



**\*\*EMBARGOED UNTIL 00:01 THURSDAY 11 OCTOBER 2018\*\***

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**APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR NEW \$600,000 TRANSFORMING LIVES AWARDS PROGRAMME  
RECOGNISING SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD PROJECTS IN EMERGING MARKETS**

- *Alquity launches the Transforming Lives Awards to identify & support outstanding nonprofit & social enterprises delivering sustainable livelihood initiatives across Asia, Africa, & Latin America*
- *Awards scheme launches with the support of business leaders such as Sir Richard Branson and Unilever's Paul Polman*

"Alquity and Philanthropy University have launched an exciting initiative to identify the most innovative and scalable models to promote economic growth in developing countries," **said Sir Richard Branson**. "I look forward to seeing the organisations which emerge from the programme as they strive to help make greater progress towards ending poverty around the world."

**Hilde Schwab, co-founder of the World Economic Forum and the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship:** "I am delighted to join the judging panel for the Transforming Lives Awards. Social entrepreneurship has the potential to deliver meaningful change for underserved communities by applying the ambitions, determination, and strategic approach of business to solve serious social issues. Building sustainable livelihoods is the backbone of creating inclusive societies that provide opportunity for all."

[Alquity](#) has today launched the inaugural [Transforming Lives Awards](#), convened by Philanthropy University, with applications now open for awards totaling \$600,000. Entries are open to social enterprises in emerging markets that are making an outstanding contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and nonprofits that promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (UN SDG 8).

The Transforming Lives Awards programme has been inspired by Alquity's shared values business model. Alquity, a fund management business, invests in emerging markets with Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) issues integrated into its holistic investment process. This results in portfolios consisting of attractive, well-positioned responsible businesses focused on delivering long-term inclusive growth. In addition, Alquity donates a minimum of 10% of its revenues to the Transforming Lives Foundation that awards grants to local projects making a positive social impact in the regions in

which it invests. This in turn informs its investment process and contributes to delivering attractive returns for investors, completing Alquity's Virtuous Circle. Since its launch Alquity has generated donations totaling over \$1.7 million and contributed to transforming tens of thousands of lives across Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The awards programme is the next step in its journey.

"Alquity's vision is to be a thought-leading 'shared values' business by generating economic value in a way that also produces value for society by addressing its challenges," said Paul Robinson, Founder of Alquity. "The Transforming Lives Awards will be the catalyst for increasing our impact through uncovering organisations delivering sustainable solutions and supporting more equitable economic development across all of our key emerging markets. If we truly believe in meritocracy then everyone deserves the opportunity to succeed irrespective of where they are born."

The awards programme, supported by high-profile leaders, such as Sir Richard Branson, and industry leaders, including Charities Aid Foundation, the World Bank, World Merit and UBS, offers new paths to capital, profile, and expert advice so that winning organisations can invest in their work, improving the future of the communities and people they serve.

"We at Philanthropy University are reimagining capacity building for the digital age," said Connor Diemand-Yauman, CEO and Co-Founder of Philanthropy U, "and that includes connecting local organisations to funding opportunities through our learning platform. This awards programme also pioneers a tech-enabled participatory approach, more deeply involving and recognising local organisations as the experts and leaders."

Award winners will receive between \$25,000 to \$100,000 in funding. Critically, the winning organisations must demonstrate a pathway to a sustainable funding model, even if their current model requires donor funding.

A pre-application period started on October 1st and ends October 31<sup>st</sup>, during which time interested entrants are invited to submit short and long-form questionnaires about their organisations. The process also involves a first-of-its-kind peer assessment that sees local organisations participate in the vetting process.

A total of 120 organisations will be selected to move on to a formal application process in November, when they will be assessed by an esteemed judging panel that will include Unilever CEO Paul Polman and Hilde Schwab, co-founder of the World Economic Forum and the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship.

The winners will be announced at a global awards event in summer 2019, following an extensive assessment and due diligence process.

Currently totalling \$600,000, the awards offer grants for charities that fall under the first two categories and debt or equity funding for social enterprises and SMEs:

- **Nonprofit High Impact:** for organisations that can demonstrate strong management practices and measurably strong results through programmes designed to support the economic empowerment of their communities.

- **Nonprofit High Potential:** for organisations that can demonstrate potential to scale livelihoods focused programmes.
- **Small and Medium Enterprise and Social Entrepreneurs:** for enterprises employing sustainable business models to address social or environmental challenges, or indeed visionary start-ups with a viable and scalable business plan.

To learn more and start your pre-application for an award, [visit the Philanthropy University website](#).

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### **About the Transforming Lives Awards**

Award winners will come from target countries in three regions:

**Africa:** Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa

**Asia:** China, India, Vietnam

**Latin America:** Brazil, Chile, Peru, Mexico

There will be at least one award for each of the three regions: Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Award winners amongst the social enterprises will be able to demonstrate a significant contribution towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, whilst the nonprofits will be focused on achieving UN SDG 8; economic growth and decent work for all.

Driven by the exponential growth of the business, the awards reflect Alquity's ambition to become one of the leading social impact businesses globally. The awards enable the business to reach additional donors from like-minded companies whilst opening up new channels for charitable organisations and social impact businesses to access funding. The awards not only cover grant funding but the potential for debt or equity financing of impact businesses and budding social entrepreneurs.

Alquity is donating the initial \$600,000 of awards money and funding the costs of the awards. The business is looking for opportunities to increase this funding by bringing additional partners into this community of excellence.

### **About Alquity**

Alquity is an asset management business investing in high-growth markets across the world. Its goal is to connect investors to their investments and social progress in order to deliver better financial outcomes for all.

Its investments target attractive returns across Africa, Asia, and Latin America through portfolios that include transparent companies, with effective management that is aligned with shareholders. Alquity funds are therefore responsible by design, targeting consistent out-performance whilst contributing to long-term growth.

Alquity donates a minimum of 10% of its management fees to development projects in the regions in which it invests. In this way, the business aligns the values of investors, employees, holdings and communities – uniting them with the fundamental belief that these shared values are key to achieving enduring financial and societal success.

To find out more about Alquity the business: <http://alquity.com/>

To find out more about Alquity's Foundation: <http://alquityfoundation.org/>

### **About Philanthropy University**

Philanthropy University is a digital learning platform that provides local organisations in the Global South with the knowledge and resources needed to better serve their communities. Designed by leading academics and local leaders from around the world, our free online University accelerates the impact of local organisations with essential courses and vibrant communities of practice. Our easy-to-use platform blends expert instruction with engaging content to help local leaders build skills to be more effective in their work and unlock locally-led impact.

Start learning at [philanthropyu.org](http://philanthropyu.org)

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