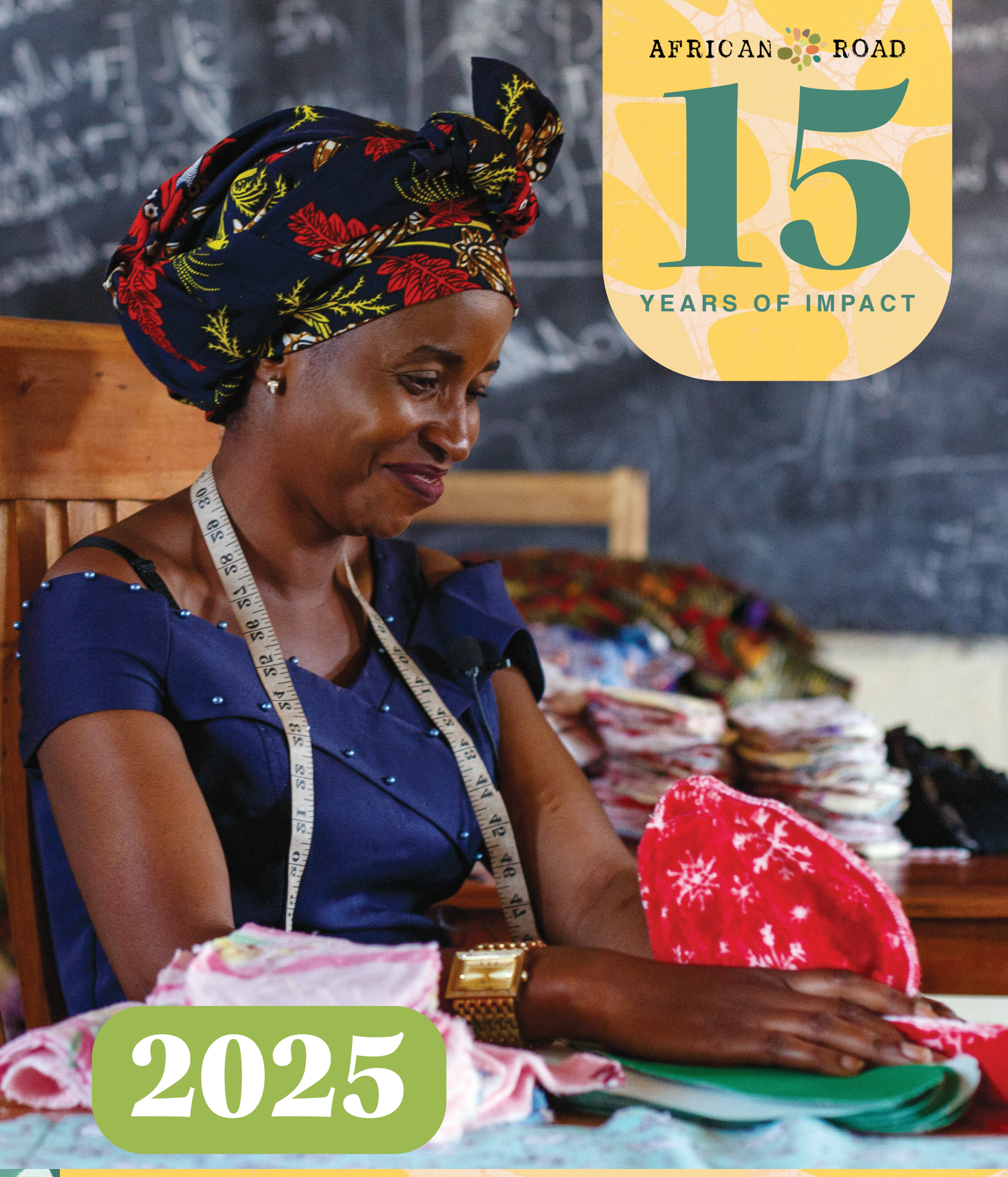


AFRICAN ROAD

15

YEARS OF IMPACT

2025

ANNUAL REPORT



Letter from the Executive Director

October 15, 2026

Dear Friend,

It is humbling and amazing to reflect on what has become possible together. **2025 marked 15 years of African Road; 15 years of incredible transformation fueled by friendship.** The African Road story began in Rwanda in friendship with one local leader serving 100 children and youth. By 2025, our impact expanded to partnerships with seven remarkable Changemakers in four countries. Thanks to enduring friendships and your meaningful support, **over 23,000 women, men and children have been equipped for a better future.**

African Road took shape by listening respectfully and going slowly, guided by deep values, local solutions, and a sound model. We invest in the Changemakers, we believe communities are resilient and strong, we know we are not "the fixers", and we empower women to multiply impact.

This 2025 Annual Report provides a snapshot of incredible leaders, resilient communities, and powerful strides forward together. African Road is a bridge of friendship that ensures wise investment in local solutions and brings real change that sticks. You are part of this story. Whether you have been part of the African Road story from the very beginning, or are just joining in, it is an honor to recognize and celebrate with you.

I write with great gratitude for today and deep hope for the future. The Changemakers are taking their next steps to empower new communities who have great needs but are eager to flourish. With your help we are ready to see more lives changed as we continue to work and walk together. Read on and see what has become possible together.

With Sincere Gratitude and Joy,

Kelly Bean
Executive Director and Co-Founder

Lives Transformed

16,000
ID Kits

500+
Kids in school

800
People running small businesses

2,000+
People with clean water access

100's
Next-gen and women leaders

700
People farming

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Meet the Changemakers



Changemaker /change·maker/ changemaker n.
A grassroots leader transforming their community from the ground up.

Pictured from Left to Right: Eliya Wilbert, Tanzania // **Steven Turikunkiko**, Rwanda // **David Clemy**, Uganda and Regional // **Peninah Mukashema**, Rwanda // **Evariste Ndikumana**, Burundi // **Dr. Consoler Wilbert**, Tanzania // **Philbert Kalisa**, Rwanda



Strong Roots Together: Advancing Changemaker Leadership

Strong Roots Together is the path forward for powerful, lasting progress. African Road is committed to investing in, learning from, and accelerating the capacity and unique vision of each Changemaker.

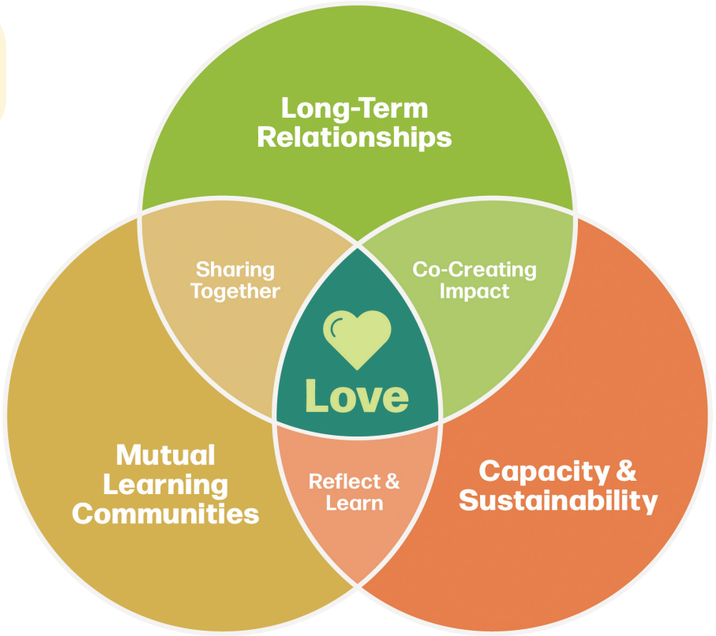
The Strong Roots Together initiative elevates each Changemaker's vision and takes action to expand and strengthen their ability to achieve their goals. Instead of working with each leader in isolation, Strong Roots brings the Changemakers together to learn from and encourage each other. Their shared wisdom and group problem-solving means their impact multiplies far beyond what any single partnership could achieve. Strong Roots Together includes investment in coaching, strategic planning, and capacity building designed to equip each Changemaker with the skills and systems to fortify their work.

Mission Statement

African Road builds long term relationships with local Changemakers, for the life, health and growth of communities in East Africa. We, as a non-profit organization, and as friends and partners, come alongside Changemakers through collaborative project development, leadership capacity building, and strategic funding for lasting community-led change.

Love is our source.

African Road is fueled by love; the gritty, deep, genuine commitment to do the hard work together. We build community with heart and care for each other as human beings. As we work together for the kind of world we all want, we become part of something bigger than ourselves. **This love translates into action** and keeps us going, with joy and determination.



The African Road How and Why

We nurture generative, long-term relationships.

We bring people together and build a bridge of connection between friends on this side of the world and our partners in East Africa.

We co-create a vision for community impact.

African Road is committed to listening to the wisdom of local leaders, bringing questions, and offering perspective; we create solutions for lasting change together.

We build capacity for sustainable impact.

We equip Changemakers as they realize their strategic missions. Funding for projects recognizes unique strengths, capacity, and dreams of Changemaker communities. Projects become self-supporting; held by the people themselves.

We reflect, evaluate, and learn together.

Thoughtful evaluation fosters humility, improves understanding, and guides next steps to bring the best outcomes. Changemakers, partner communities, and team members reflect and learn together.

We form communities of mutual learning.

We create space to learn from the Changemakers, our valued teachers. Learning parties, Learning Trips, and gatherings for Changemakers invite curiosity and togetherness.

We share new insights and resources.

African Road is a global community of generosity and care – we all can share what we learn, what inspires us, and what we have.

Your Investment at Work in 2025

Through your generous support, African Road has continued to strengthen partnerships with seven Changemakers as they change lives in communities across four countries in East Africa.

Total Revenue in 2025

$2,095,025



We invest in girls and women as change-agents and leaders in their communities. The best community growth and lasting change takes place when women and girls are empowered to reach their potential.

Pictured: Silvia and Winner from New Hope for Girls, Tanzania.

Responsible Use of Funds

- Projects - 78%
- Operations - 16%
- Fundraising - 6%

“Because we are together, we can’t fall down. Without fear, with hope and courage, I know we will be strong together.”

Donatile, Ebenezer
VICOBA Plus Member in Rwanda

Community of Togetherness, Rwanda



Changemaker
Steven Turikunkiko



Changemaker
Peninah Mukashema

Partnership with Togetherness

Steven's sacrificial work with youth and women survivors of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda inspired the formation of African Road; he became the first Changemaker in 2010. Peninah joined Togetherness, became its first woman president, and now serves as the Lead Administrator. In partnership with African Road, Togetherness has grown through investments in land, a soccer field, a clean water well, school buildings, small businesses, and training for advancement. Under Steven and Peninah's leadership, these initiatives build sustainability, empower youth, girls, and women, and serve the local community.

15 years of African Road

Partnership makes transformation possible

When African Road first partnered with Steven in 2010, he was caring for 100 children and young people. Now, the Togetherness youth are grown, leading and serving thousands in their community.

Soccer is at the heart of Togetherness – the youth hand-dug their first soccer field out of a hillside. Now, the field is a Phase I FIFA Jr soccer pitch.

2025 highlight – Togetherness girls and boys teams won first place in the District Championships!







A Growing Community School

In 2025, African Road supported the Community of Togetherness in growing their Primary School, including construction of a toilet facility and nearly completing an Administration building. Over 110 students were enrolled in the Togetherness School, receiving quality, empowering education, and earning top scores on national exams!

Strong Roots with Steven and Peninah

With **Strong Roots support** in 2025, Togetherness officially became a **legally registered non-profit in Rwanda**. This big step brought a change in name from Togetherness Cooperative, to Community of Togetherness. The status positions them for **future growth and stability**, to benefit their community for generations to come.

Your 2025 Impact in Numbers

4

New water tanks save fresh rainwater

3

Women elected to be local government leaders

8

New toilets serve students at the school

187

Pounds of bread made daily at Togetherness Women's Bakery

28

Women in business in the Ebenezer Sewing Cooperative

REACH, Rwanda



Changemaker
Philbert Kalisa

Partnership with REACH

REACH was formed in 1995, when Philbert brought together perpetrators and survivors of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda for forgiveness and healing. Reconciled neighbors formed into 'Unity Groups,' building peaceful relationships through shared cultural or income-producing activities. More than 33,000 people have been impacted by REACH over three decades. Philbert mentored African Road for years, before we partnered to equip Unity Groups with VICOBA Plus training in 2019. Today, REACH is bringing people together to build community-based mental health resources.

Community-Based Mental Health

In Rwanda, many people are reluctant to seek help for mental health struggles due to social stigma and lack of resources. REACH identified a growing need for education and community healing programs that serve everyone.

In 2025, REACH focused on learning from other organizations with expertise in community-based mental health in East Africa. REACH worked with local stakeholders to conduct research, build partnerships, and develop a strategy to become part of the solution.



Strong Roots with Philbert

Through the **Strong Roots initiative**, African Road provided ongoing support for **REACH leadership** as they planned for community well-being and **accessible mental health resources in Rwanda.**

15 years of African Road

Partnership makes transformation possible

In 2019, African Road brought VICOBA Plus training to REACH Unity Groups, revitalizing these long-standing groups. The VICOBA Plus process deepened group cohesion and brought significant financial improvement and well-being.

In 2025, it became clear that REACH Unity Group members who have done the hard work of reconciliation and improved their lives through VICOBA Plus, are the ideal leaders for community-based mental health support groups.



ASSEJEBA, Burundi



Changemaker
Evariste Ndikumana

Partnership with ASSEJEBA

Evariste is a dynamic leader serving the Batwa indigenous people in Burundi. The work of ASSEJEBA is an historic effort – created and led by indigenous people, for indigenous people. The Batwa were forced from the forests and are internally displaced, facing extreme poverty and discrimination. African Road has formally partnered with ASSEJEBA since 2014, as they strengthen Batwa communities with ongoing community development initiatives.



Support for Women's Health

Lack of access to menstrual products has a negative impact on girls and women, often causing girls to drop out of school. Through a new training initiative, women (and a few men) learned to sew reusable menstrual pads. **In 2025, 7,000 pads were distributed to women and girls with health and hygiene training.** This is a community-powered solution that increases health and dignity for indigenous girls.

Strong Roots with Evariste

Strong Roots supported Evariste in 2025, as he refined his **strategic vision for the 'Dream Village'**, expanded his team, and **secured an office space** to make it all possible. His organization, ASSEJEBA, was able to **strengthen their operations and expand their impact.**

Your 2025 Impact in Numbers

290
Students enrolled in school

1,585
People received ID Kits

600
People were equipped to grow their own food

15 years of African Road
Partnership makes transformation possible



From grass huts to dry brick homes – Nearly all families in the village of Gahombo now have sturdy brick houses.





From extreme hunger to bountiful harvests – Three villages now have reliable access to food that they grow themselves.



From invisible and oppressed to empowered with rights – Most Batwa indigenous people in Burundi are not recognized as legal citizens. Through the ID Kits Initiative, over 16,000 people now have legal identity and the powerful affirmation of dignity.

Focused Vision for the Future

These initiatives are part of a comprehensive community development vision for a 'Dream Village' – a hub of training, employment, cultural preservation, and services. With proper support and wise local leadership, Evariste and his team are proving the capacity of the Batwa people to advance and use what they gain to serve others.

New Hope for Girls, Tanzania



Changemakers
Dr. Consoler Wilbert and Eliya Wilbert

Partnership with New Hope for Girls

New Hope for Girls (NHGO) is a loving and healing home for over 60 girls rescued from vulnerable and abusive situations. NHGO empowers girls and young women with skills and support to flourish. African Road has partnered with Consoler and Eliya to advance their dream of sustainability since 2014.

Strong Roots with Consoler and Eliya

With support from African Road through Strong Roots, Consoler and Eliya developed **fundraising strategies and received practical support** for long range planning.



A Thriving Business

With African Road support in 2016, NHGO launched a sewing and tailoring business. A team of older girls keeps the business running smoothly, teaches younger girls, pays the bills and salaries, and contributes some of their profits to the family. They specialize in children's dresses, women's fashion, and school uniforms.

"It was my dream to have a large sewing supplies store, and to be a tailor. And now it is a privilege to sew for my fellow Tanzanians! I am happy because my beloved customers love and enjoy the clothes I make for them."

– Veronica, daughter of the NHGO family and Girls Arise Sewing Manager



Pictured: The above photo shows the house construction progress at the end of 2025.

Building a 'Forever Home'

15 years of African Road

Partnership makes transformation possible

When African Road first met NHGO, their household had 30 girls and help from a group of caring but under-resourced local women. Equipped with VICOBA Plus training, these supportive women have become financially robust and are a source of strength for NHGO.

In 2025, the 'Forever Home' progressed from a concrete foundation to a framework for a house, with: walls, a roof, rough plumbing and electrical, 11 bedrooms, and 13 bathrooms. This structure will become a 12,800 square foot home, creating stability, space, and joy for this incredible family.

In contrast to the four-bedroom house they currently rent, the 'Forever Home' will serve the unique needs of the family – bringing freedom from rent payments and eliminating the daily need to improvise sleeping spaces. This home will enable Consoler and Eliya to provide increased stability and support for the girls and young women in their care.

The 'Forever Home' will serve as a base for equipping others with Consoler's unique model of family-based fostering and enable NHGO to continue serving the most vulnerable for the long haul.

VICOBA Plus, Regional



Changemaker
David Clemy

Partnership with VICOBA Plus

Created by David Clemy in Uganda, VICOBA Plus is a process that equips entire groups to dream big, shift their mindsets, share resources, and start community banking and savings. VICOBA Plus is a growing movement that sparks resourcefulness, cooperation, and contagious curiosity. African Road's partnership with David began in 2014, bringing VICOBA Plus to African Road partner communities across East Africa.

> "In 2025, Strong Roots Together helped me discover greater potential beyond what I was doing. I saw there is so much that I can share with others. Knowing people are encouraging and helping me grow is so special."
>
> **- Changemaker David Clemy**

Strong Roots with David

African Road invested in two Changemaker gatherings in 2025, providing space for David and other remarkable leaders to learn from and share with each other, and to help shape the future for African Road.

15 years of African Road

Partnership makes transformation possible

David formed and led VICOBA Plus, transforming lives in rural Uganda. Partnering with African Road in 2014, David piloted the model in other contexts; it proved effective. He scaled the program, created a training process, and expanded his team to seven facilitators across East Africa. In 2025, David took a big leap forward, bringing on 14 new facilitators.



Pictured: VICOBA Plus facilitator training session, equipping the growing facilitator team.

VICOBA Plus **Expansion in 2025**

Rwanda - Togetherness

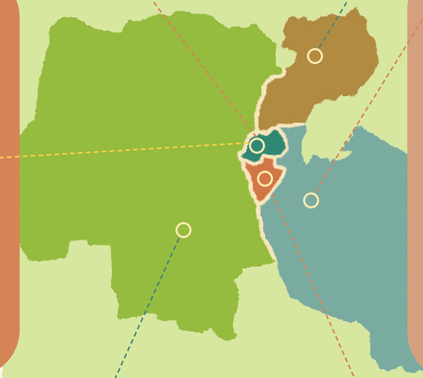
People are learning and saving in **Togetherness VICOBA Plus** groups. Low-income families who had been unable to pay school fees, are now able to help pay for their student's tuition and uniforms.

Uganda and Beyond

300+ participants from **VICOBA Plus** groups across East Africa came together in Uganda for a Refresh + Inspire Camp. Exchanging stories and experience energized them to continue sharing VICOBA Plus with others.

Rwanda - REACH

Through **VICOBA Plus**, **REACH Unity Group** members' lives improved so significantly that they can share freely – giving goats to struggling families, providing health insurance for low-income neighbors, and covering funeral costs for grieving families.



Tanzania

Organic growth in Tanzania – Joyce, an **Elimika Cooperative member**, was able to save to build a home. She shared her **VICOBA Plus** story with her new neighbor, who was leading 50 small saving groups. Those 50 groups are now becoming VICOBA Plus groups!

DRC, Goma

Facilitator Ruphine Zihindula participated in a facilitators' training; **VICOBA Plus** is restoring hope in communities navigating life in political conflict.

Burundi

Plans for a new **VICOBA Plus hub** in Burundi continued as Grâce Bénie Mugisha Ndikumana joined in facilitator and coaching training.

VICOBA Plus **Timeline**

2010-2014
Uganda
David built 8 groups reaching 250 people in 4 years.

2014
Rwanda · Burundi Tanzania
Partnership with African Road and expansion across Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania.

2015
Kenya

2016
Rwanda (expanded)

2018
DRC, Goma

2019
Rwanda (expanded)

2021
Rwanda · Uganda (expanded)

2025
East Africa

Nearly 5,000 lives transformed through VICOBA Plus.

Global Friendships: **African Road Learning Trips**



Pictured: Diana B, Kelly Bean, and Changemaker Evariste celebrate the new clean water well in Mwendo village.

African Road is all of us together. We build bridges of friendship between communities in East Africa and friends of African Road around the world. Learning Trips are an important way to strengthen these global connections.

Every African Road Learning Trip is a first-hand learning experience, full of delight, new friendships, serious stories, reflection, and lots of laughter. We get to hear from people who inspire us and witness the evidence of what steady, thoughtful support of excellent local leaders can make possible.

The July 2025 Learning Trip team traveled to Rwanda, Tanzania, and Zanzibar (and added a fabulous safari.) The team was small but mighty, and was a whole lot of fun. Each team member brought their heart, their good questions, and an 'all in' attitude to the meaningful adventure.



July 2025 Learning Trip Team listening and learning from Changemakers Steven and Peninah in Rwanda.

> "'Life Changing' seems to be a common theme; it is most accurate. Each and every person we met, every story we heard, every handshake, every hug, every smile – was so genuine. Amazing people building incredible things together. This trip was an emotional journey and it was pure Love!"
>
> **- Diana S., July 2025 Learning Trip Participant**

AFRICAN ROAD

15

YEARS OF IMPACT









Anniversary Gala Fundraiser

15 years of partnership and local solutions is worth celebrating!

It was an honor to have 4 of our 7 Changemaker partners present at the Anniversary Gala fundraiser in May 2025.

The annual African Road Gala is a fundraiser, a celebration of community, and an opportunity to look, see, feel, learn about, and invest in the work of African Road.

We love our volunteers! Volunteers contributed hundreds of hours to help the work continue strong throughout the year. The annual gala is volunteer-driven; nearly 80 people shared their time, energy, skills, and care to make a beautiful event possible in 2025.



Pictured: Francine, Lead Trainer

On the Cover

The Menstrual Hygiene Project in Burundi is equipping a group of Batwa with sewing skills and supplies to make and distribute reusable sanitary pads. This vocational training initiative provides meaningful employment and important health care to Batwa women and girls.

How to Get Involved:

- Contribute your skills, time, and energy to supporting African Road as a volunteer
- Participate in a Learning Trip to East Africa
- Become a Gala sponsor
- Lead a crowdfunding campaign for a project you love
- Subscribe to our email newsletter for monthly updates
- Follow us on social media to stay connected

Learn more about how you can get involved here:

Watch the special 15 year anniversary film here:

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