

# Poorbes

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## 30 UNDER 30

**SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS AND INNOVATORS,  
WORKING ON SOCIAL VENTURES THAT  
COMBAT POVERTY AROUND THE WORLD**

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# 30 UNDER 30

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## THE FUTURE OF



## SOCIAL IMPACT

This edition shines a spotlight on young leaders who are using innovation, business acumen, and purpose-driven vision to solve some of the world's most urgent challenges. These changemakers aren't waiting for the future—they're building it, with startups, nonprofits, and initiatives that drive real transformation in communities around the globe. Whether tackling poverty, education, sustainability, or access to healthcare, each honoree proves that profit and purpose can go hand in hand.

You'll meet entrepreneurs who are turning trash into housing, building financial tools for the unbanked, and using storytelling to amplify unheard voices. These are individuals who see opportunity where others see obstacles—and take action with courage and creativity. Their journeys remind us that the future of impact is young, diverse, and deeply committed to equity. Prepare to be inspired by the brilliant minds reimagining what business can do for the world.

# GLOBAL INNOVATORS



## Nelly Cheboi (Kenya)

Founder of **TechLit Africa**, a nonprofit that equips rural schools in Kenya with refurbished computers and teaches digital literacy to students who otherwise have no access to technology. Raised in poverty herself, Nelly saw firsthand how the lack of access to tech perpetuates cycles of disadvantage. Her organization collects decommissioned computers from the U.S., refurbishes them, and repurposes them for classroom use, empowering children with the skills to thrive in the modern economy and giving them a path out of poverty through education.



## Louise Mabulo (Philippines)

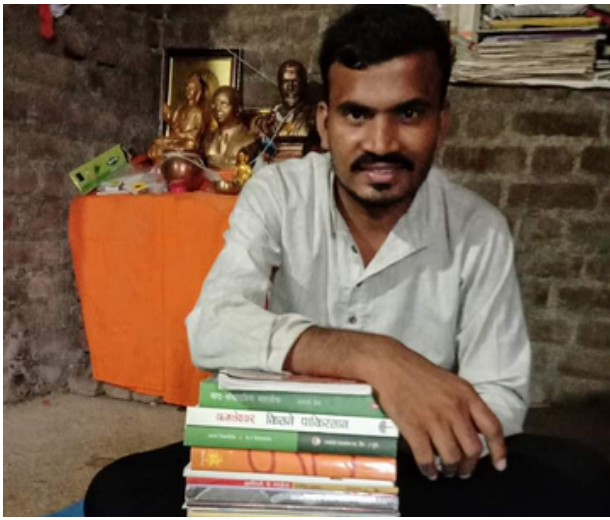
Chef, farmer, and climate advocate Louise Mabulo founded **The Cacao Project** to help farmers in the Philippines rebuild their livelihoods after devastating typhoons. Her initiative teaches sustainable agroforestry, provides high-value cacao seedlings, and supports reforestation. With over 200 farmers impacted, the project not only addresses poverty but also climate change by promoting biodiversity and resilient farming practices, turning agricultural work into a dignified, sustainable career path.



## Kanchan Amatya (Nepal)

As the founder of the **Sustainable Fish Farming Initiative (SFFI)**, Kanchan Amatya works to combat poverty and malnutrition in rural Nepal by training women to build and manage fish farms. Her initiative empowers women with economic independence, provides a sustainable source of protein to communities, and creates a ripple effect of health and financial stability. By merging environmental sustainability with gender equity, Kanchan's work uplifts rural communities from multiple dimensions.





## Raju Kendre (India)

Raju Kendre founded the **Eklavya India Foundation** to support first-generation learners from marginalized tribal and rural communities in India. The foundation offers mentorship, access to education resources, and leadership training so that these young people can secure admission into top-tier academic institutions and become change-makers in their communities. Raju, a first-gen learner himself, is dedicated to closing the educational and opportunity gap for India's underrepresented youth



## Shomy Hasan Chowdhury (Bangladesh)

Shomy is the co-founder of **Awareness 360**, a youth-led nonprofit operating in 23 countries that promotes water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programs. After losing her mother to a preventable disease, Shomy dedicated her life to improving public health through education, community clean-ups, and infrastructure support. Her initiative empowers thousands of young people to become local WASH ambassadors, advocating for dignity and access to basic needs.



## Bhagya Shree Jain (India)

Bhagya Shree is the founder of **The Disposal Company**, a pioneering green startup that helps companies reduce their plastic waste through data-driven sustainability consulting and offsetting solutions. With a focus on making sustainability more accessible and traceable, her work promotes circular economy practices and helps businesses take measurable action against pollution and environmental degradation, especially in urban India.



## Sandra Chukwudozie (Nigeria)

Sandra founded **Salpha Energy**, a social enterprise tackling energy poverty in sub-Saharan Africa. By manufacturing and distributing affordable solar-powered energy products, Salpha Energy lights up homes, businesses, and schools in off-grid communities. Her work contributes to better educational outcomes, economic opportunities, and health conditions, particularly for women and children who are most affected by lack of electricity.





## Devika Malik (India)

Co-founder of the Wheeling Happiness Foundation, Devika Malik is a para-athlete and disability rights advocate creating inclusive spaces for people with disabilities. Her foundation provides mobility aids, career training, and mental health support to empower individuals with physical challenges. Devika, who was born with hemiplegia, uses her own story to inspire systemic change and promote equal opportunities.



## Anurag Asati (India)

Anurag is the co-founder of The Kabadiwala, an app-based platform revolutionizing waste collection and recycling in India. The platform connects households and businesses with verified waste pickers, ensuring efficient recycling and data tracking. Anurag's innovation brings dignity to the informal waste sector while reducing environmental harm and promoting circular economies in rapidly growing Indian cities.



## Okka Phyo Maung (Myanmar)

Okka Phyo founded RecyGo, a digital waste management company that partners with businesses to streamline recycling through a tech-based platform. RecyGo offers data analytics and logistics services to promote eco-friendly practices and reduce landfill contributions. In a country struggling with both political instability and pollution, his work drives sustainable behavior through transparency and efficiency.

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**“You cannot adapt to lost cultures,  
you cannot adapt to starvation. That’s  
why we must focus on people —  
especially the most vulnerable.”**

**-VANESSA NAKATE**  
**UGANDAN CLIMATE AND SOCIAL ACTIVIST**



# PUERTO RICAN LEADERS



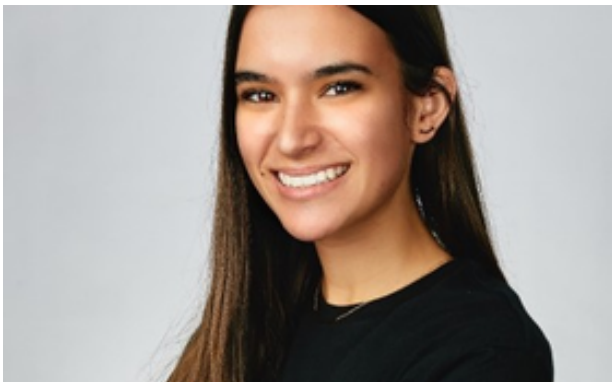
## Arianna Font Martin

Co-founder of **Remora**, a startup providing clean water systems to disaster-affected communities in Puerto Rico. After experiencing Hurricane Maria, she recognized the urgent need for resilient, decentralized water sources. Her technology harnesses atmospheric water generation and filtration, offering immediate relief and long-term solutions for water-scarce areas across the island.



## Iván Mulero Ortiz

Founded **BoriLicious PR**, a farm-to-table food movement that enhances food security and promotes local farming in Puerto Rico. Through culinary education and partnerships with small farmers, BoriLicious creates a self-sustaining food ecosystem. His work bridges gaps between agriculture, gastronomy, and community empowerment, especially important in a territory heavily dependent on imported goods.



## Gia Ramos

Founder of **Girl Innovation**, an initiative dedicated to bringing STEM education to underrepresented girls in Puerto Rico. Through workshops, mentorships, and hands-on experiences, Gia is tackling the gender gap in technology and science while building a future generation of female leaders equipped to innovate and drive economic progress.



## José Soto Rivera

José co-founded ACOMERPR, a nonprofit fighting hunger through meal distribution and community gardens. With a focus on food sovereignty and sustainable agriculture, the organization empowers Puerto Ricans to grow their own food and builds resilience in the face of environmental and economic crises. His approach blends direct relief with long-term capacity building.



# ASIAN SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS



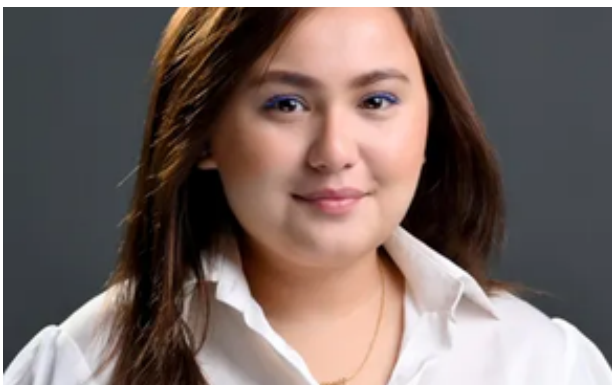
## Emma Yu (Hong Kong)

Emma co-founded **Dress Green**, a circular fashion enterprise that upcycles textile waste into new garments and accessories. By collaborating with unemployed garment workers, her initiative creates jobs while reducing landfill waste. Dress Green promotes conscious consumption and local manufacturing in a city known for fashion excess and rising inequality.



## Sandeep Kumar (India)

Founder of **DigiSwasthya**, a healthcare initiative bringing telemedicine to India's most underserved rural populations. His clinics connect villagers to doctors via digital consultations and offer on-site diagnostic tools, dramatically improving access to quality healthcare. His model merges technology and trust, saving lives and reducing medical travel burdens.



## Shreeya Giri (Nepal)

Created **Happy Minds**, Nepal's first digital mental health platform offering counseling and workshops for youth and adults. Addressing the country's mental health stigma, Happy Minds provides anonymous, culturally competent care and school-based outreach, ensuring emotional support is accessible regardless of location or socioeconomic status.



## Jia Cai Lau, Nicholas Lim, and Tylor Jong (Singapore)

These three entrepreneurs co-founded **TreeDots**, a B2B platform that rescues surplus and "imperfect" food from suppliers and sells it at discounted rates to businesses. Their system reduces food waste while supporting small businesses and saving them money, creating a win-win for both the environment and the economy.





## Peter Wang Hjemdahl, Svanika Balasubramanian, and Aditya Siroya

This trio launched **rePurpose Global**, the world's first plastic credit platform that enables individuals and businesses to offset their plastic footprint. By funding vetted waste management projects, they create new income streams for informal workers while combatting the global plastic crisis at scale.

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**“Young people have been the moral compass on social justice issues. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for.”**

**-Isra Hirsi**

CO-FOUNDER, U.S. YOUTH CLIMATE STRIKE

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## Anand Kulkarni, Philipp Gutheim, and Prayag Narula (India)

As co-founders of **MobileWorks**, they connect underemployed youth in India with micro-jobs sourced from American companies. Their digital platform enables flexible, dignified work for people in low-income areas and helps U.S. firms access reliable digital labor, showcasing how global outsourcing can uplift rather than exploit.



# AFRICAN CHANGEMAKERS



## Alex Mativo (Kenya)

Founder of **E-LAB**, a creative social enterprise turning electronic waste into stylish furniture and fashion pieces. His work not only reduces toxic pollution but also employs youth in design and manufacturing, blending environmental protection with job creation in Nairobi's urban neighborhoods.



## Jeremiah Thoronka (Sierra Leone)

Developed a revolutionary kinetic energy system that harnesses vibrations from pedestrian and vehicular movement to generate electricity. His invention has powered homes and schools in off-grid Sierra Leonean villages, providing a sustainable, locally-sourced alternative to fossil fuels and wood-burning.



## Mohamed Ali Niang (Mali)

Co-founded **Malô**, a food processing company that fortifies locally grown rice with essential vitamins to combat malnutrition in Mali. By adding value to a staple crop and ensuring affordability, Malô addresses both economic development and public health in one solution.



## Galen Welsch (Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya)

Co-founded **Jibu**, a franchising platform that trains and equips youth to run businesses selling affordable, purified drinking water in East Africa. By empowering young entrepreneurs, Jibu improves health, reduces plastic waste, and fosters economic mobility in urban and peri-urban regions.

# MORE NOTABLE INNOVATORS



## Archika Dogra (USA)

Founder of **Innoverge**, a global youth-led organization that blends STEM education with social justice initiatives. Through workshops, curriculum design, and community partnerships, Innoverge helps underserved students see science as a path to social impact and personal empowerment.



## Hunny Bhagchandani (India)

Founder of **Torchit**, a company that designs affordable assistive devices for people with visual and mobility impairments. His innovations like the Saarthi device use sonar and AI to guide users, promoting independence and inclusion for millions of disabled individuals across India.



## Svetha Janumpalli (USA)

Svetha founded **New Incentives**, a nonprofit that provides conditional cash transfers to mothers in Nigeria who vaccinate their children. Her data-driven approach increases immunization rates, reduces child mortality, and improves public health in areas where trust in healthcare is low.



## Marina Kim (USA)

Marina is the co-founder of **Ashoka U**, which partners with colleges and universities to embed social innovation into core curricula. Her work redefines education as a force for changemaking, preparing students to build solutions to pressing global problems across every discipline.





## Lesley Silverthorn Marincola (USA)

Lesley is the founder and CEO of **Angaza Design**, a platform that enables low-income consumers to pay for clean energy products in small, affordable installments. Her company is helping millions in off-grid regions transition from kerosene to solar power through pay-as-you-go models.



## Andrew Mangino (USA)

Andrew co-founded **The Future Project**, a bold initiative placing “Dream Directors” in public schools to help students launch passion-driven ventures. By empowering young people to lead their own transformation, he’s reimagining education as a vehicle for purpose and long-term engagement.

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**“We are not future leaders — we are  
leading now.”**

**-Yara Shahidi**  
**ACTRESS, YOUTH ACTIVIST**

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With courage, creativity, and a deep sense of purpose, these young leaders are proving that meaningful change doesn't wait for permission or perfect timing. It begins with bold ideas and the determination to follow them through. Their stories remind us that the future of business is human, and that true success is measured not only by growth—but by the lives uplifted along the way.