



# REDUCING POVERTY AND IMPROVING LIVES IN UGANDA

Rotary and World Vision/VisionFund are collaborating to support economically vulnerable communities, particularly rural women, with the tools needed to lift themselves out of poverty through a model called FAST: Finance Accelerating Savings Group Transformation. Global Grant 2463330 is a \$800,000 project designed to serve more than 11,000 savings group members, benefitting an estimated 60,000 people across three districts of Uganda (Mukono, Mpigi, and Rakai).

## THE NEED

More than twelve million people in Uganda live below the international poverty line of \$2.15 a day. As a result of poverty, food insecurity remains high for much of Uganda’s population – 56% of the population is moderately food insecure and 15% severely food insecure.

Poverty disproportionately impacts people living in rural communities, with 55% of rural households experiencing multidimensional poverty.

In Uganda, children below the age of 18 experience the highest rates of multidimensional poverty (56%). When children grow up in poverty, they face significant challenges to healthcare, good nutrition, and education. To break the intergenerational cycle of poverty requires a strategic effort to provide the rural poor with resources, knowledge, and support to climb the economic ladder out of poverty.

“The poor are more likely to use detrimental coping strategies, such as reducing food consumption, which could have negative consequences for their human capital in the long run. As a result, at least 50% of Ugandans remain vulnerable to the risk of falling back into poverty in the next two years.” - Mukami Kariuki, the World Bank’s Country Manager in Uganda.

## KEY PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

As the world’s largest service organization, Rotary has unprecedented reach around the world to people committed to serving their communities. VisionFund is the largest Christian microfinance network in the world with more than 7,000 staff, serving over 1 million clients. VisionFund is a subsidiary of World Vision focused on serving clients that are often excluded from access to financial services, particularly the rural poor.

For more information : World Vision  
Visit the website [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org)  
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## FAST: FINANCE ACCELERATING SAVINGS GROUP TRANSFORMATION

FAST is a bold and innovative strategy to provide loan capital to mature savings groups so group members can accelerate the growth of their businesses and improve household well-being. Loan payments are recycled back into the group creating ongoing capital used to improve their livelihoods and household well-being by breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty. More than 70% of savings group members are women, and most have not completed formal education.

The project will hire **18 Field Officers** to serve **540 savings groups** across three districts in Uganda. More than **11,000 savings group members** will be direct beneficiaries. The project will impact 60,000 people.



"I thank VisionFund Uganda for the financial support given to my savings group. I am so excited that because of FAST I have gone from being a refugee who was dependent on government aid to now being able to employ three people at my grinding plant. I can take care of my family's needs without any more government support. I am also excited that other people in my community are now renting my grinding machine, which further adds to my income." - Geoffrey, (pictured with wife) FAST Client in Uganda

### PROJECT GOALS AND OUTCOMES

The Rotary – VisionFund Economic Development Project in Uganda will significantly improve the well-being of savings group members, their families, and their communities by giving them the tools they need to lift themselves out of poverty.

#### Project Outcomes:

1. Improved incomes and economic resilience
2. Improved financial literacy and entrepreneurial knowledge.
3. Improved household well-being (healthcare, nutrition, education, safe housing, childcare)

### CURRENT STATUS

Global Grant 2463330 has been submitted for approval by the Rotary Foundation Regional Grants Officer for review and approval. The grant funding of \$400,000 has been supported by multiple districts with cash and District Designated Funds. The \$400,000 will be matched by World Vision/Vision Fund for a project value of \$800,000.

Rotary and World Vision/VisionFund look forward to another successful partnership together, one that will change the lives of rural women, men, their families, and their communities. Success in Uganda will be replicated in other countries as together we strive to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty so that every person can live life in all its fullness

### FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SUPPORT THE FAST PROGRAM IN UGANDA



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