

Irfan Keshavjee

Irfan Keshavjee is a seasoned entrepreneur, business leader, board advisor, and executive coach with over 27 years of experience operating across East Africa. He is the founder of two award-winning impact enterprises and was awarded the prestigious Ashoka and Acumen Fund Fellowships for uplifting the lives of marginalized communities.

Irfan founded Karibu Homes, one of Kenya's leading affordable housing companies, which has developed and sold over 500 homes to lower-income families. He also founded Honeycare Africa, a pioneering social enterprise that has impacted over 20,000 smallholder farmers across East Africa, helping lift many above the poverty line. Honeycare is featured as a business case study at Harvard Business School.

Irfan serves as a Non-Executive Director of Diamond Trust Bank, one of East Africa's largest listed regional banks, where he contributes to corporate governance and digital transformation strategies. He also chairs the advisory board of SeamlessHR, a pan-African HR tech company recognized by the Financial Times as one of Africa's fastest-growing companies. His board and advisory experience span multiple sectors, including fintech, SaaS, climate-tech, mobility, renewable energy, circular economy, and waste management. As a business mentor and executive coach, Irfan also works closely with founders, leadership teams, and accelerators from the pre-seed stage through Series B.

Drawing from decades of experience in the entrepreneurial trenches, he led high-performing businesses across a breadth of sectors, rapidly translating strategy into action, building and nurturing talented teams, raising capital, implementing tactical operational systems, coaching leaders, and guiding businesses through disruptive competitive, regulatory, and macroeconomic environments, and periods of social unrest. He has rolled out over 45 multi-outlet retail and service franchises across Kenya and Uganda and has helped design, grow, or turn around businesses in diverse contexts.

Irfan is extensively networked with a proven reputation and track record in the East African corporate ecosystem, and has a deep practical understanding of the local culture, navigating relationships with various stakeholders including regulatory and government bodies, civil society organizations, the business community, and multiple consumer demographics.

Potential support areas: Founder and executive coaching; enterprise growth and scaling; affordable housing business models; leadership and team building; operational systems; East African market and stakeholder navigation.