



The Unlonely Planet

HOW ASHOKA ACCELERATES IMPACT

Results of the 2018 Global Fellows Study

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

PARAMITA BANERJEE

Fellow from India



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface	4
Acknowledgments / Methodology.....	5
About the Ashoka Fellows in this Study.....	6

PART 1

How Ashoka Fellows Drive Systems Change	7
Independent Replication.....	8
Mindset Shift/Societal Norms	11
Public Policy/Industry Norms.....	13
Market Dynamics/Value Chains.....	16
Enable a Culture of Changemaking	19

PART 2

Ashoka's Impact On Fellows	21
Ashoka's Venture and Selection Process Helps Fellows See How Their Work Can Change Systems	22
The Stipend Supports Fellows So They Can Pursue Their Idea Full-Time	23
Ashoka's Network Enables Learning, Collaboration and Scale.....	24
Ashoka Nurtures Fellows and Expands How They Think and Lead	25
Ashoka Accelerates Fellows' Personal and Professional Impact	26

PART 3

New Insights on Leading Young.....	27
The Importance of Youth Changemaking	28
Fellows Create Opportunities for Young People to Become Changemakers	29

PREFACE

In 2018, more than 850 Ashoka Fellows from 74 countries participated in a Global Fellows Study conducted by Ashoka designed to understand their—and their organization’s—impact, as well as the role Ashoka has had in accelerating their progress. We believe this to be the largest global study of systems change social entrepreneurs done to date and we are pleased to present the results in the following pages. We titled the survey results, “The Unlonely Planet,” which is how one of our Fellows described Ashoka (see inside cover).

About Our Fellow Selection Process

Every Ashoka Fellow elected has passed a rigorous, highly-refined, five-stage selection process where the criteria have been met at each stage and where decision-makers reach consensus. Each Fellow has demonstrated: a big, pattern-setting new idea that results in social impact; creativity in problem-solving; entrepreneurial qualities; and ethical fiber. We have never been rigid in terms of the how-tos and timing of getting to systems change; the selection process is designed to be predictive and recognizes that big change does not happen overnight, which is why we focus on people who demonstrate a lifetime pattern of persistence.

Ashoka Fellows Generate Systems Change That Sticks

Our Fellows address root causes of social problems to fundamentally disrupt those structures and change systems—they do this by creating new fields, building relationships where none previously existed, offering people new roles and relationships, and fundamentally helping people see differently so they can do differently. We first conducted this study in 1998, and since then we have added new measures as the world changes and we better understand how our social entrepreneurs create systems change. As you will see in Part 1 of this report, today our metrics for measuring systems change include: independent replication, changing societal norms and

mindsets, changing public policy, changing market dynamics and value chains, and enabling a culture of changemaking.

Ashoka Accelerates the Spread of Fellows’ Ideas

Part 2 of this report demonstrates the ways in which Ashoka helps its Fellows’ ideas gain traction to increase their impact. Fellows report that Ashoka’s selection process helps them validate and think through their systems changing approaches for long term change that sticks. Fellows also report that the stipends Ashoka provides enables them to focus full-time on their work; that the global network facilitates learning and collaboration among its members; and that engagement with Ashoka’s extended team supports new thinking, leadership, and well-being, as well as personal and professional growth.

Insights from the Study Point to New Opportunities

The findings regarding Fellows’ young changemaking experiences comprise Part 3 of this report, which also point to the core of Ashoka’s current and future focus. The data further supports Ashoka’s recognition back in 1989: that putting young people in charge has long-term positive effects—for individuals *and* society. We see changemaking as the new literacy of our time because we see that young people—no matter what their circumstance—who have found their agency are the ones who upend historical inequalities. And if they start young they go on to have bigger impact over their lifetime. The survey results also point toward the next collaborative entrepreneurship opportunities—be it climate action, social financial services, or healthcare for all; it is our community of social entrepreneurs at the cutting edge of social innovation who help us see where the world is headed.

Diana Wells
President Emerita
Leadership Team Member



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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- Bill Drayton, for his vision
- Venture and Fellowship teams
- Web and IT teams
- Volunteer translators
- Volunteers who participate in the 5-stage Fellow selection process

We would also like to thank the Social Innovations Journal for dedicating Issue 52 to this work, which was published in December, 2018.

A special thank you to the Fellows for participating in this study with generosity and honesty. Your inspirational leadership guides us at Ashoka, as well as many others around the world. Thank you for the incredible work that you do.

Front and back cover photos are from an Ashoka Fellows retreat in Northern Thailand, organized by Ashoka Country Director Sinee Chakthranont. Front, Weerapong Kriengsinyos (left) and Nimit Tienudom share a moment. Back, Fellows walk mindfully under a banyan tree at the retreat. Photo credit to Kittisiri Napachotsiri, who volunteered his time and talent to support our work.

METHODOLOGY

The 2018 Global Fellows Study used a mixed-methods approach, which incorporated both quantitative and qualitative research methods. Of the 50 questions in the survey, 47 were closed-ended, enabling a purely quantitative analysis.

The survey received 858 unique respondents (26% of our Fellowship) representing 74 countries. Forty-three Fellows were selected for one-hour, qualitative interviews from a randomized sample of respondents, which was representative in terms of gender and geographic location.

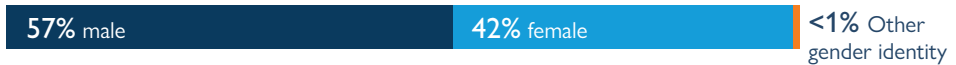
A team of experts at LUISS University in Rome conducted an independent evaluation of the survey results and found the survey “complete, solid and reliable.”

ABOUT THE ASHOKA FELLOWS IN THIS STUDY

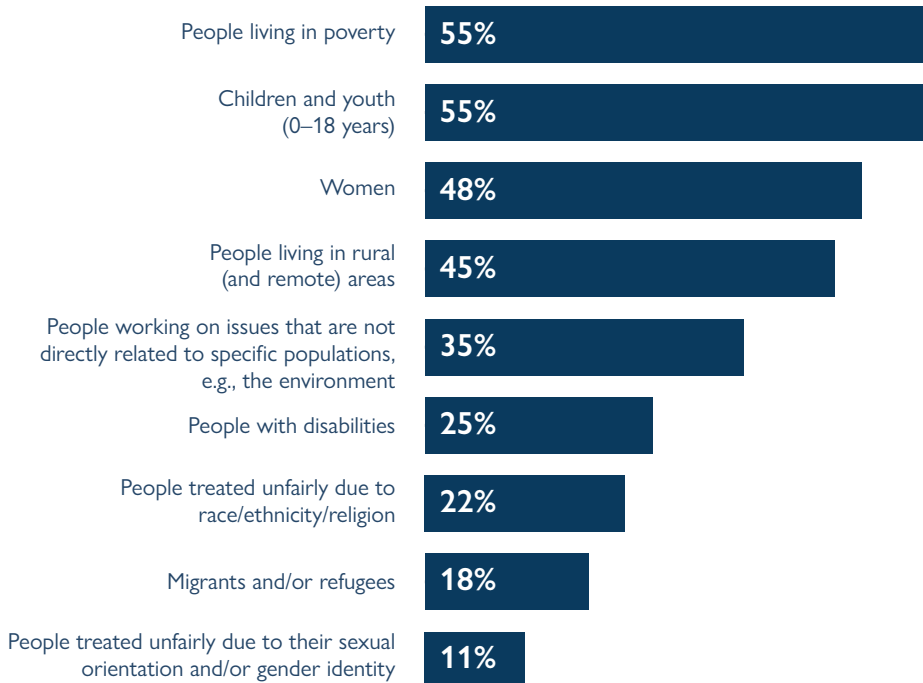
FIELD OF WORK



GENDER



POPULATION FOCUS



PART 1:

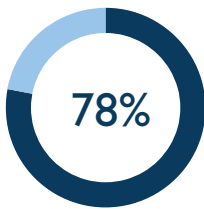
HOW ASHOKA FELLOWS DRIVE SYSTEMS CHANGE



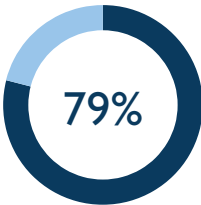
How Ashoka Fellows Drive Systems Change: Independent Replication

In addition to reaching people directly, Fellows are scaling their idea through systems change, which social entrepreneurship scholar Gregory Dees defined as “alter[ing] the social system that creates and sustains the problems in the first place.”

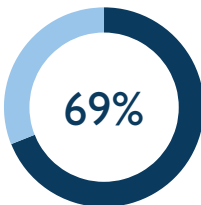
Ashoka Fellows know that in order to spread their idea quickly and turn it into society’s “new normal,” they must employ innovative strategies to get their idea into the hands of as many people as possible. We define independent replication as when an independent organization or institution takes on a Fellow’s idea, further increasing the scale and impact.



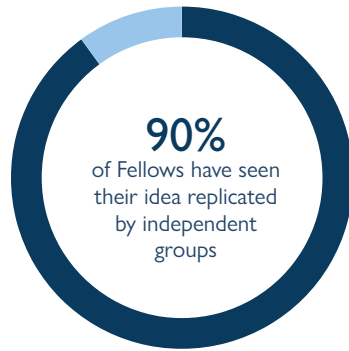
of Fellows have partnered with schools or universities



of Fellows have partnered with local or national governments



of Fellows have actively encouraged others to replicate their idea or have open-sourced their idea



90% of Fellows have seen their idea replicated by independent groups



Of these, **65%** have seen their idea replicated within their country of residence



and **41%** have seen their idea replicated in other countries

CASE STUDY



Claudia Vidigal

FELLOW FROM BRAZIL



After volunteering as a psychologist in Brazil's child shelter system—temporary housing for kids whose families cannot take care of them—Claudia Vidigal was alarmed by the lack of attention paid to individualized care and its effects on children. She decided to introduce a simple methodology into shelters throughout Brazil to recover these children's life stories through regular, in-depth interactions with the shelters' childcare workers and volunteers.

Claudia founded the Instituto Fazendo História (Making History Institute) to demonstrate to children housed in shelters that their personal stories are valuable. Children are encouraged to take control and transform their life stories, helping them create new life paths, as autonomous and self-confident citizens. Children learn to create, share and value their personal life stories; childcare workers find new, simple ways to engage with them at an individual

level; and judges can consider the children's perceived needs and desires in their court cases. Claudia works with the justice system to introduce the children's stories in their court cases, as a sensible way to give them a voice.

Claudia developed a toolkit designed so that social workers, shelter care staff and childcare professionals can independently adapt it according to the region and situation. A growing number of care services across Brazil now use her FMH methodology, making sure more and more children in these situations are connected to caring adults—and their histories.

“ Everything that we learn and organize is an opportunity for social change; we want our work to be out there. And we know we are not going to control it, and we are happy with that.”



Children building their life stories.

CASE STUDY



Bambang Suwerda

FELLOW FROM INDONESIA



Bambang Suwerda first became concerned about waste after a heavy earthquake in his hometown of Bantul, in Central Java. Initially, his goal was to manage the huge amount of waste after the earthquake. But in the process, Bambang realized that community-based “waste banks” could change societal mindsets and behaviors. Instead of throwing away trash and adding to landfill sites, people take plastic, paper and packaging to waste banks, where the trash is weighed and given a value. Customers open accounts, make “deposits” of recyclable trash and withdraw funds, almost like a regular bank. One bank manager said, “... from an economic standpoint, this gets results. This project originated from the people, it is managed by the people and the rewards are for the people.”

Bambang started by introducing Bank Sampah (“Waste Bank”) at weekly meetings in villages. Soon, his model was noticed by local and national media, as well as the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. The Ministry developed a national policy to include Bank Sampah as criteria for the Adipura (Clean City) Award. As a result, every city and region in Indonesia has allocated a portion of their budget to establish waste banks. By 2017, Bank Sampah had been established in 5,244 communities across Indonesia.

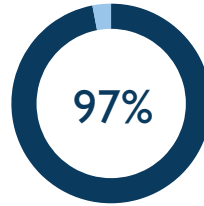
“ We started with the model of multi-level marketing, [so that] everyone can replicate the model and invite other people to do the same. The national policy in Indonesia helps to spread impact because the government supports every city to implement Bank Sampah with funding and training support.”



A waste bank in Indonesia. Photo Credit: Unilever

How Ashoka Fellows Drive Systems Change: Mindset Shift/Societal Norms

Fellows know that changing societal beliefs and shifting mindsets is necessary for sustainable, long-term social transformation.



of Fellows reported that their idea focuses on influencing societal mindsets/cultural norms

CASE STUDY



Dagmar Doubravova

FELLOW FROM CZECH REPUBLIC



Czech Fellow Dagmar Doubravova launched Rubicon Centrum to improve outcomes for formerly-incarcerated people. Dagmar believes that without public understanding and support for criminal justice reform, even changing legislation and scaling successful programs will not be enough for systems change. To change mindsets, she uses a multi-pronged strategy, including media campaigns, peer mentoring programs and volunteer coaching programs in prisons by private sector leaders.

“ The first goal at Rubicon Centrum was to partner with the media and prepare our clients to share positive stories of life after being incarcerated. The second was establishing community centers, where we have gardening and organize many activities for the public alongside our clients, so people can see them in common situations and [gain a new understanding.] It’s good for everybody if we give a second chance to people with a criminal past.”



A Rubicon Centrum community center and garden.

CASE STUDY



Monira Rahman

FELLOW FROM BANGLADESH



Fellow Monira Rahman founded the Acid Survivors Foundation to end acid attacks in Bangladesh—a country with one of the highest acid attack rates in the world—but also to challenge the root cause of many attacks. Men typically throw acid at women as a result of marital disputes, refusal of marriage proposals or sexual advances, or other disputes; children may also be attacked in a family dispute. Monira launched a movement with citizens, medical practitioners, acid attack survivors, and legal groups. Together, they won new legislation controlling access to acid and imposing severe penalties for acid throwers. Monira also founded a hospital to provide comprehensive medical services to survivors and began a nationwide acid attack prevention campaign, mobilizing leading

media to spread the message all over the country. Today Monira's work has helped reduce acid attacks in Bangladesh, changed social norms and stigmas, and is inspiring organizations in other countries combating violence against women.

“ Bangladesh is the first country to observe a reduction in the number of acid attacks, from 500 attacks in 2002 to below 50 in 2018. We have been able to change the story from shame to strength by transforming acid survivors to change agents, by engaging men and boys, and by bringing systemic change to laws, policies and practices. This is an example that violence against women is preventable if we all work together with sincerity and dedication. It's everyone's business.”

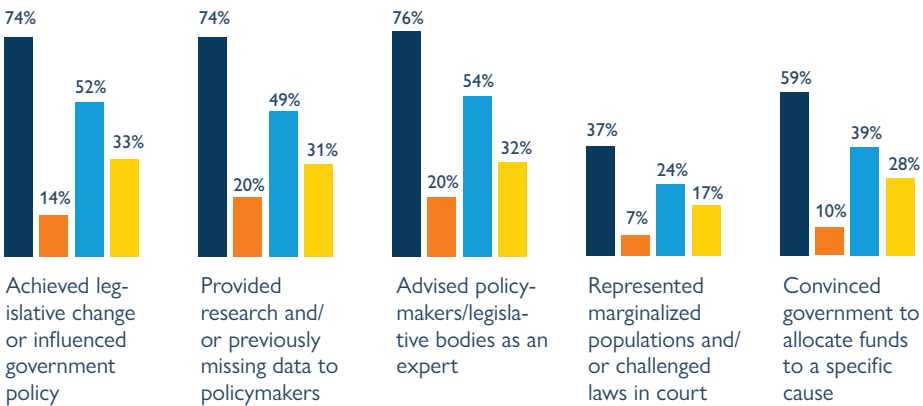
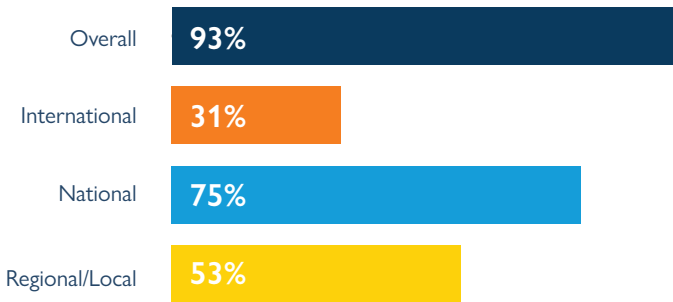


Supporters of the Acid Survivors Foundation participate in a rally to observe World Mental Health Day.

How Ashoka Fellows Drive Systems Change: Public Policy/Industry Norms

The term “policy change,” often brings to mind the most well-known end result: legislation. Indeed, new or modified legislation can have widespread and long-term social impact. However, in addition to new legislation, Ashoka measured several other key strategies for public policy change.

COLLECTIVELY – PERCENTAGE OF FELLOWS WHO INFLUENCED PUBLIC POLICY IN AT LEAST ONE OF THE FIVE KEY WAYS BELOW



CASE STUDY



Balijepalli Sailakshmi

FELLOW FROM INDIA



India Fellow Balijepalli Sailakshmi is involving local governments, educational institutions, and private providers to address the gaps in public healthcare, with a particular focus on neonatal and maternal health. Through the Ekam Foundation, Dr. Sailakshmi worked to convince the government to allocate funding toward her idea (one of the “targeted systems change” strategies for policy change) so that it could be replicated and scaled at a level she could not have achieved on her own. By convincing the government to implement her strategy, she scaled her community-based healthcare model across the country without increasing her staff or operating budget.

“ The government is implementing (our model) in 73 community health units across the state and bringing in donors. That model is being replicated in other districts. And now, since we are working with the government and UNICEF, the word spreads and... we are being invited to work in different states with different partners. And apart from this, the global chapters are starting... they're setting up these chapters and they're learning the model.”



Dr. Balijepalli Sailakshmi's organization, Ekam Foundation, provides quality healthcare to needy children and mothers in India.

CASE STUDY



Alice Emasu

FELLOW FROM UGANDA



In 2003, Uganda Fellow Alice Emasu founded the Association for the Reorientation and Rehabilitation of Teso Women for Development (TERREWODE) to improve women and girls' maternal health so they can participate in work, family and community life. After losing several friends to preventable, maternal health-related causes and witnessing the challenges of obstetric fistula—which occurs from prolonged, obstructed labor—Alice was inspired to speak up for women's health rights despite the societal stigma. Alice realized that in order to raise awareness, she needed to change government funding priorities. TERREWODE partnered with the Ugandan Ministry of Health and other agencies to reach women with direct services in addition to conducting trainings with law enforcement officers, health professionals, school staff, community members and the media. Alice was instrumental in building TERREWODE Community Women's Hospital, which

will treat obstetric fistula and other child-birth-related injuries. This is the first women's specialty hospital in East Africa and is scheduled to open August, 2019.

“*Obstetric fistula has typically been a silent women's struggle. TERREWODE's continuous advocacy and lobbying has brought obstetric fistula to the national agenda and initiated strategic partnerships with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, the United States Agency for International Development and EngenderHealth. In partnership with the Ugandan Ministry of Health, we established a diverse, vibrant community volunteer network to raise awareness; identify, refer and support women for treatment; and socially reintegrate them back into their communities.*”

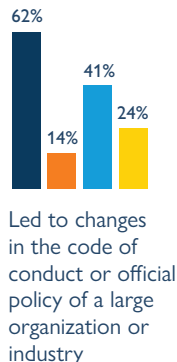
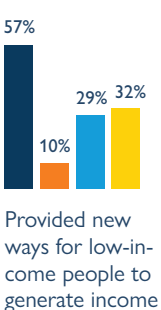
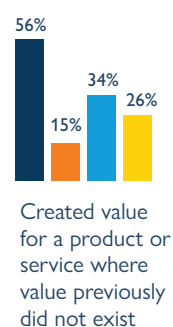
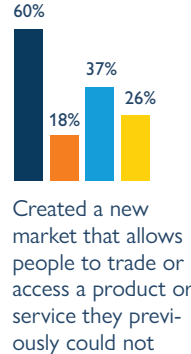
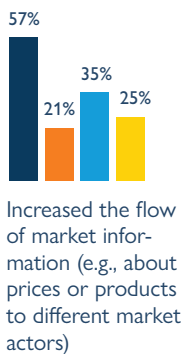
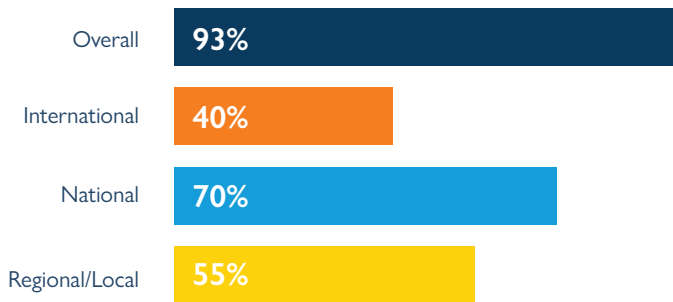


TERREWODE leaders meet to share experiences and recommit to address sexual and reproductive health in their communities.

How Ashoka Fellows Drive Systems Change: Market Dynamics/Value Chains

Lack of information, access to products or services, and income-generating opportunities are indicators of market system inefficiencies, which disproportionately affect poor and marginalized communities. Ashoka Fellows improve entire market systems by altering the key variables driving inefficiencies.

COLLECTIVELY – PERCENTAGE OF FELLOWS WHO ALTERED MARKET SYSTEMS IN AT LEAST ONE OF THE SEVEN KEY WAYS BELOW



CASE STUDY



Kevin Kirby

FELLOW FROM THE
UNITED STATES



Through his organization, Face It TOGETHER, U.S. Fellow Kevin Kirby is creating a new market for substance abusers, their loved ones, and their employers to both prevent and treat addiction. Employers bear a significant portion of the costs that accompany their employee's addiction problems in the form of turnover, absenteeism, low productivity, and hidden healthcare costs. Kevin is breaking down the stigma around addiction through public education campaigns, along with training employers to become part of the solution.

“ There’s nothing even remotely like us in our field. There’s nobody penetrating the private sector and delivering value to those with the most skin in the game in the community, being employers. We could have an army of peer addiction management coaches operating out of our facilities. But if we haven’t done anything to systemically address the issue in a community, we’re just another service provider. [Our services are] a necessary step, but we also have to mainstream addiction into the employer-employee relationship or we’re not going to get sufficient penetration to solve the problem in a community. We also have to mainstream addiction into healthcare.”



U.S. Fellow Kevin Kirby involves employers in addiction recovery. Through the employer initiative, CEOs publicly declare to their employees that they understand that addiction is a chronic disease and there won't be any negative consequences for admitting they need help.

CASE STUDY



Takashi Kawazoe

FELLOW FROM JAPAN



Japan Fellow Takashi Kawazoe is creating a new market for health care checkups, as well as providing new employment opportunities for Japan's nurses. Takashi's Carepro self-check medical stations are changing health awareness throughout Japan. They are located in convenient places and are easy to access and quick to use. For US\$6, anyone can have a simple physical checkup on street corners, in train stations, or in department stores, as well as have access to a nurse. As a result of Carepro's advocacy, in 2014 the Japanese government created new guidelines about self checkup services. Today more than 1,600 competitors provide self check-up services in Japan.

“ While working in a diabetes in-patient ward, I noticed that many of the severe cases could have been prevented if the patients were diagnosed earlier. Patients said they weren't diagnosed earlier because they didn't have time for a checkup—either because they were working or caring for children—and they didn't think they would get sick. When I heard these reasons, I felt it was important to implement a convenient, preventative healthcare system that would be accessible as part of their basic lifestyle.”



A Carepro medical station.

How Ashoka Fellows Drive Systems Change: Enable a Culture of Changemaking

In our rapidly changing world, we see that new skills are needed to thrive, such as empathy and teamwork. Ashoka Fellows not only embody these skills, but also help others to take initiative and bring about positive change. Whether it's recruiting truckers to identify sex traffickers or tapping into young people to change their schools from the inside out, our Fellows help others imagine a more meaningful, fulfilling path forward. In fact, this new leadership model is core to their success in driving change at scale and further spreading the "Everyone a Changemaker" movement.

CASE STUDY



Kendis Paris

FELLOW FROM THE
UNITED STATES



Given that a proportion of human trafficking "quietly" takes place along the nation's highways and at truck stops, Kendis Paris resolved to mobilize the U.S. trucking industry as a leader in the modern-day anti-trafficking movement. Through Truckers Against Trafficking, Kendis is creating new roles for truckers by reaching them via awareness-building campaigns about the issue; building a clear, safe pathway for them to act when they detect abuse; and using the trucking industry infrastructure as a strategic platform for the movement. To date, more than 700,000 truck drivers have been trained.

"I co-founded Truckers Against Trafficking to see members of the trucking industry educated, equipped, empowered, and mobilized to combat domestic sex trafficking as part of their regular jobs. TAT is partnering with every single actor in the industry (from truck stop owners, to national and state trucking associations, trucking schools, and the list goes on) to activate them as modern day abolitionists."



CASE STUDY



Adnane Addioui

FELLOW FROM MOROCCO



Morocco Fellow Adnane Addioui is changing the public school system by empowering students to lead the change themselves. Through his “Tamkeen Initiative” training program, high school students develop the mindset of problem solvers as they launch their own solutions to problems in schools, turning them into innovation spaces. Adnane seeks not just to transform the student’s mindsets, but to change the education system itself, through working directly in schools and engaging teachers, school administrators, and parent associations.

“ The world is changing and becoming more complex. Thus, if you want to prepare people for the future, you need to have a future-proof system that is not focused on content, but on how people analyze and create new patterns and models. [Currently] if young people want to do something, they are very much discredited because they are young and supposedly lack skills. Tamkeen means “empowerment” in Arabic. The idea of this program is to show how young people can provide solutions that others may not have thought of, starting from their own environment—their schools—and involving all their ecosystem—parents, teachers, school administrators. We want to empower every part of this value chain to produce solutions rather than just rants.”



A Tamkeen Initiative’s national education innovation competition in Rabat, Morocco.

PART 2:

ASHOKA'S IMPACT ON FELLOWS



Ashoka's Venture and Selection Process Helps Fellows See How Their Work Can Change Systems

In 2018:



Ashoka received over
4,500 applications
for the Fellowship

elected
108
Fellows

and disbursed over
USD **\$3.6** Million
in stipends

“ When I first applied for Ashoka Fellowship, we were working in a small magnitude within villages. Through the Ashoka selection process, the scaling strategy was defined, and we understood what the most important factors were—this dramatically changed our model.”

- BIPLAB PAUL,
Fellow from India



Biplab Paul works with villages to implement a cost-effective and affordable solution to water scarcity that provides a reliable system of irrigation. Through his organization, Naireeta Services Private Limited, Biplab empowers rural women to contribute to agriculture and restore biodiversity to a region.

The Stipend Supports Fellows So They Can Pursue Their Idea Full-Time

The personal stipend that Ashoka gives to most Fellows emerged from the surveys and interviews as one of the most important benefits of entry into the Fellowship. The stipend is meant to help the social entrepreneur focus full-time on their social mission without the need to work elsewhere to maintain themselves or their families. Ashoka's selection process is designed to elect Fellows at an inflection point in their idea, so that the impact of the Fellowship network and stipend can be maximized.



92% of Fellows report the stipend helped them focus full-time on their idea



50% of Fellows report the stipend was the first significant source of funding for their idea

“ The fact that Ashoka invests in individuals is something that helped me, because now I’m able to implement my idea without having to consider other side jobs. Being able to just concentrate on the mission is what has made my organization survive up to now. If you have your individual needs covered then you can spend your time thinking through what needs to be done and how it is going to create impact.”

FREDRICK OUKU
Fellow from Kenya



“ I was at the bottom point of my life when I got a call from Ashoka. And in a real way (that call) empowered me, it gave me legs to stand on. At a time when I was doubting everything I had been doing up to that point, it proved to me that indeed what I was doing was real and valid. So I don’t think you can get more empowered than that. Plus, it gave me money to live on during the transition.”

-Fellow from United States

“ The Ashoka Fellowship really saved my life because until it came along, I was the sole income earner of my six-person family. And I was getting up at four or five in the morning to make money, and I would work until 11 p.m. or midnight. The Ashoka stipend gave me three years to work full-time on all the possibilities that we were uncovering in our work. I also went on and did a master’s degree and then a few years later I completed a doctorate, which is something I never would have imagined. So Ashoka made it possible for me to do all that and to move ahead in a way that didn’t create a conflict between my need for income and my organization’s need to build itself up independently.”

-Fellow from Chile

Ashoka's Network Enables Learning, Collaboration and Scale



On average, each Fellow reports collaborating with 4 other Fellows

74%

Fellows report collaborating with at least 1 other Fellow

19%

report collaborating with more than 5 Fellows



45%

of Fellows report new partnerships and collaborations with other Fellows

“ Ashoka has allowed me to scale and innovate my model to connect with other fellows and share ideas, challenges and successes. Ashoka has brought credibility to our work. Being an Ashoka Fellow is a great honor and something the team and I greatly treasure.

-DAPHNE NEDERHORST,
Fellow from Canada



“ The Ashoka team, for me they are the connectors. I can tell them okay, this is my problem, and then they try to find someone from the network who I can work with or talk with. And this is extremely helpful because I had almost no network when I started, and Ashoka connected me with a lot of people who could support me, had ideas to solve my problems.”

-CHRISTOPH SCHMITZ,
Fellow from Germany



35%

of Fellows report receiving strategic guidance to help them achieve their vision from other Ashoka partners



35%

Fellows report receiving mentorship from Ashoka staff

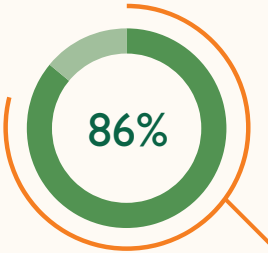
45%

report connection to funders and donors

41%

report receiving support for their wellbeing from Ashoka staff

Ashoka Nurtures Fellows and Expands How They Think and Lead

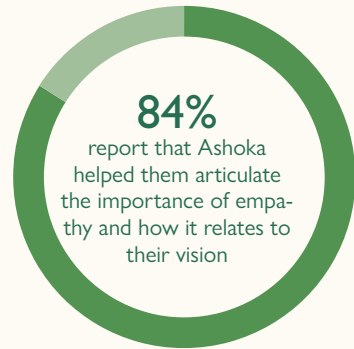


report that Ashoka helped them see their work at a systems-change level

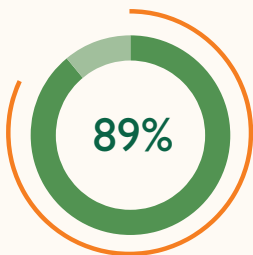
and of those Fellows, **92%** made changes to their strategy as a result

“ Ashoka’s recognition has given more dignity to our role and more awareness of the possibility that we could truly generate change. So while initially the vision was to change the lives of people in detention, we then realized that we could generate systemic change, and at that point we made a qualitative leap in the vision. We understood that we could really influence change, and this certainly has been given to us by Ashoka.”

-LUCIANA DELLE DONNE
Fellow from Italy



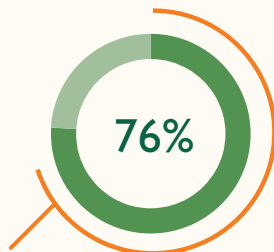
report that Ashoka helped them articulate the importance of empathy and how it relates to their vision



of Fellows report that Ashoka changed how they see themselves as a leader

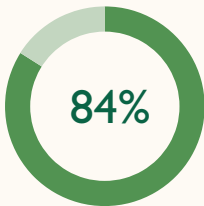
and of those Fellows, **94%** are leading differently as a result

of Fellows report that Ashoka helped them see the importance of independent replication



and of those Fellows, **92%** encouraged others to replicate their idea as a result

Ashoka Accelerates Fellows' Personal and Professional Impact



of Fellows report that Ashoka helped increase their impact

“ If I had not come to know Ashoka, my level of contacts, my level of energy — it would have been restricted to my own village. The opportunity to connect with other parts of the country would be much less. The Fellowship connections, with other Ashoka Fellows, with the government, straight away it opened up a big network.”

-ELANGO RANGASWAMY
Fellow from India



“ My network has expanded so much since I became an Ashoka Fellow. Before it would take me a very long time to get significant alliances and reliable working partners. And now that I'm part of Ashoka, that has changed a lot. I think Ashoka helped me to understand things from a bigger perspective and from this point of view where I'm not alone in this world and I'm not the first one who is traveling this road. And there are a lot of people who can help. Ashoka has been a catalyzer for my project, in terms of impact.”

-GRETA RIOS
Fellow from Mexico



“ What I'm doing now wouldn't have happened without Ashoka. You know, I started off helping three kids. I didn't think about it, I just did it. The next year some of their friends phoned me and asked for help, and the year after that more did, so it grew on its own. There's no doubt that the most important thing Ashoka did was to convince me that what I was doing was important, because I didn't think that way. I was just a little farmer on a very small scale and I mean if you'd said to me that I could do something to change agriculture in this country, I would have laughed at you because I didn't imagine for a moment that I could make any kind of impact at all. And I had to learn that. And it's great because now I know that every single person has got something that they can contribute to change lives.”

-JUDY STUART
Fellow from South Africa



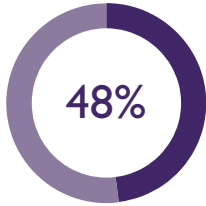
PART 3:

NEW INSIGHTS ON LEADING YOUNG

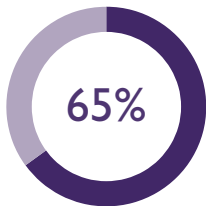


The Importance of Youth Changemaking

In the Global Fellows Study, we asked several questions about Fellows' young changemaking experiences.



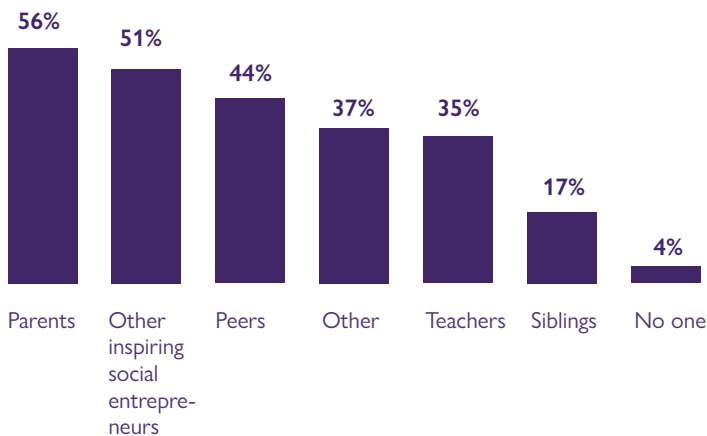
of Fellows personally took the initiative to create a solution to a social problem before the age of 21



of Fellows first joined someone else's initiative to create a solution to a social problem before the age of 21



WHICH PEOPLE/GROUPS WERE MOST INFLUENTIAL IN SUPPORTING YOUR DEVELOPMENT AS A PERSON WHO CREATES SOCIAL CHANGE?



Fellows Create Opportunities for Young People to Become Changemakers

Because they have typically led young themselves, Ashoka Fellows recognize that supporting young people in building their own initiatives amplifies positive social change. The young person gains critical skills and confidence by leading their own enterprise—skills they can apply to bigger and harder social challenges as they get older.

OF THE ASHOKA FELLOWS WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE:



reported supporting young people to lead initiatives within their organization



reported encouraging young people to create independent initiatives to spread and scale the Fellow's work

“ It really forms who you are. What you are exposed to during those years will form how you lead your life afterwards.”

- KRITAYA SREESUNPAGIT,
Fellow from Thailand



CASE STUDY



Regina Honu

FELLOW FROM GHANA



Through Soronko Solutions, Ghana Fellow Regina Honu is building a new generation of girls who have the skills, mindset, and desire for careers in the information and communication technology (ICT) field. By teaching them to code, she opens pathways for them to lead and innovate. Critical to Regina's curriculum is encouraging the students to observe a community or social problem that could be remedied through ICT and then working to build a site/program as part of the solution. The girls have full ownership over their projects

and at the end of the course showcase their projects to the community. Not only does this build confidence in the girls and their abilities, but the model is also effective in changing community perceptions from believing that girls are most successful in the home to one that affirms that they can be successful in the ICT world. Working with partners, volunteers and mentors, Soronko has trained more than 4,500 girls in eight regions in Ghana and recently expanded into Burkina Faso.



Regina Honu's Soronko Solutions not only teaches girls how to code, but also how to use these skills to solve social problems in their communities.

“ I really feel that Ashoka looked at the problem I solved through my eyes, instead of looking at the problem and then trying to find someone who fit that problem or fit that solution. I think if today I wasn't a Fellow, I definitely wouldn't be where I am right now. I would probably still be dealing with mental battles of should I keep on going or should I stop?

Being a Fellow makes things go faster at least in a possibility sense; the Fellowship is like our reactor. If you don't have this reactor in your equation, things will still work out but slower, more locally. When you get Ashoka into the equation, things can go global. So I know for instance, once I get my platform working and I know that it works, I can pick up the phone and ask Ashoka to help me scale my platform to another country because the network will have a local ally to help me. It's like now we have the possibility to get this to the whole world.”

MAURICIO CANSECO
Fellow from Mexico





Ashoka: *Everyone a Changemaker*

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