



photo: CIYOTA

Progress Report

Local Leaders Portfolio
December 2023

PFE PARTNERS
FOR EQUITY
AUSTRALIA

Introduction

The Local Leaders Portfolio was established by Partners for Equity in 2019 to provide agency to proximate leaders. It is our belief that those who are embedded in their communities are best placed to design solutions which meet the needs of those communities. Through their deep knowledge and engagement with the communities they represent, these leaders create context-appropriate solutions that are effective, sustainable, and resource-efficient.

We provide direct unrestricted financial support, leveraged financial support and capacity support (when requested) to enhance our partners capacity to fulfill their missions.

Since 2019

- 26 partners supported
- \$4.3m in direct grants to our partners
- \$4.1m in leveraged funding
- 15 partners receiving tailored capacity support



photo: Eve Omala with the team and beneficiaries from WAEV

Welcome

Over the past six months, our journey has been nothing short of eventful, marked by transformative experiences spanning continents and expansion within our portfolio. One notable highlight has been our portfolio growth with the inclusion of four esteemed partners operating across Kenya, Malawi, and Tanzania.

Linda Fox (PFE CEO), Mark Cubit (one of PFE's Directors), and I embarked on a meaningful journey, visiting current and potential partners in Uganda and Rwanda during the inaugural Insight Tour hosted by the Australian International Development Network (AIDN) in July. These experiences further solidify our commitment and understanding of the contexts in which our partners operate. There's still a huge need in these communities and with your continued support, we anticipate further growth in the portfolio. Read more about the trip on page 8.

We are particularly proud to have hired our first team member located on the African continent, Lenah Gideon based in Kenya. Lenah's role is pivotal; she'll be instrumental in orchestrating regular site visits and fostering stronger connections with our existing and potential grantee partners. Her presence heralds a pivotal phase for us as we endeavor to fortify partnerships and elevate PFE's sector engagement across the African continent.

Join me in celebrating the milestones achieved by our partners – The Action Foundation, Fundi Bots, and Dandelion Africa – who have received multi million dollar donations. These generous grants are poised to fuel their expansion efforts. Historically, funders have been hesitant to extend substantial support to local

organisations, impeding their growth and subsequently limiting the change that they are creating in their communities. The recent backing signifies a turning tide in establishing trust-based relationships, placing local actors at the forefront of our development response. Your early support laid the groundwork for these achievements, showcasing the significance of our collective contributions. We remain committed to our ethos of empowering resilient local leaders capable of scaling their impact.

Looking ahead, Lenah will be visiting partners in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania within the next three months and would welcome the opportunity to connect if you're in the region. Additionally, AIDN is gearing up for another Insight Tour to Africa in May 2024, focusing specifically on Kenya and Tanzania. Should you wish to delve deeper into this initiative, please don't hesitate to reach out for more details.

I extend heartfelt gratitude to each one of you for your unwavering support as we continue to strive together towards a world of hope, inclusion, and social justice.



Eve Omala
**AFRICA PORTFOLIO
MANAGER**

Portfolio Overview

(as of 30 November 2023)

Our partners are across diverse sectors such as education, health care, livelihoods, youth empowerment and human rights



Kenya

- Dandelion Africa
- Emergency Medicine Kenya Foundation
- Food For Education
- LakeHub Foundation
- PACEmaker International
- Safari Doctors
- The Action Foundation

Uganda

- Budondo Intercultural Centre
- CIYOTA
- FundiBots
- Mukisa Foundation
- Wezesha Impact

Rwanda

- Solid'Africa

Malawi

- ACADES
- FOCCAD
- Ladder to Learning
- Rays of Hope
- Wandikweza

Tanzania

- GLAMI
- Msichana Initiative
- Pastoral Women's Council
- Primetel
- Women's Agri-Enviro Vision

Highlights



Major Grants for Dandelion

Dandelion Africa secured a substantial \$9 million, 5-year joint grant alongside Lwala Community Alliance from The Patchwork Collective. This grant will be used towards expanding their back-pack nurse program and advocacy efforts using community health workers in Baringo County.

As we were finalising this report we were thrilled to hear from Wendo Aszed at Dandelion who shared the very exciting news that they have been selected as recipients of a grant from Mackenzie Scott. We are thrilled that Dandelion Africa are being recognised in this way and know that this catalytic grant will have a huge impact on the women and communities they work with.



Big Wins

Fundi Bots was a recipient of a \$2 million Mackenzie Scott grant which is going towards improving their production capacity for more and better learning materials for the practical sciences curriculum. This will serve as a precursor towards amplifying their scale within Uganda and also allow them to explore expansion into new countries.

The Action Foundation was a winner of Co-Impact's gender fund design grant which is intended to help them sharpen and refine their strategy and more clearly articulate how they can scale their systems change initiatives. The \$300k design grant is a precursor to Co-Impact's anchor grant that will enable them to scale their work.

Highlights



Maanda Ngoitiko Awarded at COP 28

Maanda Ngoitiko, Co-founder and Executive Director of Pastoral Women’s Council is one of four winners of the 2023 Local Adaptation Champions Award by the Global Center on Adaptation in the Women in Leadership category. The accolade was announced at the COP28 climate summit in Dubai.

The awards recognise exemplary locally-led efforts to address climate change impacts and build effective resilience.

“The winner in each category received €15,000 to invest in future activities and will benefit from sponsorship by the Adaptation Fund, including attending the Fund’s prestigious learning and sharing events.”

[More here](#)



Wandikweza Recognised

Wandikweza was one of 13 recipients of the prestigious 2023 Zikomo Malawi Presidential Award for their outstanding contributions towards community health.

Speaking during the awards, Malawian President Chakwera said he thought it was appropriate to honour some of the nation’s outstanding social entrepreneurs and the social enterprises they lead to provide solutions to some of the challenges Malawi faces.

“Social enterprises are admirable because of their pursuit of sustainable solutions that build self-reliance and reduce the culture of dependence that is often associated with other kinds of interventions.”



photo: Pastoral Women’s Council

Welcome Lenah

It is with pleasure that we welcome Lenah Gideon to the Partners for Equity team as Program Manager for the Local Leaders Portfolio. Lenah is based in Nairobi, Kenya and is a seasoned program management and development professional.

Before joining our team, Lenah worked at Porticus as a Grant Manager overseeing programs and various partners across the East and Southern Africa Region. Before that, she served in multiple capacities at the United Nations with the UN Women Regional Office for Africa (UN Women) and the United Nations Development Programme – Kenya (UNDP Kenya). These opportunities have driven Lenah to continuously seek opportunities to address pressing social issues and advocate for positive change within communities and beyond.

Lenah holds a Master's Degree in Commerce from Strathmore University in Nairobi and is an Ashoka Fellow.



Visits to the Field



AIDN Funder's Trip

Truly grasping the depth of our partners' work and comprehending the challenges they encounter necessitates being in the field. During the AIDN Funder's Trip in July, when Mark, Linda, and Eve visited our grantee partners, they unanimously agreed on one point: the remarkable work done by our partners often remains underestimated.

The team's starting point was Solid'Africa in Rwanda who provide free food to Rwanda's most vulnerable patients in public hospitals. Employing a farm-to-fork model, Solid'Africa grows a portion of their food and repurposes kitchen waste into fertilizer for their farm. Their state-of-the-art kitchen efficiently prepares 9,500 high-quality meals daily, managed by just nine chefs. Our team participated in serving meals to patients which is no easy task. It was good to observe the meticulous care and planning involved in this operation as well as the close bond Solid'Africa shares with the patients.

In week two of the trip, the team travelled to Uganda and continued the powerful line-up of face-to-face site visits. They visited Mukisa Foundation, Fundi Bots and Budondo Intercultural Center and held meetings with CIYOTA and Wezesha Impact. Among the notable experiences was Mukisa's Father's Day celebration, where they honor fathers of children with disabilities. Mukisa Foundation runs a therapy and prevention center, aiding

5,600 children with disabilities through therapy, medical services, and providing assistive devices like wheelchairs. We discovered that many fathers tend to abandon their families upon facing a child with disabilities, considering them a curse. The fathers celebrated during this event represent courageous individuals who defy societal norms, standing by their families to raise their children.

These immersive experiences deepen our commitment and offer profound insights into the contexts our partners navigate. The communities we engage with still face considerable needs, and your continued support is pivotal as we aim for further expansion in our portfolio.

The AIDN trip involved 13 individuals from six foundations, including The Life You Can Save, Just Peoples, the Judith Neilson Foundation, the Dawn Wade Foundation, and the Intrepid Travel Foundation. We take pride in AIDN selecting the PFE Local Leaders Portfolio as the centerpiece of their inaugural trip.

Visits to the Field



Our new Program Manager has hit the ground running

Despite having joined PFE as our Africa-based Program Manager only a month ago, Lenah Gideon has dived into her role, engaging actively by visiting current and potential partners. Recently, her visits have been instrumental in understanding and witnessing the transformative impact of various organizations. For instance, at the Emergency Medicine Kenya Foundation (EMKF), Lenah observed their profound influence on Machakos referral hospital. Through equipment provisions and staff training in the emergency department, the hospital can now effectively manage over 150 emergency medical cases each month.

Furthermore, she dedicated a day to visiting The Action Foundation and Ruben Centre in Nairobi's Kibera, Kawangware, and Mukuru slums. Both organisations are making significant strides in uplifting the urban poor,

offering therapy services for children with disabilities, inclusive early childhood and primary education, and subsidised healthcare services for the broader population.

In addition, Lenah visited PACE International, an organisation addressing the significant shortage of 70,000 teachers in Kenya by recruiting and training motivated high school graduates. These graduates are deployed as volunteer teaching assistants (fellows) during their pre-university break. During her visit, Lenah witnessed the graduation of 122 fellows who served as teacher assistants across 30 low-income schools, directly impacting 1,500 pupils over a six-month period.

Lenah will continue her visits with both existing and potential partners in the coming year.

Partner Progress - Women's Empowerment

Dandelion Africa

Across Kenya, an alarming 4 million girls and women have undergone Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). Unfortunately, numerous cases remain unreported, leaving few to receive justice or essential medical care. Through advocacy and involving men as agents of change, Dandelion Africa has achieved significant progress, successfully eradicating FGM in three villages over the past 6 months. This brings the total number of villages declared FGM free to 32.

Dandelion Africa has also made strides in economic empowerment by enrolling and training 1,044 women in their savings groups. Additionally, they have supported 111 women to start businesses.

Msichana Initiative

In the last 6 months, Msichana has donated 100 bicycles to vulnerable girls to reduce the sexual gender-based violence risk associated with walking long distances to school. They have also trained over 20,000 people on raising awareness on girls' rights as well as ending all forms of gender based violence in their communities. 32 gender-based violence cases were identified and reported to legal authorities, majority of which were child marriage and teenage pregnancies.

Pastoral Women's Council

Pastoral Women's Council (PWC) successfully trained more than 1,000 female pastoralists across Longido, Monduli, and Ngorongoro districts. The training encompassed human and women's rights, constitutional and legal frameworks related to women and child rights, land and property rights, along with dispute resolution mechanisms at both district and village levels. Additionally, participants were guided on formal case reporting and court procedures.

The Women's Rights and Leadership Forums operated by the PWC diligently monitored and addressed over 100 gender-based violence (GBV) incidents within their respective villages. Noteworthy is the support provided to 44 GBV survivors in accessing justice and essential services. Collaboratively working with local governments, PWC facilitated the allocation of land parcels to benefit more than 250 women.

WAEV

WAEV has supported and trained 400 women to establish microfinance and entrepreneurship groups. Of these, 230 women have received capital to start small businesses. They have also planted 40,000 trees in response to the high levels of deforestation where trees are being cut down for use as firewood and building materials.

Partner Progress - Health & Nutrition

Only 48% of Africans have access to essential healthcare services, leaving a staggering 615 million individuals without the necessary medical care they require (AHAIC, 2021). The healthcare crisis encompasses a web of challenges, including a severe lack of healthcare infrastructure. Many regions grapple with an absence of medical facilities, personnel, and essential supplies. This inadequacy particularly impacts remote areas, intensifying the burden of prevalent diseases like malaria and HIV/AIDS.

Furthermore, insufficient funding and unequal resource distribution further strain the healthcare system, impeding its ability to effectively address existing health issues.

In response to these challenges, our partners are actively fortifying healthcare infrastructure, investing in medical training, and enhancing disease prevention and treatment strategies. They are also championing the equitable distribution of healthcare resources across regions, utilising community health workers for last-mile treatment services. These efforts aim to bridge healthcare gaps and ensure essential medical support reaches even the most remote areas.

The numbers below represent partner achievements in quarters 2 and 3 of this year.

	Health Facility Patients Reached	Outreach Patients Reached	Deliveries	Meals served per day
Budondo Intercultural Centre	6,521	1,428	183	-
Dandelion Africa	4,000	11,310	195	-
FOCCAD	-	120,226	-	-
Mukisa Foundation	400	500	24	-
Safari Doctors	452	5,573	-	-
Wandikweza	29,192	18,900	195	-
Solid' Africa				1,500
Food for Education				165,000

Partner Progress - Health & Nutrition

FOCCAD

Foundation for Community and Capacity Development (FOCCAD) was established to bridge the gap to HIV treatment, care, and support in the Nkhotakota district of Malawi, which has one of the highest HIV prevalence rates in the county. They have linked 5,973 people to HIV care and treatment. They have also provided nutritious meals to over 1,800 HIV orphaned and vulnerable children.

Emergency Medicine Kenya Foundation

EMKF has made significant strides in enhancing Kenya's emergency healthcare system, having successfully trained 2,813 healthcare professionals in emergency care delivery. As part of their mission, they have supported 21 counties to establish emergency care plans. Additionally, EMKF has furnished 50 emergency departments with critical equipment including ECG machines, vital sign monitors, oxygen manifolds, and ultrasound machines, ensuring these facilities are well-equipped to handle emergencies efficiently.



Partner Progress - Education

Despite concerted efforts from African governments and the private sector to enhance education access, a staggering 98 million children and youth between the ages of six and 18 remain excluded from schools across sub-Saharan Africa (UNESCO, 2022). This exclusion persists due to inadequate infrastructure, marked by insufficient classrooms, a shortage of trained educators, and inadequate learning materials, particularly impacting numerous regions.

Furthermore, archaic curriculums and teaching methods often fall short in meeting contemporary educational requirements,

impeding the continent's potential for skills development and innovation. Our partners' initiatives comprehensively tackle these challenges across various fronts, spanning from constructing classrooms to redesigning curriculums, providing extensive teacher training, and advocating for policy reforms. This holistic approach aims to ensure equitable access to quality education, addressing crucial gaps in the educational landscape.

The numbers below represent partner achievements in quarters 2 and 3 of this year.

	Primary Students	Secondary Students	Tertiary	Teaching at the Right Level*
CIYOTA	900	397	38	400
FOCCAD	-	-	-	291
Ladder to Learning	-	-	-	1,654
PaceMaker International	34,727	-	-	3,809
Pastoral Women's Council	-	270	-	-
Rays of Hope	1,430	388	-	380
Women's Agro-Enviro Vision	164	-	-	-

*Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) is a teaching approach that uses a simple testing tool to assess and then group children according to their learning level rather than their age or grade.

Partner Progress - Education

Fundi Bots

Fundi Bots have provided practical learning tools for 11,000 students across 50 schools through their Enhanced Science Curriculum (ESC) program that is bringing practical STEM learning to African schools. To effectively implement the program, 228 teachers have been trained on ECS as well as robotics. Another 11,000 students have been trained in STEM and Robotics with 2,600 of those being girls trained under the Fundi Girls program which encourages girl participation in STEM disciplines.

Rays of Hope

Rays of Hope has pioneered one of Malawi's largest teacher training networks, empowering 5,000 educators with innovative pedagogical methods to craft content-rich and creative lessons. This pivotal program is geared towards bridging the pedagogical gaps that teachers possess.



photo: Rays of Hope

Partner Progress - Livelihoods & Economic Empowerment

Our partners recognise that investing in livelihoods and economic empowerment is a transformative endeavour towards building resilient communities that can withstand economic downturns. They are therefore training their beneficiaries on how to secure more stable and sustainable sources of income through improved agricultural practices, business training, savings groups, access to start-up capital and market linkages. The end-goal is to improve their beneficiaries' living standards and reduce their vulnerability to economic shocks, thereby increasing their ability to afford and access essential services such as healthcare and education. The ultimate objective is to elevate the living standards of beneficiaries and fortify their resilience against economic uncertainties.

Lakehub Foundation

Over the last 6 months, Lakehub has been establishing its training space and preparing instructors to introduce high-quality software development education to the youth in Kenya. In a strategic alliance with France's OITalent, Lakehub aims to skillfully train over 300 software developers within a span of 3 years, leveraging a comprehensive 2-year software apprenticeship program. Notably, OITalent is

committed to offering employment opportunities to all successful graduates from this initiative. Recently, Lakehub successfully concluded a rigorous month-long boot camp, selecting 28 students to comprise the inaugural cohort from a pool of 70 who progressed to the final stage. They will run three additional boot camps, with plans to enroll a total of 70 students starting January 2024.

Wezesha Impact

Wezesha Impact has successfully trained 4,650 young individuals in entrepreneurship, job search techniques, financial literacy, and agricultural market systems. Uganda stands among the nations with the world's youngest demographics, where over 78% of its population is under the age of 30. Concurrently, it grapples with one of Sub-Saharan Africa's highest rates of youth unemployment. Wezesha plays a crucial role in addressing this challenge, acting as a bridge between formal education and the practical skills essential for post-school success. Through entrepreneurship and job readiness skills, Wezesha equips youth with the tools they need to thrive outside the educational sphere.

Partner Progress - Disability Support & Inclusion

Sub-Saharan African countries have a large number of children with disabilities who face a considerable accessing healthcare, education, and rehabilitation services. These children encounter significant barriers due to the combined effects of limited access to essential services, chronic poverty, inadequate education, and a shortage of trained healthcare professionals. Consequently, their overall quality of life is significantly compromised. We have also observed that this sector remains severely underfunded, hindering progress in closing these gaps.

To counteract these challenges, our partners have established free therapy centres primarily catering to low-income families. Additionally, they're actively distributing assistive devices and engaging in advocacy efforts aimed at policy reformation for inclusive education and healthcare services for children with disabilities. These initiatives are pivotal in creating an environment that fosters inclusivity and provides essential support for children with disabilities.



photo: The Action Foundation

Partner Progress - Disability Support & Inclusion

Mukisa Foundation

Mukisa Foundation currently supports 5,600 children with disabilities through diverse programs offering various interventions. Within their therapy program, they assist 284 children who receive intensive therapy at the drop-in center. An additional 180 children benefit from home-based therapy via monitored home visits, while outreach efforts extend support to others in rural Ugandan communities. In the current year, 495 children have received assistive devices to aid their needs.

The Action Foundation

The Action Foundation supports 500 children with disabilities at their therapy centers situated in Kenya's slums. Focused on children aged between 0 and 8, their services encompass occupational therapy, nutritional support, and the provision of assistive devices like wheelchairs. Thus far, their therapy centers have catered to the needs of 900 children, with a projected target of supporting 3,000 children by 2024. Additionally, they collaborate with local county hospitals, further supporting 3,000 children with disabilities in need.

Systems Change

Mukisa Foundation, together with the Ministry of Education, has created a training tool to assess the 21 disability conditions that are most prevalent in Uganda. This has become a national tool utilised for nationwide screening and referral processes. They are also working with the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) and have been given the mandate as the only organisation responsible for assessing all schools within Kampala on how inclusive they are. They currently work with 100 schools and have trained teachers from 60 schools on inclusive teaching.

The Action Foundation collaborated with various educational bodies to create the Inclusive Early Learning Toolkit, which they expect the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development to approve as a mandatory school material. They have generously shared this toolkit with Mukisa Foundation for customisation to fit the Ugandan educational context. Furthermore, The Action Foundation is spearheading the Early Childhood Development (ECD) disability data working group with governmental bodies. This initiative aims to track children with disabilities from birth through their enrollment in ECD schools. The objective is to facilitate strategic planning, budget allocation, and comprehensive service provision for children with disabilities by the government.

New Partners

The Action Foundation Kenya



The Action Foundation supports children, women and girls with disabilities in Kenya's informal slums of Kibera, Mathare, Mukuru and Kawangare through education, healthcare, nutrition and provision of supportive devices. They also have a strong advocacy arm creating awareness on disability and lobbying government and other stakeholders to have inclusive programs for people with disabilities. They are now working with more than 1,000 kids across various programs with a target of reaching 5,000 children within the next 3 years.

Why this work matters?

According to UNESCO, 90% of children with disabilities in developing countries don't go to school. The Kenya National Survey for Disability estimated that only one in six disabled kids attend school. The few who attend schools face a lot of discrimination, stigmatisation, poor curricula, poorly equipped schools and lack of trained teachers. The sector is underfunded by the government and there are not as many organisations working in this sector in Kenya.

[Visit their website](#)



Ladder to Learning Malawi



Ladder to Learning's goal is to improve learning outcomes in low resource public primary schools in Malawi. They recruit and train passionate local youth volunteers to deliver Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) reading and comprehension programs, as well as reading clubs, tech gadgets, and other relevant learning resources. The local volunteers are further supported by online volunteers from around the world for one-to-one mentoring sessions with learners. They have enrolled over 6,000 students since 2015 and are currently working in 16 schools.

Why this work matters?

The transition rate from primary to secondary school in Malawi is only 38.4%. Two of the primary schools that Ladder to Learning work with paint this picture well - Biwi and Ngwenya LEA primary schools. Ngwenya has a total enrolment of 7,800 students with only 109 teachers. Biwi's student-teacher ratio is equally as high. When our team visited, both schools lacked proper infrastructure with some students learning outside, subject to rain, heat, dust and other distractions. Classrooms had no desks, so students sit on the floor and some go hungry all day because meals are not provided.

[Visit their website](#)



New Partners

ACADES Malawi



ACADES provides smallholder rural farmers with input loans to access high-quality seed & fertiliser, training on agricultural best practices and reliable market for their produce at a fair price. They are currently working with 2,300 farmers who receive the full range of services and another 8,000 who benefit from agricultural training. ACADES works with some of the world's poorest farmers, majority of whom earn only 60 cents a day when they join the program. By year 3, ACADES sees a 6x increase in income for 74% of their farmers.

Why this work matters?

Agriculture is the backbone of the Malawian economy. Most food comes from smallholder farmers, who make up over 85% of the population but struggle to maximize their yields and feed their families. Unscrupulous traders amplify the problem by buying their produce at low prices, sometimes 75% less than government recommendations. With 70% of the rural population in Malawi below the age of 35, ACADES saw an opportunity to engage youth in agriculture as a means to improve their economic status.

[Visit their website](#)



Primetel Tanzania



Primetel is a start-up launched this year whose mission is to address the gap between the urban and rural healthcare systems in Tanzania, where 64% of the population live in rural areas but the majority of doctors are in urban areas. Their solution is a USSD platform that operates offline and allows patients to dial a short code, speak to a health professional and access services at an affordable cost. The services include access to urgent care, mental health and preventive health.

Why this work matters?

Tanzania faces multifaceted healthcare challenges characterized by limited access to services in rural areas, insufficient infrastructure, and a shortage of healthcare professionals.

[Visit their website](#)



Partner Graduation – Food for Education

Our approach is to back outstanding leaders in their very early days, commit funding for a few years and walk alongside them on their journey as they grow their organisations and attract additional funding. Ultimately, we aim to witness their progression to larger sources of support.

In 2016, Planet Wheeler Foundation (part of Partners for Equity) gave Food for Education its biggest ever grant which was \$25,000 to provide lunches for 770 children per day. Flash forward to 2019 when they joined the Local Leaders Portfolio, their annual budget was \$250,000 and they were providing 10,000 meals daily. Despite seeming unattainable, founder Wawira Njiru was ambitious in her vision of feeding 1 million children by 2025. What mattered to us was not just achieving this goal, but placing trust in a leader deeply connected to their community and capable of driving impactful change within.

Today, Food for Education provides meals to 165,000 school children daily, a number expected to reach 400,000 following a recent

partnership announcement with Nairobi County.

With their budget now surpassing single-digit millions, we believe that it is the right time to use our limited capital to support the next mini-Food for Educations' who are waiting in the wings. Witnessing Food for Education gain international acclaim, including Wawira being named UN Person of the Year 2021, and securing substantial grants from philanthropic giants like Co-Impact and MacKenzie Scott, speaks volumes about their success.

Food for Education's accomplishments challenge the prevailing belief that local organisations cannot scale, demonstrate impact, or absorb significant grants. Our aspiration is that many leaders in our portfolio will follow a comparable trajectory.

Although bidding farewell to Food for Education from our portfolio is bittersweet, they will forever remain an integral part of the Partners for Equity family. We will continue to closely showcase and monitor their ongoing work.



photo: Food for Education

Beyond The Grant

We prioritise investing in capacity support for the long-term sustainability of our funded organisations. We want our grantee partners to be strong from within so they can deliver on their missions.

After assessing partners' needs, we offer relevant support or direct funding to strengthen their internal capabilities. Our main support areas include marketing, communications, monthly mentoring, and travel grants for events like the Skoll World Forum. The table below outlines the capacity support provided to our partners in the last six months.

	Weekly or fortnightly marketing & comms coaching	Monthly mentoring & ad-hoc support as requested	Pitch decks and/or pitch scripts	Website refresh or design	Travel grants
Budondo Intercultural Centre	✓	✓	✓	✓	
CIYOTA	✓				
Dandelion Africa		✓	✓		
Emergency Medicine Kenya	✓	✓	✓	✓	
FOCCAD	✓				
Fundi Bots		✓			
GLAMI	✓		✓		
LakeHub Foundation		✓	✓		
Msichana Initiative			✓		
PACEmaker International		✓			✓
Rays of Hope		✓	✓		
Safari Doctors					✓
WAEV		✓	✓		
Wandikweza		✓	✓		

Challenges

In July, our planned trip to Kenya was regrettably canceled due to a series of intense protests stemming from substantial tax hikes and the escalating cost of living. Kenya has been grappling with soaring inflation, averaging at 8.7% between June 2022 to June 2023. This economic strain has directly affected our partners, burdening them with amplified wage bills and an overall surge in prices they find increasingly challenging to manage.

In response, we've been actively stepping in to alleviate these pressing financial gaps wherever feasible. By connecting some of our partners with additional funders, we've managed to provide relief and ease the burden they're facing. It's part of our commitment to offer support whenever possible, ensuring our partners receive assistance during these challenging times.

Looking Ahead

- Lenah will be visiting partners in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania in the next 3 months. Feel free to reach out if you are in the area.
- Eve and Lenah together with Partners for Equity Directors Marnie Rickards, Anubha Rawat, Mark Cubit and Angus Grinham will be attending the Skoll World Forum in Oxford next April.
- The Australian International Development Network are hosting an Insight Tour for funders in May. The tour runs over 12 days in May visiting Kenya and Tanzania. Expressions of interest are open and if you're interested, please get in touch with Eve.
- We will be exploring M&E capacity support for our partners.



