

EDITION 01/2026

Empowering those who make a difference

21 outstanding projects
supported by iF Design with EUR 50,000

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EUR 4,000



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EUR 3,000



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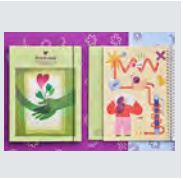


Uwe Cremering
CEO iF Design

"The iF SOCIAL IMPACT PRIZE is particularly close to our hearts because we want to actively contribute to a better future by supporting these projects. The projects we support demonstrate the hope and positive change that can be created when people stand up for others."

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EUR 2,000



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All submissions should be in line with one of the 15 UN Sustainable Development Goals.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





SOCIAL IMPACT PRIZE 2026

Facts

SUPPORTED BY
EUR 4,000

SDG
3 Goodhealth + Well-Being

PROJECT COUNTRY
Nepal

INITIATOR
Friends of the Disabled/ Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled Children (FOD/ HRDC)

Made to Fit: Child centered prosthetic & orthotic

Fabrication of Pediatric Prosthetics and Orthotics

Friends of the Disabled's Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled Children (HRDC) designs and fabricates customized prosthetic and orthotic devices for children with physical disabilities in Nepal. Imported devices are expensive and poorly suited to Nepal's terrain and economy. HRDC adapts international designs using local materials and techniques, then customizes each device for the individual child. Children gain mobility, independence, and access to school and community life. The project uniquely combines surgery, rehabilitation, and human-centered design in one integrated system.

JURY STATEMENT
Across Nepal, HRDC combines surgery, rehabilitation, assistive devices and community support to help children with physical disabilities overcome barriers. It has transformed 132,450 lives and empowered former patients to become skilled professionals serving others.

Click or scan the QR code to learn more about the project!



SOCIAL IMPACT PRIZE 2026

Facts

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EUR 3,000

SDG
2 Zero Hunger

PROJECT COUNTRY
Colombia

INITIATOR
Fundación Legado Colombia

SOS Hospitals

Hospital Support Program for Vulnerable Mothers

SOS Hospitals addresses a hidden crisis affecting vulnerable parents whose children are hospitalized in public pediatric and neonatal units in Bogotá. Many mothers and fathers spend days or weeks in hospitals with little income, limited food access, and no support networks. We provide dignified meals, essential supplies such as diapers and hygiene kits, and emotional support. By caring for caregivers, we reduce stress and restore dignity at a critical moment—strengthening families so they can remain present, resilient, and supportive for their hospitalized children.

JURY STATEMENT
I am deeply inspired by this organisation, particularly because of its uniqueness and approach. They address an important issue often overlooked around the world: caregivers also need care and support themselves. As such, this intervention is groundbreaking and deeply impactful.

Click or scan the QR code to learn more about the project!



SOCIAL IMPACT PRIZE 2026

Facts

SUPPORTED BY
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SDG
3 Goodhealth + Well-Being

PROJECT COUNTRY
Kyrgyzstan

INITIATOR
UPLIFT PF

Uplift Early Intervention Model

Early Intervention Model – Kyrgyzstan

Uplift Early Intervention Model is an innovative service system developed in Kyrgyzstan to support infants and young children with developmental risks and disabilities. It solves the problem of fragmented and late support by creating one coordinated, family-centered pathway combining early assessment, multidisciplinary therapy and parent empowerment. The model improves child development outcomes, prevents institutionalisation, and builds local professional capacity. Its uniqueness lies in being a scalable, human-centered solution designed for low-resource settings.

JURY STATEMENT
In Kyrgyzstan, Uplift transforms fragmented early intervention services into one family-centered pathway. It has reached 20,000+ children, helped prevent 1,200+ newborn abandonments, and built lasting community expertise, creating a proven model ready to scale.

Click or scan the QR code to learn more about the project!



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Facts

SUPPORTED BY
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SDG
3 Goodhealth + Well-Being

PROJECT COUNTRY
India

INITIATOR
Yugrishi Shriram Sharma Acharya Charitable Trust

Designing Access: Women-Led Eye-Care for Last Mile

Women-Led Rural Eye Care System

The Akhand Jyoti Eye Hospital redesigns rural eye care in Bihar by transforming girls from low-income families into trained optometrists and socialchange agents. Over 845 women trained, leading decentralized vision centers, hospitals, center of excellence, bridging doctor-patient gaps and overcoming gender and social barriers. Our human-centered system integrates last-mile screening, referral, and affordable surgery to prevent avoidable blindness.
By restoring sight, we unlock livelihoods, dignity, and economic mobility, reducing state's disease burden while redesigning access for underserved communities at the last mile.

JURY STATEMENT
Akhand Jyoti uses human-centered service design to transform eye care access at scale. Be removing barriers of distance, cost and trust, its decentralized model empowers women providers as community-facing change agents, reshaping healthcare access while re-storing sight.

Click or scan the QR code to learn more about the project!



SOCIAL IMPACT PRIZE 2026

Facts

SUPPORTED BY
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SDG
3 Goodhealth + Well-Being

PROJECT COUNTRY
Peru

INITIATOR
AerlyPap

AerlyPap

Social entrepreneurship

AerlyPap serves to provide affordable respiratory treatment for people who need a CPAP mask but cannot afford one. The project addresses the lack of affordable devices through masks and motors made from recycled plastic, reducing costs by up to 60%. Its impact improves continuity of treatment and restores dignity to those facing health inequality. By transforming waste into sustainable medical technology, it demonstrates how circular design can expand access to essential healthcare. Its approach is unique in weaving together circular economy, personalization and accessibility in one single system.

JURY STATEMENT
AerlyPap combines affordabilty, accessibility and circular design by transforming recycled plastic into low-cost CPAP masks and motors. It addresses healthcare inequality while reducing waste and supporting continuity of respiratory treatment.

Click or scan the QR code to learn more about the project!



SOCIAL IMPACT PRIZE 2026

Facts

SUPPORTED BY
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SDG
4 Quality Education

PROJECT COUNTRY
Kazakhstan

INITIATOR
IQanat Educational Foundation

IQuanat Peer-to-Peer

Educational program (based on peer learning model)

In Kazakhstan, 66% of schools are located in rural areas, where students fall behind their urban peers by the equivalent of 1 academic year (PISA 2022). Online ecosystem IQanat Peer-to-Peer fills that gap: the most successful students voluntarily teach rural peers, free, online, from any village. Participants deepen their knowledge, build leadership, empathy, social accountability. Supporting the project will help provide high-quality educational support to an even greater number of rural students. Unlike scattered local peer learning practices, we offer a structured, technology-supported model with a proprietary digital learning platform and a mentorship system.

JURY STATEMENT
Selected for its peer-to-peer model turning rural Olympiad finalists into tutors for the next cohort, 14,958 learners and 1,212 tutors reached, with 94% of graduates admitted to universities. Strong scale, recognized by HBS and UNICEF.

Click or scan the QR code to learn more about the project!



SOCIAL IMPACT PRIZE 2026

Facts

SUPPORTED BY
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SDG
4 Quality Education

PROJECT COUNTRY
Nigeria

INITIATOR
Slum2School Africa

Slum2School Green Academy

A climate-smart school for underserved children

The Slum2School Green Academy is a first-of-its-kind climate-smart, innovative and community-centered school. It was established to provide access to formal education and holistic development for children in underserved communities, with the pilot school located at Saga. Saga is a remote riverine community on the outskirts of Lagos, Nigeria, where for over 100 years there was no formal school or access to basic amenities. It is an integrated and replicable design that creates a holistic environment, bringing together essential infrastructure, learning opportunities, and community-led progress within a single model.

JURY STATEMENT
A great and valuable initiative to provide future facing, educational amenities for an isolated community.
It addresses climate, education, water, energy and community development issues in one visionary project.

Click or scan the QR code to learn more about the project!



SOCIAL IMPACT PRIZE 2026

Facts

SUPPORTED BY
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SDG
5 Gender Equality

PROJECT COUNTRY
India

INITIATOR
Avasara Leadership Institute

Avasara Leadership Institute

Leadership Institute for girls

Avasara Academy addresses a critical gap in India's education system: schooling does not reliably translate into agency or opportunity for girls from under-resourced communities. Beginning in Grade 6, Avasara provides a long-term, deliberately designed model integrating an academic bridge, leadership through real enterprises, embedded socio-emotional learning, structured college pathways, and parent partnership. The result is measurable growth in confidence, academic success, and higher education access—converting early potential into durable agency and generational change.

JURY STATEMENT
What struck me most about this project were the mothers' testimonies. Seeing that their daughters are being given the opportunities they themselves never had, in such a deeply patriarchal country where women's access to education is so often restricted.

Click or scan the QR code to learn more about the project!



SOCIAL IMPACT PRIZE 2026

Facts

SUPPORTED BY
EUR 3,000

SDG
6 Clean Water + Sanitation

PROJECT COUNTRY
United States

INITIATOR
Design Outreach

MaxLife – Reliability that Changes Lives

Rural water infrastructure upgrade program

Hand pumps are widely used for daily water access in rural communities around the world, yet an estimated 30% fail within just a few years, leaving millions without safe water. In Afridev pumps, one of the most commonly used type of hand pump, 75% of these failures trace back to a single weak component, the rubber centralizer. Design Outreach designed the MaxLife™ Centralizer to address this overlooked root cause of failures with a simple, durable upgrade that lengthens pump life up to 6 times. Instead of replacing infrastructure, we strengthen what already exists—turning unreliable systems into sustainable access to safe water for millions.

JURY STATEMENT
I am impressed by MaxLife: a $3 part fixes the #1 reason water pumps break, making them last 6x longer. It already helps 15 million people in Malawi get reliable water. Small design, massive impact.

Click or scan the QR code to learn more about the project!



SOCIAL IMPACT PRIZE 2026

Facts

SUPPORTED BY
EUR 3,000

SDG
9 Industry, Innovation + Infrastructure

PROJECT COUNTRY
Malaysia

INITIATOR
Epic Society

EPIC Bamboo Home

Modernising Bamboo houses for indigenous community

The EPIC Bamboo Home (EBH) is a modular, rapidly deployable housing system that modernises indigenous bamboo knowledge. It enables non-experts to build durable bamboo homes in just three days, solving housing issues such as unsafe or overcrowding living conditions that 12,000 indigenous families (Orang Asli) in Peninsular Malaysia face. Unlike traditional housing aid, EBH focuses on community agency and cross-cultural collaboration between the Orang Asli community and urban volunteers by turning construction into a platform for social capital, environmental benefits, and long-term livelihood opportunities.

JURY STATEMENT
The Project goes beyond using bamboo as an eco building materials. It embraces the entire life cycle- from sourcing and construction to use, culture and circularity-redefining the relationship between architect, nature, communities and resources through sustainable design.

Click or scan the QR code to learn more about the project!



Facts

SUPPORTED BY
EUR 2,000

SDG
3 Goodhealth + Well-Being

PROJECT COUNTRY
Poland

INITIATOR
Mudita Association

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Powitalnik – Support after child diagnosis

Guidebook for parents facing child diagnosis

The Guidebook is a support tool for parents facing a diagnosis of their child's disability or chronic illness. It addresses the moment of intense crisis when families experience information overload, stress, and a lack of systemic support. This guide combines emotional support with practical, organized informatio, helping parents find clarity, reassurance, and direction in the first days and weeks following a diagnosis. It is available free of charge online and as a printed guide distributed to parents in hospitals by specialists.

JURY STATEMENT
Powitalnik acts as a transitional object for parents and loved ones alike—something to hold when words are hard to find. Its empathetic illustrations carry emotional weight without demanding anyone perform their grief, offering security and connection while preserving privacy.

Click or scan the QR code to learn more about the project!



SOCIAL IMPACT PRIZE 2026

Facts

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

SUPPORTED BY
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SDG
4 Quality Education

PROJECT COUNTRY
Arab Republic of Egypt

INITIATOR
PraxiLabs

PraxiLabs

Education Platform

PraxiLabs is a 3D virtual science lab platform that has benefitted 2.5M+ students across 18 countries, solving the critical barrier of lab access in underserved regions. Developing a single virtual experiment currently costs $30,000+ and takes 6 months, limiting scale.
Our proprietary AI automation engine reduces this to $1–5K and 2 weeks, a breakthrough no competitor has achieved. 80% of our users are from low-income universities; 50% are female, advancing gender equality. Six peer-reviewed studies confirm significant STEM achievement gains. Support PraxiLabs to reach 10M+ underserved students by 2030.

JURY STATEMENT
I am nominating this project for its innovation, resource-efficiency, and coverage of marginalized and under-resourced schools, universities, and institutions especially with the MENA and African communities. This is pioneering, state of the art, and inclusive.

Click or scan the QR code to learn more about the project!





SOCIAL IMPACT PRIZE 2026

Facts

SUPPORTED BY
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SDG
7 Affordable + Clean Energy

PROJECT COUNTRY
Ecuador

INITIATOR
Ilumínate

Ilumínate

Clean energy generator and water purifier

This off-grid analog system grants energy and water sovereignty to rural Ecuador, where 60% lack safe water and suffer 14-hour blackouts. Powered by an innovative thermodynamic cycle and a custom electric generator fueled by traditional corn bioethanol, it purifies water while generating 120V DC power. Currently in its functional prototyping stage, it is validating low-consumption LED lighting loads. It creates a circular economy by buying surplus corn from local farmers at fair prices and employing citizens with basic education. It bridges thermodynamics with ancestral heritage into clean hardware.

JURY STATEMENT
This project demonstrates how design can democratize complex technology. Its low-tech, locally maintainable approach has the potential to strengthen community resilience while building on regional knowledge. An early-stage idea with strong promise.

Click or scan the QR code to learn more about the project!





SOCIAL IMPACT PRIZE 2026

Facts

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

SUPPORTED BY
EUR 2,000

SDG
8 Decent Work + Economic Growth

PROJECT COUNTRY
Brazil

INITIATOR
Artesol – Artesanato Solidário

Craft Innovation Laboratory

Social Innovation & Cultural Preservation

The Craft Innovation Lab, created by Artesol in 2023, strengthens traditional Brazilian craftsmanship through collaborative creation, professional training, and market access. Across three editions, it has engaged over 500 artisans, developed 11 collections and 152 products, and delivered 300 hours of training. The program connects artisan associations and designers to create contemporary products rooted in ancestral knowledge, generating income opportunities while preserving cultural identity and expanding sustainable market access.

JURY STATEMENT
The Craft Innovation Lab is an initiative that strengthens traditional Brazilian craftsmanship by helping artisan communities transform their skills into sustainable economic opportunities. The team creates lasting impact while preserving cultural heritage. Congrats!

Click or scan the QR code to learn more about the project!



SOCIAL IMPACT PRIZE 2026

Facts

SUPPORTED BY
EUR 2,000

SDG
10 Reduced Inequalities

PROJECT COUNTRY
India

INITIATOR
Enactus SRCC

Aavaran

Adaptive Fashion & Accessibility Ecosystem

Aavaran is transforming the lives of persons with disabilities through affordable adaptive apparel that promotes dignity, mobility, and self-reliance. Built through 1700+ hours of research and surveys with over 1000 mobility--impaired individuals, we have developed 30+ adaptive products, including zipper footwear, magnetic-button clothing, and wheelchair-friendly garments, designed to improve comfort, confidence, and accessibility in everyday life. Through partnerships with 10+ NGOs and community initiatives, Aavaran is also creating livelihoods for specially-abled individuals and marginalized women, fostering inclusion.

JURY STATEMENT
Project Aavaran demonstrates how thoughtful, human-centered design can improve independence, dignity and everyday comfort for people with mobility impairments. Ist adaptive clothing and footwear respond to an unmet need in India and clearly shows scalability with impact.

Click or scan the QR code to learn more about the project!



SOCIAL IMPACT PRIZE 2026

Facts

SUPPORTED BY
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SDG
11 Sustainable Cities + Communities

PROJECT COUNTRY
Vietnam

INITIATOR
AIP Foundation

Empowering Youth for Liveable Cities

Youth Engagement App and Empowerment Training

Road crashes are the leading cause of death for children and young adults. However, in Vietnam, youth voices continue to be left out of decisions about improving mobility. This project empowers youth to drive positive changes in the development of their communities by ensuring their voices are acknowledged and actively contributing to shaping the future. Using iRAP's Youth Engagement App, we give students a tool to provide their feedback on road safety concerns in their communities. We also empower youth to communicate effectively with local decision-makers while helping to ensure that their feedback is recognized, valued and integrated into community planning and decision-making.

JURY STATEMENT
Creative way to engage the youth and turn vulnerable pedestrians into safety advocates. Great integration of tech and community action.

Click or scan the QR code to learn more about the project!



SOCIAL IMPACT PRIZE 2026

Facts

SUPPORTED BY
EUR 2,000

SDG
13 Climate Action

PROJECT COUNTRY
Uganda, Ethiopia, Zambia, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire

INITIATOR
Farm Radio International

On-Air for Gender Inclusive Nature-based Solutions

Interactive radio for climate, environment & gender

On-Air for Gender promotes knowledge exchange, community action and informs policy on nature based solutions (NbS) for climate adaptation using innovative radio approaches i.e. On-Air Dialogues, documentaries, podcasts. This responds to a persistent problem: Limited access to information on climate change and adaptive measures restricts decision making at community levels. It encourages implementation of NbS in more than 500 communities across Uganda, Ethiopia, Zambia, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and is increasing local leaders' responsiveness to expressed rural community needs. Scaling this work would enable direct policy engagement at national level using project evidence.

JURY STATEMENT
Interactive radio for climate, environment & gender stands out among so many transformative projects for being simple yet highly impactful. Thanks to its programs, nearly 8M people implemented climate-smart agriculture solutions for nature-positive mitigation and gender inclusion.

Click or scan the QR code to learn more about the project!



SOCIAL IMPACT PRIZE 2026

Facts

SUPPORTED BY
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SDG
15 Life on Land

PROJECT COUNTRY
Kenya

INITIATOR
Jamii Asilia Centre

Bikaptrois-Indigenous Knowledge to Solve Problems

Community Initiative where youth learn from elder

The Endorois People of Kenya, displaced from Lake Bogoria since 1973, are losing over 400 years of indigenous knowledge as their eldest generation passes. The Bikaptrois (RTR) project pairs 80 trained youth with 40 elders aged 60–100 to record and reactivate this knowledge: pastoralism, sacred ecology, traditional medicine, conflict resolution, all preserved in the Torois language. By treating indigenous knowledge as a living design system, RTR redirects youth away from unemployment and banditry toward roles as cultural and environmental stewards. Unlike extractive documentation projects, ownership stays entirely with the Endorois community.

JURY STATEMENT
This project may seem extremely easy, but it actually is not. I love the fact that this is considered as a valid idea. If there is any resource that we will miss, it is this knowledge. Kudos to the effort.

Click or scan the QR code to learn more about the project!



SOCIAL IMPACT PRIZE 2026

Facts

SUPPORTED BY
EUR 1,000

SDG
10 Reduced Inequalities

PROJECT COUNTRY
Malawi

INITIATOR
Stichting Capa Capa

Grassroots to Greatness – The Impact Campaign

Social Equality & Media Empowerment Program

'G2G' is a feature documentary and impact campaign using mobile, solar-powered cinema to spark social change across rural Malawi and Zambia. Through 30 screenings and civic dialogue forums in schools, football pitches, and youth clubs, the project reaches 25,000 young people, parents, and leaders. It tackles gender inequality, political short-termism, and the lack of local narrative ownership by reframing women's football as a pathway to leadership, education, and economic opportunity. Led largely by a Malawian crew under 30, the project combines storytelling, civic education, and grassroots sport to build lasting community empowerment.

JURY STATEMENT
More than a documentary, this project designs spaces for visibility, encounter and dialogue. By combining storytelling, sport and community participation, it empowers young women while creating lasting local ownership and strong potential for scalable social change.

Click or scan the QR code to learn more about the project!



SOCIAL IMPACT PRIZE 2026

Facts

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SDG
11 Sustainable Cities + Communities

PROJECT COUNTRY
South Africa

INITIATOR
Kindling

Designing Safety Together: The Khayelitsha Model

Community-led fire safety and learning system

Communities living in informal settlements face a disproportionate burden of fire risk, yet are often excluded from the systems designed to protect them. Kindling uses a community-led, human-centered approach that combines local knowledge, participatory mapping, fire science, and co-designed learning tools to build safer communities. Rather than designing *for* communities, we design *with* them. Residents shape bilingual educational materials, visual reminders, films, and interventions that reflect local realities. The result is a scalable model that transforms communities from recipients of safety information into co-creators of safer future.

JURY STATEMENT
Great way to empower local communities to co-create their own fire safety. Community-led, human-centered approach. An impactful model for inclusive safety design.

Click or scan the QR code to learn more about the project!



SOCIAL IMPACT PRIZE 2026

Facts

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EUR 1,000

SDG
14 Life below Water

PROJECT COUNTRY
South Africa

INITIATOR
ABALOBI

ABALOBI

Technology enabled Model for small-scale fisheries

ABALOBI is a South African non-profit social enterprise with global reach. It delivers community-led, tech-enabled solutions to “future-proof” small-scale fisheries. The organisation works at the intersection of social justice, technology, and marine conservation to transform marginalized fishing communities into thriving, resilient ecosystems. The ABALOBI tech ecosystem is active across the South African coast and has been tested or trialled in 12 countries, including Chile, Ireland, Palau, and the Seychelles. ABALOBI’s model has achieved measurable success in transforming small-scale fisheries.

JURY STATEMENT
ABALOBI exemplifies life-centred design, empowering small-scale fishing communities with lasting agency through community-owned data, fair market access and local stewardship. By strengthening both livelihoods and marine ecosystems, it delivers enduring and systemic impact.

Click or scan the QR code to learn more about the project!