

## PRESS RELEASE

# 2018 Stephen Lloyd Awards winners announced

5 July 2018

The winners of this year's Stephen Lloyd Awards have been announced at an awards evening held at the Queen Street Place office of law firm Bates Wells Braithwaite.

Selection was undertaken by organisations drawn from across the charity and social enterprise sector, with the following organisations emerging as winners:

- [EcoAct Tanzania \(Garbage Medical Insurance\)](#) – a micro health insurance programme which uses waste plastic as a financial resource. With this programme, uninsured poor slum dwellers are able to convert collected waste plastic into health cover, drugs and other clinical services. The plastic is then converted into plastic lumber for construction and furniture making.
- [Project Baala](#) – seeks to make raise awareness and overcome myths and taboos about menstruation in India. It also distributes re-usable cloth sanitary pads, which provide up to 2 years of sustainable and hygienic menstrual protection. Their aim is to impact the 87% of women and girls in India who use old rags and sometimes even leaves, hay and sand as menstrual absorbents.
- [The Equal Access Loan](#) (created by [RefuAid](#)) – an interest-free lending programme which seeks to help refugees to succeed across the UK.

All receive a prize of £20,000, which will enable them to further develop their projects – in the process helping to address some of the most acute problems facing the UK, Tanzania and India. The winners will also benefit from extensive pro bono support to assist them in expanding their project.

This year's award ceremony was held following an application process in which the Awards panel received a record number of applications from around the world. Following an extensive selection process ten organisations were shortlisted for the final vote.

The other shortlisted entries were:

- [Fishy Filaments](#)
- [Flexible Teacher Talent](#)
- [Foodinate](#)
- [Hello World](#)
- [Talk for Teens \(T4T\)](#)
- [The OCD Research Partnership](#)

All of this year's shortlisted entries were given £2,000 along with pro bono support to help them develop their projects further towards their pitch at the final event. Each of the finalists set out scalable and sustainable approaches to a whole series of environmental and social challenges.

Providing innovators with the financial and practical support they need to cultivate their ideas and spread their impact, the Awards reflect the vision of by the late Stephen Lloyd, former Senior Partner of Bates Wells Braithwaite. Through the invaluable support of their funders and pro bono partners, the Awards have helped accelerate social change by working alongside numerous projects they have championed.

If you would like to offer pro bono support to our winners or other shortlisted entrants, please let us know by emailing [info@stephenlloydawards.org](mailto:info@stephenlloydawards.org) and mark your note for the attention of Mona Rahman.

**Phillip Kirkpatrick, Deputy Managing Partner at Bates Wells Braithwaite and one of the founding members of the Stephen Lloyd Awards Committee, said:**

*"With 277 applications this year and a very strong group of finalists, it is evident that the Stephen Lloyd Awards are now very much on the map for innovators seeking to achieve sustainable social change. The added value the Awards bring to achieving that change lies not simply in cash prizes but in the fact that every finalist, whether or not an award winner, has access to the Awards' large pro bono network of specialists in all aspects of creating and managing social change projects and organisations."*

**Christian Mwijage, Founder of EcoAct Tanzania, said:**

*“The support received from the Award’s wider network enabled us to strengthen our business model and create a structured pathway to visualise our project’s full potential. Winning the Stephen Lloyd Awards has now given our project real momentum to transform our vision into reality, so that we can grow, scale and extend our reach to create maximum social impact.”*

**Soumya Dabriwal, Founder of Project Baala, said:**

*“We thank the Stephen Lloyd Awards for not only believing in our vision, but making it bigger and better. Winning the award means that safe menstrual hygiene will no longer be a luxury for many in India!”*

**Anna Jones, Co-founder of Equal Access Loan, said:**

*“We want to challenge the negative rhetoric surrounding refugees and show that, given the right support, refugees and asylum seekers can be an asset both economically, socially and culturally to their host communities. We have met so many incredibly determined people who with the right support, have flourished, become fully independent and no longer need to rely on aid or handouts. Now with the support from the Stephen Lloyd Awards we’ll be able to expand this programme and continue to transform the lives of those who’ve sought asylum throughout the UK.”*

For more information visit: [www.stephenlloydawards.org](http://www.stephenlloydawards.org)

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Notes for Editors

**About Stephen Lloyd Awards**

The Stephen Lloyd Awards is an initiative of the BWB Foundation (Charity Number 1150321). The Awards was established in memory of renowned charity and social enterprise lawyer, Stephen Lloyd, who died in August 2014. They reflect his commitment to finding and supporting innovative ways of achieving social change. Winners are democratically selected by the entire community of charity and social enterprise experts who support the awards. That community includes philanthropists, social investors, lawyers, accountants, governance and management specialists and many others. Winners will also receive valuable pro bono support from that community.

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