



ais SUSTAINING
IMPACT
SUMMIT.

2026

SUMMIT
PROFILE

Presented By :
ASEW TEAM



About

The **Sustaining Impact Summit (SIS)** is an annual event aimed at promoting self-sustainability among impact-focused organizations in Africa. Each year, SIS brings together social enterprises, cooperatives and NGOs, alongside industry experts, policymakers, and representatives from local and international development organizations to explore how impact-focused organizations can sustainably resource their impact-related work, particularly in cases of limited or no external support.

At SIS, our activities are practitioner-oriented, focusing on social enterprises, cooperatives, and NGOs alike, providing a vital platform to celebrate their resilience and innovations in addressing the UN Sustainable Development Goals in Africa. We firmly believe that such impact-focused organizations have the potential to thrive independently, thereby propelling sustainable development and positive change across the continent. Through expert panels, tailored workshops, mentorship opportunities, and collaborative discussions, SIS empowers attendees to unleash their inherent capabilities and devise strategies for long-term success.

Furthermore, SIS is structured to cultivate collaboration and innovation among such impact-focused organizations across Africa. Attendees are engaged with valuable insights, networks, and resources to navigate their journey toward building resilience and sustaining their innovative work for sustainable development.

Join us at SIS in envisioning a future where impact-focused organizations are self-sufficient in resourcing their impact-related work, thereby paving the way for a more resilient and prosperous Africa.

CONVENER

The African Social Enterprise Workshop (ASEW) is a technical support platform for impact-oriented organizations in Africa. Using interactive workshop as a primary medium of engagement, we provide trainings, knowledge exchange, mentorship, and resource support to develop the mindset, skill set and capacity of social innovators and NGOs in creating sustainable organizations and lasting societal impact.

Since 2019, ASEW has been hosting annual Summer Edition workshops (now the Sustaining Impact Summit) in collaboration with various partners across Africa and internationally.

Rationale

At ASEW, we recognize the critical role that social enterprises and NGOs play in advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly across African countries. Leveraging our extensive experience in organizing impactful workshop sessions with diverse organizations, we've identified a common challenge: sustaining impact initiatives.

For our participants, this entails navigating a complex landscape to secure financing, develop human capital, access technical expertise, forge partnerships, find appropriate mentorships, and more. This challenge is compounded by shifting funding priorities, harsh business environments, and volatile socio-political landscapes worsened by crises like COVID-19 and climate change, affecting both early-stage ventures and established entities across the continent.

In response to this pressing need, we've pioneered this annual summit. Here, we shine a spotlight on these challenges and collaboratively craft strategies for impact-focused organizations to navigate them effectively towards achieving self-sufficiency. By convening thought leaders and practitioners, our summit empowers impact-focused organizations with the insights and resources necessary to sustain their impact, drive meaningful change, and make significant contributions towards addressing the continent's sustainable development challenges.

Mission

To celebrate the resilience of impact-focused organizations across Africa, while highlighting the barriers to sustaining impact and discussing relevant strategies for overcoming them.

SIS Core Pillars

Core Systems Pillars

Each year, the summit engages in a mix of activities focused on the core systems that sustain impact and enable social innovators to thrive across Africa.

- **Market Systems**

Understanding supply chains, demand drivers, and commercial viability within the African trade context.

- **Finance Systems**

Building robust internal financial management and sustainable revenue generation models.

- **Funding Systems**

Navigating the global and regional donor landscape and unlocking alternative capital sources.

- **Policy Systems**

Engaging with regulatory frameworks and advocacy to create an enabling environment for innovation.

- **Internal Systems**

Strengthening governance, leadership structures, and operational processes for impact sustenance and scaling.

- **Ecosystem & Tech**

Leveraging digital tools and collaborative networks to amplify reach and operational efficiency.

PAST EDITIONS

7th Edition

7TH EDITION ASEW
Sustaining Impact Summit

Sustaining Impact Summit

Vivian Nwakah
Director, Pfizer

Sophie Bacq
Co-Founder, Founder Chair
of Sustainability Development

Debbi Brock
Co-Founder,
Social Change Innovators

Nike Akerele-De Souza
Co-Founder/Board Member,
Director, KBO Consulting

Adeyemi Adesekan
Director, African Social
Enterprise Workshop (ASEW)

Akufuna Muyunda
Board President, Zambia US
Exchanges Alumni Association

6TH EDITION ASEW
SUSTAINING

6th Edition

5th Edition

AUG
17-18

OLUMAYOWA OKEDIRAN
Director of Programs,
Students For Liberty

DR SOCRATES MAJUNE
Lecturer,
University of Nairobi

MOSES KANYESIGYE
Programme co-ordinator,
YouLead Africa & East African
Business Council

KASAPO MANDA
Country Director,
2nd Door Zambia

AFRICAN SOCIAL ENTERPRISE WORKSHOP | 5TH SUMMER EDITION

4th Edition

AUG
25-26

VELMA MUKORO
Research Fellow,
World Bank

ADEBOWALE ONAFOWORA
Founder, BIC Farms Concept
and Ashoka Fellow

JENNIFER D. DANIEL
Researcher, University of
Ireland Co-founder, Q&A

AFRICAN SOCIAL ENTERPRISE WORKSHOP | 4TH SUMMER EDITION

**INNOVATING YOUR
COMMERCIAL MODEL FOR
SUSTAINABILITY**

STRATEGIES, TOOLS AND SUPPORT MECHANISMS
FOR AFRICAN SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

3rd Edition

AUG
10-11

AFRICAN SOCIAL ENTERPRISE WORKSHOP | 3RD EDITION

**GRANT FUNDING AND
GRANT WRITING FOR
SOCIAL ENTERPRISES
DO'S AND DON'TS**

HEIDI BROWN
Member
of Directors,
Foundation

KEATRICE BOWEN STADEN
Grants Manager, Africa
Women's Development Fund
(AWDF)

ROSE LYON
EDM, Middlesex
County's Director

SHARON COLLINS
President, Nonprofit Grant
Solutions

ADEYEMI ADESEKAN
Co-founder,
ASEW/Impact Centre

act **act4us** **OPEN SOCIETY**

WWW.ASEWORKSHOP.COM

**Repositioning your
Social Enterprise for
new realities**

A strategy and impact
measurement workshop

2nd Edition

APRIL 15, 2019

1st Summer Edition

Navigating social and
commercial objectives in

1st Edition

Sustaining Impact Prize

The **Sustaining Impact Prize** is an initiative aimed at celebrating and rewarding innovative solutions that drive sustainable development in Africa. As part of the SIS, this prestigious prize marks the start of a tradition to recognize impact-focused organizations and initiatives that demonstrate a commitment to self-sustainability.

These organizations are recognized for their excellence in efficiently and effectively resourcing their impact-related work or for establishing systems and frameworks that facilitate sustainable resourcing in an African context.

Criteria for award

The Sustaining Impact Prize is awarded based on the following criteria:

- 🏆 **Alignment with Global Goals:** Demonstrated commitment to addressing one or more of the UN SDGs, contributing to the global effort to achieve a more sustainable and equitable future.
- 🏆 **Sustainability of Impact:** Clear demonstration of how the initiative sustains its impact work over time, ensuring long-term effectiveness and scalability.
- 🏆 **Future-proofing:** Showcase a clear and feasible timeline outlining how economic sustainability is being integrated into their impact work, fostering financial resilience and independence.

Prize Benefits:

Winners of the Sustaining Impact Prize receives:

- Cash award
- 1 year People & Planet subscription with listing on the Good Market website
- Recognition and visibility through a comprehensive media package
- Capacity building support, including world class mentorship, training, or further funding opportunities



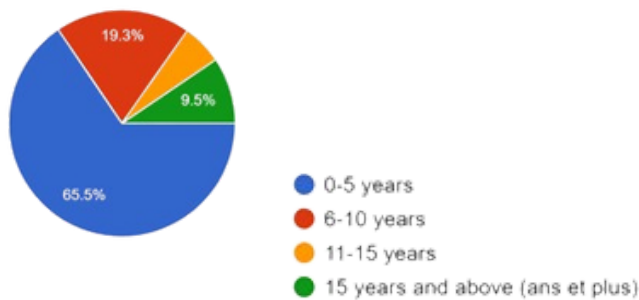
SIS 2025

Attendee's Profile

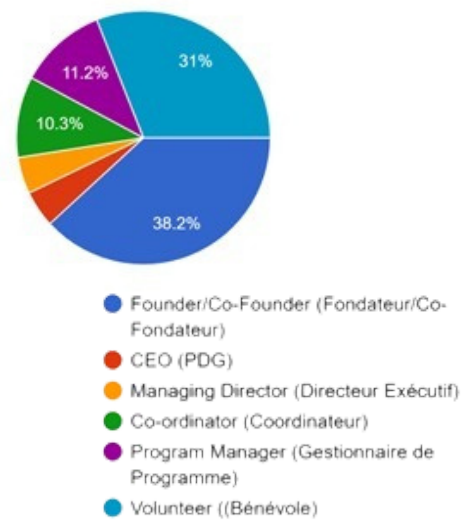
ASEW attracts small organizations that have been in operations for up to 5 years and with 2-10 staff sizes.

Our programs attract participants with wide-ranging organizational roles within the social enterprise, NGO and business organizational forms. However, founders and managing directors makes up more than 50% of our participants.

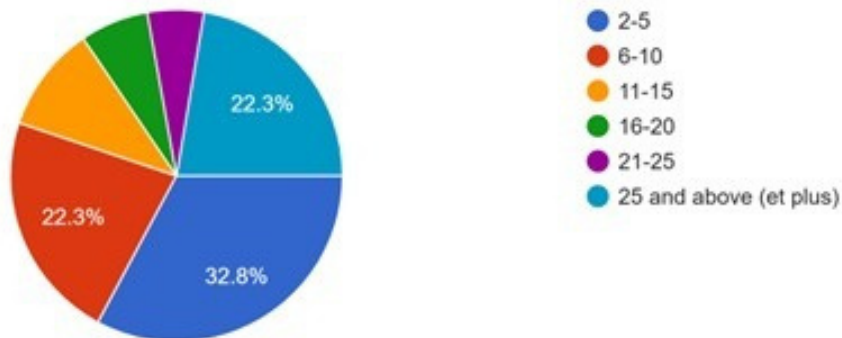
Years in operation (Années de fonctionnement)
591 responses



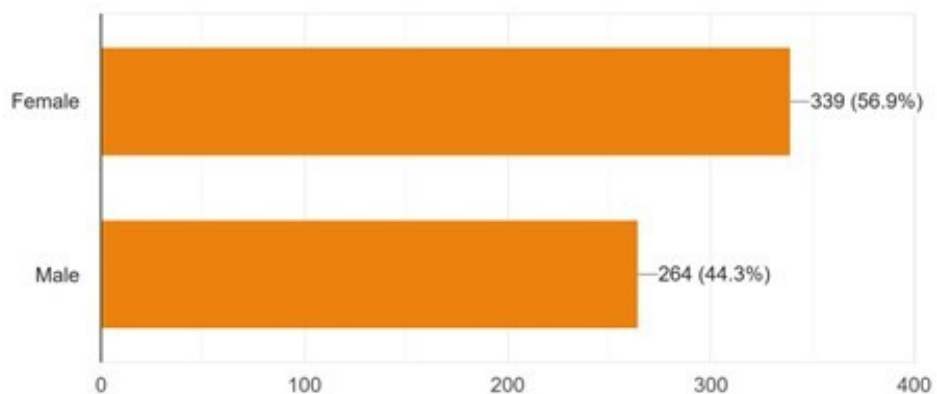
Role (Rôle)
600 responses



Staff Strength (Force du personnel)
600 responses



Gender (genre)
596 responses



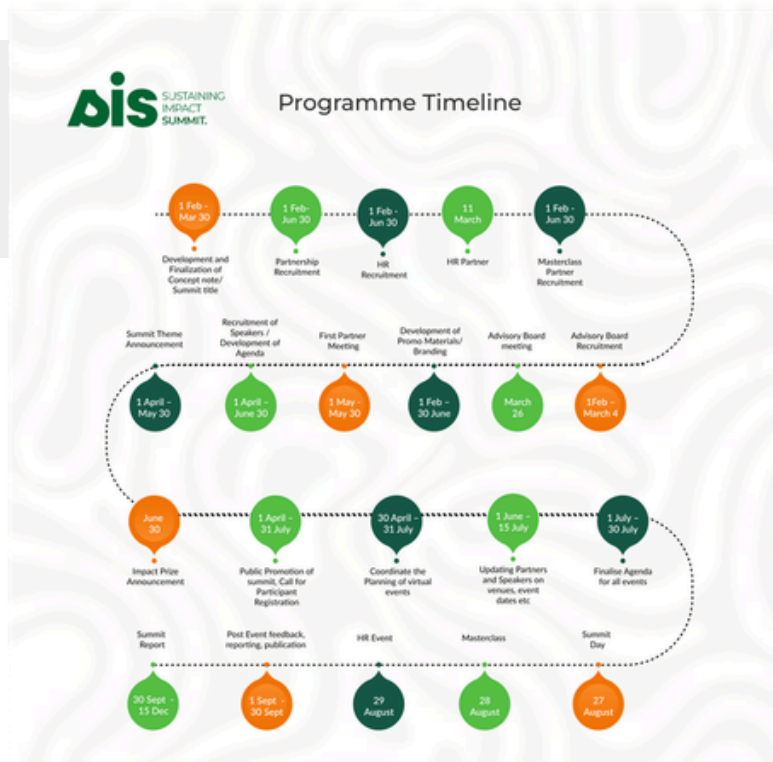
Past & present event partners



Promoting Social Entrepreneurship in Kenya



8th Edition – Event Timeline



Outputs and Outcome:

The Sustaining Impact Summit is designed not just as a convening, but as a platform for generating practical, lasting value for participants across Africa.

Key Outputs

- Recorded Sessions & Learning Materials**

All key sessions from the summit will be recorded and made available to attendees, ensuring continued access to insights, tools, and discussions beyond the live event.

- Summit Insights Report**

Insights from across sessions, panels, and masterclasses will be carefully distilled into a concise, practitioner-focused report.

- Cross-Country Insight Sharing**

By bringing together participants from different regions, the summit will facilitate structured knowledge exchange on context-specific challenges and opportunities.



Outputs and Outcome:

Planned Outcomes

For social innovators:

- Practical insights to better navigate and work within systems to sustain impact
- Hands-on experience in applying design thinking and business model innovation
- Direct access to funding and investment advice and opportunities through the Deal Room
- Practical skills to develop stronger grant applications and tools to measure, track, and communicate impact
- New connections across the ecosystem to support collaboration and growth

For ecosystem actors:

- Deeper understanding of the real challenges and opportunities shaping impact on the ground
- Insights into how funding, finance, and policy shape long term outcomes, with clearer pathways to support scalable and sustainable impact
- Opportunities to identify and connect with high potential social innovators and solutions

GALLERY



Abuja



Ethiopia



Cote d'Ivoire



Ghana



Tunisia



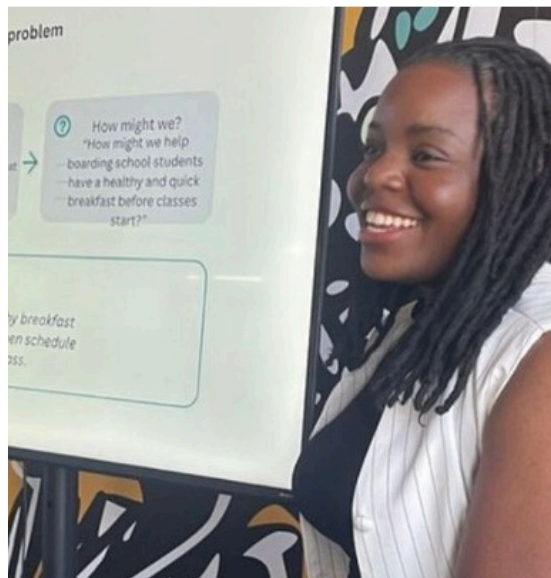
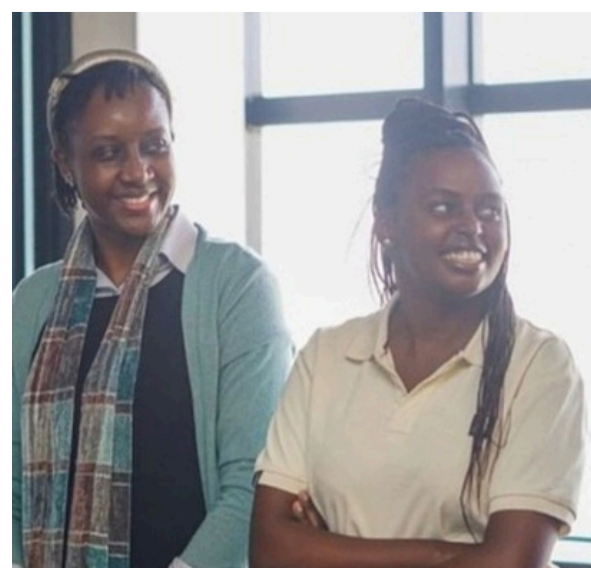
Namibia



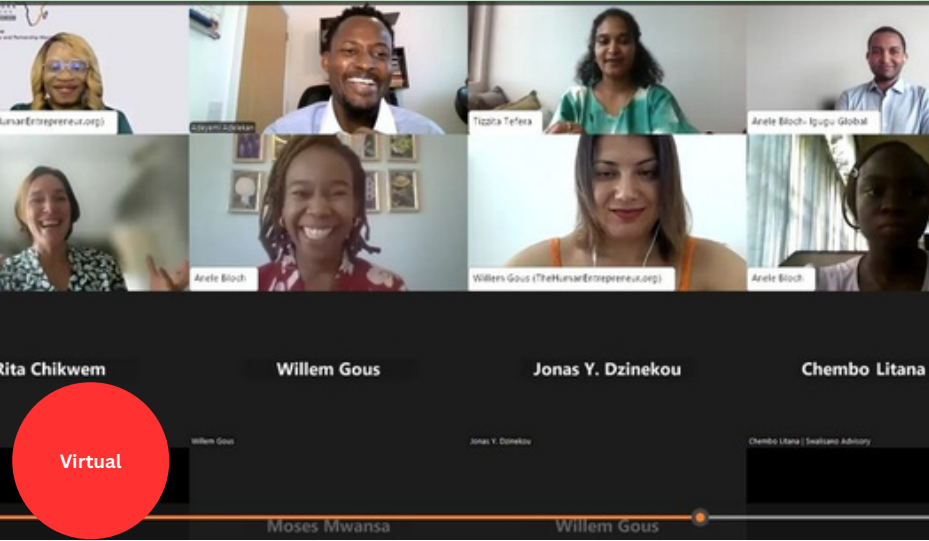
South Africa



Zambia



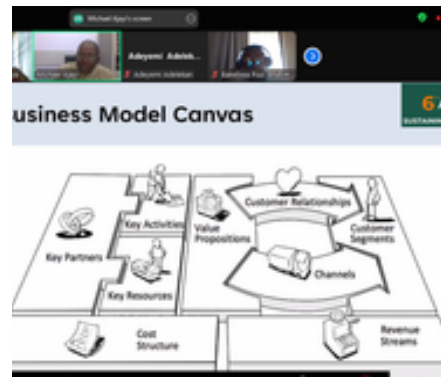
GALLERY



Kenya



Ivory Coast



GALLERY



6TH EDITION ASEW
SUSTAINING IMPACT SUMMIT
THEME:
RESOURCING IMPACT
Exploring opportunities, gaps, and strategies for sustaining impact initiatives in Africa

SPEAKERS

 MS. ITOTO ECHAKARA	 MR. AARON MASHANO	 WILLEM GOULS	 DR. NATALIEY BITATURE	 DR. JONAS YAWOVI
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6TH EDITION ASEW
SUSTAINING IMPACT SUMMIT
6TH EDITION



Feedback from previous editions





Feedback

TESTIMONIAL



I learned how we as Africans should be knowledge producer and solution leaders, not just a beneficiary of global aid only. The “self-to-society” framing is highlights personal responsibility, community leadership, and collective transformation. It encourages Africans to leverage indigenous knowledge, cultural strengths, and local innovations to lead in climate action, sustainability, and inclusive growth.

- Elizabeth Christopher

TESTIMONIAL



I learnt that change should come from within oneself before sharing it to the next individual

- Thulisile Nobuhle Maziya

TESTIMONIAL



Ability to use available resources in tackling our issues without eating for external support that may not as expected.

- Benjamin Olorunfemi

TESTIMONIAL



Resourcefulness has really open my understanding and will go a long way to impact the way i perform my duties

- Daniel Silas Ayakpat

TESTIMONIAL



Mobilizing or using our local resources to bring sustainable change to the society; empowerment programs, training and business opportunities.

- Judith Biyaki

TESTIMONIAL



It's about that African magic, turning little into lasting. When we lead from self to society, we prove that resourcefulness isn't just survival, it's sustainability with style.

- Beverly Joy Achieng' Okoth

TESTIMONIAL



The one knowledge that has been passed down to me today, especially about using the resources around to give and not waiting for others to give you.

- Ogubuike Precious

TESTIMONIAL



Start first, Go inward

- Modupe Adelanwa

TESTIMONIAL



Personal responsibility and empowerment.

Using your own talents, skills, and creativity to solve challenges.

Starting with self-sufficiency and building from within

- Angela Nduku mbuli



Feedback

TESTIMONIAL



It have changed my mindset to work with what I have. My resourcefulness's not just tied to financial strength, but from my knowledge and skill. I have something to offer. Secondly, I have learnt to understand the problem fully in order to provide a solution

- Doris Mercy Wanjiku Ng'ethe

TESTIMONIAL



This was great. I will definitely recommend to others, This will help us in planning our next project

- Duncan Mwangi

TESTIMONIAL



Solving the right problems with available resources

- Njogu Grace Wangui

TESTIMONIAL



Firstly, I'll like to commend the organizers and facilitators of this summit. Africans are very resourceful people, we always find innovative ideas to overcome every obstacle and challenges we face, we make the most of what we have, that is available resources, to increase our value. these could be achieved when an individual is self sufficient. Resourcefulness begins from a person before it spreads to the society.

- Fajonyomi Omolara Edith

TESTIMONIAL



Will definitely apply it coz it will help me move to the next upper level in my personal works and growth

- Dennis Mburu Wandaka

TESTIMONIAL



I learnt that change should come from within oneself before sharing it to the next individual

- Princess Esther Taiwo

TESTIMONIAL



"Am likely to apply the insights within my community, as the summit highlighted resourceful solutions that can empower collective growth and resilience. By sharing what I learned, I can help others adopt innovative practices, foster collaboration, and create positive change locally."

- Angela Nduku mbuli

TESTIMONIAL



I understand that "African Resourcefulness" is about reclaiming agency: using what we have, where we are, to create solutions that are context-relevant, cost-effective, and scalable.

- Oluwabukola Fagbemi

TESTIMONIAL



Yes the guests were phenomenal and they have improved my world and African view.

I am also sold to the idea of African solving and giving solutions to the issues Africa and the world faces. Also how to build a good business from the beginning is great.

- Doris Mercy Wanjiku Ng'ethe

Feedback

The learning of this session helped me understand that sustainability is not only related to cash. It also takes into account social and environmental impact.

★★★★★

I have learnt how we can work with other social enterprises to team up without necessarily making it look like we are competing.

★★★★★

Building a strong team is the best foundation for a successful business, and I am glad I was given an insight into how to build a board.

★★★★★

Extremely satisfied and I would recommend the summit because it gives one a better understanding about running a sustainable business.

★★★★★

Yes! My board and other team members have drawn up a plan, especially on meeting up with some of the state regulatory agencies/ministry needs and visitation/ inspection sometimes in January, 2025

★★★★★

Treat your firm using the owner's eyes and make everything your problem. Pivot, adjust, network and be passionate. You have a lot of resources and do not let money be the thing that holds you back.

★★★★★



The most important aspect of the session for me was that I was made to understand the importance of working with a board, that is a strong team made up of experts in my area of jurisdiction.

★★★★★

That organization does generate data almost on a regular basis but do not realize it, so I have learnt that it is needful to gather and analyze all the data so that they can be useful for project evaluation.

★★★★★



For inquiries, contact:

Dr Adeyemi Adelekan - Director (a.adelekan@aseworkshop.com)

Rita Chikwem - Programs Manager L&C (r.chikwem@aseworkshop.com)

Promise Yoroh - Social Media Manager (promise.yoroh@aseworkshop.com)



www.sustainingimpactsummit.org



info@sustainingimpactsummit.org



+447448006908 (WhatsApp)