



**RAISING THE VILLAGE**



# 2019 PROGRAM OUTCOMES

**36 MONTH STUDY FINDINGS**



## THE CHALLENGE

# 400 MILLION HOUSEHOLDS LIVE IN ULTRA POVERTY

Ultra poverty is the most difficult and deepest form of poverty to address. Over 400 million people live in ultra poverty, with 80% living in just 14 countries, including Uganda. Ultra-poor families primarily practice subsistence farming on less than one acre and live in last-mile rural areas.

### OUR SOLUTION

Raising The Village focuses on moving last mile, rural communities out of ultra poverty. Through its one-time investment model, RTV applies a low-cost, livelihood-based solution to support ultra-poor communities. Programs aim to engage all village members, with an emphasis on women, youth and vulnerable households in achieving economic self-sufficiency within 24 months.

### THE RTV MODEL

- 1 LIVELIHOODS:** Develop a diversified portfolio of household income sources to reduce the dependency on household agriculture and optimize the quality of life for families.
- 2 ACCESS:** Remove immediate barriers to accessing basic needs and services.
- 3 GUIDANCE:** Technical advisory, follow-up and mentorship to ensure communities are able to sustainably manage and own projects over the long-term.

### RETURN ON INVESTMENTS

For a RTV partnered family of five, the one-time investment of **\$75**, created **\$877** in household income and assets within 36 months, making a return of **1069%**.

\$75

\$877

### WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE IN ULTRA POVERTY

\$1.90  
per day

EXTREME  
POVERTY LINE

\$0.75  
per day

ULTRA  
POVERTY



### RTV PARTNER FAMILY

- 5 family members
- Household farming plot of 1 acre or less
- Unable to cover basic needs with a household income of less than 50 cents per day
- Live in remote and hard-to-reach locations with limited road infrastructure
- Have limited access to safe water and health services with travel times of 1+ hours



# PROGRAM TIMELINE



## VILLAGE ENGAGEMENT & PROJECT DESIGN

**Month -3:** RTV meets with district governments to identify at-risk populations with limited access to services and high poverty rates. Reviews ensure RTV activities align with government development plans.

**Month -2:** Government introduces RTV to communities to ensure strong relationship building and coordination. A series of community-wide focus groups engaging women, youth, vulnerable children and the elderly drive the village prioritization and goal-setting process.

**Month -1:** Community-wide design sessions are conducted to ensure full village participation around proposed community projects, with an emphasis on women and youth engagement. The community then votes and selects between 7-10 projects which are finalized in a signed formal agreement.



## IMPLEMENTATION

**Month 0:** Community members, local government leaders and RTV come together to review and confirm program commitments.

**Month 0-6:** The 6-month intensive program begins by addressing barriers to participation such as WASH, access to water and health, before rolling out livelihoods programming which include a series of trainings and demonstrations in agriculture, livestock, and financial literacy. Seeds and livestock are distributed to the first cohort of households and group beneficiaries.

**Month 6-12:** Refresher trainings and outreaches are completed. The first cohort of households and community groups pass on seeds and livestock inputs to the second group.



## TRANSITION

**Month 12-24:** RTV continues household follow-up and mentorship of project groups for successful adoption and habit creation.

**Month 24:** Communities are now independently managing initiatives and graduate from the program.

## GRADUATION

**FAMILIES INCREASED  
THEIR DAILY INCOME  
FROM \$0.45 TO \$2.67  
IN 36 MONTHS**





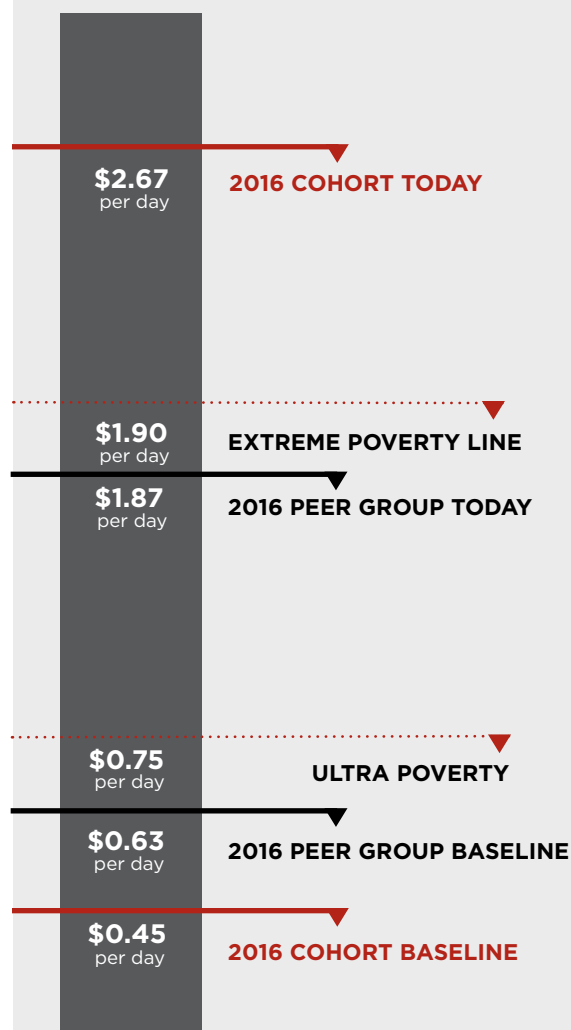
# OUR REACH

Since 2016, RTV has successfully reached nearly **180,000** beneficiaries from 38,000 households across 255 remote villages through its cluster approach.

To measure the effectiveness of our cluster program approach, RTV undertook a 3-year study tracking our 2016 cohort from program inception to one-year post-program graduation, surveying over 6,800 households. This year marks the end of this study and in this report, we are pleased to share the findings.

	Number of Beneficiaries	Number of Households	Number of Villages
2016 Cohort	23,913	5,845	26
2017 Cohort	35,783	7,408	48
2018 Cohort	52,240	10,579	78
2019 Cohort	67,556	14,221	103
Total	179,492	38,053	255

## 2016 COHORT 36-MONTH PROGRESS





## END OF STUDY

# KEY FINDINGS OVER 36 MONTHS

	PEER GROUP		RTV HOUSEHOLDS		OUR IMPACT	
	2016	2019	2016	2019		
ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND ASSETS	\$349	\$823	\$216	\$1,103	<b>\$413</b>	RTV household gains were <b>nearly double</b> their peers over the same period.
HOUSEHOLD INCOME (+ CONSUMPTION)	\$230	\$682	\$166	\$975	<b>\$357</b>	RTV families increased their daily incomes <b>nearly \$1 more</b> than their peers.
LIVESTOCK ASSETS	\$119	\$141	\$50	\$128	<b>\$56</b>	Asset gains are equivalent to owning <b>2 more goats</b> than their peers.
GRAMEEN PROGRESS OUT OF POVERTY DENSITY INDEX (PPI)	30	28	26	18	<b>6</b>	Partner households are now lower than <b>Uganda's national PPI score of 20.</b>





**36-MONTH SOCIAL  
RETURN ON INVESTMENT**

Industry leaders in the development space have set the bar in creating tangible impact. We continue to learn from these teams and join them in sharing our data publicly.

IMPACT CREATED / PER DOLLAR INVESTED

**\$3.48**

**INDUSTRY LEADING  
AGRICULTURE SOCIAL  
ENTREPRISE**

**\$9.69**

**RAISING THE VILLAGE**

**RTV HAS THE POTENTIAL  
TO TRANSFORM  
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**



# BREAKDOWN OF INCOME STREAMS

For both RTV households and their peer group, the top 3 sources of income are: casual labor, self-employment, and farming.

	PEER GROUP		RTV HOUSEHOLDS		
	2016	2019	2016	2019	
EMPLOYMENT	\$85	\$303	\$47	<b>\$575</b>	RTV households earned <b>\$310</b> more than their peers over the same period.
AGRICULTURE	\$30	\$65	\$33	<b>\$90</b>	RTV communities earned <b>56%</b> more in agricultural income sales than their peers.
LIVESTOCK	\$18	\$26	\$14	<b>\$38</b>	With an increased livestock pool, households realized a reliable secondary source of income.

“Before I was not familiar with quality agricultural practices. We used to plant crops but yield small harvests. But with our new trainings on how to properly make manure, how we can plant, how we can create composts, I have seen great agricultural improvements, particularly with our harvests”

– EVASTA, BUHOZI VILLAGE

## EMPLOYMENT INCOME

The average partner household earned **\$575** through employment income, which includes formal employment, casual labour and personal business & self-employment activities. This is **11x** the amount earned in 2016, and **8.6x** more than their peers.

## AGRICULTURAL INCOME

Improved farming practices and seeds, along with better access to markets through a cooperative approach, helped partner households increase the average annual income earned from their farms by **1.7x**.



# DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES

	2016	2019	
<b>PRIMARY EDUCATION</b> Families with all children aged 6–12 attending school	81%	<b>89%</b>	Partner households caught up to their peer households who, for the past 3 years, have averaged 90% of families with all children 6–12 attending school.
<b>PHONES</b> Households with at least one functional mobile phone	61%	<b>85%</b>	Phone ownership of RTV households is <b>8%</b> higher than their peer group.
<b>RADIO</b> Households owning at least one functional radio	43%	<b>82%</b>	Radio ownership of RTV households is <b>20%</b> higher than their peer group.
<b>TOILETS</b> Households with a toilet facility	88%	<b>99%</b>	RTV households have caught up to their peer group where <b>99%</b> of households have a toilet facility, consistent over the 3 years.
<b>HOME IMPROVEMENT</b> Use of permanent building materials for home construction	33%	<b>44%</b>	RTV households have replaced mud and reeds with bricks and mortar, <b>11%</b> more than their peer group.

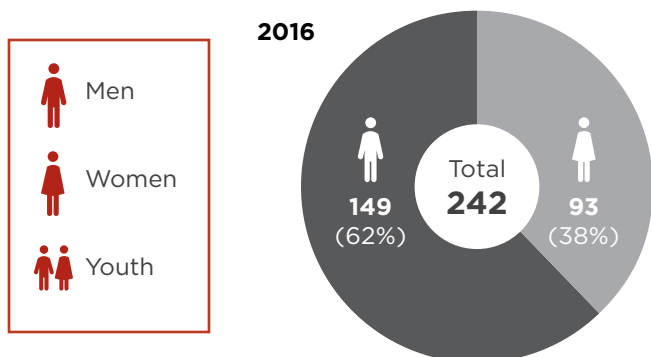


# WOMEN AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

RTV prioritizes fair representation and gender empowerment to see more women and youth represented in the decision-making process within their communities.

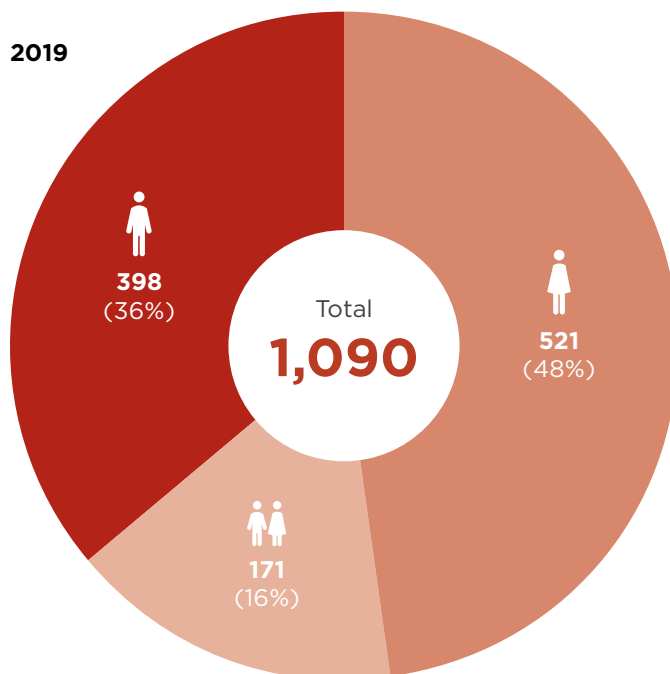


## 2016 COHORT LEADERSHIP PROFILE



RTV projects helped create nearly 32 new leadership opportunities in every village, seeing a **350%** increase in avenues for civic engagement.

Prior to RTV partnership, youth were not regularly included in leadership positions within the community. RTV prioritizes youth participation and creates targeted initiatives and committees which are led and implemented by youth.



“It’s my first time being in leadership. I appreciate it because I used to fear. I could not even express myself. But, now, when I’m there leading the group and I mention something, people appreciate what I am saying. I feel more confident that I can lead a big group. I used to feel like that it couldn’t happen but now it’s for me to do and I can do it.”

– **AGATHA**, Vice Chairperson for the youth Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) in Kanyamatembe, made up of 192 youth.



# KEEPING MOMENTUM

RTV takes a behavior-change approach to financial literacy, empowering households to achieve further progress through their everyday decision making.



“Since RTV brought us together as youth through the VSLA (Village Savings and Loans Association), it has motivated us again. The VSLA has become ours. We are making our own goals. At least from the knowledge we’re getting out of the trainings, we are able to see more for ourselves.”

– **SAMUEL, RUKUNGWE VILLAGE**

**IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS,  
89% OF RTV HOUSEHOLDS  
ACCESSED A PERSONAL LOAN  
IN COMPARISON TO ONLY  
9% IN 2016.**

## COMMUNITY SELF-INITIATED PROJECTS

A key indicator of program effectiveness and the sustainability of outcomes is the ability for community members to set and achieve their collective goals post-program. The 2016 cohort has introduced **34** self-initiated projects to improve their communities including:

- 19 kilometres** of community access roads were constructed, connecting their villages.
- 234 animals** purchased: 170 sheep, 54 chickens, 4 pigs and 6 rabbits.
- 87 hoes** purchased.
- 436 kilograms** of beans invested.
- 288 dishware** purchased: 160 cups and 67 saucepans for households & 6 saucepans, 55 plates and spoons for a women’s group to develop their catering business.
- 65 plastic rain harvesting tanks.**





## RAURENCIA

Raurencia is a 50-year-old farmer living in Bushekwe village in Nyarubuye Sub-County of Kisoro district. She lives with her husband and six children.

Raurencia grows East African highland bananas, known locally as matooke. Depending on the size, a bunch of bananas can be sold for 4 to 6 USD. Raurencia was harvesting 1–2 bunches and earning \$6.75 every month. With the spread of Banana Bacteria Wilt (BBW) across the region, her harvests soon dropped to zero.

In March 2016, RTV partnered with Bushekwe village and Raurencia started attending RTV agricultural trainings where she learned and developed skills in mulching, soil erosion, composting, and how to prevent and control BBW, among other farming techniques.

Motivated by her trainings, she started making changes to how she tended to her banana garden: applying compost manure, digging trenches across the gentle slope to control soil erosion and spacing her plants, giving them enough room to grow. She cut down and disposed of infected banana plants and replanted her gardens with clean banana suckers.

“I have a vision to significantly increase matooke production in my farm, improve household income and support all my children to complete their education. I am so grateful to RTV for introducing this kind of project in Bushekwe village. It has lifted me from almost nothing to something.”

Within a growing season, Raurencia’s hard work was paying off as she saw her harvests rise from 2 to 6 bunches a month. Today she earns \$24 USD a month, nearly 4x her previous earnings, and enough to keep a few bunches for her and her family. She uses the earnings to pay school fees and buy materials for her six children. She’s always willing to share tips with neighbours on how to treat BBW, and how to grow as many bananas as she does.



REACHING HIGHER

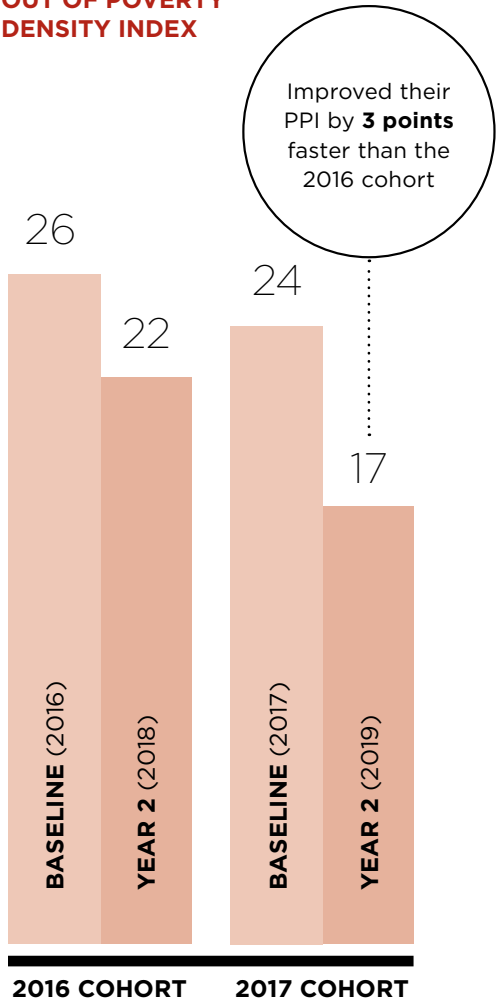
2017 COHORT

Although the 2016 cohort was the main focus of our 3-year outcomes study, RTV is always looking to continually improve and refine its model so that future cohorts can improve their household incomes at greater rates.

As part of our analysis, RTV compared our 2016 cohort against our recently graduated 2017 cohort to ensure villages are trending along the same path and to identify areas for improvement. Our findings show that overall, our 2017 cohort has **improved at a faster pace** than the 2016 cohort. This is especially remarkable as the 2017 cohort faced significant challenges at the start of the program with a drought and animal disease outbreak. Continued improvements to RTV’s programming has helped villages improve their resilience to

	BASELINE	YEAR 2	GROWTH
2016 COHORT	\$145	\$501	\$356
2017 COHORT	\$392	\$847	\$455

GRAMEEN PROGRESS  
OUT OF POVERTY  
DENSITY INDEX





# KEY TRENDS

RTV is constantly searching for trends and factors to help us understand which drivers can positively impact a community's household income improvement and how to further enhance development outcomes for our future village partners. Three key trends have emerged as a part of our team's statistical analysis of the data:

## 1 WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

RTV aims to engage more women and youth in leadership roles through elected committees for general projects. RTV targets to improve women and youth representation from a baseline of 10% or less to a minimum of 40% of all leadership roles. Our findings show that villages demonstrating the greatest improvement in household incomes, also had the highest numbers of women in all available leadership positions, often at 50% or higher. Women in decision-making and leadership roles is critical to household income progression.

## 2 COMMUNITY-LED INITIATIVES

An important metric of success for RTV is the sustainability of projects through community ownership. RTV encourages community groups to carry out self-directed initiatives based on what members agree as goals and projects that will best promote income generation. RTV expects to see at least one community-self initiated project implemented in each village within its first year with an aim of two additional the following year. Our findings show that villages with the highest household income improvements also have the highest number of community-led initiatives, as many as 8-10 projects in the first 24 months. Communities that find ways to work together and collaborate, thrive.

## 3 DIVERSIFICATION OF INCOME

RTV promotes diverse income streams for families to shift away from the unpredictable nature of subsistence farming. Households with the greatest income improvements attributed this to sources outside of the household farming plot. Families that coupled formal employment, self-employment, or casual labor with the efficient practice of agriculture and other household activities saw transformational improvements.



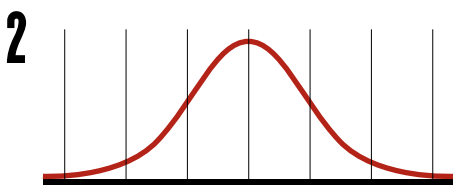
THE MATH

HOW WE MEASURE

We aim to practice the highest level of statistical accuracy within our means to present the clearest possible picture of RTV's impact to its supporters. Whether the results are good or bad, we prioritize transparency, integrity, and accurate results which will contribute to finding real solutions to end ultra poverty.



We had a 3rd-party evaluator\* review and validate our calculations to verify the accuracy of our figures.



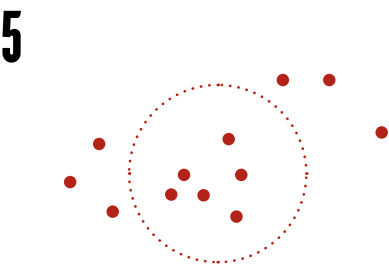
To find the average household result, we sample for a normal distribution at a 95% confidence level with a confidence interval of +/- 5%.



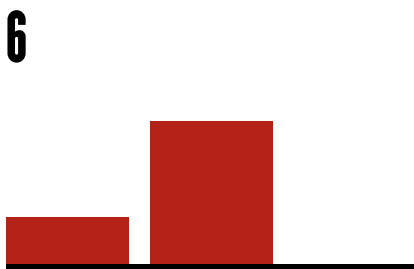
Visit 1 out of every 3 households we come across to keep results random.



We surveyed 6,828 households across 70 RTV partner villages, representing over 34,000 community members, to achieve statistical significance for comparison purposes.



We remove outliers, 5% from the top and 5% from the bottom, to avoid a 'heavy-tailed' distribution for income results which may distort findings.



Adjust figures to take inflation into account and a conversion to U.S. dollars for our Western copy.

\*Dr. Rohit Ramchandani, Antara Global





# THANK YOU

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