

Accountability & transparency for the public

GLOBAL ISSUES

Civil society organizations carve out a unique sector beyond governments and business and are often considered to be the foundation of a free and democratic society.



Civil societies promote plural ideas, advocate for the unheard, drive social change, and seek justice. Unfortunately, civic spaces and associational life have been under increasing threat in a number of countries and this plays out in a number of ways: public attacks that discredit civil society groups, restrictive laws, or co-optation of previously independent associations to serve political ends.

After gains throughout the 20th century, 2018 saw the 13th consecutive year of decline in global freedom. The problem is widespread – affecting countries in every region of the world.¹⁶

THE HEADLINES

Democracy is fighting for its life

Foreign Policy 9/10/19

How digital disinformation spread through the 2018 Latin American elections

U.S. News and World Report 8/2/19

Hong Kong's Protest Movement will not back down empty-handed

The Economist 8/23/19

Is Africa going backwards on Democracy?

BBC News 2/22/19



^{16.} House, Freedom. "Freedom in the world 2019: Democracy in retreat. Washington DC: Freedom House." 2019.

NEW IDEAS

To counter this decline, this year's Ashoka Fellows are working for reforms in justice systems and creating new avenues for civic engagement. Major strategies involve creating networked communities who are armed with knowledge to advocate for transparency within systems that have become closed. From making the process of obtaining legal advice easier for asylees in the United States to holding local governments accountable in Mexico, social entrepreneurs are at the frontlines of ensuring vibrant and active civil societies.

Adam Foss is addressing the United States legal system from a different angle. With 2.3 million people imprisoned across the country, the US incarcerates people at a higher rate than any other country. 17 68% of released prisoners will be re-arrested within 6 years. 18 One of the most powerful actors in the system are the prosecutors who can determine the fates of the millions of women and men who pass through the system. Many, fresh from law school, are not able to break out of a system that prioritizes winning cases over identifying root causes



Public and human rights defense

It is no secret that the legal system in the United States is complicated. Two Fellows this year are working to mitigate a system that unfairly discriminates and excludes.

One of the biggest recurring news stories in 2019 was the treatment of families seeking asylum at the southern United States border. As reports of gross mistreatment of asylees and the detention of their children have rolled out, so have reports of the complex and rapidly changing asylum laws that have made winning a case extremely difficult. In fact, only 3% of asylum seekers who face the court without a lawyer are granted asylum. Swapna Reddy's Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP) is working to address many of these issues through a model that provides a private, online community for asylum seekers to ask questions from experts, learn about immigration enforcement changes, and share stories and strategies. These online communities also provide a Legal Emergency Room where asylum seekers can get short-term legal aid during crises. ASAP also litigates cases as part of their efforts to uncover patterns of injustice. Since 2015, they have expanded to assist asylum seekers in more than 40 states.

like trauma, poverty, homelessness or mental illness that bring many people to court. Adam's organization, Prosecutor Impact, works to address these critical issues through trainings for new prosecutors, culture change planning, continuing education and a national peer network of support. By exposing prosecutors to the systemic and root cause issues of the crimes they will see in their jobs before they begin, Prosecutor Impact provides them with tools to develop solutions that are more just, fair, and better protect the communities they serve.

Reigniting civic engagement

These days, it can feel like civility – the idea that societies are linked through common interests and collective responsibility – is lost. Several Fellows are building tools that encourage and ignite civic engagement. A history of corrupt and authoritarian governments in Mexico has made the population especially apathetic to civic engagement. ¹⁹ And this has led to a mutually reinforcing

^{17.} Ye Hee Lee, Michelle. "Yes, US locks people up at a higher rate than any other country." Washington Post (July 7),2015.

Alper, Mariel, Matthew R. Durose, and Joshua Markman. 2018 update on prisoner recidivism: A 9-year follow-up period (2005-2014). US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2018.

^{19.} Ellingwood, Ken. "Disenchantment may keep Mexico's young voters on sidelines." The Los Angeles Times 12, 2012.

apathy between the government and its citizens. Misuse of public funds is left unchallenged, the impunity of public servants and private companies is unmitigated, and law and order are unenforced. Civic values are trampled on daily as citizens struggle to understand their role in a democracy. Arturo Hernandez Ortega founded Los Supercívicos as a national strategy to generate civic consciousness. Using humorous viral videos, an interactive platform for citizens to report, and alliances with city councils, Arturo is building social awareness campaigns that people

pay attention to which shed light and hold politicians accountable. With over 2 million social media followers, Los Supercívicos has seen the unexpected impact of city councils across Mexico competing to resolve the greatest number of citizen reports.

Romania has typically scored low on Transparency International's corruption index. Civic engagement has been slow to pick up since the fall of communism 30 years ago. One answer to this issue has been the establishment of Funky Citizens, a Romanian

initiative that is the brainchild of Elena Calistru. The initiative is based on four principles - good branding to make "civic fitness" a lifelong habit; a large and engaged community that develops their own civic projects; a focus on topics of expertise; and a network of partners to replicate their model. Data-driven, online advocacy tools focused on issues like good governance, public spending, open justice, and anticorruption are supplemented with engaging visuals, infographics, and videos that encourage youth to be a part of democratic decision-making.

SPOTLIGHT ON:

Protagonists for Change

"Lobbying is neither good nor bad: it's just a tool," says founder of The Good Lobby **Alberto Alemanno** – and he's working to ensure that lobbying, a tool used for good. Policy making rarely includes the people for which the policies are written – 75% of meetings include shareholders or corporate elites and fail to include the wider population. As a result, lobbying has come to be associated with something negative or dirty. The reality is that most everyday citizen know little of the processes of how policies are created, and politicians quickly become detached from the needs of their constituents. Citizen-led campaigns on platforms like change.org or avaaz.org can rally people behind a cause, but often do not lead to actual legal changes or policy shifts.

The Good Lobby was created as a means to engage citizens more effectively as contributors. Arturo believes that lobbying can become as commonplace as a hobby and that lobbyist communities can become regular spaces for people to exercise their citizenship. In Europe, the Good Lobby hosts workshops and shares content from a ten-step citizen lobbying toolkit, which arms citizens with tools for legal, strategic, administrative and communicative aspects of the lobbying process. From these workshops, diverse citizen groups composed of a mix of professionals and non-experts come together and take on five to six citizen-led lobbying projects. He also matchmakes civil society organizations to these groups to bolster their advocacy needs. More than 1,100 citizens have been trained and linked, and roughly 60 legal and advocacy projects are incubated and completed each year. An annual Good Lobby Awards celebrates projects and initiatives led by citizens lobbying for change.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Learning and insights on the future of social good are key objectives for Ashoka teams throughout the world. With over 3,600 Fellows in the network, we have the experience, expertise, and data to understand key trends, new strategies, and innovative approaches in diverse fields. That's why the Ashoka Learning and Action Center (LAC) was launched in 2018 to produce and disseminate practical research that cuts across Ashoka's programs and initiatives. In 2019, the LAC team produced Doing Democracy: **How Social Entrepreneurs** Bridge Divides, Fight Apathy and Strengthen Civil Liberties, based on an analysis of 25 Fellows who are explicitly focused on promoting societies based on democratic values. Stay tuned for more tools and insights from the Ashoka network.

ABOUT ASHOKA

Ashoka launched the field of social entrepreneurship in 1980 and today is the largest global association of systems changing social entrepreneurs in the world.

Ashoka believes the most powerful force for change in the world is a new idea in the hands of the right person. Our social entrepreneurs embody these values and continue to forge new paths, transform domains and showcase unexpected ideas to create large-scale social impact.

Leading social entrepreneurs are not heroes working in isolation. Their success depends on creating roles for ordinary people — parents, refugees, computer scientists, farmers, young people — to play an important part in the solution. With each new leading social entrepreneur that we nurture, Ashoka is creating a different kind of future: one where each of us looks inside ourselves and sees a changemaker.

As Ashoka turns 40, we reflect on what it means to be truly successful. For us it means an *'Everyone a changemaker'* world.



METHODS

ASHOKA'S APPROACH TO SUPPORTING TOMORROW'S SOCIAL INNOVATIONS

After 40 years of electing the world's leading systems changing social entrepreneurs, Ashoka knows how to find new ideas. For this analysis of our 2019 Fellows, we tapped into the resources of Ashoka's selection process to mine the reports, interview notes, reflections, and writings of our teams across the globe who are expert innovation spotters and who have deeply examined the work of potential Fellows. The learnings, patterns, and insights we cull during the rich Fellow selection process provided the baseline data for this report.

ASHOKA FELLOW SELECTION PROCESS

The average Fellow candidate will speak to 8 people during their process of election and it can take up to a year to be elected into the Fellowship. The process includes the following steps:

1

Nominate

Ashoka receives nominations from staff, volunteers, partners, Ashoka Fellows, and nominators, based on the five criteria for Ashoka Fellowship. While Ashoka's primary source for nominations is through our network of volunteer nominators, we also actively search for new ideas in emerging and under-represented fields, and welcome self-nominations from social entrepreneurs who believe they meet Ashoka's criteria.

2

First Opinion

The local Ashoka Venture team reviews the nominations to identify a key social innovation. In order to ensure that the candidate is a good fit for the Ashoka criteria, they conduct site visits and meet with the candidate, and then review their work in-depth with other experts in the field.

3

Second Opinion

A senior Ashoka representative with extensive experience in the field of social entrepreneurship reviews the work of the candidate with the local Venture team. The Second Opinion interviewer will always come from a different continent than the candidate so they can bring objectivity to the process and assess the potential of the idea to be applied elsewhere. The Second Opinion interviewer will have an in-depth conversation about the innovation in the idea, its potential for sparking sector-wide system change, and the candidate's fit for the Ashoka criteria.

4

Panel

In addition, three to four leading social and business entrepreneurs from the same country/region will interview the candidate. These entrepreneurs can assess the innovation and its potential impact in the local context. The panel then convenes as a group and, facilitated by the Second Opinion interviewer, decides by consensus whether they recommend that the Ashoka board elects this candidate as an Ashoka Fellow.

5

Board Review

Ashoka's Global Board of Directors reviews the candidate's case in light of observations made by the local Venture team, Second Opinion interviewer, and panelists. After assessing the candidate's fit with the criteria and alignment with Ashoka's mission, they make a final decision about whether to select the candidate as an Ashoka Fellow.

CRITERIA FOR THE ASHOKA FELLOWSHIP

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

- 1 A NEW IDEA: Candidates must have a new idea—a new solution or approach to a social problem—that will change the pattern in a field. We evaluate the idea historically and against its contemporaries in the field, looking for innovation and real change potential. Candidates must have a truly transformational innovation, not just a tweak to how things are done currently.
- 2 **CREATIVITY:** Successful social entrepreneurs are creative both as goal-setting visionaries and as problem solvers that can engineer their visions into reality. Among the questions we might ask are: Does the candidate have a history of creating other new visions?
- 3 ENTREPRENEURIAL QUALITY: Successful social entrepreneurs are driven by the vision of solving the problem they are working on. They typically will not rest until their idea is the new pattern for society. At the same time, they are willing to grapple relentlessly with many practical "how to" challenges. A successful candidate, if given the means, would dedicate themselves full time to launching and growing their idea.
- 4 SOCIAL IMPACT OF THE IDEA: The candidate's new idea has the potential to change the field significantly and will trigger nationwide impact. The idea itself needs to be sufficiently new, practical, and useful for people working in the field to adopt it and turn it into the new norm sector wide.
- 5 ETHICAL FIBER: Social entrepreneurs introducing major structural changes to society will have to inspire that change at a wide scale and across different stakeholder groups. If the entrepreneur is not trusted, the likelihood of success is significantly reduced. Ashoka insists that every participant in the selection process be assessed for ethical fiber.

Throughout the five stages of our election process, we gather data and information about the Fellow through application forms, field visits, and semi-structured interviews. We see the process as generative; as much as we are seeking to understand the insights and motivations of our Fellows to make systemic and lasting change in their communities, we are also hoping that our questions, frameworks, and perspectives will enable the candidates to feel they are gaining new approaches and networks.

Based on a 2018 study of Ashoka's impact, 93% of 858 Fellows in 74 countries agreed that the Ashoka selection process helped strengthen and articulate their idea.

POST SELECTION PROCESS ANALYSIS

The materials we gathered from 78 profiles this year were then taken through a qualitative analysis. We generated codes in four categories:

HOW

the approaches, how-to's and strategies Fellows use.

WHY

the motivation and insight into why a Fellow founded their organization or began their work.

WHO

the core constituent groups who Fellows target.

SECTOR

the field of work or externally recognized sector Fellows operate within.

We ran a network analysis, grouping the codes by type and looking for patterns and intersections across geographies, sectors, approaches and constituencies. The process also allowed us to explore a deeper understanding of each Fellow's unique ability to connect with multiple approaches to work at a systems level.

NEXT NOW

Pathways for an Emerging Future

Next Now is focused on changing the course of history by uniting visionary changemakers around bold goals.

Together, this ecosystem of leaders will build a brighter future. One that addresses and anticipates the world's most urgent social challenges and one in which no one gets left behind. What comes Next – our most desirable future – must start Now.

Next Now is piloting a new type of collective action around four pressing global challenges: Tech and Humanity, Aging, Gender, and Planet & Climate. Our path to success depends on our ability to:

- Invest in new social innovators shaping each field
- Set audacious and collective goals with visionary changemakers
- Team up across sectors to achieve these goals (Teampreneurship)
- Amplify insights and lessons learned to inform the next set of audacious goals

Tech & Humanity

All aspects of our lives are now impacted by technology. Examples of radical breakthroughs of positive change abound – such as personalized learning, health care, microloans and the sharing economy. But these same technological advances bring challenges. Unprecedented levels of surveillance are threatening civil rights. Technology embeds bias and discrimination through opaque algorithms. Countless other ethical and moral dilemmas emerge.

Next Now: Tech & Humanity audaciously aims to change the course of history by uniting leaders around goals to develop ethical frameworks that change the policies that govern the public and private sectors.

Aging

Demographic change will define this century. By 2030, it is estimated that there will be more people over the age of 60 than children younger than 10. This is a phenomenon with deep social and economic implications. The narrative on aging has been largely alarmist and portrays Seniors as burdens on social systems. But the shift also represents a unique opportunity to shape the future of humanity. Insights from the nearly 60 Ashoka Fellows working on aging shows that systems-changing social innovations solutions can radically reimagine aging culture, seniors' contributions to society, and how seniors are cared for.

Guided by these and future insights, Next Now: Aging aims to change the course of history and unite leaders around audacious goals that promote intergenerational harmony, dignity and purpose for all seniors.

Gender

Gender equity is a moral and a business imperative. Unconscious bias remains prevalent across geographies, and in every venue imaginable—from classrooms to board rooms. Fortunately, some key innovators are identifying the jujitsu points capable of shifting entire systems to address challenges for women and individuals who identify as LGBTQ. Their solutions like combining behavioral design with empowerment, focusing on sectors of strategic importance, and re-framing and deconstructing gender.

Next Now: Gender will unite extraordinary changemakers around audacious goals to build equitable, diverse and accessible societies.

Planet & Climate

Of the many global challenges we face today, few are as essential to each of us as climate change. While humans have enjoyed the convenience and comfort brought about by the Industrial Revolution, many of us have also lost touch with nature and as a result, directly and indirectly contributed to global warming and climate change.

Next Now: Planet & Climate aims to change the course of history by uniting extraordinary changemakers around audacious goals that bring people and planet to a new equilibrium.

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We also appreciate the countless local experts and panelists who provide critical feedback during selection panels worldwide.





AFRICA

FEMI KAYODE 🧩



Femi is saving livestock in Nigeria through an innovative tracking system that maps the location of animals and widespread diseases. Farmers and veterinarians using this application can collaborate to predict outbreaks before they happen, and when an endangered area is detected vaccines can quickly be distributed to protect animals and people.

ISAYA YUNGE 🧩

Somaapp / Tanzania

Isaya is making higher education accessible to underprivileged African students by opening new funding resources and breaking the myth that advanced education is only for the wealthy. Using the app he created, students can find scholarships they have a high chance of winning, as well as support tools and resources for writing a quality application.

MUZALEMA MWANZA 🧩



Muzalema is reducing neonatal and maternal mortality in Zambia by positioning Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs)

as the drivers of standardized and quality care at the point of birth. The TBAs become skilled practitioners trained by the Ministry of Health and serve as abridge between public clinics and mothers.

NGU MORCHO

YakoMedical Africa / Nigeria

Ngu is transforming the healthcare system in Nigeria to be more accessible, affordable and people-centered by incorporating digital technology to empower patients and other stakeholders. He is convening healthcare services together in one facility, so patients can get the treatments and screenings they need without any delay.

NNEKA MOBISSON

Mdoc / Nigeria

Nneka is reducing the number of deaths in Nigeria caused by noncommunicative diseases like diabetes and cancer, by connecting doctors and patients together to circulate medical knowledge within rural communities. Through coaching and a shared learning platform, people can learn more about early prevention and how to manage their conditions with lifestyle adjustment.

PETER AWIN 🗩



Using mobile technology to connect on a national scale, Peter is providing rural livestock farmers with in-depth information about animal healthcare and early disease prevention. Veterinarians also get involved by visiting hard-to-reach places to examine livestock. His innovation has significantly reduced animal mortality, which is critical for farmers whose livelihoods depend on their livestock.

ARAB WORLD

ACHRAF AOUADI

IWATCH Organization / Tunisia

Achraf is mobilizing Tunisian citizens, especially young people, to lead a decentralized anti-corruption movement in the country. By providing them with the tools to fight corruption and the autonomy to create their own strategies, Achraf is positioning the citizen sector to become a powerful driving force for greater transparency, governance, and accountability.

DAN DRISCOLL



The Anou Cooperative / Morocco

In Morocco, market access in the artisan space is controlled by middlemen. Dan is eliminating this exploitative process by creating an artisan-led and owned cooperative model, where he empowers craftsmen with bottom-up solutions such as online sales accessible for illiterate artisans, innovations in the logistical chain, and access to high-quality non-toxic materials.

MICHAEL ELNEMAIS FAWZY



Hope / Egypt

Michael's comprehensive program "Hope" builds resilience in high-risk, underserved children in Egypt to prevent the development of serious mental health issues later on. He also provides tools and support for children struggling with poor mental health, working directly with parents, teachers, social workers and psychologists.

DAJANI RANA

We Love Reading / Jordan

Dajani's initiative offers a new, practical, cost-efficient, and grassroots approach to foster the love of reading in children. Her ultimate goal is to enable children and youth to think for themselves, to be able to empathize with others, and to peacefully and respectfully communicate their thoughts through reading for pleasure.

EUROPE

ALBERTO ALEMANNO 🧩



The Good Lobby / Belgium

Alberto is empowering citizens in Belgium to advocate for change in public policy. Through the Good Lobby, he trains citizens in key civic and legal skills and matches them with expert volunteers to support the lobbying needs of civil society organizations.

ALP TOKER 🗩



NetBlocks / Turkey

NetBlocks supports citizens and advocacy groups' rights to information by monitoring internet across regions and publishing data on shutdowns and outages to reveal the causes (storms, power cuts, technical issues, blockage by authorities, censorship, etc.). Alp is making it possible for data-driven internet activism to safeguard knowledge access through openinternet.

BURAK ARIKAN

Graph Commons / Turkey

Graph Commons is a collaborative platform for mapping, analyzing and publishing data-networks. Burak is empowering civil society organizations and citizens with user friendly technology to share and make sense of their data in a way that was previously only available to large institutions.

CLARA JIMENEZ CRUZ

Maldita / Spain

Clara is fighting "fake news" by harnessing citizens' desires to combat misinformation. Her platform provides citizens with accessible channels to flag suspicious stories, and then circulates the fact-checked versions in easy-to-read formats.

ELENA CALISTRU

Funky Citizens / Romania

Elena is using technology, social media and non-formal education to build a citizens' movement that strengthens Romanians' participation in public life. People "train their civic muscles" by participating in a variety of civic activities, from monitoring elections to reviewing public budgets, while younger generations are educated about democracy through age appropriate tools.

EMMANUEL VINCENT P



Science Feedback / France

Emmanuel is tackling online misinformation about scientific issues. His platform flags questionable content, shares it with his network of strictly selected scientific experts, and compiles a range of reviews into one final veracity rating. He then works with major digital platforms such as Facebook and Google, helping them limit the viral spread of false claims.

JENNIFER LEXMOND **P**



EasyPeasy / United Kingdom

Jen's platform, EasyPeasy, sends inspiration for developmental play straight to the mobile phones of parents with young children. These games develop key school-readiness skills, helping bridge the socio-economic achievement gap sparked by discrepancies in early childhood development.

KRISTINA LUNZ 🗩



Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy / Germany

Kristina's "Think and Do Tank" is focused on making foreign policy more feminist, transparent, and intersectional. It aims to look beyond the traditional foreign policy approach, mainly focused on military force, to include the viewpoints of the most marginalized groups. The research created by the Think and Do Tank then serves as the basis for informed advocacy.

MARIE MADELEINE GIANNI

BET SHE CAN Foundation / Italy

Marie is dismantling gender stereotype barriers and changing girls' perceptions of career opportunities available to them. In her trainings she works with both pre-teen girls and teenage boys as role models to spread this message, helping girls realize their limitless potential while providing them with tools to develop skills critical for flourishing in any career of their choice.

MINE EKINCI

Rural Schools Transformation Network / Turkey

Mine is training young teachers in rural communities in Turkey, prioritizing socio-emotional and cognitive skills in learning and best practices specific to rural settings. Her program is the first holistic education movement in rural Turkey, aiming to not only improve the education but also the overall life quality in smaller villages.

RAMON ROCA

Guifi.net / Spain

Ramon is bringing internet access to isolated areas by offering community owned and operated networks where each user co-owns and co-manages the infrastructure. This alternative to privately-owned networks drives costs down and helps spur economic development in these regions.

RICARDO MARTINO

Unidad Hospitaliaria de Cuidados Paliativos para Niñosen el Hospital Niño Jesús / Spain

Ricardo has designed and implemented the first pediatric palliative care system in Spain. His model helps children enjoy the best possible quality of life, focusing on staying at home with family instead of being hospitalized.

ROSA ALMIRALL



Transit / Spain

Rosa is pioneering a new approach to the way transgender people receive medical treatment in Spain, advocating for transgender identities to no longer be viewed as mental illnesses. Her organization also offers treatment, advice and counselling both online and by phone.

SIMONA SINESI



Never Give Up / Italy

Simona and her sister co-founded Never Give Up to support people struggling with eating disorders, destigmatizing an issue buried in Italian society. Focusing on teenagers and young adults since they are most at risk, Never Give Up helps them overcome issues around weight, food and body image while making it easier and more socially acceptable to seek treatment.

STEFFI BIESTER 🧩



Kickfair / Germany

Steffi is combating the socioeconomic divides in Germany's education system through a street football program in which students engage with others across racial and cultural lines. Her educational model is grounded in socially responsible behavior, and she works closely with schools to ensure that these norms are adapted into their curricula.

SUE RIDDLESTONE



Bioregional / United Kingdom

Sue has been a major national and global influencer in the sustainability movement for a quarter century. Her One Planet Living guidelines, which were key in developing the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals, provide individuals and institutions with actionable ways to reduce environmental impact on the planet.

LATIN AMERICA

ABEL CRUZ

Movimiento Peruanos Sin Agua / Peru

Abel is solving the drastic water-shortage problem in the Andean region by designing an integral system of fog water collection, desalination and groundwater collection technology in extreme drought areas. Able is not only providing water for human and animal consumption, but also transforming desert areas into farming lands by enabling communities to take responsibility in their own hands.

ARTURO HERNÁNDEZ ORTEGA 🗩



Los Supercívicos / Mexico

Los Supercívicos is creating a movement of active, engaged citizens in Mexican society and more accountable governments by making civic participation easier and more accessible using humor and technology.

CAROLINA CONTRERAS 🧩



MissRizos / Dominican Republic

Carolina is working to end discrimination against the curly hair characteristic of Afro-descendant populations in regions where it's severely condemned. Through workshops, social media and an all-curly hair salon, she is teaching women and girls to celebrate their black beauty and equipping them with the confidence and knowledge to respond to discriminatory actions.

CLAUDIA THOMAS RICHE



NCEH - CIEH / Haiti

Claudia is creating a network of nurses in Haiti and providing them with the confidence, skills, and knowledge to promote behavior that keeps people healthier and prevents disease within medical clinics and in communities at large.

GERMANA SOARES 🧩



Uniãodas Mães de Anjos / Brazil

Germana has spearheaded a movement to guarantee access to healthcare and education for children with Zika Virus Congenital Syndrome. She has created a community-based advocacy network, through which parents can raise awareness and share information about ensuring access to benefits.



JOÃO SOUZA 🥦



João is pioneering an adult education model in Brazil's favelas that helps residents restore their self-confidence, creativity, and socio-emotional skills. His course-adapted to an audience with low levels of formal education-empowers residents to become more active in their communities, from engaging in civic processes to launching their own businesses.

JULIANA GUTIERREZ 🧩



Low Carbon City / Colombia

Juliana is reducing urban carbon emissions in Colombia by educating and mobilizing citizen activists, as well as giving tools to companies and local governments for lowering their carbon footprints. She has developed six different solutions targeted to different stakeholders, bringing holistic, participative approaches to the issue.

MARCELO ROCHA



A Banca / Brazil

Marcelo is helping economically develop and socially integrate the isolated communities of Brazil's favelas. His organization transmits cultural products of the favelas, such as music and art, to wider audiences. It also works to raise and distribute seed funding to initiatives run inside favelas.

MAURICIO PARILLI 🧩



Aprendo y Emprendo / Venezuela

Mauricio is promoting a new generation of entrepreneurs by empowering young people in Venezuela and advocating for the legal sanctity of businesses run by youth under 18. He has created a network of young entrepreneurs in Venezuela, enabling youth-driven sustainable social innovation models to thrive.

MAURO ANTONIO VARGASURÍAS

GENDES / Mexico

Mauro is inspiring a cultural shift towards gender equity and the inclusion of gender perspectives by engaging Mexico's municipal, state and federal government. By positioning men as protagonists of this movement, he is challenging traditional machistai deals in favor of creating a safer and more equal society.

PABLO LECUONA

Tiflonexos / Argentina

Pablo has created a global community of visually impaired readers who are exercising their leadership to replace the paradigm from dependency to autonomy. Through Tiflonexos, a virtual library of more than 9,000 users from different parts of the world, he is advocating for new legislation based on empowerment of visually impaired people.

VINCENT LAGACÉ 🧩



Nuup / Mexico

Vincent is working with multi-level stakeholders to transform Mexico's systems for producing and distributing agricultural products. Nuup is improving the livelihoods of smallholder producers by involving them, organizations that serve them, and the corporations that buy their produce in a shared effort to design better, fairer value chains.

NORTH AMERICA

ADAM FOSS 🧩



Prosecutor Impact / United States

Adam is addressing the US's mass incarceration crisis by leveraging the influential role prosecutors play in the criminal justice system. His organization provides intensive training for new prosecutors that encourages empathy and spreads awareness of the potentially devastating consequences a ruling can have on families and communities. The ultimate goal is to lower incarceration rates through cultural knowledge change.

ALISON LINGANE

Project Equity / United States

Alison is combatting the wealth gap in America by encouraging small businesses to adopt a more equitable business model by becoming employee-owned companies. Project Equity works directly with owners and employees to facilitate this transition, which grows community wealth and is linked to lower turnover rates, creation of local jobs and higher job satisfaction.

BRETT MATTHEWS

My Oral Village / Canada

Brett is pioneering the science and design of 'Oral Information Management' bridges to the digital world, which enables illiterate or innumerate adults to safely and independently use modern financial instruments such as mobile wallets, account statements and enterprise records. Using tools like digital images of cash notes and oral iconography, he is making financial inclusion possible for 'oral' adults.

GEORGE MCGRAW



DigDeep / United States

Two million Americans are living in homes without clean drinking water or indoor sanitation systems, but there is little awareness of this issue and therefore limited support. Through DigDeep, George is working with these marginalized communities and the water services sector to spark innovation that will build infrastructure to access water and sanitation in an open, participatory way.

JEFFREY CYR

Raven Indigenous Capital Partners / Canada

Jeff is fostering impact investment in Indigenous populations in Canada through a fund management firm, a research and development incubator, and an education arm rooted in Indigenous epistemologies. Additionally, he has stewarded the development of new tools that allows the Federal government to "purchase" social outcomes produced by Indigenous-led social enterprises to pay back the original investors.

JESSICA SCHREIBER

FABSCRAP / United States

Jessica launched FABSCRAP to keep textile waste out of landfills, in response to the alarming environmental cost of the fashion industry. By building relationships with leading apparel brands, she is able to recover textile waste at scale for reuse or recycling, while also influencing decision-makers in the apparel industry to shift towards more sustainable practices.

KRISTINA SAFFRAN 🧩



Project HEAL / United States

Project HEAL aims to radically improve access to care for people suffering from eating disorders, especially those who aren't reached by current options. Through its peer support network and work with insurance companies to promote mental health parity, Kristina is eliminating barriers to seeking treatment.

LAURA WILSON PHELAN 🗩



Kindred / United States

By building authentic relationships between diverse groups of parents through structured dialogues about their backgrounds, race and equity, and goals for their children, Laura has developed a proven model that allows school communities to embrace the goal of "collective wellbeing," champion equity, and change children's life outcomes far into the future.

MICHELLE MILLER P



Coworker.org / United States

Concerned by the rising inequality and poor conditions for workers, Michelle co-founded Coworker.org to give them a powerful voice. They help individuals and groups of employees launch, join and win campaigns to improve their jobs and workplaces. The goal is to reduce inequality in the workplace by having a more democratic communications platform.

NINA SIMON **P**



OF/BY/FOR ALL / United States

Public institutions such as museums and libraries are struggling to remain culturally relevant in the rapidly changing social climate. To reconnect people with these civic and cultural centers, Nina is helping them transition from traditional service providers into vibrant community-building platforms powered by the people in their communities.

SCOTT STRODE



The Phoenix / United States

Scott created a national network, The Phoenix, to support communities of people recovering from alcohol and drug addiction. Meeting at brick-and-mortar gyms, members form meaningful relationships through social and physical activities that help them develop a healthy sense of self-esteem.

SHELLY ELVERUM P



Ikaarvik Project / Canada

Shelly is engaging Inuit youth in a program that weaves together Western science and traditional Inuit knowledge systems to generate more relevant research and knowledge generation in the north of Canada. This empowers Inuit youth to take ownership over data traditionally held outside their communities, and helps reshape Southern perceptions of Arctic Inuit excellence and youth potential.

SIXTO CANCEL P



Think Of US / United States

Sixto is transforming the foster care system by ensuring that young people develop self-reliancebefore 'aging out' of the system. Without support navigating the transition to adulthood, many of them face poverty and homelessness. Sixto's platform gives them the agency to build their own path toward independence while connecting with caring adult mentors of their choice.

SONYA PASSI

FreeFrom / United States

To free abuse survivors from the financial insecurity that prevents them from leaving abusive relationships, Sonya is working with shelters, support staff and the legal system to reimagine a domestic violence support system that focuses on stability-building instead of only crisis response. The ultimate goal of FreeFrom is to help abuse victims escape harmful situations and put them on track for an independent life.

SWAPNA REDDY 🗩



Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project / United States

Swapna is building a new model of legal representation for asylum seekers facing deportation from the United States. Her online platform connects individuals and families seeking asylum with one another, and then connects clients with remote legal representation. She then monitors these cases to identify the most impactful policy or regulatory changes to advocate for.

VANESSA LEBOURDAIS 🧩



Planet Protector Academy / Canada

Vanessa is tackling the disconnect between climate change and deep-seated consumerist norms by empowering kids to be environmental change agents within their family units. Through joy, humor, storytelling and arts-based play, Vanessa holistically cultivates lasting changemaker identities through the public-school system in partnership with municipalities.

WILLIAM JACKSON 🧩



Village of Wisdom / United States

Will is empowering Black families to help create culturally affirming learning environments for Black students in their children's schools. His toolkits include a measure of a school's cultural responsiveness, a racial equity capacity assessment for schools, and a tool that helps parents codify their child's cultural practices for teachers to incorporate into lesson plans.

YESHIMABEIT MILNER P



Data for Black Lives / United States

Yeshimabeit is bringing experts and organizers together to empower social justice movements to use data to create social change. Her network of over 4,000 changemakers is advocating for changes in public policy, educating people about how algorithms impact their lives, and promoting the accessibility of data, in an effort to shift the power of data science into the hands of marginalized communities.

SOUTH ASIA

ABHINAV AGARWAL

Anahad Foundation / India

Abhinav is helping create a sustainable folk music industry in India. He helps artists own their own production processes, providing economic viability, as well as protecting their legal rights and enabling them to collaborate with one another. He also advocates for the study of folk music and ethnomusicology in local universities.

AKASH SETHI

Quest Alliance / India

Aakash has developed a youth-centric approach to employability training that is rooted in self-learning for 21st century skills, preparing young people for a fast-changing world in which they will need to acquire multiple different skillsets throughout their careers.

ALBERT MOLLAH

Access Bangladesh Foundation / Bangladesh

Albert is working to ensure that persons with disabilities are included in all aspects of development planning in Bangladesh. He monitors and tracks the impact of infrastructure projects proposed by development organizations such as the World Bank, identifying gaps in project proposals and resolving them through disabilityfriendly practices and strategic interventions.

ANDREW CROSS

Everwell Health Solutions / India

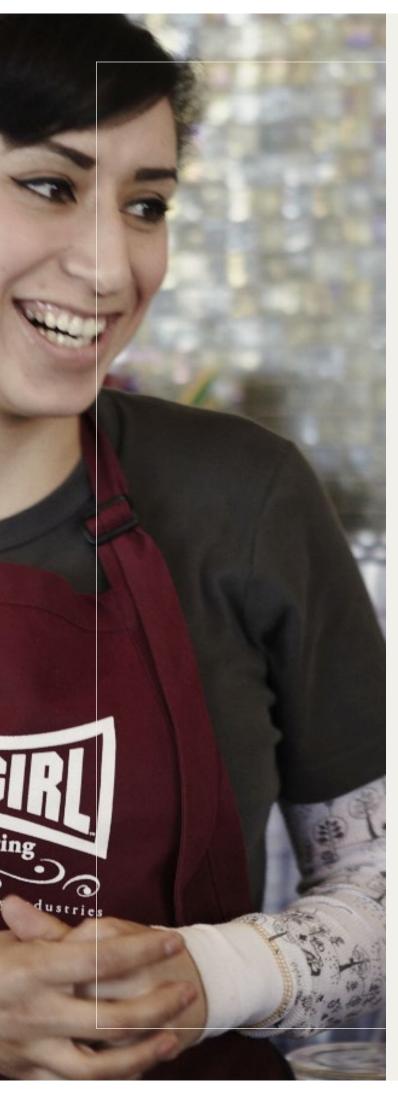
Andrew has built a user centric model of care that tackles the issue of non-adherence to medicine regime by enabling the entire healthcare value chain (treatment stakeholders such as patients, health professionals, public/private healthcare facilities, and policy makers) to use his technology platform, that unifies emerging healthcare innovations seamlessly to offer patients a supportive environment to ensure adherence.

AHSAN RONY 🧩

Green Savers Association / Bangladesh

Ahsan is creating a culture and industry of urban gardening in Bangladesh. Through various tools such as an open-sourced database on urbangreenscapes, a crowdsourced and collectively-owned greenscape fund, and trainings in schools and communities, he is building a sustainable and inclusive system to counter the rapid decrease of green spaces in Bangladesh.





B.S. NAGESH 🥦



TRRAIN (Trust for Retailers and Retail Associates of India) /

Working in retail is perceived as a shameful rather than dignified profession in the Indian society. To remedy this, TRRAIN engages with influential retail companies to remove barriers that hinder opportunities for employees, while fostering a culture of respect, inclusion and fairness in the retail sector.

MANU GUPTA 🧩



Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS) / India

SEEDS empowers local communities to proactively prepare for natural disasters such as heat waves, floods and hurricanes, by putting them at the center of all decision-making instead of passively relying on outside aid. Additionally, Manu is influencing national and international governments to craft effective strategies towards mitigation, relief, recovery, and reconstruction.

NAZMA AKHTER 🧩



Awaj Foundation / Bangladesh

Nazma is advocating for the rights of female factory workers in Bangladesh. Her organization offers eight training programs, for both workers and factory management, that teach women to recognize their rights, negotiate to better their working conditions, and improve general life skills such as financial literacy and nutrition management. Nazma also administers medical care and legal aid to individuals involved in workplace disputes.

PAVITRA MOHAN

Basic Healthcare Services / India

Pavitra is building a network of affordable and decentralized primary healthcare clinics led by professional tribal nurses. The nurse-led clinics drill deep into remote and inaccessible communities to improve their health-seeking behaviors, empowering once-voiceless communities to have a stake in their own wellbeing.

SAMIR BORDOLOI

SPREAD North East / India

Samir's organization brings together urban youth and rural farmers in the North East Region of India and trains them in low-cost ecological farming techniques. This simultaneously catalyzes the local food economy, attracts youth to the farming profession, and builds a network of indigenous food advocates and entrepreneurs who are bridging the urban-rural divide.

SHAMNAD BASHEER 🧩



Increasing Diversity by Increasing Access (IDIA) / India

Shamnad is building an ecosystem for a new generation of changemakers emerging from poverty or other hardships to become influential leaders in India's legal system. To bring these badly-needed perspectives into the elitist legal system, IDIA recruits outstanding youth from marginalized communities and supports them to pursue careers in law.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

BENJAMIN ABADIANO

Pamulaan Center for Indigenous People's Education / Philippines

Benjamin is empowering indigenous peoples in the Philippines to become leaders of progress rooted in their culture and heritage. He has established a formal indigenized education system that integrates indigenous knowledge and culture within standard course material, and promotes long-term sustainability and improvement efforts for indigenous communities and cultures.

DEWIS AKBAR 🧩



Lab Komputer Mini (Lab on Bike) / Indonesia

Dewis created a traveling computer lab that delivers basic programming education to disadvantaged communities in rural Indonesia lacking such resources. By visiting these far-flung regions, educators are ensuring that all Indonesians have the chance to flourish as self-learners in the age of digitization.

DINNY JUSUF 🧩



Torajamelo / Indonesia

Dinny is breaking the long-standing pattern of outward migration amongst economically vulnerable Indonesian women by reviving weaving as a reliable source of income. By increasing the socially perceived value of traditional fabric, Dinny enables these women to provide for their families, gaining dignity and economic stability without having to leave their homes.

REGI WAHYU 🧩



HARA / Indonesia

Using the power of blockchain technology, Regi is improving Indonesian farmers' crop yields and incomes by enabling them to access accurate agricultural and market data as well as unlock funding sources like loans. In this "data economy," a wide range of stakeholders work together as stewards of accurate data that is owned by the farmers.

RYAN GERSAVA

Virtualahan, Inc. / Philippines

Ryan is enabling socially excluded populations (such as persons with disabilities, persons deprived of liberty, former drug dependents and sex workers) to access formal work in the global digital economy. His organization offers virtual digital literacy and life coaching, as well as wellbeing and community building sessions to aid scholars in overcoming the debilitating effects of social and economic exclusion.

SAZZAD HOSSAIN 🧩



SDI Academy / Singapore

Sazzad wants migrant workers to benefit from their time abroad by creating new pathways for migrant workers to have a better quality of life. Through Social Initiative Development Academy (SDI) Sazzad has empowered them in fostering a growth mindset, developing their English skills, and opening doors to professional development opportunities while they're living abroad. In the future the migrant workers can implement these new skills when they go back to their home country or when they transit to a new country.

EAST ASIA

DAVID YEUNG **F**



Green Monday / Hong Kong

David is "taking a bite out of" climate change in Greater China and East Asia by promoting plant-based alternatives to meat to Chinese and East Asian customers. In this way he is reducing meat consumption while making consumers more conscious of the environmental impact of their food choices.

DEAGON YI

Book Village Harry / South Korea

Deagon Yi's citizen-led storytelling and publishing initiative is revitalizing rural towns threatened by depopulation. Using closed schools as a meeting place, he invites ordinary citizens to celebrate their cultures through sharing stories that are later published. This unique approach is reviving communities by creating new cultural voices for the country.

JIN-KYEONG CHO

Stand Up Against Sex-Trafficking of Minors / South Korea

Jin-Kyeong is changing the Korean legal system's views around sexual exploitation of underage girls. Instead of punishing them for criminal involvement, she is advocating for law reform that would protect and support girls. Her organization intervenes when it identifies a girl at risk, provides legal, medical and psychological support, and assists her with housing, education and employment.

SCOTT STILES



Fair Employment Agency / Hong Kong

Scott is working to end debt bondage which traps many migrant workers in a cycle of forced labor. To disrupt the migrant domestic worker recruitment system in Asia, Fair Employment has built an ethical recruitment agency and training center model that shift initial fees to the employer instead of the migrant worker. Scott's goal is to make exploitative recruitment unprofitable.

Partners

Generous funding from the following partners made the election and support of Ashoka Fellows possible this year:

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PARTNER WITH US

We are always looking for new allies to help us support Ashoka Fellows around the world and advance systems change in emerging fields.

Please contact Sameen Piracha (spiracha@ashoka.org) for more information on how you or your organisation can partner with us to grow the largest global network of systems changing social entrepreneurs.

DONATE TO ASHOKA'S GLOBAL VENTURE FUND

Ashoka invests in people. The Global Venture Fund is a pool of philanthropic funds from our supporters who understand the power and impact of flexible funding to ensure Ashoka can support Fellows across areas of greatest need. The Fund prioritizes supporting the search and selection of social entrepreneurs in emerging or underrepresented areas of innovation and in underrepresented geographies. Your support will help Ashoka use resources where they are most needed and allow us to find Ashoka Fellows with the most unforeseeable ideas. Please visit ashoka.org/donate and indicate Global Venture Fund in your donation.

VOLUNTEER WITH US

Ashoka would not be able to find systems changing social entrepreneurs without the help of volunteers who serve as our eyes and ears around the world. Volunteers who are a part of our global nominator network play a critical role at every stage of an Ashoka Fellows' trajectory. Other volunteers serve on selection panels and play a critical thought leadership role in helping Fellows maximise their scale and impact.

RECOMMEND A CANDIDATE

Do you know a systems-changing social entrepreneur who could benefit from the financial and network support of the Ashoka Fellowship? Nominate them at ashoka.org/engage/recommend/fellow.

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