

Komal Ahmad

Founder and President of Copia

The reasonable woman adapts herself to the world; the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to herself. Therefore, all progress depends on the unreasonable woman. Komal Ahmad is an unreasonable woman intelligently Solving the World's Dumbest Problem – world hunger.

As founder and president of Copia, Ahmad solved the complex logistics associated with the redistribution of highly-perishable excess food from businesses, commercial kitchens, and events to nonprofits in need. A for-profit surplus food waste management company, Copia's advanced and proprietary technology dramatically reduces food waste and ends hunger across North America. Ahmad has led the organization in successfully diverting more than 3.5M pounds of food from landfill (enough to completely fill 40+ NFL stadiums), feeding more than 4 million people all while providing businesses and nonprofits with over \$21M in savings. Copia is distinguished as 1 of the top 3 startups run by women in the U.S. and 1 of the top 8 startups graduating out of Y Combinator.

A creative innovator and exemplary business leader, Ahmad inspires people across the globe with her dynamic vision and ability to transform the world through the power of food. In speeches, she shares how her relentless pursuit of accomplishing what others believe is "impossible" has led to her lifelong commitment to public service. Be it in the executive board room of a Fortune 100, at a university commencement, or addressing the United Nations, Ahmad captivates audiences of all sizes with her engaging and relatable speaking style, and reveals how she's innovated and built a transformative company to solve world hunger. An immigrant and sole female founder, she uses her unlikely and fascinating story of working to solve global hunger to inspire groups to embrace a culture of innovation and creativity, make unsolvable problems solvable, see the beauty in failure, cultivate change, and uncover the untapped potential within all of us.

Among numerous accolades for her work, Ahmad has been named the University of California's "30 Under 30" Global Food Changemaker and awarded the Social Entrepreneur of the Year. She has also been named by *Entrepreneur* magazine as one of the 'Most Powerful Women in the World,' recognized by *Marie Claire* as one of the 'Most Powerful & Impactful People in Business,' highlighted by *Fast Company* as one of the 'Most Creative People in Business,' listed by *InStyle* among the 'Top 50 Most Badass Women in the World,' and appointed by Toyota as their 'Mother of Invention.' She has made the coveted *Forbes* '30 Under 30' list twice and was also honored with the prestigious Nelson Mandela Humanitarian Award.