

The State of Social Enterprise Africa: A Conversation with the Builders of Impact

SUSTAINING IMPACT SUMMIT - AUGUST 2026 (TBC 27/28 AUGUST)

VIRTUAL SESSION

Session Briefing

The [State of Social Enterprise: Unlocking Inclusive Growth, Jobs, and Development in Africa](#) provides a major evidence base on the scale, contribution and challenges of social enterprises across the continent. This session, hosted as part of the African Social Enterprise Workshop's 2026 Sustaining Impact Summit, will bring those findings into conversation with the lived realities of social entrepreneurs, creating space for peer exchange, practical reflection and ecosystem learning. This is not designed as a traditional report presentation. It is a social entrepreneur-centred conversation that uses the report as a starting point, then invites participants to connect the findings to their own enterprises, questions and operating realities.

Session Type: Interactive Virtual Session

Session Slot: TBC

Speakers:

- Dynamic Social Entrepreneurs

Moderators:

- Shawn Theunissen – Chair, Social Enterprise Academy Africa.
- Danson Gichini –Lead, Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship, World Economic Forum.

Session Objectives:

- Share key findings from the State of Social Enterprise in Africa report in a concise and accessible way.
- Bring the findings to life through the personal journey and enterprise model of a dynamic social entrepreneur.
- Enable participants to introduce their own work and connect with peers in small groups.
- Surface participant-led questions for the speaker on mission, markets, finance, regulation, impact and sustainability.
- Identify practical insights, ecosystem asks and follow-up opportunities for social entrepreneurs and partners.

PROPOSED SESSION FLOW

TIME	SECTION	NOTES	FORMAT
0:00–0:05 (5 mins)	Participant Arrival and Buffer	Allow participants to filter in, manage connectivity issues and settle into the platform. Use a holding slide with the session title and a simple chat prompt: “Where are you joining from?”	Arrival buffer / chat
0:05–0:10 (5 mins)	Welcome and Session Framing	Set the purpose of the session: moving from continental evidence to lived experience. Clarify that the session is for all social entrepreneurs, whether or not they contributed to the survey. Explain the flow: findings, fireside chat with leading social entrepreneur, peer engagement and interactive discussions, and closing reflections.	Facilitator welcome
0:10–0:20 (10 mins)	Key Findings: What the Report Tells Us	Present the most relevant findings: scale of social enterprise in Africa, jobs created, women and youth leadership, inclusion, revenue contribution and key barriers. The report estimates 2.18 million social enterprises across Africa, generating at least \$96 billion annually and creating at least 12 million jobs.	Short presentation
0:20–0:30 (10 mins)	Fireside Chat 1: The Founder Journey Behind the Data	A well established African social entrepreneur shares their personal journey, what shaped them, what their social enterprise does, the impact they are seeking, and how they use entrepreneurship to achieve mission-driven outcomes. The conversation also explores how they balance being market-minded and mission-driven, and how the report’s findings connect to their experience.	Moderated fireside chat
0:30–0:45 (15 mins)	Breakout 1: Meet, Share and Shape Questions	Participants enter small groups. The goal is peer connection and question-building for the next section, which is a Q&A with the speaker. Participants briefly share who they are, what their enterprise or work does, and then define one strong question they would like to ask the speaker.	Breakout groups
0:45–1:10 (25 mins)	Fireside Chat 2 (Q&A): The Room Interviews the Speaker	Participants return and feed questions to the speaker. Questions can be raised by voice, chat or Q&A. The moderator clusters questions and guides the speaker through the main themes emerging from the room, such as finance, revenue, legal structure, surplus reinvestment, markets, partnerships, impact measurement and scaling.	Moderated audience Q&A
1:10–1:23 (13 mins)	Breakout 2: From Insight to Action	Participants return to small groups to discuss what they are taking from the conversation and what it means in their own context. The focus is on individual practical application, ecosystem asks, and collective strategies opportunities.	Breakout groups
1:23–1:28 (5 mins)	Plenary Harvest: Practical Takeaways	Groups post concise outputs in the chat: one practical takeaway, one ecosystem ask and one collective opportunity to collaborate. The facilitator synthesizes key patterns across the room.	Chat harvest and synthesis
1:28–1:30 (2 mins)	Closing and Next Steps	Facilitator closes by explaining that insights from the session will be captured in a short participant-informed synthesis note.	Facilitator close