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D-Prize Competition Awards \$68,000 in Seed Capital to Seven Social Entrepreneurs

Winners will launch ventures that distribute proven poverty solutions in the developing world

SAN FRANCISCO, California (August 5, 2013) - [D-Prize](#) is an organization dedicated to expanding access to proven poverty solutions in the developing world. Today D-Prize announced 7 winners of its inaugural social entrepreneurship competition, and awarded each between \$10,000 and \$20,000 to launch new organizations that exponentially scale distribution of poverty solutions.

“As a human society, we invented the solutions to eradicate extreme poverty decades ago,” said Andrew Youn, co-founder of D-Prize. “But in practice, these solutions have yet to be distributed to more than a billion people. For many of the world’s poor, the distribution of proven interventions would result directly in the achievement of human development.”

“D-Prize believes a problem isn’t solved until the solution is in the hands of those who need it,” notes Paul Youn, co-founder of D-Prize. “We don’t care about shiny new solutions, we fund strong entrepreneurs who will distribute proven solutions and help millions of people.”

Introducing the 7 winners of the first D-Prize competition (representing six new ventures):

- Katie Wood from Atlanta, Georgia will launch “Watch Me Go,” a crowd-sourced funding platform to provide education scholarships for girls in Kenya. Watch Me Go will allow donors to build a virtual classroom of smart girls in need of secondary school scholarships, track progress online and earn points that are used to send more girls to school. Within three months Katie will raise funds for 100 girls to attend school.
- Arvind Nagarajan from Cambridge, Massachusetts will launch a new approach for improving education in resource-limited settings. Arvind will rely on tablet-based digital student assessments to inform low-income parents of education quality and empower them to drive improvements in school systems. He will pilot a tablet-based assessment in a low-cost center in Mumbai, and hopes to launch full time in 2014.
- Olivia Nava from Oakland, California launched [Juabar](#) to service mobile phones in Tanzania. Juabar kiosks use solar power to charge mobile phones and are also a point-of-sale for household solar lamps. Kiosks are run by “jua-preneurs” – entrepreneurs who serve their local communities. With support from D-Prize, Olivia will earn over \$5,000 in revenue, support 15 local jua-preneurs, and sell 400 solar lamps in three months. She will scale to 32,000 products and 150 Juabar kiosks in two years.
- Katerina Kimmorley from Sydney, Australia launched [Pollinate Energy](#) to provide clean energy to slum areas in India. Their model also sparks economic opportunities in emerging markets by relying on local salesmen. Their work eradicates energy poverty and replace dangerous kerosene lamps with solar solutions. Katerina plans to sell over 5,000 solar solutions in two years.
- Jackie Stenson and Diana Jue from Cambridge, Massachusetts together launched [Essmart](#) to connect local retailers in India with manufacturers of solar lamps, home lighting systems, water filters and other essential products. They plan to support local entrepreneurs and supply households with poverty solutions by reaching over 5,000 retailers and distributing more than 500,000 products within two years.
- Maria Springer from Los Angeles, California will launch SmartSana to distribute clean-burning cook stoves as replacements for dangerous and environmentally- damaging alternatives. She will also provide economic opportunities for local salesmen. By 2015, she hopes to reach 4 million residents

in Nairobi slums who currently burn firewood, waste and charcoal for cooking. Maria previously launched [Lively Hoods](#), a nonprofit which operates in Nairobi.

D-Prize challenged applicants to distribute any number of proven poverty interventions. Applicants considered distributing energy solutions like solar lamps and efficient cook stoves, educational solutions like scholarship funding, public health solutions like “sugar daddy awareness” seminars, and medical interventions like vaccines and early cervical cancer screenings.

The D-Prize competition was highly competitive, with over 300 applicants from around the world submitting proposals. The next D-Prize competition will launch this fall, and social entrepreneurs are encouraged to apply by November 30, 2013. D-Prize is on track to award \$150,000 in 2013.

About the D-Prize:

D-Prize organization was founded by brothers Paul Youn and Andrew Youn. Andrew is also co-founder of One Acre Fund, a social enterprise which serves 130,000 farmers in Africa. Andrew is an Echoing Green Fellow, a Skoll Foundation Awardee, and 2013 Schwab Foundation Social Entrepreneur of the Year. He developed the concept for One Acre Fund in 2006 as a business school student at Kellogg School of Management.

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