Equality fund

WHEN WE MOVE TOGETHER, WE MOVE THE WORLD

Meet our
INVESTMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Andia is an Africa gender-lens investment professional recognized for expertise in fund development, women economic and social advancement, fund and business unit management, investment strategy formulation and implementation, strategic partnership negotiations, coalition and network building; multi-disciplinary team leadership; entrepreneur technical assistance program design and management, research formulation, advocacy, and creating Pan African and global linkages.

She serves as the Investment Director at the Graça Machel Trust to co-lead the organization’s gender-lens investing initiative, is the founding chairperson of New Faces New Voices Kenya chapter (women in finance network) and founding principal of AC Advisory, a gender lens consultancy firm. She is passionate about facilitating intra Africa investment, financing women-owned and led enterprises, strengthening grassroots networks, and supporting first-time female fund managers.

Andia is one of the first female fund managers in the Africa region. She has been instrumental in the set-up of two fund management companies from scratch and was recognized as the youngest female managing director of a non-family-owned business in Kenya at age 30. Andia serves as a Non-Executive Director of Sterling Investment Bank and East African Educational Publishers, an advisory board member of Kenya’s women enterprise fund, an investment committee member of OPES LCEF Restart fund and a member of the BMW Responsible Leaders Network.

She has over 18 years’ experience in fund management and over 8 years of driving women’s economic empowerment goals. In 2014 and 2018 she was named Africa’s most influential woman in financial services by CEO Magazine and in 2018 won the National Diar Inclusion and Diversity Business Executive Champion award in Kenya. In 2019 she was named as a ‘Woman to Watch’ by Forbes magazine in 2020.

Andia holds a Master of Business Administration in Finance with merit from Cass Business School in London and an honours degree in Economics from York University in Toronto. She enjoys travelling, imparting knowledge, and Bikram yoga.
Amie has over 20 years of experience working in a variety of organizations, with a focus on emerging market investing. Prior to Elevar, she was a Vice President with Goldman Sachs Asset Management which she joined through the acquisition of Imprint Capital. Amie focused on the firm’s Environment, Social, and Governance (ESG) and Impact Investing capabilities within the emerging markets. Prior to Imprint, she was with the Soros Economic Development Fund (SEDF) where she concentrated her efforts on early to growth-stage investments. She managed SEDF’s investments in Haiti and worked on several other investment opportunities in Palestine, India, and parts of East and West Africa.

Amie also worked with the Overseas Private Investment Corporation as a Presidential Management Fellow and Investment Funds Officer responsible for developing and evaluating top-quartile and first-time emerging market private equity fund managers. Amie began her career as an M&A analyst with Merrill Lynch and First Union Securities, covering the automotive, healthcare and telecommunications industries. She has volunteered in Nepal with Students Partnership Worldwide as a Program Manager working on environmental education and women’s issues.

Amie holds an MBA from Georgetown University and a BS in Business Administration from Washington University in St. Louis, MO. She serves as the Finance Chair on the Board of Education Through Music, a New York-based non-profit focused on music education. Amie likes to explore new places and hold dance parties with her two daughters.
Arielle A. Enninful (she/her) is the Chief Operations Officer of General Trust Company Limited (GENTRUST) —a licensed Corporate Trustee for pensions fund management and has held this position since January of 2012.

Prior to joining GENTRUST, she worked with Ecobank Ghana Limited (Ecobank). She currently holds the Board Treasurer position for the African Women’s Development Fund (AWDF).

Arielle is a disciplined professional, an ardent believer in women’s empowerment, and a loving mother with two grown sons.
Gertrude is currently the Director of Operations at the African Women’s Development Fund (AWDF) and is responsible for leading and directing the Finance, Human Resource, and Administration functions at AWDF to ensure the organization delivers on its commitments.

Gertrude is a feminist who is passionate about women’s rights and the pursuit of dignity, equality, respect, and justice for women—particularly African women and girls. Integrity, courage, kindness, empathy, and ethical leadership are at the forefront of her personal and professional values, influencing her day-to-day decision-making and actions.

She tries to balance her multiple responsibilities as a daughter, mother, wife, sister, and an active citizen with a focus on her overall wellbeing. She loves to travel and explore the world. The beach is her favourite place to take a walk and she is inspired by all the African women working tirelessly to transform their communities.
Ladé Araba is a senior Development Finance Executive and Board Member with over 18 years of experience. She is Co-Founder/President of the Visiola Foundation and is also the Executive Director of AlphaMundi Foundation. She previously served as the Managing Director for Africa at Convergence Finance. She is a Non-Executive Director on the Board of Africa Risk Capacity (ARC) Insurance Company Ltd and sits on the Advisory Council at Green Outcomes Fund. She previously served as Technical Adviser to the former Minister of Finance of Nigeria and was the Head of the Strategic Monitoring Unit.

She was formerly a Senior Investment Officer at the African Development Bank, where she played key roles in deal origination and appraisal, and led diverse teams to obtain Board approval for senior loans to several infrastructure projects across Africa. Ladé was an Enterprise Development Specialist at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and also worked for the QED Group LLC in Washington, DC. She holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from Thunderbird School of Global Management and a dual Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) degree in Management Information Systems (MIS) and International Business from the University of Oklahoma (2001).

A native English speaker, she is fluent in French and Italian and has basic knowledge of Spanish.
Marijana Savic is an activist with decades of experience in the anti-war and feminist movement in Serbia. A Yugoslav woman by choice, she is the Founder and Director of the organization Atina (named after the Greek goddess of wisdom)—dealing with the protection of disempowered women and girls, particularly those who have survived human trafficking and gender-based violence. Marijana Savic has a degree from the Faculty of Law, after which she attended Women’s Studies and Gender Research Centre at the Faculty of Political Science in Belgrade, as well as the studies at the Columbia University in the United States. In 2018, she was on the Forbes list as one of the eight women in the world most prominently fighting for the rights of refugee women. She is a member of the Global Board of Directors of Global Fund for Children.

Marijana Savic’s work and dedication to the cause have been recognized both nationally and globally, through a number of NGO awards Atina received since its establishment in 2003—including a Global Catalyst Award received from the Global Fund for Children in 2014, a "With and For Girls" award received in 2015 in Great Britain, an award for contributing to combating gender-based violence by the U.S. Embassy, and a Hyatt Thrive Leadership Award.

Together with her colleagues, Marijana Savic founded a women’s entrepreneurial initiative Bagel Bejgl. In 2018, this initiative received a WeEmpower award for its efforts in advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals and improving the position of women and girls both in Serbian society and globally. The award was given to Marijana Savic at the United Nations Headquarters, within the WeEmpower UN SDG Challenge. Bagel Bejgl has been created as a women’s social enterprise, which celebrated five years of successful work in May 2020, serving to secure the sustainability of NGO Atina’s recovery programs for women victims, but also represents an incubator where many women can gain knowledge and skills which will enable them to acquire jobs in the food industry.
Nwamaka is the CEO of the Kataly Foundation and Managing Director of the Restorative Economies Fund. In her roles, Nwamaka collaborates with the Kataly Team to lead the foundation’s day-to-day operations, while holding the community-centred strategy and vision for the Fund.

With a background in community organizing, electoral campaigns, policy, and advocacy work on racial, social, and environmental justice issues, Nwamaka is deeply committed to supporting projects that build resilient, healthy, and self-determined communities rooted in shared prosperity.

Prior to joining the Kataly Team, Nwamaka built an independent consulting practice guided by her framework on Restorative Economics. As a consultant, she provided technical assistance and strategic guidance to community owned and governed community wealth building initiatives like Restore Oakland, Black Land & Power, and others. Her work with these community-driven projects led her to provide training and advisory services to donors, foundations and impact investment firms including institutions like The San Francisco Foundation and RSF Social Finance. Nwamaka has served as a fellow for the Center for Economic Democracy and the Movement Strategy Center. She proudly serves on the board of Thousand Currents, Restore Oakland, Inc., and Resource Generation. She graduated from UC Davis with a Bachelor’s degree in Sociology and African American Studies and holds a Master’s of Public Administration specializing in Financial Management from San Francisco State University.

To relax and unwind, Nwamaka enjoys spending quiet time in her Oakland backyard savouring sips of bourbon.
Sawa Nakagawa is the Founder and Partner of ThreeArrows Impact Partner, a specialized advisory firm focused on impact investing and social innovation based in Johannesburg. She has over 18 years of experience across impact investing, general management, investment banking, and strategy. Originally from Japan, she has worked in Asia, Europe, Africa, the U.S., and Latin America.

Previously, Sawa served as inaugural Chief Executive Officer of E2 Investments (Pty) Ltd, an impact investment company with a mission to create jobs and attack poverty in South Africa.

Sawa holds an MBA from Columbia Business School (Finance and Social Enterprise) and a Masters in International Affairs (Economic and Political Development) from the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University. She is a CFA Charterholder, and a 2019–2020 delegate of the US-Japan Leadership Program.
Shuyin is a Partner at Patamar Capital, a leading impact investing firm in Southeast Asia. Shuyin is responsible for Patamar's investing activities in the Mekong region and has led investments into education, FinTech, employee benefits, and healthcare companies. She spearheads Patamar’s gender-lens investing efforts, including managing one of the first gender-lens investing funds in Southeast Asia, the Investing in Women Fund. She is also the Co-Founder and CEO of the Beacon Fund, a boundary-breaking fund for female entrepreneurs in Southeast Asia’s emerging markets.

She has experience spanning strategy consulting (Bain & Company), development consulting (TechnoServe) and impact investing (Patamar Capital, LGT Venture Philanthropy), across Australia, India, and Southeast Asia. She has also worked in U.S. Congress and the Australian public service, as well as at The Lowy Institute for International Policy and UNICEF.

Shuyin was named one of Australia’s "100 Women of Influence" by the Australian Financial Review in 2015 and an Asia 21 Young Leader by the Asia Society in 2016. She currently serves on the Southeast Asia Advisory Council of Women’s World Banking, a global NGO promoting women’s financial inclusion. She graduated summa cum laude from the Australian National University where she was also awarded the University Medal.
Suzanne is the founder of Catalyst at Large and Co-Founder of the GenderSmart Investing initiative. She is a globally recognized expert on gender-smart investing. Her work has influenced hundreds of funds and institutional investors, and billions of dollars of capital to move with a gender lens.

Her work spans research, field building, and consulting on gender-smart investing. She is the co-author of Project Sage, the global market scan of PE, VC, and private debt vehicles with a gender lens, with Wharton Social Impact Initiative. Suzanne also co-teaches Getting Gender Smart at Duke University. She sits on a number of advisory boards including VC Include, the Equality Fund, Boardroom Africa, and others.

The GenderSmart Investing initiative connects and convenes thousands of the most committed investors and investment influencers, globally. This initiative has a number of working groups, produces a global Summit, and is the home for thought leadership and resources aimed to unlock gender-smart capital at scale.

Suzanne has been the recipient of many awards in philanthropy, business, and impact investing. In the 90’s, she was CEO of the e-learning company IEC, which she and her partner grew and then sold to Wolters Kluwer. She is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and the Wharton School of Business. She is also an active private impact investor with a gender lens.

She and her team are based in London.