving the challenge of unifying a fragmented tech and innovation ecosystem by creating a trusted, inclusive platform for collaboration, visibility and shared progress. The initiative was created to include all industries and recognize leaders statewide to share our impressive talent roster both regionally and globally.

Impact:
INNOVATE100 has elevated more than 100 founders, investors, corporate leaders, and academic innovators, amplifying their stories and catalyzing partnerships.
The initiative has inspired new investments, policy dialogues, and youth programming—strengthening New Jersey's global reputation as a hub for innovation and entrepreneurship.

Importantly, it created new levels of engagement and collaboration across industries, academia and nonprofit sectors. It also broke down silos at organizations as the program highlighted leaders at all levels and among all generations.

Partnerships:
Universities, venture firms, corporates, service providers, nonprofits, entrepreneurial support organizations and state agencies partnered with INNOVATE100 to build a

stronger ecosystem. Collaboration unlocked value by bridging silos—connecting capital, research, and talent—and accelerating initiatives that would not have been possible in isolation. Our partners helped to identify talent and elevate all the leaders at our main May event, as well as at smaller socials spread out throughout the year.

Investments:

Support came from nonprofit and government partners as well as sponsors, which included corporates, universities and colleges, trade associations, service providers, angel networks, and venture firms, as well as community champions. Beyond funding, storytelling and recognition drew new champions to the cause.

Lesson: Visibility can be as catalytic as capital. If I were to have done anything differently, I would have amplified digital storytelling even earlier and continued it throughout the year.

SDG Impact:

Innovate100 has partnered with multiple entities to foster the exchange of knowledge and expertise, as well as technology and financial resources (SDG 17). Innovate100 has also worked to create and celebrate solid infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and ultimately facilitate innovation by highlighting those responsible for it (SDG 8).

Success:

Determining who the best and brightest innovators in New Jersey are has been an enormous undertaking involving not only extensive research and investigation, but also collaboration. For the INNOVATE100 awards program itself, aligning diverse stakeholders and procuring financial resources was particularly challenging. However, our program's success was ultimately gleaned from trusted relationships as well as diversely talented people who were all eager to unify under the INNOVATE100 platform.

The key takeaway: ecosystems thrive when recognition, trust and shared purpose are embedded at the core.

Personal Story:

I was particularly honored and somewhat surprised by the overwhelming outpouring of genuine appreciation and support I received throughout the program's formation and ultimate fruition. It was as if the innovation community was thanking me not only for the dynamic program and series of events, but also for my decades of work nurturing New Jersey's innovation ecosystem.

Also important: The delight so many leaders showed in being recognized for their achievements, as well as their appreciation for being able to meet each other face-to-face at the awards ceremony. Of note, New Jersey is among the most multi-ethnically diverse locales in the world, and it was wonderful to see this reflected in the roster of honorees.

Looking Ahead:

INNOVATE100 is designed to scale—its model of celebrating 100 changemakers can be replicated globally to inspire, connect, and catalyze innovation communities anywhere. We are already talking to other states and regions/nations outside the U.S., including Vancouver, South Africa and Dubai.

Vision for the Future:

When key changemakers are recognized throughout initiatives such as INNOVATE100, it creates a ripple effect—attracting investment, inspiring youth, and building ecosystems that are inclusive, collaborative, and ready to innovatively address humanity's greatest challenges. Overall, people will only know the great achievements of our time if their leaders' stories are shared and showcased. Although not everyone will be an outstanding leader, each of us has the capacity to highlight others' work and bring it to audiences both near and far–and to friends and strangers alike.

Biography:

James Barrood is Founder and CEO of Innovation+ as well as INNOVATE100, the latter an initiative that celebrates and connects 100s of the most impactful New Jersey innovators, investors, corporates, and academic leaders shaping the future.

By spotlighting changemakers and fostering collaboration, INNOVATE100 has become a trusted platform for driving economic growth and inclusive innovation across the tri-state region and beyond.

Prior to these roles, James led TechUnited (formerly NJ Tech Council), one of the nation's most established trade associations, and helped launch the Tech Council Venture Fund. He serves on multiple venture and nonprofit boards, advises startups and funds, and frequently writes and speaks on AI, entrepreneurship, and innovation ecosystem building.

Through both INNOVATE100 as well as education programs, James blends leadership, advocacy, and knowledge to strengthen innovation communities across generations.

His work has been featured in Forbes, TechCrunch, and regional media, reflecting his mission: to recognize changemakers, build bridges, and catalyze ecosystems where innovation serves people, prosperity, and the planet.

Mr. and Mrs. Erai & Kyleigha Beckmann

Founding Partners
Peace Through Trade Blockchain

X (PTTCoin) / X (Beckmann PTT) / LinkedIn / Linktree / Instagram / Website



"Peace through trade is achievable when technology, regulation, and humanity work together."

Objective:
Peace Through Trade Blockchain L1-Pow-Sustainable (PTT) set out to address the challenge of building a sustainable, regulatory-compliant global blockchain infrastructure—one that could serve as a foundation for governments, central banks, institutions, communities, and small businesses alike. Its objective is to empower nations and people everywhere by enabling a safe, secure, transparent, and insured Web3 ecosystem—sustainable in design, scalable in reach, and dedicated to advancing peace through equitable trade.

Impact:
Over 4.5 years of development, PTT has already begun transforming the way governments, universities, and financial partners think about blockchain adoption. On the ground, it has engaged with leaders from Southeast Asia, the Americas, and beyond, creating a trusted foundation for national digital currencies, carbon-credit systems, and sustainability-driven financial products. At scale, PTT demonstrates how blockchain can be energy-efficient, globally compliant, and socially beneficial.

Partnerships:
Collaboration has been central to PTT's success. Partnerships with academics, scientists, and researchers at three Southeast Asian universities (5,000 faculty and 35,000 students) provide research, validation, and development. PTT has already empowered accredited

blockchain studies, with its ecosystem integrated into bachelor's and master's curricula. Alongside academia, PTT engages with central banks, regulators, and global leaders to integrate blockchain into government planning. These collaborations continue to unlock value by bridging technology, compliance, licensing, and insurance, while aligning top-level financial partnerships with governance and education to advance sustainable, secure, and scalable global blockchain adoption.

Investments:

To date, funding has come from INFYNIT Capital, the Beckmann family office, along with community leaders and high-impact change-makers who share the vision of building a Web3 ecosystem like Peace Through Trade for the betterment of humanity and the planet. Additional support has come through private capital, strategic partnerships, and contributions from aligned organizations. Key lessons include structuring compliance across multiple jurisdictions (North & Central America, Southeast Asia (Singapore), and others) and demonstrating tangible early-stage results to secure confidence. Sustainability and transparency remain central drivers in attracting support and building long-term trust.

SDG Impact:

PTT advances the UN Sustainable Development Goals by fostering equitable access to finance (SDG 8), deploying scalable blockchain infrastructure (SDG 9), supporting climate action through carbon-credit and nature-backed tokens (SDG 13), and strengthening transparency, governance, and trust (SDG 16).

Success Factors & Challenges:

PTT's success is rooted in its regulatory-first approach, long-term vision, and ability to engage with stakeholders across government, academia, and finance. Key challenges included navigating complex international regulations, securing early-stage funding, and overcoming skepticism about blockchain's environmental impact. By developing a proof-of-work system that is thousands of times more energyefficient than traditional models, PTT has demonstrated that blockchain can be both sustainable and impactful.

Our experience thus far has shown us that success in blockchain does not require "reinventing the wheel," but rather deep appreciation for the collective strength of an incredible team. Gratitude, collaboration, and trust have been essential. We've learned that a solid regulatory foundation, combined with the "slow is fast" approach, ensures solutions are built directly upon legal frameworks. This provides the safety, security, and insurance required for a long-term foundation, one that can sustainably scale and ethically empower humanity with Peace Through Trade.

Personal Story:

The inspiration for Peace Through Trade came from a deep conviction that technology should be a force for unity rather than division. A formative moment occurred during early engagements with governments in Southeast Asia, where leaders emphasized their need for secure, transparent, global, and affordable financial systems. Seeing firsthand how equitable trade could uplift entire communities solidified the mission: to harness blockchain for humanity's collective good, uplifting the quality of life for all through Peace Through Trade and cultural exchange. This vision traces back to Edmund Burke, who spoke of dispelling the drums of war through international trade and cultural exchange. During his time with the British Empire, Burke demonstrated how such principles could establish peace across vast regions, helping create peace through one of the largest global trade networks of its time. PTT carries this legacy forward, using blockchain to foster sustainable prosperity and unity for humanity.

Looking Ahead:

PTT is designed to be replicated and scaled globally. Its L1 architecture allows governments to create tailored digital assets, such as stablecoins within a compliant ecosystem. PTT's model can be adapted by nations, central banks, and organizations, opening ethical Peace Through Trade and enabling faster, safer, insured cross-border capital flows.

Vision for the Future:

The call to action is clear: Peace Through Trade is achievable when technology, regulation, and humanity work together. Our vision is a future where every nation has equitable access to secure digital economies, where trade is transparent, and where innovation serves the planet as much as it serves people. We now invite government officials, family offices, and all those inspired to empower ethical access for humanity to join us. This new advancement of human technology allows us to build not just a system, but a global ecosystem of permanence—one where the future of humanity is more stable and secure. Whether through information, currencies, nature-backed assets, or resources developed with our partners, we believe these solutions will empower humanity to accelerate its evolution while ensuring a sustainable, ethical, and prosperous future. Together, we can achieve peace through trade.

Biography:

Erai and Kyleigha Beckmann are visionary entrepreneurs and sustainability advocates committed to building technologies that create positive impact for humanity and the planet. Together, they have launched and scaled ventures that blend innovation with responsibility, showing how business can serve as a force for good. Early in their journey, they co-founded the world's first CBD pharmaceutical company to legally import into

Latin America. That initiative not only contributed to a $9 billion private valuation but also played a pivotal role in shaping federal legislation that legalized medical CBD and THC in Brazil in 2015, expanding access to vital therapies for millions of people. Their work demonstrated how innovation and regulation can combine to drive large-scale societal change. Today, Erai and Kyleigha bring this experience to the blockchain sector as Founding Partners of Peace Through Trade, a sustainable Layer 1 Proof-of-Work blockchain. Their mission is to empower equitable access to finance, advance climate-positive digital economies, and build a global ecosystem of permanence aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, ensuring peace through trade for generations to come.

Investing in Hope

Dr. Osvald Bjelland

Hope Rooted in Place and History

I am writing to you about hope from Bjelland, a small farm in western Norway where my family has lived for as long as memory stretches back. Here, among the sea, mountains, and fields, we learned to live by the hunt and harvest, sustained by rhythms older than any of us. Life in such a place teaches patience and perspective. It teaches that survival requires courage, persistence, and above all, hope. My forefathers embodied this truth when they crossed fjords and oceans in search of better futures, leaving behind the modest soil of Norway to pursue opportunities in America and Australia. For them, hope was not an abstract sentiment. It was the fuel that made impossible journeys possible.

Over the years, I have come to understand that hope is not just an emotion or a virtue. Hope is a form of capital. And it compounds when nurtured and depletes when ignored. Like financial capital, hope requires investment, stewardship, and trust. Without it, societies lose their ability to dream, to risk, to innovate, and to build. With it, they find resilience, courage, and collective imagination. This is not only true for nations and economies, but also for families, communities, and individuals.

Hope as Capital in a Fractured World

I have seen this lesson in many places and moments. In the eyes of children hoping to find friends and acceptance at school. In the determination of entrepreneurs placing their livelihoods on the line, year after year. In the unwavering courage of people emerging from places of torment, such as Auschwitz or Saydnaya prison, who clung to hope when everything else had been stripped away. I have seen it in Sudan, Myanmar, and Haiti, where families search for loved ones amidst chaos, and in Ukraine, where hope itself has become an act of resistance against destruction. In each of these instances, hope has not been fragile. It has been generative. It has been a resource that, once shared, multiplies.

The world we inhabit today is unsettled. We face rising authoritarianism, ecological collapse, war, and a disintegration of trust in institutions. We see leaders exploit uncertainty for power, dismantling societies based on rules and values, and plunging communities into fear and despair. We see entire generations questioning whether life has a purpose, retreating from risk, and choosing not to invest in the future. These are not abstract crises. They are crises of hope. And when hope diminishes, the capital of possibility diminishes with it. Cynicism takes root, despair grows, and societies stagnate.

Compounding Hope Through Collective Voices

It was from this understanding that I began to ask: what would it mean to treat hope as capital, and to invest in it as seriously as we invest in markets or infrastructure? What if, instead of seeing hope as sentimental, we recognized it as a measurable force of change? That question became the inspiration behind my work compiling the voices of extraordinary leaders into the book *Hope for Life on Our Planet: Inspiration for Seven Generations*. The book is not about me. It is about the capital of hope entrusted to us by others. It is about creating a platform where hope can compound through the wisdom, vision, and lived experiences of many.

When sixty-four contributors—Nobel laureates, CEOs, artists, scientists, activists, and spiritual leaders—came together to share their visions, what they were really doing was pooling their hope as capital for humanity. Each voice offered not only a story, but an investment in a future they wanted to see. Their collective words became a portfolio of hope: diverse, resilient, and capable of sustaining others. A laureate writing from prison in Iran offered the kind of hope that survives in the darkest corners of injustice. A business leader in India articulated hope in the form of long-term, values-based leadership.

An explorer in the Arctic embodied hope through stewardship of fragile ecosystems. Each contribution, unique in form, became part of a shared currency.

What struck me most was that this process was itself an act of compounding. Hope, when shared, multiplies. The book became far more than any individual contribution. It became an exponential force. In this way, *Hope for Seven Generations* was not merely a collection of essays. It was a practical demonstration of my belief that hope is capital. By elevating extraordinary voices, their hope was amplified, and their gift to the world was compounded. This is the same purpose that *Vision for the Future* seeks to achieve: to create a collective testament to bold ideas, to inspire investment in possibility, and to surface pathways that others can follow.

Hope as Strategy and Inheritance

To see hope as capital also means to recognize its economic and psychological dimensions. Hope shapes behavior. It influences whether young people believe in the future, whether investors risk their resources, whether communities choose collaboration over despair. Larry Fink, in his 2024 letter to investors, reflected on a chilling statistic. Compared with two decades ago, young Americans are 50 percent more likely to question whether life has purpose. Four in ten say it is hard to have hope for the world. For him, as for me, this was not only a moral challenge but an economic one. Without hope, future generations will not invest in their societies. They will hide their savings under the mattress, and their dreams in the confines of their rooms.

And yet, hope is not naïve optimism. It is not a lottery ticket clutched with fingers crossed. It is a strategic resource that directs decisions and sustains action. Holocaust survivor Viktor Frankl called it "tragic optimism," a hope that does not deny suffering, but insists on meaning despite it. Rebecca Solnit described it as an axe to break down doors in an emergency. My forefathers carried such an axe when they crossed oceans. Today, people carry it when they stand up against injustice, when they rebuild after disaster, when they refuse to believe that despair must have the last word.

The lesson is clear. If hope is to function as capital, it must be invested. That investment takes many forms. It is the parent who nurtures a child's curiosity. It is the teacher who insists on the dignity of every student. It is the community leader who organizes neighbors to protect a river or a forest. It is the policymaker who envisions long-term stewardship rather than short-term gain. It is the philanthropist, the investor, and the entrepreneur who dare to finance solutions that extend beyond their lifetime. And it is the writer,

artist, and scientist who use their gifts to show us new possibilities.

When I reflect on the process of creating *Hope for Seven Generations*, I see it as my own modest act of investment. By inviting diverse voices to share their visions, I sought to create a compounding effect. A book that no one could have written alone, but that together became a testament to human potential. My contribution was not the content itself, but the platform that allowed hope to multiply. That is how I see the work of leadership in today's world: less about control, more about curation. Less about dominance, more about amplification.

As I look ahead, I am convinced that this compounding of hope can and must continue. We must treat hope as seriously as we treat capital markets, energy systems, or health infrastructure. We must measure it, invest in it, and protect it. Because when hope is nurtured, it grows. It becomes contagious. It creates new possibilities. But when it is neglected, it withers, and despair fills the void.

Our task, then, is to become wise ancestors, acting on behalf of the generations yet unborn. The Iroquois taught us that every decision should consider its impact seven generations into the future. This ancient philosophy resonates deeply with me. It reminds us that hope is not only for the present. It is a responsibility we carry forward. To invest in hope today is to create an inheritance for those who come after us.

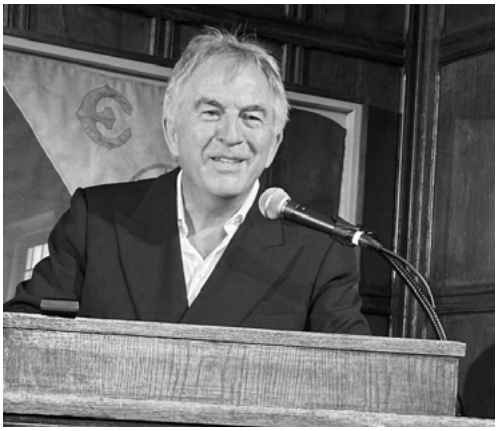
In the end, I return to Bjelland. I think of the soil that sustained my family, of the fjords and mountains that framed their lives, and of the journeys that carried them across the world. I think of how their hope was not only for themselves, but for me, for my children, and for the children yet to come. That hope was their capital, passed down across time, compounded through sacrifice and love. Today, I see my work as an extension of theirs: to nurture hope as capital, to invest in it wisely, and to share it widely. For it is only through hope, strategic, collective, and enduring, that we can move from what is to what conscience dictates ought to be.

Hope as Strategy and Inheritance

My hope for the future is that, once we turn the page on crisis after crisis, we will remember that this moment offered us the chance to pause and reembrace our values, to reconnect to one another, to give our planet the time it needs to rebalance, and to rise to the challenge of building a just and better world. My hope is that we will be both able and willing to work and invest in service of the next seven generations. Because hope is what

gives us the courage to create, the fortitude to carry on, and the resilience to withstand life's adversities. We need new hope for life on our planet now more than ever.

About Dr. Osvald Bjelland



Dr. Osvald Bjelland is an entrepreneur, investor, global business executive, and cultural leader with a deep interest in people and planet-positive models of growth. He is the founder and Chairman of Origination AS and of the Origination Foundation. His mission is to build a community of originators from business, policy, the arts, and civil society who are able and committed to invest in service of people and the planet with long-term strategic foresight. The Origination team focuses especially on the importance of frontier markets.

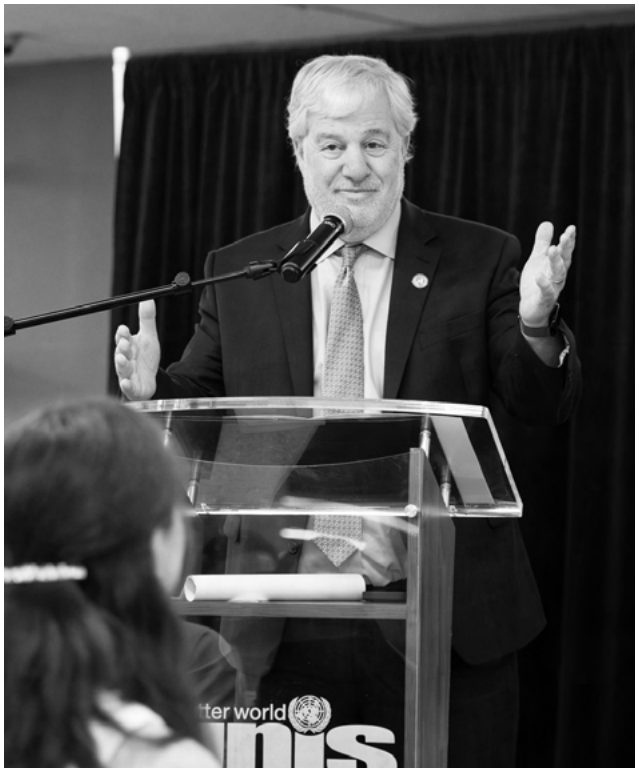
He is the founder and former Chairman and CEO of Xyntéo, a high-level energy transition and strategic advisory business, among other companies. Bjelland also founded The Performance Theatre, a creative interactive experience for world leaders, Nobel Laureates, scientists, and artists from across the world. He shares his commitment and interest in the arts and culture with his wife, Thorhild Widvey, who chairs the Bergen International Festival and is a former Norwegian politician who served as Minister of Culture and Minister of Energy. They have two sons, Ole Kristoffer and Johannes.

Born in a small village next to Bjelland, Norway, the site of their family farm, Bjelland is a senior fellow for the Sustainable Investing Research Initiative (SIRI) at Columbia University and has been a visiting business fellow at Oxford University and a visiting scholar at Stanford University. He holds a PhD from the University of Leeds, an MBA from Henley Business School, and a BA from the BI Norwegian Business School. Bjelland completed his military training and service with the Royal Norwegian Airforce. He is a published author and has appeared on *CNN*, the *BBC*, and in *Fortune*, *Financial Times*, *MIT Sloane Management Review*, *Harvard Business Review*, among other media outlets. He is the editor and co-author of *Hope for Life on our Planet: Inspiration for Seven Generations*, published by Manhattan Book Group in April 2025.

Dr. Dan Brenner

Executive Director, United Nations International School

Instagram / *Facebook*



"Providing hope creates the opportunity to dream."

Objective:
In sub-Saharan Africa, 34 million secondary school-aged girls are out of school. United Nations International School (UNIS) extended its mission beyond campus by supporting young women in Osun State, Nigeria, aged 15–20, who left school due to pregnancy, motherhood, or isolation. By partnering with local NGO VARCE, we created a center to prepare these students for the West African Secondary School Certificate, teach technology and programming, and foster connections with UNIS students through service learning, enabling mutual growth and global impact.

Impact:
In just 14 months, we:

- Secured a campus in Osun State.
- Recruited 100 girls.
- Hired local teaching staff.
- Provided 100 donated MacBooks.
- Installed two Starlink internet systems.
- Established weekly virtual exchanges between UNIS and Nigerian students.
- Collaborated with UNIS and VARCE staff.
- Developed and implemented curriculum and educational tools.

Two years later, 97 of the original 100 students completed the program—an achievement that exceeded our expectations.

Partnerships:

Our key partner, VARCE, embraced our vision and worked closely with UNIS to address not only academic needs but also the social and emotional well-being of students—critical to the program's success. PwC played an important role as an on-the-ground vetting team, helping to strengthen VARCE as an organization and ensuring accountability.

We have also benefited from individual volunteers, most notably Allan Holmes, a Google employee whose expertise has been instrumental in planning how to scale the project with AI tools. His dedication and belief in our mission have been vital to our progress.

Investments:

Initial funding came from a private donor who provided the seed capital to launch the program. We also
secured a $100,000 matching grant from the EE Ford Foundation. We are now seeking to raise at least $1 million to support the second stage of the pilot.

SDG Impact:

Our program advances SDG 4 by enabling young Nigerian women, excluded due to social, economic, or geographic barriers, to return to school, pursue further study, and access jobs. Supporting SDG 5, we tackle gender inequality by focusing on girls disproportionately denied education, fostering empowerment and equal opportunity.

Success Factors & Challenges:

The program's success rested on finding the right partner on the ground and staying committed despite challenges. We overcame limited startup funding, the logistical difficulties of operating from New York while building a program in Nigeria, and the constraints of working almost entirely through Zoom. Remaining small and agile allowed us to make quick decisions without the delays of large bureaucracies. We embraced a "gritty" mindset, adapting as needed while staying focused on measurable goals, particularly attendance and retention rates—both of which far exceeded expectations. The first cohort of students just completed the two-year program, and all 96 girls passed the exam at a rate that made them eligible for university. As important, there is a physical difference in how they carry themselves, knowing there is hope in their futures.

Personal Story:

This project began as a dream five years ago: to offer UNIS-level education to students in refugee camps through online learning. COVID-19 put that vision on hold, but also taught us how to adapt education for remote delivery.

After many setbacks, we found our way to Nigeria. The partnership with VARCE, and the determination of the Nigerian girls themselves, transformed our vision into a shared dream—and then into reality. UNIS students also became part of this journey, interacting with their Nigerian counterparts, deepening the impact.
Now, we have a model grounded in our mission and the belief that providing hope creates the opportunity to dream. And that is a powerful elixir toward the success of any educational experience.

Looking Ahead:

Our goal is to finalize the AI application so the project can scale and be adapted by others worldwide. We will seek out other partners for the delivery of education and for additional funders to support the expansion of the program.

Vision for the Future:

Follow your heart. Pursue your passion. Stand strong in the face of adversity. Stay flexible when confronted with inevitable challenges. In our case, we believe there is a crisis in access to education, and we have never ventured off the path of trying to help. It is grounded in our mission as a school, making the world a better place and educating the future global leaders who will be change makers themselves.

Biography:

Dan Brenner, PhD, earned a Bachelor's Degree in psychology from Tufts University and a Master's Degree and Ph.D. in School/Clinical Psychology from Hofstra University. Dan's career started first as a school psychologist and then principal in the Great Neck, New York Public Schools. He later became the high school principal in Yorktown, New York, and an Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology in the Roslyn, New York Public Schools. Dan spent 8 years as the Superintendent of Schools in Roslyn and moved on to become the Superintendent of Schools in Darien, Connecticut in 2015.

The driving force in his career is his philosophy of putting the needs of students first. Dan's belief system is that schools should be rigorous places of learning that inspire curiosity among their students, never losing sight of the simple fact that rigor and fun can coexist as partners in the learning process.



Mr. Mushtaq K Chhapra, Mr. Ahsan M. Saleem, Mr. Ateed Riaz

Co-Founders of The Citizens Foundation (TCF)

Instagram / Facebook / X / Youtube



Objective:
With more than 25 million children out of school in Pakistan, The Citizens Foundation (TCF) is expanding access to quality, affordable education for children in underserved communities. Lack of education perpetuates many of Pakistan's pressing challenges, such as poverty, poor health, and crime, by limiting opportunities and awareness. By providing education, TCF empowers children to break intergenerational cycles of disadvantage and become agents of positive change within their families, communities, and the broader society.

Impact:
What began in 1995 with five schools has grown into a beacon of hope for Pakistan's education ecosystem. The Economist describes TCF as "perhaps the largest network of independently run schools in the world." With more than 2,000 school units across slums and villages in Pakistan, TCF educates over 300,000 children, nearly half of whom are girls. This commitment to gender equity extends beyond classrooms, with over 14,000 women serving as teachers and principals. To date, over 63,000 alumni have graduated from TCF, 61% of whom are employed, while many pursue tertiary education.

TCF has driven a profound shift in community mindsets: where education - particularly for girls - was once undervalued, families now embrace it. TCF also empowers women

through literacy and skills training programmes and works with the state to revive government schools.

TCF has cultivated a nationwide network over 30 years, which proves especially valuable in times of crisis.

Partnerships:

TCF collaborates with provincial governments to revitalise underperforming public schools, improving infrastructure, teacher quality and learning outcomes. TCF partnered with the UK's FCDO to upgrade several state schools in Punjab. During COVID-19, TCF worked with the Federal Ministry of Education and Pakistan Television Corporation to launch a distance learning programme reaching children nationwide amid school closures. We engage ed-tech partners to enable blended learning in classrooms and recently collaborated with Khan Academy to introduce AI-powered teacher training. TCF has worked closely with federal and provincial ministries to influence education policy at a national level and contribute to national curriculum development.

Investments:

TCF began with five schools, funded by the pooled capital of its co-founders. Today, local and global citizens, expatriates, and organisations continue to support TCF, believing in the transformative power of education. Our global fundraising teams and campaigns mobilise communities worldwide, generating resources and cultivating lifelong advocates for the cause. This diversified, transparent approach has ensured the sustainability of TCF's operations and the long-term impact of our schools. One thing remains constant: transparency, strong governance, and demonstrated impact drive the trust and support that sustain our funding and growth.

SDG Impact:

TCF advances SDG 4 (Quality Education) as its core mission, while driving SDG 5 (Gender Equality) through equal access for girls. Education lifts families from poverty (SDG 1), creates pathways to decent work (SDG 8), and reduces inequalities (SDG 10), amplifying long-term social and economic progress.

Success Factors & Challenges:

TCF's model addresses critical barriers to education in Pakistan by bringing schools directly to children in underserved communities, rather than requiring long-distance travel.

Community acceptance was central to success. Early resistance - particularly to girls' schooling - was overcome through dialogue led by women principals and teachers from within the communities. Recruiting 100% female teachers further reinforced trust and safe access for girls. To address the scarcity of qualified teachers in remote areas, TCF invested in rigorous teacher training and provided transport to place skilled educators in these schools.

Visible alumni success demonstrated tangible outcomes, while investment in school leaders strengthened quality and sustainability. Strong governance and professional management underpinned transparency, efficiency, and robust operational systems, ensuring effective oversight across the TCF network.

Today, demand for schooling exceeds supply, highlighting that scalable impact requires embedding trust, gender equity, community leadership, and professional governance at the heart of education reform.

Personal Story:

In the 1990s, Pakistan faced profound challenges - poverty, crime, and inequality were widespread - and we wanted to do more than talk; we wanted to be part of the solution. A few of us friends, already established in business and industry, began meeting every Wednesday to reflect, debate, and explore meaningful ways to contribute to our country. Over time, one issue became clear: education. We realised that lack of education lay at the root of many of Pakistan's problems, and that addressing it could create ripple effects across society. With this conviction, we decided to act. In 1995, we founded TCF, a name reflecting our belief that change begins with citizens themselves. Starting with five schools and an ambitious goal to build 1,000, we set out to provide quality education to underserved children. From those humble beginnings grew a nationwide movement, proving that committed citizens can transform hope into lasting change.

Looking Ahead:

The TCF model is scalable and replicable, combining community-driven engagement, professional management, and local ownership. Purpose-built schools, trained teachers, and government collaboration allow expansion without compromising quality. Technology integration and transparent systems further support growth. Policymakers can adapt this model to deliver sustainable, high-impact education at scale in underserved areas.

Vision for the Future:

"Governance has been one of the key elements of TCF's success. When we started TCF,

we decided to hire the best management in Pakistan to run the organisation, while we focused on oversight. This helped in upholding the highest standards of transparency, accountability, and professional management."

Ahsan M. Saleem, Director & Co-Founder TCF

"TCF operates in places where there is absolute deprivation. We're proud to bring quality education where neither the government nor the private sector could reach. Our aim is for Pakistan's children to get a good education and build better lives."

Mushtaq K. Chhapra, Director & Co-Founder TCF

"A big foundation of TCF's success is the culture and values we've managed to preserve. At TCF, everything we do is rooted in our values - sincerity, beauty, service, and positive conduct. These values shape how we think, act, and lead and keeping this culture alive takes constant care."

Ateed Riaz, Co-Founder TCF

Biography:

Mushtaq K. Chhapra is a TCF Co-Founder and serves as a director at several companies. He is Chairman of the Executive Committee at the Patients' Aid Foundation and contributes his expertise to the Board of The Kidney Centre and the Institute of Business Administration. Recognised for his entrepreneurial contributions, Mr. Chhapra was awarded the Sitara-e-Imtiaz in 2017.

Ahsan M. Saleem is a TCF Co-Founder and the current Board Chairman with over 40 years of extensive experience managing and steering diverse business operations across multiple industries. He is also the Group Chief Executive Officer of Crescent Steel & Allied Products Ltd., a Trustee of COMMECS Education Trust, and has previously served as Board Chairman of Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture and as a member of the first Board of Habib University.

Ateed Riaz is a TCF Co-Founder and served as its CEO (2002-2005) and later Chairman of the Board (2016-2022). With over five decades of experience in leadership, social development, and entrepreneurship, Mr. Ateed Riaz has dedicated his life to nurturing talent, empowering individuals, and fostering civil society in Pakistan. In addition to his work with TCF, Mr. Riaz has been actively involved in numerous entrepreneurial ventures.


TCF SCHOOL
SAADAT IKRAM CAMPUS

Mr. Marcus Chidgey

CEO, Loqiva

LinkedIn



"True autonomy comes from owning your digital infrastructure."

Objective:
Over the past two decades, the tech industry has transformed how communities interact and how local economies function. Social media, driven by algorithms favouring engagement over accuracy, has reshaped public dialogue, while e-commerce giants have challenged the viability of local businesses. Community-focused content once found in local newspapers is now fragmented, leaving no central source for local information. Consequently, town centres are changing rapidly, and we're seeing a decline in social cohesion and civic pride.

Impact:
In 2019, my co-founder, Barry Conlon, and I set out to put technology on the side of local communities. Our goal was to strengthen connections between residents, businesses, and organisations without relying on social media-style advertising models. Instead of promoting our own brand, we focused on celebrating the unique identity of each place through free-to-download mobile apps filled with local content and digital portals. We also developed hyperlocal analytics to monitor town centre health and designed the platform to be low-cost so that communities of all sizes could benefit.

Five years later, our Digital Town Hubs are active in over 30 towns and cities across the UK, Ireland, and the US. They support over 15,000 local organisations and have attracted more than 200,000 app users. What we find most rewarding is hearing hundreds of

real-world stories about new connections, growing businesses, and thriving local events made possible through our technology.

Partnerships:

Our key partners have been instrumental in shaping and scaling our work. Early support from the London Borough of Croydon enabled us to test and refine our technology in real-world conditions. Collaborating with experts and local authorities helped tackle challenges around digital inclusion. As we commercialised, we partnered with Councils, BIDs, and community organisations. A standout example is It's in Nottingham, which is supporting new features to advance urban transport and digital signage. Today, we're also working with Scotland's Towns Partnership to help shape national digital infrastructure policy in Scotland.

Investments:

To date, our growth has been founder-funded. Seeking private equity early on would likely have proved difficult, as the concept of a Digital Town Hub was still too abstract and untested to attract traditional investment. By self-funding, we've had the freedom to stay focused, take meaningful risks, and fully commit to shaping the concept on our own terms - ultimately resulting in a stronger technology and a better customer experience. To accelerate and scale, however, we will be seeking socially-minded capital from philanthropic and venture sources.

SDG Impact:

Our work directly supports UN SDG 11 by creating inclusive, safe, and sustainable cities. Loqiva's Digital Town Hubs improve access to services, enable smarter urban management, enhance emergency response, and foster collaboration between councils, businesses, and communities for resilient and connected urban living.

Success Factors & Challenges:

A key challenge has been to convince resource-poor organisations to take bold decisions and new directions. However, our belief is that owning digital infrastructure is no longer optional for place management organisations — it's essential. Relying on third-party platforms leaves towns and districts vulnerable to shifting algorithms, rising costs, and priorities that don't reflect local needs.

This is not a short-term campaign but a long-term asset. Just as streets, lighting, and signage are investments in physical infrastructure, a dedicated digital platform is an investment in the civic infrastructure of the future. It builds a direct relationship with

residents and businesses, generates actionable data, and creates a foundation for loyalty and engagement that compounds in value over time.

The payoff is both immediate and enduring: a stronger connection with the community today, and a sustainable digital presence that will continue to deliver benefits for years to come.

Personal Story:

My journey began when I volunteered with my local Town Team in London. I met some incredible people leading local events and initiatives, many of whom also ran vital town centre businesses. However, there wasn't a single online platform to coordinate, discover, or promote all these activities in one place. I also remember speaking with an independent pizza shop owner who was frustrated by how food delivery apps had significantly impacted his working hours and profit margins. It became clear that the community lacked a way to communicate directly, conduct transactions, or access data without relying on third parties. From that and other similar experiences, I realised that enabling community ownership of data was essential to building a fairer, more sustainable and cohesive society. That's when I understood how powerful a Digital Town Hub could be in helping communities, potentially globally, to thrive.

Looking Ahead:

We're enhancing our platform for global scale with multilingual support, time zone flexibility, local currency payments, and AI integrations. We believe every community deserves to own its digital infrastructure, and through our Digital Town Hubs, we are leading the way in shaping that future for places around the world.

Vision for the Future:

Data is a community's most valuable form of wealth, but only if you own it. Relying on external platforms is like building a house on someone else's land: you can live in it and decorate it, but the landlord could evict you at any time. Civic leaders should see social media, food delivery apps, or other third-party platforms in the same way: useful, but ultimately outside their control.

True autonomy comes from owning your digital infrastructure. With control over data, communities can understand needs, measure impact, and drive meaningful change online and offline. Combined with strategic investment, data becomes the foundation for lasting social, economic, and environmental impact, securing the long-term prosperity of people and places.

Biography:

Marcus Chidgey is the CEO at Loqiva, a technology company that provides software to local councils, BIDs, and community organisations.

Marcus is passionate about place, and in particular, how technology can be used to improve the lives of local people. He has pioneered the concept of 'Digital Town Hubs' where residents, businesses and third sector organisations share a dedicated technology platform that aims to create stronger, more connected communities.

Prior to Loqiva, Marcus was the CEO of an award-winning media and technology company that worked with well-known brands, broadcasters and government.

Marcus currently sits on the board of Scotland's Towns Partnership, which works with the Scottish Government to help implement policies that aim to improve town centres. Previously, he chaired a military charity concerned with mental health support and resettlement back into civilian life.

Marcus lives with his family in the Western Isles in Scotland and has a keen interest in island communities and local economies.

Mr. Gary Cohen

CEO and Co-Founder, Maternal Newborn Health Innovations, PBC

LinkedIn

"The most difficult challenges require participants across multiple organizations and sectors, because no one organization or sector can address the challenges on its own."



Objective:
Maternal Newborn Health Innovations (MNHI) seeks to make childbirth safer and gentler for mothers and newborns. Maternal and newborn health remain among the world's most underserved areas of unmet need. Over four million newborn deaths and stillbirths occur each year. Approximately 25% of newborn deaths and 50% of stillbirths happen during childbirth. Over 90% of maternal deaths occur in low-resource countries. Maternal health outcomes are also lacking in some of the world's wealthiest countries, particularly among women of color.

Impact:
MNHI has completed development and launched an entirely new and innovative method to assist the birth of newborns during circumstances of prolonged, difficult labour, the OdonAssist™ inflatable device for assisted vaginal birth. This is only the fourth time in history that an entirely new method for assisting birth has been introduced, and the prior three were developed in the 1500s to 1800s! OdonAssist utilizes a soft air cuff placed on the fetal head, enabling gentle traction to assist birth. In all births to date utilizing OdonAssist, newborns have been delivered safely with no device-specific marks, bruising or injuries that are associated with other assisted vaginal birth methods. OdonAssist requires no electricity or running water and is designed to work equally well in high and low-resource health settings. In clinical studies, obstetricians rated OdonAssist as easy to use. It is a true breakthrough for childbirth.

Partnerships:

OdonAssist was invented by Jorge Odon, a car mechanic from Argentina. It was championed by the WHO, which was awarded a grant in the 2011 Grand Challenge – Saving Lives at Birth. Its early development was supported by BD (Becton, Dickinson and Co). The Gates Foundation sponsored human clinical trials. In 2022, former WHO official Dr. Mario Merialdi, Harvard Business School faculty member Mark Kramer and I co-founded MNHI as a public benefit corporation (PBC). MNHI is collaborating with leading obstetricians to introduce OdonAssist into clinical practice, and with the Italian NGO CUAMM on a clinical study in Ethiopia.

Investments:

MNHI raised initial funding from our founding investors. In July 2022, we successfully closed a Series A financing raise. The AXA IM Global Health Fund was the lead investor and has been a fantastic partner. In June 2025, MNHI launched OdonAssist into routine medical practice, starting in the UK, France and Italy. We are currently pursuing a Series B financing raise to fund global expansion. We expect to launch OdonAssist in additional EU countries, the Middle East and India in 2026, and in the US and sub-Saharan Africa in 2028. We plan to offer access pricing in low-income countries.

SDG Impact:

MNHI's work directly addresses SDG 3 Good Health and Well-Being, and indirectly supports SDG 1 No Poverty, 5 Gender Equality and 17 Partnerships for the Goals. Within SDG 3, we support the targets that aim to reduce the global maternal mortality ratio and end preventable deaths of newborns.

Success Factors & Challenges:

Throughout the development of OdonAssist, key people and leaders from different organizations, professions and countries who understood the importance of MNHI's mission devoted considerable time to supporting our efforts. These included leading obstetricians from throughout Europe and other geographies who supported product testing, clinical studies, data collection, training program development and the introduction of OdonAssist into clinical practice. The strong and consistent support from the medical community highlights the disruptive nature of the device and its potential to transform assisted vaginal birth—long considered difficult and risky for both mother and newborn—into a gentler, safer, and easier procedure. Regarding hurdles, there were too many to list! These included the unexpected closure of the first contract manufacturing facility that was producing OdonAssist, which resulted in a launch delay of over one year. My key takeaway? Nothing great happens without collaboration and huge persistence and perseverance by a truly dedicated team.

Personal Story:

I've had the privilege of working across the private, public and nonprofit sectors to advance progress in addressing major unmet health needs globally. These experiences included global dissemination of auto-disable devices to advance the safety of childhood vaccination programs, strengthening of health and laboratory systems in Africa to support scale-up of treatments for HIV and TB, and my founding of Together for Girls, a nonprofit focused on stopping violence against children (particularly sexual violence) that has expanded to 25 countries. In each of these initiatives, I worked across sectors to achieve positive change on a global scale. I have served as a UN Commissioner on Life Saving Commodities for Women and Children, as a board director of UNICEF USA, and in board-level capacities for the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Foundation. All these experiences were enabling to my current focus on improving maternal and newborn outcomes worldwide.

Looking Ahead:

Maternal and newborn health have been areas of insufficient focus and investment. We hope that the success of OdonAssist will inspire other inventors, investors and companies to place greater priority on addressing the unmet health needs of mothers and newborns, including particular emphasis on high-burden, low-resource populations.

Vision for the Future:

Margaret Mead said the following: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." This has been my personal experience. I've had the wonderful privilege of working with small, highly dedicated teams of individuals, inspired by a noble purpose, who, through their intense dedication and extremely hard work, have been able to accomplish, on a global scale, things that were thought to be nearly impossible. I truly believe this is how positive global change is achieved. The small team members do not need to belong to the same organization. The most difficult challenges require participants across multiple organizations and sectors, because no one organization or sector can address the challenges on its own. However, there needs to be close alignment of mission, purpose and motivation among the people working together as a team. This is absolutely essential.

Biography:

I am a social entrepreneur and intrapreneur who founded and led global impact initiatives in the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors, with a focus on advancing the health and well-being of children. I presently serve as CEO and co-founder of Maternal Newborn Health Innovations, a Public Benefit Corporation focused on innovating to improve maternal and newborn health outcomes worldwide.

I previously retired as Executive Vice President, Global Health and President of the BD Foundation at BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company). Prior to this, I served as EVP of International Operations and EVP and President of the Medical Device Segment of BD, where I had responsibility for approximately half of the company's global operations.

I am the board chair and founder of Together for Girls, a global partnership to stop violence against children, presently operating in 25 countries. I previously served as a UN Commissioner on Life Saving Commodities for Women and Children, as board chair and director of the CDC Foundation, as chair of the Corporate/CDC Roundtable on Global Health Threats, as board director of UNICEF USA, as a member of the UN Secretary General's Network of Engaged Men Leaders, and on the Scientific Advisory Board of Grand Challenges Canada.



Ms. Evie Evangelou

President and Founder, Fashion 4 Development

LinkedIn



"If we embed sustainability and humanity at its core, fashion can model what every industry must become: future-ready, inclusive, and ethical."

Objective:
When I founded Fashion 4 Development (F4D) in 2011, my vision was clear: to harness the global fashion industry as a force for sustainable development. Fashion touches every culture, every community, and every economy. It could no longer be seen only as commerce or culture—it had to become a platform for human progress.

Impact:
Over fifteen years, F4D has transformed fashion into a diplomatic language worldwide. Our Annual Official First Ladies Luncheon, held alongside the UN General Assembly, convenes world leaders, designers, and changemakers to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Together, we have spotlighted artisanship, empowered women, elevated indigenous traditions, and supported environmentally responsible production. Beyond events internationally, F4D has influenced a generation of designers and policymakers to see fashion not as disposable, but as durable: a driver of equity, sustainability, peace and a way to preserve culture.

Partnerships:
F4D thrives because of partnerships—across governments, the United Nations, designers, NGOs, and the private sector. From Moda Cares, our philanthropic arm that brings resources to vulnerable communities, to collaborations with global brands aligning

supply chains with the SDGs, F4D demonstrates how creative industries can unlock shared value when aligned with global priorities.

Investments:
Our model relies not only on funding through sponsors and patrons, but on investing cultural capital and convening power. By creating spaces where diplomacy, activists, the private and public sectors and creatives sit side by side, we have catalyzed new alliances, generated visibility for overlooked voices, and opened pathways for scalable impact.

SDG Impact:
F4D advances SDG 1(No Poverty), SDG 3(Good Health and Well-Being), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work & Economic Growth), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption & Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Success Factors & Challenges:
Our success rests on redefining fashion's purpose—from an image of excess to an instrument of positive change. The challenge remains the same: shifting entrenched systems built on overproduction and inequity. Yet creativity, inclusivity, and persistence continue to prove stronger than resistance.

Personal Story:
As a Greek American, I grew up between cultures, learning the value of heritage and the power of reinvention. That dual perspective made me see fashion as both memory and possibility as a tool for storytelling and for building bridges. It inspired me to devote my life to transforming an industry I loved into a movement for global good.

Looking Ahead:
The frontier before us is technology. Artificial intelligence, blockchain, and new materials can either accelerate exploitation—or redefine sustainability, transparency, and creativity. My vision is to align these tools with ethics and equity, ensuring that technology amplifies human dignity rather than undermines it.

Vision for the Future:
Fashion is more than clothes. It is identity, economy, and diplomacy. If we embed sustainability and humanity at its core, fashion can model what every industry must become: future-ready, inclusive, and ethical. My call to action is simple: let us stitch together creativity and conscience, so that what we wear tells the story of a world we are proud to build and be part of for ourselves and generations to come.

Biography:

Evie Evangelou is the President and Founder of Fashion 4 Development (F4D). She first introduced F4D's global awareness campaign and the First Ladies Luncheon initiative in 2011, inspired by her career in the international arena of cultural diplomacy and international relations, specializing in Entertainment, Arts, Fashion and Beauty. Previously, Evie served as interim Deputy Secretary General for the World Federation of the United Nations in NYC, where she worked with more than 100 UN Member States & Countries and Missions, as well as numerous non-governmental bodies focused on education, cultural affairs, and humanitarian causes. She received the appointment as a Special Consultant for Cultural and Educational Affairs and programs within UNDPI, one of the nine departments comprising the United Nations Secretariat. She was also appointed as a strategic consultant to the special representative of the UN Secretary-General for the United Nations themes "Dialogue among Civilizations and Diversity is Beautiful". Throughout her career she has received acknowledgements by the U.S. Senate and honored by several international governments as well as served as Goodwill Ambassador. In 2013, Fashion Group International presented Evie Evangelou with the Humanitarian Award for her work of creating positive social change for humanity.


RALPH & RUSS
F4D


F4D

Lord Fatafehi Fakafānua

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Tonga, Kingdom of Tonga



"The key lesson is that collective action creates resilience."

Objective:
The Pacific faces existential threats from climate change, economic vulnerability, and governance gaps that demand unified parliamentary leadership. Yet parliaments across the region lacked a collective forum to strengthen democracy, share lessons, and influence global decisions. The Pacific Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (PIPA) was created to bring together elected representatives, ensuring that Pacific priorities of resilience, prosperity, and survival are presented with coherence and authority on the world stage.

Impact:
PIPA has reshaped how Pacific parliaments collaborate. Building on the Pacific Islands Parliamentary Group, it now has a new mandate to unify voices, coordinate legislative action, and engage with the international system in a more structured way.

For the first time, parliaments across our large ocean states have an institution dedicated to supporting democratic governance and advancing shared priorities such as climate resilience and sustainable development. On the ground, this means parliamentarians are sharing knowledge, aligning policies, and creating consistent frameworks for accountability. At scale, it ensures that Pacific perspectives are not confined to occasional meetings but are embedded within a permanent body. This has strengthened solidarity across nations and given the Pacific a stronger platform to be heard in global negotiations.

Partnerships:

The Assembly was created due to the identifiable need to harmonize national priorities led by Pacific executive governments and parliamentary leadership grounded in local communities. The support of UN bodies and civil society groups together shaped the mandate. This collaboration pooled knowledge, resources, and political legitimacy. It also bridged the geographic and cultural diversity of our region, ensuring that both large and small states were included. By working together, what began as an informal group has grown into a recognized institution that provides accountability and speaks with a collective Pacific voice.

SDG Impact:

PIPA directly supports SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). It also contributes to SDG 14 (Life Below Water) and SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) through its role in legislative alignment and regional cooperation.

Success Factors & Challenges:

Success was made possible by solidarity. Pacific leaders understood that while each of our nations is small, together we are powerful. This spirit of unity helped us overcome hurdles such as limited resources, geographic isolation, and underrepresentation in international forums.

Building a new inter-parliamentary body required determination, political will, and trust between legislatures. The key lesson is that collective action creates resilience. In the face of climate change and other global challenges, small states can influence outcomes when they unite behind shared priorities. PIPA is proof that new governance models can emerge when we choose cooperation over isolation.

Personal Story:

During climate negotiations, I witnessed firsthand how Pacific nations, despite being most at risk, were often sidelined. Rising seas threatened our homelands, yet our voices carried little weight in global decision-making. This was a painful but clarifying experience.

It became clear that without a permanent institution in the region for our collective parliaments, our concerns would remain fragmented and easily ignored. That realization was the main impetus for the creation of PIPA. The Assembly reflects the resilience of our people, the urgency of our situation, and the belief that our joined democracies must respond to existential threats together. It is a collective declaration that the Pacific's future

will not be decided by neglect, but by our own united leadership.

Looking Ahead:

Yes. PIPA provides a model for regions facing shared challenges among smaller states. Its framework for cooperation, solidarity, and stronger governance takes onboard the leadership of other regional parliamentary models from around the world.

Vision for the Future:

Do not underestimate the strength of a collective voice. Change is not only about resources but about persistence, legitimacy, and shared vision. Seek partners who believe in the same goals and build institutions that will last beyond individual leaders.

For those with power, listen to communities on the frontlines. Their lived experiences hold solutions that the world urgently needs. For those driving change, embrace collaboration even when it is difficult. Unity multiplies impact. Above all, act with courage. The world needs leaders who are willing to defend and uphold justice, protect the planet, and place people at the center of progress. The Pacific Inter Parliamentary Assembly is one such effort, and I believe more must follow.



Biography:
Lord Fatafehi Fakafanua is a distinguished statesman and visionary leader committed to advancing climate resilience and sustainable development globally. As Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Kingdom of Tonga and former President of the Pacific Islands Parliament Group, Lord Fakafanua has been a leading advocate for Pacific nations in international climate and development forums. He also serves as Chairman of the Island Resilience Partnership (IRP), where he champions strategic partnerships to accelerate sustainable development for small island developing states. With a deep commitment to leveraging diplomacy, finance, and technology for global impact, Lord Fakafanua continues to bridge the gap between government, private sector, and philanthropic leaders to drive solutions for a more resilient and prosperous future.

Ms. Yingying Gong

Founder and Chairlady, Yidu Tech Inc.

LinkedIn



"I envision a future where every person—no matter where they live or what they earn—can access healthcare that is preventive, personalized, and participatory."

Objective:
We aimed to address one of the world's most urgent challenges: how to transform fragmented, siloed, and low-quality health data into reliable insights that improve care, accelerate innovation, and build epidemic resilience. Our initiative set out to create an AI-powered healthcare ecosystem that empowers governments, hospitals, and life sciences partners to build resilient, inclusive, and data-driven health systems.

Impact:
Our impact spans multiple layers—individual, system, and global:

For patients: Through our AI-powered platforms, over 34 million individuals benefit from earlier diagnosis, more precise treatment, and greater access to preventive health services.

For hospitals and clinicians: Over 4000 hospitals in China now use our solutions to standardize 6 billion records, transforming fragmented data into actionable insights. Doctors are supported with AI copilots, improving both efficiency and accuracy in care delivery.

For governments and societies: The BruHealth platform in Brunei serves as a prime example, becoming the backbone of epidemic defense and long-term health promotion.

Its success—enabling safe reopening of schools, workplaces, and mosques—has been recognized as a model for national digital health governance.

Collectively, these initiatives have advanced preventive care, strengthened national health defenses, and shown how AI can make health systems more inclusive and sustainable.

Partnerships:

We have built a broad ecosystem of partnerships that bridges governments, healthcare institutions, academia, and industry:

Governments: Collaborations with multiple national and provincial health authorities, including ministries of health, on digital health strategies.

Hospitals: Partnerships with 4000+ leading hospital networks across China to modernize clinical research and hospital management.

Academia: Joint programs with dozens of universities and research institutes to ensure scientific rigor and translational relevance.

Pharmaceutical industry: Collaboration with over 130 multinational and domestic pharma companies to accelerate AI-enabled trials.

International & NGOs: Engagement with global health organizations and public health networks.

Investments:

Our growth has been supported by a mix of public markets and long-term institutional investors. As a listed company (HKEX: 2158), we raised capital to fund sustained investment in medical AI, with over RMB 1 billion committed to R&D. Strategic backing from sovereign wealth funds—including CIC, GIC, and BIA— has provided stability and reinforced our global outlook. In addition, national and provincial innovation programs supported digital health initiatives, while regulators, clinicians, and patient communities offered essential non-financial support that ensured trust and adoption.

Key Lessons:
Sovereign funds encouraged us to take a long-term view, focusing on resilience over short-term gains.

SDG Impact:
Directly advancing SDG 3 (Good Health & Well-being), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Success Factors & Challenges:
Looking back, three elements have been decisive for our success. First, we built truly cross-disciplinary teams, bringing together clinicians, data scientists, and policy experts who could bridge very different worlds. Second, we invested in long-term partnerships—with hospitals, governments, and industry partners—rather than chasing short-term projects. Third, we embedded compliance and ethics into the design of our platforms, which helped us gain trust in highly sensitive health domains.

The challenges were equally significant. Navigating fragmented regulations across countries required constant dialogue with policymakers. Public trust in AI in healthcare had to be earned step by step through transparency. And scaling digital platforms while protecting privacy demanded continual technical innovation.

The key takeaway is clear: technology alone does not create impact. Success depends on trust, inclusivity, and resilience—qualities that can only be achieved through patient collaboration and long-term commitment.

Personal Story:
My journey began with a moment I will never forget. Years ago, at Beijing Railway Station, I saw patients and their families carrying stacks of medical records, waiting overnight on the floor just to access care. That scene revealed the human cost of fragmented systems, and it became clear to me that efficiency and fairness in healthcare could only be achieved through technology.

Since then, the path has been one of resilience. For more than a decade, we fought three uphill battles: making unstructured medical data computable, calibrating AI models to reduce "hallucinations" in life-and-death decisions, and ensuring new technologies could truly work inside hospitals. The most rewarding moments came later—seeing elderly patients in Hainan gain peace of mind with digital health, or families in Brunei safely return to mosques during the pandemic. These are the moments that remind me why we persist: technology must always serve life.

Looking Ahead:
Our model is designed to scale. From small nations like Brunei to large systems like China, our platforms have shown adaptability across contexts. By combining modular

technology with trusted partnerships, this approach can be replicated globally—strengthening resilience, advancing equity, and making preventive healthcare accessible to all.

Vision for the Future:

I envision a future where every person—no matter where they live or what they earn—can access healthcare that is preventive, personalized, and participatory. Data and AI will serve as the unseen infrastructure enabling this transformation, turning fragmented information into reliable knowledge, advancing health equity, and strengthening the resilience of societies.

Yet technology alone cannot define this future. It must be guided by ethical leadership, inclusive design, and global collaboration, so that innovation expands human dignity rather than divides it. By aligning frontier technologies with the SDGs, we can move from reactive care to proactive health, from fragmented systems to integrated solutions, and from healthcare as a privilege to healthcare as a universal right.

Biography:

Ms. Gong is the Chairwoman and Founder of Yidu Tech (2158.HK), a publicly listed company on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. She leads the company's overall strategy, business operations, and management. Under her leadership, Yidu Tech has become a leading AI medical technology company in China, driving innovation across healthcare, life sciences, and public health.

She began her career in investment banking at Credit Suisse First Boston, later working at Global Infrastructure Partners and Deutsche Bank, gaining extensive experience in IPOs, M&A, and equity investments.

Ms. Gong founded Guizhou Province Xiao Yingying Charity Foundation in 2019, a charitable foundation focusing on the support of children with rare or major illnesses.

Ms. Gong's iconic leadership has been widely recognized. In 2019, she was elected as one of the nine Young Global Leaders from the Greater China region by the World Economic Forum.

Mr. Jonathan Granoff

President, Global Security Institute and World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates



"Treat the lives and well-being of future generations as we wish to be treated."

Objective:
To enhance advocacy efforts to achieve the SDGs by adding a moral imperative to the practical reasons well argued for obtaining the SDGs. The moral imperative is The Golden Rule for the 21st Century: Treat the lives and well-being of future generations as we wish to be treated.

Impact:
Create more public support for the comprehensive human security agenda expressed in the SDGs by highlighting the moral imperative to pass on a better world to our children.

Partnerships:
Human Security Trust of the UN, International Anti-Corruption Academy, Lawyers Alliance for World Security, Global Security Institute, Parliament of the World's Religions, Temple of Understanding, Religions for Peace, NGO Committee on Disarmament, Middle Powers Initiative, Carter Center, Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy, American Bar Association International Law Section, World Summits of Nobel Peace Laureates. Human Security for All was developed in a partnership with UN HS Trust and World Academy of Art and Science.

Investments:
Carnegie Foundation, Ford Foundation, Ploughshares Fund, Jane Goodall, Michael

Douglas and many others. Individuals, particularly those who have created wealth through their own creativity, are more likely to fund a vision. In contrast, institutions tend to operate by management by objectives, seeking projects that deliver short-term, measurable results. Institutions are more likely to fund predictable, measurable endeavors, while wealthy individuals are more likely to fund a strategic process with a clear, compelling vision.

SDG Impact:

Specifically, SDG 16 and the coherence of the entire SDG agenda with a human security approach rather than nuclear threat, excessive nationalism, and militarism.

Success Factors & Challenges:

The challenge is that our economic system does not include intergenerational responsibility nor limitations on growth, while the planet is not infinite, and we do not have the right to use up the resources needed for future generations. We must change our thinking and institutions. The argument is compelling, and the challenge is to get it shared far and wide.

Looking Ahead:

Use of the principle: Treat the lives and well-being of future generations as we wish to be treated. This can help explain to people that the UN agenda is about their children and their children's children. This touches people where it counts most, their hearts.

Vision for the Future:

Fulfillment of the SDGs, responsible stewardship of the regenerative processes of nature, adherence to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UN Charter, elimination of all weapons of mass destruction, and a greater sense of gratitude and humility in the shining grace of the gift of life and love.

Biography:

An attorney, author, and international advocate who emphasizes the legal and ethical dimensions of human development and security, with a specific focus on the rule of law and the threats posed by nuclear weapons. Numerous governing and advisory boards, including Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy, Fortune Forum, Jane Goodall Institute, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament. Recipient of the 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Law Section of the American Bar Association, 2020 Vassar College Distinguished Achievement Award, 2012 Rutgers University School of Law Arthur E. Armitage Distinguished Alumni Award, and a 2014

nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize. Senior Advisor and United Nations Representative World Summits of Nobel Peace Laureates, former Adjunct Professor of International Law at Widener University School of Law, and Senior Advisor to the Committee on National Security of the International Law Section of the American Bar Association.

Award-winning screenwriter of The Constitution: The Document that Created a Nation. Prolific author. Expert testimony in the Parliaments of Canada and the United Kingdom, as well as the US Congress and the United Nations.

BA (cum laude) from Vassar College and Juris Doctorate from Rutgers University School of Law.

Mr. Jack Hidary

CEO, SandboxAQ



"To develop breakthrough technology, we first recommend focusing on building a team which includes multiple disciplines and encouraging collaboration at the intersection of these fields."

Objective:
SandboxAQ is leveraging its AI and quantum technologies to address critical world issues. Our current focus is on advancing SDG Goal 3, which aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages. We are achieving this by revolutionizing neurodegenerative drug development, particularly for Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, through collaboration with the University of California San Francisco (UCSF), and by supporting high-impact cancer research with advanced AI & data modeling tools in partnership with key partners.

Impact:
SandboxAQ is dedicated to delivering tangible solutions and creating lasting change. Our AQBioSim platform and Large Quantitative Models (LQMs) have enabled the University of California San Francisco (UCSF), under the direction of Nobel laureate Dr. Stanley Prusiner, to revolutionize neurodegenerative drug development. This collaboration compressed years of development by virtually screening millions of compounds, drastically cutting experimental workload (36-fold) and boosting hit rates (30-fold) compared to traditional approaches. The efficacy stems from LQMs' accurate prediction of molecular and biological system behavior, transforming drug discovery from a trial-and-error process into a more efficient, accelerated, and precise method. This ultimately leads to faster, more effective treatments for complex diseases and generates substantial value for the biopharma sector.

Partnerships:

SandboxAQ believes in pushing the scientific frontier through partnerships. Dr. Stanley Prusiner and the UCSF Institute for Neurodegenerative Diseases team faced significant hurdles with the expensive and inefficient nature of traditional drug discovery. They sought an AI-driven solution to accelerate development and de-risk drug candidates pre-clinical trials. Dr. Prusiner integrated our AQBioSim platform with his team's expertise. Previously, UCSF could only examine 250,000 compounds annually, yielding limited results. With AQBioSim, they expanded their chemical exploration to 5.6 million molecules. This partnership exemplifies how innovative thinking and technology can elevate research objectives, redefining the economics and speeding up the drug development lifecycle.

Investments:

Since our inception as an AI and quantum technology group within Alphabet and our subsequent spin-out in 2022, SandboxAQ has been privileged to receive significant backing from prominent investors and strategic partners including investors such as Eric Schmidt, Ray Dalio, Marc Benioff, Thomas Tull, and Yann LeCun, as well as firms like Breyer Capital, BNP Paribas, Google, NVIDIA, T. Rowe Price Associates, Inc., IQT, US Innovative Technology Fund, Paladin Capital, and Guggenheim Partners. Their confidence in our vision and the transformative potential of our Large Quantitative Models (LQMs) fuels our drive to optimize discovery through AI and Quantum Computing.

SDG Impact:

Through our collaborations we are contributing to SDG Goal 3, Target 3.4.1, aiming to reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases (cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory disease) by 1/3 by 2030, also promoting mental health and well-being. We aim to advance this goal with quantitative AI and new methods.

Success Factors & Challenges:

SandboxAQ thrives thanks to our outstanding team, a collective drive to use technology for global betterment, strong relationships with our clients and partners, and crucial funding that accelerates our progress. We approach complex global challenges with novel science and technology, consistently aiming for ambitious, practical solutions that deliver real-world impact. We also publish many papers to share our work with the wider community.

Personal Story:
When I was doing research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), I realized that there was a great need to bring AI to medicine. Working in Building 10 of NIH with patients was a formative experience to tangibly understand their critical needs and how we must advance the science.

Looking Ahead:
My team and I are enthusiastic about applying SandboxAQ's technologies not only in key areas of biopharma, but also expanding to material science and energy.

Vision for the Future:
To develop breakthrough technology, we first recommend focusing on building a team which includes multiple disciplines and encouraging collaboration at the intersection of these fields. People are your key asset and it's critical to provide your team with a learning environment where they can learn from each other as well as clear mission and goal. Our mission at SandboxAQ is to have a deep impact at scale. We then translate that mission to specific goals in key disease areas and other challenges.

Biography:
Jack is the CEO of SandboxAQ which focuses on enterprise SaaS solutions at the convergence of AI and quantum tech. SandboxAQ is backed by Eric Schmidt, who serves as Chairman of the company, T. Rowe Price, Marc Benioff, Jim Breyer, Guggenheim Partners, Amadeus Capital, and other leading investors.

Jack worked previously at Alphabet leading AI and quantum teams. Jack is the author of Quantum Computing: An Applied Approach, published by Springer. This work, now in its second edition, is one of the leading textbooks in the field and is used both in undergraduate and PhD programs, as well as corporate training sessions.

Jack is a trustee of the X Prize Foundation and has been a board member of Trickle Up. His foundation, The Hidary Foundation, is dedicated to medical oncology research and has supported work at Sloan Kettering and UCSF.

Jack has been recognized for his leadership by organizations such as the World Economic Forum and is a member of YPO. Jack studied neuroscience at Columbia and subsequently received the Stanley Fellowship in Clinical Neuroscience at NIH where he worked on functional brain imaging and neural networks.

Mr. Azim Kidwai

CEO, Mercy Mission UK

LinkedIn



" Surround yourself with people better than yourself who push you like they don't fear losing you."

Objective:
The Muslim Impact Forum was established to provide a platform where changemakers can unite and drive forward solutions that inspire hope and opportunities for all.

Our mission is to harness the talents, resources, and networks of Muslims in the service of humanity — tackling urgent socioeconomic and environmental issues, while empowering people to thrive.

By uniting leaders from philanthropy, business and civil society, we build trust across differences, amplify initiatives that advance inclusion, and strengthen resilience.

Impact:
The impact we have had is unprecedented. Through creating a digital platform of learning, sharing and activation with an offline conference, we have curated a unique place for ideas to flourish. In the last six months alone, we have launched a $10m initiative to challenge slavery and human trafficking, The Freedom Fund, we have launched a new Enterprise and Development Fund with the new Syrian Government to support IDPs to launch into careers embracing Ai and the digital economy and we have enabled the activation of nearly $50m of private sector funding into community hands using the digital mapping and modelling of community needs. This has been supported with two major new channels to connect people globally, with a new women in philanthropy network

connecting professionals across the world's charity sector and a groundbreaking new leadership council of politicians with purpose. This is within six months of an inaugural event.

Partnerships:

The Muslim Impact Forum is proud to connect philanthropy with politics and business, and as such, we have partners from across the world. We have brought together leading humanitarian partners, including UNRWA and IOM, with climate partners such as Greenpeace and UCN, with major business leaders from enormous holding companies such as DCD and EP Group, with FinTech leaders such as Minted and TransFi. This is all while enabling countless charities from the US, Canada, Europe and Asia to connect, learn and share. All of this is while enabling inroads for other civil society actors, including royalty and religious leaders.

Investments:

We have done this through the support and patronage of the World Congress of Muslim Philanthropy and the active interest of Dr. Tariq Cheema, the founder and president of the Global Donors Forum. We are the product of a holy trinity of the unmatched experience of the Global Donors Forum, the foundational capital provided by Mercy Mission UK and the unique creative investment of the digital agency, Manza. The key lesson from bringing this partnership together is that all partners need to have a common goal, aligned ethics and values, relentless commitment, and belief in purpose.

SDG Impact:

We are actively pursuing three goals that enable us to achieve all the others. Goals 9, 10, and 16 are foundational for us, as we seek to create a space that innovates and is motivated to challenge inequality and does so seeking to reduce injustice.

Success Factors & Challenges:

The key challenges we faced were how to reach the change makers of the world and create a space where they would want to come together. We were also cognisant that we wanted to build from the Muslim community, and not just for it. Our focus was on mobilising Muslims to have a greater impact on the emergence of a better world. I believe we are succeeding as we have maintained a highly diverse team, cutting across race, gender and creed. We have sought to learn from the efforts of our predecessors, while also actively considering how new technology and insights from leading entrepreneurs can help us embrace the opportunities of the modern landscape. We experienced many hurdles in building trust for the new forum, but we have overcome them by spending time and

engaging thought leaders about our motivations and commitment to justice and equity. The key takeaway: Build Trust.

Personal Story:

I met Dr. Tariq Cheema, a medical doctor by profession, who is actively serving global philanthropy. Despite his heavy schedule, he is unwavering in his devotion to respond to the plight of the needy. As I saw him actively looking at how to make strategic changes to enable not just a single person to be saved from hunger, but millions of people, I thought to myself, how would the world look if there were a hundred people like him? As such, from that moment, I have been relentless in trying to create spaces for values-aligned people to get to know each other, build trust and cooperate with one another. The Muslim Impact Forum is not just a conference and a new digital platform to learn, but it's a place to share both good practices and lessons from mistakes. Every member enters a social contract to build sincerely for a better world.

Looking Ahead:

Our journey has just begun, and we are meeting partners from across the world to have events across the cities of the world. We have engaged media partners to establish digital experiences for thought leaders to reach new audiences. We are also building a platform to connect all our stakeholders.

Vision for the Future:

My vision for the future is that we need to build trust across the world. The Muslim Impact Forum will have localised events in every major city in the world. We will have a fully digital online community that enables change makers to support each other wherever they may be. The lessons of Lagos are shared in Lahore. The innovation of Dubai is amplified in Durban. The connectivity will be unprecedented. This will give birth across faith and non-faith communities, with forums emerging and being supported from all major faith communities, and through the trust that is built intra-faith, we will see emerge inter-faith.

My only advice is to believe in yourself and the community through which you have emerged. Surround yourself with people better than yourself who push you like they don't fear losing you. Be ambitious in identifying who could support your vision. Be Good and Seek God's Grace.

Biography:

Azim Kidwai is the CEO of Mercy Mission and a pioneer in Islamic philanthropy. With nearly two decades of experience in faith philanthropy, he has built global Zakat net

works, advised the United Nations, and championed impactful community development. Azim has successfully built organisations that now collectively distribute over $100m to the needy across the world. In recent times, Azim has entered the strategic policy arena and has seed-funded a number of leading think tanks and policy-focused not-for-profits.

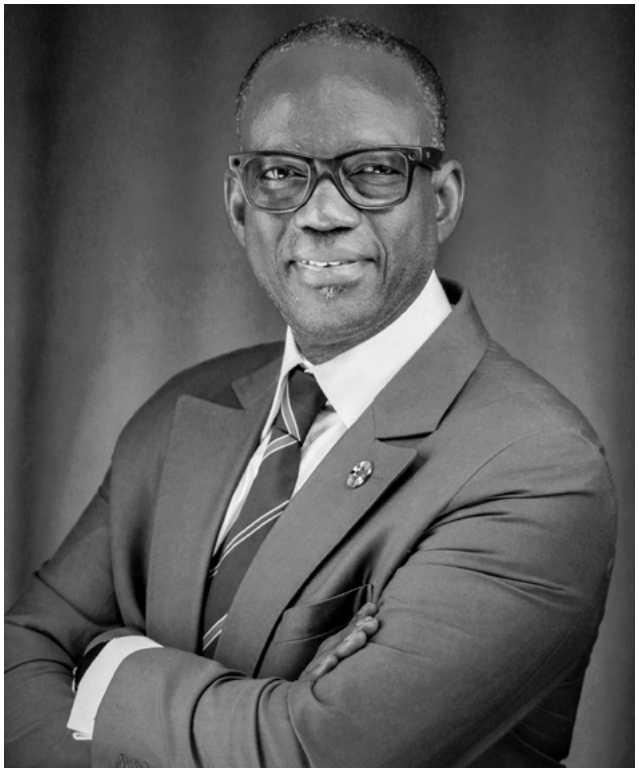
He also has an active interest in impact investing and advises a number of impact funds, while supporting the management of a number of Islamic endowments across the UK and North America. In recent times, he has entered the technology and AI space to look at the role of innovation in building a better world and rapidly improving life chances. This is also now the basis of his being an advisor to the new Syrian government and considering rebuilding the nation.
Azim merges classical Islamic principles with modern strategy to drive meaningful, sustainable change. He is the co-founder of the Muslim Impact Forum and is focused on creating the premier platform for change makers to build a better world together.


GLOBAL
DONORS
FORUM
MiF
Muslim
Impact
Forum

Mr. Lacina Koné

Director General and CEO, Smart Africa

LinkedIn / X / Instagram / Facebook



"What has helped me succeed is a relentless belief in collaboration."

Objective:
As CEO of Smart Africa since 2019, I have embraced the bold mission set by Africa's Heads of State,to transform Africa into a Single Digital Market. My vision has been to move this ambition from paper to reality: harmonising policies, building cross-border digital infrastructure, and ensuring technology serves every African. By accelerating pilots into continental programs and deepening partnerships, I aim to make digital transformation practical, inclusive, and truly impactful.

Impact:
Under my leadership, Smart Africa has grown from 24 to 40 Member States, now representing over 1.1 billion citizens. In just five years, the alliance has developed 15 Pan-African blueprints covering ICT skills, agritech, start-ups, smart cities, digital ID, cybersecurity, cloud, data centers, and AI, with more underway in digital health and gender inclusion. His impact is seen in real action, not just strategy. Nearly 10,000 policymakers have been trained through the Smart Africa Digital Academy. The One Africa Network is advancing cross-border connectivity. Rwanda has hosted pioneering e-waste projects. Tech hubs funded through the bloc smart Africa fund.More than 15 countries have adopted national strategies for start-ups, data governance, and smart cities. By combining vision with tangible execution, Lacina has positioned Smart Africa as the continent's pragmatic force for digital transformation, an institution that not only imagines the future but steadily builds it.

Partnerships:

Our success is rooted in collaboration. None of our achievements would be possible without strong partnerships with the public, private,academia and international organisations. The model is simple: public, private, and people partnerships that turn policy into practice. These collaborations bring not only funding but also technical expertise, policy alignment, and innovation ecosystems that sustain impact. A prime example is the World Bank's West Africa Regional Digital Integration Program, which is scaling the Digital Academy from 10,000 to 30,000 by 2028. Thanks to partnerships, Smart Africa's project grants have quadrupled in five years.

Investments:

Mobilising funding has never been easy. It requires creativity, trust, and proof that our programs matter. By aligning our blueprints with national priorities and showing real use cases, we have been able to attract funding from governments, development agencies, and impact investors.
The key lesson for me is that Africa's progress depends on co-ownership. Member states must lead, while partners support.

Another important lesson is that Africa does not need charity. What we need is smart capital and patient investment that understands our context and values our ingenuity.

SDG Impact:

Smart Africa's 34 projects cut across multiple SDGs. Core alignment is with SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, SDG 5: Gender Equality, SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, SDG 17: Partnerships, SDG 4: Quality Education, reflecting entrepreneurship, emerging tech, trade, and inclusion.

Success Factors & Challenges:

What has helped me succeed is a relentless belief in collaboration. Smart Africa is a coalition of the willing, and our progress has always come from building trust among governments, private sector, and partners. The greatest hurdle was skepticism that bold ideas like a Single Digital Market were too ambitious for Africa. Overcoming that required persistence, proof through pilots, and showing tangible results that others could replicate. The key takeaway is that Africa can achieve transformation when vision meets execution. It is not enough to imagine the future; we must build it step by step, together, with courage, inclusivity, and unwavering commitment

Personal Story:

I often think back to my own journey. I grew up in Côte d'Ivoire and later pursued engineering in the United States. When I returned to Africa, I saw first-hand the gap between global innovation and local realities. One moment that has never left me was meeting young entrepreneurs in Kigali who were using cloud tools to solve agricultural problems. What struck me was that they had never even owned a personal computer. That day I was reminded that innovation is not about tools, it is about opportunity. My mission became clear: create ecosystems where talent meets technology, and where ideas can become impact.

Looking Ahead:

The Smart Africa model drives scale by moving from concept to blueprint, pilot, and continent-wide expansion. In a decade, projects have delivered tangible results through a coalition of the willing. By fostering healthy competition, countries replicate successes, accelerating adoption and transforming isolated pilots into Africa-wide implementation

Vision for the Future:

Africa's digital transformation will not be achieved in silos. It demands collective action—governments aligning policies, the private sector investing boldly, and development partners bringing expertise and resources. At Smart Africa, we have shown that when countries move from pilots to scale, real impact follows. Now is the time to harmonize, implement, and replicate solutions that work, so that no nation, no policymaker, and no citizen is left behind. The future is digital, but only if Africa builds it together.

Biography:

Mr. Lacina Koné is the Director General and Chief Executive Officer of Smart Africa. He leads the process of defining and advancing Africa's digital agenda and has overseen the development of continental blueprints on Digital Identity, ICT Start-ups and Innovation Ecosystems,Smart Villages, and Africa's Smart Broadband 2025 Strategy, in addition to driving key continental initiatives. He is ranked 12th among the 50 personalities advancing Africa's digital transformation,3rd among the 10 African digital trendsetters in the 2022.

Before joining Smart Africa, he served as Advisor to the President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire (2011– 2019), responsible for Digital Transformation and Public Reforms. With over 25 years of experience in telecommunications, satellite, and intelligent transport systems, Mr. Koné has held senior technical and managerial positions with prestigious firms such as Booz Allen Hamilton and Intelsat. Mr. Koné has pursued studies across three continents: he earned a bachelor's degree in electronic engineering from Ajman

University (United Arab Emirates), validated his Polytechnique rank at Brunel University (United Kingdom), and obtained an MBA from George Washington University (the United States).

He is a Commissioner on the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development (BBCOM) and sits on the Board of Partnership for Digital Access in Africa (PDAA).


wingu.africa

Ms. Melissa Kushner

Founder and Special Advisor, Yamba Malawi

LinkedIn / Instagram



"No child should have their future defined by the circumstances of their birth."

Objective:
When I first came to Malawi more than twenty years ago, I saw how many children were left behind before they had begun school. Poverty meant families could not put enough food on the table, could not afford early learning, and were locked out of opportunities to change their futures. Yamba Malawi was founded to break this cycle by ensuring children receive nutrition, care, and early learning, while caregivers, often mothers, build stable, secure households.

Impact:
From the beginning, we invested in a rigorous monitoring and evaluation system to track outcomes for families and children. To go further, we launched a large-scale randomized control trial (RCT) with Brown University, both to prove the impact of Yamba Malawi and to contribute to the global evidence base so this model can be scaled beyond us.

Early results show families are building stronger foundations. Households tripled their assets, increased their savings, and reduced their reliance on day labor. Parents are starting small businesses, joining savings groups, and gaining the security to plan ahead.

For children, especially under five, the gains are tangible. Fewer go to bed hungry, more are growing well, and preschool attendance is rising. Families can provide basics like shoes and blankets, giving children comfort, dignity, and opportunities to learn. By

linking household graduation to early childhood development, we are breaking poverty at its root.

Partnerships:

Our most important partners are the caregivers at the heart of every family, most often the mothers. When women control household income, children are more likely to survive, be nourished, and be educated. By investing in mothers and caregivers, we invest directly in children's futures.

Community structures such as Village Savings & Loan groups and childcare centers create protective systems around children. We also work closely with the Government of Malawi, aligning with national strategies and ministries across sectors, embedding our model in systems that enable scale. With African leadership in the driver's seat, our work remains authentic and sustainable.

Investments:

Our approach to funding blends philanthropy, foundation support, and government partnerships. In 2024, we unified our Malawian and American Boards into a single Global Board to strengthen governance and align fundraising with program delivery. Evidence from our RCT has been pivotal in attracting larger institutional partners, including the Gates Foundation through IPA Malawi.

One lesson is clear: evidence builds confidence. Supporters want both heart and proof, and it is the combination of compelling stories and rigorous data that unlocks lasting investment and the ability to scale.

SDG Impact:

We fight poverty and hunger (SDG 1, 2), improve child health (SDG 3), and expand education through preschool attendance (SDG 4). Women's empowerment drives gender equality (SDG 5), while livelihoods and savings foster decent work (SDG 8), reduce inequalities (SDG 10), and strengthen partnerships (SDG 17).

Success Factors & Challenges:

Our greatest success has been staying relentlessly child-focused. By designing a graduation model where household gains directly improve children's nutrition, safety, and learning, we ensure that progress is measured not only in income but also in children's well-being.

Another factor is our commitment to evidence. Rigorous in-house monitoring and

a randomized control trial with Brown University have strengthened accountability, cost-effectiveness, and credibility for scale. Leadership has also been critical. With a Malawian-led team, supported by a Global Board, we combine local ownership with international reach.

Challenges remain. Funding volatility demands diversification and scenario planning. Climate shocks and inflation force families to adapt their livelihoods and require flexible cash-plus support. As we expand, we must constantly balance reach with quality, codifying standards and aligning with the government to ensure every child benefits fully.

Personal Story:

Every person is special and leaves a mark, but too often the story repeats itself: children's futures are shaped not by their potential, but by the circumstances of their birth. My father died a few weeks before I was born, and that loss drew me toward children made vulnerable before they had a chance to begin.

On an early visit to Malawi, I met a mother raising her children alone. She wanted nothing more than to send them to school, but each day she faced the impossible choice between food and fees. My own experience of loss was different, but it allowed me to deeply empathize with her struggle and the injustice that her children's futures were being decided for them.

That moment crystallized my conviction: no child should have their future defined by the circumstances of their birth. It continues to drive Yamba Malawi's mission.

Looking Ahead:

We are turning evidence into action. With strong results and government partnerships, we are shaping a model of child-focused graduation that others can use. Our priority is to expand in Malawi while sharing lessons across Africa, and to explore growth into other countries so more children can thrive.

Vision for the Future:

My vision is simple: to end childhood poverty, we must put children at the center of every anti-poverty program. I call on leaders, funders, and changemakers to invest in solutions that combine evidence with empathy, scale what works, and elevate local leadership.

Our experience shows that mothers' resilience, children's earliest years, and African leadership are the keys to breaking the cycle of poverty. By aligning partnerships, resources, and evidence, we can ensure children are nourished, cared for, and learning, while

families build secure livelihoods and communities grow stronger.

If we act together, we can make multidimensional child poverty history in our lifetime. Every child deserves a strong beginning, and with the right investments, this vision is within reach.

Biography:

Melissa Kushner is a global thought leader, non-profit executive, and social justice advocate. She is a recognized expert in shaping organizational vision, navigating institutional change, and initiating transformative programs. In her professional life, Melissa is dedicated to building community, furthering equity and inclusion, and promoting social justice.

In 2006, Melissa founded Yamba Malawi, a nonprofit committed to ending childhood poverty (yambamalawi.org). She currently serves as board chair emeritus and organizational advisor. Melissa has been widely recognized for her innovative leadership and is the recipient of numerous awards for vision and achievement in the field of international development.

Melissa received her Master's in Public Administration from New York University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Urban Studies from the University of Pennsylvania.



Dr. Daniela Ligiero

CEO & President, Together for Girls



"The future demands bold, survivor-centered leadership."

Objective:
Together for Girls was created to end an urgent but often hidden global crisis: sexual violence against children and adolescents. By combining data, advocacy, and partnerships, we were founded to drive evidence-based action, policies, and investments to solve this issue around the world.

Impact:
Since its inception, Together for Girls has catalyzed change in over 20 countries by generating and applying data from Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys (VACS) to drive national action plans and policies. Our VACS data dashboard puts over 18 years of data from 20+ countries into the hands of anyone with a smartphone—democratizing knowledge and accelerating action.

Our other core initiatives elevate both survivors' lived experiences and evidence-based solutions to create change. The Brave Movement, a survivor-led coalition initiated by Together for Girls, has influenced global policy—including securing the first-ever G7 commitment on ending child sexual violence. Safe Futures Hub, launched two years ago, showcases evidence-based solutions from contexts around the world and makes them accessible to all.

Partnerships:

Our model thrives through multisectoral partnerships with national governments, UN agencies, civil society, and survivor-led movements. Collaboration with data partners like CDC, WHO, UN Women and UNICEF ensures robust evidence, while partnerships with survivor advocates through the Brave Movement amplify lived experiences and policy change. The Safe Futures Hub—developed in collaboration with key partners, including the WeProtect Global Alliance and SVRI—elevates evidence-based solutions and expands access to global knowledge on how to prevent and respond to sexual violence against children.

Investments:

Funding has come from governments, foundations, and multilateral institutions committed to SDG 16.2. Crucial support from survivors, youth leaders, and global advocates has amplified our reach and impact, shaping a powerful movement. A key lesson: continually evolve how data is collected and shared so it enables real action. Equally, invest in survivors as experts–ensuring their lived experience guides solutions for ending sexual violence against children.

SDG Impact:

Primarily SDG 16.2 (ending violence against children), with strong connections to SDGs 5, 3, 4, and 10 through a focus on gender equality, health, education, and reducing inequalities—since ensuring children are safe is also a keystone to these SDGs.

Success Factors & Challenges:

Centering survivors and data has been essential to our success. Challenges include a lack of political will to act, resource gaps, and addressing the stigma surrounding sexual violence. Persistence, trust-building, and cross-sector collaboration were key. The takeaway: transformative change happens when decision makers, practitioners, scientists, and individuals with lived experience come together to drive action.

Personal Story:

Being public about one's experience is not for everyone, and that choice must always be respected. But for me, with access to education, support, and now in a leadership role, I felt a responsibility to help break the silence and reduce stigma.

Sharing that I am a survivor of childhood sexual abuse was a big decision—it was scary. But every time someone looks into my eyes and says, "Thank you for sharing, I'm also a survivor," I know it was the right one. It happens often. Leading Together for Girls has shown me how lived experience, when combined with evidence and advocacy, can

transform laws, systems, and lives. There are many of us. When we feel isolated and alone, we lose our power.

Looking Ahead:

Yes—our model is designed for scale and has already been replicated across continents. It's adaptable to diverse contexts, driven by local leadership and survivor engagement.

Vision for the Future:

The future demands bold, survivor-centered leadership. To end this global crisis, we must invest in prevention, ensure technology is safe by design, and elevate both rigorous science and the voices of those with lived experience. To drive lasting change, we must dismantle systems that allow violence to persist— and build ones that center dignity, equity, and justice.

And as with all change, we must keep making it clear that it can be done. We know we can end violence against children. We have proven solutions. Change is possible.

Biography:

Dr. Daniela Ligiero is the CEO and President of Together for Girls (TfG), a global partnership working toward a world where children and adolescents are safe and thriving, free from sexual violence. TfG uses a comprehensive, interconnected approach built on four core initiatives: Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys, which provides vital data to drive national action; the Safe Futures Solutions Hub, which shares evidence-based solutions; the Out of the Shadows Index, which tracks country progress and accountability; and the Brave Movement, which mobilizes survivors and allies to demand political action.

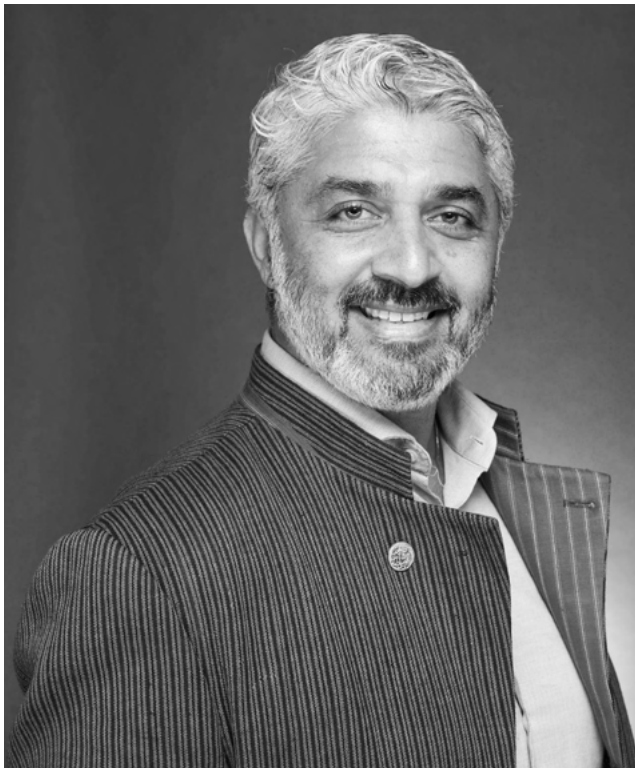
Previously, Dr. Ligiero served as Vice President of Girls and Women's Strategy at the UN Foundation and held senior roles at the U.S. Department of State, where she helped develop the first U.S. global strategy to end gender-based violence and co-designed the PEPFAR DREAMS program. She also held leadership roles at UNICEF, the U.S. Senate, and directly with survivors of sexual violence. A survivor herself, she has shared her experience publicly for almost two decades.

She holds a doctorate in counseling psychology, is fluent in four languages, and lives in Bethesda, Maryland, with her husband and two daughters. She enjoys scuba diving, furniture making, and meditation.

Mr. Poonacha Machaiah

CEO & Co-founder, Cyberhuman AI

LinkedIn / X / Instagram



"Remember that meaningful change is a marathon, not a sprint. Small, consistent actions— compounded over time—can lead to transformative impact."

Objective:
The challenge we address is the global crisis of preventable chronic disease, driven by reactive healthcare and limited access to personalized well-being tools. Cyberhuman.ai aims to make disease optional by democratizing proactive, AI-driven preventive health. Our platform delivers personalized guidance, predictive insights, and behavioral nudges to help individuals adopt sustainable lifestyle changes, detect risks early, and stay ahead of disease—reducing healthcare burdens and enabling longer, healthier, and more purposeful lives worldwide.

Impact:
Cyberhuman.ai is transforming how people worldwide engage with their health—shifting the focus from reactive treatment to proactive prevention. On the ground, our platform has delivered personalized, AI driven well-being programs to diverse populations, from urban professionals to rural communities, empowering individuals to make data-informed lifestyle choices that improve daily health outcomes.

At scale, we integrate predictive analytics, genomic insights, and behavioral science to create universally adaptable preventive health frameworks. These models can be deployed across different cultural, economic, and healthcare contexts, making advanced well-being strategies accessible beyond traditional medical systems. Early adoption has

shown improvements in health literacy, sustainable lifestyle change, and early risk detection.

By bridging advanced technology with human-centered design, we are creating a scalable blueprint for resilience and prevention—one that can reduce the global burden of preventable disease and make well being a universal right.

Partnerships:

Our work is strengthened by collaborations with global thought leaders and mission-driven organizations. Partnering with Deepak Chopra, MD, the Chopra Foundation, and the Global Mental Health Task Force (gmht.org) has allowed us to integrate ancient wisdom, indigenous practices, and cutting-edge AI for holistic well-being. Supporting UN initiatives, including those under the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, connects our work to global policy and ethical frameworks. These alliances have expanded our reach, enhanced credibility, and ensured our AI solutions for preventive health and resilience are inclusive, human-centered, and aligned with humanity's shared values.

Investments:

Our initiatives are primarily self-funded, ensuring independence and alignment with our mission. For strategic funding, we engage sponsors through high-impact public events in collaboration with the Global Mental Health Task Force, the Sages & Scientists Symposium (www.sagesandscientists.org), and the Chopra Foundation. These platforms attract values-aligned partners and amplify visibility. The key lesson has been the power of purpose-driven storytelling in securing resources. If we were to do anything differently, it would be to build a more formal global partnership network earlier to accelerate scale while maintaining mission integrity.

SDG Impact:

Our work advances SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being, specifically Target 3.4—promoting mental health and well-being while reducing preventable disease. SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities through inclusive AI access, and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals by uniting global leaders, UN initiatives, and cross-sector alliances to scale preventive, human-centered health.

Success Factors & Challenges:

We are still early in our journey, but our trajectory is strong. A bold moonshot—making disease optional— has guided our decisions and kept our focus sharp. Adopting a start-up mindset has allowed us to move quickly, test ideas, and adapt to feedback while

building the foundations for scale.

Our biggest hurdles so far include gaining trust in AI-driven health solutions, balancing innovation with rigorous ethics, and designing for cultural inclusivity from the start. We've addressed these by co-creating with diverse communities, integrating indigenous knowledge with frontier science, and staying transparent about our methods and intent.

The key takeaway: early-stage innovation in well-being requires humility, agility, and a willingness to listen. The path ahead is about refining our model, expanding strategic partnerships, and proving—step by step— that preventive, human-centered AI can transform health outcomes globally.

Personal Story:

In 2007, while visiting my village in India during the monsoon, I saw firsthand how fragile access to healthcare could be. Roads were flooded, physicians were scarce, and the nearest quality medical care was a three to four–hour drive away. What struck me most was the complete absence of support for mental health and addiction—needs that were quietly devastating lives yet rarely addressed.

That experience was my turning point. I realized that geography, weather, and infrastructure should never dictate whether someone can receive timely, quality care. Years later, as technology advanced, I saw the opportunity to bridge these gaps—combining human-centered AI, indigenous practices, and modern science to make preventive health and mental well-being accessible anywhere.

Cyberhuman.ai was born from that vision: to close the distance between people and care, and to ensure no community is left behind in the pursuit of health and resilience.

Looking Ahead:

Yes. Cyberhuman.ai is designed as a modular, cloud-based platform that can be adapted across cultures, languages, and health systems. By integrating ethical AI with local knowledge, it can be scaled globally, empowering partners to deliver preventive, personalized well-being in diverse communities and resource settings.

Vision for the Future:

Start with a problem that truly matters to you—and stay anchored to it when the journey gets uncertain. Driving change is rarely linear; it demands patience, resilience, and the courage to experiment, fail fast, and adapt quickly. Build with the communities you aim to serve, not just for them, and embrace diverse perspectives, including indigenous

knowledge, to create solutions that are both innovative and culturally relevant.

Leverage technology ethically, ensuring it amplifies human dignity rather than replacing it. Seek partnerships that align with your values; the right allies can open doors you didn't know existed.

Above all, remember that meaningful change is a marathon, not a sprint. Small, consistent actions— compounded over time—can lead to transformative impact. Act boldly, listen deeply, and never lose sight of the human lives at the heart of your mission.

Biography:

Poonacha is the co-founder & CEO of Cyberhuman.AI, a pioneering personal Agentic AI platform, Seva.Love, a transformative metaverse platform dedicated to well-being, in collaboration with esteemed mind-body medicine innovator and best-selling author Deepak Chopra, MD.

Poonacha heads The Chopra Foundation, a mission-driven organization committed to enhancing health, societal, and environmental well-being.

His leadership extends to spearheading initiatives like NeverAlone®, aimed at addressing mental health and suicide prevention, and Peak Living, which celebrates the synergy of wisdom and vitality across generations. Poonacha brings a wealth of experience from esteemed roles at industry giants such as Nortel, Iridium, Motorola, and Sasken, where he contributed to shaping technological landscapes.

Poonacha Machaiah's academic journey includes earning an MBA from the esteemed College of William and Mary, complemented by a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Engineering. He is also pursuing a doctoral degree in Public Health at Claremont Graduate University.

Dr. Vin Menon

Co-founder & CEO, AQUAE Holdings

LinkedIn / Web / X / Medium



"True change comes when we stop treating nature as expendable and start recognizing it as our greatest asset."

Objective:
Our initiative addresses the critical gap of oxygen being overlooked in global sustainability frameworks. While carbon offsetting compensates for emissions, oxygen the foundation of life has no equivalent recognition in commons accounting. To solve this, we pioneered oxygen onsetting through the AQUAE Labs Conservation Index (ALCI), an innovative, patent-pending framework (under review). ALCI redefines ecosystem valuation, shifting from offsetting harm to actively restoring life-supporting systems, ensuring ecological resilience and prosperity for future generations.

Impact:
Our work has shifted sustainability beyond carbon-centric approaches to a broader framework that includes oxygen onsetting. On the ground, we empower landowners, farmers, and communities to engage in restoration through Analog Forests ecologically designed forests that replicate the structure and function of mature natural forests while supporting sustainable livelihoods, alongside biodiversity regeneration and watershed management. These efforts improve soil fertility, enhance water retention, and restore biodiversity, while creating tangible economic value through fractionalized ecosystem credits.

At scale, our AQUAE Labs Ecosystem Conservation Index (ALCI) introduces a new asset class insured, bankable and transparent linking natural capital with global financial

markets. This allows corporations, investors and governments to account for oxygen and biodiversity alongside carbon, unlocking sustainable financing aligned with the UN SDGs. By transforming overlooked ecosystem services into measurable, tradable assets, we are catalyzing systemic change and embedding nature's value into the global economy.

Partnerships:

Our key partners include scientists, valuation experts, insurers and global policy networks. Collaborating with ecologists enabled us to design robust MRV frameworks for biodiversity and oxygen onsetting. Partnerships with auditors and re-insurers such as BakerTilly and Lloyd's of London syndicates provided credibility, transparency and risk coverage, turning natural assets into bankable instruments. Engagement with UN-aligned NGOs and governments unlocked policy alignment and legitimacy. Together, these collaborations bridged science, finance, and governance, unlocking sustainable market value.

Investments:

We secured funding through a mix of private investors, strategic partnerships and promoters, anchored by third-party valuations and insurance guarantees that built market trust. Additional support came from scientific advisors, policy networks and global sustainability forums that amplified visibility and credibility. A key lesson was the importance of aligning financial innovation with ecological science and compliance frameworks to gain legitimacy. If done differently, we would engage regulators earlier to accelerate market adoption and scalability.

SDG Impact:

Our work directly addresses SDG 13, SDG 15, SDG 14 (Life Below Water), SDG 6 (Clean Water), SDG 3 (Good Health), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) by restoring ecosystems, enhancing biodiversity, securing water systems, improving human well-being, and creating collaborative frameworks for sustainable development.

Success Factors & Challenges:

Our success was driven by strong scientific foundations, trusted partnerships and an unwavering commitment to linking ecology with finance. The credibility of independent valuations, insurance backing and alignment with the SDGs helped us build confidence among stakeholders. Key hurdles included navigating fragmented global standards, limited recognition of biodiversity and oxygen within existing frameworks and the challenge

of educating markets about a new asset class. We overcame these by fostering cross-sector collaboration and creating transparent, insured instruments that bridged science and capital. The key takeaway is that true sustainability requires moving beyond carbon to value the full spectrum of ecosystem services oxygen, water and biodiversity as global commons. By integrating frontier technologies with ethical governance, we proved that restoring nature can generate measurable financial and ecological returns, setting the foundation for resilient economies and a thriving planet.

Personal Story:

A formative moment came during my work with climate initiatives, where I observed how communities most dependent on nature were often excluded from sustainability frameworks. While visiting restoration projects, I recognized that carbon was monetized, yet oxygen the very essence of life remained absent from global systems. This realization led to the creation of the Ecosystem Conservation Index, linking oxygen and biodiversity with primary ecosystem services to finance. The conviction that wealth must align with planetary health continues to Co-found and operate AQUAE.

Looking Ahead:

Our initiative is designed to be scalable, replicable and adaptable based on the framework created by AQUAE Labs which is also patent under review. The Ecosystem Conservation Index provides a standardized, transparent framework that can be adapted globally, enabling communities, governments and investors to restore ecosystems and generate sustainable value.

Vision for the Future:

My advice is simple: align economic value with ecological resilience. True change comes when we stop treating nature as expendable and start recognizing it as our greatest asset. The Ecosystem Conservation Index shows that biodiversity, oxygen and primary ecosystem services can be valued, insured and traded proving sustainability is both ethical and profitable. My call to action: let's move beyond carbon and build an economy where protecting ecosystems is the foundation of prosperity.

Biography:

Dr. Vin Menon – Blockchain Strategist | Impact Leader | SDG Advocate | Co-founder & CEO, AQUAE | Co founder & Strategic Advisor, MindWaveDAO – NILA Token

Dr. Vin Menon is a globally recognized blockchain strategist, social entrepreneur and fintech innovator, committed to leveraging technology for sustainable global impact. As

Co-founder and CEO of AQUAE, he leads the development of the Ecosystem Conservation Index (ALECI), an innovative, patent-pending framework that redefines how ecosystems are valued by transforming oxygen, biodiversity and primary ecosystem services into measurable, insured and tradable assets. This pioneering work positions AQUAE at the forefront of sustainable finance, bridging ecological restoration with global capital markets and advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Alongside his leadership at AQUAE, Dr. Menon serves as Co-founder & Strategic Advisor of MindWaveDAO – NILA Token, where he drives blockchain adoption, decentralized investment strategies and financial inclusion. Actively engaged in climate and impact initiatives, he has dedicated his career to building public private partnerships that foster resilience, equity and transparency.

With deep expertise in DeFi, Web3 and digital assets, Dr. Menon has co-founded and advised multiple ventures, ensuring ethical innovation and regulatory leadership.

Mr. Tom Milana

Founder, ManCave Health

Website / *Instagram*



"Start with one conversation, one screening, one story."

Objective:
Man Cave Health sought to address the critical lack of awareness, early detection, and open dialogue surrounding men's health—particularly prostate cancer. The initiative aimed to break the stigma men often face in seeking preventive care and to create accessible, welcoming environments for screenings and education.

Impact:
The work has generated measurable impact by increasing prostate cancer screenings, providing thousands of men with critical health education, and sparking national conversations around men's health. The idea behind Man Cave was that if we can provide men with a better environment when they go to the doctor, more men will actually go. This started with a waiting room at Mount Sinai Hospital with TV screens to watch sporting events and decorated in sports memorabilia to create an environment that men would feel comfortable in. This has since turned into a fleet of mobile testing vans that will travel to various events throughout the country to provide free PSA testing and educational materials about the importance of early detection for all types of cancer.

Partnerships:
Our first Man Cave launched in partnership with Mount Sinai Hospital and has since expanded to UC-Irvine Medical Center. Both healthcare systems built Man Caves of their own while also supporting screenings in innovative spaces, including our mobile

testing vans. We also joined forces with The Prostate Cancer Foundation, which has greatly amplified our awareness campaigns. Together, these partnerships have allowed us to host impactful screening events nationwide—from The Rose Bowl on New Year's Day to Pocono Raceway during a NASCAR event, and most recently at the Milken Global Conference—combining medical expertise with community trust and outreach.

Investments:

Funding was secured through the Milana Family Foundation, corporate sponsorships, fundraising events, and philanthropic donations. The key lesson: people respond most strongly when there is a personal, relatable story driving the cause. Transparency and storytelling were critical in building trust with donors and sustaining long-term support.

SDG Impact:

Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being – by improving access to preventive healthcare and promoting awareness.
Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities – by bringing screenings and resources to underserved communities. Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals – by fostering collaboration across healthcare, philanthropy, and business sectors.

Success Factors & Challenges:

Success was driven by passion, community engagement, and the innovative approach of creating comfortable, stigma-free spaces for men's health. Major hurdles included overcoming the cultural reluctance men often have in discussing health issues and securing sustained funding. By grounding efforts in personal stories and visible impact, those hurdles were gradually overcome.

Personal Story:

The journey was inspired by my personal battle with prostate cancer. Through a simple blood test at 48 years old, I discovered that my PSA was elevated which led to my prostate cancer diagnosis. Simply put, early detection saved my life. The most formative words I heard from my surgeon during this experience was that, "Men take better care of their cars than they do their own bodies." This statement resonated with me and highlighted the urgent need for greater awareness and early detection. This sparked the idea that if I could find a way to encourage men to go to the doctor, or bring the doctor to them, we could save lives. Transforming this deeply personal challenge into a public mission became the foundation for Man Cave Health, proving that personal stories can drive powerful collective change.

Looking Ahead:

Wellness centers modeled after "Man Caves" can be expanded into hospitals and community centers. To scale further, we've shifted to mobile testing, with three vans in production and 22 more planned within two years. Partnering with medical providers nationwide, our "Van Caves" will bring screenings directly to men.

Vision for the Future:

The vision is to normalize conversations around men's health the same way society has embraced awareness for women's health. The call to action: start with one conversation, one screening, one story. By making healthcare approachable and removing stigma, we can save lives and create a culture where men prioritize their well-being without hesitation.

Biography:

Thomas Milana is a seasoned entrepreneur with over 25 years of experience building successful credit and collections companies. He founded TRAKAmerica, a legal network management company serving credit issuers and debt buyers. By securing Capital One as an early client and developing the proprietary FASTRAK model, Milana positioned TRAKAmerica as an industry leader, driving revenues past $100 million within seven years. In 2009, he sold a majority interest to private equity.

Since then, Milana has launched and funded multiple ventures, including Acumen Solutions Group, Annuco LLC, and Nationwide Screening Services, while currently dedicating most of his efforts to Basepoint Capital LLC, a specialty finance firm. He also expanded into hospitality as a partner in Stellina Hospitality, helping grow distinctive restaurant experiences on Long Island.

Beyond business, Milana chairs the Milana Family Foundation, which supports causes such as Man Cave Health, a national men's health initiative. A Fordham University graduate, Milana lives on Long Island with his wife and five daughters.


Robert F. Smith
Mobile Prostate Cancer Screening
Visit us at mountsinai.org/prostatecancerscreening
or call us at 646-531-8092
Scan QR code
for more information

Mr. Boaz Paldi

Chief Creative Officer, UNDP

LinkedIn / *Instagram*



"Even the smallest action is meaningful as long as you are taking action."

Objective:
The Climate Emergency is perhaps the most important crisis humanity has ever faced. But the crisis is also a communications crisis - for too long the communications around the climate issue has leaned heavily into the doom and gloom narrative. But that narrative does not work. It creates apathy in the audience rather than action. My goal and objectives is to try and change that. To change the narrative to Hope and opportunity.

Impact:
Through the two UNDP campaigns that I led, we have been able to reach billions of citizens across the world first with the Don't Choose Extinction (DCE) campaign and then with Weather Kids. Both campaigns use simple, out of the box messaging to try and get as many people as possible to take climate action. The theory of change behind these campaigns is to get people to take any small actions that they can. These small climate actions we believe will lead to bigger and bigger actions by just getting involved, anyone can be a climate hero.

Partnerships:
Partnerships were key to the success of both campaigns. For DCE we had pro bono and low bono partnerships with production houses, creative firms and media. The media partnership for a very wide distribution across the globe. For Weather Kids we partnered with the Weather Company that gave the campaign an extra layer of credibility that was

vital for its success. In addition we formed partnership with TV stations worldwide and over 400 networks used the campaign as part of their regular news programming on their prime time shows.

Investments:

We had extensive support for both campaigns from philanthropies, foundations and the private sector. The PVBLIC Foundation has had a huge impact on the success of these campaigns as well as Earth X, CIFF, and many more. A special thanks goes to the production house of the Weather Kids, The Artery who did an incredible job of bringing the vision to life. Huge thanks to our Creative Directors for both campaigns, Paco Conde and Beto Fernandez, without them there would be no dinosaurs or weather kids.

SDG Impact:

Goal 13 is directly linked to the advocacy work on climate but in reality my work is integrated into almost all 17 goals. UNDP poverty is the reduction of poverty and inequality and of course the environment, climate, gender are all part of that.

Success Factors & Challenges:

One of the challenges is creating campaigns in an organization that is not used to doing that. For example, the dino is funny and it took us a while to convince UNDP that they could be funny. In general we needed to be singularly focused on the task ahead and get it done. I think success came because we were thinking outside the box. We allowed ourselves to be funny.

Personal Story:

I am a story teller. I have always been one. At some point I knew that I wanted to be more than just an observer as a journalist and actually "take sides". That's when I knew that I wanted to work for the common good.

Looking Ahead:

It's important that we look forward and try to do as much as we can. We all have a role to play, we are all part of the solution. That is how we will bring about change - through working together on issues that affect us all.

Vision for the Future:

Get involved. Take action. Even the smallest action is meaningful as long as you are taking action. We are all part of the solution.

Biography:

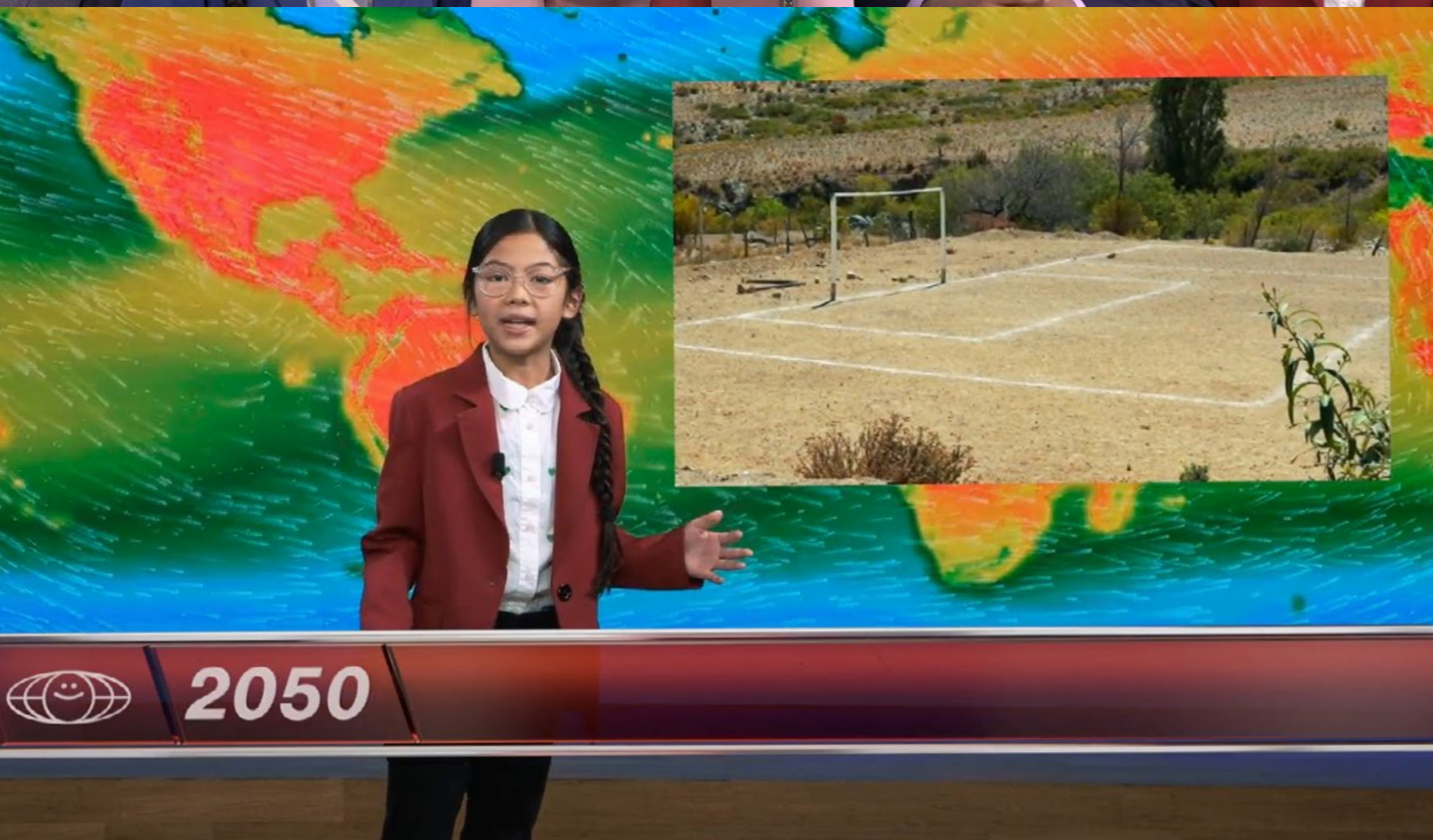
Boaz Paldi is the Chief Creative Officer for the United Nations Development Programme. In this role Boaz oversees UNDP's advocacy, flagship campaigns, events, and activations.

In 2021 Boaz launched the #DontChooseExtinction campaign that has been viewed by over 2.2 billion people across the globe. Boaz continued the drive for climate actions with the recent launch the #Weather Kids campaign that clearly illustrates the cost of the climate emergency to the next generations. Combined the campaigns reached over 4 billion people across the globe.

Before being appointed to his current role, Boaz led UNDP's campaigns, partnerships, advocacy and communication including the co-founding and creating the Lion's Share Fund and co-founding the Social Good Summit.

Prior to joining UNDP, Boaz worked as a TV journalist for 17 years covering conflicts, natural disasters and human-interest stories in Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Europe first for the BBC then for ReutersTV where he worked as a TV News Executive Producer for over 12 years.


Weather
Kids


2050

Ms. Susanna Pollack

President,
Games for Change

LinkedIn / LinkedIn (Games for Change) / X / Instagram / YouTube



"Trust in people's capacity to create meaningful solutions when given the right tools."

Objective:
Games for Change harnesses the power of games and immersive media to engage, educate, and inspire across diverse global communities. Our programs showcase how games can tackle pressing challenges, from climate change to education inequity to mental health. By building bridges between the gaming industry, creators, educators, nonprofits, and policymakers, G4C demonstrates that interactive experiences can drive measurable social impact beyond entertainment while remaining engaging and accessible to billions of players worldwide.

Impact:
Over the past 20 years, what began as a grassroots movement has transformed into a global movement that spans every continent except Antarctica.

The Games for Change Student Challenge is the largest social impact game design competition in the world, directly engaging with over 70,000 students and 2,000 educators across 90 countries. We have established several local chapters that host more than 20 events, creating local ecosystems where none existed before. Our annual Festival has brought together tens of thousands of participants from 170 countries, fostering collaborations that would not have happened otherwise. The Games and SDG Summit at the UN has formalized the role of gaming in global development.

Most importantly, we have shifted the conversation. Major institutions and companies now recognize games as legitimate and powerful tools for education, health, and social impact - a transformation that once seemed impossible when we started.

Partnerships:

Impactful partnerships bridge sectors that rarely collaborate. UN agencies like the World Food Programme and UNICEF lend legitimacy. Technology leaders, including Microsoft, Unity, and Google Play, provide platforms that scale our impact. Educational partners like Verizon and Endless connect us with students and educators worldwide.

Cross-sector innovation is central to our approach. We partnered with the Nobel Peace Center on "Peace Builders," a Minecraft experience using Nobel Laureates to teach conflict resolution. Our Global Mental Health Task Force, with the Chopra Foundation, pioneers wellbeing through gaming. Each partnership thrives because partners bring unique strengths that enhance gaming's transformative potential.

Investments:

We've learned that sustainable funding comes from demonstrating clear impact aligned with partners' core missions. Our $5M+ annual funding flows from corporate partners (58%), foundations (21%), and government grants (10%). The breakthrough came when we could show measurable results: reaching underserved students around the world, supporting UN goals, and sustained impact through games.

In-kind support has been equally valuable - platform access, volunteer expertise, and venue partnerships have helped amplify our reach and impact.

SDG Impact:

Our work directly advances SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). We also support SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 16 (Peace and Justice), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) through themed programming and international expansion reaching underserved communities globally.

Success Factors & Challenges:

Twenty years ago, the idea that games could drive social change was met with skepticism. We addressed this challenge by adopting an evidence-based approach and demonstrating measurable impact. More importantly, we built a community of supporters who recognized the transformative potential of gaming. Our success stemmed from our ability to think beyond individual projects and to develop a comprehensive ecosystem.

We established interconnected pathways: festivals and events that inspire, educational programs that empower both students and educators, awards that celebrate achievements from developers big and small, and international chapters that localize our impact.

Engaging with a diverse range of audiences has been crucial; we must communicate the value of gaming to educators in pedagogical terms, to policymakers through impact metrics, and to the industry with innovative frameworks.

Personal Story:

One of the most meaningful moments in my career occurred in 2016 when I was able to integrate my passion for children's media, entertainment, and education into Games for Change by helping inspire our Student Challenge. What started as a pilot program in New York City for 20 educators and 500 students has since evolved into the largest global game design challenge for young creators.

Witnessing young people design games that address real-world issues has been incredibly validating of our mission, and those first students affirmed something I deeply believed: when given the right tools and platforms, young people become not just consumers of media but powerful creators and changemakers. This experience solidified my understanding that the role of Games for Change is not just to promote games and immersive media beyond entertainment, but to empower the next generation to become the change they want to see in the world.

Looking Ahead:

Other organizations can adopt and adapt our approach. Our International chapters are successfully implementing the model in their regions. The Student Challenge operates through train-the-trainer methodology, allowing educators to bring the program to their communities. Our curricula and collaborative strategies provide frameworks to build gaming ecosystems for social impact.

Vision for the Future:

Start with the audacious belief that play is one of our most potent tools for transformation. Over 3.2 billion people around the world play games daily. Their reach is unprecedented - games reach people where they are, engage them on multiple levels, and invite them to imagine new possibilities, which is exactly what large-scale social change requires.

Build communities, not just programs. The most sustainable impact comes from

creating spaces where people can connect around shared purpose and support each other's growth. Think in years and decades, not quarters, because real systemic change takes time and commitment.

Most importantly, trust in people's capacity to create meaningful solutions when given the right tools. We've seen the most innovative approaches emerge from unexpected places - citizen science through games, students tackling climate change, and more. The future belongs to those who understand that changing the world through play isn't just possible, it's already happening.

Biography:

Susanna Pollack is the President of Games for Change, the leading global advocate for the power of games and immersive media as drivers of social impact. As a social entrepreneur and cross-sector leader, Susanna has over 25 years of experience advancing ambitious social impact goals through traditional and interactive media.

At Games for Change, Susanna leads a global nonprofit and community dedicated to using games and immersive media to tackle real-world challenges, from humanitarian conflicts to climate change and education. She has initiated dozens of G4C's world-class events, public arcades, design challenges, and youth programs in partnership with clients such as the Nobel Peace Center, Minecraft, the Bezos Family Foundation, Google, and Hasbro.

Under her leadership, G4C has been widely recognized for its innovative programs and cross-sector impact, receiving the Classy Award, Anthem Award, Shorty Impact Award, and Engage for Good Halo Award. Susanna has been named on the Nonprofit Times Power & Influence Top 50 List and the Worthy 100 List.

Prior to Games for Change, Susanna worked across the commercial and public sectors, including a 14- year stint in various SVP positions at BBC Worldwide.

GAMES & SDG SUMMIT

Games for Change support [illegible]ainable Development Goals



Ms. Praveen Prasad



Head of Innovative & Blended Finance (Global Partnership for Education), World Bank

LinkedIn / X / Instagram / Facebook

"Scaling innovative financing solutions offers new pathways to mobilize and incentivize more efficient and better education financing to improve access, learning and equity, and achieve better outcomes for millions of children."

Objective:
The Global Partnership for Education's (GPE) innovative finance portfolio catalyzes new and additional financing from a diverse range of co-financing partners to significantly scale education financing. GPE is the largest global fund solely dedicated to transforming education in lower-income countries, and a unique, multi-stakeholder partnership to deliver quality education so that every girl and boy can have hope, opportunity and agency.

Impact:
With traditional sources like Official Development Assistance (ODA) stagnating or declining, national budgets still recovering from the lasting impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of climate change and debt crisis - education budgets are under a major strain. To address this pressing issue, GPE has pioneered new ways to broaden financing options and tools to catalyze more education financing through GPE's innovative finance instruments helps mobilize additional capital that is efficient and equitable in support of national education priorities and needs. These instruments catalyze more funds, bring in new partners, and transform debt or debt repayment into investments in education. Since its inception, GPE's innovative finance instruments have leveraged US4.7 billion in co-financing from a diverse range of financing partners, significantly mobilizing financing at scale so that every child receives a quality education. For two decades, GPE has been supporting solutions to build strong and resilient education systems.

Partnerships:

GPE brings together all partners invested in education --lower-income countries, donors, international organizations, civil society, including youth and teacher organizations, the private sector and private foundations-- to transform education systems focusing particularly on the places and people with the greatest needs.

Investments:

GPE's innovative financing portfolio has crowded in financing from more than 62 co-financiers including Multilateral and Regional Development Banks, bilateral and United Nations agencies, the business community and philanthropy.

SDG Impact:

SDG4

Success Factors & Challenges:

GPE's unique operating model and partnership approach works to transform education systems holistically, based on a deep understanding of country context and evidence. As a partnership, GPE brings together donors, multilateral institutions, civil society, teacher representatives, philanthropic foundations and the private sector behind partner country governments' plans. As a fund, GPE provides financing to catalyze reforms and support national action and commitment. GPE brings together all partners invested in education --lower-income countries, donors, international organizations, civil society, including youth and teacher organizations, the private sector and private foundations-- to transform education systems focusing particularly on the places and people with the greatest needs.

Personal Story:

It is true that education is the surest pathway out of poverty for millions of children. It is true for me. Education holds a very special place in my heart because access to has changed my life. I was born in Fiji, in an environment marked by chronic poverty, ethnic violence, and deep inequity. For my family, affording my school or basic necessities was often a daily struggle, and sometimes simply impossible. Yet, whatever the hardship, and despite the long distance to the nearest school, I loved learning and loved being in school. Education enabled me to break generational cycle of poverty, to pursue my dreams, and to build a career that now allows me to give back — so that all children can live a life full of potential and realize their dreams regardless of where they are born or the background they come from – as I had.

Looking Ahead:

Given the many global challenges underpinned by the scale of needs and stagnant or declining levels of funds, scaling innovative financing solutions offers new pathways to mobilize and incentivize more efficient and better education financing to improve access, learning and equity, and achieve better outcomes for millions of children.

Vision for the Future:

To continue to diversify the range of partners that engage in GPE's innovative Finance portfolio and to catalyze and scale education financing under the leadership of partner country governments to support their needs, priorities and national education ambitions so that all children can be in school and learning.

Biography:

Praveen Prasad leads the innovative and blended finance portfolio at the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), where she oversees the organization's flagship Innovative Finance Facility. She has over 18 years of experience that includes innovative, blended and climate finance, global philanthropy, and the private sector.

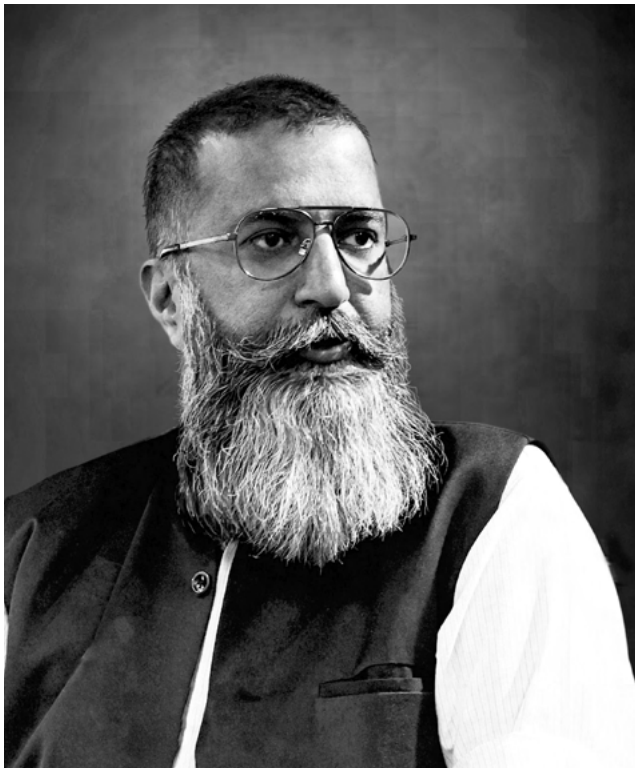
Her career has included roles at the International Finance Corporation and the Ford Foundation's Special Initiative in New York and Senegal, as well as field postings in Chad, Haiti, Malawi, South Sudan, and Darfur whilst working with international NGO's. In these contexts, she managed complex humanitarian relief and development operations including capacity building, debt restructuring and development financing initiatives with Ministries of Finance and Central Banks.

Originally from Fiji and calling Australia her second home, Praveen holds graduate degrees from Columbia University and from Macquarie University. She is passionate about and is engaged in advancing women's leadership and mentorship initiatives as well as wildlife conservation efforts in the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr. Bhuwan Ribhu

Founder,
Just Rights for Children

LinkedIn / X



"Focus and urgency on deterrence is not only the surest protection for children today, it is also the catalyst for sustaining behaviour change so that future generations are safeguarded. "

Objective:
One in five children face sexual violence in homes, communities and online, with most cases remaining unreported. Annually, 12 million girls are married before they turn 18, subjected to rape, and exploitation. Just Rights for Children (JRC) seeks to end the impunity with which child sexual abuse persists by ensuring justice reaches every child. In India, where one in three child brides live, legal deterrence is significantly impacting and solving one-third of this global crisis.

Impact:
The abuse and exploitation of children once normalised by society is now recognised as a crime and attacked through the lens of criminal justice. Enforcement of the law has reinstated accountability and the fear of punitive consequences. This focus and urgency on deterrence is not only the surest protection for children today, it is also the catalyst for sustaining behaviour change so that future generations are safeguarded.

In over two years, our network of more than 250 partners has stopped and prevented over 375,000 child marriages, rescued more than 100,000 children from trafficking, and secured prosecutions in over 62,000 cases. While these figures are from India, similar efforts are already underway in Kenya, Nepal and the US, with campaigns in 30 countries.

Real change is visible in homes and villages, in police stations and courtrooms, and in

parliaments. Globally, we are creating a world that is just for every child.

Partnerships:

JRC is fighting sexual crimes against children by breaking through systemic and systematic barriers to protection.

Through grassroots actions, policy advocacy at scale, and capacity, knowledge and technological enhancements, our NGO partners engage with Government agencies, and catalyse the ecosystem to prevent violence against children.

Our partnership's greatest strength has been unlocking civil society's untapped outrage and channelling it towards collaboration with government institutions, driving urgency, legal action and accountability, enabling access to services for over one million families, and protecting over 500,000 children. Over 250 million people were mobilised to reinforce behaviour change towards a child marriage free world.

Investments:

We hold fast to an ideal of zero tolerance for child sexual abuse and exploitation. Our goal is to actualise the rule of law that prevents crime against children, with uncompromising targets: protect every child, track every offender, and ensure justice in every case. Support comes from partners who value trusteeship, urgency, integrity, justice and above all rule of law. Resources were pledged because results and evidence established that enforceable legal action has impact on deterrence at scale. Collaborations with governments, law enforcement, judiciary, faith leaders, survivors and communities amplified our message and created opportunities for scaling up and out.

SDG Impact:

Our work directly advances SDG 5 (Gender Equality, target 5.3 to end child marriage), SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth, by eliminating child labour and trafficking). By enforcing the rule of law, we make justice and accountability central to sustainable development.

Success Factors & Challenges:

Our success is grounded in people, trust, and strategy. Placing children at the centre of our philosophy and work has enabled us to identify social, economic, institutional, and legal interventions – creating a circle of protection. By tracing the stages of the crime against children, we have mapped targeted responses to attack and dismantle it, equipping children, communities, partners, police, judiciary and policy makers with the skills and knowledge to protect children.

Healing begins with justice. Our justice-centred framework guides this work: prevention before protection, protection before prosecution, and prosecution for deterrence that reinforces prevention. For children facing abuse, trafficking or early marriage, the actualisation of the rule of law is a legal and moral imperative.

We developed the PICKET framework, a holistic strategy, to translate this into practice–Policy, Institutional accountability, Convergence, Knowledge/awareness, Economics and ecosystem, Technology–ensuring that through this the rule of law becomes effective, accessible, and just.

Personal Story:

I still remember a journalist's call in 2005, who had heard a child crying on a rooftop. I rushed with a police officer to the house, but it was locked. We jumped across from a neighbour's terrace and found a girl, barely 12, unconscious and unclothed. Her body battered with cuts, bruises, and blood marking the violence she had endured. While drafting the complaint, the officer asked which section of law applied. Agitated, I argued that without her statement we could not proceed. Undeterred, he asked, "Do you want law, or do you want justice?" This question has since stayed with me, guiding my work. The policeman wanted justice for the child, but the law wasn't there. I continue to be inspired by policemen who want justice, concerned citizens responding with outrage, colleagues and partners who walk this long journey towards justice, and do it through their actions each day.

Looking Ahead:

JRC is reframing the narrative on child sexual abuse, from a social justice to a criminal justice issue through partnerships and programs, and enforcing deterrence through civil society action, law enforcement accountability, survivor participation, and policy reforms. JRC's core strategy, PICKET, is being scaled and adapted in over 30 countries.

Vision for the Future:

JRC's vision is to create a just world for children.

We are here to end impunity against child sexual abuse and exploitation. It is an affront to each of us that child exploiters and rapists walk amongst us, or that children, parents and families suffer trauma and re-victimisation from unresponsive institutions and an apathetic society.

We are emerging as a global movement that employs the rule of law to protect children, where respect for law and fear of punishment deters sexual crimes against

children. Where shame and blame switch sides, victims are rehabilitated and emerge as survivors, and perpetrators are punished and reformed. Where crimes like child marriage are named for what they are - child rape.

Driven by our commitment to justice, urgent and measurable action, and bound by trust and partnership, we are working to ensure just and responsive laws protect every child, and are enforced with accountability.

Biography:

Bhuwan Ribhu is the founder of Just Rights for Children (JRC), which focuses on making the law work for children. Between 2023 and 2025, JRC partners have rescued more than 100,000 trafficked children and prevented more than 375,000 child marriages in India. JRC is now also active in Nepal, Kenya and the US.

Ribhu has helped formulate key Indian laws, including on trafficking in persons, child labor, protection of children from sexual offences, amongst others.

His petitions before Supreme Court of India have resulted in landmark judgements, especially, on missing children protecting over a 100,000 children annually; on online child sexually exploitative and abusive material; and child marriage, framing it as child rape and making it a criminal justice issue, globally.

In 2024, he mobilised Governments in India and Nepal, to launch Child Marriage Free Bharat (India), and Child Marriage Free Nepal campaigns, respectively, along with 30+ countries mobilising over 250mn people.

In May 2025, Ribhu was awarded the World Jurist Association's (WJA) Medal of Honor for "his tireless work building a safe, more just world for children through the power of the law." He is also the Chairperson of Jurists for Children Worldwide, an initiative of WJA and JRC.


बाल विवाह मुक्त भारत
CHILD MARRIAGE FREE INDIA

Belonging as a Blueprint for the Future

Ms. Kim Samuel

The defining challenge of our time is a deficit of belonging. While technology has enabled once-unimaginable degrees of interconnectedness within and across societies, we simultaneously face crises of loneliness, polarization, inequality, ecological decline, digital addiction and abuse, a frayed common fact base, and deteriorating mental health. As distinct as these problems may appear, they are symptoms of the same fundamental issue: isolation from one another and from the places we call home.

A vision for a better future begins with a simple truth: *every person, by simple virtue of being born, has the right to belong*. This isn't a privilege that government can grant or withdraw. It is the foundation for dignity in daily life: meaningful relationships, connection to place, agency over one's circumstances, and a sense of purpose. Where the drive for belonging is denied or channeled into destructive us-versus-them thinking, trust erodes and societies become brittle; isolation and authoritarianism take root. Where the right to belong is upheld, democracy grows more durable, people flourish, and communities become resilient enough to face shared challenges.

Belonging isn't just an abstract ideal. It's the experience of wholeness, of being valued and secure—with ourselves, with others, and with the natural world. Belonging is the experience of connection across four dimensions: People, Place, Power, and Purpose. People means reciprocal, dependable relationships. Place means natural ecosystems and built environments where we feel at home. Power means voice, choice, and fair influence over the forces that shape our lives. Purpose means contributing to—and being guided by—something larger than ourselves, including responsibilities to future generations. When these four dimensions align, belonging grows. When even one is systematically neglected, the fabric frays.

Belonging is a through-line that connects the Sustainable Development Goals, including: SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) through social connection and mental health; SDG 4 (Quality Education) through inclusive, relationship-centered learning; SDG 8 (Decent Work) through dignity at work and shared prosperity; SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) through voice and fair process; SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) through social infrastructure and safe, welcoming public spaces; SDG 13, 14, and 15 (Climate Action and Life on Land/Below Water) through care for the places we depend upon; and SDG 17 (Partnerships) through the coalitions required to realize the right to belong. Framed this way, belonging isn't just another goal: It can be a thread that helps weave a common narrative around humanity's shared objectives.

Behind so many dire headlines, the world is making quiet progress. Communities are redesigning streets, libraries, and parks to maximize everyday connection. Cities are testing citizens' assemblies and participatory budgeting so residents can help to set priorities. Health systems are scaling "social prescribing" and community-health workers, treating isolation as a risk factor and connection as an asset. Employers are rebuilding teams around mentorship, shared rituals, and inclusive ownership so people have a genuine stake in outcomes. Educators are strengthening intergenerational ties, pairing youth with older people. And movements are rising to measure social connectedness alongside traditional economic metrics—because we measure what we ultimately value.

Yet these innovations need attention. Scaling solutions will require awareness and political will. It will require the courage to imagine new systems of belonging.

We can work toward this vision by endeavoring to realize the Right to Belong through policy and practice. This can mean, for example, identifying and advancing programs and principles that give people meaningful capacity to exercise voice and choice in their lives, ensuring fair process and human dignity in public services, especially for the most

marginalized. It can mean enshrining—in schools, workplaces, and other contexts—protocols and procedures that treat human relationships as central. Building belonging can mean designing cities and public spaces for connection and mutual aid. It can mean managing technological innovations in ways that defend and promote human values. Ultimately, realizing the right to belong requires that we measure progress through indicators that go beyond profit or GDP growth. Real progress means that neighbors meet across differences and solve concrete problems together. Children feel support and inspiration. Workers feel empowered to give their gifts to the world. Cities feel like home. And our technologies—instead of colonizing precious attention—hand us back to one another and back to the living world on which we depend.

About Kim Samuel



Kim Samuel is the founder of Belonging Forum, a global research, advocacy, and action organization that builds belonging around the world. She is also a Research Fellow at the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and an Associate Fellow at Green Templeton College, University of Oxford.

Belonging Forum - formerly the Samuel Centre for Social Connectedness - convenes the Global Symposium on Belonging, bringing together the belonging movement's leading thinkers and changemakers, as well as a fellowship program for diverse scholars and practitioners working to advance belonging. In 2025, Belonging Forum will also launch the world's first Charter for Belonging, a set of principles and practices for governments, businesses, nonprofits, and other institutions.

In addition, Belonging Forum oversees the Belonging Barometer, a first-of-its-kind, solutions-focused annual study on the state of belonging in the United Kingdom, which draws on survey data from 10,000 participants and will soon launch in additional geographies, including South Africa and Canada.

Kim is the author of On Belonging: Finding Connection in an Age of Isolation (Abrams Press 2022), an exploration of the crisis of social isolation and humanity's right to belong. Kim serves on the executive committee and board of Special Olympics International as well as the disability rights advisory committee and the London and Canada committees of Human Rights Watch.

Dr. Jordi Serrano-Pons

Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Universal Doctor



"We cannot build healthy societies on an unhealthy planet."

Objective:
Our initiative seeks to address the gap between health innovation and real-world implementation in Global Health, One Health, and Planetary Health. While extraordinary ideas exist, too often they remain siloed in academia, technology hubs, or isolated pilots. The Planet Health Innovation Network (PHIN) was created to foster interdisciplinary collaboration, mobilize investment, and accelerate the adoption of practical solutions that improve both human health and planetary well-being.

Impact:
Since its founding just one year ago, PHIN has created a platform that connects innovators, practitioners, and policymakers across disciplines. Through events like the Planet Health Innovation Lunch, we have demonstrated how interdisciplinarity tables (physicians, biologists, engineers, researchers, architects, etc.) can unlock fresh ideas and partnerships. These gatherings have already sparked early-stage collaborations and investment interest, while also raising awareness about the critical link between health innovation and sustainability.

At scale, PHIN's work contributes to reducing health inequities, accelerating preventive and holistic care models, and reinforcing the idea that health innovations must simultaneously protect people and the planet. By positioning planetary health and One Health at the center of innovation discussions, PHIN is helping to reframe how solutions are

designed, funded, and implemented globally.

Partnerships:

Collaboration is central to PHIN. Key partners include OneHealth International, Hospitals in Spain and Italy and global professional associations of primary care physicians, the first Amazon Planetary Health Chair. These partnerships ensure credibility, scientific rigor, and access to frontline perspectives. We also connect with technology companies, universities, and NGOs working on sustainable health solutions. By uniting diverse sectors under a shared mission, PHIN transforms parallel efforts into collective action, ensuring that innovation is not only designed but also tested, implemented, and scaled.

Investments:

PHIN is in a nascent stage, having been launched only one year ago. Initial support has come from partner institutions and in-kind contributions from collaborators passionate about our mission. While we have not yet secured large-scale investment, our model is designed to attract impact-driven sponsors (including healthcare data firms and philanthropic actors). Lessons learned: It is vital to link innovation to measurable health outcomes and planetary benefits to unlock trust and investment. Our next step is to build a sustainable funding base that combines philanthropy, institutional partnerships, and private-sector sponsorships.

SDG Impact:

PHIN directly advances:
SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being
SDG 13: Climate Action
SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals
Indirectly, our work also supports SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) by promoting sustainable, scalable health innovations.

Success Factors & Challenges:

Success factors:

A clear mission linking health innovation with planetary health.

The interdisciplinary design of our events, breaking silos and generating new collaborations.
Early partnerships with respected institutions that lend credibility and global reach.

Challenges:
Being a young initiative, PHIN is still scaling its network and financial base.

Securing funding requires demonstrating both immediate impact and long-term systemic change. Bridging different sectors (medicine, technology, environmental science) takes time, but the diversity also enriches the outcomes.

Key takeaway:

The world urgently needs innovation that is not only technologically advanced but also holistic, ethical, and sustainable. PHIN's experience shows that creating spaces where diverse voices come together is the fastest way to accelerate solutions.

Personal Story:

My journey began as a physician deeply concerned about the fragmentation of health systems. Working across digital health and global health, I saw countless innovations that never reached patients or communities because they lacked collaboration, context, or investment.

A formative moment came during the pandemic: while technology and vaccines advanced rapidly, structural gaps left many populations unprotected. I realized we needed a platform that unites innovators, practitioners, and policymakers across sectors to ensure health solutions are accessible, globally relevant, but most importantly, globally relevant.

That vision inspired the Planet Health Innovation Network. It is both personal and professional — an attempt to create a community of Innovators in Global, One and Planetary Health with the facility to be supported or invested.

Looking Ahead:

PHIN is designed to scale globally through partnerships, interdisciplinary events, and an open innovation platform. Its model — bringing diverse experts together to foster actionable health innovations — can be replicated in any region. By building national chapters, PHIN can adapt locally while contributing to a shared global vision.

Vision for the Future:

My vision for the future is one where health innovation and planetary sustainability are inseparable. We cannot build healthy societies on an unhealthy planet. The solutions of today must embrace this reality.

Recognize the Innovators in Global, One and Planetary Health and invest in them is our simple and straightforward vision.

Only by building networks of trust and action can we accelerate solutions that meet the urgency of today's challenges while safeguarding future generations.

Biography:

Dr. Jordi Serrano Pons – Innovating at the Intersection of Digital Health, Global Health, and Planetary Health

Dr. Jordi Serrano Pons is a family physician, entrepreneur, and global innovator recognized among the 50 Pioneers in Digital Health by IBM in 2018. Passionate about transforming healthcare through technology and collaboration, Jordi has dedicated his career to advancing solutions at the crossroads of Digital Health, Global Health, and Planetary Health.

He is the founder of UniversalDoctor, co-founder of UhDa Health, and co-creator of impactful global initiatives such as ZeroMothersDie, aimed at reducing maternal mortality through mobile health. Most recently, he co-founded P8 Health, a pioneering prevention service that integrates active listening, personalized care, and educational technologies to promote value-based, patient-centered healthcare. In 2024, Jordi launched the Planet Health Innovation Network, a platform designed to support solutions in Global Health, One Health and Planetary Health. He has collaborated with leading organizations, including WHO, UNAIDS, and IOM, and advises hospitals across Europe and the Middle East. As a teacher in several master's programs on innovation, Jordi is committed to sharing insights with the next generation of changemakers, continuing to build bridges that connect innovation with real-world impact.






INNO










OVA

Executive Team

Dr. Gregory W. Barton

Dean of the Honors College and Global College, Long Island University (Project Director)

LinkedIn



I am honored to serve on the Executive Team of *Vision for the Future 2025*, a project that speaks directly to the challenges and opportunities of our time. As Dean of the Global College at Long Island University, I work with students who live and study across continents. They experience firsthand how technology both connects and divides, empowers and endangers. From classrooms in Europe to field projects in Central America and the Australia-Pacific region, I see how the choices we make about technology ripple across cultures and shape futures.

In parallel, my role as Dean of the Honors College at a Research Level II institution places me at the heart of academic inquiry into these issues. Research and higher education are uniquely positioned to ask the hard questions about technology's impact and to model the kind of ethical reflection that must guide innovation. Our students are not only learning how to use emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, but also how to question them, critique them, and design applications that advance equity rather than deepen inequality.

This year's theme, the ethical use of emerging technologies, could not be more timely. We stand at a crossroads. Artificial intelligence and other innovations hold extraordinary potential to accelerate progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals. They can unlock new ways of learning, strengthen health systems, drive climate solutions, and expand access to opportunity. But without deliberate attention to ethics and inclusion,

these same tools can reinforce bias, widen divides, damage our planet's health, and concentrate power in ways that undermine our shared future.

Education has a critical role to play in ensuring that innovation serves humanity. At our Global College, students learn in international contexts where the stakes are real and the consequences of technology are tangible. At our Honors College, students engage in research that pushes them to think critically and responsibly about discovery and application. Together, these experiences prepare the next generation of leaders to embrace technology with wisdom, humility, and purpose.

My hope for Vision for the Future 2025 is that it inspires a global conversation not only about what is possible, but about what is just. Technology can and should help us reimagine a better future, but only if we remain steadfast in our commitment to equity, ethics, and human dignity. If we invest in people, cultivate global partnerships, and uphold education as the foundation for innovation, then we can ensure that emerging technologies truly advance the common good.

Biography:

Gregory W. Barton, Ed.D., serves as the Dean of the Honors College and Global College at Long Island University. Dr. Barton received his doctorate from Johns Hopkins University, specializing in Entrepreneurial Leadership in Education. His research focuses on improving college readiness through arts, athletics, and family engagement. As a former college athlete and practicing artist, Dr. Barton is passionate about helping students succeed by building college readiness skills in extracurricular activities.

Before completing his doctorate, Dr. Barton received his master's in Historic Preservation from the Savannah College of Art and Design and his bachelor's degree in sculpture and art history from Washington and Lee University. Dr. Barton has served as a Director of Student Affairs and Associate Dean of Students, and also has extensive teaching and coaching experience at the high school and college levels, both domestically and internationally.,

Dr. Ali Mazzara

President, Geneva Global LLC, Fulbright Specialist 2025 - 2028 (Project Director)

LinkedIn



Vision for the Future 2025 is an excellent opportunity for us to reflect on current issues and priorities impacting the world and highlight people and organizations that are making positive and important contributions globally. Each year many of the issues and priorities remain the same: health; environment; addressing conflicts, and others. And yet, each year there is always something that puts a certain "stamp" on that year – be it global financial crises, pandemics, or political instability.

In 2025, Artificial Intelligence is "the" issue and will remain a major force for many years to come. The theme of this year's Vision for the Future, the ethical use of emerging technologies, is such an important one to address as AI touches on all aspects of our lives and impacts all issues and priorities. It is therefore imperative that we work through how we can use AI in a way that is beneficial while acknowledging that these new technologies can also cause harm if not developed and used without adequate and ethical safeguards. The individuals highlighted in this year's Vision for the Future are valiantly leading the conversations – through their contributions in diverse fields and in diverse ways.

In my company, Geneva Global, one of our main areas of expertise is developing and supporting global leaders. There is no set definition of a good leader global or otherwise. Yet there are certain qualities of what makes a leader effective – especially with the goal of positive impact – that are shared by many leaders. They include listening, observing, asking why, asking why not, and understanding that "how" can unfold in different ways – often because the leader has listened and observed.

It is therefore no surprise to me that the global leaders selected for 2025's Vision for the Future are people who have the qualities mentioned above. And so it is no surprise that these individuals are leading the way in engaging and using new technologies that are beneficial to society and also providing models of how to do so ethically.

Biography:

Dr. Maryalice (Ali) Mazzara is the President of Geneva Global LLC, which specializes in working with governments, corporations, foundations, and NGOs to support their initiatives in leadership and global engagement. Geneva Global does this through designing and implementing global engagement short and long-term programs; curating globally focused special projects and events, and offering customized training programs on global leadership.

As well, Dr. Mazzara is a U.S. Department of State Fulbright Specialist for "Global Affairs and Leadership" from 2025 until 2028. Additionally, in 2021 was awarded a U.S. Department of State Senior Scholar Fulbright in 2021 to teach "Global Affairs and Leadership" in China.

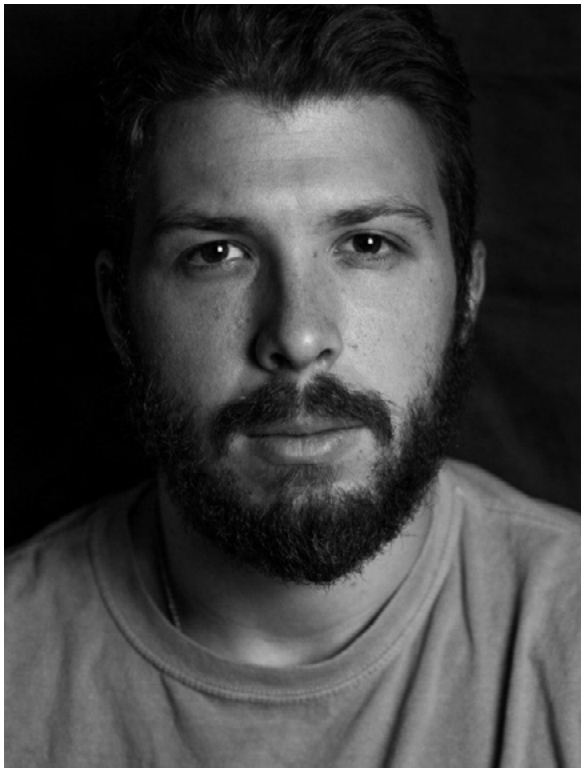
Prior to Geneva Global, Dr. Maryalice Mazzara was the Dean of Long Island University's Global College and the Director of LIU's Roosevelt School's International Relations and Diplomacy program. Before LIU, she was the Director of Global Leadership Programs at the State University of New York's Global Center in Manhattan. Dr. Mazzara has also held leadership positions at the Global Film Initiative, the Government of Québec in New York, and Columbia University's Harriman Institute.

Dr. Mazzara earned her doctorate at Columbia University's Teachers College in International Education Development. She was awarded the "Alumni Award for Outstanding Service", which is given to only one alumna each year, in recognition for the global initiatives she developed for international alumni and students. Dr. Mazzara has recently started the OakTree Foundation to support international students in the U.S.

Mr. Matthew Barton

Creative Director, GALE Partners (Creative Director)

LinkedIn / *Website*



Vision for the Future is a project that does not come along everyday. A group of impressive, motivated and selfless individuals all gathered in one place with one common goal is truly a remarkable feat that I knew I had to be a part of. This includes the heroic Executive Team that humbled me with an invitation to join and shape the direction of the project. I have so much gratitude as I write this to those that were the true force behind this endeavor: Mr. Amir Dossal, Dr. Gregory W. Barton, Dr. Maryalice (Ali) Mazzara, Mr. Howard Buffett, and Mr. Zecki Dossal. I have been given a gift to have a front row seat to the awe-inspiring stories that all of our wonderful contributors bring to the table. To learn exactly how their efforts have pushed our world forward in more ways than I could have imagined has fueled my own fire to continue to do more on my end.

My own vision for the future is one of hope. Hope that with people like those included in *Vision for the Future*, we can maintain a collective consciousness of progress. With the variety of skill sets we all have to offer, I encourage those inspired, in a similar fashion, to use their own tools as a part of a greater team of individuals to get the best out of any situation they might find themselves in. No matter what someone has to contribute, I believe that if we all push for progress, the future can truly be what we make of it. And it is up to those that have gone down this path to continue to take on the most important role of them all: teaching the next generation how to continue to move forward. Without that, it was all for nothing.

Biography:

Matthew Barton is an award-winning Creative Director born and raised in New York City. Matthew currently works at GALE Partners where global consultancy meets world class creativity. He has been the creative mind behind global campaigns for adidas, Amazon, Kraft Heinz, and Volkswagen among others.

He received his undergraduate degree at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, VA where he majored in photography and journalism and played four years on the varsity football team. He then received his Masters in Fine Arts in Photography from the Savannah College of Art and Design.

Outside of work, he and his brother co-founded Hamptons Surf Company, a small surf company, lifestyle brand and artist collective based on the Eastern End of Long Island. Matthew also serves on the Associate Board of BUILD NYC, an educational nonprofit which uses entrepreneurship to build career success, entrepreneurial mindsets, and opportunity in under-resourced communities.

Mr. Zecki Dossal

Senior Director, Henry Schein (Content Director)

LinkedIn / X / Instagram / Facebook



It is an honor to once again be part of this remarkable journey of storytelling and impact. *Vision for the Future 2025* represents the extraordinary power of individuals and communities to shape a brighter tomorrow. Each contribution is more than a reflection of what has been achieved – it is a spark that can ignite new ideas and inspire others to act.

This year's edition highlights bold solutions that transcend boundaries, anchored in collaboration, creativity, and innovation. From transformative partnerships to the thoughtful use of emerging technologies, the leaders featured here demonstrate that progress is not only possible but already unfolding in ways that can be scaled and shared. Their vision shows us that when purpose and action align, the future is full of possibility.

I am humbled by the passion and commitment of each contributor. Their journeys offer valuable lessons and encouragement, reminding us that lasting change is built through perseverance and collective effort. This anthology is both a celebration of what is being accomplished today and an invitation to imagine what more can be achieved tomorrow.

My hope is that these stories inspire all who read them – leaders, practitioners, and everyday changemakers alike – to join in shaping a future defined by compassion, courage, and shared purpose.

Biography:

Zecki Dossal is a Senior Director at Henry Schein, driving global commercial growth and scaling recurring revenue models across North America and EMEA. He has launched high-margin ventures, expanded subscription-based business models, and led strategic growth initiatives that enhanced enterprise value and customer lifetime value. Previously, Zecki was a Senior Vice President at GLG, overseeing strategy and operations for the private equity and venture capital business. He advised investment teams on deal evaluation, portfolio optimization, and value creation. He also founded GLG's social impact initiatives, helping high-growth social enterprises accelerate decision-making and scale. Zecki holds an MBA from Columbia Business School and a BA in Economics from Columbia University. He serves on the Boards of the Association for Dental Safety and the Global Partnerships Forum and is an Advisory Board Member of NEXUS and The Resolution Project.

Collaborators



Vision for the Future is now in its second year of publication, and Geneva Global LLC (Geneva Global) is privileged to work with the Global Partnerships Forum on this significant initiative once again. Geneva Global also appreciates the ongoing collaboration with esteemed colleagues from Long Island University and GALE Partners.

Geneva Global helps organizations maximize their global impact by fostering connections and cultural understanding. We support corporations, governments, and non-profits through tailored events, training programs, and strategic advising to enhance visibility and results in global programming. This includes expanding global impact with specialized programmes, creating short- and long-term customized global initiatives, and advising on integrating global engagement into projects. Recent projects include a workshop on "Global Affairs and Leadership" for the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in New York, creating opportunities to present the book "Ukraine: A Nation at War" to thought leaders in New York City, and advising the Oyster Bay Historical Society include global connections to their annual fundraiser to increase results.

Being part of *Vision for the Future* resonates with the mission of Geneva Global. Our goal is to help clients share their message worldwide to maximize impact. Similarly, Vision for the Future provides a platform for individuals and organizations to share their stories of how they are impacting the world for good by contributing to the success of the implementation of SDGs in their areas of expertise.

As the world is engaging with ai and emerging technologies at an ever-increasing pace, this year's *Vision for the Future* is right to address the importance of using these technologies ethically. The people and programs highlighted this year provide examples of how to do this – in diverse fields. As with Geneva Global, *Vision for the Future*, engages with people and organizations to tell the stories of global leaders who are making a positive impact. We thank them for their what they are doing and for providing ways to leverage the technologies for good and for the inspiration their stories provide as we all seek to make a positive global impact.

Long Island University is proud to serve as a partner of *Vision for the Future 2025*. This initiative reflects our shared commitment to advancing bold solutions for global challenges, empowering future leaders, and ensuring that education remains at the heart of sustainable development.

As one of the nation's leading research universities, LIU combines the strengths of a Research Level II institution with a truly international perspective. Through the Global College, our students live and study across continents, engaging directly with diverse cultures and communities. Through the Honors College and our research enterprise, they explore new frontiers of knowledge, innovation, and discovery. Together, these experiences prepare our students to meet the complexity of today's world with integrity, creativity, and a spirit of global citizenship.

This year's theme on the ethical use of emerging technologies resonates deeply with our mission. Artificial intelligence and other innovations are transforming every aspect of society, from education and health to governance and climate action. Yet with that power comes responsibility. At LIU, we are committed to ensuring that our students and faculty not only develop expertise in these fields but also approach them with the ethical frameworks and cultural awareness needed to guide innovation toward equity and the common good.

Vision for the Future 2025 offers an invaluable platform to amplify voices, spark dialogue, and inspire collective action at a moment when the world is at a crossroads. LIU is honored to join this global effort and reaffirm our belief that education, research, and partnership are the keys to building a more just, sustainable, and future-ready world.

Strategic Partners



The Global Mental Health Task Force, or GMHT, is an international coalition formed to confront the urgent global mental health crisis. Established in late 2023, it was created through the partnership of several leading organizations and initiatives, including the Chopra Foundation, Clinicom, The CityKids Foundation, the NeverAlone initiative, the Global Partnerships Forum, and the Creative Intelligence Agency. This diverse founding group reflects GMHT's belief that addressing mental health requires collaboration across science, policy, technology, the arts, and community-based advocacy. GMHT has aligned its mission with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG3), which calls for good health and well-being, positioning mental health as both a human right and a central part of global health equity.

The creation of GMHT responds to longstanding disparities in mental health care. Across the world, especially in low and middle-income countries, millions of people lack access to reliable support. GMHT officially launched in November 2023 at the United Nations Delegates' Dining Room. The event included a keynote by Deepak Chopra and brought together leaders from multiple sectors to highlight the urgency of global mental health raising awareness and driving action to address the global mental health crisis. Since that launch, GMHT has served as a convener and a catalyst, organizing virtual sessions, creating working groups, and building partnerships that combine advocacy with practical intervention. Its leadership includes experts such as Beth Haggerty, Gabriella Wright, Poonacha Machaiah, Laurie Meadoff, Terry Torok, and Donnetta Campbell, each bringing distinct expertise to the effort.

GMHT has begun rolling out flagship programs that reflect its mission, including The Million Minds Project, which aims to provide free mental health check-ups to more than a million people worldwide, offering confidential assessments and connecting individuals to resources that fit their cultural and personal needs. Other initiatives respond to the global youth mental health crisis, as well as to the need for stronger systems in underserved regions. Innovation is a defining feature of GMHT's approach, with an emphasis on digital platforms, artificial intelligence, and scalable models that can adapt to different cultural contexts.

At its core, GMHT was founded to reframe mental health as an essential component of human dignity. By leveraging its partnerships and global platform, the Task Force is striving to reduce stigma, close access gaps, and reshape how the international community responds to mental well-being. Visit our website at: GMHT.org.



P3 Connect ONE is honored to partner with *Vision for the Future 2025*, an initiative that reflects our shared belief that technology must serve humanity with purpose, responsibility, and imagination. Together, we are committed to building solutions that address today's challenges while unlocking tomorrow's opportunities.

As a global intelligence and audience activation platform, P3 Connect ONE empowers organizations to reach people in more meaningful ways. By combining advanced AI with behavioral science, we turn vast amounts of data into clear, actionable insight. Helping brands, governments, and mission-driven partners engage with precision and create measurable impact. Our goal is not just reach, but resonance: connecting ideas, stories, and resources to the communities that need them most.

This year's theme on the ethical use of emerging technologies is at the core of our mission. Artificial intelligence, when guided wisely, can accelerate progress in climate action, health, education, and equity. But technology without values risks deepening divides. That's why P3 Connect ONE is committed to building with transparency, accountability, and respect for human dignity, ensuring innovation contributes to the common good.

Vision for the Future 2025 provides an important space for collaboration and collective action at a pivotal time for the world. P3 Connect ONE is proud to stand alongside global leaders and reaffirm our conviction that technology, when directed toward equity and inclusion, can help create a more sustainable and connected future.



Bold Innovation. Lasting Legacy. Institutional Impact.

PVBLIC Foundation is a global foundation dedicated to redesigning how society addresses its most daunting challenges. At the intersection of diplomacy, development, and innovation, PVBLIC is a trusted platform between governments, the United Nations, global family offices, and the private sector to advance bold ideas into large-scale change.

Through its four institutional pillars; Nature, Technology, Capital, and Multilateralism—PVBLIC reconceptualizes potential by constructing the framework for future developments. By facilitating sovereign data governance and enhancing geospatial capabilities, as well as operationalizing real-world natural assets (RWNA), and by channeling catalytic capital through philanthropic efforts and global family offices, PVBLIC translates vision into action-driven implementation.

Globally known for its ability to deal effectively with complexity and deliver results, PVBLIC champions effective initiatives linking policy and practical action, accelerating economic progress, and mainstreaming sustainability in the global agenda. Through technology transfer, innovative financing models, and effective multilateral partnerships, PVBLIC is innovatively expanding the frontiers of public-private partnerships. In a world that requires innovative solutions to collaboration and implementation, PVBLIC is no longer content with participation in debate; it is constructively building global frameworks that enable transformation.



TheSocialArchitects is honored to serve as a partner of Vision for the Future 2025. This initiative reflects our shared commitment to elevating changemakers' voices, creating and driving social innovation, advancing cutting-edge solutions to global challenges, and ensuring that authentic human voices remain at the heart of innovation and impact.

At TheSocialArchitects we create and curate ecosystems of influencers, spanning industries, countries, cross-sector global leaders, and leading-edge social evangelists. We effectuate customized communities and build conversations around a cause, event, or brand initiative. These communities are leveraged to create a SocialDolby impact, where multiple communities connect, support, and amplify the voices of underserved individuals worldwide through our SocialPR strategy.

We believe thought leadership is meaningless unless it is reinforced with action, and over the past decade, we have optimized social media to catalyze action for many diverse organizations and events, such as: The Power Shift Forum at Oxford University: Chatham House's International Policy Forums on Gender-Inclusive Growth, and its Silver Economy Forum; the rollout of the United Nations Secretary General's high-level panel for womens' empowerment; the UN Trust Fund and the Under Secretary General's sustainability platforms; and the ongoing work of the Local2030 high-level meeting at the UN Political Forum. Our most recent initiatives include Savvitas: The World Business Women Summit, hosted at the House of Lords in London, and the GMHT (Global Mental Health Taskforce), an international coalition formed to address the urgent global mental health crisis. Established in late 2023, it was created through the partnership of several leading organizations and initiatives, including the Chopra Foundation, Clinicom, The CityKids Foundation, the NeverAlone initiative, the Global Partnerships Forum, and the Creative Intelligence Agency. This diverse founding group reflects GMHT's belief that addressing mental health requires collaboration across science, policy, technology, the arts, and community-based advocacy. GMHT has aligned its mission with United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG3), which aims for good health and well-being, positioning mental health as both a human right and a central component of global health equity.

This year's Vision for the Future 2025 theme, centered on the ethical use of emerging technologies, resonates deeply with our mission. In a world where technology and AI are transforming culture at warp speed, it is vital that communities be built on frameworks of co-creation and collaboration. Human intent, authorship, and aesthetic judgment are key to the future of creativity and a more equitable world for all.

WINNING VS.

Winning VS is proud to serve as a partner of *Vision for the Future 2025*. This initiative reflects our shared commitment to elevating entrepreneurial voices, advancing bold solutions to global challenges, and ensuring that authentic storytelling remains at the heart of innovation and impact.

As a storytelling and media-tech venture, Winning VS has helped founders make their stories go viral - securing coverage in Forbes, CNBC, TechCrunch, and the BBC - enabling them to raise more capital, reach wider audiences, and accelerate their missions. Through our proprietary **Hero's Journey playbook**, we transform brilliant entrepreneurs into recognized thought leaders by combining guaranteed media placements, lasting Google authority, and Generative Engine Optimization (AI).

This year's Vision for the Future 2025 theme on the ethical use of emerging technologies resonates deeply with our mission. At Winning VS, we believe storytelling has the power to guide innovation with authenticity, integrity, and purpose - ensuring technology serves equity, resilience, and positive change.

We are honored to join this global effort and reaffirm our belief that **authentic stories, amplified by media and digital authority, are essential to building a more just, sustainable, and future-ready world.**

Vision for the Future 2025

Capturing Inspiring Stories from Global Changemakers

Vision for the Future is a compelling digital anthology – launched during the 2025 United Nations General Assembly – that brings together the powerful voices of visionary leaders and changemakers who are reshaping our world. These individuals have risen to the occasion, offerinvg innovative solutions to some of the most pressing challenges of our time. They have embraced the mandate of the ***Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)***—a universal call to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all. Their stories reflect the real-world impact of aligning with these goals, offering innovative solutions and replicable models that demonstrate how progress is within reach.

These changemakers show how partnerships, investments, and shared vision can ignite change. Their journeys serve as powerful examples of how we can accelerate the implementation of the SDGs, addressing global challenges in a fractured environment. Through their personal stories and impactful journeys, these changemakers provide readers with valuable insights, actionable ideas, and a roadmap to make a difference in their own communities.

Whether you are a policymaker, entrepreneur, student, or citizen, ***Vision for the Future 2025*** invites you to be inspired by these stories and to play your part in realizing the ***Pact for the Future***—a collective commitment to building a more equitable, sustainable world for all.

Join us in this powerful movement, as we learn from those reshaping the world and discover how we can all be a force for change and contribute to a brighter future.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS FORUM