



# Accelerating Impact

Through Collaborative Actions

2023 Impact Report

[www.catalyst2030.net](http://www.catalyst2030.net)



# Changing Systems At All Levels Through Collective Actions

Catalyst 2030 is a fast-growing global movement of people and organisations committed to advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

Joining forces with communities, governments, businesses and others, Catalyst 2030 members are changing systems at all levels through collective action and bold new strategies.



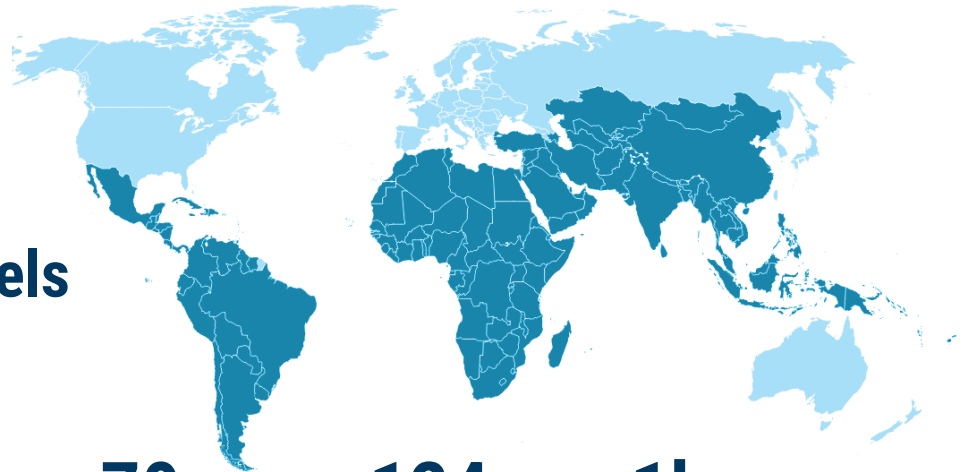
## Vision

A thriving social innovation economy that is inclusive, regenerative and sustainable – present in every corner of the world



## Mission

To grow the social innovation ecosystem across the globe unleashing the potential for local social innovators to influence global systems change



**70**

Total number of local chapters

**124**

Total number of collaborations

**1bn**

Lives touched

## Strategic Pillars

A world where social change innovators achieve the SDGs by 2030 through an unprecedented mobilisation of social entrepreneurs, partners and resources.



Vision



Objectives



Support

**1**

Develop Enabling Environment for SE to Flourish

**2**

Catalyse Collaborative Action

**3**

Facilitate Systems Change Learning Ecosystem

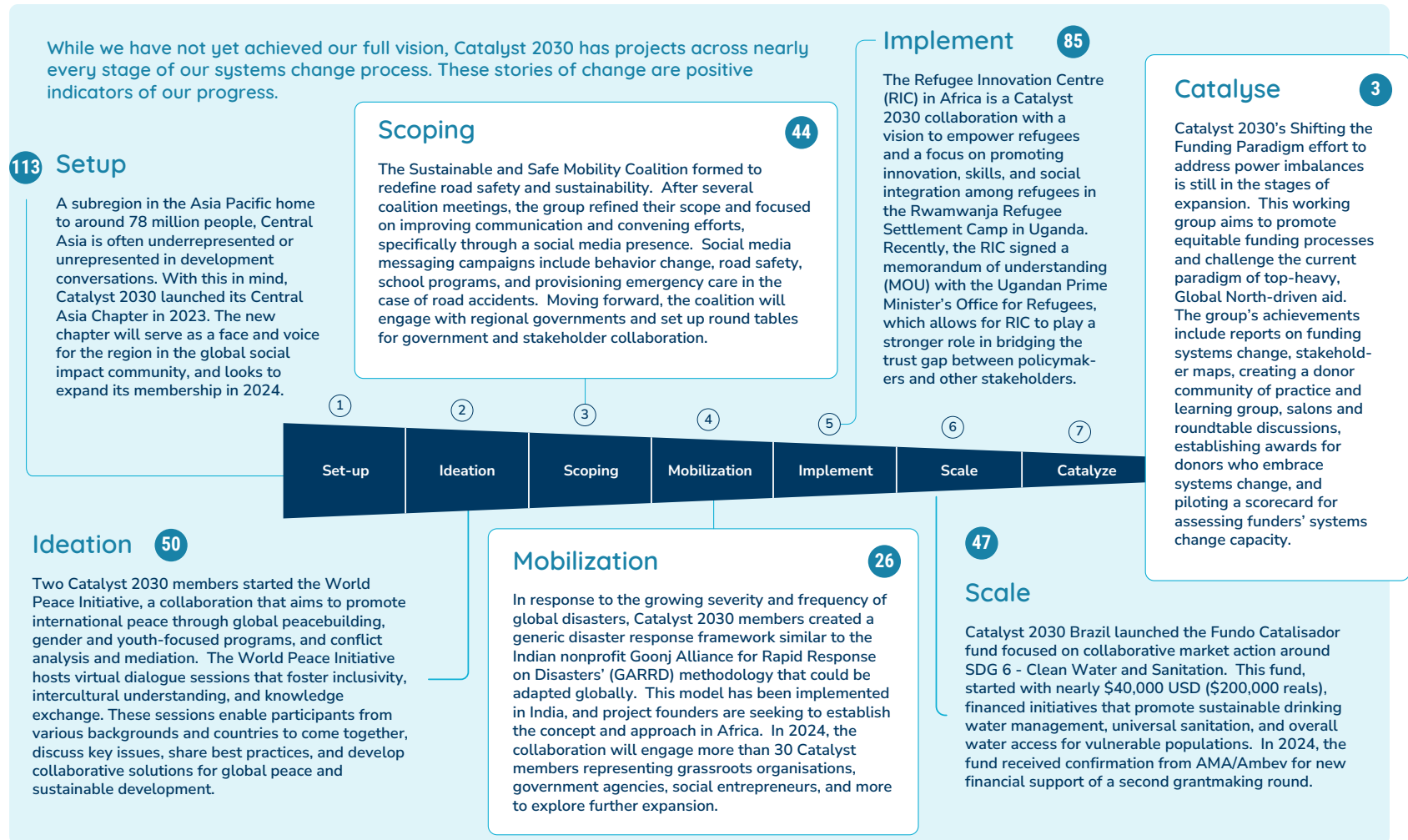
ⓑ Foundation: Support Dominant Culture Shifts Towards Equity

Ⓐ Base: Build and Maintain the Movement of Social Change Innovators

# Accelerating Systemic Change



Catalyst 2030's vision for the future is accelerated systemic change – the kind of change where social innovators are empowered to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We see this change through our process of systems impact:



# Develop Enabling Environment for Social Entrepreneurs to Flourish



Catalyst 2030 influences policy and empowers members to engage with policymakers on issues of social impact

**>50%**



Catalyst 2030 members advised or provided research to policymakers in 2030.

**>25%**

Of members use Catalyst 2030 to influence policy

**14**

Catalyst 2030 Chapters are engaging with government

**78%** in the global south



A key focal point of Catalyst 2030 is changing funding paradigms to be more responsive, systems-change friendly, and adaptive to local needs. Funding is still driven by a top-down, Global North-oriented approach.

**>700**  
Funders

Accessed our Funder Self-Assessment Tool, which measures an organisation's progress to systemic change initiatives

**>50**  
Members



**>1,100**  
Organisations



signed our *An Urgent Invitation to Shift Funding Practices* open letter, which challenges traditional funding practices and proposes ten principles for donors to embrace, including investing in capacity building and funding networks.

# Catalyse Collaborative Action



Catalyst 2030 emphasises collaboration - and removes barriers to do so

## >80%

Of members used the Catalyst 2030 Network to start collaborations in 2023

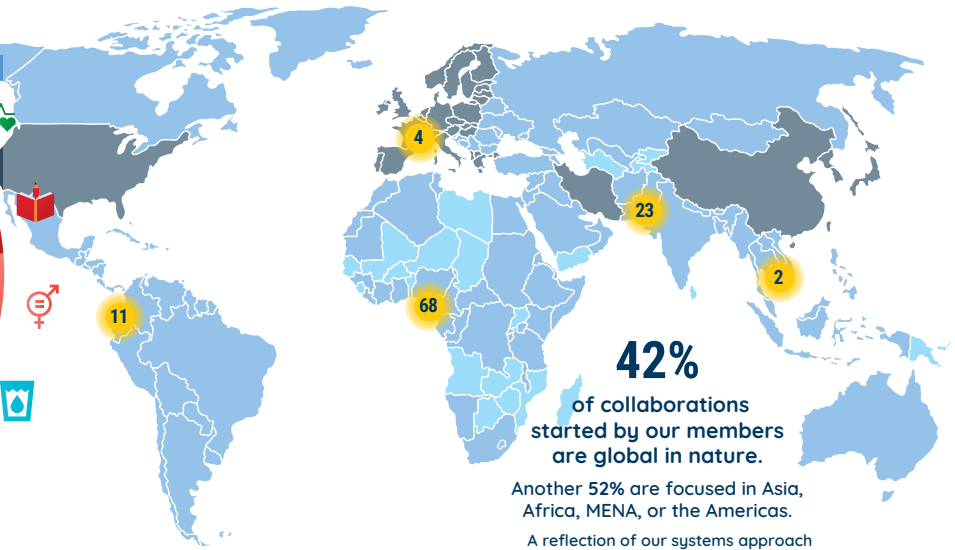
## 2250

Organisations collaborating across the Catalyst 2030 Network

“Being a member of Catalyst 2030 has profoundly shaped my perspectives. It’s been an inspiring journey, connecting with diverse stakeholders and collectively working towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The collaborative spirit has not only enriched my professional understanding but has also fueled a sense of purpose in contributing to positive global change.”

## >124

Social innovation collaborations started since 2020



## 42%

of collaborations started by our members are global in nature.

Another 52% are focused in Asia, Africa, MENA, or the Americas. A reflection of our systems approach

Members are encouraged to use the Catalyst 2030 web portal to join or gain support for their projects. Additionally, network members can join one of three task forces or 11 working groups to address social issues such as systems thinking in higher education, shifting donor values, or translating research to practice.

# Facilitate Systems Change Learning Ecosystem



Catalyst 2030 promotes systems change practices across our network and equips our members to apply these practices as a tool of collective action.

**35**

Modules in the online Systems Change Learning Series

**3**

Peer-to-peer learning communities

“Catalyst 2030 has provided me with access to a wide range of resources, including research, best practices, and innovative approaches. These resources have been instrumental in enhancing my work and allowing me to stay updated with the latest developments in my field.”



**1,700**

Resources in the Social Change Innovators online resource platform

**27**

Systems learning presentations by members in conferences and events



Catalyst 2030 is supporting the research and practitioner nexus through our Academic Hub Initiative.

New academic hubs launched in Africa and the MENA region **2**

**82%**

Of members say that Catalyst 2030 has inspired their systems change journey



Papers, cases, and practitioner articles published by members on systems change

**15**

Academic hubs planned in 2024 for Europe, Asia-Pacific, North America, and Latin America **4**

# Foundation. Support Dominant Culture Shifts Towards Equity



Catalyst 2030 advocates to shift power and change dynamics around social change using both virtual and in-person events, conferences, and awards. These events and platforms are designed to convene social innovators and break into existing spaces of power.



## Catalysing Change Week (CCW)

Our largest convening platform and event

# 5,000+

Individual registrants for 2023 CCW

# 120

 Countries represented by registrants to the event

Our signature Global Social Innovation Day celebrates social innovation leaders through multimedia content that focuses on local communities

# > 800,000

Impressions generated at the inaugural #GSID

## The Catalyst 2030 Awards

The Catalyst 2030 Awards are annual awards to social innovators, donors, and other change makers who practice systems change principles. In recognition of our network's inclusive approach, we award bilateral/multilateral organisations, government ministries, donors, and corporate partners.



**45** Social Innovators recognized including Echoing Green, Azim Premji, The Ministry of Health of the Kingdom of Lesotho, and the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO).

**ECHOING GREEN**



Azim Premji



The Ministry of Health of the Kingdom of Lesotho



UN Tourism

# Build And Maintain The Movement of Social Change Innovators



Our base is the Catalyst 2030 network - our success depends on a healthy and interconnected network that seeks to shift discourse and power

“I am located in an ecosystem desert, and my organisation and I were suffering from this lack of like-minded peers, supporting resources, and infrastructures...Thankfully, Catalyst 2030 allowed us to connect with an inspiring and thriving network of peers despite all barriers”.

**60%**

Of our members are in the Global South



Nearly

**50%**

Of our members identify as women



In 1 year, we have grown...

**80%**

Increase in new member organisations

**53%**

Increase in individual members

**53%**

Increase in new local chapters



Members are satisfied and engaged

**70%**

of members agree that the Catalyst 2030 community has brought significant or life-changing value to their organisations or work

**11**

Working groups across global

**>100**

Initiatives to help build our base - including 70 country, regional and sub-national chapter



# Catalysing Collaboration

## Impact Stories: Dispelling The Myths

### Myth #1 - Social entrepreneurs don't collaborate

Not all collaborations focus on fixing systemic problems in society but all systems change efforts require collaboration. - Catalyst 2030

Catalyst 2030's mechanism for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is systems change, at the core of which is collaboration across industries and stakeholders. Often, social entrepreneurial collaborations decline and eventually are abandoned due to lack of different funding options or support.

Using a networked approach, we bring together entrepreneurs, change makers, practitioners, academics, and other experts to collaborate and drive real change. Over 80 percent of members used the Catalyst 2030 Network to start collaborations in 2023. Catalyst 2030 has collaborative projects touching nearly every SDG.

# >80%

Of members used the Catalyst 2030 Network to start collaborations in 2023

A member of Catalyst 2030, India-based Catalyst Foundation works to deliver vocational and other training programs. Its work became more important than ever in 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic destabilized life for already vulnerable communities such as farmers, street vendors, and sex workers.

In response, Catalyst Foundation developed Community Action Collab, a multidisciplinary platform centred around vulnerable peoples. The platform contains over 350 government, nonprofit, and academic actors serving 13 vulnerable communities. The platform has responded to 14 emergencies, including the June 2023 Odisha train accident. These collaboration efforts include responding to disaster relief and long-term resilience projects such as vocational training, combating vaccination hesitancy, and micro credit.

The leader of Community Action Collab is the chair of Catalyst 2030's localization committee, which is focused on bringing funding and support to localised action. Community Action Collab is an example of linking theory to practice through the facilitation of the Catalyst 2030 Secretariat and network by directly facilitating local-level actors to respond to these disasters.

To date, Catalyst 2030 has led to over 124 collaborations globally. Through expanding the Secretariat and Catalyst 2030's membership, we aim to increase collaborations and South X South cooperation for social change.

# >124

 Social innovation collaborations started since 2020

# >700

 Exponential reach of the impact of our collaborations as the movement grows

## COMMUNITY ACTION COLLAB

In response to the destabilizing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, Catalyst Foundation developed Community Action Collab, a multidisciplinary platform centred around vulnerable people.

# 350

Government, non-profit and academic actors collaborated to serve

# 13

  
Emergencies Responded

# Catalysing The Chapters

## Impact Stories: Dispelling The Myths

### Myth #2 - Networking and collaboration are a waste of time

“Pull a thread here and you’ll find it’s attached to the rest of the world.” — Nadeem Aslam

Participating in network organisations frequently is seen as valuable but time consuming – a “nice to have” option, but not necessary for enacting social change. Catalyst 2030 believes that networking and collaboration are a social change accelerator.

Using the power of networking, Catalyst 2030 has been able to gain a seat at the table for G20 summits, World Bank meetings, the annual UN Climate Change Conference (commonly known as COP), the World Economic Forum, and more. For our social entrepreneurs and innovators, we know that our network can help them achieve accelerated change.

**42%** Of collaborations started by our members are global in nature.



Another 52% are focused in Asia, Africa, MENA, or the Americas.

The Secretariat of Catalyst 2030 is the backbone organisation of the Catalyst 2030 network, and helps to facilitate our member collaborations, promote systems thinking education, and promote social innovation at a policy level. While these important projects are started and taken forward by network members, Secretariat collaborations coordinators facilitate the creation of these projects and oversee their scaling. As a reflection of our systems approach, 42 percent of collaborations started by our members are global in nature. Another 52 percent are focused in Asia, Africa, MENA, or the Americas, which is a success indicator for Catalyst 2030 to amplify collaborative power in the Global South.

The South X South Alliance for Equitable Green Development is an example of this power-shifting global collaboration and how the local can scale to global impact. Because of Catalyst 2030 gaining access to global policy environments, the South X South collaboration was launched at COP28 in Dubai, where it advocated for a dedicated COP pillar to social innovation. As part of its strategy, the South X South Alliance focuses on nature based solutions, addressing resilience and poverty, promoting green industrialization, and creating circular economies.

Under these umbrellas, the South X South Alliance has 10 collaborations already underway, including efforts to rethink informal settlements, using local solutions to respond to forest fires, develop programs to recycle and upcycle waste, bioregional approaches to food resilience, and more. 70 network members are part of the alliance, including representatives from the World Bank, H&M



South X South Alliance uses local solutions to respond to forest fires, develop programs to recycle and upcycle waste, bioregional approaches to food resilience, and more

Foundation, Climate KIC, and the World Economic Forum (WEF).

Thanks to the Catalyst 2030 network, this alliance has engaged with over 600 organisations across private, nonprofit, and financial sectors and partnered with over 50 policymakers. Additionally, six cross-sector stakeholder organisations have been connected to the collaboration. A dedicated fund for scaling climate-focused social innovators will be co-created with the World Bank, having mobilized nearly EUR 15,000 and supported by 22 bilateral connections and scaling matches.

Catalyst 2030’s Secretariat is seeking to continue to develop alliances such as South X South and deepen its existing programming.

# Catalysing The Shifting In Funding

## Impact Stories: Dispelling The Myths

### Myth #3 - Funding systems can't be changed

A river starts at the head of a mountain and it knows it has to reach the sea. But it goes this way and that, turning until it reaches its destination. That's what systems change is about. You go slowly and negotiate your way through. - Jeroo Billimoria

Catalyst 2030 centres systems thinking and approaches to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and tackle the interconnected challenges they address. Our education and advocacy efforts extend to funders and advance a funding paradigm that supports proximate systems change leaders.

Despite localisation efforts, the current funding paradigm of philanthropy and humanitarian aid is still driven by a top-down process from resource-rich countries. To address this, Catalyst 2030 founded the Shifting the Funding Paradigm Working Group composed of network leaders, social innovators, and funding partners. The group's achievements include:

**>700** Funders accessed the Self-Assessment tool to assess their own journey towards supporting systems change and support action to shift power



Published three reports and open advocacy letter on funding systems change principles



Built an ecosystem stakeholder map of global organisations, networks, and initiatives working to advance funding for systems change



Created a collaboration to address barriers posed by compliance and due diligence processes and to strengthen trust between donors and doers



Convened donor salons in five regional hubs to promote systems change funding dialogue



Established Catalyst 2030 Awards: Celebrating donors, corporate entities, governments, and bilateral/multilateral actors who embraced systems change in their giving, support social innovators



Created the Catalyst 2030 Donor Learning Group of 70 leaders at the intersection of systems change and philanthropy, including the H&M Foundation, Skoll Foundation, the Omidyar Group, and the Rockefeller Foundation.

13 new initiatives, including reports and funds, started across Catalyst 2030's network aiming to shift the existing funding paradigm.



The Funder Self-Assessment tool is a significant achievement, the tool has been used by over 700 funders to assess their own journey towards supporting systems change and support action to shift power. Catalyst 2030 developed this tool by directly building on research and practices in their flagship *Embracing Complexity* report, along with other sources.

Three elements are required for funding organisations to embrace systems change:

- 1 Culture** - new norms and values that reflect how funders are engaged with the root causes of an issue; the power imbalances between them and their grantees; level of risk acceptance; and more
- 2 Strategy** - how a funders' strategy integrates systems change concepts and principles, such as how inclusive the funding decisions are or how MEL processes are applied
- 3 Process** - level to which changes in strategy and culture manifest in day-to-day practice, such as the level of financial and non-financial support to grantees and partnership with grantees.

The Secretariat is Catalyst 2030's backbone and helps to facilitate these successful programs. Having been active since 2020, the Secretariat is moving to scale and further develop collaborations and programs that support the mission to Shifting the current funding paradigm.

# Join Social Innovators and Entrepreneurs and other change makers in accelerating systemic change around the world



## Our Ecosystem Partners\*

\*These are the social entrepreneur fellowship organisations that helped to establish Catalyst 2030



## Founding and Fiscal Partner



## Catalysed by the generous support of



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