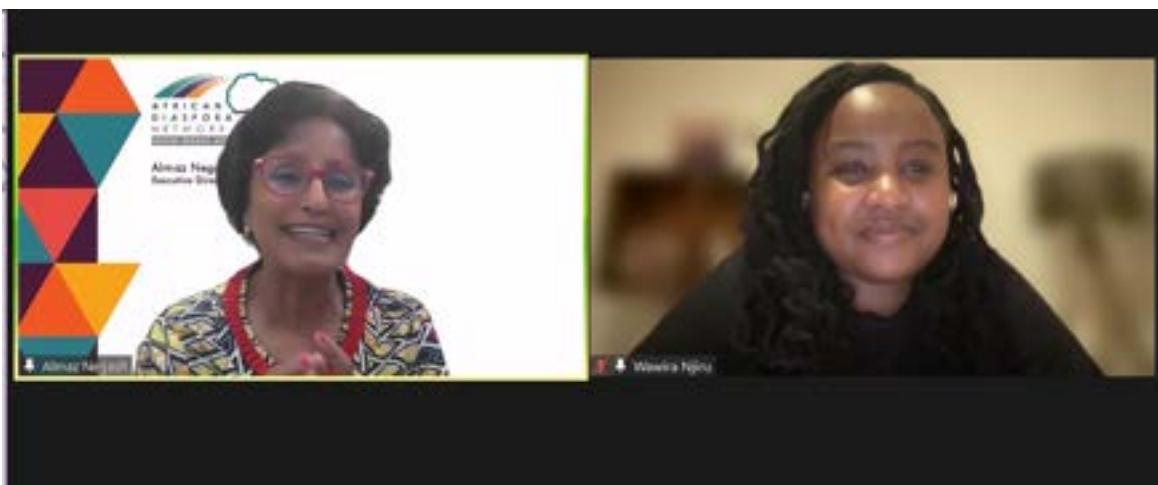




## Celebrating Wawira Njiru: A Beacon of Hope and Innovation

In the spirit of celebrating monumental achievements within the African diaspora community, we are thrilled to spotlight a remarkable leader among us, Wawira Njiru, the visionary founder of Food For Education. Wawira's dedication to addressing hunger and enhancing education through nutritious meals has not only transformed lives but also earned her prestigious recognitions: the 2024 [Skoll Award for Social Innovation](#) and the [Lipman Prize](#).

Wawira, a graduate of ADN's [Builders of Africa's Future program](#), began her journey with Food For Education with a dream to make a tangible difference in children's lives, ensuring they receive the essential nutrition necessary for learning and growth. Her impact is a testament to what visionary leadership, coupled with community support, can achieve.



In 2023, Wawira shared her inspiring journey at the BAF graduation as our keynote speaker, leaving an indelible mark on our hearts. As members of the African Diaspora Network, it's our privilege to celebrate and amplify the stories of leaders like Wawira who are building bridges of hope and prosperity across communities.

Let us take a moment to commend Wawira Njiru for her unwavering commitment and significant achievements. Her story is a beacon of inspiration for all of us, reminding us of the power of purpose-driven action.

[Learn more about Food for Education](#)

## Meet the SYSE Cohort

### Start Your Social Enterprise 2024



Sr. Anne Njenga  
Empowerment On  
Dairy Farming -  
Kenya



Sr. Lilian Apio  
St. Clare Poultry  
Farming - Kenya



Sr. Leah Nyamitho  
St. Francis Social  
Enterprise - Kenya



Sr. Jane Mwikali  
Pig Farming -  
Kenya



Sr. Lydia Apili  
Bwazi  
Association Of  
The Religious In  
Uganda



Sr. Matilda  
Mubanga  
Daughters Of The  
Redeemer Organic  
Farming - Zambia



Sr. Sylvia Akugitwe  
Banyatweza Coffee  
Value Added Project -  
Uganda



Sr. Ashidah Banda  
Dominican Convent  
Boys Secondary  
School - Zambia



Sr. Faustina  
Asimwe  
Economic Enterprise  
Of Empowering  
Skillng Of  
Vulnerable Young  
Women - Uganda



Sr. Helen Zulu  
Anqua Culture Fish  
Farming - Zambia



Sr. Helen Monica  
Adu  
St. Michael Leisure  
Garden - Uganda



Sr. Mary Caroline  
Bwazi  
Youth Empower-  
ment For Self-  
Reliance -  
Uganda



Sr. Josephine Kamau  
Joliki Natural Food  
Processing - Uganda

Introducing the third and latest cohort of [Start Your Social Enterprise \(SYSE\)](#)! This dynamic group is comprised of 13 Sisters from Kenya, Uganda and Zambia. These Sisters are making an impact in their communities in sectors such as Farming, Education, Food Processing, Soap Production, and Empowerment. Kicking off their training in late February, these budding social entrepreneurs are poised to make significant strides in their communities. As SYSE graduates, they gain eligibility to join the esteemed [Builders of Africa's Future \(BAF\) program](#), further amplifying their potential for impact. Scheduled to graduate the first week of June, we extend our heartfelt congratulations and warmly welcome them to the ADN family of impact. Together, we're poised to create meaningful change and drive sustainable development across the globe.

[Learn More about SYSE](#)

# ABLE Information Session



Join us for an engaging and informative ABLE Information Session on **May 10th at 7:00 AM PDT/ 10:00 AM EDT!** In this 60-minute Zoom meeting, you'll gain valuable insights that will prepare you for the Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE) program that will launch on May 15th. You will learn about the key components to craft a successful and competitive application.

Don't miss this opportunity to take the first step towards unlocking your entrepreneurial potential with ABLE.

[Register Now](#)

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**Mentor for BAF and ABLE**



Two new cohorts of entrepreneurs for the Builders of Africa's Future and Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship programs will launch this spring. If you are interested in volunteering to help ADN select the next up-and-coming ventures to participate in the accelerator programs, please fill out the form [here](#).

According to a study by Forbes, 92% of small business owners agree that mentors have a direct impact on the growth and survival of their business. You can make an impact in these African and Black-owned businesses through mentorship! Apply to mentor African start-ups [here](#) and Black-Owned businesses based in the United States [here](#).

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## Congratulations to Top 50 Women Leaders of San Jose!

**W** **we admire** **WOMEN**

Congratulations to the 2024 Top 50 Women Leaders of San Jose! Selected by Women We Admire, these women are making a tremendous impact in their industries. Among the women selected is Almaz Negash, CEO and Founder of African Diaspora Network. Thank you to each one of these ladies for trailblazing the path forward in hospitality, retail, healthcare, manufacturing, and professional services, and more.

Meet the Awardees

## Support African Diaspora Network



Looking to have a more active role as a member of African Diaspora Network?

Learn more about ways to engage:

- Invite a friend to subscribe to our newsletter by sending them the link [here](#)
- Follow us on social media: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#)
- Subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#)
- Give Through Silicon Valley Community Foundation ([SVCF](#)) Donor-advised fund
- Mentor entrepreneurs participating in our ABLE and/or BAF programs. Contact Brett Cave, Entrepreneurship Programs Manager at [brett@africandiasporanetwork.org](mailto:brett@africandiasporanetwork.org) to learn more.
- Be an organizational sponsor and support the African Diaspora Network to bring together diverse people from around the world to collaborate and work together. Support ADN [HERE](#)
- Fill out the ADN Engagement form [here](#).

Engagement Opportunities

## A Special Thank You to Our Funders

See full list [here](#).



## Media Coverage

See full list [here](#).



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