

### ANNUAL REPORT 2023



## NOTE FROM THE CEO

Our 2023 Annual Report highlights a year of remarkable operational growth and strategic advancements amidst global challenges. The report outlines the outputs for the cohort launched in 2023 that will set the stage for sustainable impact by graduation. The report also presents our financial summary for the year and recaps topline impact for the cohort that graduated in 2023.

In 2023, RTV continued to scale its operations and reached 301,273 people across rural Uganda, a 34% increase from 2022, bringing our cumulative reach to 966,621 by the end of the year. With a focus on continuing to maximize impact at scale, we further strengthened our data-informed approach by integrating custom-built tools for real-time data collection, weather monitoring and forecasting, and land mapping into our operational framework.

Last year, our partner communities living in ultra-poverty faced many challenges, including global inflation and climate change, that further exacerbated their vulnerability. Despite these challenges, and as a testament to their resolve, our partner communities not only continued to improve and diversify household incomes but are also building sustainable pathways out of ultra-poverty toward economic growth and self-sufficiency.

Driven by higher agriculture productivity, better market prices, and access to affordable credit, graduating partner households in 2023 increased their average Household Income and Production from \$0.84/day at baseline to \$2.23/day at graduation, \$1.59/day more than their peers. In doing so, they unlocked \$697 in Annual Program Value in 24 months, 6X the program investment. With our emphasis on reaching and impacting the most vulnerable community members, women and youth-headed households increased their Household Income and Production by 198% and 147%, respectively.

While we are truly proud of our partner community and our team's achievements, there is still a long way to go. We remain focused on maintaining the growth trajectory and addressing ultra-poverty at scale. Through continuous innovations, strategic partnerships for expansion, and consolidation of institutional knowledge and insights, we are committed to continue building pathways out of poverty for last-mile communities.

I thank our partner communities, our team, and partners and supporters for their unwavering trust. Your continued support and partnership have been instrumental in helping us work towards our vision of a world without ultra-poverty.

Best,

Shawn Holden Cheung Founder & CEO

## **OUR GLOBAL TEAM**

Implementing our programs in some of the most remote and difficult-to-access villages, our team forms the bedrock of our work and impact in last-mile communities. Hailing from diverse backgrounds, regions, and careers, they channel their collective passion towards one vision - a world without ultra-poverty.

Our growing team brings together deep expertise in program implementation, advanced data analytics, operations and logistics, financial management, fundraising, communications, and various other strategic functions.

202 TEAM

98%

MEMBERS

BIPOC REPRESENTATION

95% LOCAL STAFF IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

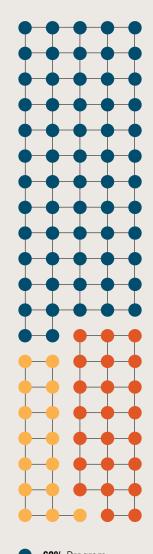
## 2,800,000+

**DID YOU** KNOW

> **KILOMETRES TRAVELED BY OUR FIELD TEAMS**

To reach and work with last-mile communities in rural Uganda in 2023. That is more than 70 times the circumference of the Earth!







evaluation & learning 23% Operations

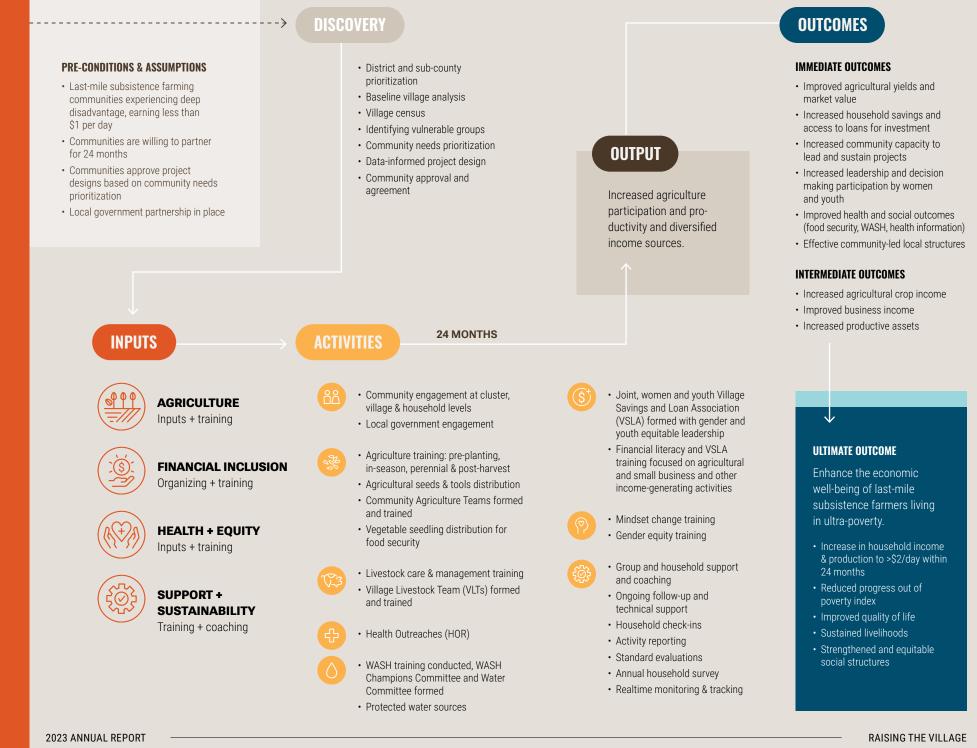
## **OUR WORK**

Our partner communities face systemic obstacles to increasing their incomes and breaking the cycle of ultra-poverty. These include limited access to knowledge and good-quality farming inputs, lack of affordable credit for agriculture and business, lack of access to health services and clean water, and gender and age-based social barriers. Our program model addresses these deep-rooted challenges through a multi-dimensional approach that improves incomes, addresses developmental barriers, and ensures sustainable impact.

Our programs aim to increase agricultural production and income in subsistence farming communities through high-quality agricultural inputs and technical training. Additionally, by creating community-led and peer-reviewed opportunities to develop assets and access loans and conducting training sessions while promoting the adoption of various best practices under financial literacy, WASH, and gender equity, our ultimate outcome focuses on building sustainable economic security and improving the overall quality of life.







## **OUR REACH**

Our programs address ultra-poverty in remote farming communities with the ultimate objective of sustainably increasing and diversifying household income.

Through carefully sequenced activities that prioritize the most vulnerable, RTV focuses on increasing Household Income and Production from <\$1/day to over \$2/day by increasing agricultural income, diversifying income and productive assets, and alleviating barriers to community participation in economic activities.

Throughout the process, RTV leverages continuous and real-time data analytics to address barriers to development, inform decision-making, optimize interventions, and maximize impact.

# 966,621

PEOPLE REACHED SINCE 2016

1,586

**SINCE 2016** 

**VILLAGES SUPPORTED** 



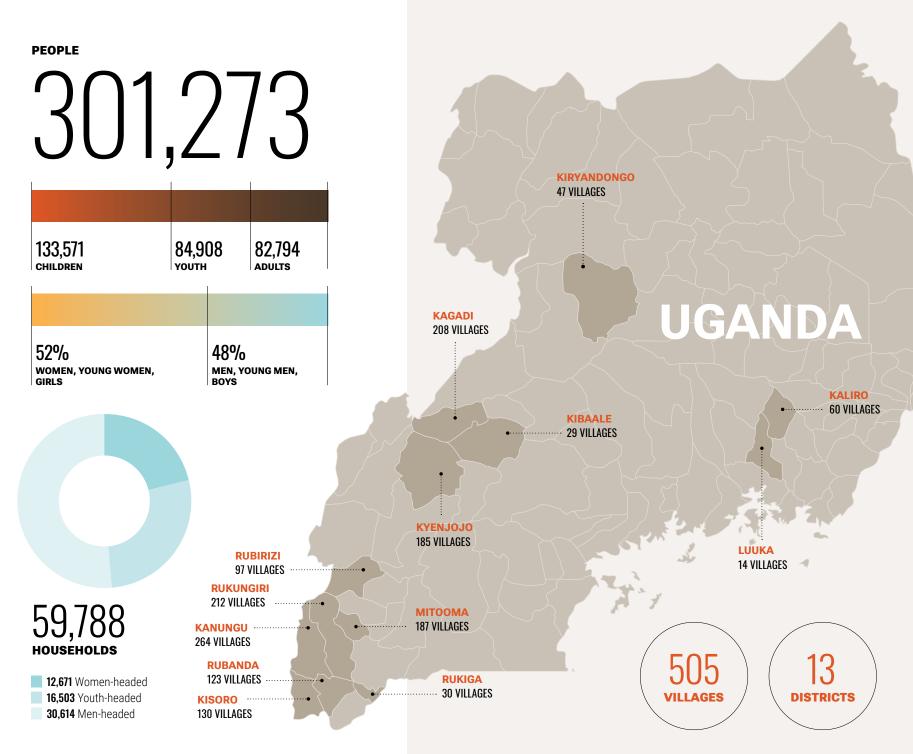


34%

INCREASE IN ANNUAL REACH OVER 2022



2023 AT A GLANCE





### **OUR IMPACT**

Key highlights from our 2023 graduating cohort

\$2.23 AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME + PRODUCTION PER DAY 165% increase from \$0.84/day at baseline

**198%** INCREASE IN WOMEN-HEADED HOUSEHOLD INCOME + PRODUCTION From baseline to graduation

\$697 ANNUAL PROGRAM VALUE Unlocked by partner households

🖈 🛛 READ OUR 2023 IMPACT REPORT

**GX RETURN ON INVESTMENT** On average investment of \$114/household over 24 months

**1470/0 INCREASE IN YOUTH-HEADED HOUSEHOLD INCOME + PRODUCTION** From baseline to graduation

267% INCREASE IN HOUSEHOLD ANNUAL AGRICULTURE INCOME From \$203 at baseline to \$578 at graduation

AT 60 Months

#### **12X** RETURN ON INVESTMENT

On an initial one-time investment of \$111 per household for 2018 cohort (at 60 months, 5 years since inception)

# **DRIVERS OF PROGRESS**

"Our lives have changed a lot. The agricultural output has improved, and our earnings have increased. We even had a drought after the intervention began but overcame it with the best practices we had learned. We now produce enough to feed our families, store food for the future, sell the produce, and get a good income. My children are healthy, and I can easily pay their school fees too."

**DICK** Partner Community Member

Improving agricultural production in last-mile communities dependent on subsistence farming remains the cornerstone of our programs. With high-quality inputs, such as improved seeds and tools, technical and hands-on training on pre- and post-harvest management, and regular follow-up and support, our partner communities significantly increase agriculture vields, improve crop quality, achieve higher value, and consequently transition from sustenance to income generation.

#### **NEW IN 2023**

Driven by our commitment to continuous learning and innovation, we enhanced the focus on perennial farming in our comprehensive agriculture training program in 2023. Improvements in agricultural yields and market value for both seasonal and perennial crops remain the primary drivers of increased agricultural income. Whereas seasonal crop participation is high among partner communities as a critical source of sustenance and livelihoods. we see a significant increase in participation in perennial crop production in partner households. Based on these insights, our agriculture technical training program was further enhanced.

- To build resilience to the effects of climate change on agriculture, we launched and piloted the Monitoring & Forecasting and Soil Profiling & Land Mapping modules under the Climate Smart Agriculture System. The module aims to help partner communities align their planting schedules and agricultural activities with weather forecasts based on historical data accessed through an MoU with the Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA).
- We rolled out our custom-built Household Check-in application to strengthen our real-time data collection and improve the adoption of best practices.
- We expanded our Agriculture Team on the ground with regional and district-level agriculture representatives to support our field teams and partner communities in maximizing impact.

#### **OUTPUTS** 2023 COHOR

470.152 KG IMPROVED HOUSEHOLD SEEDS DISTRIBUTED

#### 6 **CROP VARIETIES** DISTRIBUTED

Beans, groundnuts, maize, rice, soybean, and Irish potatoes

#### 27.873

AGRICULTURAL TOOLS DISTRIBUTED

3.789 Hoes 3,273 Spades

8,965 Water/jerrycans

1,817 Spray pumps

#### 1.908 Plastic tanks 8.121 Wheelbarrows.

trowels, other tools

#### 1.869 **TOTAL AGRICULTURE**

**PEOPLE ENROLLED** TRAINING SESSIONS INTO COMMUNITY CONDUCTED **AGRICULTURE TEAMS** (CATs) 505 Agricultural

preparation and pre-planting

applying organic

469 Post-harvest

148 Perennial farming

242 Refresher training

management

95%

**OF PARTNER** 

ATTENDED

HOUSEHOLDS

AGRICULTURE **TRAINING SESSIONS** 

fertilizers and

pesticides

TRAINING SESSIONS 505 Preparing and **CONDUCTED FOR CATs** 

585

3.406

#### 592

LIVESTOCK **MANAGEMENT + CARE** TRAINING SESSIONS CONDUCTED

#### 1.318

**PEOPLE ENROLLED INTO** VILLAGE LIVESTOCK TEAMS (VLTs)

#### 345

**TRAINING SESSIONS CONDUCTED FOR VLTs** 

#### **AGRICULTURE TRAINING SESSIONS**

Partner communities in each village participate in a comprehensive training program in the first six months of program inception.



#### **COMMUNITY AGRICULTURE TEAMS (CATs)**

CATs are volunteer community teams that serve as the first line of support for their village for agriculture initiatives.



#### LIVESTOCK TRAINING

All community members participate in Livestock Management and Care training sessions conducted in each village. Village Livestock Teams (VLTs) are mobilized and trained as volunteer community teams to promote the adoption of best practices across their communities.



#### **IMPACT** 2023 GRADUATING COHORT

184%

**INCREASE IN ANNUAL** AGRICULTURE VALUE From \$203 at baseline to \$578 at graduation

#### 76% **INCREASE IN**

SEASONAL CROP YIELD Per unit planted

### 39% **INCREASE IN** PERENNIAL CROP YIELD

Average yield improvement for highest participating perennial crops - plantain and coffee

### 88%

**HOUSEHOLDS REPORT** INCREASED AGRICULTURAL KNOWLEDGE On improved farming practices

#### 82% HOUSEHOLDS REPORT INCREASED LIVESTOCK KNOWLEDGE On improved care and management practices

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Often considered unbankable due to a lack of assets and credit history, last-mile communities face immense difficulties accessing affordable credit for agriculture, small business, and family needs. As a result, they remain stuck in a cycle of ultra-poverty perpetuated by low income and savings.

RTV partner communities address this by coming together and forming Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) that are structured to provide equitable representation to women and youth. Through these informal cooperatives, the members pool savings, access peer-reviewed loans, and collectively invest in agriculture, livestock, and various our group enterprises and development initiatives. VSLAs have been instrumental in providing much-needed affordable credit to invest in agriculture and small businesses, helping families build economic resilience and diversify household incomes in RTV partner communities.

#### OUTPUTS 2023 COHORT

1,812 TOTAL VSLAS LAUNCHED

589 women-only vslas

587 Youth-only Vslas 60% OF PARTNER HOUSEHOLDS PARTICIPATE IN VSLAS

1,161 VSLAs KITS DISTRIBUTED

Each kit includes a lockbox, an accounting book, stamp, stamp pad and ink

#### COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

50% Livestock-based initiatives

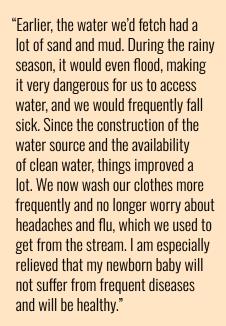
**44%** Agriculture-based initiatives

**4%** Business-based initiatives

**2%** Home improvementbased and other initiatives



**IMPACT** 2023 GRADUATING COHORT



**PATIENCE** Partner Community Member

Access to services and resources that promote physical and social well-being plays a crucial role in addressing barriers that prevent last-mile communities from participating in income-generating activities.

Access to clean water and health services, good hygiene and sanitation practices, and food security improve overall health, reduce medical expenditure, and result in an improved quality of life for families. At the same time, community engagement and discussions that promote the representation of women and youth in leadership roles, financial literacy, shared family-level decisionmaking, and gender equality pave the way for more sustainable and equitable development.

RTV programs improve physical and social well-being through various initiatives centered around community needs and barriers. Compound and vegetable gardens ensure food security and good nutrition, while Health Outreaches (HORs) provide essential health check-ups and referral services. Training sessions on gender equality, social inclusion, WASH, and financial literacy promote long-term behavior change for equitable and holistic development.

#### OUTPUTS 2023 COHORT

#### **FOOD SECURITY**

18 VARIETIES OF VEGETABLE SEEDS PROVIDED

3,278,278 SEEDLINGS DISTRIBUTED

#### WASH

213 water wells constructed

129 Springs rehabilitated

101 Rainwater harvest tanks

566 wash training sessions

52,061 TIPPY TAPS INSTALLED BY PARTNER HOUSEHOLDS

59,788 LATRINES BUILT BY PARTNER HOUSEHOLDS

57,994 DISHWASHING RACKS BUILT BY PARTNER HOUSEHOLDS









#### HEALTHCARE

1,463 HEALTH CLINIC DAYS

126,548 Health treatments and referrals

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

2,100 Healthy household training (hht) sessions conducted

505 Mindset and behavioral change

505 VSLA formation and operation

505 Financial literacy

505 Gender equality and social inclusion

80 Refresher training sessions

54%

OF LEADERSHIP POSITIONS HELD BY ADULT AND YOUNG WOMEN

#### 65%

**REPRESENTATION OF** WOMEN AND YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE TRAINING SESSIONS



IMPACT 2023 GRADUATING COHORT

#### FOOD SECURITY

90% HOUSEHOLDS CONSUMING VEGETABLES FROM

THEIR OWN GARDEN

An increase from 8%

at baseline

42% DECREASE IN SPENDING ON VEGETABLES BY PARTNER HOUSEHOLDS



#### WASH + HEALTH CARE

84% HOUSEHOLDS WITH ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER SOURCES 23% REDUCTION IN WATERBORNE

### 44%

COMMUNITY-LEVEL REDUCTION IN WATERBORNE ILLNESSES WATERBORNE ILLNESSES FOR CHILDREN

S3.40 REDUCTION IN

SPENDING ON MEDICAL CARE In monthly medical expenses compared to peers



#### **SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

#### 2770/0 INCREASE IN COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP POSITIONS HELD BY WOMEN

74% INCREASE IN CAPACITY FOR ECONOMIC DECISION-MAKING BY WOMEN

80%

INCREASE IN CAPACITY FOR ECONOMIC DECISION-MAKING BY YOUTH

**198%** INCREASE IN HOUSEHOLD INCOME + PRODUCTION FOR WOMEN-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS From baseline

147% INCREASE IN HOUSEHOLD INCOME + PRODUCTION FOR YOUTH-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS From baseline

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

We remain committed to sustainably addressing ultra-poverty in last-mile, subsistence farming communities. Driven by a data-informed and government-integrated approach, our major strategic priorities are improving program efficiency, investing in and building organizational capacity, and scaling up our programs in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. Additionally, by piloting innovative systems and technologies and integrating them into core program delivery, we will continue to focus on optimizing resource allocation and maximizing impact.



#### SCALE

**Expand** the direct service program by continuously advancing and integrating Venn, our advanced data analytics ecosystem, into the program framework.

**Advance** partnerships for expansion in Sub-Saharan Africa.



#### INNOVATE

**Continue piloting and integrating innovative strategies** into the core program to improve program delivery at scale.

Advance Project Venn, our custom data analytics platform, to improve efficiency, optimize resources, and ensure sustainable impact.



#### BUILD

**Focus on transforming systems and operations** to support growth and scalability through improved resource allocation and program delivery efficiency.

**Invest in and scale** organizational capacity and knowledge for consistent program delivery.



### A THRIVING COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE

"We knew coffee had good potential, but weren't sure how to set up an enterprise and lacked capital," says Deborah from Nyamirambi village in Kanungu, "But our path to creating the Bakdet General Enterprise became easier when we partnered with RTV."

Nestled in the heart of Kanungu, Nyamirambi has been home to coffee farmers like Deborah, who would sell their harvest as raw or dry berries. With growing tourism in the surrounding national parks and demand for coffee in the cities, the community realized that selling their harvest as processed coffee presented an excellent opportunity to improve their incomes. However, doing so individually required substantial capital and resources.

In 2021, the community from Nyamirambi and surrounding villages partnered with RTV to improve agricultural yields and income. Deborah and other community members participated in training sessions on modern farming practices, financial literacy, forming savings groups and enterprises, and various other topics focused on improving incomes and addressing barriers to development. Armed with knowledge and the support structures created as part of the program, the community decided to pool resources and invest in processing and selling coffee. As a result, Deborah and 12 other members came together to form the BanyaKyeshero Development Trust, or Bakdet general enterprise – a group initiative that processes and sells coffee its members produce.



"The knowledge of the importance of organic fertilizers and manure and how to make it ourselves helped us transform our farming. We increased the yield for both our farms and coffee plantations", says Deborah.

The increased agricultural income from good quality maize, beans, groundnuts, and Irish potato seeds and modern farming techniques helped fuel the coffee processing enterprise. Good post-harvest practices, such as drying coffee beans on tarpaulin sheets, also helped improve self-life and reduce wastage.

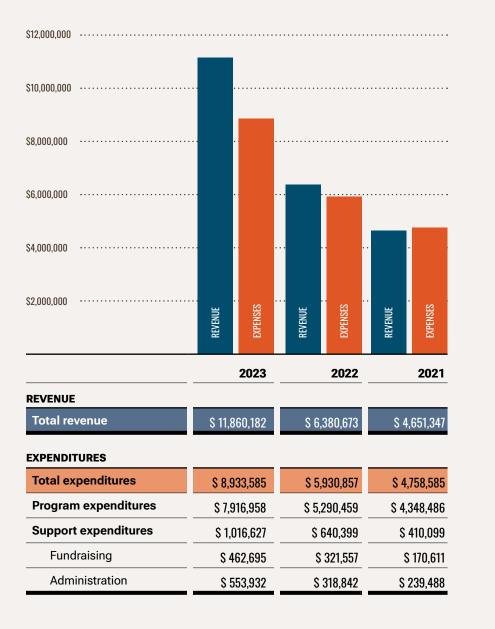
Each group member of the Bakdet enterprise pooled part of their increased income, and a small workshop was set up to grind dried coffee beans and store them. Additional capital through RTV's VSLAs helped provide the final impetus. "The financial support from RTV helped us buy packaging material and give Bakdet its final shape," says Deborah. The group soon established a small supply chain to sell their branded and packaged coffee. Apart from selling to local residents, a major part of their production is supplied to the Bwindi National Park administration, which sells it to visiting tourists and transports it to local dealers and sellers in Kampala.

"In a good week, our enterprise earns UGX 250,000 to UGX 300,000 by selling our coffee", says Deborah. The group reinvests part of its profit in the business and its VSLA to increase production and buy equipment. While inspiring, Deborah feels Bakdet Enterprise's journey is far from its peak. "We want to transition from manual production to advanced machines, increase production, and sell to a broader market," she shares about their future plans.

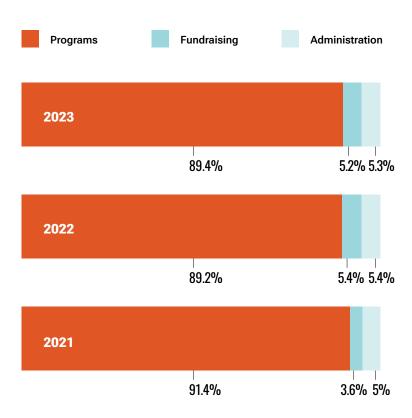




## FINANCIAL SUMMARY (USD)







## **OUR PARTNERS**

Raising The Village is grateful for the support of our partners in 2023.

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This donor list reflects donations received from January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023.

Raising The Village makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of our donor list. For any inquiries, please email **ask@raisingthevillage.org**