



YOUNG  
WATER  
SOLUTIONS



Empowering the next  
generation of WASH  
entrepreneurs



# WHAT WE DO

We invest in young talents and unlock their potential to create and scale WASH startups by providing them the necessary tools and financial means to become successful and impactful entrepreneurs.



# HOW DO WE DO IT

Since 2017, our **Young Water Fellowship** programmes support youth in low-and middle-income countries with 4 enabling components...



...at every step of their entrepreneurial journey:

**1**

## Activation - Ideation

Identify and engage talents in ideation workshops

**2**

## Incubation

Provide long-term support to transition ideas into business models

**3**

## Pre-Acceleration, acceleration

Consolidate management in operating startups to become investment ready

# OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

To build the WASH entrepreneurial pipeline, paving the way to accelerators and investors

To enable "SDG-proof" businesses, focusing on sustainability, gender, and those left furthest behind

To support both breakthrough innovations and also proven models

To never do this alone: co-deliver programmes with local incubators and experts

# WHY YOUTH?

The marathon to achieve SDG 6 needs innovative, locally driven and adapted solutions. Although entrepreneurial, committed young people leading social businesses can tackle WASH, education, and youth unemployment issues, this tremendous resource remains untapped due to the lack of access to financial support, tailored business training and supportive networks.

**We believe and invest in young talents in the water sector before anyone else does. This has been the case for 67% (40) of our successful businesses.**

### **Hafiz Usama Tanveer, Pakvitae, Pakistan**

When he joined the first cohort of the YWF in 2017, Usama and his team only had a prototype of their hollow fiber membrane filters (Pakstraw). 5 years later Pakvitae has received investment for \$3M, has clients such as WHO and has benefited over 500,000 people in refugee camps.



**We provide technical and financial support to young people in the Global South...**

**500+**

young entrepreneurs engaged in ideation, incubation and pre-acceleration trainings

**51%**

of entrepreneurs engaged in incubation are women

**350K € +**

in funding given to start-ups for prototyping and piloting

**... to launch and operate WASH social businesses ...**

**100+**

youth-led start-ups incubated or pre-accelerated, of which **59%** are in operation

**77%**

are now post revenue, post profit or at growth stage

**... that tackle WASH issues in low-income communities.**

Data from our 2017-2022 impact report

**1.2 million**

people benefited with safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene through our start-ups



### **Bernadette Ojao, Wabibi Pads, Uganda**

Bernadette Ojao fights against period poverty and produces reusable sanitary pads. One year after we engaged her in the YWF Uganda in 2021, she has more than doubled her turnover and has 8 employees. Her pads are available from slum markets to Jumia and more than 10,000 women and girls have used them in 2022.

Young Water Solutions (YWS) is an international non for profit organization established in Belgium. Since first launching the YWF programme in 2017, entrepreneurs have been supported in 26 countries, mainly in Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and South Asia.



## With the financial support of



## With the technical support of



Young Water Solutions is part of:

