

Impact Prize Winners



The 2026 Faculty for The Future Impact Prize Press Kit

The Schlumberger Foundation is honored to announce the 9 recipients of the 2026 Faculty for the Future Impact Prize, a merit-based award that recognizes Fellows who are translating their scientific and engineering expertise into initiatives with demonstrated potential for wider impact.

The prize recognizes outstanding initiatives in three distinct areas:



**Educational
Outreach**



**Technology
Innovation**



**Social
Impact**



Dr. Darshana Joshi | India
**VigyanShaala: STEM Access for Women
and Rural Communities in India**

Dr Darshana Joshi is the founder of VigyanShaala, an initiative dedicated to closing the STEM opportunity gap for women undergraduates and rural communities across India. Through technology-enabled learning, career coaching and contextual mentoring, VigyanShaala has reached more than 30,000 students in partnership with government institutions. Dr Joshi's evidence-based and scalable approach is helping diversify the future STEM workforce by creating pathways for talented young people who have traditionally been excluded from science and technology opportunities.

"We are proud to nurture new scientific talent for a sustainable world - one that will bring the voice of their communities to the frontiers of Scientific discourse. Together, they will build solutions for the challenges our world faces such as climate change, global pandemics, clean energy, pollution etc."



Dr. Angela Tabiri | Ghana
**The Maths-queen National
STEAM Circuit**

Known widely as the "Maths Queen", Dr Angela Tabiri is transforming how young people engage with mathematics through the Mathsqueen National STEAM Circuit. Her initiative combines digital learning, community outreach and play-based problem-solving to build confidence in mathematics among young learners. From online lessons that have already reached more than 12,000 students to rural maths tours and teacher training programmes, Dr Tabiri is making mathematical thinking more accessible and enjoyable, particularly for girls and under-served communities.

"The core change we aim to create is to transform students' experiences in mathematics from anxiety to agency. Students who previously struggled with maths will ignite with hope when they successfully use the Mathsqueens Digital Hub to complete a magic square or decode a bitmap. This demystifies maths by moving it from a subject of scary rules to becoming a game with logic. The maths pop up shows and mathsqueen ambassadors will enable us to reach communities where internet access is poor."



Dr. Novalia Pishesha | Indonesia
**Future Southeast Asian Scientist
(FSAS)**

Dr Novalia Pishesha is leading the Future Southeast Asian Scientist (FSAS) initiative, which prepares early-career scientists to become biotechnology entrepreneurs. Recognizing that scientific talent often lacks access to entrepreneurial training and investment networks, she has developed a program that combines cutting-edge science, venture-building skills and innovation leadership. Inspired by successful models from leading international biotechnology ecosystems, FSAS is helping transform researchers into founders capable of driving scientific innovation and economic growth across Southeast Asia.

"Southeast Asia has no shortage of brilliant scientists - what it has lacked is the infrastructure to help them become builders as well as researchers. The Schlumberger Foundation took a chance on me, a young woman from East Java with no obvious path to an academic career and biotech entrepreneurship. That investment changed the trajectory of my life. Through the Future Southeast Asian Scientist initiative, I want to make that same chance available to hundreds of scientists across the region and to show them that the journey from bench to company, and from a small town to a global stage, is possible."



Dr. Chao Mbogo | Kenya
Mentorship Infrastructure for
Holistic Technologists

Dr Chao Mbogo has spent nearly a decade developing a mentorship ecosystem for computing students in Kenya. Through her Mentorship Infrastructure for Holistic Technologists program, students receive training that extends beyond technical skills to include leadership, responsible innovation, scholarship and community engagement. Having supported more than 300 students from 29 universities, Dr Mbogo is creating a generation of technology professionals equipped to address societal challenges while advancing ethical and responsible technology development, including responsible AI.

"By building a mentorship ecosystem grounded in ethics, innovation and community impact, we are empowering a generation of computing professionals to develop technology that serves society responsibly."



Dr. Hifza Rasheed | Pakistan
Empowering Women and Communities
with Climate-Resilient Water

Dr Hifza Rasheed is improving access to safe drinking water for communities facing increasing climate-related challenges. Her project, Empowering Women and Communities with Climate-Resilient Water, scales proven filtration technologies and rapid water-testing tools in flood-affected and water-stressed areas. By training local women and youth as Water Safety Champions, Dr Rasheed is combining scientific innovation with community leadership to improve public health, strengthen climate resilience and demonstrate the critical role of women scientists in addressing global challenges.

"Transforming science into resilient communities means empowering people to test, treat, and manage their own water—turning knowledge into lasting impact."



Dr. Edu Inam | Nigeria
Scaling a Research Equipment Database
for Equitable Access in Nigeria

Dr Edu Inam is tackling one of Nigeria's most persistent research challenges: access to scientific equipment. Through LabEquipment.ng, she has created a national database that enables researchers to identify and share laboratories, instruments and scientific resources across institutions. By improving visibility and collaboration, the platform helps maximize existing infrastructure and supports more efficient research. The next phase of the initiative will strengthen data quality, institutional participation and access mechanisms, helping build a more connected national research ecosystem.

"When scientific equipment is accessible to all, innovation becomes possible for all."



Professor Bridget Bannerman | Sierra Leone
Empowering African Women to Eliminate Cervical Cancer

Prof Bridget Bannerman is advancing women's health across Sierra Leone and beyond through her project, Empowering African Women to Eliminate Cervical Cancer. Combining education, community engagement and digital tools, she is addressing barriers such as limited awareness, inadequate screening and social stigma. Building on the foundation established through the Science Resources Africa programme, Prof Bannerman is developing scalable approaches that empower women, strengthen public health systems and contribute to reducing preventable cervical cancer deaths across Africa.

"Empowering women with knowledge, access and innovative tools is key to eliminating cervical cancer and saving lives across Africa."



Dr. Tonthoza Uganja | Malawi
Profitable Agroforestry for Smallholder Farmers in Malawi

Dr Tonthoza Uganja is helping smallholder farmers build resilient and profitable farming systems through Sustainable Farming Solutions. By promoting agroforestry and farmer-managed natural regeneration, her work enables farmers—particularly women—to restore degraded land, improve crop yields and diversify income sources. Supported by innovative digital monitoring through the Smart Tree platform, the initiative has already benefited thousands of farmers while restoring hundreds of hectares of land, demonstrating how environmental restoration can drive economic empowerment.

"Today, Sustainable Farming Solutions works with nearly 3,000 farmers, most of them women, who are restoring more than 700 hectares of degraded land and earning real income from honey, seedlings, and healthier soils. This prize belongs to the farmers who do the work for a healthier and more dignified planet."



Dr. Zita Nodjikuambaye | Chad
Community-Based Screening for Cervical and Breast Cancer in Chad

Dr Zita Nodjikuambaye is working to reduce cancer-related mortality among women in Chad through Community-Based Screening for Cervical and Breast Cancer. Her initiative combines HPV self-sampling, clinical breast examinations and mobile outreach services to reach under-served populations. Alongside screening 10,000 women, the project will train healthcare workers and strengthen health facilities to ensure sustainable impact. Her work is creating a scalable model for women's cancer prevention and early diagnosis in low-resource settings.

"I grew up knowing that women in my country die silently from cancers no one talks about. I became a scientist to break that silence — and to give every woman, wherever she lives, the chance to know her health and protect her life."