

COMMONWEALTH

YOUTH AWARDS

2022

The Commonwealth Youth Awards for
Excellence in Development Work 2020

Presented to
Rafu Usama Tarmizi

The Commonwealth Youth Awards for
Excellence in Development Work 2020

Presented to
Katembo Galabuzi Brian
Europe Region Winner

Wednesday 16 March 2022
10.00 am – 11.00 am (GMT)
Virtual Ceremony: Livestream –
[Facebook.com/ComSecYouth](https://www.facebook.com/ComSecYouth)



The Commonwealth
Youth Programme

Platinum
Jubilee Edition



COMMONWEALTH YOUTH AWARDS

The Commonwealth Youth Awards for Excellence in Development Work aim to recognise the contribution young people aged 15–29 make towards promoting and enhancing democracy and achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It raises the profile of committed and innovative Commonwealth youth who are working hard to address pressing issues such as poverty and conflict.

The Commonwealth believes that this work should not go unnoticed, and our Youth Awards give international, regional and national recognition and support to men and women who are shining examples of young people's capacity and potential to make positive contributions to their communities, nations and the world at large.

The Awards show that our youth are not passive beneficiaries or spectators of the policies and programmes that drive development. Rather, they are actively involved in catalysing and implementing change, and are integral to the decision-making process that will lead to a more innovative and interconnected future.



Specific objectives of the 2022 Commonwealth Youth Awards

- Highlight the outstanding contributions young people are making to achieving the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals;
- Create an environment which will encourage and sustain investments in youth led development;
- Illustrate the breadth of talent and creativity of young people across the Commonwealth by highlighting nominees' success stories;
- Motivate and encourage young people to set high standards for their work at community, national, regional or international levels;
- In collaboration with the Queen's Commonwealth Trust (QCT), give special recognition to outstanding young social entrepreneurs.

COMMONWEALTH

YOUTH AWARDS

2022

Delivering a Common Future: Connecting, Innovating, Transforming

Virtual Programme

Welcome by Master of Ceremony

Opening Remarks by Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC,
Secretary-General of the Commonwealth

Commonwealth Youth Awards Presentations

Winner – Africa Region

Cultural Act

Winner – Asia Region

Cultural Act

Winner – Caribbean Region

Cultural Act

Winner – Europe & Canada Region

Cultural Act

Winner – Pacific Region

Cultural Act

The Queen's Commonwealth Trust Social Enterprise Award

Winner – Commonwealth Young Person of the Year Award 2022

Closing

AWARD FINALISTS

AFRICA

Achare Elvis Ayamba

Country: **Cameroon**

Focus: **SDG 14 – Life Below Water**

Achare is the founder of the 'Environment and Food Foundation' which promotes the sustainable conservation, protection and restoration of marine and freshwater ecosystems, mangroves, and oceans. The foundation has held clean-up events which have removed 60,000kg of plastic waste and 50,000kg of invasive Salvinia plant. Over 2,000 people have been educated on marine preservation and 5,500 fishermen and fish-smokers have been supported to maintain eco-friendly livelihoods.



Joy Egbe

Country: **Nigeria**

Focus: **SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy**

As the co-founder of 'Newdigit', Joy runs a cleantech start-up providing zero emissions energy to low-income households in Nigeria. Their "Just Add Water" device uses electrolysis to produce hydrogen gas from water which is then used for cooking and electricity. Units have been provided to 47 households and five small businesses, and over 300 young people have been trained in solar panel installation.

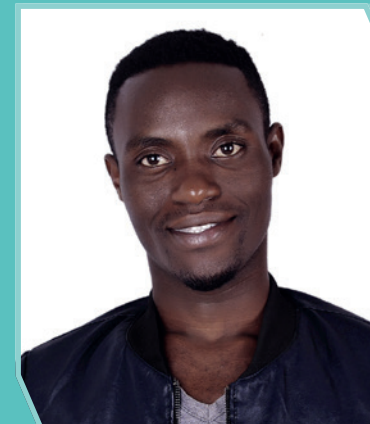


Franc Kamugyisha

Country: **Uganda**

Focus: **SDG 13 – Climate Action**

Franc is the founder of 'EcoPlastile', an organisation which recycles consumer plastic and glass waste into long-lasting plastic timbers, roofing tiles and biodegradable facemasks and shields. The organisation has created over 180 jobs paying 1.9 times the national wage, recycled 360 tonnes of plastic, and runs a microinsurance programme through which over 100 uninsured households can use plastic waste as a financial resource for medical services.



Sylvia Kyomuhendo

Country: **Uganda**

Focus: **SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being**

Sylvia is the founder and director of the 'Infants Health Foundation' – a grassroots organisation breaking down the barrier to healthcare. IHF runs ten motorcycle ambulances transporting patients to health facilities and has set up 25 one-day monthly outreach clinics each serving approximately 220 patients. Over 150,000 people have also received maternal support and information through community meetings, radio, social media, and workshops.



AWARD FINALISTS

ASIA

Lilan Dayananda

Country: **Sri Lanka**

Focus: **SDG 2 – Zero Hunger**

As the Co-Founder and CEO of 'Elzian Agro', Lilan offers rural farmers smart agronomy solutions to increase crop yield organically. The project helps farmers respond to significant changes in soil and weather, and potential pest threats through data-based prediction reports. The project has reached more than 50,000 farmers and supports government bodies in Sri Lanka to better understand the importance of modern smart agronomy solutions.



Edward Yee

Country: **Singapore**

Focus: **SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth**

Edward is the co-founder of 'GivFunds Social Ventures', a non-profit organisation which provides sustainable and low-cost capital to neglected social enterprises using data from local communities. The organisation has impacted over 45,000 lives directly, over 900,000 lives indirectly, and has helped many social enterprises raise multimillion dollar funding from a range of high-profile sources.



Supriya Paul

Country: **India**

Focus: **SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth**

Supriya is the CEO and co-founder of 'Josh Talks', a social-tech organisation creating a physical and digital infrastructure to support the aspirations of Indian youth by teaching them the skills to find decent work. Presented in ten vernacular languages used in India, Josh Talks has over 13 million subscribers across its channels while the e-learning app has over 160,000 young Indians learning critical, technical, and soft skills to advance their careers.



Abraham Ali Shah

Country: **Pakistan**

Focus: **SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being**

Abraham is the founder of 'Mobiliti' the first and only indigenous prosthetics manufacturer in Pakistan. Launching an international standards compliant prosthetic foot for less than \$100 (seven times less than Western competitors), Mobiliti has served over 1,250 patients and used over 200kg of carbon fibre waste, bound for landfill sites, in their products. Twenty per cent of the team's workforce is also differently abled, reflective of the company's values.



AWARD FINALISTS

CARIBBEAN

Mickel Alexander

Country: **Trinidad and Tobago**

Focus: **SDG 4 – Quality Education**

Mickel is the co-founder of 'The 2 Cents Movement', one of the largest youth-led non-profits in Trinidad and Tobago which works to meet the educational and supportive needs of young people through arts-based tours, campaigns, poetry and spoken word. The non-profit reaches 20,000-30,000 young people annually across the Caribbean, earning mass appeal and has gone on to advocate against the radicalisation of young Caribbeans at risk of joining overseas conflicts.



Sasha Middleton

Country: **Antigua and Barbuda**

Focus: **SDG 13 - Climate Action**

Sasha is the CEO of 'Antigua and Barbuda Marine Ecosystems Protected Area Trust Inc', one of ten National Conservation Trust Funds in the Caribbean. The project's mission is to work with multi-sectoral partners to support the recovery, and management of Antigua and Barbuda's protected areas. Sasha has helped the Trust to fundraise and distribute over \$600,000 in recovery efforts in Barbuda, employ over 100 people, and support over 40 children in after-school programmes.



Rianna Patterson

Country: **Dominica**

Focus: **SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being**

Rianna is the founder of the 'Dominica Dementia Foundation', a youth led dementia charity that aims to raise awareness of the disease, provide emotional to families and caretakers, and facilitate research. The Foundation has supported communities nationwide including over 500 older people in care homes, reached 20,000 people through awareness efforts, and worked with the Government of Dominica to include dementia in the National Consensus.



Monique Vernon

Country: **Belize**

Focus: **SDG 14 – Life Below Water**

Monique is the founder of 'Mr. Goby and Friends', a women-led recycling project focused on the proper waste management of plastic pollutants, marine protection, conservation, and restoration. The initiative organises weekly clean-ups and supports eco-friendly businesses to create a circular economy from the trash. They have collected over 10,000 plastic bottles and caps which have been donated to the Belize Cancer Centre in exchange for free chemotherapy treatment for children.



AWARD FINALISTS

EUROPE/CANADA

Asha Hollis

Country: **Canada**

Focus: **SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being**

Asha is the creator of the 'SOLVE Mystery Toolkit' which is a free programme for middle school teachers to educate their students on the risks of vaping. The toolkit has been used by over 3,000 students and has been licensed to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada. Asha has also led the development of the University of Calgary's 'Global Access to Medicines Guidelines', enabling access to more affordable medicine in low-income countries.



Maria Kramvi

Country: **Cyprus**

Focus: **SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions**

As the co-founder of 'Rhythm of Cyprus', Maria runs an education programme which uses music as a peacebuilding tool to connect Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot children, and build sustainable communities based on inclusion and understanding. As the team lead of 'Sistema Cyprus', Maria also provides free music education to migrants, refugees and underprivileged children. Over 2,000 children have benefited from the initiative.



Jemima Lovatt

Country: **United Kingdom**

Focus: **SDG 5 – Gender Equality**

Jemima is the founder of 'Thrive Future', an initiative which partners with businesses to address taboo gender inequality topics such as domestic abuse, sexual harassment and unequal pay. Thrive Future has trained over 1200 delegates and launched a digital gender equality platform featuring specialist expertise, thought leadership, awareness, and training videos.



Kasha Sequoia Slavner

Country: **Canada**

Focus: **SDG 13 - Climate Action**

Kasha is the founder of the 'Global Sunrise Project', a youth-led social enterprise which creates positive media content and stages youth workshops to empower students to make an impact in their local and global communities. The workshops have helped reached over 500 students and its first feature-length documentary 'The Sunrise Storyteller' has screened internationally at 60+ festivals, been seen by over 25,000 people and won 30 awards.



AWARD FINALISTS

PACIFIC

Thompson Auri

Country: **Papua New Guinea**

Focus: **SDG 1 – No Poverty**

Thompson is an Information Specialist & Airstrip Surveyor for the Rural Airstrip Agency in PNG. This Agency works to restore closed airstrips, and in doing so, allow isolated communities to access vital treatment and services. Thompson's work conducting group consultations to assess local needs has helped see over 20 airstrips set up, giving thousands of people in rural communities access to better healthcare, education, income generation and a better standard of living.



Madeleine Buchner OAM

Country: **Australia**

Focus: **SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being**

As founder and CEO of 'Little Dreamers Australia', Madeleine is working towards an equal world for young carers - providing internationally recognised best practice programmes focusing on health, wellbeing, social connectedness, financial capabilities, and education and employment. Little Dreamers supports thousands of young carers each year through online and in-person peer support, holiday programmes, mentoring, tutoring and in-school education and training.



Naomi Longa

Country: **Papua New Guinea**

Focus: **SDG 14 – Life Below Water**

Naomi is the Director and Team Leader of 'Sea Women of Melanesia', an organisation empowering indigenous women with the skills and resources needed for them to take the lead in building marine protected areas in their own coral reefs. The project has given marine resource management advice to thousands of women across over 25 coastal communities, trained over 30 indigenous women, and helped deliver aid into partner villages and hospitals, benefiting hundreds of lives.



Lavetanalagi Seruiraduvatu

Country: **Fiji**

Focus: **SDG 13 – Climate Action**

Lavetanalagi is the Coordinator of Fiji's 'Alliance for Future Generations'. It works to build a generation-wide movement of young leaders who meaningfully contribute to sustainable efforts in Fiji. The initiative has given educational materials to over 300 underprivileged children; trained hundreds of kids in areas like climate and food security; and supported the fostering of peace and understanding between youths across different racial and ethnic backgrounds.



COMMONWEALTH YOUTH AWARDS

2022

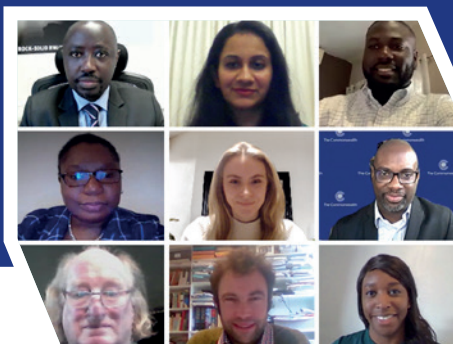
ADJUDICATION PANELS

The Final Pan Commonwealth Adjudication Panel:

- Jinelle Adams, Minister Counsellor & Deputy Head of Mission, High Commission for St Vincent and the Grenadines
- Joseph Kabakeza, First Counsellor, High Commission of the Republic of Rwanda
- Thimuthu Dissanayake, Second Secretary, High Commission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
- Michael Walsh, Honorary Consul, Honorary Consulate for the Republic of Kiribati
- Chris Kelly, Chief Executive Officer, Queen's Commonwealth Trust
- Tijani Christian, Chairperson, Commonwealth Youth Council

Commonwealth Youth Awards Team:

- Layne Robinson, Head, Social Policy Development Section
- Adanna Ehirim, Assistant Programme Officer, Social Policy Development Section
- Natricia Duncan, Communications and Engagement Officer, Social Policy Development Section
- Charlotte Barcham, Web and Social Media Intern, Social Policy Development Section



PAN-COMMONWEALTH

ADJUDICATION PANEL MEMBERS

Abdulrehman Ahmed Alwy	Chimaobi Omeje	Emma Louise Maria Beckles
Abhishek Malhotra	Chrishna St Brice	Ewarla Piper
Abuta Ogeto	Dário Camal	Faysal Islam
Alexander Stonyer-Dubinovsky	Dawsher Charles	Francisca Kanini Sunkuli
Alina Alam	Deborah Akua Pokua Boakye Asirifi	Friday Madinah
Alinoor Hassan	Deepanshu Aggarwal	Fsahat UI-Hassan
Amba Idongesit	Dénica Daniel	Hyacinth Bradley
Anna Leyden	Denise Juvane	Ishita Aggarwal
Ayobami Bakare	Deus Thengo Lupenga	Jane Afua Ntiforo
Bevon Chadel Charles	Diego Armando Aparicio	Jasmine Thomas
Bochum Samuel Bache	Dingirige Sameera Lakruwan Perera	Jeremiah Thoronka
Breanna Gabrielle Robinson	Dr Camir Ricketts	Jonathan Andrews
Broderick Mervyn	Dr Kamel Hothi	Jubilanté Cutting
Caroline Namubiru	Duncan Akatukwasa	Jyotsna Mehra
Charlotte Barcham	Ebot Jean Sanyi	Kendell Vincent
Charmaine Joseph	Elizabeth V Kite	Krystle Reid Wijesuriya
Chevaughn Brown	Ellie Seckold	Kumaragurru Varatharaja

PAN-COMMONWEALTH ADJUDICATION PANEL MEMBERS

(Continued)

Kusala Kumara	Nthabiseng Mofube	Sarika Katoch
Jayendra Fernando	Maimane	Shomy Chowdhury
Lauristan Choy	Odunze Ebere	Solomon Adjei
Leanne Prendergast	Ondabu Onsongo	Somtochukwu Ugwu
Mark Wager	Newton	Sowmyan
Marwan	Paul Habineza	Jegatheesan
Umar Gwamba	Philip Y Maheyni	Suresh Singh
Melissa Haikal	Prince Iwefa Aganaba	Swaraj Priyadarshi
Ming Hong Choi	Pyoka Mfuni	Uzoh Ifeanyi
Mogesh Sababathy	Qasim Farasat	Victor Mafigi
Momin Saqib	Rashmi Samant	Turatsinze
Mothusi John	Raywin Taroaniara	Yanique Williams
Ramaabya	Rijve Arefin	
Muhammad Ahmad	Roma Anne	
Muhammad Ali Malik	Sashendranie	
Nancy Amunga	Vedamuttu	
Natalie Robi Tingo	Rozaline Joseph	
Nawa Joe Silishebo	Sachinda Dulanjana	
Nisa Embran	Witharana	
	Salma Zulfiqar	

ABOUT THE COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PROGRAMME

The Commonwealth Youth Awards are sponsored and co-ordinated by the Commonwealth Youth Programme.

We engage and empower young people, provide thought leadership in youth development, and support governments, youth work professionals and young leaders to create policy and practice environments that help young people to fulfil their social, economic and political potential.

We encourage the effective participation of young women and men in development processes, and promote their engagement at all levels of decision-making, including with Heads of Government. We also showcase, celebrate and advance the capabilities and achievements of young people in driving democracy and development.

We place special emphasis on supporting youth-led initiatives, and giving young people a strong voice in decision-making processes. This includes convening youth forums at Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings and ministerial summits, as well as technical assistance and support for national, regional and global youth networks.

These youth networks include:

- Commonwealth Youth Council
- Commonwealth Students Association
- Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassadors Network
- Commonwealth Youth Climate Change Network
- Commonwealth Youth Human Rights and Democracy Network
- Commonwealth Youth Health Network
- Commonwealth Alliance of Young Entrepreneurs
- Commonwealth Youth Gender Equality Network
- Commonwealth Youth Sport for Development and Peace Network
- Commonwealth Children and Youth Disability Network
- Commonwealth Correspondents
- Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Youth Network

COMMONWEALTH YOUTH FORUM

This June, hundreds of young leaders from across the globe are expected to meet in Kigali, Rwanda at the Commonwealth Youth Forum (CYF). Under the theme "Taking Charge of our Future" the meeting will give participants the opportunity to build cross-cultural connections and networks, debate the challenges facing young people, and agree on effective youth-led initiatives, particularly in light of the global challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Most importantly, the CYF will amplify the voices of young people, ensuring their ideas and perspectives influence decision makers at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) and shape youth development policies.

The Forum is held biennially in the run-up to CHOGM, when leaders from the 54-member bloc meet to reaffirm their common values, address shared global challenges and agree strategies to create a better future for their citizens.

Building on progress since CHOGM 2018 in London, young leaders will focus on five sub themes:

1. Governance and Rule of Law;
2. Sustainability;
3. Youth;
4. Health; and
5. Technology and Innovation

The CYF agenda is developed by an international taskforce, made up of young leaders from across the Commonwealth.

For more information on CYF and how to get involved, please contact: cyf@commonwealth.int



COMMONWEALTH

YOUTH AWARDS

2022

Contact us:

Commonwealth Youth Programme
Commonwealth Secretariat, Marlborough
House, Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5HX

youth@commonwealth.int

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7747 6462

Fax: +44 (0) 20 7747 6549

thecommonwealth.org/our-work/youth



The Commonwealth
Youth Programme