FUTURIZE

IMPACT REPORT
2023

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MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

As 2023 draws to a close, I'm thrilled to reflect on a year that's been nothing short of exhilarating! It's been a year brimming with new insights, remarkable growth, and genuine enjoyment. I'm incredibly fortunate to wake up each day passionate about what I do, and I'm eager to share with you our key achievements and forward-looking vision.

Firstly, we've significantly broadened our international presence, effectively doubling the number of young entrepreneurs and startups under our wing. Our partnerships have flourished, evolving into more substantial and fruitful collaborations with essential institutions in various industries and additional countries. Furthermore, this year marked our exciting venture into new territories with the launch of an incubator and a summit, not only showcasing our startups but also asserting our leadership in the entrepreneurial ecosystem. Lastly, we've expanded our startup team, primarily recruiting from our own internship program, a testament to our commitment to nurturing talent.

The core of our success, however, lies in the inspiring stories of our entrepreneurs. Their innovations in addressing complex societal challenges, bolstered by our support and resources, have significantly propelled their enterprises and made a tangible societal impact. Witnessing these brilliant young minds transform their ideas into life-altering innovations in such a short time is nothing short of awe-inspiring.

Looking ahead, our aspirations include further empowering young leaders, expanding our programs in emerging markets, strengthening public and private sector collaborations, and establishing a comprehensive startup hub. Reflecting on this year, my heart is full of gratitude for your steadfast support and passion. Your belief in our mission has been crucial to our progress.

As we step into the future, let's maintain this incredible momentum and continue to shape a brighter future together.

Rhea Singhla
CEO

ABOUT US

Futurize is an innovation studio that equips young entrepreneurs and early-stage startups with the necessary resources and support to creatively address worldwide challenges through their business ventures. Collaborating with various public, private, and academic entities, we design specialized programs and incubators that enhance essential skills, entrepreneurial mindset, and practical experience crucial for global market success. This comprehensive strategy enables Futurize to build dynamic ecosystems where emerging leaders and startups receive mentorship, connect with investors, and find unique opportunities to get to market faster.

MISSION

Empower 50,000 young individuals through entrepreneurial training by 2030.

THE WHY

Today, we are witnessing the largest proportion of youth in history, and their numbers are poised to grow in the next few years. With an increasing inclination towards pursuing entrepreneurial careers, the next generation focuses on making a positive impact rather than focusing solely on monetary gains. Young individuals aspire to and actively participate in bolstering the resilience of their communities. They put forth creative ideas, spearhead social advancements, and serve as catalysts for political transformation. These intentions place the youth at the center of achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. To continue to achieve these ambitions and scale their efforts, young leaders need better access to opportunities, skills development, mentorship, and social networks to facilitate innovation.

1.3 billion
young people aged 15 to 24 will exist globally by 2030.

(Source: United Nations)

90%
of young people live in developing countries, making up a significant proportion of the population.

(Source: United Nations)

51%
of young people have entrepreneurial intentions as they seek to start a business or already have one.

(Source: The Octopus Group)

70%
of young people Don't know where to get started.

(Source: The Octopus Group)

68%
of young people are afraid of failure.

(Source: The Octopus Group)

60%
of young people lack mentors who can guide them.

(Source: The Octopus Group)

OUR FOCUS ON SDGS

Established in 2015, the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals were a call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, promote good health, improve education, reduce inequality, and boost economic growth by 2030.

Futurize's entrepreneurship and innovation programs aim to accelerate progress toward these global goals by leveraging advanced technologies and spurring new-age thinking among young changemakers. In 2023, we focused on establishing programs that help build and scale solutions that foster positive change by targeting SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being, SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, and SDG 13: Climate Action.

OUR FOCUS IN 2023:

UN SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being

Futurize's flagship program across the African continent, Fuel Africa, was centered around helping talent build solutions to tackle access and affordability of healthcare and early detection and management of cancer. Futurize took a step further to advance the UN SDG 3 by launching an incubator program, FuturizeU, to help early-stage health tech ventures build solutions to diagnose non-communicable diseases and improve healthcare equity.

UN SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

In 2023, Futurize designed and delivered Imperial Enterprise Lab's Global Challenge Lab to achieve this goal. The program supported multidisciplinary teams working on affordable and clean energy solutions.

UN SDG 13: Climate Action

The Fuel Asia program brought together students from countries in the APAC region to brainstorm ideas that tackle climate change-related healthcare issues. The program increased awareness and established new organizations advancing the United Nation's goal to combat climate change.

OUR APPROACH

Team Building: Diverse, multicultural, and multidisciplinary individuals from various countries collaborate to conceptualize new ideas, exchanging peer-to-peer knowledge.

Problem Identification and Ideation: Identifying human-centered problems and brainstorming innovative solutions start with analyzing user insights.

Prototyping: Interactive workshops and masterclasses facilitate ideation, prototyping, and testing of ideas.

Mentoring: Subject matter experts, experienced entrepreneurs, and industry leaders help build and shape solutions.

Pitching: Ideas are pitched to a panel of industry experts and venture capitalists to build recognition and attract potential funding.
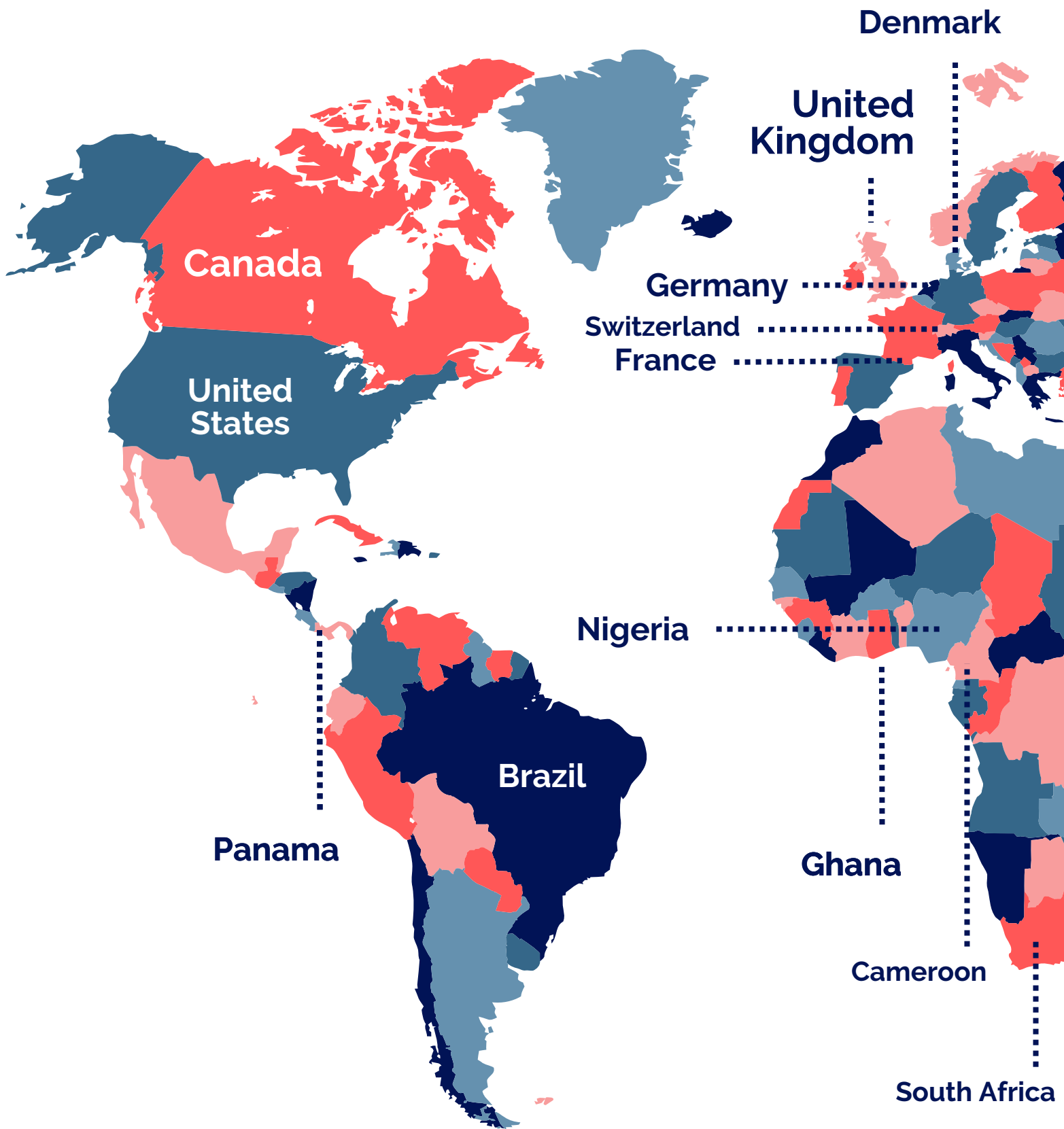
Incubate: Program directors nurture early-stage ideas conceptualized by offering the necessary training, tools, and facilities for the efficient development of an MVP.
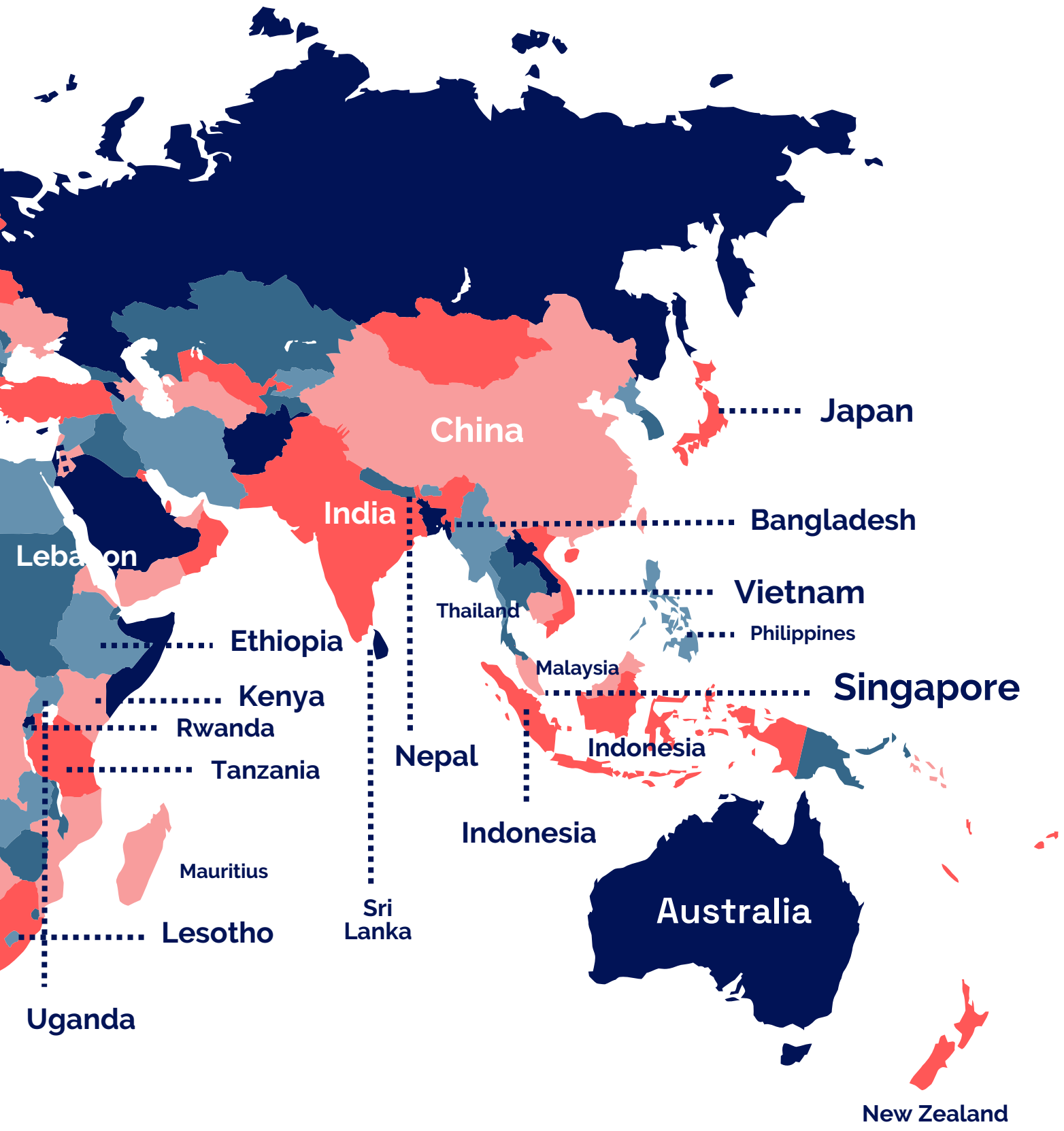
Accelerate: Ideas are taken from prototype to market launch with the help of corporate partners, mentors, and expert coaches.

GLOBAL PRESENCE

Denmark

United
Kingdom

Germany

Switzerland

France

Canada

United
States

Nigeria

Panama

Brazil

Ghana

Cameroon

South Africa

China

Japan

India

Bangladesh

Lebanon

Vietnam

Philippines

Ethiopia

Singapore

Thailand

Kenya

Malaysia

Rwanda

Tanzania

Indonesia

Nepal

Indonesia

Mauritius

Sri Lanka

Lesotho

Australia

Uganda

New Zealand

2023 AT A GLANCE

7500+
INNOVATORS GLOBALLY

70+
STARTUPS BUILT

350+
NEW SOLUTIONS CREATED

50+
LOCAL ECOSYSTEM PARTNERS

44
CORPORATES/ UNIVERSITIES ENGAGED

400+
INTERNATIONAL MENTORS FACILITATORS

$1.5 mil
FUNDING RAISED BY FOUNDERS

ECOSYSTEM BUILDERS

We're on a mission to build an inclusive and diverse ecosystem for entrepreneurship and innovation. We aim to create a community where creative minds from business and academia can come together, collaborate, learn, create, and execute.

UNIVERSITIES   CORPORATES
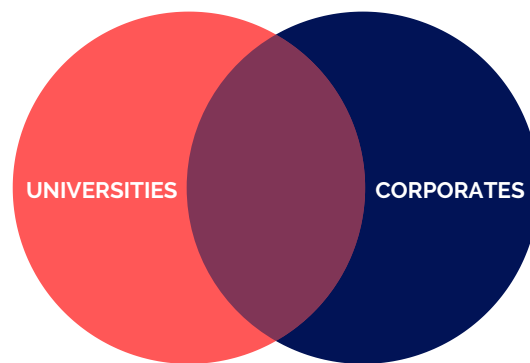
UNIVERSITIES

Our university partners spanning across the globe have the opportunity to leverage cutting-edge resources, collaborative opportunities, and a network of visionary minds that helps students access programs for better entrepreneurial, innovation, digital literacy, critical thinking, and communication skills development. Universities are also empowered to design more effective programs by incorporating hands-on projects, ensuring a holistic and practical approach to education.

Imperial College London

"
Their work in making entrepreneurship a norm at universities is impressive. I want to praise the team for their professionalism, passing and facing every challenge with a smile, and showing that people thrive and innovate when collaborating with each other.

**Ben Mumby-Croft, Director,
Imperial College Enterprise Lab.**

CORPORATES

Our corporate community comprises FTSE 100 and Fortune 500 companies across healthcare, technology, and beyond. Engaging with Futurize programs allows corporates to leverage their power and drive CSR mandates by furthering entrepreneurship, economic growth, and social development across communities and disadvantaged groups. Corporations can also facilitate strategic collaborations with universities, governments, and startups to accelerate research and development through open innovation and tap into a pool of innovative talent.

Working with Futurize enables us to become a part of the solution in empowering the next generation of African Healthcare entrepreneurs, startups and students to realise their ideas and take their projects to the next level. Together we're not only realising positive change for patients in the region but strengthening the foundations of Africa's healthcare ecosystem for the future.

Scientific Partnering & Alliances Director, AstraZeneca.

We believe in upskilling and empowering youth technology. That's why we worked with Futurize in the Fuel Africa program.

University Ambassador Manager, Microsoft.

MENTORING TEAM

Our experienced mentor community of entrepreneurs, industry leaders, and subject matter experts from various industries is driven by a passion to nurture and guide the next generation of innovators. Mentors play a massive role by supporting the building of new ideas and solutions to address some of the world's biggest challenges. The mentoring process is mutually beneficial as it helps mentors refine and clarify their skills and understanding of their field while also providing an opportunity to join an exclusive ecosystem of experts, academia, and venture builders across the globe.

MENTOR SPOTLIGHTS

Basel Hammoda

PhD researcher and a Lecturer of Entrepreneurship
TalTech
Estonia

With several entrepreneurial experiences and nearly ten years of mentoring startups through multiple programs, Basel Hammoda is currently a Ph.D. researcher and a lecturer of entrepreneurship at TalTech – Tallinn University of Technology in Estonia.

Basel's engagement with Futurize is a long-term one. He has known the founding team since the early days of setting up the company and says, "I have seen it grow to become an effective shaper of the entrepreneurship ecosystem on the global stage."

Through Futurize, he has mentored teams on the Global Challenge Lab for several years. He adds, "the experience has been very satisfying and eye-opening to me, getting to interact with brilliant young minds who are developing solutions to solve current real-world problems using cutting-edge technology."

Recognized as a multi-award-winning entrepreneur, software delivery specialist, global startup mentor, author, and speaker based in the United Kingdom, Kay Kukoyi is a valued member of the Futurize mentor community. She is also the founder and CEO of Purposeful Group, an entrepreneurship, technology, digital skills, and careers training company.

This year, she was a mentor for the Global Challenge Lab 2023, a hackathon run by Futurize that supported students worldwide in developing innovative solutions to help meet the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). Kay believes mentorship is vital to support and encourage young entrepreneurs as mentors can provide guidance and an informed opinion based on experience.

She adds that "sometimes, young entrepreneurs may doubt their ideas or their execution - the actions they have decided to take to pursue their ideas. A mentor can provide valuable feedback, set entrepreneurs on the right track and offer alternative ideas and options that might not have been considered."

Kay Kukoyi

Pfounder and CEO
Purposeful Group
United Kingdom

Neil Choudhary leads a digital consultancy team in London specializing in product, design, and tech, with a personal focus on product management. In his role, he is dedicated to creating experiences that meet needs and add societal value.

With a passion for mission-driven startups, Neil is a vital Futurize entrepreneurship mentor community member. Having mentored young founders building in the healthtech space, he says the sessions enriched him with insights into healthcare provision, and the teams' intellect, diligence, and determination inspired him.

Neil says, "I wasn't fortunate enough to have mentors early on in my career, and now I have the benefit of a significant amount of experience, I believe it's really important for people like myself to give back and support others."

Neil Choudhary

Head of CX (Product & Design)
AND Digital
London, United Kingdom
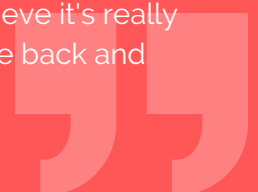
A CLOSER LOOK AT **OUR PROGRAMS**

GLOBAL CHALLENGE LAB

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Global Challenge Lab, an annual virtual entrepreneurship program hosted by Imperial Enterprise Lab, is designed and delivered by Futurize. The third cohort of the program brought together diverse talents from across the globe and focused on achieving UN Sustainable Development Goal 7, Affordable and Clean Energy. Participants collaborated in cross-cultural teams to develop innovative startup ideas for pressing energy challenges through a 14-day hackathon. This year, Futurize ran the program in partnership with Tsinghua University's x-lab and the Technical University of Munich.

PROGRAM STATS

14 DAYS

40+ HOURS OF CONTENT

15 WORKSHOPS AND KEYNOTES

115 MENTORS
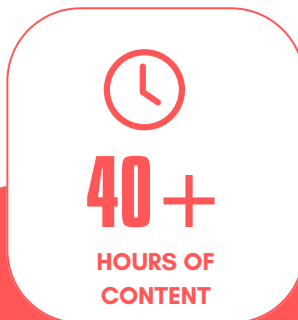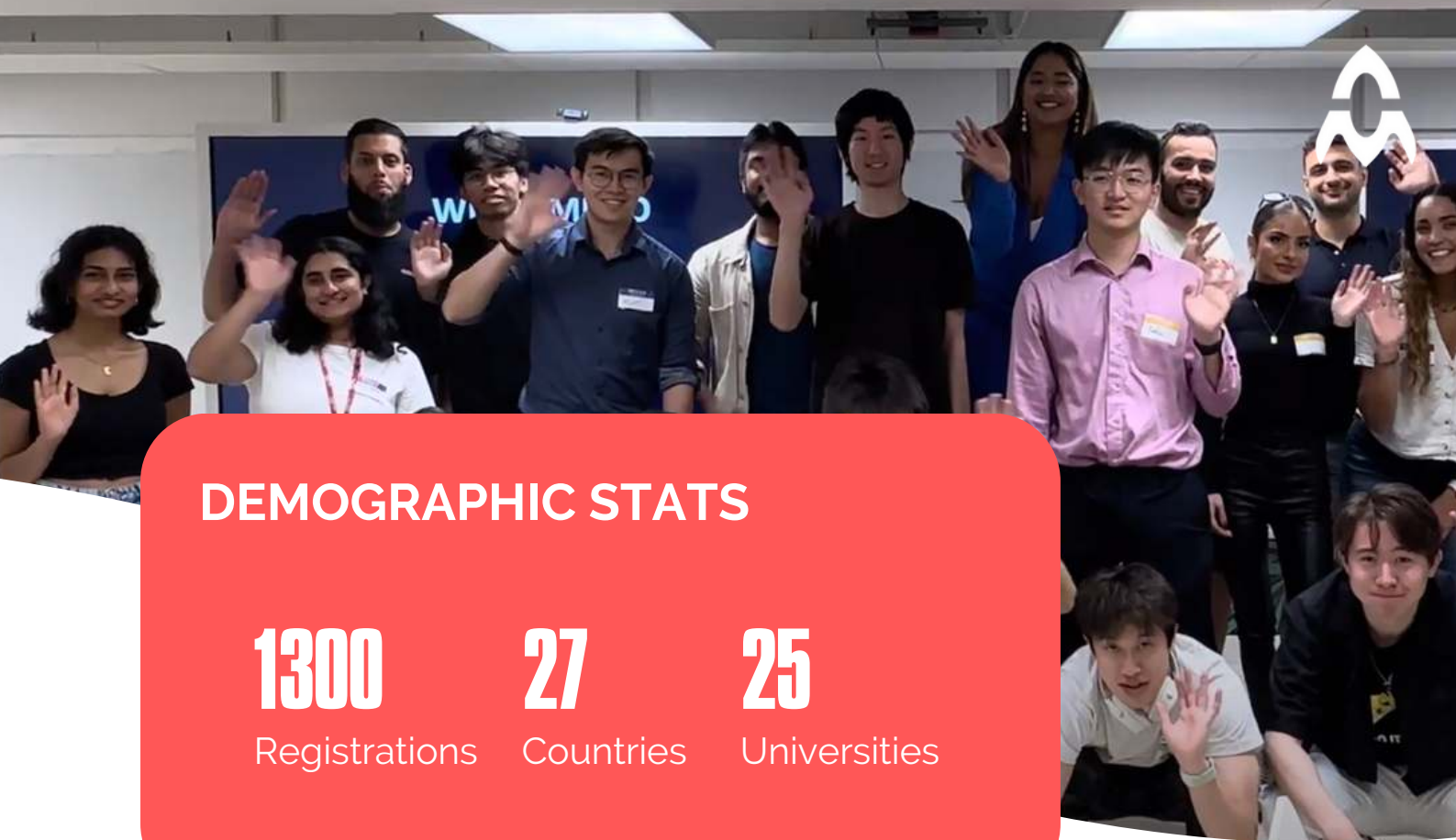
DEMOGRAPHIC STATS

1300
Registrations

27
Countries
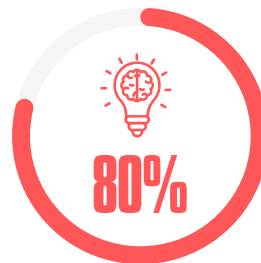
25
Universities

OUTCOME STATS
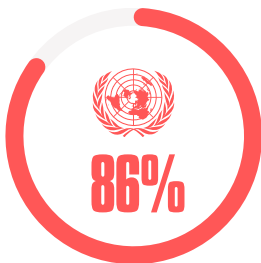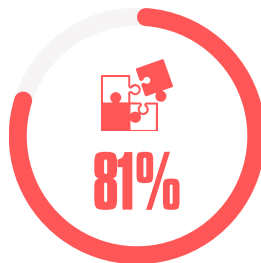
86%
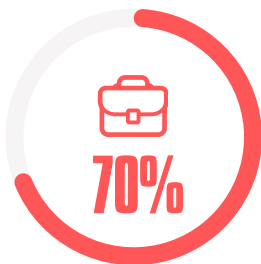recorded an increase in knowledge about the **UN SDGs**

81%
recorded an enhancement in their **problem-solving skills**
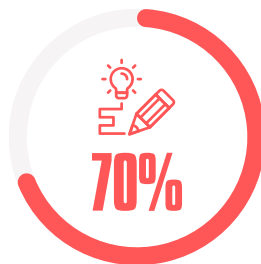
80%
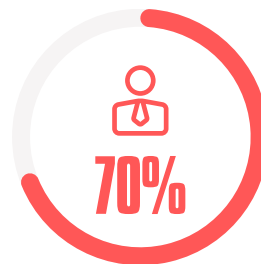recorded feeling more creative in their **thinking process**

72%
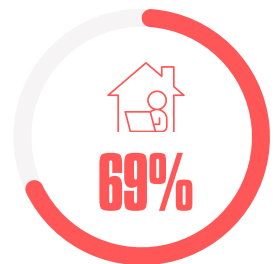recorded an increase in **leadership skills**

70%
now know how to **launch their own business**

70%
recorded a better understanding of **design thinking and entrepreneurial tools**

70%
recorded being better prepared for working in a **professional environment**

69%
felt more confident in **remote working skills**

THE WINNING IDEAS

1

GREEN POWER

A technology utilizing anaerobic digestion to convert food waste biogas into clean energy.

Team from: Imperial College London   The New School
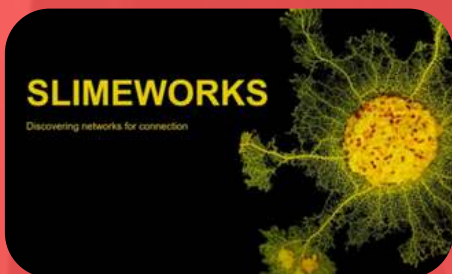
2

SOLARIS

A machine learning model to optimize commercial buildings' heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems.

Team from: University of Toronto   Indian Institute of Technology, Madras
Imperial College London   University of Sao Paulo

3

GREENENERGIX

SlimeWorks: A software solution coordinating electricity infrastructure development through mapping and predicting demand, optimizing networks, and monitoring consumption.

Team from: University of Toronto   Hanoi University (HUST)
University of Sao Paulo   Bahir Dar University

KEY TESTIMONIALS

"This really felt like building a start-up. What I really liked was how we started out with this big idea and then systematically narrowed it down to a true human problem that the team felt really invested in trying to solve to make people's lives better. This was the true power of this GCL challenge - changing peoples lives for the better!

Anthony Doodnath, Imperial College London

Participating in GCL 2023 has been an exhilarating journey, filled with networking opportunities, insights from professionals, and a platform to enhance my skills. This hackathon has provided numerous learning moments, enabling me to develop my ideas and unlock new levels of creativity. The experience has ignited a deep motivation and inspiration within me to continue working in a similar field and further refine and expand upon the project I worked on.

Melody Tsz Ching Cheng, University of Toronto

ENTREPRENEUR
SPOTLIGHT

Satya Sathwik Juttada

Student at the University of Toronto
Co-founder of e-parali

Satya Sathwik Juttada, a third-year student at the University of Toronto studying chemical and biomedical engineering, found his entrepreneurial spark at Imperial College London's Global Challenge Lab 2022, created and delivered by Futurize. Sathwik's team won first place among 72 teams with **'e-parali,' an innovative farm machinery rental app designed to support Indian farmers**. The concept not only promised affordable machinery rentals but also tackled environmental concerns by curbing stubble burning.

> **Young entrepreneurs always tend to bring ideas that no one has thought of, allowing the world to keep improving and moving rather than just staying stagnant,"**
> **says Satya Sathwik Juttada.**

Following their victory, Satya's team used their prize money as seed funding to evolve e-parali into a startup. They joined the University of Toronto's ICUBE UTM accelerator for guidance and networking. Currently, **e-parali is focused on refining its app based on farmer feedback and is preparing to present a prototype to potential investors**.

Balancing academia and entrepreneurship posed challenges, but Satya's meticulous planning and intense workdays during summer breaks allowed him to navigate both worlds. Sathwik underscores the importance of adaptability in entrepreneurship, advocating for flexibility and openness to change for success.
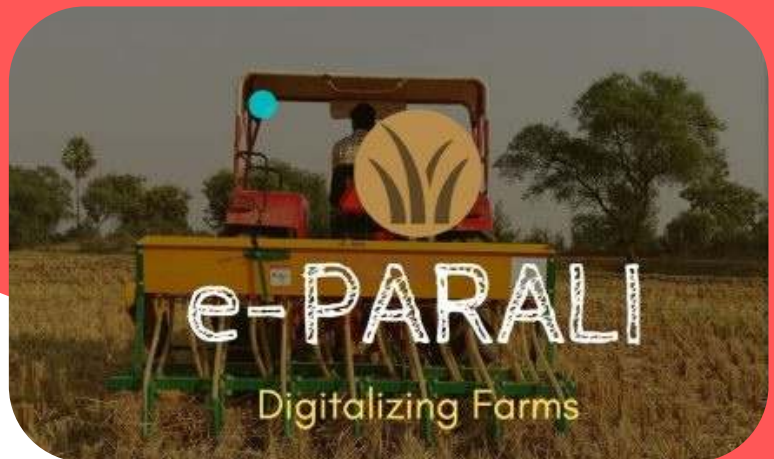
KEY LEARNINGS:

🔍 Market research is pivotal to check the viability of an idea

🕐 As a student, immaculate time management and planning help balance entrepreneurship and education

🌱 Being adaptable is the key to growing as an entrepreneur

FUEL
AFRICA 23

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Fuel Africa is an innovation program that equips Africa's youth with the skills to act as agents of change. The second cohort in 2023 brought together nearly 1300 students from over 9 African countries to make the UN SDG 3: Good health and wellbeing a reality. The immersive program encouraged young leaders to collaborate, brainstorm, and provide solutions around tackling access and affordability of healthcare and early detection and management of cancer. This year's program engaged participants through virtual and face–to–face workshops in Nairobi, Kenya, to build entrepreneurial and design thinking skills. Futurize launched the 2023 edition of the program in partnership with AstraZeneca through the A.Catalyst Network and was co-funded by Bristol Myers Squibb.

PROGRAM STATS

10 DAYS

61 MENTORS

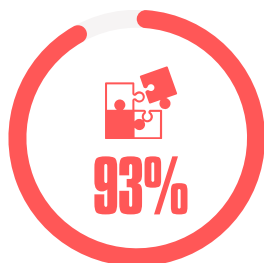**16 WORKSHOPS AND KEYNOTES**
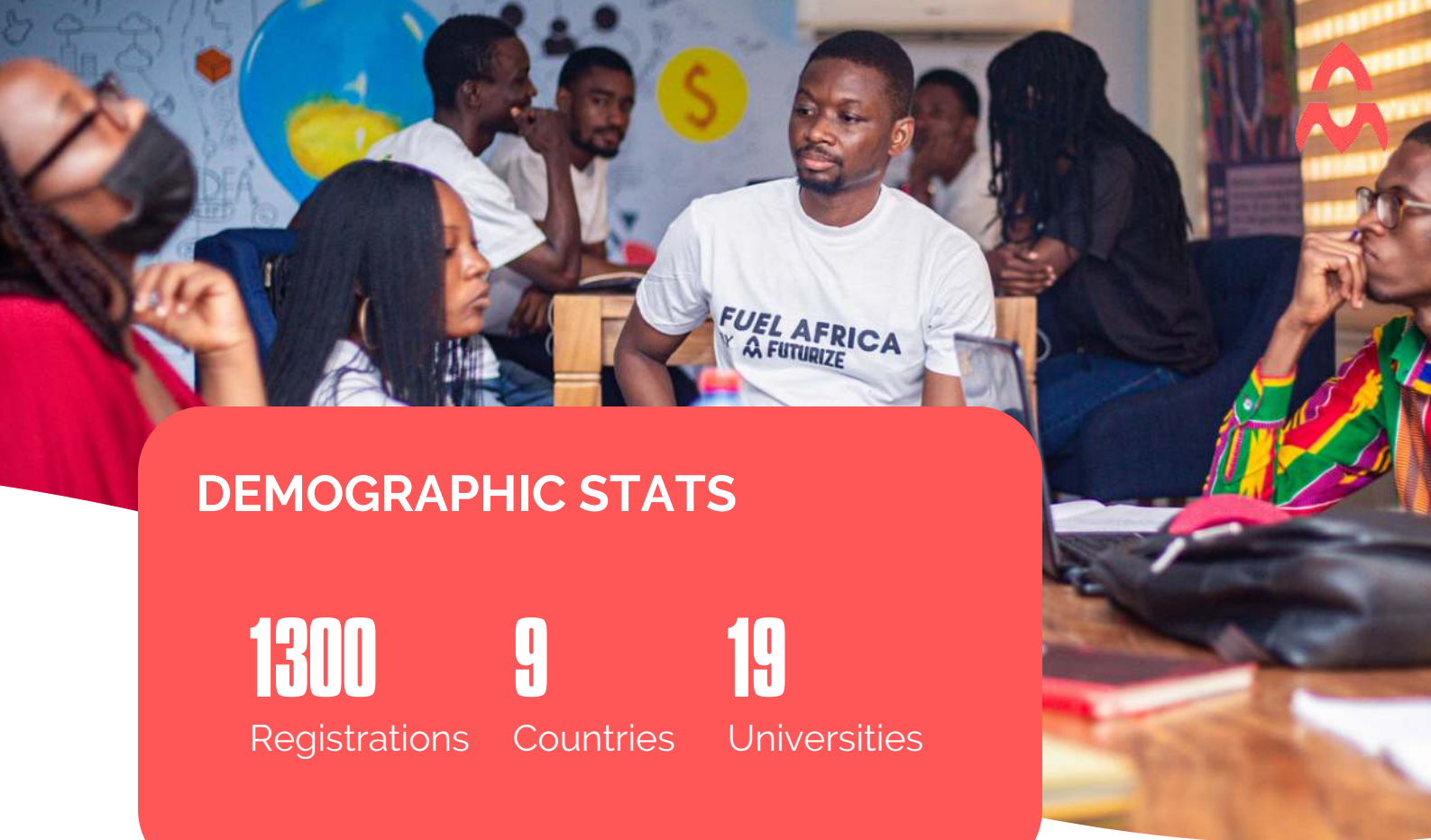
DEMOGRAPHIC STATS

1300
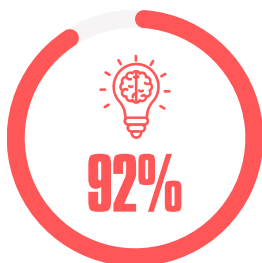Registrations

9
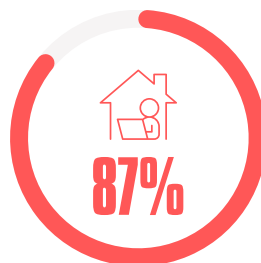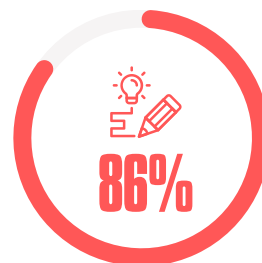Countries

19
Universities

OUTCOME STATS

93%
recorded an enhancement in their **problem-solving skills**
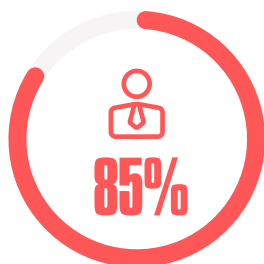
92%
recorded feeling more creative in their **thinking process**

87%
felt more confident in **remote working skills**

86%
recorded a better understanding of **design thinking** and **entrepreneurial tools**
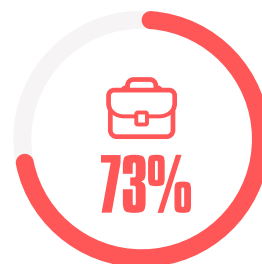
85%
recorded being better prepared for working in a **professional environment**

81%
recorded an increase in **leadership skills**

80%
recorded an increase in knowledge about the **UN SDGs**

73%
were more confident to **launch their own business**

THE WINNING IDEAS

1

DAWA MFUKONI

A drug monitoring system that connects African hypertensive patients, pharmacies, and drug manufacturers, facilitating direct access to required medication.

Team from: University of Nairobi   African Leadership University (ALU)

2

MARI TEST

An automated malaria testing device that gives a diagnosis in under two minutes and does not require drawing blood from a patient.

Team from: African Leadership University (ALU)

3

TENSOR SCAN

A deep learning web app that detects malignant breast cancer cells in real-time from uploaded micrographs, with the option to share data for research in exchange for cryptocurrency.

Team from: University of Ibadan   University of Nigeria

KEY TESTIMONIALS

"Attending Fuel Africa was an eye-opening experience that inspired me to continue exploring the intersection between technology and social impact. As a Moringa School alumni, I had the opportunity to collaborate with like-minded people in the field and learn from their experiences. The program not only allowed me to gain new insights into healthcare challenges but also helped me develop my communication and teamwork skills. Thanks to Futurize for the opportunity, I highly recommend this program to anyone who wants to use technology to create positive social change.

Ronald Kipchirchir, Moringa School Alumni.

I loved the Fuel Africa 2023 experience. The session was packed with informative programs from the workshops to the interactive sessions and the keynotes and speeches. I also had the opportunity to connect with people from other countries which is something I have not had the opportunity to do before. Fuel Africa also inspired me to think. To really think and force myself into creativity and it left a wonderful feeling. I'm forever inspired and I am looking forward to the next program from Futurize.

Grace Ohagwu, University of Ibadan

ENTREPRENEUR
SPOTLIGHT

Janet Dete

CEO and CO-Founder
Queening Africa

Janet Dete, an Anthropology student at the University of Nairobi, embarked on her entrepreneurial journey following Futurize's Fuel Africa Program. The innovation program, focusing on problem-solving, inspired her to tackle waste management issues in her community. She went on to build Queening Africa, a green enterprise that upcycles discarded hair braids into practical items like bags and accessories.

Queening Africa addresses environmental problems and combats unemployment by providing skills training and job opportunities, particularly for youth and women. The enterprise is set to open an Innovation Centre in Kenya's Mathare community, aiming to nurture vocational and entrepreneurial skills.

"By empowering young people to become entrepreneurs, we are building more sustainable, prosperous, and equitable communities." says Janet Dete, Co-founder of Queening Africa

The venture quickly gained acclaim, winning the 2022 Emerging Ventures Competition and ranking as one of Kenya's top innovations. It represented UNICEF Kenya on a global stage and was recognized among the world's top 30 innovations.

Janet attributes her success to the Fuel Africa Program, which enhanced her entrepreneurial skills, including communication, leadership, and networking. She built connections with expert mentors and coaches, with whom she has remained connected since 2022.

KEY LEARNINGS:

- You need to love the problem, not the solution, while building a startup

- Entrepreneurship is a powerful tool for driving social change.

- Ongoing learning, skill development, and networking is key in entrepreneurship.

FUTURIZEU

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

This year, Futurize launched the first-of-its-kind incubator across Sub-Saharan Africa to empower university-led startups from idea to launch in collaboration with AstraZeneca, through the A.Catalyst Networkand was co-funded by Bristol Myers Squibb. The 2023 cohort comprised the ten most promising startups in the region cultivating groundbreaking solutions that address critical healthcare equity and early non-communicable disease (NCD) diagnosis challenges across the African continent by leveraging AI and ML. The 8-week virtual program helped early-stage founders navigate the complexities of building a startup through mentorship, training, workshops, and fundraising opportunities. The program culminated in a physical demo day organized in Nairobi, Kenya, at Futurize's Healthtech Summit 2023, where startups showcased their idea to potential investors and partners.

PROGRAM STATS

8
WEEKS

8
COUNTRIES

10
BUSINESSES
INCUBATED

30+
ADVISORS AND
MENTORS

AT THE END OF THE PROGRAM, INCUBATED STARTUPS HAD:

A business model and value proposition

A target patient/customer segment

Product/market fit

A minimum viable product (MVP)

ENTREPRENEURS WERE TRAINED IN:

Market Research and Customer Discovery

Marketing and Growth Strategies

Healthcare Compliance & Implementation

Fundraising and Finance

Legal & Operations

Pitching & Leadership

STARTUPS 2023

VECTORGRAM

Vectorgram provides cutting-edge AI tools that ensure accurate and timely diagnosis of breast cancer to under-resourced diagnostic centers in Kenya.

KENYA

TAWI DIGITAL HEALTH

Digitizing medical records and providing a way to share them securely in a decentralized manner across various health systems.

KENYA

MariTest

MARI TEST

Developing a blodless diagnostic device that offers a non-invasive, automated method for malaria detection using AI and advanced sensor technology.

UGANDA

TRAK-AFYA

A software monitoring drug-resistant infections to strengthen hospitals to combat antimicrobial resistance using data-driven insights.

KENYA

CANISA HEALTH

Personalized care platform for hypertensive patients in Africa that offers healthcare plans and access to data-driven insights for patients and health ecosystem.

 GHANA

DAWA MFUKONI

Offering prescribed drugs through an installment payment system, especially for underserved markets, enabling them to live within their means.

 KENYA

TENSORSCAN

AI-powered web application that revolutionizes breast cancer diagnosis by using deep learning algorithms to detect malignant cells in histology micrographs.

NIGERIA

HEALTH4MONI

Health4Moni is a digitally enabled platform that provides affordable health insurance to the informal sector of women in Nigeria who remain uncovered by the NHIS.

NIGERIA

PHARMA GOODS

Pharm-Tech startup based in East Africa, that provides cutting-edge pharmacy software for drug inventory management and sales recordings.

TANZANIA

HEALTHRIX

AI mobile app solution that collects data from health bands to notify individuals of their health status while connecting them to health professionals.

NIGERIA

KEY TESTIMONIALS

"I was thoroughly impressed by the incubation program's focus on innovation and collaboration. It provided me with the tools and resources I needed to turn my ideas into reality. The Futurize incubation program was a game-changer for me. It helped me develop my entrepreneurial skills, gain valuable insights from experienced mentors, and connect with potential investors.

Ian Mutoro, Co-founder and CEO, TrakAfya

Prior to joining FuturizeU, we were just a group of young people passionate about making healthcare affordable in Nigeria. However, the incubator provided us with knowledge, skills, mentorship, and feedback. Within 3 months, we had a well-rounded solution, an MVP, an incorporated company, and even won a grant for our product development. We've gotten more opportunities even after the Incubator; VCs have reached out to us after seeing our innovation at the pitch presentation held in Kenya.

Deborah Kemi Adedigba, Founder, Health4Moni

ENTREPRENEUR
SPOTLIGHT
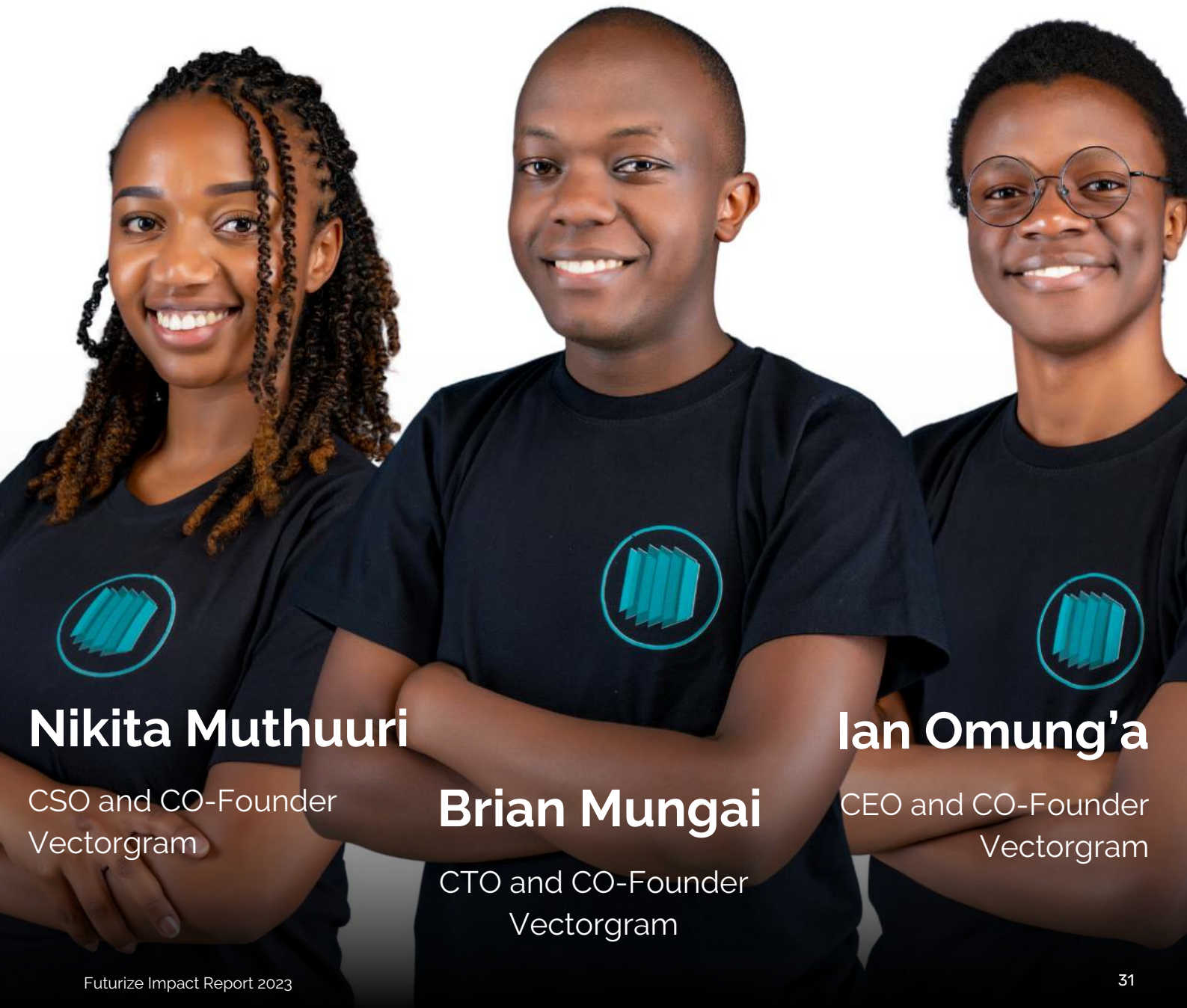
Nikita Muthuuri

CSO and CO-Founder
Vectorgram

Brian Mungai

CTO and CO-Founder
Vectorgram

Ian Omung'a

CEO and CO-Founder
Vectorgram

In 2022, the Vectorgram team, led by Co-founder and CEO Ian, along with Brian Mungai and Nikita Muthuuri, embarked on their startup journey with Futurize's Fuel Africa program. They developed 'Vectorgram', a health tech solution using AI to diagnose Breast Cancer in a few seconds . After winning 2nd place for their prototype in the program, they decided to evolve it into a full-scale startup.

Vectorgram aims to revolutionize the African Healthcare ecosystem, potentially transforming healthcare access for 1.4 billion people. The team received mentorship from oncological experts at AstraZeneca and Microsoft during the Futurize innovation program. **Their success in Fuel Africa led to initial introductions in the Kenyan healthcare sector and an angel investment of $600, crucial for scaling their prototype**.

> **Ian, Co-founder and CEO of Vectogram, says, "young African entrepreneurs are the critical catalysts for change that African systems have always needed to execute the science of progress but have never had enough of."**

In 2023, Vectorgram joined the FuturizeU Incubator program to accelerate development. Under the guidance of industry mentors, the team focused on identifying customer segments, market growth strategies, and optimizing operations, finance, and compliance, driven by the belief that young African entrepreneurs are key catalysts for progress in African systems.

> **"The futurize incubator proves that youth is no hindrance to innovation; in fact, it favours this. Here, Africa's bright minds have a platform to connect and ideate to solve real problems," says Nikita Muthuuri, Co-founder and CSO of Vectorgram**

KEY LEARNINGS:

🔍 Strategically utilizing resources and networking opportunities through innovation programs and incubators can help startups accelerate.

📈 Young entrepreneurs as critical catalysts for change

HEALTHTECH SUMMIT 23

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Futurize HealthTech Summit held in November 2023 stood at the forefront of shaping Africa's health technology landscape. The exclusive event in Nairobi, Kenya, welcomed over 120 industry experts, investors, founders, and enthusiasts, each dedicated to enhancing the sector. The summit was also the finale of the 8-week FuturizeU incubator program, where the incubated startups had the opportunity to showcase their innovations in space.

Experts engaged in critical discussions on nurturing healthtech ecosystems through collaboration among private, public, and academic entities and the role of educational institutions in innovation. The event hosted an esteemed panel of speakers across industry verticals, including AstraZeneca, GE Healthcare, Africa Health Business, Amref Health Innovation, Jaza Rift Ventures, Beyond Elephant Advisory, Future Africa, Villgro Africa, and Strathmore University Business School.

Alexander Oketch, Regional Manager at GE Healthcare, in his keynote speech on 'Universities' Role in Advancing Innovation,' said, "African universities committed to innovation shape a technological and equitable healthcare landscape. As a pivotal catalyst, they drive cutting-edge research transformative products, entrepreneurs ecosystems, industry collaborations, and education for future innovators. Seamlessly marrying academic rigor with practical relevance, universities actively reshape the healthcare future for a healthier and more sustainable outcome.

Alexander Oketch

Regional Manager
GE Healthcare

"The future is not one narrative, the future is what we make of it. It's not technology that will define the future, it's us who are building technology, using technology, deploying technology that will determine how the future will look like. The future is in our hands." said Caroline Mbindyo, CEO of Amref Health Innovation and one of the panelists discussing 'Enabling the Healthtech Ecosystem.'
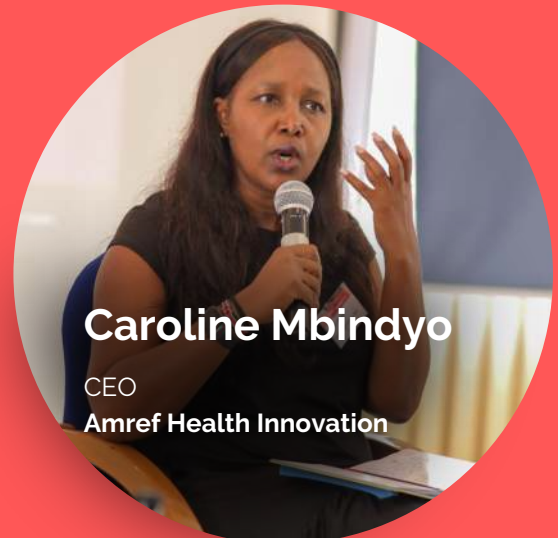
Caroline Mbindyo

CEO
Amref Health Innovation

KEY THEMES DISCUSSED:

🎓 **Universities's Role in Advancing Innovation**

💓 **Enabling the Healthtech Ecosystem**

💰 **Financing Healthtech Startups In Africa**

THE EVENT INCLUDED:

👥 Networking sessions

💬 Engaging panel discussions

🎤 Keynote speeches

🚀 Startup showcases

👥 Live pitches from the FuturizeU Incubator teams

WHAT OUR ATTENDEES HAD TO SAY

" This summit is important because it helps to connect young people in the field of healthcare with their possible partners in the field of technology to create amazing solutions.

Diana Nekesa, ALX Africa

"It's a great opportunity for great minds across the industry to get together and talk about healthcare and its challenges across Africa. I think there is a massive opportunity in Africa when we look at the solutions coming out, in particular building solutions in Africa, for Africa, by Africa."

Jonathan Calder, Head of Digital & IT: African Cluster at AstraZeneca

FUEL
ASIA 23

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The second cohort of the Fuel Asia program virtually brought together young leaders across APAC from 9 countries, including India, China, Singapore, and Malaysia, to brainstorm breakthrough solutions in healthcare and climate action. 535 engaged young entrepreneurial minds collaborated in cross-disciplinary teams to provide digital health solutions to help patients identify and monitor health issues and tackle climate change-related healthcare issues. The immersive 12-day program offered participants training in entrepreneurship, design thinking, and pitching while mentoring them to create the best solution.

PROGRAM STATS

12
DAYS

16+
HOURS OF CONTENT

120
HOURS OF MENTORING

20+
MENTORS

DEMOGRAPHIC STATS

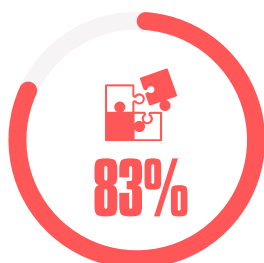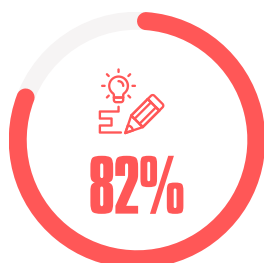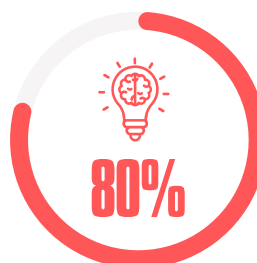| **535**	**9**	**20**
Registrations	Countries	Universities

OUTCOME STATS

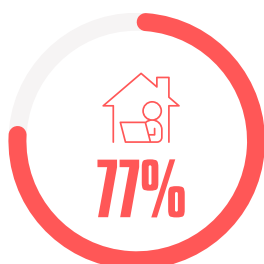**83%** recorded an enhancement in their **problem-solving skills**

82% recorded a better understanding of **design thinking** and **entrepreneurial tools**

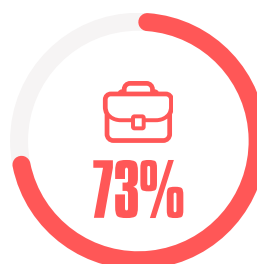**80%** recorded feeling more creative in their **thinking process**

80% recorded being better prepared for working in a **professional environment**

77% felt more confident in **remote working skills**

77% recorded an increase in knowledge about the **UN SDGs**

73% were more confident to **launch their own business**

69% recorded an increase in **leadership skills**

THE WINNING IDEAS

1

SCREENRIGHT

A one-stop platform to digitally manage cancer screening aims to improve cancer outcomes by increasing early intervention.

Team from: National University of Singapore (NUS)

2

ASTHMAGuard

An easy-to-use app offering personalized guidance for monitoring your respiratory health, focusing on asthma management.

Team from: Universiti Sains Malaysia

3

PALS

An allergy management app for parents of children with allergies featuring a digital allergy information card, AI-powered symptom search, classroom management, and ingredients label allergen detector.

Team from: Universiti Sains Malaysia

KEY TESTIMONIALS

"Before participating in this competition, crafting impactful pitch decks was not my forte. However, the experience provided an invaluable opportunity to translate our ideas into a concise and compelling pitch, refining my communication skills along the way. The diverse array of workshops exposed me to various facets of introducing a new solution to the market, covering everything from roadmap development to anticipating potential challenges. I highly recommend Fuel Asia to anyone keen on delving into this process."

Lai Woh Jon, National University of Singapore

"I had an incredible experience participating in the recent hackathon organized by Futurize. The event was not just about focusing us to UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG); it was a dynamic platform that fostered innovation, collaboration, and problem-solving. The diverse challenges pushed me out of my comfort zone, encouraging me to think creatively and work seamlessly with my team. The energy and enthusiasm of fellow participants, coupled with mentor support, created a vibrant atmosphere. The hackathon not only honed my technical skills but also taught me the value of teamwork and quick adaptability. Kudos to the organizers for orchestrating an event that was not only intellectually stimulating but also a whole lot of fun!"

Hazirah Zahari, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu

ENTREPRENEUR
SPOTLIGHT

Nicole ANG

Co-lead
SensaTech Innovations

Nicole ANG, currently pursuing her Masters in Biotechnology at the National University of Singapore (NUS), stands out as a Futurize alumna spearheading innovations in healthcare. Juggling her studies, Nicole holds a full-time position in a Microbiology Laboratory where she dedicates herself to identifying bacterial pathogens in patient infections. She is also building a digital medical device as a **Co-lead of SensaTech Innovations**.

Having joined Futurize's Fuel Asia 2022 program, Nicole and her team won second place in the innovation competition among a cohort of 400 participants. **During the program, they developed a small patch-like device equipped with GPS tracking, impact, and tamper notifications tailored for Alzheimer's and Dementia patients.**

"

"More young entrepreneurs inject innovation, agility, and a dynamic spirit to the economy, driving growth and addressing contemporary challenges." says Nicole ANG, Co-Lead, SensaTech Innovations.

Nicole emphasizes, "**our device provides real-time support to dementia patients and alleviates the burden and stress of caregivers**."

Following their victory in Fuel Asia, their assigned mentor encouraged them to take the idea beyond the program. **Nicole and her team collaborated with NUS to develop their idea and prototype** by conducting market and customer validation.

Nicole advises aspiring entrepreneurs to diversify skills, embrace failure for learning, and prioritize networking with mentors and resources like incubators. She stresses that "**continuous learning and resilience are vital in entrepreneurship's dynamic world**."

KEY LEARNINGS:

🔍 Build an arsenal of diverse skills

🌱 Stay curious

📈 Embracing failure as a learning opportunity

SCALING OUR IMPACT IN 2024

Youth entrepreneurship is instrumental in catalyzing change, facilitating economic growth, and amplifying social impact. The inherent inventiveness of young founders, coupled with their unwavering commitment to building a sustainable future, enhances the resilience of economies worldwide. But most young changemakers lack the support, guidance, and resources to build the future.

As we step into 2024, we aim to amplify our efforts, scale our global reach, and build new initiatives to equip young entrepreneurs with the essential skills, mindset, and practical experiences to create companies that can achieve global success.

In 2024, following the successful launch of the FuturizeU Incubator in Africa, we're ramping up efforts to launch an Asia Pacific (APAC) chapter dedicated to nurturing early-stage startups built by young leaders to address social, economic, and environmental issues.

We're expanding the presence of our entrepreneurial and innovation programs across the entirety of the Middle East and Africa (MENA) to encourage students and the youth to embrace entrepreneurship and accelerate socially impactful venture development in their region.

Envisioning a robust global network, we aim to onboard ten universities into the Futurize network. This strategic move is poised to provide thousands of students access to our programs, offering them invaluable support and mentorship to translate their entrepreneurial visions into impactful businesses.

Our overarching strategy is transforming to building innovation programs with a steadfast focus on the long-term impact of combatting climate change across diverse industry verticals.

We look forward to 2024 with great anticipation as a year to expedite positive change by expanding our reach to a broader demographic of young individuals, fostering the growth of our global network, and empowering young entrepreneurs worldwide as a force for good.

Moritz Gripp
COO

TOGETHER WE ARE BUILDING A GLOBAL ECOSYSTEM OF CHANGE-MAKERS.

THANK YOU

for believing in Futurize's mission to foster and grow a community of young changemakers that will connect, engage, and drive collective impact at the local level while pushing the needle globally.

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