



**We are proud to announce that Corinne Bazina, General Manager of Danone Communities, is a 2020 Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship awardee, in the Corporate Social Intrapreneur category.**

- Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship announces awardees for social innovation
- Corinne Bazina, General Manager of Danone Communities receives an award for Corporate Social Intrapreneurship
- The awards recognize a group of 23 change-makers responding to the needs of those disproportionately affected by the COVID pandemic
- For more information on the award categories and nominations, visit [www.schwabfound.org](http://www.schwabfound.org)

**Paris, 22 September 2020** - The Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship today announced 23 awardees for social innovation.

Corinne Bazina is receiving an award in the Corporate Social Intrapreneur category, recognizing the outstanding work by Danone Communities over the last 13 years.

Danone is a food & beverage company dedicated to 'bringing health through food to as many people as possible'. Since 1972 Danone has had a unique "dual project" aimed at combining economic success and social progress. More recently, in June 2020, more than 99% of its shareholders approved the introduction of environmental and societal objectives linked to the UN Sustainable Goals to be included within its Articles of Association: Danone has thus become the first listed company to be an "Entreprise à Mission". This will propel Danone further down the path of achieving its ambition to become B Corp at global level, by 2025

In 2007 Danone Communities was created as a pioneer corporate social business Fund, at the initiative of Pr Muhammad Yunus and Danone in order to support social entrepreneurs and promote social business.

Danone Communities brings together expertise, as well as financial resources, to help social entrepreneurs develop sustainable businesses at scale that address challenges such as malnutrition, access to water, and overall poverty reduction.

Currently, Danone Communities supports 12 social businesses (3 of which are B Corp certified), across 15 countries impacting more than 6M people daily.

Corinne Bazina has been General Manager of Danone Communities since 2014. Prior to that she held various positions in different geographies including Bangladesh where she was leading Grameen Danone Foods Ltd. the iconic social business created in 2006.

Upon receiving the award, Corinne Bazina said: "This is a fantastic recognition of the transformative work done by Danone Communities since 2007. We believe that "business for good" has a huge role to play to transform the world, bringing together the passion of entrepreneurs, the best business practices, and social change. Creating the space for people-powered initiatives and strong synergies for social entrepreneurs to learn from each other and accelerate efficiently is at the heart of our mission.

"We are glad to be at the forefront of Danone's "One Planet. One Health" frame of action and promote the Sustainable Development agenda. We are also proud to inspire inside and outside of Danone new ways to do business taking into account all stakeholders.

"Being part of this community is an incredible opportunity to accelerate impact and connect with other people who want to make a change and be part of the great family created by the Schwab Foundation."

The 2020 Schwab Foundation Social Innovators of the Year award includes a list of outstanding founders and chief executive officers, multinational and regional business leaders, government leaders and recognized experts.

This ecosystem of change-makers is being recognised for driving significant social and environmental impact in service of vulnerable and excluded communities and have been well placed to respond to the needs of those disproportionately affected by the COVID pandemic.

The awardees were selected by Schwab Foundation board members in recognition of their innovative approach and potential for global impact. Some of these Board members include Helle Thorning-Schmidt, Prime Minister of Denmark (2011-2015), and social innovation expert Johanna Mair, Professor of Organization, Strategy and Leadership at the Hertie School of Governance in Germany, and H.M. Queen Mathilde of Belgium (Honorary Board Member).

"The Schwab Foundation Social Innovators stand for trust, truth and service. They truly devote their lives through innovative actions to improve livelihoods," said **Hilde Schwab, Co-Founder and Chairperson of the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship**. "The Social Innovators of the Year 2020 represent a new ecosystem of leaders who are driving change and shifting organizations and systems towards a more just, inclusive, sustainable future".

"The Schwab Foundation's Social Innovators of the Year 2020 are pioneering agents of change, re-setting the way our institutions operate. Their work is incredibly pertinent as we respond, recover and reset from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, that has disproportionately affected excluded and vulnerable populations", said **François Bonnici, Head of the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship**.

## Notes to Editors

### About Danone Communities (<https://www.danonecommunities.com/>)

Danone Communities is a venture capital fund investing in Social Businesses, targeting low income communities living with 1 to 5 dollars a day with aspirational products and services addressing malnutrition and lack of access to safe drinking water.

Danone Communities empowers innovative social entrepreneurs to achieve sustainable social impact. It does so by investing in social businesses as a minority shareholder, providing capital, technical and managerial expertise. Starting as a historical partnership with Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus to develop the Grameen Danone Foods Company in Bangladesh,

Danone Communities has continued to invest in social businesses throughout the years from Senegal to Mexico.

To date, the portfolio consists of a total of 12 social business investments made in 15 countries, impacting daily more than 6M people. 3 of these social businesses are B-Corp certified.