



# Driving Impact Through Partnerships

Village Impact Report | May 2021 | Vol 10

## Letter from the CEO

During a time when millions more Africans are being pushed into extreme poverty because of the pandemic, we are doubling our efforts to equip first-time entrepreneurs with the resources to start businesses and gain access to financial resources. In the first two cycles of FY21, we started 2,704 businesses in Kenya and Uganda with Village Enterprise staff and 800 businesses in Mozambique with World Vision staff, for a total of 3,504 businesses. In cycle 3, we will more than double our per-cycle rate by starting over 2,538 enterprises in Kenya, Uganda, and, for the first time in Rwanda, bringing our total for the year to over 6,000 businesses!

To accomplish this significant expansion of our impact, we have been working closely with partners throughout Africa. In Kenya, we ramped up our efforts with Catholic Relief Services on the USAID-funded Nawiri project and with the Kenya Government on the World Bank-funded Kenya Social and Economic Inclusion Project (KSEIP). Working closely with the Rwandan government, we launched our program in Rwanda. And partnerships have also allowed us to grow beyond East Africa with our cyclone relief work in Mozambique with World Vision and our conservation-focused collaborations in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Republic of the Congo with the Wildlife Conservation Society and the Africa Wildlife Foundation.

We are launching a truly groundbreaking project with our partners Mercy Corps and IDInsight: DREAMS for refugees in the coming year. As one of the Larsen Lam Iconic Capital Award winners, we received \$10.25 million to work with refugees in Uganda and Ethiopia to implement Village

Enterprise's graduation program and layer it with Mercy Corps' market systems development approach. IDInsight will be evaluating the resulting impact. This project will allow us to significantly expand our work with refugees in the coming years and establish a new model that other organizations, including governments, could scale up.

Because of our rapid growth, our world-class African team has expanded significantly in the past quarter. In the third quarter alone, we added 22 full-time employees in Kenya, 19 in Uganda, and 19 in Rwanda. Our African team will continue to grow in this quarter with the hiring of an additional 80 new team members in the final quarter of our fiscal year. Fortunately, we have put a strategic human resource plan in place that provides direction for our human resource efforts over the next few years.

As we continue to scale our work and build our team, we are guided by our North Star value of ubuntu, an African philosophy that spans the continent, emphasizing the importance of compassion and humanity towards others. Ubuntu—and our other values of innovation, passion, integrity, and sustainability—guide our decision-making as we work to achieve our mission of ending extreme poverty in Africa with respect, empathy, and dignity.

Thank you for your partnership and support of our poverty alleviation work. We couldn't achieve these results without you!

Dianne Calvi  
President and CEO



# Performance Dashboard

## FY21 Outputs to Date



**3,504**  
Businesses started



**10,500+**  
First-time entrepreneurs trained

## FY20 Cycle 1 Metrics

July 2019 - July 2020

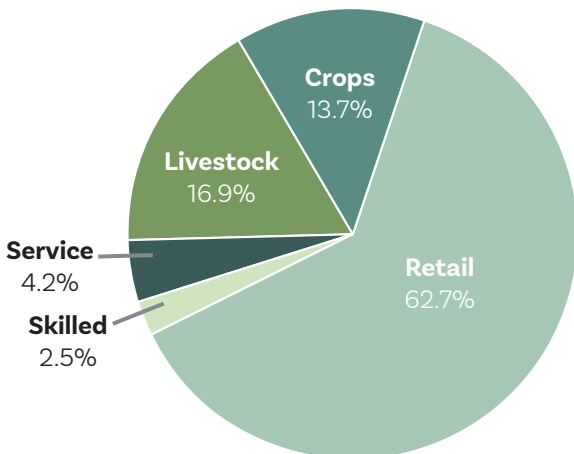
Village Enterprise equips Africans living on less than \$1.90 per day with the resources to create successful, sustainable businesses, breaking the cycle of poverty for themselves and their families.

Starting businesses in three cycles per year, each cohort is trained for four months and receives mentoring for the following eight months. We disperse seed capital twice during this period and our businesses 'graduate' at the one-year mark.

Our program's five components include targeting and supporting three entrepreneurs' groups in establishing new businesses by providing them with seed capital cash transfers, training, and ongoing mentorship by a local business mentor. We then organize these first-time entrepreneurs into business savings groups (BSGs) of 30 entrepreneurs (10 business groups) to access growth capital and a safe place for their savings as they continue to build social capital. Our monitoring and evaluation systems track these components, including using mobile phones and TaroWorks for data collection and Salesforce's relational cloud-based database for information management.

We share data in real-time with staff at all levels of the organization through dashboards customized to the role's information needs. Access to timely and relevant data empowers staff to respond quicker, iterate more rapidly, and manage adaptively. This process ultimately leads to a higher impact among the households that we serve.

Our 2020 fiscal year cycle one (FY20 C1) participants graduated during country lockdowns and were evaluated in December 2020 once most in-country Covid-19 restrictions were lifted. Despite the adverse effects of the pandemic on markets in Uganda and Kenya, the outcomes were very encouraging as our participants were primarily able to keep very healthy amounts of savings both at the household and business savings group levels. Annual consumption and expenditure—a proxy for income—also saw a substantial increase (31%), although lower than the previous year (58%).



## Uganda and Kenya

Key Outputs	FY20C1
Newly reached villages	108
Program participants trained	5702
Lives impacted	37860
Training sessions provided	1330
Businesses started	2020
Business savings groups (BSG) established	190
% of women participants	82%

Key Outcomes	FY20C1
Average BSG savings at endline	\$1,254
Average increase in household savings	\$26.10 (\$7.60 to \$33.70)
Average % increase in household savings	343%
% Increase in consumption and expenditure (C&E)	33%
Average increase in annual per household consumption and expenditure (C&E)	\$462
Average increase in weekly animal protein consumption	114%

FY20 cycle 1 (FY20 C1) program participants entered our program in July 2019, started their businesses in Oct. 2019 and graduated in July 2020.

FY20 C1 endline data collection happened in December 2020. Our enumerators observed strict health and safety measures while in the field.



# Partnering for Scale

## County Government Engagements (KSEIP)

In collaboration with the World Bank, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection in Kenya is implementing the Kenya Social and Economic Inclusion Project (KSEIP) in five counties: Kisumu, Makeni, Marsabit, Murang'a, and Taita Taveta. This project is supported by a consortium led by Global Development Incubator (GDI), Village Enterprise, and The BOMA Project. The initiative will support the transition of individuals from cash transfers to sustainable livelihoods.

This is a very strategic project for Village Enterprise since we believe that the most sustainable and scalable pathway towards ending extreme poverty is via full government support and scaled innovation of proven approaches.

The KSEIP consortium, jointly with the National Government, held successful engagement tours in the identified pilot counties. The purpose of those visits was to meet with the County Government leadership and grassroots officials to seek their buy-in and input on the most suitable areas within their counties to implement the pilot.

In May, Village Enterprise welcomed Lazarus Nanzala, the KSEIP Project Manager. Lazarus has over ten years of experience planning, managing, and executing multi-country humanitarian and sustainable development projects. He will oversee the implementation of the Village Enterprise graduation program across four KSEIP counties, working closely with the consortium and government partners.

Village Enterprise is in the process of finalizing the design and specifics of the roll-out and hiring staff members for this multi-million dollar contract. We will be recruiting five field associates and 75 Business Mentors who will be directly implementing our program.

To put this in context, the KSEIP team is larger than our current entire Kenya field team, resulting in more than doubling our Kenya field team size within the next few months. Once recruitment is complete, we hope to commence implementation by July/August 2021 of supporting 3,750 entrepreneurs in lifting themselves and their families out of extreme poverty.

As part of the Nawiri project, Village Enterprise is piloting an Adapted Nutrition-Friendly Graduation Model (A/NFGA) in Isiolo County, with a possible scale-up to Marsabit County based on learnings from the pilot and a formative assessment. Village Enterprise will support 600 households in two geographically diverse settings during this pilot phase: Merti Ward, a very remote location, and Ngaremaru Ward, a rural area with some access to markets. The impact chain theory for this poverty graduation pilot is that if participants use increased incomes to access nutritious foods and health products and services, one result will be positive gains regarding persistent acute malnutrition for children under five.

Poverty is one of the fundamental causes of acute malnutrition. Village Enterprise's model has been adapted to NAWIRI by layering it with the following components:

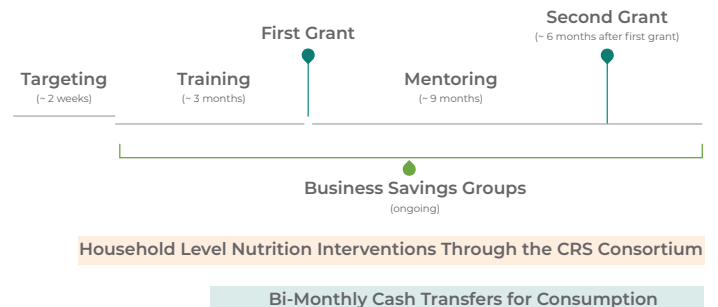
- Targeting: Priority is given to ultra-poor households with children who are already malnourished, at risk of acute malnutrition, or who were once malnourished and are at risk of repeat acute malnutrition; pregnant and lactating women; and people with disabilities.
- Cash transfers for consumption: Each household receives \$75 bi-monthly for 12 months to enable them to meet their basic needs before they can engage in productive income-generating activities supported by Village Enterprise capital grants.
- Health and nutrition education and counseling to improve the feeding practices of pregnant women, infants, and young children.
- Incorporating social behavior change across all interventions.

The project is of significant interest to USAID and other partners to assess whether a 12-month poverty graduation program layered with nutrition education and cash transfers can reduce acute malnutrition in arid and semi-arid lands. For Village Enterprise, Nawiri presents an excellent opportunity to showcase the cost-effectiveness of our poverty graduation program as a critical element of nutrition-focused interventions. We are hoping to scale this first pilot in the upcoming two years significantly.

## NAWIRI

Nawiri is a five-year USAID Food for Peace-funded program designed to reduce persistent acute malnutrition in four counties within Northern Kenya. It is the first USAID Development Food Security Activity (DFSA) project in Kenya. Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is the lead partner in the implementing consortium made up of Concern Worldwide, Village Enterprise, Tufts University, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), International Business & Technical Consultants, Inc. (IBTCI), and The Manoff Group.

## Adapted Nutrition-Friendly Graduation Pilot Timeline



# Extend and Scaling

In the past few months, countries have eased back on Covid-19 lockdowns, and borders are reopening. In March, Village Enterprise staff members Mercy Tumkou (Project Manager) and Carolyne Wafula (Field Coordinator) traveled to Mozambique to provide in-person technical assistance to World Vision for the first time since the Cyclone Idai recovery project started in August 2019. Due to the effect of the cyclones, the participants were significantly more impoverished than most of our current program areas in East Africa, with most of them starting the program with close to nothing.

Mercy and Carolyne had previously trained the World Vision business mentors under the Cyclone Idai project. They were impressed to see them mainly implementing Village Enterprise's program with fidelity and evident success. Mercy will travel to Mozambique again in May with Nelly Munge, our Senior Business Development Manager, for the project close-out meeting. By that stage, we will have supported World Vision in establishing 800 new micro-enterprises in central Mozambique.



Similarly, in April, Anthony Omongin, Village Enterprise Field Coordinator, traveled to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to provide in-person technical assistance

to the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF). We are in the second phase of our partnership with AWF in the Lomako Reserve, and Anthony is currently on-site training a new cohort of business mentors. Also, in April in the Congos—both the DRC and Congo-Brazzaville—we conducted design workshops with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). The training should have been in-person, but due to political unrest in the DRC and soaring Covid-19 cases in Kenya, we, unfortunately, had to switch to Zoom at the last minute.

In Rwanda, we hired Sylvere Mwirerwa as our first Country Manager: his passion and entrepreneurial spirit will serve him well as he pioneers Village Enterprise's work in there. We are launching operations in two sectors - Goma and Sironji of the Rulindo district, which is about 40 minutes from Kigali, the capital city of Rwanda, with a steep hilly landscape. Although Rulindo is one of the closest districts to the capital, it ranks third highest in poverty levels and is quite remote. Besides Sylvere, we have hired talented and highly-qualified finance, monitoring and evaluation, and field staff. We are currently training our first-ever Rwandan cohort of 840 individuals to start 280 businesses in June



Rwanda is currently experiencing aggressive economic growth. The government intends to end extreme poverty by 2024, which fits well with Village Enterprise's mission and scaling objective: we aim to partner with the government of Rwanda to integrate poverty graduation into their social protection programming.

# Development Impact Bond

Village Enterprise completed our Development Impact Bond implementation in December 2020, equipping 14,100+ first-time entrepreneurs (75% women) in rural Kenya and Uganda to start 4,766 small sustainable microenterprises and 481 business savings groups impacting the lives of over 95,000 East Africans. We postponed the DIB randomized controlled trial till spring due to operational challenges posed by the pandemic.

IDinsight is now actively preparing to conduct the in-person surveys (using tablets) of outcomes in 10,122 households across 241 treatment villages and 241 control villages in Kenya and Uganda. To do this, IDinsight will randomly select 21 households from each village to collect information on income (measured via Consumption & Expenditure as a proxy) and assets (non-productive, productive assets and savings at the household (HH) and business savings group (BSG) levels. We expect these results by October.

Taddeo Muriuki, our VP of Africa Operations, was invited, along with expert speakers from across the globe, for an [online session](#) in partnership with Ecorys and the U.K. Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), focusing on [new evidence and insights](#) from four DIBs across Africa and Asia. This discussion allowed us to explore critical ingredients in DIBs to increase efficiency and effectiveness, the conditions for DIBs to be an appropriate commissioning tool, and the costs and benefits of using them.





# Women's Empowerment

In March, we actively participated in International Women's Month, sharing stories on our blog about Village Enterprise female entrepreneurs, featuring key partnerships with Cartier Philanthropy, Whole Planet Foundation, TaroWorks, The Starbucks Foundation, and Days for Girls. These partnerships demonstrate the holistic and multifaceted approach we take when adapting our program to meet the unique needs of women and girls.

Our partnership with TaroWorks seeks to address the digital divide between rural Africans and developing countries and the divide between rural African men and women and how it reinforces economic gender inequality.

While our collaboration with The Starbucks Foundation and Days for Girls focuses on the intersection of women's health education and economics, this project is in direct response to the needs for access to menstrual health solutions and comprehensive education for young women in rural communities of Africa so that they can stay in school, support their families, and maintain the dignity that they deserve.

If you missed our International Women's Month campaign, check out some highlights in the links below:

[Technology is Power](#) | [The Intersection of Economic Inclusion and Women's Healthcare](#) | [Partnering Together: Whole Planet Foundation and Village Enterprise](#) | [The Palace of Strong Women](#)

In April, the World Bank's Partnership for Economic Inclusion (PEI) held a three-day Global Learning Event to take stock of experiences in moving national economic inclusion programs for the poorest and most vulnerable to scale. There were close to 300 participants from 50+ countries worldwide, including Nobel Prize winner Abhijit Banerjee, African leaders, World Bank economists, government officials and policymakers, professors/researchers, and other nonprofits.

Winnie Auma, our VP of Programs, spoke on a panel focusing on women's empowerment and economic inclusion, and CEO Dianne Calvi provided closing remarks.

**"The World Bank's Partnership for Economic Inclusion Global Learning Event was an action-packed few days, featuring diverse perspectives from governments and stakeholders. I benefited from many of the rich discussions and debates. I specifically took part in the plenary segment *Promoting Women's Empowerment through Economic Inclusion - Current Thinking and Key Directions*. It was such a rewarding experience to share the platform with a diverse range of individuals, many of whom I intend to maintain contact with. There was a lot of relevant information learned that will continue to shape how Village Enterprise will approach design, implementation, engagement, and measurement of women's empowerment in our work."**

**- Winnie Auma**  
Vice President of Programs, Village Enterprise

You can view the session materials from the event [here](#) and the other session recordings [here](#).



# Covid-19 Updates

Village Enterprise continues to be on the front lines of fighting the global pandemic. As markets have been disturbed across the globe, our entrepreneurs have felt the long-lasting effects of economic downturns. Village Enterprise continues to press forward with financial inclusion programming that allows our participants to address their economic needs in an environment that supports the rigorous observation of Covid-19 safety protocols.

We have seen great success with very few internal Covid infections and no severe cases of the illness in participants or staff. However, our operations are still affected as new pandemic waves have worked their way through East Africa. We are currently in phase three of four regarding our opening-up plan. Hopes are high that vaccination rates will increase, causing caseloads to fall to a level where we can move to our final phase and set a “new normal” for our field operations.

## Innovations in the Field

One of Village Enterprise's five strategic priorities is to revolutionize small business development in rural Africa through innovative and context-appropriate digital solutions. We have already made significant progress in our digitization efforts: our first-time entrepreneurs now receive their start-up capital as a digital cash transfer across all areas of operations; our business mentors can digitally access training materials and video review modules on their tablets, and our field staff can proactively monitor their businesses' and business savings groups' progress using award-winning dashboards and adapt their mentoring appropriately.

In fall 2020, Village Enterprise was awarded funding via the Covid-19 Adaptation Fund, managed by Instiglio and Global Development Incubator. The project aims to pilot technological adaptations to increase the scalability and the impact of our training and mentoring. The pilot involves using training videos delivered through portable projectors and smartphones to entrepreneurs in the program, phone mentoring via feature phones distributed to business owners, and the use of a toll-free line for entrepreneurs to ask questions as they arise.

To date, we have reached 1,650 entrepreneurs and seen increased efficiency and impact due to this program. The project allows each business mentor to target more entrepreneurs, supporting scale with minimal increased investment. Entrepreneurs' understanding and satisfaction are now above 85% on average. We anticipate that digitization will allow other implementers and governments to use our model, even as Village Enterprise scales direct implementation to new geographies and countries. Video training is also helping to lessen the need for business mentors to repeatedly present the same training content to various groups of entrepreneurs within a short period,

leading to fatigue and quality inconsistencies. Finally, these solutions increase Village Enterprise's resilience to future shocks. For example, if there were to be further restrictions on movement applied to our program areas due to Covid-19 or a comparable situation, we would now be able to continue training uninterrupted.

The Covid-19 Adaptation Fund project has also allowed us to exercise our organizational flexibility and capacity to adapt, while business mentors involved in the pilot have significantly increased their technological skills. Embedded within the Digitization Design Challenge, learnings from this project will have implications for Village Enterprise's program in the coming years. Through the pilot, we will improve communications efficiency among all business mentors. For example, by facilitating technological adaptations, we will reduce face time between business mentors and entrepreneurs and transportation, thus helping address challenges posed by future Covid-19-related uncertainties.



# Story from the Field

Menstruation is a natural and healthy process for women's bodies, yet it remains a taboo subject in public and private settings for communities around the world, including sub-Saharan Africa. One of the taboo's ultimate impacts is that it inhibits women and girls from participating in regular but important daily activities. From a survey taken in Mt. Elgon, Kenya, 51% of respondents said that menstruation should be kept secret and 34% of women interviewed shared that they did not feel confident in their ability to find adequate menstrual products. Unless women and girls have access to menstrual products, it is often considered inappropriate for them to leave the house during their period. Young girls may not go out and play with friends, students may not go to school, and working women may not go about their livelihood and business activities. Simultaneously, men in the community, who tend to manage household finances, do not consider menstrual products something to be budgeted for at the household level.

Mt. Elgon, Kenya, in November 2020 through a two-year program funded by The Starbucks Foundation. Critical to Village Enterprise entrepreneurs' success in Mt. Elgon (and many other rural regions of Kenya) is a shift in social norms surrounding menstruation. Breaking down barriers around menstruation discussions is also incredibly important for those Days for Girls enterprises producing and selling reusable pads, because a reluctance to discuss the topic can make it challenging to market the product. Advocacy and education are conduits to open conversations about menstruation and are essential starting points.

We have already started seeing changes in Mt. Elgon community norms as a result of the joint advocacy effort between Village Enterprise and Days for Girls. In community meetings with the local leaders, Days for Girls staff provided comprehensive education about menstrual health and its impact on women and girls' lives in the



**Bringing a discussion of menstrual health into the public domain is a great milestone in a conservative community such as Mt. Elgon. [We are] confident that the community and men will make menstrual health a part of the agenda in all realms of public life.**

**- Nancy Chumo**  
Kenya Country Director, Village Enterprise

This type of environment presents clear barriers towards economic empowerment for women. Women of all ages miss out on education, workdays, and business growth opportunities. While Village Enterprise is, at its core, a poverty alleviation organization, 80% of our program participants are women, and we know that gender equity is essential for true economic inclusion. Data from Village Enterprise's randomized controlled trial (RCT) shows that the program has a proportionate positive impact on income and savings for female-headed households. Also, women participating in the Village Enterprise program reported increased standing in the community and subjective well-being. Even with these positive results, Village Enterprise knew we needed to do more.

Village Enterprise knew that our program could improve women's lives, but we were also very self-aware that we are no experts in the menstrual health field. For us to help address these barriers, we started to search for a partner. Then in 2019, [The Starbucks Foundation](#) facilitated an introduction between Village Enterprise and [Days for Girls](#), a nonprofit that works to eliminate the stigma associated with menstruation by training entrepreneurs to produce and sell long-lasting, washable menstrual pads while also advocating for policies that support menstrual health management (MHM).

It was a match. Soon after the introduction Days for Girls and Village Enterprise began working together in

community. Many leaders in the meeting had never considered menstrual healthcare an issue, even within their own households. Still, this session enabled them to recognize specific examples and share stories about how inadequate menstrual health management has negatively impacted women's lives. At the end of the meetings, leaders expressed commitment to improving and advocating for improved menstrual health.

"If Mt. Elgon becomes a menstrual health management example, given the history of the community, this will be one of the best success stories," says Bridgit Kurgat, Days for Girls Program Manager.

Village Enterprise's Kenya Country Director Nancy Chumo also expressed her enthusiasm for the project. "Bringing a discussion of menstrual health into the public domain is a great milestone in a conservative community such as Mt. Elgon. It is anticipated that the positive impact will be realized through the project, including confidence of the community and men to make menstrual health a part of the agenda in all realms of public life."

While the project is still in its initial stages, both organizations are excited to share transformation stories as participants begin small businesses while also changing norms that have long presented barriers to female entrepreneurs.

# Awards and Recognition

## Larsen Lam ICONIQ Impact Award

In partnership with Mercy Corps and IDinsight, Village Enterprise submitted a proposal to the Larsen Lam ICONIQ Impact Award in June 2020. The award was created to support durable solutions for refugees, and the Village Enterprise consortium was selected as one of five finalists in December 2020. We are excited to share that the initial \$12M award was increased to \$24.25M, distributed across the five finalist organizations dedicated to improving the lives of refugees around the world!

DREAMS for Refugees, the project led by Village Enterprise, was the recipient of a \$10.25M award from the Sea Grape Foundation, a family foundation and initial award sponsor, and two anonymous donors in the ICONIQ network.

Under DREAMS, Village Enterprise will layer its poverty graduation program with Mercy Corps' market systems

development approach in refugee settlements in Uganda and Ethiopia. IDinsight will evaluate the impact of combining these two interventions. This project will allow us to significantly expand our work with refugees in the coming years and establish a new model that other organizations, including governments, could scale up. The DREAMS model also has the exciting potential to be replicated in different contexts and geographies.

## Four-star Charity Navigator once again!

For the seventh year in a row, Village Enterprise received a [Four-Star Charity Navigator Rating](#), attesting to our robust financial health, accountability, and transparency. In addition, we received a perfect score of 100% on Impact!



## New Staff Hires

With the Kenya Social and Economic Inclusion Project (KSEIP) launch and the expansion of the Nawiri Project, **our team is expanding rapidly.**

### UGANDA

Aceng Sharon  
*Business Mentor*

Akullo Pheona Elyanu  
*Enterprise & Savings Lead*

Apio Pamela Juma  
*Business Mentor*

Ayoo Nancy  
*Office Assistant*

Ejang Janet  
*Business Mentor*

Kansiime Monica  
*Instructional Design Lead*

Masereka Edwin  
*MEL Manager*

Ojalam John Michael  
*Business Mentor*

Oloya Ivan  
*Business Mentor*

Omara Tony  
*Business Mentor*

Oonyu Patrick  
*Business Mentor*

Oyugi Kidabo Emmanuel  
*Business Mentor*

### KENYA

Abdi Hussein Mudana  
*Business Mentor*

Abdikarim Hussein Wako  
*Business Mentor*

Collins Gengo  
*Reliever Business Mentor*

Dabo Dida Guyo  
*Business Mentor*

Diba Wako Diba  
*Business Mentor*

Diramu Giro Dima  
*Field Associate*

Elizabeth Enyang Lomuria  
*Business Mentor*

Emmanuel Lutayi Waswa  
*Business Mentor*

Evaline Adhiambo Obiero  
*Enterprise & Savings Lead*

Fatuma Omar Guyo  
*Business Mentor*

Francisca Mpayani Ngala  
*Business Mentor*

Jackline Kemboi  
*MEL Coor.*

Jackline Yego Chebures  
*Business Mentor*

Joseph Lokolonyoi Edapal  
*Field Associate*

Jumale Jillo Galma  
*Business Mentor*

Lazarus Walker Nanzala  
*KSEIP Implementation Manager*

Michael Korot Ekeno  
*Business Mentor*

Nelcea Ongu'te  
*Business Mentor*

Nicholas Ochieng' Ong'injo  
*Senior Mel Coor.*

Philomena Mutio Onsongo  
*Recruitment Coor.*

Seraphina Wambui Waiyego  
*Regional Manager*

Zeituna Hussein Godana  
*Business Mentor*

### RWANDA

Alexis Junior Mugisha  
*Business Mentor*

Alexis Munyaneza  
*Business Mentor*

Anitha Umutoniwase  
*Business Mentor*

Annet Kamukama  
*Business Mentor*

Cesar Hitimana  
*Field Associate*

Clarisse Irakoze  
*Business Mentor*

Daniel Ndahimana  
*Business Mentor*

Eric Iragendanwa  
*Business Mentor*

Jean De Dieu Iradukiza  
*Business Mentor*

Julien Shyaka  
*Business Mentor*

Liliane Uwibambe  
*Business Mentor*

Maurice Murindankiko  
*Business Mentor*

Maurice Nirere  
*MEL Manager*

Nicole Umugwaneza  
*Field Associate*

Peter Mporana  
*Finance & Admin. Coor.*

Sylvere Mwizerwa  
*Country Manager*

Thacien Turamyimana  
*Business Mentor*

Valentine Niyonsenga  
*Business Mentor*

Yvonne Hashakimana  
*Business Mentor*



# In the Press

[Poverty Alleviation and Women's Empowerment When Women Use Tech](#)  
TaroWorks Blog – Apr 20, 2021

[Celebrating International Women's Month](#)  
The Life You Can Save Blog – Mar 31, 2021

[Whole Planet Foundation International Women's Day event featuring Winnie Auma](#)  
Whole Planet Webinar – Mar 29, 2021

[Celebrating Women's History Month with Village Enterprise and Bad Robot](#)  
Airtable – Mar 25, 2021

[The Palace of Strong Women](#)  
Cartier Philanthropy – Mar 22, 2021

[The Intersection of Economic Inclusion and Women's Healthcare](#)  
Starbucks x Days for Girls Blog – Mar 17, 2021  
\*This originally was published in SEEP Newsletter

[Webinar Recording: Empowering Women with Technology and Data](#)  
TaroWorks Webinar – Mar 11, 2021

[Building a Content & Social Media Calendar in Airtable With Rebecca Fenn](#)  
Airtable – Mar 11, 2021

[Lessons from the FCDO Development Impact Bonds Pilot Program](#)  
Government Outcomes Lab – Feb 23, 2021

[A Big Bet on Helping Refugees Build Their Dreams](#)  
Mercy Corps x Village Enterprise – Feb 10, 2021