

Home / News / Latest News

Ending poverty: Meet the Waislitz Global Citizen Award winners for 2024

By [Acm Newsroom](#)

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Dysmus Kisilu, from Kenya, is the Waislitz Global Citizen Award Grand Prize winner for 2024. Picture courtesy of the Waislitz Global Citizen Awards

The pioneering founder of a company boosting agricultural productivity in Kenya with portable solar-powered cold storage units for small-scale local farmers has been named the Waislitz Global Citizen Award Grand Prize winner for 2024.

Dysmus Kisilu, from Kenya, is the founder of Solar Freeze, which helps farmers increase their yields and reduce post-harvest losses using innovative mobile cold rooms powered by renewable energy.

As well as off-grid cold storage for temperature-sensitive fresh produce, Solar Freeze incorporates AI algorithms to predict and mitigate horticulture and dairy losses by analysing weather conditions, crop maturity and market demand.

Mr Dysmus, a 2018 Obama Leaders Fellow, MIT Fellow and Mandela Washington Fellow for Young African Leaders, says the Waislitz Global Citizen prize of \$US100,000 will enable him to serve an additional 1million farmers in Africa by 2030.

The awards, presented by international anti-poverty advocacy group [Global Citizen](#) and the Melbourne-based Waislitz Foundation chaired by businessman Alex Waislitz, are annual cash prizes totalling \$US300,000 that recognise trail-blazing individuals striving to end extreme poverty and its systemic causes.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the awards.

"In 2014, the Waislitz Foundation and Global Citizen had a vision to highlight those who are making an impact towards ending extreme poverty on a grassroots level and to inspire others to join this mission," Mr Waislitz, co-owner with Antony Catalano of media company [ACM](#), the publisher of this masthead, said.

"Now, 10 years on, I am immensely proud that we have honored and supported 29 outstanding and inspirational young champions from

15 countries across the world.

"Their work continues to change the lives of so many in their communities and beyond."



📷 Isabelle Kamariza, from Rwanda, is the winner of the 2024 Waislitz Global Citizen Disruptor Award. Picture courtesy of the Waislitz Global Citizen Awards

The other Waislitz Global Citizen winners for 2024 are Isabelle Kamariza, from Rwanda, who receives the Waislitz Global Citizen Disruptor Award, and Farhana Rashid, from Bangladesh, who receives the Waislitz Global Citizen Choice Award.

Ms Kamariza is the co-founder of non-profit Solid Africa, which is improving nutrition security in Rwanda through a sustainable farm-to-fork model providing 4800 daily meals across six hospitals.

Since its inception in 2010, Solid Africa has served 7.5 million meals to 650,000 low-income patients.

Through a partnership with the government, Ms Kamariza aims to reach all public hospitals by 2030. Solid Africa already collaborates on a school feeding program, serving 1600 students daily.

Ms Kamariza says her Waislitz Global Citizen award will help expand her feeding program to serve 5000 students a day by the end of 2024.



📷 Farhana Rashid, from Bangladesh, is the winner of the Waislitz Global Citizen Choice Award. Picture courtesy of the Waislitz Global Citizen Awards

Ms Rashid formed the group Bhumijo in 2016 to address Bangladesh's toilet crisis after witnessing the health risks of unhygienic public toilets when her aunt suffered UTIs leading to kidney failure.

With a bachelor degree in architecture and a masters in planning from KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Ms Rashid established 43 facilities which offered more than 2 million people dignity and freedom by enhancing public spaces.

With Global Citizen's support, Bhumijo aims to reach 3 million people by 2025, improving public health through accessible sanitation solutions.

Each Waislitz Global Citizen prize winner receives \$US100,000 to further advance their organisation's work. All applicants were evaluated based on individual merit in five key areas, including global citizenship, proof of concept, disruption, scalability, and adaptability.

Mr Waislitz congratulated the 2024 winners.

"This year's recipients, Dymus Kisilu, Isabelle Kamariza and Farhana Rashid, exemplify the extraordinary impact and innovation we set out to recognise and support," he said.

"I remain committed, along with the Waislitz Foundation, to [supporting and growing these awards for many years to come.](#)"

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Co-Founder and CEO of [Global Citizen](#) Hugh Evans said the 2024 winners were "three inspiring leaders who are dedicated to

improving the lives of the most vulnerable in their local communities".

Mr Evans said the 10-year partnership with the Waislitz Foundation had helped extend local efforts to tackle extreme poverty around the world.

"We are grateful to Alex and the [Waislitz Foundation](#)," Mr Evans said. "We look forward to continuing to build momentum with Alex and the Waislitz Foundation to champion, support and uplift future leaders."

The Waislitz Foundation has committed more than \$2million to the awards since 2014.

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