

INTERNATIONAL

Stories of Impact

2025



Ghana

The community leads

Sustainable change begins with community leadership, and with solutions that are shaped by the people who know their needs, barriers, and aspirations best.

A community-led approach means that communities define, identify, plan and lead the projects that will have the most impact on their lives – and are destined to provide the results that matter most.

Men in discussion during a Reflect Circle meeting.

Ethiopia



SHINE grows sustainable futures

The *Sustainable Development, Human Rights, Inclusion, and Equality* (SHINE) project has shown that climate-smart agriculture is more than a tool for food production. It's a catalyst for employment, stronger families, and thriving communities.

➔ **Read more:** [Beyond the Harvest: Growing Sustainable Futures in Northern Ghana](#)



“Farming is the key to development, and I have great passion for it. Because of my farming successes, I pay my children’s school fees, household bills, and have more than enough food for my children.”

Patience, Ghana,
a SHINE participant who
tripled her farm size

The women’s livelihoods & gender equality initiative: Rising to the challenges

In the Amhara Region of Ethiopia, where conflict, climate change, and worsening poverty are creating a complex and urgent humanitarian crisis, local leadership and deep-rooted community connection are sustaining progress and laying the groundwork for a brighter tomorrow.

➔ **Read more:** [A Legacy of Leadership: How Communities in Ethiopia Are Growing a Future Together](#)



“I took control of my farming practices. Not only did I benefit from this newfound independence, but I also shared my tools and expertise with my neighbours.”

Tekelu, Ethiopia
vegetable farmer

Community problem-solving and collective action builds bridges

Faced with the problem of poor roads and no infrastructure, which made it impossible for children to get to and from school safely, a community comes together to build a bridge. Mobilized by local leaders, they pooled their resources and talents and learned the power of group problem-solving and collective action. They are now engaged in their community in a new way and committed to working together on future projects.

➔ **Read more:** [A Community Builds a Bridge to a Better Future ... Together](#)



“[The community’s] determination to solve problems is encouraging. There is nothing more exciting than seeing a community that understands its environment and brings solutions for the problems in its environment.”

Fantaye, farmer, Ethiopia

Women step into local leadership

In Ethiopia, small gatherings of women are reshaping their lives and their communities through dialogue, connection, and collaboration. Women’s Reflect Circles are supportive, generative spaces where women come together to build solidarity, share ideas, and spark lasting change.

“We decided no one should have to save from what we get from the pockets of our husbands; instead, every one of us should participate in business activity and save what we get from our work.”

Yitayish, member of Lenca (which means “lion” in the local language) Women’s Reflect Circle, Ethiopia



Small businesses create fairer economies

Small businesses are the backbone of a community's economy, particularly in rural areas. Providing people – especially women and youth – with training, technologies, and ongoing community-based support stimulates overall social and economic development and builds longer-term resilience to economic and climate stressors.



Members of a Women's Vegetable Growers' Association sell their produce at a local market.

Bolivia

Agribusiness incubation sows the seeds of entrepreneurship

Investing in African-led food and income security initiatives, like agribusiness incubation in Ghana, Uganda and Ethiopia, means decolonizing from practices built on models from the Global South, and instead prioritizing local solutions that centre African farmers, sustainable traditional practices, and community-driven development.

“Our agribusiness incubation model is one of the most successful. [It] started to train youth and project participants in agricultural skills for self-employment and economic sustainability. They are trained and mentored to start [a business] until it’s successful.”

Mwebaze, agricultural extension worker and agribusiness incubation hub mentor, Uganda



“With the agribusiness incubation program, I started doing purposeful farming which has made me good money from the farming in a short time. Before I had a challenge of market for my products but these days there is a market always there for my farm produce.”

Abigaba, farmer, VSLA member and agribusiness incubation hub mentee, Uganda



➔ **Read more:** [Transforming African Agriculture Through Mentorship and Innovation](#)

Women's microcredit groups teach skills, mobilize growth

Mercy credits her success to the Kwagalana Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) and the app they use to manage their businesses. She learned financial and customer service skills and her hair salon is booming. Mercy can easily pay for her son's education and recently purchased a small plot of land to expand her opportunities.



“Because of the app, there is more trust in the group as the savings are laid out for you. It's going well and it's very good for us to have.”

Mercy, hair salon owner,
Uganda

Margarita relies on a Bolivian women's vegetable producers' organization (WVPO) to provide high-quality, locally-grown vegetables, fruit, and flowers to her organic food store in Sucre. WVPOs teach women how to grow and market their produce, and offer them loans to purchase greenhouses, market stalls, and irrigation equipment to turn their home gardens into profitable businesses.



“I participate in the workshops. We are not always experts, but little by little we learn all the things they teach us. I used to be shy but I learned to be more confident. I used to garden on my own, but I didn't produce so much compared to what I produce now.”

Sofia (right, with Margarita),
gardener and WVPO member,
Bolivia

➔ **Read more:** [Small-Scale Businesses Lead to Community-Driven Development](#)

Weaving their way to a brighter future

The Menena Selo community, renowned for its rich cultural history and traditional weaving skills, now has a women-owned weaving centre – an idea that emerged from a Reflect Circle and was brought to life through the women’s hard work and ingenuity.

➔ **Read more:** [How Women’s Reflect Circles are Shaping More Inclusive Communities](#)

“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.”

Ayome, Reflect Circle participant and co-owner of the women’s weaving centre, Daramalo, Ethiopia



Growing family businesses in Bolivia

A modest idea – families sharing extra produce from their home gardens – has grown into a vibrant, community-led initiative. *My Little Entrepreneur Fair* is cultivating more than vegetables: it’s growing community engagement, family bonds, and big dreams.

➔ **Read more:** [A Small Garden Fair is Growing Big Dreams in Bolivia](#)



“We realized that we can produce our own food here in the city without having to go to rural areas.”

Freddy, an agronomist and family food security coordinator, Sucre, Bolivia



“My children helped me dig, plant and water the plants, and take them out to sell.”

Eva, grower and participant in *My Little Entrepreneur Fair*



“I help [my mom] pull out the chard and lettuce. It’s nice to work with my family ... and we are united as always.”

Jimmy, 9, Eva’s son

Engaging youth today unlocks a healthier tomorrow

“Youth are the future.” This enduring belief underscores the transformative impact of investing in the next generation. As they learn about food, agriculture, and the environment, youth are building confidence and skills. Above all, they are connecting with their peers, teachers, families, and communities, gaining a sense of belonging and empowerment that leads to a promising future.

Youth groups create the space for participants to find their voice and hone their leadership skills.

Uganda



Getting a headstart on healthy food practices

Elmer is learning how to grow, cook, and eat healthy food at his school, which has a thriving garden and regularly incorporates lessons about planting, harvesting, and food preparation into the curriculum. He often encourages his mom, Frances, to add more fresh vegetables into their meals.

“We prepare some food and we harvest the garden. I like that there are many people who help me. [It’s important] to know about how to eat healthy. I learned to eat vegetables to be healthier. My favourite vegetables are beets and carrots.”

Elmer, 10, Bolivia



Carrying on the family farming tradition

Ramsey comes from a long line of smallholder farmers in northern Ghana. His family has passed down their agricultural expertise and values to their children. Ramsey plays an active role in the family farm, fetching water, feeding the animals, and helping to harvest crops.

“Agricultural tasks have deepened my appreciation for the farming lifestyle and instilled in me a strong work ethic.”

Ramsey, 17, Ghana



A youth mentor inspires others to engage in agriculture

Kiirya was tapped to participate in his community's agribusiness incubation project as a youth mentor, building off his strong interest in agriculture and experience working on his own farm. He learned organic farming, marketing, and mentoring techniques, which has made him a highly effective mentor and also helped boost his productivity on his own farm.

→ **Read more:** [Youth as Future Leaders: The Land as Their Classroom](#)

“Being a youth practicing farming inspired me to be a business mentor. I wanted to help my fellow youth to embrace agribusiness agriculture. My support and mentoring of farmers will continue because I want to see my community with food security and better incomes from their farming activities.”

Kiirya, youth agribusiness incubation mentor, Uganda



The future at their fingertips

The new Information and Communications Technology (ICT) centre in Kulinkpegu, Ghana offers students hands-on, practical computer training that is improving the quality of their education and their future prospects for employment.

“Even though my community is small, I feel like I am in a good school, just like my peers in bigger towns and cities. This motivates me to come to school and learn hard.”

Asana, student, Ghana



→ **Read more:** [Beyond the Workforce: Youth Skills Instill Self-Esteem and Confidence](#)

Resilience is founded on climate and gender justice

Gender-responsive, climate-smart food systems are the best route to tackling hunger, reducing poverty, and building sustainable livelihoods for all.

Despite setbacks in the world's pursuit of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and the current backlash to equity and climate action programs, the fact remains: climate adaptation and mitigation strategies that include a strong gender equality focus are our best hope to foster climate and economic resilience.

A couple reaps the rewards of their shared efforts.

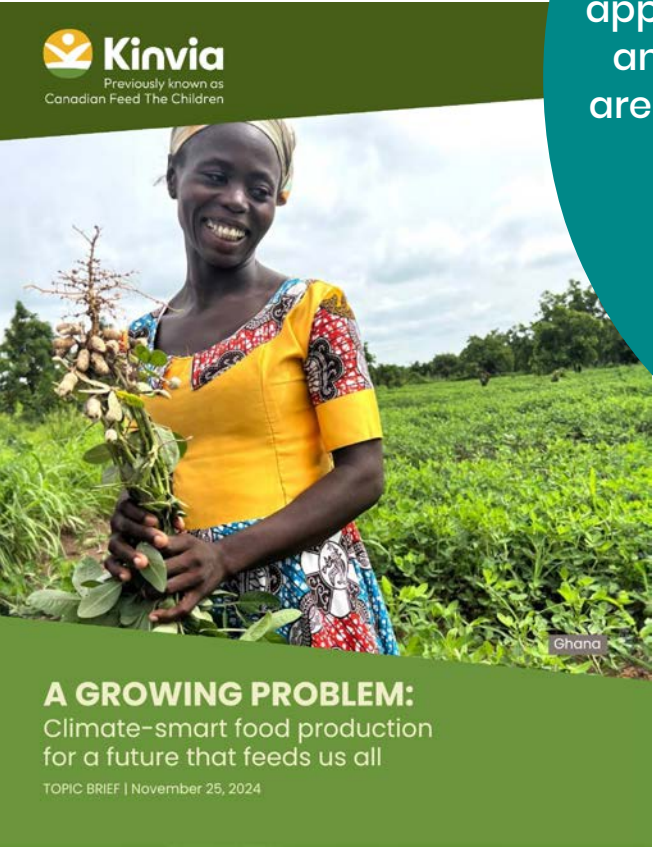
Ghana



Growing more while growing responsibly

From climate-smart agricultural training, to increasing women’s access to credit, land, and farming inputs, to working with local community, religious, and government opinion leaders to promote gender equality and climate action, Kinvia is committed to advocating for the people who contribute least to – but are affected most by – climate change.

➔ **Read more:** A Growing Problem: Exploring the intersection of climate change and food production



“Embracing climate justice requires organizations like Kinvia to rethink how we approach funding, program development, and learning to ensure these processes are community-led, equitable, and rooted in dismantling systemic barriers.”

Jacquelyn Wright,
President & CEO, Kinvia

➔ **Read more:** Strengthening Community-led Efforts for a Sustainable Future

Improving production through climate-smart agriculture

Targeted training and capacity-strengthening programs aim to help smallholders improve their production through practices like the use of drought-resistant seeds and crops, water conservation and management, value-addition, and market access.



“Climate change is clear. Water is a very essential and scarce resource that we need to use properly. It is because of irrigation water that I was able to change my life. I believe conserving these natural resources is important.”

Lukas, farmer, Ethiopia



“Indigenous seeds have a good germination rate which leads to an increase in crop yields. The crops do not require as much fertilizer as non-traditional crops. I had five bags of maize [which] would not have been possible without the training and the seeds used.”

Sherifa, farmer, Ghana

Equity-based development means better lives for all

Hurdles like the inability to own land, limited access to credit, and entrenched beliefs about gender roles compromise women’s abilities to engage in productive agriculture or start their own businesses. That’s why gender equality training is a core element of Kinvia’s and our local partners’ livelihoods programs.



“Having this additional money means a lot to me because it is changing my decision-making role in the family. Now I have stakes in all decisions that involve money since I am generating income. It’s a big freedom for me.”

Ayelech, small business owner, Ethiopia



“I’m basically a gender activist. I enjoy helping [women] become empowered so that they will be able to care for their children. I also educate women on value addition.”

Rita, Women in Agricultural Development (WIAD) officer and agricultural extension agent, Ministry of Agriculture, Ghana



“My dream is that farmers practice farming on a larger scale for both domestic and market consumption. I hope that farmers, especially women, develop economically [and that] separation, divorce, and domestic violence, which results from poverty, will be reduced.”

Margret, farmer and volunteer community agricultural extension agent, Uganda

➔ **Read more:** [Sowing Change for Women](#)

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 270,000 people in 133 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.

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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.

