



OPPORTUNITY  
International

# UPDATE

AUTUMN  
2022

FOCUS ON — LIVELIHOODS

AN OPPORTUNITY  
**GOES FURTHER**  
THAN YOU THINK



# JOB CREATION IS KEY TO TACKLING POVERTY

For families living in poverty, financial stability is out of reach. It is a struggle to simply survive. They are trapped in a hand-to-mouth existence and, without the right opportunity, this vicious cycle repeats itself for the next generation.

Access to job opportunities and sustainable livelihoods provide the financial stability to break this cycle. A steady income means access to better nutrition and healthcare; a safer, more secure home; the ability to send children to school; and, the potential to save for a rainy day. As local businesses grow, more jobs are created for people within the wider community.

We provide people with access to the financial training, loans and savings they need to develop, grow and run sustainable businesses. By giving people the chance, and the choice, to build a livelihood and business – whether as a farmer, a hairdresser, a tailor – they are transforming their own lives and the future of their families and communities.



Opportunity International enables people living in poverty to build a business. It does this by providing...



**Access to financial services**  
to tackle remote distances from banks  
and lack of financial support

We provide access to tailored loans and savings products through local community based agents and new technologies. Mobile banking technology, such as mobile phone banking and point of sale devices in local shops, enables people in rural communities to access their money locally.



**Access to tailored business and finance training**  
to tackle limited knowledge and skills

Many people living in poverty leave school at a young age and have little to no understanding of how to manage money. We offer a range of tailored individual and group training – such as financial education and peer-to-peer mentoring – that enables people to effectively manage their money, improve their business and save for the future.



**Inclusion training**  
to tackle social and cultural inequalities

We run diverse training with local communities that challenge and raise awareness about socio-cultural norms, specifically regarding the role of women and treatment of people living with disabilities (PLWD). As a result, perceptions are changing and women and PLWD are increasing their decision-making power and economic participation.



**Access to vocational training**  
to tackle youth unemployment

Youth un- and under-employment is one of the biggest challenges facing African countries. There are simply not enough jobs available. We provide young people with vocational training, financial training and start-up loans so they can develop a skill and build a successful business.

# TACKLING UGANDA'S YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

77% of Uganda is under the age of 30 and its population is set to double between 2020 and 2060. There are not enough jobs available. Youth unemployment is already high and will continue to rise as the population grows.

It's common for young people to migrate from their remote agricultural communities to look for better job opportunities in large cities. Many find themselves alone, unemployed and unable to earn a living. Others find themselves underemployed, working in the informal sector with very limited prospects.

All young people deserve the chance to earn a living. Ensuring they can unlock their potential through access to decent work, particularly in remote areas, is crucial in breaking the cycle of poverty.

That's why we are working in partnership with Teach a Man to Fish and rural communities in Uganda to train young people to create viable and successful businesses.



## To date:

- 6,252 young people have received entrepreneurship and literacy training.
- 500 young people have accessed a loan.



- 90% reported more confidence in setting up and building a business.
- 85% have already increased their incomes and reported improvements in their diet and health.

## Meet three young people who are building successful livelihoods in rural Uganda...

### Ernest (28)

#### From subsistence farming to successful business

Ernest used to be a subsistence farmer, living hand-to-mouth. He now sees farming as a business that can provide a stable income for his family. His average yields have increased from two bags of maize to ten. With his increased income, Ernest has helped his wife start a small business selling fuel. They can now provide for their two small children, and have savings set aside for the future.



### Janet (26)

#### Fulfilling a lifelong ambition to teach in her local community

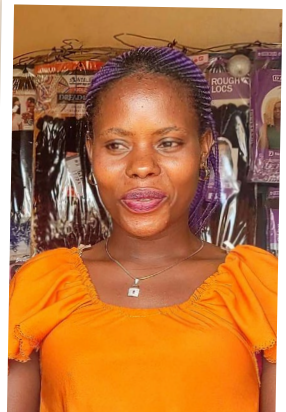
Janet thought that it was impossible to start her own business. Today she owns two. She first became a smallholder farmer producing coffee, maize and beans. This provides a steady income for Janet, her husband and her two children. Janet also has a teaching certificate and a keen interest in education. She thought that she would need to move to a big city to work in a school but the training she received motivated her to establish her second business, a nursery school, in her local community. She took out a loan to start it up. *Janet, and members of her nursery, are featured as our cover image.*



### Christine (27)

#### A diversified business portfolio that provides stability for her family

Christine is bright and entrepreneurial. She started out with a pig farm, selling the meat in her local market. She then used her profits to build a salon to offer hairdressing services in her village. As Christine's confidence increased, she applied for a loan to buy a small plot of land to cultivate coffee. Today, she manages her pigs and coffee in the mornings and does hairdressing in the afternoon. This diversified business portfolio gives Christine and her family more income security, helping her plan for the future.





“I do crafts using banana fibers and manage to meet my basic needs like buying food, soap and airtime. Since I make my crafts at home, I can also take care of my children. My crafts are so unique and attractive. I always want to make something the world has never seen before.”

PETRONILLE

# A BOOMING BASKET BUSINESS



**New arrivals in refugee settlements are frightened, exhausted, lonely and uncertain about the future. For parents of children with disabilities, these concerns are compounded. How will they earn money and manage full-time caring responsibilities? Will their child have the support and education that they need?**

The Wenzetu Group in Uganda's Nakivale Refugee Settlement is lending this support.

The group is a community of and for parents of children with disabilities. It provides parents with the skills needed to find employment or start their own business through enterprise and financial literacy training. The group also provides a nurturing environment where children with disabilities are both looked after



and can receive an education. This allows parents, many of whom are single mothers, to generate an income to support their families.

Set up in 2019, the group began with just four parents. Today, it is 130 members strong and supports approximately 140 children. Opportunity International started working with the group in early 2020, providing access to loans, savings and financial literacy training. This has enabled members to develop businesses and build a successful livelihood.

One of these businesses makes crafts and weaves beautiful baskets out of banana fibres. Business is booming and you can see the merchandise on their Instagram page [@wenzetu\\_center](https://www.instagram.com/wenzetu_center).

Find out more about the Wenzetu group



Scan the code or visit [opportunity.org.uk/wenzetu](https://opportunity.org.uk/wenzetu) to find out about their work.

“As a refugee I don't have any other job that I do since I didn't finish high school, so it's through my crafts that I make a living and also buy nappies and medicine for my child who is disabled (she has cerebral palsy).”

ASSIA



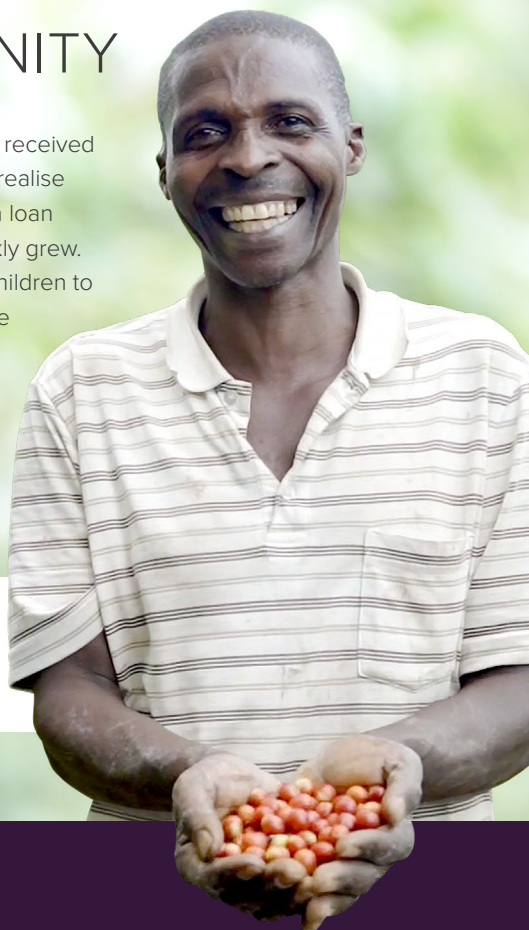
# THE POWER OF A SINGLE OPPORTUNITY

Meet Rwandan coffee farmer Aphrodis. When he received support from Opportunity International, he didn't realise just how far-reaching the impact would be. With a loan and agricultural training, his coffee harvests quickly grew. His income increased, allowing him to send his children to school and employ people to help on his farm. He now provides stable jobs to seven local people.

Aphrodis has lifted himself, his family and members of his community out of poverty. This is the power of a simple, single opportunity.



Scan the code or visit [opportunity.org.uk/aphrodis](https://opportunity.org.uk/aphrodis) to watch Aphrodis' inspiring story and meet two of his coffee pickers.



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