

UAE-born Open Innovation - SDGs Challenge Announces 2022 Winning Solutions

Continuing the Challenge trend for a third year, the African continent drew the greatest activity – and winners. Top teams included China, Uganda, Nigeria, UAE, Ghana, and India

Dubai: Oct. 5, 2022 — A diverse pool of global winners of the 2022 SDGs Challenge are doing their part to fuel action for the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The annual Global Citizens Innovative Solutions SDGs Challenge is a free competition created by UAE's Arab Youth Venture Foundation with the United Nations Association UAE serving as SDGs Knowledge Partner. 2022 marks its fourth installment.

The 100 day rolling Challenge encourages global citizens from all walks of life to form teams to arrive at imaginative and viable solutions. Working from the ground up to solve any of the world's most vexing issues that relate to the 17 SDGs adopted by all 193 UN Member States in 2015, is a key feature of the Challenge.

Solutions submissions were evaluated by a diverse panel of business and sustainability experts. Winning teams for 2022 who will go on to enter the Challenge's incubator include:

- "TKCK" (China) aimed to solve SDG 5 by addressing period poverty through their project, 'Poverty Parade' tackling the inability of low-income women and girls to purchase safe sanitary products.
- "AGRICYCLE UGANDA" (Uganda) solution aimed to solve SDG 7 by using charcoal briquettes for clean energy instead of burning firewood and thus reducing deforestation and energy emissions.
- "LAWSANAID", (Nigeria) focused on SDG4, by forming a solution to combat the lack of inclusive and equitable quality education among students with disabilities.
- "MAP SUPERSTARS" (UAE), the Challenges youngest winning team focused their project on SDG 4 to promote growth in innovative learning from grade 3 to grade 5.
- "AFRICAN WOMAN" (Ghana) saw a soloist, Gofred Enyan, compose an uplifting song addressing SDG5, gender equality in Africa, and inviting people to give opportunities to women in Africa.
- Honorable Mention was split between two Indian entrants, "SAVE SHIELD" addressing SDG 9 by proposing a solution to enforce cybersecurity and "BE THE LIGHT" who took on SDG 1 with their project called "Power Plate" which endeavored to avoid food waste.

SDGs Challenge director and former Madagascar Ambassador, Eric Robson, Executive Director of AYVF, said, "It is heartening to see participants from new countries joining the Challenge every year. They are the clear sign that there are talents with solutions that need to be discovered and supported whether their countries are developed or less advanced. Congratulations to all participants!"

The 2023 Global Citizens Innovative Solutions SDGs Challenge will begin April 22, 2023. Learn more at www.SDGsChallenge.org

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- **About the Global Citizens Innovative Solutions SDGs Challenge “SDGs Challenge”**

Part ideation exercise, part solutions hackathon, part start-up competition the open innovation Challenge created by AYVF seeks to engage citizens of any nationality, ethnicity, age, or gender and encourages diverse teams to “resolve to solve” any one of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) representing the world's gnawing issues.

Teams of up to six (families, students, friends, co-workers, neighbors, or strangers meeting virtually) are encouraged to brainstorm, devise and present their innovative solutions by video during a time frame of their choosing within a 100 day rolling period that starts on Earth Day and ends July 31, annually for 10 years until 2030. Winners gain membership in the world's first SDG Percolator, a pre-incubator program that provides access and polish to winning plans for community implementation or readies them for incubators and commercial success.

Founded in Dubai in 2019, the SDG Challenge has grown globally to engage, connect and educate ‘citizens of the world’ about SDGs and supporting economic development on a local level with goal of 100,000 tangible solutions implemented by 2030.

www.SDGsChallenge.org

About the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

SDG #1: No poverty; SDG #2: Zero hunger; SDG #3: Health and well-being; SDG #4: Quality Education; SDG #5: Gender equality; SDG #6: Clean water and sanitation; SDG #7: Affordable and clean energy; SDG #8: Decent work and economic growth; SDG #9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure; SDG #10: Reduced inequalities; SDG #11: Sustainable cities and communities; SDG #12: Responsible production and consumption; SDG #13: Climate action; SDG #14: Life below water; SDG #15: Life on land; SDG #16: Peace, justice and strong institutions; SDG #17: Partnership for the Goals

www.sustainabledevelopment.un.org