PRESS RELEASE

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iF SOCIAL IMPACT PRIZE 2026: iF Design Supports 21 Social Projects from 18 Countries with a Total of EUR 50,000

- Each year, iF Design provides EUR 100,000 to initiatives that make tangible contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- The second jury round for the remaining EUR 50,000 has already started.

Since 2017, iF Design has supported projects worldwide through the iF SOCIAL IMPACT PRIZE that develop innovative solutions to societal challenges and contribute to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In 2026, iF Design is once again awarding a total of EUR 100,000 in two competition rounds.

More than 1,500 applications from 127 countries were submitted for the first round of 2026. An international jury of experts selected **21 outstanding initiatives from 18 countries** and awarded a total of **EUR 50,000**. Funding amounts range from EUR 1,000 to EUR 4,000 per project.

The supported initiatives align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and demonstrate the wide range of social and environmental innovations being developed around the world. In the face of economic uncertainty, the visible impacts of climate change, and growing social inequalities, they make an important contribution to addressing local challenges. They show that sustainable development is far from an abstract concept. It begins where people take responsibility and create practical solutions to social and environmental issues. “The true impact of these projects lies in their multiplier effect: they transform education into long-term opportunities and climate action into tangible future resilience. Our support strengthens their approaches, increases their visibility, and amplifies their impact,” says Uwe Cremering, CEO iF Design.

Winning Projects of the First Round of the iF SOCIAL IMPACT PRIZE 2026 by SDG:

SDG 2 Zero Hunger

- SOS Hospitals | Colombia (EUR 3,000)

SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being

- Child centered prosthetic & orthotic | Nepal (EUR 4,000)
- Uplift Early Intervention Model | Kyrgyzstan (EUR 3,000)
- Women-Led Eye-Care for Last Mile | India (EUR 3,000)
- AerlyPap | Peru (EUR 3,000)
- Powitalnik – Support after child diagnosis | Poland (EUR 2,000)

SDG 4 Quality Education

- IQanat Peer-to-Peer | Kazakstan (EUR 3,000)
- Slum2School Green Academy | Nigeria (EUR 3,000)

- PraxiLabs | Egypt (EUR 2,000)

SDG 5 Gender Equality

- Avasara Leadership Institute | India (EUR 3,000)

SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation

- MaxLife – Reliability that Changes Lives | USA (EUR 3,000)

SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy

- Ilumínate | Ecuador (EUR 2,000)

SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth

- Craft Innovation Laboratory | Brazil (EUR 2,000)

SDG 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

- EPIC Bamboo Home | Malaysia (EUR 3,000)

SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities

- Aavaran | India (EUR 2,000)
- Grassroots to Greatness – The Impact Campaign | Malawi (EUR 1,000)

SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities

- Empowering Youth for Liveable Cities | Vietnam (EUR 2,000)
- Designing Safety Together: The Khayelitsha Model Project | South Africa (EUR 1,000)

SDG 13 Climate Actions

- On-Air for Gender Inclusive Nature-based Solutions | Uganda, Ethiopia, Zambia, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire (EUR 2,000)

SDG 14 Life Below Water

- ABALOBI | South Africa (EUR 1,000)

SDG 15 Life on Land

- Bikaptrois-Indigenous Knowledge to Solve Problems | Kenya (EUR 2,000)

What Are These Projects About?

Further information on the winning projects, including descriptions, images, jury statements, and reactions from the initiatives, is available online at ifdesign.com. All content is also compiled in the **iF SOCIAL IMPACT PRIZE 2026 brochure**, available for download.

➔ **[Download PDF here]**

The jury consists of international experts from the fields of design, education, sustainability, and NGO work:

- **Winnie Bastian**, Journalist, Design Do Bom, São Paulo/Brazil
- **Wadi Ben-Hirki**, Founder, Wadi Ben-Hirki Foundation, Nigeria
- **Cecilia Brenner**, Managing Director, Design for Good, Netherlands
- **Luján Cambariere**, Journalist and Curator, Berlin/Germany
- **Karen Cesar**, CHO and Founder, RedBandana, Rio de Janeiro/Brazil
- **Sanmitra Chitte**, Head of International Partnerships, BITS Pilani, Mumbai/India
- **Tanja Godlewsky**, Creative Director and Professor, IU International University, Cologne/Germany
- **Aylin Groenewoud**, Head of Sustainability Guild, Philips Experience Design, Eindhoven/Netherlands
- **Charles O. Job**, Architect and Designer, Zurich/Switzerland
- **Adrián Larripa**, CEO, BIGD Design and Innovation Consultancy, Pamplona/Spain
- **Maiden Manzanal-Frank**, CEO and Founder, GlobalStake Consulting, Alberta/Canada
- **Adrien Nazez**, Venture Strategist, Marseille/France
- **Danne Ojeda**, Associate Professor, NTU School of Art, Design and Media, Singapore
- **Eugenio Paz**, Designer and Professor, UNR Universidad Nacional de Rosario and UNNOBA Universidad Nacional del Noroeste, Buenos Aires/Argentina
- **Sharon (Jihye) So**, Director of Corporate Affairs, Engagement and Sustainability, L'Oréal Korea, Seoul/Republic of Korea
- **Mona Vijaykumar**, Associate Urban Designer, Perkins & Will, Boston/USA
- **Bo Zhang**, Founder, Desz Office, New York/USA

The categories correspond to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (1–15):

No Poverty | Zero Hunger | Good Health and Well-being | Quality Education | Gender Equality | Clean Water and Sanitation | Affordable and Clean Energy | Decent Work and Economic Growth | Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure | Reduced Inequalities | Sustainable Cities and Communities | Responsible Consumption and Production | Climate Action | Life Below Water | Life on Land

The evaluation process for the second round of the iF SOCIAL IMPACT PRIZE 2026 has already begun. **The selected projects will be announced on November 1, 2026.**

About iF Design

Since 1954, the iF DESIGN AWARD has been a globally recognized symbol of outstanding design and is among the most prestigious design awards in the world. It honors design achievements across all disciplines.
For more than 20 years, the iF DESIGN STUDENT AWARD has been one of the world's most important competitions for emerging designers. It recognizes concepts developed by students and recent graduates in the fields of design and architecture that contribute to achieving the SDGs.
Since 2017, the iF SOCIAL IMPACT PRIZE has supported social projects and initiatives worldwide that address the most pressing challenges facing society and contribute to achieving the SDGs.

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