

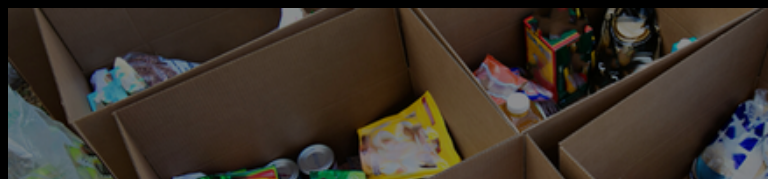


Solve Innovation Future

ANNUAL REPORT

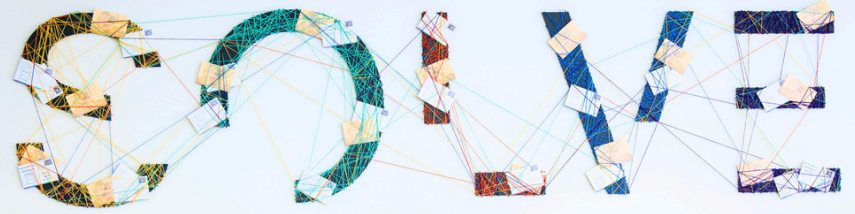
MIT Solve's Venture Philanthropy Vehicle

2023



ABOUT SOLVE

Solve is an initiative of MIT. We believe that to achieve a more sustainable and equitable future for all, we need new voices and ideas. We launch open calls for exceptional and diverse solutions to the most pressing global challenges from anyone, anywhere in the world. Selected innovators get the backing of MIT and our community of supporters to scale their impact and drive lasting change.



SOLVE INNOVATION FUTURE

Solve Innovation Future was created by MIT Solve to disrupt traditional philanthropy, offering a new way for philanthropists and funders to find and scale world-changing ideas. Through a Donor Advised Fund (DAF), philanthropic dollars are directed to early-stage innovators within our network through catalytic investments; proceeds are reinvested into the fund and invested in future Solver teams, proving that philanthropy can unlock funding for mission-driven founders and that a philanthropic dollar can be recycled to amplify impact.



A Letter to Our Supporters

Dear all,

Optimism and partnership are the bedrock of our work at Solve and Solve Innovation Future. We know that progress is made through partnership, and securing partnerships requires action in service of innovators using technology to solve the world's most pressing problems.

And yet, it is no secret that the past few years saw a decrease in early-stage investment, a trend that can particularly punish entrepreneurs with an impact focus. The decrease in funding, coupled with the persistent estimate of trillions of dollars needed to achieve the UN SDGs, emphasizes the urgency of our work. The time for risk-tolerant investment is now.

At Solve, our optimism helps us to focus on action; as long as first-time founders and impact-focused entities struggle to raise capital, we refuse to sit on the sidelines.

We seek to be partners with our investees, by using founder-friendly structures to invest in companies with sound fundamentals and audacious solutions to the problems that face our communities. One example of partnership in action can be found in this report, featuring investee Brastorne.

We also remain committed to building partnerships across our community and beyond, by nurturing relationships that lead to accelerated scale and impact. You'll learn more about this effort through the work of investees dondoctor and Pendulum.

At Solve Innovation Future, our job is to be unflinching in our actions; using philanthropic capital, designed for innovation and action, to make big bets on entrepreneurs wielding technology for change. Our progress represents a meaningful strategy to close the \$4.2 trillion annual funding gap needed to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.¹

In an era where impact investing faces criticism for what can be a lack of tangible or scalable outcomes, Solve Innovation Future can report on over 60 million lives positively impacted by our investees, demonstrating the power of purposeful philanthropic investment.

I hope you feel inspired by the stories and results in this report and recommit yourself to optimism, partnership, and action on the relentless path to achieve a more sustainable future for us all.

Best,

Casey van der Stricht

Casey van der Stricht

Principal, Solve Innovation Future
casey.vanderstricht@solve.mit.edu



WHY IT WORKS

Solve Innovation Future represents a transformative approach to philanthropy and investment, addressing the shortcomings of traditional strategies by deploying philanthropic capital in a risk-tolerant and efficient way.

OVER FIVE YEARS, SOLVE INNOVATION FUTURE HAS GROWN EXPONENTIALLY, AND WE AREN'T STOPPING THERE.

Unlocked

4X



the initial investment

Deployed over

\$1.8M across 18

investments



in 11 countries

Actively raising

\$10 million

toward a goal of

\$30 million

in order to make

50 investments

and impact

100M+ lives



How we work with:

Innovators: By channeling capital into early-stage innovators selected as Solver teams, Solve Innovation Future connects innovators efficiently to risk-tolerant capital. Solver teams are selected for their commitment to using technology to address social and environmental global issues, and are proximate, often first-time founders.

Funders: For philanthropists, we put capital to work within 12 months and re-deploy any proceeds toward future investees ensuring that capital earmarked for impact has immediate effect. Investors and donors can maximize impact in a rapidly evolving landscape by partnering with Solve Innovation Future as an efficient and effective intermediary.

Investees: We continuously seek to facilitate transformational partnerships and catalyze additional growth ensuring that we are an honest partner in scaling impact.



"Solving pressing problems requires innovative financing models and collaboration across sectors, industries, and cultures. With its wide reach and empowering approach, Solve Innovation Future is enabling all that. We share a common mission: to ensure entrepreneurial and technological innovations benefit the many rather than the few."



Liban Ismail

Director of Philanthropy
Illusian Family Office




Meet the Investees

PORTFOLIO OUTCOMES

 **42,000**
people with access
to sexual and
reproductive
health services

 **570,000**
individuals with
improved
learning growth

 **1.7M**
metric tons of
CO2 reduced

 **3.4M**
consultations
with licensed
healthcare
providers

 **7.5B**
liters of
water saved

PORTFOLIO

	INVESTEE	FOCUS AREA	COUNTRY	INVESTMENT STAGE & TYPE	RESULTS & OUTCOMES
2023	Brastorne	Economic Prosperity	Botswana	Seed; Revenue share agreement	Over 4M users and a 115% increase in income for female farmers who use their services
	Fazla	Climate	Turkey	Series A follow-on; convertible note	58,000+ metric tonnes of food saved, 83,000 metric tonnes of CO2 emissions saved
	Ultranauts	Economic Prosperity	USA	Series A; equity investment	75% neurodiverse workforce that is 100% remote, and 2x less lonely than average
2022	dondoctor	Health	Colombia	Post-Seed Bridge; SAFE investment	350,000+ visits per month from more than 7 countries
	Globhe	Climate	Sweden	Seed; Equity Investment	6,228 drone operators across 130 countries + a reduced risk of water pollution for 23M people
	Ilara Health	Health	Kenya	Post-Series A debt issuance	147 Butterfly ultrasound devices deployed across Kenya and South Africa
	Pendulum	Health	USA	Seed; Equity Investment (preferred stock)	1,000+ sites spanning six countries + a private sector network of 2M+ customers
	Smart Fish AC	Climate	Mexico	Follow on debt issuance	894 people trained in fishing communities + 121 tons of whole fish products sold in preferential markets
2020-2021	Access Afya	Health	Kenya	Post-Seed Bridge; SAFE Investment	200k+ people served with modern healthcare solutions for emerging economies
	Algramo	Climate	Chile	Series A; Equity Investment	23k kilogram net reduction in CO2 emissions using alternative to packaging for staple products
	Century	Learning	UK	Post-Series A; Equity Investment	30% avg. increase in learning outcomes for students through platform to support personalized learning
	EarlyBird	Learning	USA	Oversubscribed Seed; Convertible Note	26k people improved learning outcomes with gamified early detection for dyslexia from ages 4 - 8
	eggXYt	Climate	Israel	Seed; SAFE Investment	1B chicks saved per year with non-invasive CRISPR-based technology to edit chicken genes
	Kinedu	Learning	Sweden	Seed; Equity Investment	More than 3M users 1,800 interactive expert designed activities
	Queen of Raw	Climate	USA	Seed; Equity Investment	1B gallons of water saved using blockchain & machine learning-powered supply chain waste management
	Rheaply	Climate	USA	Post-Series; Convertible Note	60M tons of waste diverted from landfills utilizing circular economy technology





2023

INVESTEESpotLIGHT



Brastorne connects the unconnected across Africa, enabling rural villagers to access the digital world without smartphones or data bundles. Brastorne upconverts feature phones into digital portals at <\$0.05/day, leveraging data protocols over standard telco networks.

FOCUS AREA: **Economic Prosperity**
COUNTRY: **BOTSWANA**

4 million users

115% increase in income for female farmers who used their services



Fazla is a technology waste management and logistics company helping businesses recover value from surplus food by reselling to other businesses, suppliers, producers, or food banks.

FOCUS AREA: **Climate**
COUNTRY: **TURKEY**

58,000+ metric tonnes of food saved

83,000 metric tonnes of CO2 emissions saved



Ultranauts is proving that neurodiversity can be a competitive advantage, and redesigning the workplace so that everyone, no matter how we're wired, can have a fair shot at success. It has developed software and data quality engineering services to employ a neurodiverse workforce, with a track record of partnering with both large enterprises and hyper-growth startups across a wide range of industries.

FOCUS AREA: **Economic Prosperity**
COUNTRY: **USA**

75% neurodiverse workforce that is **100%** remote

2X Less lonely than average

2023

Portfolio Highlights



Brastorne

CLOSING THE FUNDING GAP

As the funding gap to achieve the SDGs continues to grow, deploying risk-tolerant capital to meet companies in entrepreneur-friendly structures is critical.



dondoctor x
Pendulum

PARTNERING FOR IMPACT

Partnerships are the key to to amplifying transformational impact.

Brastorne

As the funding gap to achieve the SDGs continues to grow, deploying risk-tolerant capital to meet companies in entrepreneur-friendly structures is critical.



On a mission to connect 760 million Africans, Brastorne transforms feature phones into affordable but robust devices that connect to the internet. Utilizing Short Message Service (SMS), Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD), and Interactive Voice Response (IVR) technologies, Brastorne enables users to access information and markets through their existing telecom networks, bridging the digital divide and fostering economic resilience in Africa.

Brastorne's platform currently hosts more than four million users, creating a measurable impact for each individual. For example, its agricultural platform has increased yields by 250% for farmers and has successfully communicated crucial health information to over 600,000 people through a partnership with UNICEF and the Ministry of Health.

In collaboration with MIT Solve, Brastorne secured over half a million dollars, including an investment from Solve Innovation Future. Through this partnership, Brastorne unlocked access to investment options that would best support their model, which can require upfront costs to enter new markets, and expects predictable customer adoption.

Together, Brastorne and Solve Innovation Future decided that a revenue share agreement aligned with their shared incentives. Solve Innovation Future is repaid as Brastorne grows. If Brastorne grows quickly, the investment is repaid quickly, with a cap to ensure that the investment does not burden the maturing company. If the work grows slowly, repayment occurs in line with that growth.

This entrepreneur-friendly structure is core to the Solve Innovation Future philosophy: using flexible structures to help investees like Brastorne remain focused on impact.



dondoctor x Pendulum

Partnerships are the key to amplifying transformational impact.

dondoctor is a technology company focused on digitizing patient access and interaction with the healthcare system. The dondoctor team believes that technology can provide an efficient, transparent, inclusive, and convenient health system for all Latin Americans.

In 2022, Solve Innovation Future partnered with dondoctor through an equity investment structured as a Simple Agreement for Future Equity (SAFE), a standard investment tool that helps innovators work quickly by standardizing terms across investors and does not require an agreement on a valuation.

Since 2018 dondoctor has leveraged their analytics platform to identify significant gaps in healthcare service delivery, including 51 minutes on the phone to get an appointment booked and up to 37 days on average to wait to see a doctor. For clinics, more than 30% of the gross margin is allocated to call center costs, and 38% of available appointments are lost because of unfilled spots and no-shows.

Through Solve, dondoctor met Pendulum: a company that leverages AI solutions to provide accurate demand forecasts, optimal resource management, and robust asset tracking, for customers to increase revenue and service levels while decreasing costs and waste. In 2023, Solve Innovation Future partnered with Pendulum by making an equity investment.

Together dondoctor and Pendulum are working to leverage the predictive capacity of AI technology to support dondoctor's clients. To date, Pendulum's AI-driven forecasts have enabled health systems using dondoctor to identify 16-20% more no-shows on average—the equivalent of recovering up to 20,000 appointments every month. In partnership, the teams are proving that collaboration can help both companies grow and that partnership can accelerate the impact and progress to ensure that all people have access to high-quality healthcare.

LEADING THE CONVERSATION

TIME

Inside Philanthropy

Forbes



MONEYLIVE
Summit



Is Catalytic Capital Right for Your Startup?

An interview with Solve Innovation Future's principal Casey van der Stricht, and 2023 investee Brastorne.

MoneyLIVE America Conference

Casey van der Stricht delivered a keynote address at MoneyLIVE America conference to a room of 500+ industry leaders.

Impact Outcomes: Partnerships that Drive Investment Innovation

Solve at MIT 2023 featuring: Betsy Cohen, Cohen Circle; Tom Kuo, A-Street Ventures; Amy Pirozzolo, Fidelity Charitable; Casey van der Stricht, Principal, Rajesh Andan, Ultronauts and Solve Innovation Future Investee

The Answer to Smarter Philanthropy Can Be Found in a DAF Intermediary

Casey van der Stricht of the Solve Innovation Future Fund at MIT Solve offers a path for donors to invest in social innovators.

Shein Partners With Queen Of Raw To Rescue Fashion Industry's DeadStock

Shein has teamed up with Solve Innovation Future investee Queen of Raw to save deadstock through circular economy technology.

Globhe is Using Drones to Improve Global Health: From the Floor of Intergeo

Learn about using drones and drone data to improve outcomes in global health from our 2022 investee Globhe.

Investees Kinedu and CENTURY Tech included in the World Top EdTech Company by TIME.

Both teams are recognized for their work in expanding and evolving post-pandemic online learning.



DRIVE CHANGE. DEPLOY CAPITAL. MULTIPLY IMPACT.

How to work with Solve Innovation Future

Investing philanthropic capital via donor-advised funds is a disruptive and powerful form of philanthropy and a novel way to support game-changing innovators. Solve Innovation Future donors support a portfolio of solutions through a single contribution, where proceeds from all investments are recycled back into the fund and future Solver teams.

To get involved, please reach out to frances.robinson@solve.mit.edu.

Direct donations or DAF-DAF transfers

Individuals, corporations, foundations, and DAF holders can donate to advance the world-changing work of Solver teams across the globe. Donations are directly invested and proceeds are recycled into future impact investments.

Ally membership and Leadership Circle

Supporters join the Solve Innovation Future community to unlock access to impact investing and innovative philanthropy materials, events, and opportunities to meet early-stage innovators potentially aligned with your investment or philanthropic strategy.

Multi-year principal supporters join the Solve Innovation Future Leadership Circle, an active network of individuals and organizations dedicated to advancing impact innovation and helping shape a better world.

Ally+ membership

Supporters leverage the Solve Innovation Future learning platform to explore venture philanthropy strategies, including the Solve Innovation Future model. Solve Innovation Future can work with your organization as you explore and design your own unique methods for unlocking philanthropic capital for impact investing.



Multiply Your Impact

Join us in accelerating impact through innovative philanthropy and impact investments. Solve Innovation Future leverages fearless capital to support groundbreaking solutions for a sustainable and equitable future. With your involvement, we can amplify our impact and scale world-changing ideas.

[CONTACT US](#)

Solve Innovation Future is grateful to the ongoing support of our advisors and supporters, including

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Illusian Family Office
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