Kaitlin is a co-founder of ygap, program director for yher and manages the Global Acceleration Team and Accelerator curriculum. Her nine years of international development experience began with her leading a school for street-children in a Tanzanian slum and managing an HIV orphanage in a Kenyan village, before launching and growing the ygap model across Africa and the Asia Pacific.

She has accelerated hundreds of impact entrepreneurs and overseen programs that have changed the lives of hundreds of thousands of people living in poverty. Additionally, having led and contributed to various female entrepreneurship initiatives, she is extremely passionate about supporting and championing the next generation of female entrepreneurs and leaders.

Kaitlin was named as the 2015 Australian Trailblazer of the year by the Foundation for Young Australians.

Aaron is a co-founder of ygap, our former Chief Impact Officer, the creator of our impact model and acceleration curriculum, a ygap board member and sits on the Global Acceleration Team. He has seven years of experience with the Australian military, and has worked to accelerate impact entrepreneurs in emerging markets since 2007.

Aaron is a Cambridge University graduate and has three Masters degrees in strategy, international relations and international development. Aaron has worked closely with the majority of the ygap growth ventures and sourced investment and provided strategic advice as they have scaled.

Aaron is also the co-founder of Education Changemakers, an internationally renowned education BCorp that trains 25,000 education innovators each year across thirty-five countries, and provides innovation consultancy for senior leaders at groups including Apple, Microsoft and PWC. He is the author of the two books Edupreneur, and Dream Team.

A self-proclaimed Kenyan serial entrepreneur, Carol has started several businesses in different sectors, which led her to fall in love with social entrepreneurship.

As a book lover, reading has always been a passion and an escape that led her to start Grab a Book, a social enterprise that sets up libraries in the toughest slums of the country and schools, with an aim to bringing back the reading culture and library services to thousands of Kenyan children.

Known not to shy away from finances, Carol is a former stock broker on the Kenyan Stock Exchange. With over ten years of experience as an entrepreneur, she brings a wealth of knowledge on East African social enterprise. Carol is a ygap entrepreneur, an Unreasonable Institute fellow and the Country Director of ygap Kenya.
Palesa has also spoken at various global organisations including BBC Africa, Graca Machel Trust, SABC 1 Making Moves Television Programme, Gordon Institute of Business Science and London Business School and was nominated for the Desmond Tutu African Leadership Initiative Programme. Palesa is the Country Director of ygap South Africa.

In pursuit of her bliss, Katleho opened up a boutique restaurant, Bliss, in Johannesburg that she conceptualized and managed in 2010. This is where her entrepreneurial and business development skills were carved. With a deep yearning to play her part in adding value to the entrepreneurial movement in South Africa, she was appointed CEO of ygap South Africa in 2014.

Inspired by her experiences as an emerging female entrepreneur, under the ygap umbrella, Katleho launched SHE, a female focused entrepreneurship accelerator which ran in South Africa & Kenya. As a result of SHE’s success, Katleho came on board to co-create yher. She is also the co-founder of AMAZI, a social-enterprise beauty bar. Katleho is intrigued by the female entrepreneurship space and this is at the core of what drives all her endeavours.

Simon is the General Manager of Impact at ygap. Previous to this position, he was the Program Manager for ygap’s First Gens Program, an accelerator program that was designed to support migrant and refugee led social enterprises in Australia.

At the intersection of profit and purpose, Simon has previously held roles at World Vision, Impact Investing Australia, and a microfinance institution in the Philippines. He also has corporate experience managing a small business in Canada’s oil industry and working for a large Canadian financial institution.

Simon holds a Master of International Business from Melbourne Business School, a Master of International Relations from the University of Melbourne, and a Bachelor of Economics from the University of Alberta.
Manita is the CEO of ygap. She joined ygap following a decade of working as an engineer and over eight years working in the not-for-profit sector. Manita has held various senior roles at Peter MacCallum Cancer Foundation, Asylum Seeker Resource Centre and as the Australian National Manager of Pollinate Energy. Her corporate experience includes working at Pacific Hydro, Tenix Alliance, AECOM, Fulton Hogan and Veolia Water. Her extensive contribution and success in fundraising at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Foundation was acknowledged by the Fundraising Institute Australia at the 2013 National Awards for Excellence in Fundraising.

She holds a Master of Business Administration from Melbourne Business School and a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) from RMIT. Manita has been a Board Director and the Chairperson at Asha Global, an organisation that supports women and girls affected by sexual exploitation.

Sean is currently a Senior Manager in Ernst & Young's Financial Accounting Advisory group in San Francisco, a global finance and consulting firm. In this role, Sean advises primarily Fortune 500 companies on the structure, development and effectiveness of their finance and governance activities. Sean has over seventeen years of experience working for industry leaders and high growth start-ups across the private, public and philanthropic sectors.

Sean was ygap’s CFO from 2011-2015, during which ygap grew from an organization turning over $300,000 to $3.5 million. He now sits on the ygap board and facilitation team.

In addition to this professional experience, he is a qualified Certified Practicing Accountant in New York and California as well as an Australian Chartered Accountant.

Isaac has worked with over 262 social enterprises and inclusive businesses, across Australia, South East Asia and the Pacific. He is currently establishing a coffee project in Papua New Guinea that will lift 1,000 smallholder farmers out of extreme poverty over the next five years.

He also delivers accelerator programs for social entrepreneurs in Melbourne, Sydney and Alice Springs.

People love talking to Isaac about their business models and financial models, because he asks ugly questions that make their ideas stronger. You can find his resources and e-books at isaacjeffries.com.
Global Facilitators

Millicent is a design graduate from Goldsmiths College, University of London and a social entrepreneur running three ventures in the Solomon Islands.

Believing in ‘information is power’, her core design company serves in bridging a gap for effective communication and social cleavages using traditional oral storytelling structures to tackle adult illiteracy in SI (85%).

Her work recently recognized her a recipient of the prestigious Queen’s Young Leaders Award.

Millicent is a passionate advocate for social issues with an ambition to shift traditional perspectives and change the narrative of the current stance of women and youth in socio-economic development in the Pacific.

Audrey is passionate about creating the right conditions for entrepreneurs to reach their full potential. Her work focuses on building innovative, sustainable, scalable and just solutions to society’s biggest problems.

Through establishing, delivering and assisting programs across Australasia, Audrey has supported over 200 technology entrepreneurs to date in growing their early stage ventures. She’s an advisor for the Recycle UP! Ghana program, which empowers the Ghanaian youth to tackle their country’s most-pressing waste problems through entrepreneurship. And, more recently, she co-founded Malaika made, a social enterprise that aims to alleviate poverty by creating education and living-wage work opportunities for marginalised communities.

She holds qualifications in user experience design and neuroscience based coaching, as well as degrees in Economics, Management and Psychology.

Audrey grew up in New Caledonia and passionate about supporting entrepreneurs across the Pacific region.

In 2014, while helping launch General Assembly’s campus in Melbourne, Kish create Jobbop, a recruitment platform for software engineers allowing employers to bid on candidates bringing the average time to hire down from 3 months to less than 14 days.

Looking to scale their service, Jobbop was accepted into the Melbourne Accelerator Program and were soon after approached by Hired.com as they looked to further expand nationally. On the back of a $40m Series C raise by Hired they were acquired in December 2015. Kish now works with numerous early stage startups and social enterprises and is the Entrepreneur in Residence at Monash University.
Erad is the current Country Director of ygap Bangladesh. He comes in with eight years of experience serving organisations in management & startup investment consultancy, telecommunication, internet and United Nations. He played the leadership role for departments like Planning, Product, Revenue Channels and Business Development. On a regular basis he speaks at top local universities on business planning, brand and marketing strategy.

He has been mentoring Bangladeshi startups for the last three years. To date he has helped startups to raise investment of total USD1.42 million from local sources. He also guides startup with strategy mapping, brand, marketing strategy and investment readiness.

He believes the next big things are: water, refugee, rise of Asian startups and avoiding WW3.

Daniel is a manager at Deloitte a global consulting firm, in their Talent Advisory business with expertise in culture, design thinking, innovation and strategy.

Daniel has played many roles during his 8 years with ygap including COO assisting in growing the organisation from $300,000 to +$3.5m and as Chair of the Social Enterprise and Fundraising committee which included overseeing a $3m multi-venue hospitality business and a million dollar creative fundraising campaign.