



TAKING STOCK OF OUR IMPACT IN A GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM UNDER STRAIN

2025 International Impact Report



CLIMATE-SMART
AGRICULTURE



LIVELIHOODS



NUTRITION &
EDUCATION



GENDER
EQUALITY



COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT &
ADVOCACY

Confronting intersecting crises in a global development system under strain

Your support has made a difference when and where it matters most

The global food security crisis remains one of the defining challenges of our time, unfolding within a development system under unprecedented strain. In 2025, the communities Kinvia works alongside — and that generous donors like you support — confronted an intensifying convergence of conflict, climate shocks, economic volatility, and persistently high inflation.

While inflation eased in some countries, the cost of living, and the cost of food in particular, remained out of reach for millions. The impacts fell most heavily on women, children, small-scale food producers, and people living in rural and climate-exposed regions, including communities across Ethiopia, Ghana, Uganda, and Bolivia.

Globally, between 638 and 720 million people (7.8% to 8.8% of the global population) faced hunger in 2024, with Africa accounting for a growing share of this burden. Although food affordability has improved slightly at the global level since 2019, it has continued to deteriorate in low- and lower-middle-income countries, reinforcing existing inequalities. In the regions where Kinvia operates, families continue to make impossible trade-offs between food, education, health care, and basic needs.

Falling short of the 2030 SDG commitments

With just five years remaining until 2030, the world is far off track to meet its commitments to end hunger and poverty. Only one-third of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets are progressing as planned, while nearly half are advancing too slowly and almost one in five are moving backwards.

The pace of change remains insufficient to meet our 2030 commitments. One in 12 people still experience hunger, and billions lack access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene. Persistent inequalities continue to limit human potential [and] ... climate change continues to accelerate, with temperatures breaking records year after year.

LI JUNHUA, UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, UNITED
NATIONS, IN THE INTRODUCTION TO [*THE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS REPORT 2025*](#)

Food insecurity sits at the centre of this stalled progress. Years of high food price inflation have left lasting damage to household purchasing power, agricultural markets, and local food systems. Rural communities are disproportionately affected due to their exposure to climate shocks, limited infrastructure, and weaker access to services and markets.

Kinvia sees these dynamics play out clearly in the places where we work — from increasingly volatile growing seasons in northern Ghana, to climate-stressed regions of Ethiopia and Uganda, to deepening water scarcity in Bolivia. Even as food price inflation returned closer to pre-pandemic levels by 2024, these trends in combination with stubbornly elevated prices placed nutritious diets out of reach for millions.

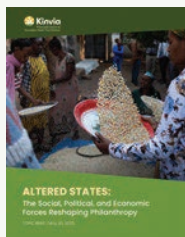
An altered global development landscape

These challenges intensified within a global development system that was fundamentally reshaped in 2025. Early in the year, the United States withdrew from most of its foreign aid commitments, dismantling the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and removing tens of billions of dollars from the global development and humanitarian system almost overnight.

The impacts were immediate and severe, destabilizing programs across food security, nutrition, agriculture, health, education, and climate resilience — particularly in countries already facing acute poverty and climate vulnerability. For many communities, this abrupt withdrawal of support widened gaps just as needs were rising.

At the same time, we have seen a retreat from equity-focused, climate-responsive, and rights-based development approaches among some in the Global North.

Revised estimates show that extreme poverty is declining more slowly than previously projected, with setbacks concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa and conflict-affected regions. Without accelerated action, nearly nine percent of the global population could still be living in extreme poverty by the end of the decade.



Read more in Kinvia's May 2025 topic brief, **Altered States: The Social, Political, and Economic Forces Reshaping Philanthropy**, which looks at how compounding

crises, including the ending of USAID, are destabilizing critical systems of support for millions of people around the world.



Many areas of Ethiopia are facing extreme water scarcity.

Climate change and water insecurity

Climate change continues to amplify these pressures. Over the past two decades, climate-related disasters have nearly doubled, with impacts falling disproportionately on countries and communities that have contributed least to global greenhouse gas emissions.

Small-scale producers — who feed a significant share of the world's population — are facing mounting risks as climate variability shortens growing seasons, increases crop failure, and erodes income stability. The World Meteorological Organization described 2024 as “a year of extremes,” and, again in 2025, extreme heat, droughts, floods, and wildfires disrupted food production and livelihoods across multiple regions.

Water insecurity has emerged as a defining constraint. In January 2026, the United Nations reported that much of the world is now in “water bankruptcy,” with nearly half the global population experiencing severe water scarcity for at least one month each year.

Kinvia sees this acutely in the communities we support — from rain-fed farming systems in

northern Ghana increasingly affected by erratic rainfall, drought, and flooding, to chronic water scarcity in Bolivia that is reshaping what and how families can grow. These conditions directly undermine food security, nutrition, and income, particularly for women and small-scale producers.

Children, youth, and gendered impacts

Children and youth are among those most affected by these intersecting crises. Hunger, poverty, and climate shocks undermine health, learning, and future economic opportunity, with impacts that extend across generations. Persistent food insecurity in childhood weakens the foundations for education, livelihoods, and resilience, reinforcing cycles of disadvantage that are difficult to reverse.

Gender inequality cuts across all of these trends. Women and girls continue to face systemic barriers to education, land, credit, decent work, and decision-making power. In 2024, the global gender gap in moderate or severe food insecurity widened again, reflecting women's disproportionate exposure to poverty, unpaid care work, and climate-related shocks. Conflict and displacement further compound these risks.

Gender parity is still the exception, not the norm. Reaching gender equality is possible, but it demands intersectional, integrated, comprehensive and gender-responsive policy packages that strengthen legal frameworks; dismantle deeply rooted economic and structural barriers, including discriminatory social norms; and scale up investments in all areas.

UN WOMEN, *THE GENDER SNAPSHOT 2025*

Investing in community-led resilience

Taken together, these intersecting crises reveal a growing divide between communities with the resources to adapt and those being left further behind — at a moment when the global development system's capacity to respond is under greater strain than at any point in recent history.

In this altered landscape, addressing hunger and poverty requires more than short-term relief. It demands sustained, strategic investment in community-led solutions that strengthen food systems, livelihoods, and local resilience.

This is where Kinvia's supporters made a critical difference in 2025. Your support enabled community-led programs that worked to:

- Strengthen climate-adaptive and gender-responsive agriculture for small-scale producers
- Diversify livelihoods, with a focus on women and youth
- Improve children's access to nutritious food and quality education

By strengthening local food systems, supporting women's leadership, and investing in sustainable livelihoods, your contributions helped communities withstand compounding shocks while continuing to move toward long-term, self-determined development — even in a profoundly changed global context.

Thank you for making this work possible.

2025 HIGHLIGHTS



4,680,167 meals and snacks were provided to **14,063 children** in ECCEs, schools, and after-school centres



1,302 people (834 adults and 468 students) received **training on nutrition, food use, or cooking**



7,686 students and more than 530 families were supported by **388 community, home, &/or school gardens**



3,062 people (55% women) received **agricultural training** and **797 people** (73% women) received **agricultural inputs** (seeds, tools, plants, etc.)



Over **1,000 households** received **livestock &/or animal husbandry/vet support**



1,161 people (86% women) received **business training**, and **885 business ventures** (810 new) now support **1,772 people** (65% women)



2,742 people (74% women) are involved in **165 VSLAs**



2,187 students provided with **school supplies &/or school uniforms**



11,660 students participated in **after-school clubs &/or gender equality awareness events**



3,852 people participated in **SRHR clubs/groups &/or trained on SRHR/SGBV**



2,184 community members participated in **gender equality training &/or SGBV awareness events**



2,514 people now participate in **121 REFLECT circles** (Ethiopia)



BOLIVIA

Economic and political upheaval deepen inequality

Bolivia faced deepening economic and social instability in 2025, marked by fuel shortages, political uncertainty, and escalating climate impacts. Severe and prolonged water scarcity emerged as one of the country's most urgent challenges, directly undermining food production, livelihoods, and access to basic services — particularly in rural and peri-urban areas.

While national hunger indicators place Bolivia in the moderate category, these averages obscure regional disparities. Rural and Indigenous communities experience significantly higher rates of food insecurity and malnutrition, with children and women disproportionately affected. Limited access to nutritious food continues to constrain health, learning, and long-term economic opportunity.

Economic pressures have also reshaped livelihoods. Heavy reliance on informal employment has driven ongoing migration from rural areas to urban centres, increasing vulnerability to exploitation and gender-based violence. Women and girls face compounded risks, including barriers to income generation, social services, and justice.

In this context, donor support for Kinvia's work in Bolivia was especially critical in 2025. By strengthening local food security, supporting women's livelihoods and child and youth wellbeing, and advancing climate-resilient food production in water-stressed environments, Kinvia and its partners helped build resilience and community-led pathways to stability and income security.



212,013 meals and snacks were provided to **789 children** in ECCEs, schools, and after-school centres



245 parents/caregivers and **468 students** were trained on **nutrition, food use, or cooking**



390 students and **203 families** are supported by **174 community, home, and school gardens**



304 people (75% women) received **agricultural training** and **181 people** (97% women) received **agricultural inputs**



158 people (77% women) participated in **business training**, and **38 business ventures** (95% women-led) were supported



760 students participated in **after-school clubs/programs**



1,072 people participated in **SRHR/SGBV training**



222 students and **106 community members** participated in **gender equality training &/or awareness events**

Kinvia & our local partners in Bolivia

Kinvia's Bolivia Country Office partners with two local Bolivian organizations that work with Indigenous families living in peri-urban and rural regions outside of La Paz and Sucre who are facing food insecurity, economic exclusion, climate, and social challenges.

Their focus is on reducing systemic barriers to food and economic security by raising awareness and strengthening the capacity of women and youth. New food production, food systems transformation, and youth and women's

livelihoods initiatives are improving household income, building food systems resiliency, and helping to conserve biodiversity.

Youth are also supported with leadership, soft skills, and entrepreneurship initiatives. Nutrition education remains an important focus in early childhood development centres and after-school programs. Violence prevention, gender equality, and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) training for youth and adults continue to be cross-cutting themes.

Making an Impact in 2025

Reclaiming traditional food knowledge to strengthen family nutrition

In peri-urban communities outside La Paz, urbanization and economic pressure are reshaping how families eat. Migration from rural areas has often meant a shift away from traditional foods toward inexpensive, processed products, weakening dietary diversity and contributing to rising childhood health concerns.

The Mamani Mancilla family experienced this shift after moving from Sapahaqui to La Paz. Foods once grown and prepared at home were gradually replaced with packaged snacks and convenience items. Like many families navigating new livelihoods in a busy urban centre, these changes became normalized — until dental problems and weight gain emerged for their young daughter.



A shift to packaged snacks and convenience foods contributed to dental issues for Mayumi Mamani Mancilla's 7-year-old daughter. (Bolivia)

Through nutrition and food security training at the Alpacoma Centre supported by Kinvia's local partner, SCSJ, the family began reassessing their daily practices. Workshops on healthy cooking and household food security helped reconnect dietary choices to long-term wellbeing.

Grandmother Arminda shifted her small shop away from highly processed products and began stocking fruits and vegetables. Mother Mayumi replaced daily snack money with home-prepared foods.

Together, they established a home garden, growing fresh produce without chemical inputs.

Beyond improved nutrition, the process restored intergenerational knowledge and connection to their traditional Indigenous practices. The family now shares what they have learned with neighbours, demonstrating that even in dense urban settings, households can strengthen food sovereignty, reduce reliance on costly processed foods, and work together to make healthy changes.

From nutrition training to income generation and financial independence

In Bolivia, nutrition education and financial literacy training are working together to strengthen household health while expanding economic options. Through skills-based training, hundreds of women are learning how transform their everyday practices into livelihood opportunities, reinforcing the close connection between economic empowerment and food security.

Sheyla Villanueva's experience reflects this approach. Through mindful cooking workshops and food security training, she developed new skills in preparing balanced, affordable meals. As these practices became routine, she saw improvements in both family nutrition and cohesion.

Financial literacy sessions provided tools for budgeting, expense tracking, goal-setting, and saving. With this foundation, Sheyla began preparing and selling the healthy recipes she had learned to other parents at community meetings and events. The additional income reduced financial stress and, by saving diligently, she was able to purchase a new blender — a small but important investment that strengthened her enterprise.



Mindful cooking workshops combined with financial literacy and business skills training enables Bolivian women like Sheyla Villanueva to generate income and improve family food and economic security.

Women producers strengthen food security amid economic instability

A group of 10 women in La Barranca who sell their harvests each weekend at local markets benefitted from favourable rains this year and were able to earn modest but reliable income from what they produced in their home gardens.



They've been able to diversify their families' diets, purchase foods such as dairy and meat, and reduce reliance on a narrow range of staples. In a volatile economic environment where prices have not kept pace with inflation this stability strengthens household food security. These outcomes reflect sustained investment in food and livelihoods programming that supports the full production and marketing cycle — from cultivation practices to business skills training to local market access.

Interest in the organic production methods that the women have adopted, thanks to local partner IPTK's agricultural training, is growing within the community, laying the groundwork for more resilient, locally rooted food systems that prioritize sustainability and women's economic participation.

Indigenous youth in Bolivia gain opportunities with academic and leadership support

Leonardo, 16, attended IPTK's La Barranca CERPITO — a community educational resource centre — for more than four years. He comes from a Quechua-speaking family where his parents have limited formal education and none of his five older siblings has completed secondary school. As a result, his own early years in secondary school were challenging for him as he had little academic support at home, no suitable place to do his homework, and lacked confidence and self-esteem.

Through IPTK's after-school programming, Leonardo received academic support, mentorship, and a well-resourced and safe space to study. His grades improved significantly, and he became one of the strongest students in his class. The leadership development, sexual and

reproductive health and rights education, and arts workshops he participated in boosted his confidence and communication skills such that the once shy Leonardo emerged as a leader among his peers.

He became the first in his family to advance successfully through secondary school. Before moving to a new community to pursue work and study, Leonardo supported his parents with household tasks and contributed to his father's bricklaying work. The support provided by the CERPITO gave him a solid foundation on which to build a successful future life — demonstrating how integrated academic, personal development, and life skills programming can expand opportunity for Indigenous youth and, at the same time, strengthen their families and communities.

A Small Garden Fair is Growing Big Dreams in Bolivia

In a quiet neighbourhood in Alpacoma, just southwest of La Paz, Bolivia, something remarkable is taking root. What began as a modest idea — families sharing the extra produce from their home gardens — has grown into a vibrant, community-led initiative called *My Little Entrepreneur Fair*. Launched with the support of Kinvia's donors and local partner, SCSJ, this family-driven market is cultivating more than just vegetables: it's nurturing skills, confidence, and a deeper sense of community.

"The mini fair started because families [were producing] surplus vegetables like lettuce and chard," explained Freddy, an agronomist and family food security coordinator at the Alpacoma community centre. While families were minimizing food waste by trading with each other, the opportunity to scale it up and reach a broader market took hold.



Eva (on right) is one of the women in Alpacoma, Bolivia who sells her produce at *My Little Entrepreneur Fair*.

With Freddy's guidance, 15 families now take part in the fair held in the Alpacoma neighbourhood. The stalls brim with fresh produce — leafy greens like lettuce and chard, vibrant tomatoes and beets, and fragrant herbs like parsley and cilantro. But the real beauty lies in what happens in the homes and gardens where families prepare food together, teach their children healthy eating, and learn new techniques to grow fruits and vegetables like precision irrigation and building small greenhouses near their homes.

Eva, a mother of three, says the opportunity to make additional income was a motivator, but the rewards went deeper: *"My children helped me dig, plant and water the plants, and take them out to sell."* She is hoping to have a bigger garden someday so she can grow even more produce.

Her son Jimmy, 9, is now an enthusiastic helper in the garden and at the fair. *"Sometimes I go with my mom to the garden and I help her pull out the chard and lettuce,"* he said. He likes eating the produce best, but, like his mother, he appreciates the family time that working in the garden gives them. *"It's nice to work with my family, it's nice to harvest lettuce and we are united as always,"* he says.

As families learn to grow food not just for their own consumption but also for sale, they're acquiring key business skills like budgeting, marketing, and customer service. While they don't yet have a permanent space to market their products, *My Little Entrepreneur Fair* has ignited aspirations.

Freddy says families are hearing about it and are interested in getting involved. He thinks it's just a matter of time before they have a more permanent space *"where families can sell their products on a larger scale,"* growing — and earning — more.



ETHIOPIA

Conflict, climate shocks, and economic strain

Ethiopia continues to face overlapping humanitarian challenges and its security situation remains unstable. Conflict, climate shocks, and disease outbreaks have led to widespread displacement, food insecurity, and the disruption of essential services across multiple regions, including many where Kinvia operates. Many communities lack reliable access to safe water, healthcare, shelter, and education.

Children and youth are especially affected, with school closures, displacement, and malnutrition undermining long-term human development. Women face additional structural barriers, including limited access to land, credit, and decision-making power, alongside heightened risks of gender-based violence.

Recurrent droughts, floods, and rising temperatures have eroded agricultural productivity and livelihoods, placing small-scale producers under mounting strain. Poverty remains widespread, encompassing deprivations in nutrition, health, education, and access to services. Currency depreciation and rising transportation costs have sharply increased the cost of living for low- and middle-income households.

Against this backdrop, your commitment to Kinvia's community-led approach has been vital. By supporting food security, livelihoods, and women's agency — even as conditions remained volatile — Kinvia and its partners have helped communities stabilize and invest in community-led solutions that strengthen resilience and increase independence and self-owned, sustainable solutions.



858 people (36% women) received **agricultural training** and **100 people** (51% women) received **agricultural inputs**



815 households received **poultry, livestock &/or animal husbandry/ vet support**



276 parents/caregivers received **nutrition training**



1,428 people (64% women) are supported by **591 business ventures** and **712 people** (95% women) received **business training**



121 REFLECT circles (39 new) are running with **2,514 participants** (56% women)



6,670 students participated in **after-school clubs &/or gender equality awareness events**



2,078 community members participated in **gender equality training &/or HTP awareness events**

Kinvia & our local partners in Ethiopia

Kinvia works with three local partners who continue to focus on smallholders, women, youth, and children in the Amhara, Oromia, Southern Ethiopia, and Sidama Regions.

REFLECT circles have led to significant, community-led development initiatives that prioritize food security, livelihoods, and community agency. Work continues to support additional community-based business incubations, climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts, and more equitable roles for women to strengthen their decision-making

power and ensure fairer distribution of benefits at household and community levels.

The Ethiopia program has shifted its work in response to local conditions, including engaging in the more stable Sidama area in 2025 and initiating work in Kindo Didaye, where work to counter the high rate of out-migration of children under the age of 18 is a priority. In Daramalo and Bora, Kinvia continues to support community-driven initiatives and REFLECT circles, with the goal to support their transition to sustainable self-governance.

Making an Impact in 2025

Girls' clubs offer safe spaces to learn and get support

A school's girls club offers one-on-one counselling to students on sexual and reproductive health and rights, and is also making and selling ice cream earning enough revenue to self-fund sanitary pads for distribution to all students who need them. Danse, a student who receives supplementary support for scholastic materials and has received two chickens so her family can earn income from selling eggs, says: *"We have a discussion session among the club members twice a month which helped me to ... understand and protect myself from different harmful practices."*



Girls clubs throughout Ethiopia are important ways for girls to gain confidence, information, and support.

Livestock enterprises increase household food security

Today, nine groups — comprising 270 women and 27 men — are engaged in small ruminant rearing and fattening in Daramalo. Collectively, these groups now manage more than five million ETB (~\$50,000 CAD) in capital — a powerful indicator of financial growth and sustainability.

For families, livestock advances food security in different ways. First, income from the sale of livestock and livestock products supports food purchases. Second, animal manure is a low-cost, organic method of improving soil quality and, therefore, crop yields. And third, diversifying household income reduces vulnerability to crop failure. Children and families benefit directly from more stable meal provision and improved dietary diversity, and women report increased decision-making power within households.



Women in Ethiopia like Fatima Sani, pictured here, have established livestock-based businesses and learned how to grow them into sustainable revenue sources.

Women's REFLECT circles uncover opportunities for income and independence

Women who have taken part in basic business skills training and received business incubation support or start-up funding report extraordinary success at using their new skills and initial investments to establish and grow their businesses. In addition to increasing their income and savings, participants report they have a

newfound understanding of the importance of savings and knowledge of how to use their profits and savings to reinvest in their businesses. Women report that not only have they increased their income, but they have also gained respect among their group and the broader community as entrepreneurs and asset owners.



Women of the LENCA (which means 'lion') REFLECT circle meet in Daramalo, Ethiopia.

Group member Jemanesh Hailu is one of more than 500 women across Ethiopia who have been supported by Kinvia to establish her own business. *"I started retailing onion and tomato by borrowing five thousand birr from the group. I trained how to treat my customers, identify which product is needed in market, and where to sell. I used half of the profit to cover my family needs and the remaining half reinvested to improve my business."* Jamanesh says she now makes joint decisions with her husband on business and household issues, and their relationship — and her status in the community — has improved.

REFLECT circles mobilize community-wide change

More than 120 REFLECT circles, operating throughout Ethiopia, have mobilized community support for children's education, new agriculture practices, and infrastructure improvements that have benefitted their communities. As just one example, the Hecho REFLECT circle, with 23 members, has built a latrine in the school, encouraged farmers to engage in sweet potato

cultivation as a cash crop that overcomes the challenges of drought and low seed availability, and worked with their kebele's administration and local farmers to secure land and mobilize the labour required to re-route the community's single road, which had been destroyed by flooding and erosion.

REFLECT circles are a venue for discussions about gender equality

Men's REFLECT circles also discuss domestic issues that have traditionally been seen as exclusively the domain of women. The 27-member men's REFLECT circle in Elto, for example, has held many discussions on topics such as family relationships, caring for children, and participating in their wives' income generation activities. Men's

willingness to engage in these conversations signals an important shift in traditional gender dynamics and is breaking down barriers and stigma that not only cause direct harm to women and girls but that also hamper social and economic development for communities as a whole.



Men's REFLECT groups like this one in Daramalo, Ethiopia, play a key role in shifting gender dynamics and supporting women's economic empowerment.

Youth-led REFLECT groups provide employment, training, and purpose for young people

In southern Ethiopia, a youth-led REFLECT group has established a poultry farm that has steadily grown and is now providing permanent employment for five youth in the community. The group has worked with local officials to secure land and build and improve their poultry farming facilities. Originally housing 1,300 dayold chickens and earning ETB 50,000 in the first year, the facilities currently house 2,000 dayold chickens (with a total capacity of 7,000) and are earning an average income of ETB 50,000 to 60,000 every 45 days. The enterprise has increased participants' individual income two-fold and is having a broader positive effect on the surrounding community. The poultry produced by the group has been distributed to 17 kebeles of the district, with the result that more than 100,000 community members have now benefitted from this single poultry production enterprise — led and now self-governed by the youth themselves.



A youth-led REFLECT circle has spurred hundreds of home-based poultry businesses across 17 kebeles in Ethiopia.

Community engagement and cost-sharing builds educational infrastructure



Communities are initiating school infrastructure projects, like this new classroom block in Wonchi District, Ethiopia.

Improved school facilities with well-equipped, indoor classrooms, latrines, and deeper engagement among parents are making it possible for students aged four to six to take part in early childhood education — a critical foundation for learning and development. Teachers report that students have increased motivation to attend class and teachers are able to deliver a higher quality educational experience.

One ECCE, established at Tokkuma Kurfo primary school, has now built four new classrooms, a napping room, and a school management office. Community members, inspired by the improvements, raised money to establish a residence for teachers to minimize the long distances teachers had to commute. Organizers note that absenteeism and drop-out has been significantly reduced in the three target schools.

In another area, community members donated building supplies and labour to construct six new classrooms for the primary school and a separate latrine to address the high drop-out rate among menstruation-age girls. Despite several setbacks and obstacles, the community mobilized to secure support and matching funding from local governments and were able to execute their own,

self-defined plan to address critical health and safety deficits in the existing school facilities.

These examples demonstrate a marked shift from top-down, conventional development to community-initiated and -led project management and sustainable self-governance.

Boosting yields and incomes with a collective approach to best-practice agronomy

REFLECT circles are platforms for collective action to address shared agricultural challenges across many regions. For example, since 2022, the 22 members of the Koket REFLECT circle have met to analyze the root causes of low productivity and identify practical solutions that can be implemented collectively.

Before joining the group, members worked individually with minimal access to agricultural extension services and limited technical knowledge. Since its establishment in 2022, the group has received training on best agronomic practices and ongoing technical support. Members are now using improved seed varieties, organic and inorganic fertilizers based on recommended rates, and practices such as row planting. They have also diversified into irrigated vegetable production using more efficient water management techniques.

During the 2025 season, the group harvested three tons of wheat per hectare (compared to their previous two tons per hectare when farming individually). They have definitively moved from fragmented, low-productivity

farming to a more organized, knowledge-driven, and diversified agricultural system — a shift that has improved food security, increased incomes, and strengthened the group's ability to sustainably manage their livelihoods. They attribute their success to the training and technical support they've received, combined with engaging in the group to share experiences and solve problems collectively.



By farming collectively, smallholders in Ethiopia are able to benefit from resources and new agricultural techniques to a greater extent than when farming on their own.

Women's REFLECT Circles are Shaping More Inclusive Communities



Stemming from their REFLECT circle discussions, women established the Daramalo (Ethiopia) weaving centre.

In many rural communities in Ethiopia, women's voices are often unheard in both household and public decision-making, and their economic contributions are under-recognized or excluded entirely. But through REFLECT circles — an innovative, participatory tool for community-led development — this dynamic is beginning to shift.

What are REFLECT circles?

REFLECT circles are supportive, generative spaces where people can come together to build solidarity, learn, share ideas, and spark real, lasting change. They have evolved into powerful platforms for grassroots action. REFLECT circles are where ideas are born, tested, refined, and ultimately translated into action — and where women, in particular, can develop the confidence and opportunity to lead.

There are now about 70 women-led REFLECT circles (out of a total of more than 120) across the Daramalo, Bora, and Wonchi districts in Ethiopia.

Learning by leading

Many women in REFLECT circles start with little to no formal education or business training. That's where Kinvia's local partner, Wontta Rural Development Association (WRDA), offers crucial resources for capacity strengthening and skills building.

With newly acquired financial, marketing, and business management skills, women are moving from informal income activities to more structured, strategic business operations. Training is complemented by ongoing technical support and mentorship from project staff and local facilitators, ensuring that women can grow and sustain their businesses.

The woman-owned weaving centre in the Menena Selo community in the Daramalo district is one example of an idea that was sparked in a REFLECT circle and grew into a thriving enterprise.



Women weavers demonstrating their craft (Daramalo, Ethiopia).

Reviving culture, revitalizing livelihoods

Menena Selo is renowned for its rich cultural heritage, particularly its traditional weaving skills. However, over time, this art form had nearly disappeared as younger generations shifted their focus away from ancestral crafts.

During REFLECT circles, the women of Menena Selo talked about the decline of the tradition and recognized the need to reclaim their weaving heritage.

Ayome, one of the participants, explained that most of the community were buying factory-made clothing which was expensive. *“We decided to regenerate our practice and indigenous skill for ourselves and for our children to maintain our culture and to make income in a better way,”* she said.

What began as a personal endeavour — weaving for their own households — soon revealed a greater opportunity. Realizing the high demand for authentic, handwoven products and the untapped market potential, they decided to turn their craft into a sustainable livelihood.

A major challenge they faced was that the traditional spinning and weaving process

was painstakingly slow, limiting their output. Determined to preserve their culture while adapting to modern needs, the women sought ways to innovate. With the support of Kinvia’s local partner, WRDA, they approached local government authorities, advocating for funds to establish a dedicated weaving centre. Their persistence paid off.

Fifty-eight women from two REFLECT circles now jointly own a weaving centre equipped with improved machinery. The new weaving centre has allowed the women to significantly improve their efficiency without sacrificing the authenticity of their craft. Their stories have been broadcast on local radio and television, elevating their profile and inspiring others.

Other REFLECT circles in Daramalo have helped women identify new agricultural options to earn a better income including small ruminant fattening, grain banking, and livestock trading.

Beyond income to influence

Perhaps the most profound impact of REFLECT circles is not economic but social. As women develop their skills and businesses, they also claim a greater voice in community and household decision-making. Where once they might have deferred to men, they now lead. And with each success, they are reinforcing their right to participate fully in public life and modelling the same to others.

REFLECT circles are more than a methodology — they are a route to equity and justice. They are giving women the tools, confidence, and collective power to step into leadership, shape their economies, and reshape their societies from the inside out.



GHANA

Climate stress and persistent inequality in the north

Ghana has made important development gains nationally, yet deep regional inequalities persist. In 2025, northern regions continued to lag behind national averages across poverty, food security, nutrition, and education indicators.

Food insecurity is rising, with women and female-headed households disproportionately affected. In northern Ghana, a single, increasingly unreliable rainy season, combined with land degradation, limited access to extension services, and low involvement of women in agriculture, has left smallholder farmers highly vulnerable. Climate shocks — including severe droughts followed by destructive flooding — have become more frequent, creating what the UN describes as “climate whiplash” and severely hampering agricultural investment and productivity.

Children face particularly severe consequences. Rates of stunting, underweight, and anemia remain alarmingly high in northern regions, far exceeding national averages. Education outcomes are also under strain, with inadequate infrastructure, overstretched teachers, and persistent barriers to learning.

In this challenging environment, your support of Kinvia’s work has played a crucial role in strengthening food systems, supporting livelihoods for women and youth, and promoting climate-adaptive agricultural production in combination with nutrition education. These investments have helped communities better withstand climate and economic shocks while addressing the structural drivers of hunger and inequality.



366 people (77% women) received **agricultural training**



325 people (69% women) received **agricultural inputs**



75 households received **animal husbandry/vet support**



36 *new* business ventures were established (58% led by women)



585 people (88% women) are involved in **23 VSLAs**



570 students participated in **after-school clubs/programs**

Kinvia & our local partners in Ghana

Kinvia's Ghana Country Office partners with the Regional Advisory Information and Network Systems (RAINS) to address severe climate impacts and poverty in Ghana's Northern and Savannah regions. Their ongoing focus is on

food and nutrition, education, livelihoods, and community-led development, prioritizing work in the areas of food systems, climate-smart agriculture, and women's and youth livelihoods.

Making an Impact in 2025

Better agronomic practices increase climate resilience and improve crop yields

Smallholders from four communities in Bidima, most women, attended held a farmer field school where Ministry of Food and Agriculture extension officers demonstrated how to use modern, climate-smart agronomic practices to maximize agricultural yields. Farmers received agricultural inputs such as ploughing services, seeds, fertilizers, and insecticides to cultivate an

acre of land each. They also received specialized planters that significantly reduce labour and planting time. Not only a labour-saving device, planters also ensure proper fertilizer application and the correct spacing for maize, groundnut, and beans. After putting them to use, attendees commented on how time-saving and easy the planters were compared to manual planting.

Goats and sheep make for good livelihoods

Animal husbandry practices were honed in the Kulinkpegu community where 45 farmers received two small ruminants (goats or sheep) each and learned proper methods for feeding and housing them to minimize the risk of disease, improve animal health, and grow their herds. For some farmers, it was their first experience owning animals and they were excited to get started on a new livelihood opportunity that holds the promise of increasing their income and enabling them to better meet their children's educational, food, and health care needs.



Small ruminants and support to raise them offer women and youth in Ghana a path out of subsistence farming.

Increasing parents' commitment to education

More than 300 people from three communities attended forums held jointly by Kinvia's local partner, RAINS, and the Ghana Education Service and Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice. Sessions directly addressed the widespread practice of allowing students to leave school to work on family farms, which was resulting in extremely high absenteeism and drop-out rates. Facilitators reinforced the importance of education and

encouraged parents and caregivers to work towards improving children's academic success. Afterwards, program representatives reported a substantial decrease in the number of students who are dropping out or not attending school. More rigorous school policies that require accountability for attendance by parents and students and the active involvement of the PTA to conduct attendance monitoring have also contributed to the reductions.

Supporting marginalized women

The Fulani are a pastoralist ethnic group in northern Ghana, many of whom migrated from neighbouring Burkina Faso and Nigeria and work as cattle herders. Because they do not hold ancestral land rights in the areas where they live and work, Fulani communities are frequently excluded from local decision-making, overlooked in the provision of services and social amenities, and left out of development initiatives, resulting in persistent poverty, food insecurity, malnutrition, and limited access to basic services.

As part of its commitment to inclusion and anti-oppressive practice, Kinvia and its local partner are working to change this dynamic by engaging community leaders and representatives in dialogue and negotiation to recognize Fulani

residents as full members of the community, with the right to participate in local decision-making, planning processes, and program activities.

In 2025, the local project steering committee successfully advocated with the chief and landholders to allocate two acres of land for soybean cultivation to two women from a Fulani settlement. These women, alongside 58 other farmers, participated in agronomic training and received ploughing services, seeds, and fertilizer, as well as ongoing field coaching from Ministry of Food and Agriculture extension agents.

Each woman harvested an average of 350 kg of soybeans. Both reported improved household nutrition and more reliable food access, with particular benefits for their children.

As one participant, Alhassan Sadia, explained: *"This is the first time I've owned a farm and the proceeds are good. I am determined to farm again next season, using the knowledge acquired through the climate-smart training and experience gained from the program extension services."*

Beyond production outcomes, the deliberate inclusion of Fulani women in community-led programming has contributed to greater recognition and dignity, improved relations with other community members, and led to primary school enrolment of 19 children from the Fulani settlement.



Women from the Fulani settlement in northern Ghana have received land and training to grow soybeans. They are now included in community development activities and their children are able to attend school.

New junior high makes secondary education more accessible

Without a junior high school in Bidima, students who completed primary school had to walk long distances to continue their education, which discouraged attendance and created barriers to learning. Many dropped out and were left at loose ends in their community without any options for study or other purposeful activity.

Recognizing the looming problem and urgency, the local project steering committee worked diligently to raise funds from the community and lobby the Ghana Education Directorate to build a junior high school. A suite of unused

buildings were renovated to serve as the junior high school, which alleviates the need for travel and has reversed the drop-out trend among students by providing them with educational opportunities in their own community.

Junior high school is a critical stage of learning as it prepares students for advanced education which improves their overall life outcomes. In this case, the junior high has become a hub for community engagement and growth, fostering social cohesion and strengthening the community as a whole.



These students in Bidima, Ghana, can look forward to attending junior high school within their own community.

Youth employment gets a boost

Roughly one-third of young people in Ghana are classified as NEET — not in employment, education, or training — a reality reflected in many of the communities Kinvia supports. Youth in this situation face heightened risks of social exclusion, long-term unemployment, poor mental health, and persistent economic insecurity. At the community level, high rates of

youth disengagement are associated with lower productivity, reduced local revenues, increased pressure on social services, and greater social instability.

Yakubu Abdulai, a 24-year-old from Kulinkpegu, was among those affected. In 2025, he joined an initiative that supported 130 youth with



Orange-fleshed sweet potato is being farmed throughout northern Ghana as it is drought-resilient and rich in Vitamin A. (Photo: Trax Ghana)

training and inputs to cultivate orange-fleshed sweet potato and cassava for both household consumption and income generation. Yakubu harvested 12 bags of sweet potato, retaining half for his family's food needs and selling the remainder. With the income earned, he purchased a goat and began saving through a Village Savings and Loan Association. He is now planning to double the size of his farm in the next season.

As Yakubu explained: *"I was idle not out of indolence but out of a lack of options for employment. Now, I see light and feel hope. I have a farm, and I am able to feed my children breakfast before they go to school. It gives me a sense of responsibility."*

Orange-fleshed sweet potato is well suited to the region, which has been severely impacted by climate change. The crop is resilient to drought, can be grown in depleted soils, and provides a reliable source of income. It also supplies essential nutrients that help address the high prevalence of Vitamin A deficiency in northern Ghana.

Cooking Classes Nourish Families and Communities in Northern Ghana



More than 250 caregivers attended a nutrition training session held by the Ghana Health Service.

In northern Ghana, food insecurity is driven by a complex mix of forces: escalating climate shocks that have sharply reduced crop yields, entrenched poverty, and record levels of inflation that have pushed both food prices and agricultural inputs out of reach for many families. These systemic pressures are largely beyond the control of individual households. What is within reach, however, is knowledge — particularly how to use locally available ingredients to improve the nutritional value of everyday meals.

Many smallholder families rely on a narrow range of staple foods, often struggling to produce enough food and enough dietary diversity to meet the nutritional needs of their children, especially those under five. The result is a persistent burden of undernutrition, seen in stunting, low weight, and diet-related illness.

Strengthening household nutrition

Kinvia and RAINS are working with communities to strengthen nutrition at the household level through

hands-on food demonstrations and practical nutrition education. The program focuses on making better use of locally available ingredients, traditional dishes, and simple preparation techniques that retain nutritional value.

More than 250 caregivers — mothers of children under five, school caterers, and community leaders from Bidima, Bachabordo, Kpachelo, and Kulinkpegu — recently took part in food demonstrations led by Rahina Adam, a registered nutritionist with the Ghana Health Service. The sessions focused on improving dietary diversity using foods that families already grow or can access locally.

“Before the activity, providing nutritious food to children, especially children under five, was a challenge,” Rahina explained. Nutrient deficits were visible: “Children were suffering from stunted growth and yellowing of their hair,” she said.

Rahina showed participants how to enrich everyday meals by adding soybean flour to

common dishes such as tuo zaafi (a porridge of maize and cassava), simbuli (a porridge made of millet), soups, and stews, challenging the widespread belief that soybeans are only for sale not consumption.

Participants also learned how to prepare nutrient-rich soups using indigenous leafy greens like ayoyo, bra, okra, aleefu, and bean leaves, and how to improve food safety, nutrient retention, and flavour without relying on stock cubes.

“The goal was to guide caregivers and school caterers on how to prepare nutritious meals for children and their households, and to encourage people to use what they already grow,” Rahina said. She added that local foods have more nutritional content than imported, canned foods – and they are generally more affordable, too.

New practices receive a ‘thumbs up’ from families

For Mansah, a farmer and mother of three, the training addressed challenges she and many others have been struggling with for years. *“The children were always getting sick and underweight,”* she said. Since participating, Mansah has changed how she cooks at home. She said her husband enjoys the meals, and she has expanded the number of dishes she makes for more dietary diversity and versatility. The new practices have even changed the family dynamic: *“The children assist me in the kitchen and we eat together as a family.”*

Felicia, also a farmer and mother of two, described seeing changes in her children after applying what she learned. *“I have noticed an improvement in my children’s skin colour and weight.”* Like Mansah, she is incorporating soybean flour into her family’s meals and is no longer relying on stock cubes.

The new approach is getting a big thumbs-up from participants’ children. George, a 10-year-old who attended the demonstration with his mother, said, *“Now our meals are very delicious.”* He says eating healthy is important *“so that I can live long!”*

Blessing, five years old, said her mother is now making yam porridge after the training, which she enjoys and believes will *“make us strong and healthy!”*



Rahina Adam, a registered nutritionist, shared new techniques to boost the nutritional value of various traditional recipes using local ingredients.

In the long-term, better health and community solidarity

These small, simple changes matter. Improved dietary diversity in early childhood is strongly linked to better health, learning outcomes, and long-term resilience. By focusing on practical skills and culturally familiar, easily available foods, the program is helping families improve family nutrition without increasing household costs.

The social nature of the training is also a key element of the program’s success. Getting together to attend the demonstrations and learn new ways to prepare food is a celebration. As participants share these practices with each other, their children, and their neighbours, nutrition education becomes more than a one-time training – it reinforces the solidarity that helps communities tackle the bigger challenges together.



UGANDA

Economic growth amid poverty and food insecurity

Uganda entered 2025 with signs of macroeconomic recovery, including steady growth and easing inflation. Yet these gains have not translated evenly across the population. Millions of Ugandans continue to live in poverty, and food insecurity remains a serious concern, particularly in rural, climate-stressed, and refugee-hosting regions.

Agriculture employs the majority of the population and remains highly vulnerable to climate change. Increasingly frequent droughts and floods have disrupted rain-fed farming systems, undermining household food security and incomes. While access to some basic services has improved, sanitation, health care, and nutrition outcomes remain uneven, especially for children.

Malnutrition continues to erode children's health, education, and future economic potential. At the same time, women and girls face persistent gender-based barriers, including limited access to productive resources, forced marriage, and exposure to sexual and gender-based violence — all of which constrain their ability to participate fully in economic and community life.

Your support for Kinvia's work in Uganda has been essential in bridging gaps. By integrating food security, women's economic empowerment, child nutrition, and protection, Kinvia and its partners have helped ensure that economic growth translates into tangible improvements in wellbeing for women, children, and vulnerable communities.



4,468,154 snacks and meals were provided to **13,274 children** in **ECCEs, schools** and **after-school centres**



313 parents/caregivers received **nutrition training**



3,735 students and **479 families** supported by **214 community, home, and school gardens**



1,524 people (59% women) received **agricultural training** and **191 people** (68% women) received **agricultural inputs**



10 households received **livestock** and **100 households** received **animal husbandry/vet support**



291 people (68% women) received **business training**, and **270 people** (64% women) benefitted from **220 business ventures** (180 new)



2,081 people (69% women) are involved in **139 VSLAs**

Kinvia & our local partners in Uganda

Kinvia works with three local partners to support women, youth, and children in northwestern, central, and eastern Uganda. In these areas, limited access to climate-resilient farming inputs, especially among women and youth, and endemic poverty leave people struggling to move beyond subsistence farming to earn an adequate income to support their families.

Local partners offer context-specific resources depending on the needs of people

and communities in their districts, including school food programs, psychosocial support and vocational training for children and youth, strengthening Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), supporting home, school, community, and urban gardening activities, and working with communities to implement business incubation and small business startups for sustainable income generation, targeted especially to women and youth.

Making an Impact in 2025

Women's livelihoods improve girls' education

Across many communities in Uganda, women's economic insecurity remains a major barrier to girls' education. Where household income is unstable, school fees, uniforms, and scholastic materials for girls are often the first expenses to be deferred. Deeply rooted norms — including expectations around early marriage and dowry — can further weaken families' ability or willingness to keep girls in school when resources are scarce.

Strengthening women's economic empowerment through livestock-based income generation, Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), and business start-up support give women more stable control over income and gives girls a better chance to complete their education.

Apoko, a mother and small-scale farmer, was able to cover a full year of school fees for her daughter, Eunice, after selling goats raised through a women's livelihoods initiative. *"I don't*

want my girl to be disturbed by teachers sending her back home for school fees," Apoko said. The income allowed her to pay fees in advance, reducing Eunice's repeated school absences and the embarrassment and disruption caused by being sent home because her school fees weren't paid or she lacked school supplies.

Harriet, a single mother of three, has used the savings and credit she's accessed through a Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) to expand her market stall, cover school-related costs consistently, and meet her family's health care and food needs without relying on emergency coping strategies. In many communities like hers, women do not have access to formal financial services and experience barriers to economic empowerment. VSLAs are changing that dynamic by enabling women to save, borrow, invest, and respond to shocks collectively.



Another strategy is to provide start-up funding and business inputs to women so they begin or expand businesses, as was the case for small-business owner Florence who was able to restock her retail shop, increase her productivity, and boost her daily income. Women's business incubation is allowing those involved in small-scale farming, retail trade, or professional services like hair styling and dressmaking to establish and scale up their businesses. The support includes training in basic business skills such as marketing, financial literacy and management. Not only does it increase family income — Florence is now able to pay school fees for all her children, something that was previously a major challenge — it shifts power within households and within communities, challenging norms that devalue girls' schooling when resources are low.

Sexual and reproductive health resources give girls dignity, independence, and empowerment

Across many communities in Uganda, girls face persistent barriers to education and wellbeing linked to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), limited access to accurate sexual and reproductive health information, and the inability to manage menstruation safely and with dignity. These barriers contribute to school absenteeism, stigma, poor health outcomes, and long-term exclusion from education and livelihoods.

Kinvia and our local partners address these challenges through a combination of direct counselling and psychosocial support for SGBV survivors, safe spaces and girls' clubs for learning and peer support, and practical menstrual health education and materials.

Abitegeka, an SGBV survivor, received counselling, psychosocial support, and skills training through Kinvia's local partner, CEDO. She has since established herself as a tailor,

earning income to support her three daughters and regain stability. Young women who receive similar support are not only rebuilding their own lives but are also identifying and referring other survivors for assistance, extending protection and support within their communities.

In school- and community-based girls' groups, students work with adult mentors to discuss sensitive topics like menstrual hygiene, sexually transmitted diseases, and the risks of early marriage. These groups provide mentorship, peer support, and clear information that destigmatizes and corrects rampant misinformation, helping girls build confidence, knowledge, and the ability to seek help when needed. Schools with girls' groups report significant declines in absenteeism, improved academic performance, and more confidence among girls, strong predictors of more positive life outcomes.

Peace and Hafswa, students in different areas of Uganda, are both members of a girls' club in their schools. Both missed school and experienced health complications due to lack of access to safe menstrual products and information about how to best manage their periods. Girls' clubs are increasingly becoming spaces where girls get supplies and instruction to make and use reusable sanitary pads and receive menstrual health education and psychosocial support. Peace and Hafswa now attend school consistently during their period. Both share that they no longer have health issues related to poor menstrual hygiene and feel more confident at school.



Kinvia-supported girls' clubs across Uganda made menstrual hygiene instruction and supplies available to more than 3,400 students.

Holistic support anchored by child ambassadors helps break the cycles of generational poverty

Throughout Uganda, poverty, poor health, food insecurity, and limited access to education result in generational poverty — a cycle it is hard to break. Holistic, sustained investment in children and their families can disrupt the cycle, strengthen community systems, and expand opportunity well beyond a single child as Julius' story demonstrates.

When Julius entered primary school, before being enrolled as a child ambassador, he experienced

chronic illness, hunger, and financial strain that led him to repeat first grade three years in a row. Once he — along with his class — received scholastic materials, school uniforms, and consistent school meals through the child ambassador program, his health stabilized, his attendance improved, and he was able to focus on learning.

Crucially, support extended to Julius's family. His parents received agronomic training and access to agricultural inputs, strengthening household food security and providing a sustainable path out of poverty for the whole family.



The strong foundation provided by Kinvia's child ambassador program in Uganda — which includes food, school supplies, and extracurricular activities — spurs students like Julius on to academic success.

Julius soon shone as a student, completing his "O" levels and enrolling in a nursing program in Bugweri District. He's on track to graduate in 2026 — an amazing journey that began with the first step of child ambassadorship. Not only has he achieved academic and personal success, but his nursing training will benefit the whole community which suffers from a lack of health care. And the farming knowledge his family gained continues to circulate locally, supporting adoption of climate-resilient practices more widely and boosting food and income security in a district where most households rely on subsistence farming.

Home and school gardens have a multiplier effect

Inspired by the techniques she learned at the early childhood development (ECD) centre's garden where she volunteers, Gladys has transformed her home vegetable garden into a reliable source of food and supplemental income for her family. The income she earns from selling her vegetables, on top of the small stipend she receives from the ECD, brings her total earnings



Container gardening lets Gladys and others like her increase their income from home gardens. (Uganda)

per month to over 180,000 Ugandan shillings — a 225% increase in her monthly income compared to her previous earnings.

Her well-managed garden produces plentiful leafy greens and vegetables that supplement household meals and improve her family's dietary diversity. The newfound confidence and contribution she's able to make to the family income has also made a difference in her relationship with her husband: *"I will tell you that my husband shows me much more love than he used to and I think it is because of me doing something that contributes to our family,"* she said.

Of even more significance, her garden has become a training site for others seeking to replicate her success. Gladys has now trained more than 12 women, and each of them went on to train an average of four others — passing on vegetable growing knowledge to others, feeding their families from them, and earning income from the sale of surplus produce. This multiplier effect means that the community overall is enjoying greater food and income security and children, especially, are benefitting from more plentiful food with greater nutritional value.

Strengthening school leadership builds more resilient education systems

Limited governance capacity within schools constrains education outcomes as much as infrastructure gaps. School Management Committees (SMCs) and parent-teacher associations (PTAs) often understand their schools' needs but lack the skills and confidence to mobilize resources beyond irregular parental contributions and limited government support.

With targeted capacity strengthening, this is changing. Through training in resource mobilization, proposal development, and collaborative leadership, PTAs and SMCs are strengthening their ability to plan, advocate, and secure external funding for school improvements.



SMCs and PTAs are increasingly involved in fund raising to ensure that schools are well-resourced and students have an enriched academic environment in which they can succeed.

By the end of 2025, leaders from several partner schools had independently developed and submitted funding proposals. Three schools in Nkumba, Kitale, and Bugiri districts – all supported by Kinvia's local partner HUYSLINCI – have received conditional awards, positioning them for funding pending final due diligence.

This milestone reflects a shift from dependency to proactive leadership and collective accountability

within school governance structures and the impact extends beyond individual schools. These achievements foster greater ownership, trust, and participation in education initiatives at the community level and generate durable, locally-led improvements in education systems.

Advanced agronomic training helps farmers shift from subsistence to enterprise farming

Recognized as a country-wide issue and being tackled at a national policy level, Ugandans are striving to move away from subsistence to more profitable, productive, and sustainable farming. In many of the communities where Kinvia and our local partners work, smallholders struggle to grow their farming businesses sustainably to better withstand climate shocks, counter price volatility, and overcome seasonal food insecurity. The risk is especially acute for women, who often have limited access to training, capital, or markets.

Advanced agronomic and business training that combines climate-resilient farming practices with financial literacy, savings, value addition, and enterprise development, has yielded good results in many of the smallholder farm communities that Kinvia supports. Ruth Nwagaba, a farmer from Luwero village in Bugiri District, is one of 1,624 smallholders, close to 60% women, who took part in training that helped her plan her farming activities timed to markets, reinvest her profits in her farming business, and diversify her income sources by expanding from basic crop sales into value-added food production and livestock rearing.

Ruth learned these techniques through hands-on farmer field school training sessions and the support of volunteer agricultural extension agents,

many of them women, who understand the unique challenges women smallholders face.

As her income stabilized, Ruth was able to invest in her children's education, improve household food security, and contribute to long-term assets growth. She was even able to build a new house for her family – an accomplishment that brings her great pride. Ruth's experience has encouraged other women in Luwero village to engage in savings groups, pursue value addition, and see agriculture as a viable pathway to economic independence.



VSLAs offer Ugandan women access to credit and training that increase their independence and ability to support their families.

Sowing Change: The Power of Women Agricultural Extension Agents in Uganda



Margret, an agricultural extension agent in Uganda, helps women raise their income and confidence.

In many rural communities across Africa, farming is the foundation of daily life and survival. Yet for generations, agricultural training and advisory roles — called “extension services” and typically offered by government ministries of agriculture or by community volunteers trained by them — have been critical to boosting productivity and ensuring food security. But they have largely been dominated by men.

For women farmers, who often bear the burden of household food production and work as unpaid labourers on their husbands’ farms, this gap can mean missed opportunities, outdated practices, and restricted access to essential farming inputs.

That’s why the work of women like Margret in Uganda is transformative. As an agricultural extension agent, she does more than teach farming techniques — she’s shifting gender

dynamics, fostering resilience, supporting climate change adaptation, and putting life-changing knowledge directly into the hands of women.

Margret: Mother, farmer, extension worker, and women’s change agent

Margret is a farmer, a mother of four, and a community agricultural extension volunteer with Kinvia’s long-time local partner in the area, the Uganda Community Based Association for Women and Children’s Welfare (UCOBAC). Her journey began when UCOBAC sought women who were not only involved in farming but also confident enough to speak in public.

“Since I had both qualities, I volunteered and then UCOBAC started to train us. I had basic knowledge about farming and this partly enabled me to learn faster,” Margret said.

Margret: Farmer and a community agricultural extension volunteer

Margret's role is to educate farmers on modern agronomic practices like pest and disease control, planting techniques, composting, pesticide application, and post-harvest handling. She works with five organized farmer groups with more than 100 farmers in total.



Plant clinics, which Margret helps organize, are the cornerstone of her work. She says the lessons she offers through the plant clinics are season-dependent: *"We meet at the beginning, in the middle, and at the end of every season... to learn about the best farming practices that we need to do during that time of the season. Farmers have learnt the different ways to control pests and diseases, spraying with pesticides, good crop spacing, and how to make and use natural fertilizers and many more."*

Margret has witnessed a clear impact. *"Farmers have adopted modern agronomic practices like spray[ing] their crops on time and in the right way. This has reduced the spread of pests and diseases... and farmers are also yielding bigger harvests."*

Margret says she gains most fulfilment from *"sharing knowledge and best practices."* But the work she does also changes lives beyond the fields. *"Today farmers have food in their homes,"* she says. *"My dream is that farmers practice farming on a large scale for both domestic and market consumption."*

Why women supporting women matters

Women extension agents like Margret can reach and inspire women farmers in ways that men often cannot.

Women in rural farming communities face distinct social and cultural barriers to accessing training, resources, and markets. These challenges are often compounded by caregiving responsibilities, lower literacy levels, and limited land ownership. A woman extension agent brings not only technical knowledge but also relatability, trust, and an understanding of these unique dynamics.

These, in combination with gender equality training that is a standard practice within Kinvia's large-scale agricultural projects, are shifting the power dynamics in communities in Uganda and throughout the other African communities where we operate.

Margret's work, for example, has increased women's confidence and independence. *"I hope that farmers most especially women will develop economically,"* she says, adding they will become less dependent on men for what they need to support themselves and their households. As women become more financially self-sufficient, Margret sees the possibility of direct impacts on women's wellbeing, such that *"separation, divorce, and domestic violence, which results from poverty, will be reduced."*

When women farmers thrive, families eat better, children stay in school, and communities become more resilient to climate and economic shocks. As we work toward more inclusive and sustainable food systems, investing in women agricultural extension agents like Margret is not just a good practice, it's a vital strategy to make health and prosperity available to all.



CATALYZING COMMUNITY-LED CHANGE SINCE 1986

Ethiopia

Kinvia, previously known as Canadian Feed The Children, works in solidarity with communities as they build local, self-determined, sustainable systems to provide food for their children, youth, and families across generations.

Our core belief is that food and nourishment is a human right. Together with our donors, we are committed to community-driven solutions that address the unique needs of children, youth, and their communities by:

- advancing food security and working towards food sovereignty
- focusing on school nutrition and quality education
- embedding climate action and gender equality

We now reach close to 280,000 people in 129 communities in five countries.

We remain steadfastly committed to financial transparency, accountability, cost efficiency, and social impact, and have been recognized as a Top 100 Rated Charity by Charity Intelligence for nearly a decade, most recently in 2024.

Thank you for joining us as we work together toward our vision of a world in which children, youth, and their communities thrive, realizing their full potential.



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