

# QCT Platinum Jubilee Youth Ventures Programme Awardees (May 2022)

The Queen's Commonwealth Trust ([www.queenscommonwealthtrust.org](http://www.queenscommonwealthtrust.org)) exists to support young leaders transforming their communities. We put young Commonwealth leaders at the centre of everything we do, providing them with flexible funding, practical tools and support, and a vibrant network of fellow young social leaders. The Youth Ventures Programme is QCT's flagship Platinum Jubilee programme, and we are delighted to recognise our May 2022 awardees.



## Brad Gudger

Organization: **ALIKE**

QCT's Thematic Sector: **Health**

United Kingdom 

Brad Gudger founded ALIKE in 2018. As a two-time cancer survivor, Brad wanted to find a way to use modern app technology to connect the cancer community and to combat the loneliness and isolation caused by cancer.

Since its launch, ALIKE has amassed a community of over 2,000 cancer patients and survivors. The app ensures that peer support is available any time, any place, and at any stage of cancer.

This app is the first of its kind and has already received an incredible response from the cancer community, the charity sector, and the wider public. Alike is working in partnership with Teenage Cancer Trust, Young Lives vs Cancer and Trekstock Cancer Support, in addition to working closely with other organisations such as Macmillan Cancer Support and NHS England.



## Hassan Mujtaba Zaidi

Organization: **Discovering New Artists**

QCT's Thematic Sector: **Education & Employability**

Pakistan | 

Hassan Mujtaba Zaidi is the Co-Founder & Executive Director of Discovering New Artists (DNA), a social enterprise in Pakistan, working towards promoting education and inclusiveness by providing equal and creative learning opportunities for children and youth from all economic backgrounds. He is an economics graduate and one of the Queen's Young Leaders of the 2018 cohort. Since its inception, DNA has educated more than 123,000 students on various social and global issues and enabled more than 46,960 children and youth to directly participate in its programmes.

DNA aims to reach 500,000 students and youth by 2025, educating them about social and global issues through arts and STEM education.



## Edward Yee

Organization: **Givfunds Social Ventures**

QCT's Thematic Sector: **Inclusion**

India 

Edward Yee is a Rhodes Scholar, Kairos Society Fellow and a Global Youth Ambassador for Education and has played leadership roles in various non-profits and visited over a hundred social enterprises globally. He is the Co-Founder of Givfunds Social Ventures, a non-profit that provides affordable capital to small impactful social enterprises that lie outside the reach of other funders – to fill the pioneer gap. Using a unique approach, it lends extremely low-cost loans to social enterprises that are able to use such capital

for maximum impact. Since its inception in 2018, Givfunds' work has directly impacted over 50,000 lives, indirectly impacted over 1,000,000 lives, and helped the social enterprises generate over US\$10,000,000 in incremental revenues all with 100% repayment. The organisations who have received loans have managed to increase their revenues by \$11.93 for every dollar loaned by Givfunds.



## Jubilanté Cutting

Organization: **Guyana Animation Network (GAN) Inc.**

QCT's Thematic Sector: **Education & Employability**

Guyana 

Jubilanté Cutting is the Founder of GAN, a lawyer, and social and digital media activist. She has won numerous awards and was One Young World 2019 Ambassador. When Jubilanté was just 19, she officially started GAN Inc. GAN was birthed because of the lack of investments, training, education and employment of creative youth in digital solutions in Guyana and other small state developing countries in the Caribbean.

It actively provides digital and creative skills training opportunities to children and youth in Guyana by connecting them with leading local and global experts. These were some of its main activities aimed at inspiring innovation and creativity: Digital and Creative Summer Camps for children and youth; Creating Creative Connections masterclasses; and Girls in ICT Initiatives. Since 2016 GAN has directly trained 471 participants in a range of digital and new media technology skills and has recently launched its own studio, GAN Studios, to create jobs in animation and digital media for young people.



## Bukola Bolarinwa

Organization: **Haima Health Initiative**

QCT's Thematic Sector: **Health**

Nigeria 

The Founder of Haima Health Initiative (HHI), Bukola Bolarinwa, is a lawyer and Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) advocate. Living with SCD, she sometimes requires blood transfusions. She started HHI to address the shortage of blood supply for persons in need of blood due to inadequate voluntary blood donations, the high cost of blood and the absence of a centralised blood banking system in Nigeria. HHI, a social enterprise, organises monthly blood donation drives, emergency response for patients in need of

blood and logistics for blood across 6 states. Since its inception in 2015, HHI has registered over 3,000 voluntary blood donors and supported the collection of over 4,500 pints of blood. Haima responds to over 500 blood requests every year with its advocacy reaching over 10,000 people online and offline.



## Keithlin Caroo

Organization: **Helen's Daughters**

QCT's Thematic Sector: **Agriculture & Food**

St. Lucia 

Keithlin Caroo is the Founder and Executive Director of Helen's Daughters (HD). She was raised in a rural community; although her family did not see farming as a promising career, she was convinced that it could be transformative. Keithlin was a 2018 One Young World Ambassador, Ashoka Fellow for Latin America and the Caribbean, and 2020 Thought for Food Ambassador. Helen's Daughters is a non-profit organization founded in 2016 with the belief that there was a need to support rural women's economic development, through the usage of improved market access, adaptive agricultural techniques and capacity-building. In addition, that the agricultural sector could be transformative not only in curbing the food-import bill but in reducing rural poverty and enhancing economic and social equality on the island of St. Lucia. Helen's Daughters has trained over 1000 women since 2016 in three countries – St. Lucia, St. Kitts & Nevis, and St. Vincent & the Grenadines – and helped hundreds of farmers transition away from pesticides, adopt more efficient business strategies and achieve more sustainable incomes.



## Sarah Boateng

Organization: **Investing in Girls Education in Africa (IGEA) Enterprise**

QCT's Thematic Sector: **Education & Employability**

Ghana 

Sarah Boateng, the Founder of Investing in Girls Education in Africa (IGEA) Enterprise, is a social entrepreneur and passionate advocate for young girls living in rural communities in Africa, equal access to a quality education and ending period poverty. IGEA designs programmes to remove barriers that cause high levels of monthly absenteeism in schools for girls.

Since the inception of the Menstruate and Educate programme in 2019, IGEA has provided over 3,000 reusable period products to girls in rural communities in Ghana, reaching 500 girls, 9 schools, and 1 all girl's juvenile prison. As a result, girls' monthly school absenteeism decreased from an average of 5 days per month to 2 days per month and their confidence in school increased by at least an extra 25%. Through the community workshops around menstruation and the cultural taboos, IGEA has been able to reach 500 community leaders, parents, and teachers.



## Madelle Kangha

Organization: **Jumpstart Academy Africa**

QCT's Thematic Sector: **Education & Employability**

Cameroon 

Madelle Kangha, a lawyer by profession, is the Founder and President of Jumpstart Academy Africa (JAA). JAA is a charitable association registered in Cameroon that seeks to transform the broken education system in the country. This is done through leadership and entrepreneurship training for students, nurturing their critical thinking, principled leadership, and an entrepreneurial method of problem-solving skills using

civic engagement, inclusivity and equitability. JAA believes that this approach will help improve the employability of the youth they work with.

Since its inception in 2014, JAA programmes have reached over 20,000 young people. At least 30% of the young people who completed their training have launched businesses/projects, providing employment opportunities for themselves and other young people; 50% of their programme graduates have obtained internships and job placements; 80% of their students take on leadership roles in their communities, and finally, students experience a 311% increase in income after completing the Entrepreneurial Leadership Training.





## Lesego Ndhlovu

Organization: **Marotholi Outreach**

QCT's Thematic Sector: **Health**

South Africa 

Lesego Ndhlovu, a Paediatric Gastroenterology doctor by profession, is the Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Marotholi Outreach, a non-profit public benefit organisation based in Soweto and Tembisa townships in South Africa. The organisation works towards addressing the high number of malnourished children in vulnerable communities through community-based nutritional screening and early nutritional rehabilitation of at-risk children.

Since its first outreach in 2017, Marotholi Outreach has performed over 500 nutritional screenings on over 300 children under 5 years and has managed to achieve catch-up growth in over 60% of children with malnutrition.



## Douglas Mwangi

Organization: **Oasis Mathare**

QCT's Thematic Sector: **Education & Employability**

Kenya 

Douglas Mwangi, the Founder of Oasis Mathare, grew up in Mathare slums in Nairobi and this gave him first-hand experience of the challenges the youth and children face in attaining educational and development goals. He signed up for online classes and earned a diploma in graphic, web design and development – this inspired him to found Oasis Mathare. Douglas has now become an award-winning technologist, a social inn-

ovator and a professional with over 9 years' experience working in NGOs and social entrepreneurship ventures.


Oasis Mathare is a youth-led and a grassroots community-based organisation that leverages on technology to reduce illiteracy and poverty through improving the quality of education and skills training. Since inception, Oasis Mathare has reached over 14,000 children, youths and young mothers with 86% of children reporting accessing quality education in its spaces and 74% of youths increasing in their skills and knowledge for finding or creating economic opportunities. 30% of these gained meaningful income 3 months after graduating from the programme.



## Maya Nanan

Organization: **Siblings and Friends Network**

QCT's Thematic Sector: **Education & Employability**

Trinidad and Tobago 

Maya Nanan founded the Siblings and Friends Network (Sibs & Friends) when she was 12 years old. She wanted to create opportunities for her autistic brother and others with disabilities in Trinidad and Tobago. Sibs & Friends create equal access to opportunities for autistic persons and advocates for inclusion of persons with disabilities, at all levels of society in Trinidad & Tobago, so that they would have an opportunity to develop their

full potential and live fulfilling lives. Sibs & Friends currently has 275 autistic persons who are registered members. It is the only youth-led NGO which focuses on disability and inclusion in her country. There are 350 youth volunteers, who conceptualise and execute all events and activities, both physical and online. Sibs & Friends recently opened Rahul's Clubhouse – an Autism-friendly space where individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder can engage in education and therapy activities and socialise with one-on-one assistance from both youth volunteers and professionals.



## Dr. Felix Richard Manyogote

Organization: **Tanzania Young Eco Protection (TAYEP)**

QCT's Thematic Sector: **Health**

Tanzania 

Dr Felix Richard Manyogote, a medical doctor by profession, is the Founder & Executive Director of Tanzania Young Eco Protection (TAYEP), a youth-led Organization committed to pioneering solutions on water and climate challenges in schools and improving the quality of life for people. The Organisation has designed, developed, and produced a low-cost environmentally friendly hand washing station powered by a foot pedal to easily dispense water and liquid soap. This helps eradicate germs while keeping students healthy, which prevents the spread of respiratory and diarrheal infections. TAYEP has been doing this for 2 years and has managed to distribute 120 handwashing stations to 20 schools in Mwanza while impacting over 15,500 children and raising some income to support its operations.



## Micheal Omoniyi

Organization: **The Common Sense Network**

QCT's Thematic Sector: **Inclusion**

United Kingdom 

In 2020, the Financial Times recognised Micheal Omoniyi as one of the 100 most influential Tech leaders in the UK as Founder and CEO of The Common Sense Network, a bi-partisan news network for millennials, dedicated to finding 'common sense' in a divided and polarised world. Young people live in an increasingly digital world and Common Sense empowers them to navigate it safely and contribute positively online, educating them to become better digital citizens. They primarily work with BME young

people aged between 18 and 34 across the UK.

Since 2019 Common Sense has visited 12 universities speaking to audiences of over 3,000 about echo chambers, polarisation and how to leave them. 83% of attendees felt more confident about engaging with people different from them and 88% felt their views had been challenged. In 2020 and 2021 over 120 young people took part in Common Sense's online training and digital workshops on fake news, emotional manipulation, polarisation and more. 97% felt that they gained new knowledge or skills and 84% left the workshop more confident that they would know what to do if they come across hate speech online.



## Adam Boxer

Organization: **Wessex Social Ventures Limited (WSV)**

QCT's Thematic Sector: **Education & Employability**

Kenya 

Adam Boxer, an aeronautical engineer, is the Co-founder and Director of Wessex Social Ventures Limited (WSV), which brings people & ideas together in radical ways to create and scale businesses that remove barriers to community development. WSV supports organisations working with communities at the base of the pyramid in East & Southern Africa, helping these organisations to set up pre-built "Social Enterprise in a Box".

To date, WSV has managed to create livelihoods for over 200 entrepreneurs with DOT Glasses – selling over 2,000 pairs of affordable glasses (launched in 2021); Petal – selling over 30,000 affordable hygienic sanitary pads, and Right Light – providing over 5,000 people with safe affordable lighting.



## Safaath Ahmed Zahir

Organization: **Women and Democracy**

QCT's Thematic Sector: **Inclusion**

Maldives 

Safaath Ahmed Zahir, a Business & Financial Analyst, and Social Entrepreneur is the founder and President of Women & Democracy (W&D), a non-profit organization working towards women's economic, political participation and good democratic governance in the Maldives. She is one of the Queen's Young Leaders of the 2016 cohort. From 2016 to the present, W&D has offered more than 680 women who aspired for public

office and political leadership, political empowerment training of which 83 were successfully elected to democratic office. On the gender-based violence interventions, W&D has to date assisted over 130 women who experienced violence with prompt, quality care and services for their safety and mental well-being.

