At Segal Family Foundation, we believe that local solutions are the best solutions. We believe that development should be led by local visionaries and power shifted into the hands of communities. We believe that stellar individuals leading exemplary organizations are best placed to devise contextual and sustainable solutions to local challenges. They are not, however, the focus of many donors’ funding. We created the African Visionary Fellowship to disrupt this paradigm.

Beginning in 2017 with an inaugural cohort of 25 fellows from across eight countries, AVF offers capacity building designed for and by local visionaries themselves. Fellows receive mentorship, exposure, and the support of a community of like-minded changemakers. The Fellowship drives more resources to local visionaries and their organizations—their work will accelerate, and their impact will grow.
SOLOMON KING BENGE

Solomon King Benge is passionate about education, design, business, and technology. In 2011, he founded Fundi Bots, a non-profit that aims to promote better science education experiences, improved career prospects, and real-world technological advancement in African high schools and local communities through training and experimentation in robotics using a project-based and skills-oriented learning methodology.

He started his first business at 20 and currently has two businesses in his portfolio, both of which are key players in the Ugandan technology and design industry. Solomon’s work has been covered by Wired Magazine (UK), BBC, CNN, and Voice of America.

JADE MAINA

Jade Maina’s mother taught her that women could do anything to which they set their minds. Yet as a student at University of Nairobi, she realized that other women lacked autonomy and the services to support their choices. She saw female students enter exploitative, violent relationships and struggle to protect themselves from unwanted pregnancies and STIs.

Jade joined Trust for Indigenous Culture and Health (TICAH) in 2006, working to promote health, equitable relationships, and community action. Through empowerment programs such as “Our Bodies, Our Choices,” TICAH encourages more honest, healthy, and informed approaches to sexual life for all ages where rights and choices are respected.
ANGE MUYUBIRA

Ange Muyubira is a social entrepreneur with the goal of improving the lives of those with less opportunity, especially those from her home country of Burundi. Pursuing her passion for beauty and fashion, she served as an account manager for 10 years in London for many high-end beauty houses including Chanel, Dior, Carolina Herrera, and Prada. Back in Burundi, she organized fashion shows, film and theater events, and ad campaigns, as well as private and national events such as Burundi tourism exhibitions in Western countries.

Ange founded Kaz’O’zah Art to bolster Burundian artisans by providing training and facilitating their access to both national and international markets. Kaz’O’zah provides employment opportunities and allows artisans to make a living from their trade.

WILLIE MPASUKA

Willie Mpasuka comes from a humble background: one of nine children growing up in a slum. This affected his academic performance, and he was deemed a slow learner. Through support of relatives and community, Willie became the only child who graduated from college. He then committed his life to helping slow learners complete school with excellence.

In 2009, he co-founded Rays of Hope Ministries, an organization working to improve the quality of education, supplement primary education with creative and remedial educational programs, offer secondary school opportunities, and equip youth with vocational skills as a foundation for productive lives. Rays of Hope currently serves 66,000 children in Malawi; the model is being replicated in other districts due to its success.
AFRICAN VISIONARIES

BARBARA BIRUNGI @BarbsBirungi
Founder and Director of Women in Technology Uganda, supporting women’s local capacity building and skills development for technology and entrepreneurship in Uganda.

CHARLES ODHIAMBO
Executive Director of Ujima Foundation, providing entrepreneurship and job-readiness training to unemployed youth in western Kenya.

EVANS ODHIAMBO
Executive Director of Kesho Organization, financing access to education and offering academic and literacy support, enrichment and training, child protection, and family support on the Kenyan coast.

FARAJA NYALANDU @FarajaNyalandu
Founder and Executive Director of Shule Direct, bridging the educational resources divide in Tanzania by providing anytime, anywhere learning opportunities through accessible technologies.

FRANÇOISE NIBIZI @NibiziFrancoise
Founder and Executive Director of SaCoDé, teaching reproductive health to youth in Burundi through walk-in centers, in-school programs, and SMS-based campaigns.

GERTRUDE KABWAZI
Country Director of Advancing Girls’ Education in Africa, providing life-changing opportunities to young women in Malawi through targeted initiatives in education, mentoring, and leadership development.

JOACHIM EWECHU @ewechu
Co-Founder and CEO of Unreasonable East Africa, giving an advantage to entrepreneurs creating solutions to East Africa’s biggest social and environmental problems.

JOSEPH KANDIYESA
Director of Kindle Orphan Outreach, inspiring and supporting orphans in Malawi to reach their full potential as productive members of society.

KHADIJA OMAR RAMA
Founder and Director of Pepo La Tumaini Jangwani, providing education and healthcare to vulnerable women and children affected by HIV in rural Kenya.

LOU LOUIS KOBOJI
Founder and Director of Kajo-Keji Health Training Institute, improving health care by training doctors to treat patients in South Sudan.
MOLADE ADENIYI @moladeadeniyi
CEO of **West African Vocational Education**, empowering disadvantaged West African youth with employability skills that transform their mindsets and employment opportunities that enhance their social mobility.

MONICA NYIRAGUHABWA @on7monica1
Co-Founder and Executive Director of **Girl Up Initiative Uganda**, providing young women and girls with opportunities to succeed and thrive as leaders in their communities.

MUZABEL WELONGO @MuzabelWelongo
Founder and Executive Director of **Solidarity & Advocacy in Crisis**, promoting sexual and reproductive health, literacy, and livelihoods for young refugees in Kenya.

OLIVIA MUGABIRWE @omugabinwe
Founder and Executive Director of **PeerLink Initiative Uganda**, contributing to the socio-economic empowerment of children, youth, and women through a community library and empowerment center.

RICHARD NIJIMBERE @RichardNijimber
Executive Director of **Maison Shalom**, offering education and livelihoods programs for Burundian refugees in Rwanda.

ROBERT KALYESUBULA
Founder and Executive Director of **African Center for Social Sustainability**, providing medical care, education, and economic empowerment to vulnerable groups in Uganda.

SARAH LINDEIRE @Sarah_Lindeire
Founder and Executive Director of **Tingathe**, transforming peri-urban youth with marketable skills to thrive in enterprise as professionals.

SPÈS NIHANGAZA
Founder and Legal Representative of **FVS-AMADE**, providing services for orphans and vulnerable children within their communities in Burundi.

WENDO ASZED @WendoAszed
Founder and Executive Director of **Dandelion Africa**, improving the health and economy of youth and women living in marginalized areas in Kenya.

MOLADE ADENIYI @moladeadeniyi
CEO of **West African Vocational Education**, empowering disadvantaged West African youth with employability skills that transform their mindsets and employment opportunities that enhance their social mobility.

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