

Impact Report 2024

The Elsevier Foundation

20 years of catalyzing impact, inspiring change



Advancing human progress together



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Left Image: Dr. Munkhjarga Tserendorj, Mongolian University of Life Sciences, Mongolia, 2023 OWSD-Elsevier Foundation Award for Early-Career Women Scientist in the Developing World winner

Cover Image: Dr. Haneen Dwaib, Palestine Ahliya University, Palestine, 2023 OWSD-Elsevier Foundation Award for Early-Career Women Scientist in the Developing World winner

Foreword



As we navigate the complexities of our current environment, we remain steadfast in our support of our partners and our vision to serve as a catalyst for inclusive research and health.”



Youngsuk “YS” Chi
President, The Elsevier Foundation



Ylann Schemm
Executive Director, The Elsevier Foundation

As we embark on our 20th year, the grand challenges that our research and health communities are working to address, such as climate change, healthcare disparities, food and energy security, and responsible development of new technologies, underscore the importance of our mission at the Elsevier Foundation. We want to serve as a catalyst for inclusive research and health partnerships that accelerate early-stage interventions and spotlight impact makers, whether individuals or organizations. Ultimately, our ambition is to contribute to positive system change and the UN SDGs.

As part of this commitment, we are resolute in supporting a range of voices and perspectives. For instance, more than 90% of our partnerships now have a gender dimension embedded. This is more important than ever, especially as disparities in access to resources and healthcare continue to affect marginalized communities disproportionately in the long wake of Covid-19. By partnering with the Gender Summits, the Falling Walls Female Science Talent program and the OWSD-Elsevier Foundation Awards for early-career women scientists in the developing world, we support dialogue, training and recognition which lead to career advancement and more impactful research and healthcare.

At the same time, we are witnessing the emergence of AI as a transformative force with the potential to either bridge or widen the opportunity gap for many groups. Elsevier’s AI capabilities are enabling researchers and clinicians to find the critical, trusted insights they need and make the right connections to accelerate research, innovation and healthcare. In 2025, the Elsevier Foundation is actively seeking ways to leverage these AI advancements for our partners as they create real-world solutions for research and health challenges.

The urgency of addressing climate change has also never been greater. As we confront environmental challenges that threaten our ecosystems, the role of research becomes increasingly vital for informing policy and health interventions. Over 60% of our partnerships now have a climate dimension including the Chemistry for Climate Action Challenge, which identifies sustainable chemistry solutions for low-income countries. On the health side, our new

Climate Care Champions with Swasti equips front line health workers in India with knowledge and skills to manage the health impacts of extreme weather events for vulnerable populations.

We believe that global collaboration amongst the research and healthcare communities is vital for progress. This is particularly critical at a time when the communities we serve are impacted by geopolitical tensions and economic challenges. This is why we support initiatives that bring together researchers, healthcare professionals, like-minded organizations and policymakers across borders. In 2024, we worked closely with the World Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Sciences’ Institute for Climate and Environment to develop the Climate Women training program. Our collaboration ensured that 15 women scientists from across the global South were provided with the resources, training, visibility and networking opportunities to advance their research and contribute to climate action diplomacy across borders.

As we navigate the complexities of our current environment, the Elsevier Foundation remains steadfast in our support of our partners and our vision to serve as a catalyst for inclusive research and health. The journey ahead is challenging, but it is also filled with opportunities. We invite you to join us in this endeavor as we catalyze initiatives and support impact makers that shape human progress to go further, happen faster and benefit all.

1st April, 2025

Youngsuk “YS” Chi
President, The Elsevier Foundation

Ylann Schemm
Executive Director, The Elsevier Foundation

Our purpose



Our support of the Elsevier Foundation is an integral part of our commitment to help advance science and healthcare to advance human progress. We are humbled to celebrate two decades of impact, and proud to contribute our resources, trusted content, data and analytics, as well as the passion of our colleagues globally, to boost the impact of our inclusive research and health partnerships.”

Kumsal Bayazit, CEO, Elsevier



Kumsal Bayazit, Elsevier CEO, speaks with Elsevier colleagues in New York.

The Elsevier Foundation has a strategic focus on advancing inclusion in research and health by increasing the participation of underrepresented and underserved communities. We aim to serve as a catalyst for early stage interventions that are founded in an innovative proof of concept.

In our vision, the Elsevier Foundation serves as a catalyst for early-stage interventions that are founded in an innovative proof of concept. Ultimately, our goal is to support partners to bring on new funders, scale up and support systemic change. We believe that our pragmatic and agile approach can have a powerful multiplier effect by adopting and accelerating proven ideas.

We also recognize that the issue of inequity in research and healthcare is a major obstacle to achieving the UN SDGs and that this can only be solved through collaboration. To drive structural change, we need diverse stakeholders to work in partnership, take evidence-based action and measure progress.

We use a 3-pronged approach to achieve this. First, we support impact makers, both individuals and organizations, through early stage interventions. Second, we enable scale-up through partner, alumni and funder communities. Third, we leverage our broad networks across the research and healthcare communities, as well as Elsevier’s cutting-edge capabilities and the support of colleagues around the world who lend their time and expertise to amplify our impact.

Everything we do is rooted in a strong evidence base, rigorous impact evaluation, dedicated reviewers and a deeply engaged Board. The measurable effects of our work include established indicators for successful project implementation, awards and grants to influence career success and networks, as well as new pathways for sustainable funding and knowledge exchange. As we unlock the power of networks and as change agents become role models, the wider benefits of our work include influencing policy and funding decisions with long-term impact on equity in the research and healthcare ecosystems.

Our purpose

We are a catalyst for inclusive research and health partnerships, convening and spotlighting impact makers to accelerate early stage interventions that advance inclusion in research and health.

Our values



Inclusive

We are passionate about inclusion, supporting underserved and underrepresented groups through partnerships.



Collaborative

We work in partnership with research and health communities to foster knowledge exchange.



Impactful

We are evidence-based and systematically measure our progress.



Innovative

We stimulate early-stage, transformative projects to support scale up.



Sustainable

We support our partners to develop lasting solutions with a community of funders.

“

The Elsevier Foundation’s partnership approach creates a powerful multiplier effect and drives positive outcomes through pragmatic action. Collaboration is key to addressing the complex and often interconnected challenges that affect our communities and our planet.”

Esra Erkal, EVP Global Communications, Elsevier



20 years of impact



For 20 years, the Elsevier Foundation has been a catalyst for inclusive research and health partnerships, supporting impact makers to accelerate early-stage interventions that underpin long-term change. Our mission remains more relevant than ever as our communities work to address grand challenges facing our world such as the impact of climate change and health disparities.”

Youngsuk “YS” Chi, President, The Elsevier Foundation, Elsevier

\$18,181,000

Total funding allocated



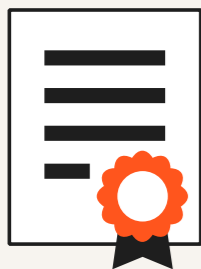
\$3 million+

employee donations
matched since 2006



197

grants and partnerships



122

award winners



53 countries

reached via partnerships
and grants



63%

of programs funded
since 2016 support

Inclusive Research



37%

of programs funded
since 2016 support

Inclusive Health



Starting from 2016

22%

of programs funded support
SDG 3, Good Health and Wellbeing

28%

of programs funded support
SDG 4, Quality Education

31%

of programs funded support
SDG 5, Gender Equality

50%

of programs funded support
SDG 10, Reduced Inequalities

13%

of programs funded support
SDG 13, Climate Action

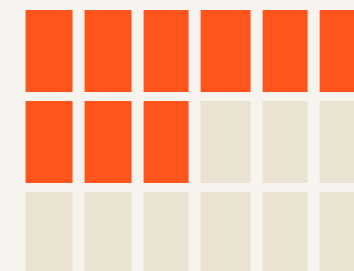
13%

of programs funded support
SDG 17, Partnerships for the Goals

50%

of programs funded
since 2021 include

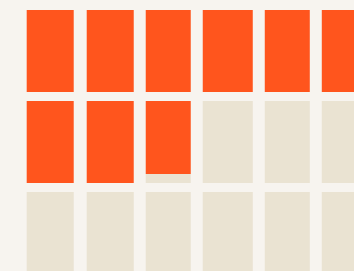
Climate dimensions



48%

of programs funded
since 2016 include

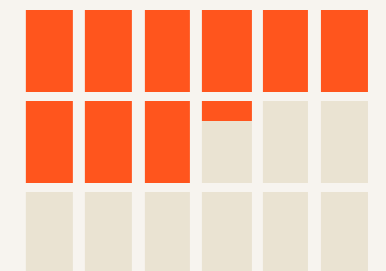
Socio-economic dimensions



57%

of programs funded
since 2016 include

Gender dimensions



2005-2015



2005

New Scholars (women in STEM) and Innovative Libraries in Developing Countries grant programs are launched for the coming decade.



2011

OWSD-Elsevier Foundation Awards launched, recognizing women researchers in the Global South.

2016-2025



2017

Technology for development pilot program created.



2022

New early career researcher partnerships introduced



2008

Nursing program established in collaboration with Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI), the International Council of Nurses (ICN) and the National League for Nursing (NLN).

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

2015

UN SDGs founded, our grant programs are retired, and a new partnership driven model is established.



2020

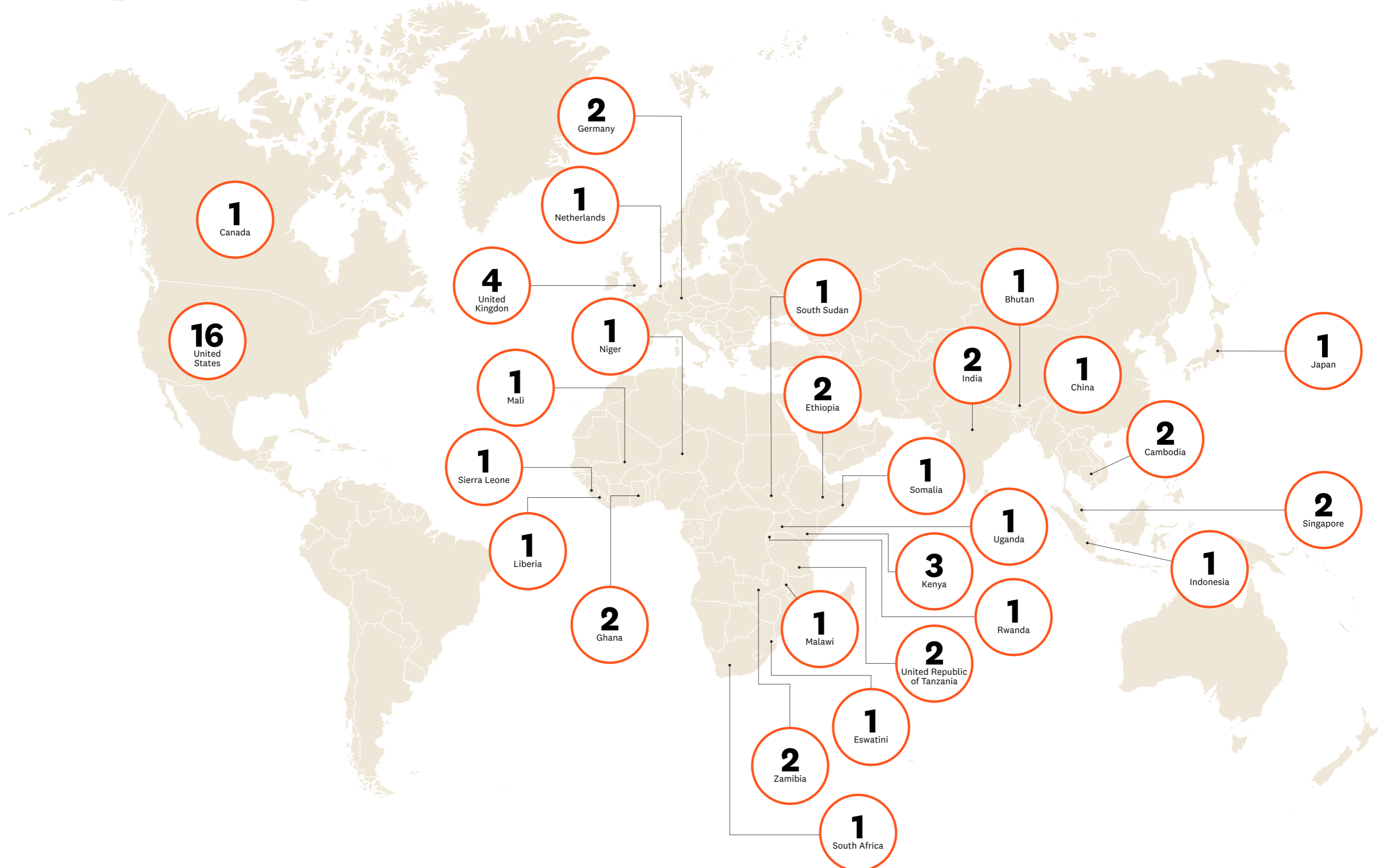
Race & ethnicity portfolio established to tackle health and research disparities in underrepresented communities.



2024

The Future of Research Libraries portfolio established to support underserved communities

Our partnerships



Our work

Since its establishment in 2005, the Elsevier Foundation has contributed over \$18 million in grants to support over 100 partners in more than 70 countries around the world. The Elsevier Foundation works to champion inclusive research and health through partnerships with non-profit organizations that incubate new approaches to catalyze change and contribute toward the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Funded by Elsevier, a global leader for advanced information and decision support in science and healthcare, the Elsevier Foundation is a key part of the company's commitment to advance inclusive research and healthcare, in partnership with the communities that it serves. In addition to funding, Elsevier supports the work of the Foundation through its networks, data, analytical insights and employee contributions to greatly expand our impact.

During our first decade, the Elsevier Foundation awarded over 100 grants worth millions of dollars to non-profit organizations across 3 main program areas: the Innovative Libraries in Developing Countries Program focused on library training, education, infrastructure and digitization; the New Scholars program supported the advancement of early career women researchers, and the Nurse Faculty Leadership Program provided training, recognition and benchmarking studies. Since 2016, the Elsevier Foundation has aligned its partnership driven approach to support challenges outlined by the UN SDGs. In addition, over the past two decades, we have provided a special fund to support disaster relief, match employee donations, stimulate volunteering to enable Elsevier employees to work more closely with Foundation partners.

“

We offer our partners very targeted proof-of-concept funding—giving them the opportunity to show the world that their idea works. We also roll up our sleeves with joint outreach, content and analytics so that they can ultimately make a bigger impact and contribute to real system change.”

Ylann Schemm, Executive Director, The Elsevier Foundation, Elsevier



Research4Life Country Connectors and Elsevier Foundation team in Nairobi for the 2024 Research4Life General Partners Meeting

“

Interdisciplinary research is vital for empowering future leaders and making progress towards the UN SDGs. The Elsevier Foundation's work to build inclusive health and research partnerships not only supports innovative applications of science and technology, but also new ways of addressing societal challenges and improving health outcomes.”

Dr. Motoko Kotani, Executive Vice President, Tohoku University



Our programs

Our programs address key challenges in research, health and underrepresentation identified by the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The partnerships we support are strongly intersectional and highlight our

commitment to supporting underserved communities around the world for better health outcomes and a more sustainable research ecosystem.



Inclusive Research

The future of science requires a robust workforce drawn from all corners of society. Our partnerships support greater participation in the science and innovation endeavor amongst underrepresented communities.



Inclusive Health

Our partnerships support organizations working to improve health outcomes in underserved communities around the world, advancing the delivery of health equity for vulnerable populations.



Matching Gift

To encourage community involvement and maximize the impact of charitable giving, the Elsevier Foundation contributes to global disaster relief efforts and provides matching funds to eligible charities supported by Elsevier employees.

“

For the past two decades, the Elsevier Foundation has seeded many transformative and highly impactful health equity budding projects in low-income countries—catalyzing grass-root changemakers through cocreation, trust building, networking and knowledge dissemination. The vistas are bright – we can only imagine what the ten years will bring.”

Michael Makanga, Executive Director, Global Health EDCTP3

Participants from the 2024 Asian Scientist-Elsevier Foundation Salon for Leadership in STEM



Overcoming research challenges to address environmental pollution

For Dr Tasrina Rabia Choudhury, a Bangladeshi chemist, a career in science was inspired by her passion for the world around her and a desire to ensure safe, high-quality lives for her community and across Bangladesh. Dedicated to addressing environmental contamination, her research focuses on heavy metal pollutants, and has led to groundbreaking findings, including extreme contamination levels in Bangladesh's coastal river systems.

Despite the opportunities for science education in Bangladesh, Dr. Choudhury's journey has not been without challenges. "As a scientist from a developing country, limited resources, lack of access to advanced technology, and funding constraints can create obstacles," she explains. Her resilience, determination and passion for scientific inquiry have been key to overcoming these barriers.

"In spite of the obstacles, and traditional thinking about women's roles, many women in the Global South are breaking barriers and making significant contributions to scientific research and innovation."

Dr Tasrina Rabia Choudhury

Dr. Choudhury's work highlights the urgent need for effective water management strategies in Bangladesh: her lab is developing advanced technologies for water purification that are cost-effective and locally sourced, particularly in regions where access to clean water is limited.

Her dedication and impact have been recognized with the 2024 OWSD-Elsevier Foundation Award for Early Career Women Scientists in the Developing World. Throughout her career, she has continued to actively mentor female postgraduate students: "I feel committed to addressing contemporary public health issues to ensure the wellbeing of future generations".

Dr. Tasrina Rabia Choudhury, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, 2024 OWSD-Elsevier Foundation Award for Early-Career Women Scientist in the Developing World winner

\$5 million+
invested in inclusive research partnerships since 2016, accounting for **63%** of our total funding during this period.

100+
grants awarded between 2006-2015, represented circa **\$5 million** investment in libraries in low- and middle-income countries to bolster global health and improve research ecosystems, and support to level the academic playing field for early- to mid-career women researchers total funding during this period.

79
women OWSD winners awarded



2020 OWSD-Elsevier Foundation Award for Early-Career Women Scientist in the Developing World winners, along with OWSD (left) and Elsevier Foundation (right) teams

Commitment to research equity programs

Stimulating innovation and supporting researchers is essential for driving sustainable development. The Elsevier Foundation has been at the forefront of these efforts, developing programs that address the needs of underprivileged and underserved researchers. The OWSD Elsevier Foundation awards have been codeveloped and shaped over the past decade to spotlight excellent women scientists from low-income countries and their contributions to critical research for the UN SDGs.

One such initiative is the Research4Life Country Connectors program. Implemented across 11 low-income countries, Country Connectors supports local trainers or focal points--often librarians--to deliver a targeted program to strengthen the capacity of Research4Life information use and management. The trainers build robust local communities of evidence and ultimately help to improve research quality and output in low- and middle-income countries.

The Agents of Change awards, in collaboration with the Elsevier's Material Sciences journal, recognize

significant contributions to an inclusive material science community. From mental health materials for early-career researchers in India, to summer schools for underfunded scientists in Ecuador, the awards have provided funding and resources to support 6 innovative projects, promote inclusive leadership, and encourage systemic change within the Materials Science community.

In the United Kingdom, where researchers with Black heritage are greatly underrepresented in the research environment, we have worked closely with Vitae, an early career researcher organization to convene funders and design a self-sustaining consortium of Black researcher organizations working in STEM disciplines to provide opportunities for growth and advancement.

Looking ahead

As the Foundation looks to the future, we continue to refine and enhance our programs to address the evolving needs of the global research community. Our focus remains on empowering researchers to drive scientific progress, supporting a range of voices and perspectives, and ultimately, contributing to a sustainable and equitable future for all.

Revolutionizing TB screening in Indonesia

Tuberculosis (TB) is highly prevalent in Southeast Asia, accounting for [over 45% of the global TB incidence](#). While tuberculosis can be cured, it results in a death approximately every 20 seconds, typically due to delays in diagnosis or treatment failures.

Dr. Antonia Morita Saktiawati, winner of the 2024 [Falling Walls-Elsevier Foundation Women's Impact Award](#), is spearheading a transformative initiative aimed at enhancing TB screening accessibility in Indonesia. She has developed an innovative electronic nose (eNose) that screens patients' breath for TB—a portable, user-friendly, and cost-effective solution designed specifically for underserved populations in remote areas—especially rural women who too often go undiagnosed.

The effectiveness of a screening test depends on its adaptation to local conditions. The Indonesian-made eNose has been tailored to meet these specific needs, ensuring sustainability while also enhancing local economic development and providing equitable access to TB screening for all, regardless of socio-economic status or location.

“Coming from a country with limited resources and infrastructure for research, I've learned the value of adaptability and resourcefulness. Instead of focusing on what is lacking, focus on how to maximize what is available. The research most needed in my country may not be the type that earns a Nobel Prize, but it's the kind that directly improves the welfare of the people. Science, at its core, is about solving problems, and often, the greatest impact comes from addressing the challenges closest to home.”

Dr. Antonia Morita Saktiawati

\$3 million+

invested in inclusive health partnerships since 2016, accounting for **37%** of our total funding during this period.

50+

grants awarded between 2006-2015, represented a **\$2.5 million** investment in libraries in low- and middle-income countries to bolster global health and improve research ecosystems.

Commitment to health innovation programs

Over the past two decades, the Elsevier Foundation has recognized the critical intersection of health and technology supporting innovative solutions that address pressing health challenges worldwide. Our partnerships with organizations like Amref Health Africa, Aidsfonds, Epicentre, and the World Patients Alliance embody our focus on enhancing health equity and driving meaningful impact globally.

Falling Walls Women's Impact 2024 Award winner Antonia Morita Saktiawati with Tatjana Gust, Associate Director of Science Programs at Bayer Foundation (left) and Ylann Schemm, Executive Director of the Elsevier Foundation (right).



Our partnership with [Amref Health Africa](#) from 2016 to 2021 with an investment of \$520,000 has emphasized the importance of capacity building in healthcare. Through initiatives like the Innovate for Life accelerator we supported African entrepreneurs to develop skills to bring their home-grown innovations addressing local health challenges directly to investors. Our collaborations on mobile learning solutions, such as Jibu, a continuing education tool for nurses and midwives and Leap, which provides on the job training for healthcare workers, both focus on conveniently and cost-effectively enhancing the skills of the healthcare workforce. Through collaborative and technology-assisted learning and mentorship, we believe that these efforts ultimately lead to improved health outcomes in underserved communities.

“ The Jibu app came to us at the right time when we needed it. The entire college, as well as the hospital fraternity staff, have also been using it, especially for getting updates in child disease management.”

Caroline Kibara, Deputy Principal, Methodist College of Health Sciences-Maua, Kenya

From 2016 to 2022, our partnership with Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors without Borders’ research arm in Niger, the Epicentre Niger Research Centre, laid the groundwork for a more solid health infrastructure and greater visibility as a critical West African health research hub with an investment of \$600,000. Through targeted training and professional development for local researchers, we were able to strengthen their

Patients at Epicentre Niger Research Center at the Maradi Hospital © BONNET Séverine/Epicentre-MSF



Antonia Morita Saktiawati and her team in Indonesia

work in one of the least developed countries and regions in the world. Our partnership, representing \$600,000 in funding and in-kind support through Elsevier research solutions, enabled impactful studies and interventions addressing infectious diseases and health system strengthening in some of the most challenging contexts. Based on this powerful proof of concept, Epicentre Niger and a consortium of African institutions were awarded a \$3 million joint capacity building grant from the African Academy of Sciences in 2022. Now equipped for scale up, this follow-up grant provides solid support for both the research and training environment competence development.

While we prioritize educational projects for healthcare professionals, the Elsevier Foundation also recognizes the necessity of direct healthcare outreach for the larger community. From 2022 to 2024, we have committed \$210,000 to our partnership with Aidsfonds through Tanya Marlo, or “Ask Marlo” in Indonesian, to tackle the rising HIV epidemic in Indonesia, by providing easy access to information and care to young people and marginalized communities. Tanya Marlo includes an online platform and chatbot which serve as accessible entry points providing youth-friendly, tailored and quality information using the “Stepped Care Model for Sexual Health”. Originally developed by

Aidsfonds in the Netherlands, the Tanya Marlo Stepped Care model ensures a carefully constructed network of care from chatbot to non-judgemental health practitioners.

We also believe that health education begins early. Through collaboration with the [World Patients Alliance](#) and a dedicated Elsevier champion, in 2024 we launched a series of five children’s books published in X languages to raise awareness about patient safety. This innovative project aims to instill fundamental patient safety principles in children aged six to twelve, stimulating a culture of safer care for the future.

Looking ahead

As we look ahead, our commitment to advancing global health remains unwavering. The lessons we have learned over the past 20 years continue to guide our partnering choices as we search for concrete ways to bolster innovation, collaboration, and empowerment in healthcare. The journey continues and we are fully committed to ensuring that the voices of all individuals are heard and valued in the pursuit of better health for all.

Transforming energy use in Somalia

Somalia is one of the poorest countries in the world, with more than 90% of the population relying on organic charcoal from burned-down trees. This practice not only contributes to deforestation but also exacerbates the effects of climate change.

Recognizing the dire need for renewable energy sources, Mohamedweli Mohamed and his team at the Somali Social Entrepreneurs Fund, winners of the 2023 Elsevier Foundation Chemistry for Climate Action Challenge, introduced renewable energy sources in their communities by producing methane gas from fruit waste and cow manure. Both cheaper and cleaner than charcoal, it is now being piloted in 10 female-headed households.

“Receiving this award means a lot to us, and it will help save the lives of poor women in our communities. This transformative solution will help with the climate, social and economic challenges we are facing — and help reach the SDGs 2030 targets.”

Mohamedweli Mohamed, Program Manager at Somali Social Entrepreneurs Fund

The biogas systems provide valuable by-products, including high-quality fertilizers which have been used in solar-powered irrigation systems on a cooperative farmland across the Beled-Hawa community of southern Somalia.

50%

of funding for projects considering or prioritizing climate dimensions since 2021

18%

of funding allocated to SDG13 since 2021

16

green chem projects awarded

Commitment to climate action programs

In the face of unparalleled challenges posed by climate change, innovative solutions are essential for driving sustainable development. For the past 7 years, the Elsevier Foundation's Chemistry for Climate Action Challenge, developed with Elsevier's Chemistry journals, has focused on finding chemistry-related solutions to the climate crisis in low- and middle-income countries.

Mohamedweli Mohamed (right), Somali Social Entrepreneurs Fund, 2023 Elsevier Foundation Chemistry for Climate Action Challenge winner and colleague, Mohamed Abdi Adan (left)



The Challenge is part of our broader portfolio which targets environmental issues, climate resilience and socio-economic development with partners such as the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS). Our “Climate Women” program, awarding 15 grants to date to women scientists from across the global South who are leading interdisciplinary teams to develop concrete and innovative solutions to climate-related issues in their communities. “Climate women” not only promotes gender equality, but also ensures diverse perspectives in the fight against climate change.

“ Women are left out from capacity building activities. And yet in my country, Kenya, we have a saying: if you want to educate a nation, educate a woman. Women are progressive, they share the knowledge. They are the most vulnerable and most affected by climate change, and they need to understand where this problem is coming from and that solutions can come from them.”

Esther Gathoni Kanduma, a biochemist and 2022 Climate Women grant recipient working on climate-resilient pastoralism in Kenya.

We recognize that climate change intersects with various global health and social issues. Our partnership with Concern Worldwide in Somalia exemplifies this approach, as we work to strengthen health systems in response to food insecurity exacerbated by climate change. By addressing the underlying social determinants of health affected by climate shifts, Concern enhances community resilience and ensures that vulnerable populations receive the necessary support and skills to cope with these challenges.

In 2025, we added the “Climate Care Champions” partnership designed by Swasti The Health Catalyst, a nonprofit organization in India supporting vulnerable communities for public health. “Climate Care Champions” mobilizes community health workers

to address the health impacts of extreme weather, including heat-related illnesses. By equipping frontline workers across two districts in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, with the knowledge and skills to manage climate-related health challenges, we can help enhance community resilience and ensure that health systems can adapt to the growing threats posed by climate change.

Looking ahead

As the Foundation looks to the future, our commitment to climate action is stronger than ever. The lessons learned from past initiatives guide our future strategies to foster innovation, collaboration and sustainability in addressing climate challenges.

Dr. Esther Gathoni Kanduma (center), Kenya, 2022 TWAS-Elsevier Foundation Climate Women grant recipient



The Elsevier Foundation

20 years of catalyzing impact, inspiring change

For more information about the Elsevier Foundation, visit elsevierfoundation.org

