



# PROGRESS REPORT

Partners for Equity  
Local Leaders Portfolio

// OCTOBER 2022

Photo: Dandelion Africa

It has been more than 2 years since I was able to go back to Africa and the thought of going back to communities that had been ravaged by the Covid-19 pandemic was daunting. But beneath this fear was a great desire to see the new innovations and interventions that our partners had implemented to sustain their communities.

It was refreshing to see programs that had been started as a response to the Covid-19 pandemic were still being sustained and could potentially create much more impact beyond pre-Covid-19 levels. Some of these programs included phone-based tutoring programs using teams of community volunteers, door-to-door distribution of student workbooks, and weekly radio programs sensitising communities on disease response.

Our partners' work as part of their country's overall response could still be felt through their networks of community health workers and volunteers who are pivotal in distributing Covid-19 vaccines and conducting mass community sensitisation. These efforts have been widely recognised earning some of our partners awards as highlighted in this report.

My key highlight was the heightened spirit of togetherness that I felt in these communities. The spirit of Ubuntu, an African word that expresses humanity to others, was so strong. Our partners brought communities much closer than they were before, championing collective action and opening each other's eyes to the reality that "I am, because we are".

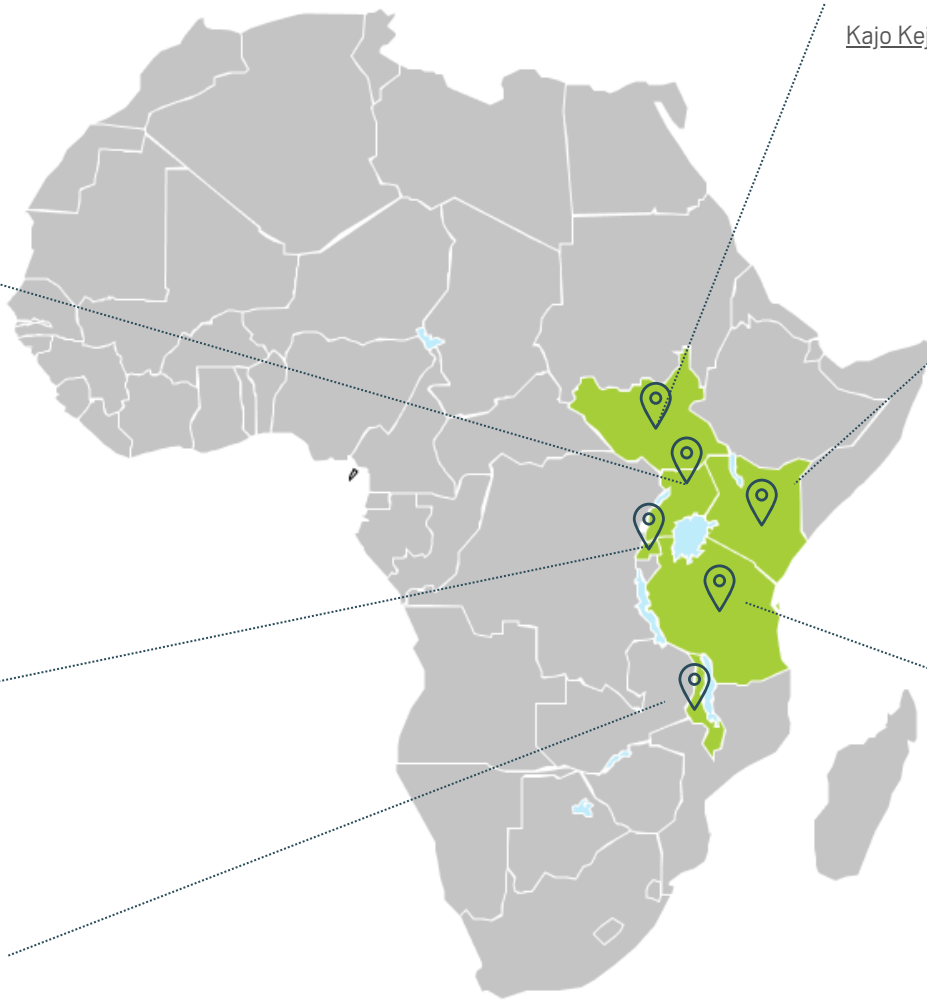
The last few years have been full of challenges that have tested our grantee partner response capabilities to the limit but they have all risen to the challenge. Whereas it was hard to look past all the gloom that I witnessed such as the 50% increases in food prices, the influx of homeless children on the streets and several sit-down strikes of teachers and medical workers demanding better pay, I am filled with hope for the future knowing that the local leaders at the forefront have an unmatched commitment, dedication and resilience to weather the toughest of challenges.

"I AM, BECAUSE WE ARE"

**Eve Omala**

AFRICAN PORTFOLIO MANAGER





### South Sudan

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- [Education Bridge](#)
- [Kajo Keji Training Institute](#)

### Kenya

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- [Dandelion Africa](#)
- [Emergency Medicine Kenya Foundation](#)
- [Food For Education](#)
- [LakeHub Foundation](#)
- [PACEmaker International](#)
- [Safari Doctors](#)

### Tanzania

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- [GLAMI](#)
- [Msichana Initiative](#)
- [Pastoral Women's Council](#)
- [Women's Agri-Enviro Vision](#)

### Uganda

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- [Budondo Intercultural Centre \(website coming soon\)](#)
- [COBURWAS](#)
- [FundiBots](#)
- [Mukisa Foundation](#)
- [Wezesha Impact](#)

### Rwanda

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- [Solid'Africa](#)

### Malawi

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- [FOCCAD](#)
- [Rays of Hope](#)
- [Wandikweza](#)



# The Numbers

photo from Wandikweza

**21** locally-led organisations

in the portfolio across six countries in Africa



**\$2million+** given

in untied grants over the last 2 years



**10** female founded

organisations within the portfolio



**\$1.7** million

in leveraged funding to 9 partners

Our partners have leveraged our funding to attract new grants resulting in a

**42%** income growth

within 2 years after joining our portfolio



# Our Partners' Achievements in the Last Quarter

**56,000**

students receiving  
quality education



**10,000**



youth receiving  
entrepreneurship training  
and in-school mentorship



**80,000**

nutritious meals  
delivered to students  
and poor patients  
**every day**



**33,000**

patients treated



**3,000**

teachers trained on  
learner-centered  
methodologies

# Awards, Grants and More!

GLAMI was named the winner of the 2022 UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education.



Wezesha Impact received the Angel of Africa award presented by Segal Family Foundation acknowledging their work in building partnerships and continually serving as a resource for others.



Mercy Kafotokoza, founder of Wandikweza received the Segal Family Foundation Rising Star Award which recognises exceptionally dedicated leaders with a steep trajectory in growing their impact.



Emergency Medicine Kenya Foundation was selected as part of Dovetail Impact's acceleration portfolio. They are also recipients of a grant from the Segal Family Foundation.



Wawira Njiru, Founder of Food for Education was recognised by the World Economic Forum for her efforts in using a tech-centred approach to eradicating classroom hunger whilst improving educational outcomes. Wawira also delivered keynote remarks at the inaugural Global Africa Business Initiative forum 'Unstoppable Africa', sponsored by UN Global Compact where she discussed the urgent need to address the global hunger crisis.



Solid' Africa was selected as a finalist for the Elevate Prize.



Fundi Bots, Dandelion Africa & Rays of Hope are the newest recipients of a grant from SAS-P.

Photo: Glami accepting the 2022 UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education



# Impact from the Field

## Dandelion Africa: Bringing Dignity to Rural Mothers

I visited Dandelion Medical Center, a level 3 health facility situated in Mogotio, Baringo County 200km from Nairobi. They see 10-15 outpatients per day and conduct an average of 35 deliveries per month. It is a spacious, airy and clean health facility with quality structures fitted with world-class medical equipment.

The maternity ward was so homely and gave each mother the privacy that they deserve. It is equipped with hot showers, something that most women would not have experienced before. The majority of the rural and even urban-slum hospitals don't have showers. Wendo, the founder of Dandelion Africa delivered her first baby in a roadside health facility without any privacy or showers. She's on a mission to ensure that no woman experiences what she did and that mothers have the best delivery experience with the dignity that they deserve.

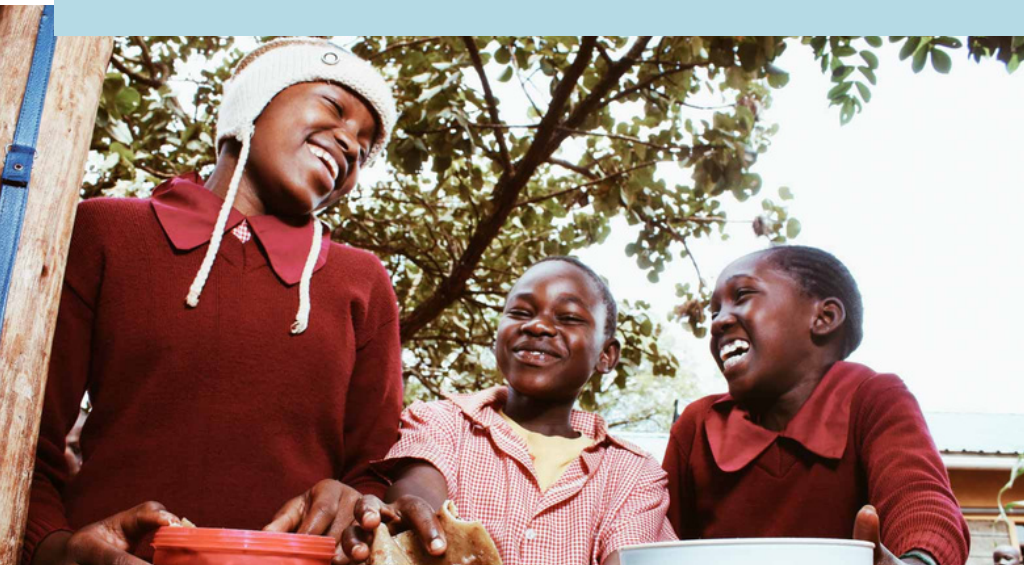
Dandelion Medical Center has been responsible for a 30% increase in skilled deliveries in the 40 villages surrounding their medical center. As a result, the Dandelion Community Health Unit delivering maternal child health services in all 40 villages was recognised as the best performing Community Unit in Nakuru County and has become a learning center for the Department of Health.

## Food for Education: Using High-End Tech to Feed More Hungry Children

In the last 3 months, Food for Education launched two new kitchens including one in Kisumu, an urban center in western Kenya. They are now serving 75,000 lunches per day to primary school children.

Food for Education is investing in more efficient, steam gas powered kitchens which need less cooking equipment, less staff and reduce cooking time by over 50%. It was a pleasant experience seeing the Ruiru steam gas kitchen in action in comparison to the traditional briquette kitchen that I visited 4 years ago. Meals were much easier to pack because of the tilting pot technology and the kitchen was much cleaner with less spillage. This kitchen has a 15,000-meal capacity per day and supplies 21 schools which is a major upgrade from briquette kitchens doing about half the capacity.

Food for Education has succeeded in influencing the inclusion of school feeding in election manifestos and now has a big job ahead, working with the Kenyan government to turn these manifestos into action.



// HIGHLIGHTS

## Education Bridge: Shining Beyond South Sudan Borders

Education Bridge's Greenbelt Academy became the top ranked secondary school in South Sudan with two of their S.4 students appearing among the best 10 students nationally. They were in 4th position last year.

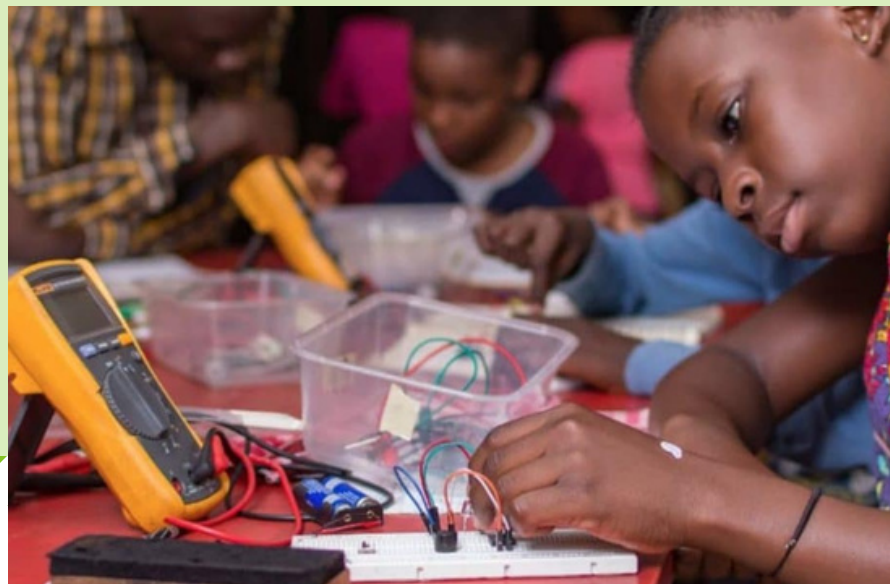
Their alumni have also gone on to achieve great results, shining a light on the quality of education that Education Bridge is providing. Four of their alumni graduated from the African Leadership Academy, a prestigious two-year leadership school based in South Africa. One alumnus won the Morehead Cain Scholarship and another won the Hesburgh Yusko Scholarship.



## Fundi Bots: Practical science improving student performance

I visited Kitante primary school located in the heart of Kampala city, one of the schools where Fundi Bots is running their enhanced science curriculum. The enhanced science curriculum translates the national science curriculum into practical lessons and projects to give students a deeper immersion within the sciences.

The school has 3,500 students and 105 staff. I observed as a primary 7 class of 110 students divided into groups of 5-6 conducted practical experiments on electricity and magnetism with tools and workbooks supplied by Fundi Bots. The class was very interactive with a high level of student engagement which is not typical in these settings. Prior to the introduction of the enhanced science curriculum, sciences were taught theoretically requiring students to cram concepts without ever having a practical immersion. The head teacher mentioned that they have seen an improvement in science test scores as a result of implementing Fundi Bots' programs. The school emerged winner of the national schools science exhibition which they attributed to Fundi Bots' practical curriculum. Following these great results, Uganda's Ministry of Education and the National Curriculum Development Center have signed a new approval for Fundi Bots to continue running programs in public schools.



## Rays of Hope: Supporting Poor Districts to Achieve Academic Excellence

On my visit to Rays of Hope (ROH), I met with the Blantyre District Education Manager (DEM) and 3 of her staff to get their perspective on ROH's work. The DEM is a strong supporter of their work and mentioned that for several years, Blantyre rural was ranked as the worst performing district in the country - 34 out of 34. Last year, it ranked 28 because of ROH's programs. From her perspective, ROH's continual teacher professional development and their teacher awards have served as a big motivator for teachers. ROH runs one of Malawi's biggest teacher networks, with operations in 5 education districts, training over 2,800 teachers in 200+ primary schools. Their teacher training program mostly focuses on under-resourced schools in remote areas.

Their new secondary school, the Rays of Hope academy achieved a 100% pass rate for all students who sat the grade 10 national exams.



## Safari Doctors - Delivering Healthcare to Forgotten Villages

I joined the Safari Doctors team on a health outreach to the remote Manda Maweni Island which is a 10-minute ride on a very fast speed boat north of the Safari Doctors health facility. Safari Doctors conducts mobile clinics across 25 remote villages in Lamu, Kenya and saw over 7,000 patients in the last quarter. They are the only healthcare provider in the majority of these villages.

During the outreach which lasted half a day, the team attended to 144 patients mostly women and children, the majority of whom presented with upper respiratory issues, fever and skin diseases. The outreach was conducted under a tree and the team works tirelessly to ensure that patients are not waiting too long under the scorching sun. It is a full-on job!

There were several pregnant women who were monitored for vital signs and assessed to ensure that they were eating right. My heart broke when I learnt that most will end up delivering with a traditional birth attendant in a small make-shift clinic because the nearest health facility is unaffordable and located 15km away. Most people on this island earn less than \$2 a day. 70% of deliveries in Lamu happen through a TBA in a small make-shift clinic. Transport costs to hospital are very high, costing 4,000shs (\$40) - 6,000shs (\$60) for a boat hire.

Unfortunately, the outreach had to end prematurely and patients were sent away because Safari Doctors ran out of drugs. Recent increases in drug prices and budget constraints have made it challenging for them to deliver services to patients.

This outreach gave me a deeper appreciation for Safari Doctor's work and for the team's dedication, positivity and resilience.

## //Feature Story

# CIYOTA Secondary School Has Opened

Our partner CIYOTA, an extraordinary refugee- led organisation working in Kyangwali refugee settlement in Uganda opened their secondary school which is one of only two secondary schools in the settlement. I was privileged to see this school during my recent visit and had the opportunity to interact with the teachers and students. The buildings are well constructed and stand out from many other structures within the refugee settlement.

I traveled with Benson Wereje, the CIYOTA Co-founder and former Executive Director who moved to Uganda aged 17 after his village in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) was attacked, forcing him to flee into Uganda as an unregistered refugee. Benson moved back to DRC 5 years ago to start CIYOTA Congo, handing over the leadership of the Uganda entity to Ntakamaze Nziyonvira, his co-founder. He is currently in Uganda because his village and wider community in Bunagana, Eastern DRC were displaced by rebel attacks in March this year.

Kyangwali settlement has 137,000 refugees, 19% of whom are youth between 13 and 18 years. Previously, the settlement only had one secondary school located in the furthest corner – over 90km from some households which meant that it was inaccessible for the majority of children. The few who enrolled had to walk long distances which disproportionately affected girls who are exposed to several risks when traveling to school.

Benson struggled to get through school and had to endure walking long distances to this school, eventually dropping out in form 2 because he couldn't afford tuition fees. The school whose student capacity is less than 500 is overcrowded with over 1,000+ students and an average pupil:classroom ratio of over 150 students which simply means that learning doesn't take place. These conditions kept over 25,000 learners out of school with the settlement reporting only a 14% enrolment rate at secondary school.



CIYOTA's new school has already enrolled 148 students with a plan to grow to 250 and 800 students in 2023 and 2024 respectively, if more resources to complete school construction are secured. They are also constructing boarding facilities to ensure that learners don't walk long distances and most importantly that girls study in a safe environment which protects them from risks of early marriages and pregnancy.

The students have big ambitions and want to change the state of their families but also give back to the wider Kyangwali refugee community in the future. For most of these students, they will be the first to get a secondary school education in their families. They are so grateful to CIYOTA and are inspired by Benson and Ntakamaze's stories.

Benson and Ntakamaze were extremely emotional as they took me around and still can't believe that their dream has turned into a reality. They started CIYOTA to increase education opportunities for refugees by reducing barriers that prohibited them from accessing quality education.

We are proud of CIYOTA's efforts in delivering education to marginalised communities and reaching thousands of learners who would not otherwise receive an education.



# Our Growing Portfolio

We are proud to add Mukisa Foundation and FOCCAD to the Local Leaders portfolio. Read more about Mukisa Foundation and FOCCAD here and be sure to check out their work via their websites (linked in our map on [page 3](#)).

## Mukisa Foundation

Mukisa Foundation runs a prevention and therapy centre in Kampala, Uganda as well as outreach activities in rural villages to support children with disabilities and their families. They are working with 4,500 children who receive therapy services, medical services and assistive devices such as wheelchairs.

It was founded by Florence Namaganda who during her studies in physiotherapy at Mulago School of Physiotherapy observed that the neurodevelopment clinic, which had admitted several children with special needs, lacked therapists to attend to them. The facility only operated twice a week and was unable to see all the children who showed up. This meant that parents would have to make several trips before they could see a therapist, if there was any available.

Florence further noticed that after a few years, the parents stopped coming and just kept their children at home. She later learnt that this was enhanced by the superstitious beliefs upheld about children with disabilities in Uganda. Some of these beliefs are that these children are a curse, they are possessed, and that disability is caused by sin such as a promiscuous mother or the wrongdoing of the family's ancestors. Because of these beliefs, the children are socially outcast, their mothers are abandoned by their husbands and their families might end up perceiving them as a burden. In Uganda, children with disabilities are stigmatized and are more likely to be denied access to basic human rights like healthcare and education.



# Foundation For Community and Capacity Development (FOCCAD)



FOCCAD is a community-based, non-governmental organization working in the Dedza district of Malawi which was setup to bridge the distance between local communities and health facilities through conducting health outreaches.

Before FOCCAD launched, patients had to walk for more than 40km to access healthcare in health facilities that had no drugs, very few medical staff and barely any medical equipment to deliver quality services.

Founded in 2003, FOCCAD's mission is to alleviate human suffering from disease, hunger, poverty, and social injustice by creating and implementing participatory and sustainable health solutions.

# More Than Money

A key component of the Local Leaders Portfolio is the support, beyond grant money, that is offered to partners. We work alongside leaders and their teams to develop and strengthen skills so they can scale and grow. We see ourselves as allies and amplifiers of our partners' work and we believe that giving support beyond grant funding offers sustainable support which will benefit well into the future.

As part of the marketing support program, Emergency Medicine Kenya received assistance with the creation of a video that formed part of a grant application. Script development, storyboarding and video editing took place in one-on-one meetings. The result was a professional video that unlocked a successful grant of 15% of the organisation's budget. A huge congratulations to Emergency Medicine Kenya Foundation on this successful grant.

[watch the video](#)

## Capacity Support Areas:



**Marketing & Communications**



**Monitoring & Evaluation**



**Fundraising**



**Professional Development Workshops**



photo: Emergency Medicine Kenya

// CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

# Major Challenges for our Partners



Most partners offering youth training are struggling with job placements for their graduates. LakeHub has noticed that organisations offering training under 1-year are struggling with employment. They are exploring extending their 6-month training to 2 years and believe that this will improve their employment rate to at least 90%.



Stockout of contraceptives and HIV commodities in Kenya is affecting program delivery for some of our partners.



Inflation has significantly increased the cost of implementation for our partners. Our health partners are mostly affected as skyrocketing drug prices have limited the amount of drugs that they can purchase.



# What We're Watching

Photo: LakeHub



For the first time since Kenya achieved independence, school feeding featured in several election manifestos, thanks to the work of Food for Education. With school feeding being a top priority issue in the elected president's manifesto, we are watching how Food for Education is working with the government to turn these manifestos into action.



Dandelion Africa is building a new health facility in Kajiado County which has a population of over 200,000 people but only 23 nurses and midwives for every 100,000 people. Once construction is completed, Dandelion's target is to improve skilled deliveries by 40% and reduce female genital cutting prevalence by 30% within 3 years.



Lakehub is gearing up for its IT training partnership with O1 Talent, a French-based company offering a 2-year online IT developer program followed by guaranteed job placements. This partnership which starts in January is set to create employment for over 300 youth in Kisumu within 3 years.



Emergency Medicine Kenya will be refurbishing and equipping Mbagathi and Turkana hospital emergency departments. They also plan to install 6 oxygen manifolds in 6 county hospitals within the next few months.



# // CONTACT

The Local Leaders Portfolio at Partners for Equity is funded by a growing collection of Australian foundations. We welcome further enquiries and support for our portfolio partners. For more information, due diligence or a discussion, please contact:

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