



OPPORTUNITY
International

UPDATE

SPRING
2016



OPPORTUNITY IN AFRICA

Opportunity International UK is helping over 1.9 million people across Africa to feed their families, send their children to school and help their communities thrive. Here are some highlights...

1 GHANA

Reaching the unreached

Ghana's northern region is the most 'unbanked' part of the country with less than 50% of the region's population having access to financial services. In August 2015 we opened a branch in Tamale, the region's main town. To date, the branch has 738 loan clients and 1,716 savings clients – men and women who can now improve their livelihood and provide for their family.

2 DRC

Strengthening micro-enterprise in Kinshasa

4,126 informal sector workers in Kinshasa are receiving loans that enable them to grow their businesses and increase their family income. As a result they are providing their families with nutritious meals, health-care and education.

3 UGANDA

9,133 Girls

To date, 9,133 school girls have received financial literacy and life skills training, empowering them to value themselves and work hard for their future. Training topics included saving, budgeting, social and business enterprise, health and sex education.

4 KENYA

105 schools

Tailored loans and training have enabled 105 schools in Kenya to improve their building facilities and learning resources. Thousands of schoolchildren can now learn in a safe, clean and positive environment.

5 RWANDA

6,263 farmers

To date, 6,263 smallholder farmers have received essential financial loans and training for their rice, bean and maize farms. These loans are used for fertilisers that improve crop yields and increase household income.

6 TANZANIA

Branchless banking

Through branchless banking (the use of tablets and mobile phones), we are expanding outreach in the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor (SAGCOT) of Tanzania. Today, 800 clients are using mobile phones to access, pay for and manage their loans.

7 MALAWI

654,000 saving

The number of Malawians securely saving their hard-earned income with Opportunity International keeps growing and is now at 654,000 savers. This enables them to manage their money safely and save for a rainy day.

8 MOZAMBIQUE

1,408 farmers trained

In 2015, Opportunity International trained 1,408 smallholder farmers in new and improved agricultural and management practices, alongside financial education, to enable them to maximise their yields and build a better life for their families.



HELPING
1.9 MILLION
PEOPLE

FROM SEEDS TO SUCCESS

More than 70% of people in Africa live in rural areas and rely on the land to provide for their family. The challenge for many is not just to provide a daily meal but to take it a step further and move from subsistence to commercial farming.

Our Seeds of Opportunity Appeal sought to highlight this need and raise money to do something about it. By enabling farmers to run more efficient farms and produce a variety of crops, they can then start to sell commercially and begin planning beyond the day-to-day for a sustainable future for their family. Our appeal ran for three-months over winter 2014/2015 and, with the UK

government matching every individual donation, raised a staggering £6 million! Your generous gifts have provided much needed loans, savings accounts and training to thousands of men and women across Africa. One of the projects funded by the appeal supports farmers in Ghana and Mozambique with tailored agricultural financial services.



ADJOA MEETS LEILA

In March this year Ghanaian Actress, and Opportunity International friend and supporter, Adjoa Andoh visited our work in northern Ghana and met the very farmers and communities who are benefiting from the Seeds of Opportunity appeal.

One of the farmers she met was Leila: "Leila graciously invited me into her home and told me of her children and the three miles she walks to her farm each day, to plant crops like sorghum and harvest it all by hand.



1,200 loans

Over 1,200 loans have been given to farmers allowing them to buy seeds and fertiliser for their crops. This has improved their yield and income at harvest.



Five motorbikes

Five motorbikes have been purchased enabling loan officers to travel out to visit and support farmers in remote communities in Mozambique.



1,000 farmers

More than 1,000 farmers in Mozambique have been trained in budgeting, saving and good agricultural practices.



900 farmers

Over 900 farmers have opened savings accounts, helping them to better manage their seasonal income.

It is demanding and exhausting work, but with the support of Opportunity – their agricultural advice, the loans for good quality seeds and legitimate fertilisers and pesticides – Leila's yields in the first year increased threefold!" says Adjoa. "It was a privilege to meet farmers like Leila and see the life-changing impact a simple opportunity can have."

Adjoa presented our BBC radio 4 Appeal in December 2014 as part of our Seeds of Opportunity appeal.



BREAKING THE 'CYCLE' OF POVERTY

Last summer Opportunity International supporters donned their lycra to cycle the rigorous Trois Etapes – a 3 day team cycling race in the French Pyrenees in aid of hard working entrepreneurs living in poverty.

Two Opportunity International teams took part in the event which involved some of the toughest climbs of the Tour de France. In total each team member climbed over 8,500 vertical metres over the three days – the equivalent height of Everest!

An amazing **£1 million** was raised. This incredible amount will help thousands of men and women gain financial training and loans that will support them in improving their business and providing food and education to their children.



WITH
SPECIAL
THANKS
TO ALL THE
CYCLISTS AND
THEIR SPONSORS



THE FUNDS RAISED WILL:

- Improve access to education for 350,000 children.
- Provide financial services to 12,000 small holder farmers in Rwanda, offering access to a loan and a savings account for the first time.
- Support innovative financial solutions to meet the challenges of communities living in poverty, such as tailored loans for water and sanitation and deepening integration of mobile money across our programmes.



NEWS IN BRIEF

TURNING ON THE TAP

Our Annual Gala Dinner in January raised more than £250,000 for entrepreneurs across Africa. It was a fantastic evening highlighting our projects that support entrepreneurs with loans and training to improve their water and sanitation facilities. This will enable them to enhance their income and provide a better future for their family.

INVESTMENTS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

We're so thankful to Amaryllis, a crowd sourcing platform that aims to create fair investment opportunities to female-led businesses here in the UK through the provision of funding and mentoring. Amaryllis has selected Opportunity as its charity partner, donating 20% of their success fees to our Women and Girls' Appeal.

FROM JEWELLERY TO JOBS

Orama jewellery has produced a bracelet with the 'purpose to empower'. Committing to donate 10% of the profits from each bracelet, Orama is helping us enable women to lift their families out of poverty. Thank you team Orama!

www.oramalondon.com



Photo: Brian Trammontana

MEET CHANTAL MUKAMAMAN

Chantal owns a store selling fencing, wheelbarrows, tar and other hardware, in Kigali, Rwanda. It is a thriving business and making good profit. But this wasn't always the case.

Chantal used to only sell small products as she couldn't afford to grow her stock. It was a struggle for her to provide for her six children and she didn't know how to grow the business. Thankfully Opportunity International supported Chantal with a loan, a savings account and training. Chantal invested in her business and its success enabled her to improve her house and pay the school fees for all of her children. She says: "Thank you Opportunity for entrusting me with the loan, I feel at peace that I can provide for my family."



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International

Discover more [opportunity.org.uk](https://www.opportunity.org.uk)

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