



# Giving Machine 2025 Impact Report

This report reflects Giving Machine gifts donated during the 2024 holiday season and distributed throughout the 2025 calendar year.



Lifting families around the world from poverty to self-reliance and economic prosperity through entrepreneurship and mentoring.



Lives Impacted

**258,960**

Across 43,160 households  
in 25 countries



Increased Incomes

**53%**

65% increase in savings and  
22% decrease in debt



Economic Return

**5X**

Every \$1 donated generates  
over \$5 of economic impact



Mentors International has earned Candid Guidestar's platinum-level seal of transparency as well as Charity Navigator's highest 4-star rating for exceptional fiscal responsibility and effectiveness.

EIN: 43-1536498

# Giving Machine Program Overview



## Beyond the Giving Machine: From Gifts to Self-Reliance

Mentors International was honored to participate once again in the Giving Machine program sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints during the 2024 Holiday Season. Through the generosity of thousands of individuals and families who donated through the Giving Machines, lives around the world are being transformed. This report highlights the meaningful impact of those gifts.

What is a Giving Machine



Throughout the 2025 calendar year, **24,538 lives were transformed** through these contributions. When a gift of livestock, seeds, fruit trees, or sewing materials is paired with personalized business mentoring, it creates powerful opportunities for individuals to build sustainable businesses and lasting self-reliance.



In 1 year, these small businesses will generate new income equivalent to **6.7X** the initial gift

The impact is profound. Across continents, families are achieving higher incomes and savings, enabling them to fund education, access healthcare, and build a **secure future**. These projects do more than provide resources; they serve as a **catalyst for greater self-reliance** that will impact generations to come.

# The Synergy of Strategic Partnerships

Partnerships are a critical component of our impact strategy. We utilize in-country partners to identify deserving participants, provide technical training, and securing livestock. **Their support allows Mentors International to focus on financial and business mentoring.**



A powerful example is **our partnership with MoviCancer in Nicaragua**. For women facing both cancer treatment and financial hardship, MoviCancer provides support beyond medical care by offering a sewing school for women undergoing chemotherapy.

Through this **Giving Machine project**, Mentors International provided business mentoring and sewing supplies to 100 inspiring women, turning fabric and thread into the foundation for sustainable businesses. By gaining marketable skills during recovery, participants return home not only as survivors but as skilled professionals.

Together with **our local partners**, we are building global pathways to **financial stability and personal dignity**.






## Program Highlights

<b>5,866</b> Program Participants	<b>24,637</b> Lives Impacted	<b>50,634</b> Mentoring Hours
<b>\$364K</b> New Monthly Income Generated	<b>\$220K</b> New Savings Generated	<b>\$86K</b> Personal Debts Paid Off
<b>9</b> Countries	<b>80%</b> New Businesses Still Active	<b>72%</b> Women Participants

*\*This report reflects Giving Machine gifts donated during the 2024 holiday season and distributed throughout the 2025 calendar year.*

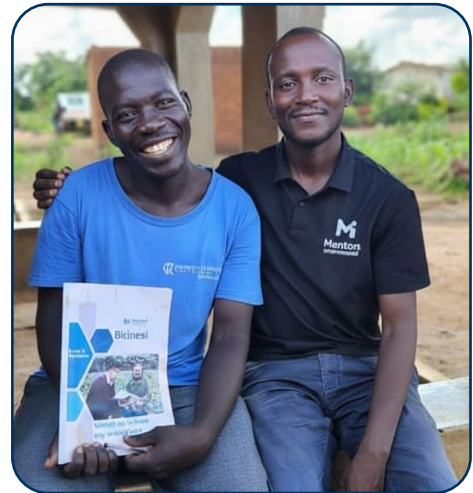
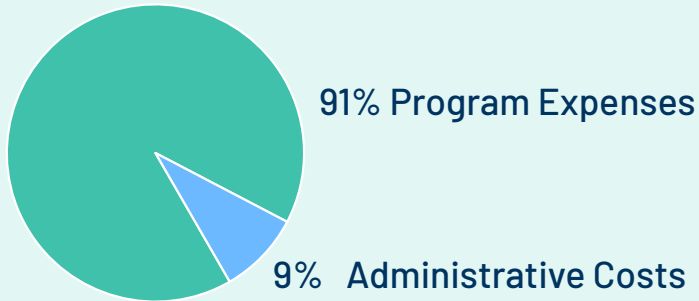


# Gift Distribution Overview

Total # of Items Distributed	 Chickens	 *Goats	 Bags of Seeds	 Fruit Trees	 Sewing Materials
52,577	14,875	7,645	20,479	8,944	634

\*In some cases pigs were substituted for goats based on local market feedback.

## Summary of Funds Allocation



# County Impact Reports

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**208**

Direct Participants



**870**

Total Lives Impacted



**1,836**

Hours of Mentoring

## Project Overview

- Regions: San Andrés (Santander), La Calera (Cundinamarca), and Bosa (Bogotá)
- Project Timeline: Jun 2025 - Jan 2026
- Items Delivered: Seeds, Fruit Trees, and Goats

In Colombia, **208 families** achieved a remarkable **100% business survival rate** by bridging the urban-rural divide. This initiative combined virtual mentoring with tangible “gifts” to foster food security and economic independence in both remote “veredas” and urban centers.

In Santander, we partnered with Colegio Fray José de las Casas Novas to transform traditional goat farming into viable enterprises. By utilizing interactive WhatsApp sessions and printed guides, we provided young people and their guardians with the financial skills necessary to create local employment. This stability is vital, as it prevents family separation often caused by economic migration.

In La Calera and Bosa, families utilized hybrid mentoring to transform seeds, fruit trees, and livestock into thriving agricultural businesses. This approach overcame geographical barriers to deliver immediate nutritional gains and shift households from subsistence to sustainable income. By establishing a proven blueprint for success in diverse environments, the project provided families with a renewed sense of independence and a foundation for lasting impact.

## Partnerships

**Mayor’s Office of La Calera:** A rural development partner that provided essential logistics and participant identification in remote, high-need areas.

**Colegio Fray José de las Casas Novas:** An educational partner providing critical access to youth participants and facilities for training.





# Colombia - Participant Success Stories



## Myriam



Three years ago, Myriam’s dream of launching an egg-selling business had stalled. Through the **Giving Machine** program, she received two goats to supplement her 15 hens, but the true transformation came through education.

**“I spent everything,”** Myriam admits, reflecting on her early days without accounting knowledge or a savings plan. Through Mentors International’s business training, she mastered financial literacy, learning to separate personal and business expenses while identifying her true profit margins.

Today, Myriam has doubled her poultry to **30 laying hens** and added a new revenue stream selling goat milk. By consistently allocating a portion of her earnings to savings, she has built a resilient enterprise. “I am very grateful,” she says. “This program has had a great impact on my life, my family, and my business.”



## Diana



In the village of Frailejonal, Diana’s day begins with the hum of thousands of bees. A beekeeper and dairy producer since 2018, Diana worked with grit but often felt she was merely treading water, producing honey without ever getting ahead.

The turning point came through **Mentors International’s financial training**. For the first time, Diana learned to separate personal expenses from business income, allowing her to see exactly how much to reinvest. To complement these new skills, she received fruit trees through the **Giving Machine**. These trees created a dual success: they provide a new revenue stream through fruit sales while offering the essential nectar her bees need to thrive.

This perfect synergy has accelerated her journey toward self-reliance. Today, Diana isn’t just raising bees; she is building a stable, secure future for her seven-year-old son.



**380**

Direct Participants



**1,353**

Total Lives Impacted



**1,901**

Hours of Mentoring

## Project Overview

- Region: Sabana Grande de Boyá
- Timeline: Jun 2025 - Jan 2026
- Items Delivered: Chickens, goats, pigs, fruit trees, and sewing materials

In the Dominican Republic, we are empowering families in Haitian communities to establish a foundation for long-term self-reliance. While in its early stages, the project shows strong momentum: **15% of businesses are fully operational**, while livestock growth milestones are already yielding results. Currently, **40% of animals are reproducing**, and **30% of recipients have begun generating consistent income** from egg sales.

In Sabana Grande de Boyá, **380 families** partnered with the **Campo Verde Agricultural Producers Association** to maximize their agricultural potential. Participants received fruit trees, livestock, and the technical expertise required to manage these assets effectively.

By prioritizing livestock growth, we are helping families build a sustainable resource base that meets immediate nutritional needs while securing their economic future. These early milestones demonstrate the program's effectiveness in fostering measurable economic independence for individuals and their communities.

## Partnerships

**Campo Verde Agricultural Producers Association:** A community-based partner that enhances agricultural practices and provides essential resources to local farming families.

**Prosperous Women Association:** Local group supporting female entrepreneurship; provided community entry and support for female heads of households.





# Dominican Republic - Success Stories



**Juanita**



Juanita's journey began with a gift of chickens through the **Giving Machine**, which Mentors International treated as a startup catalyst. We paired the livestock with five months of one-on-one business mentoring, the essential knowledge required to transform a donation into a sustainable livelihood.

While many of her neighbors also raised poultry, Juanita noticed a critical market gap: no one in the village sold animal feed. Applying the rigorous financial discipline learned in her mentoring sessions, tracking every cent and strictly separating business and personal funds, she pivoted. She reinvested the earnings from her first flock to launch a second venture: a dedicated animal feed business.

Today, Juanita is a business owner who has increased her income and is **currently funding her university tuition and home improvements**. The impact has already reached the next generation; her four children now have their own "piggy banks," practicing the principles of savings and budgeting alongside their mother.



**Antonia**



Antonia's journey began with a **Giving Machine** gift of two piglets.

By applying the financial discipline and market timing learned from her mentor, Antonia sold her pigs at their peak market value. Rather than spending the profit on immediate needs, she embraced a business mindset and reinvested the entire sum to purchase two calves. This move effectively scaled her enterprise from small livestock to a more significant agricultural asset.

Today, Antonia's progress is visible in the very walls of her home. **She is currently replacing her wooden house with a permanent concrete structure**, a powerful symbol of her transition from survival to self-reliance. Now a confident entrepreneur, **Antonia is already planning her next round of reinvestment to grow her herd and secure her family's trajectory**.



**100**

Direct Participants



**169**

Total Lives Impacted



**1,152**

Hours of Mentoring

## Project Overview

- Region: Guatemala City
- Timeline: Sep 25 - Jan 26
- Items Delivered: Sewing Materials

In Guatemala City, a pilot project is equipping families living in high-risk zones with the specialized tools and business knowledge needed to break their cycle of poverty. Through a strategic partnership with **International Samaritan**, **100 participants** received professional sewing supplies and training, resources that were previously financially inaccessible.

In the community workshops of Zone 3, participants were provided with sewing kits and professional business training. In a competitive urban environment, these tools offer an immediate avenue for income generation. By addressing the specific hurdles of starting a small business, this initiative empowers marginalized individuals with practical, marketable skills.

As these entrepreneurs continue to refine their craft and pursue new business opportunities, we are monitoring the long-term impact of this increased household income. This project serves as a vital first step toward lasting economic stability for families in Guatemala's most vulnerable urban centers.

## Partnership

**International Samaritan:** A global non-profit dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty in garbage dump communities by providing scholarships, essential aid, and community support.



# Guatemala - Participant Success Stories



## Angélica



Angélica worked as a school janitor with a single goal: providing for her three children. While she worked with integrity, she realized that moving forward required more than extra hours; it required a new set of professional skills.

Through the **Giving Machine** sewing program, Angélica received the essential tools to launch her business. However, she knew that a needle and thread were only half the battle. We paired her equipment with practical business mentoring to ensure she built a sustainable foundation. Her mentor taught her financial organization, including how to track every cent, separate personal expenses from business income, and plan for long-term growth.

Today, Angélica is the founder of AyM, a brand with the slogan, "Handmade, between threads and hands of love." Equipped with a solid financial plan and growing technical expertise, she is successfully **transitioning from manual labor to full-time business ownership.**



## Berta



As a recycler in a municipal landfill, Berta's work was grueling but essential for supporting her three children. Through Mentors International, Berta didn't receive a handout; she received transformative business training. We paired her with a dedicated mentor who taught her to track every Quetzal, allowing her to separate personal expenses from business costs and clearly assess her profitability for the first time.

Thanks to a **Giving Machine** gift, Berta received the specific tools needed to bridge the gap between survival and a sustainable enterprise. With her mentor's guidance, she developed a formal business plan and a professional logo for her brand, Altelier.

**Today, Berta is a dual-business owner,** managing her recycling work while scaling Altelier. She didn't need someone to do the work for her; she simply needed the strategic knowledge and a push from her mentor to make her hard work count.

**1,322**

Direct Participants

**2,816**

Total Lives Impacted

**7,755**

Hours of Mentoring

## Project Overview

- Regions: 24 communities in Yucatán
- Timeline: May 2025 - Mar 2026
- Items Delivered: Fruit trees, pigs, and chickens

In a powerful collaboration with the **Government of Yucatán** and **Frente Campesino**, we empowered **1,200 families across 24 municipalities** to establish sustainable home-based farms. Despite complex logistics, our strategic coordination achieved a **100% business survival rate**, creating a definitive pathway toward self-reliance.

Participants received livestock: goats, pigs, or chickens; or fruit trees, instantly converting their backyards into hubs for food security. Beyond distribution, our mentoring sessions focused on shifting mindsets, teaching families to manage their farms as businesses and strategically reinvest their surpluses.

The results were inspiring, as families simultaneously improved their nutritional security and established new income streams through the sale of eggs, meat, and fruit. This initiative fostered genuine economic empowerment, proving that large-scale interventions can deliver personalized, lasting impact for rural households while creating a foundation for sustainable self-reliance.

## Partnerships

**Government of the State of Yucatán:** Provided critical logistical access to 24 municipalities and co-facilitated asset distribution.

**Frente Campesino:** A grassroots farmers' organization that ensured community buy-in and provided essential peer-to-peer agricultural support.

**DIF of Umán & Ministry of Agriculture:** Provided institutional oversight and technical validation for all livestock projects.





# México - Participant Success Stories



**Tania**



Tania and Jonathan struggled to survive on a modest bricklayer’s income. While Tania dreamed of becoming a nail technician, she lacked the supplies to launch a business.

Everything changed when she received 15 chickens through the **Giving Machine** program. While the livestock provided the initial spark, the true turning point was the **business mentoring** she received from Mentors International. Under the guidance of her mentor, Jesus, Tania transformed that small gift into a sustainable future. She raised and sold the chickens, strategically reinvesting her profits to purchase a professional UV lamp and gel polishes.

Beyond financial literacy, mentoring helped Tania overcome debilitating shyness. She learned **sales, marketing, and profitable pricing**. By year’s end, Tania opened her own nail salon.

Through the **Giving Machine**, Tania didn’t just receive a one-time gift; she gained the entrepreneurial skills and independence to secure her family’s long-term future.



**Noé**



In Yucatán, Noé was a skilled plumber and electrician who could fix anything except the financial leaks in his own household. Despite his hard work, his dream of starting a family lemon plantation remained out of reach because he struggled to track expenses and manage cash flow.

Driven by a commitment to his two children, Noé began training with Mentors International to learn financial discipline. Through the **Giving Machine**, he received two pigs, which he viewed as a strategic business asset rather than a temporary fix. Under the guidance of his mentor, María, Noé mastered the habit of saving and meticulous expense tracking.

By cutting waste and combining his savings with livestock proceeds, Noé purchased a **professional irrigation pump and hose**. Today, his plumbing business is expanding and his lemon trees are thriving. No longer just a handyman, Noé utilized the **Giving Machine** and professional mentorship to become a **self-reliant business owner**.



## Project Overview

- Regions: Managua, Masaya, and Carazo
- Timeline: May 2025 - Dec 2025
- Items Delivered: Chickens, pigs, seeds, fruit trees, sewing kits

Families in Nicaragua achieved extraordinary financial milestones, including a **95% increase in average income** and a **785% surge in savings**. This growth allowed participants to eliminate personal debt and plan for the future with newfound confidence. By supporting rural families in Masaya and Carazo with livestock and seeds, alongside urban entrepreneurs in Managua launching tailoring businesses, the project fostered community-wide revitalization. Today, **73% of these businesses remain operational**, having created **426 new informal jobs** to date.

By combining asset delivery with specialized training, we empowered families to transform modest resources into thriving enterprises. This comprehensive support system, bolstered by technical livestock training, has successfully revitalized the local economy and offers a reproducible model for sustainable poverty alleviation.

## Partnerships

**Opportunity International:** A global financial inclusion partner that provided the “School of Entrepreneurship” curriculum and trained mentors in sustainable savings methodologies.

**MoviCáncer:** A health and social support organization. They provided holistic support to vulnerable families, ensuring that health challenges did not become barriers to economic participation.

**Jesús es la Roca:** A local community partner that facilitated on-the-ground implementation and critical beneficiary follow-up.





# Nicaragua - Participant Success Stories



## Marjorie



Marjorie and her husband, José Luis, always dreamed of providing more for their family but lacked a clear path to achieve it. This changed when Marjorie joined the **Mentors International Giving Machine program**, which provided her with a pig and essential business training.

Under the guidance of her mentor, Carlos, Marjorie learned both livestock management and the fundamentals of running a **successful venture**. She gained the **financial discipline** necessary to transform her household's economic outlook.

Encouraged by their early progress, Marjorie and José Luis took the proactive step of investing their family savings to expand their pigpen and acquire a second animal.

Today, that initial gift has grown into a thriving business with four pigs. Marjorie has increased her income, covering all household expenses and securing a stable future for her three children.



## Cristian



For Cristian, the **Giving Machine** provided the spark, but the mentoring provided the fuel that turned a backyard coop into a foundation of self-reliance.

Cristian received the essential tools to restart a broiler chicken business, an endeavor she had previously attempted without success. The vital shift this time came through **business training and one-on-one mentoring**.

"I discovered how capable I am," Cristian says. "I learned to manage the raising of chickens, keep strict records, and take care of every detail."

By applying practical business logic to her small farm, Cristian didn't just raise poultry; she generated a **consistent profit**. She successfully completed her first production cycle with high yields.

Today, Cristian is more than a farmer; she is a **leader**. She is passing these self-reliance skills to her children and **mentoring other women** in Las Crucitas.

**209**

Direct Participants

**364**

Total Lives Impacted

**3,078**

Hours of Mentoring

## Project Overview

- Regions: Trujillo (La Libertad)
- Timeline: May 2025 - Jun 2026
- Items Delivered: Sewing Kits

In Trujillo, we focused on the transformative power of vocational sewing training and business mentorship through a partnership with the **Jerusalem Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**. This initiative aimed to transition unskilled workers into qualified textile producers. We provided **209 participants** with professional sewing kits and materials, alongside intensive technical training and business mentoring.

By utilizing the Jerusalem Stake's facilities and machinery, participants gained hands-on experience in specialized garment assembly. While challenging urban market conditions resulted in a 31% active business rate, the project achieved its core mission: human capital development. By equipping hundreds of individuals with certified technical skills and financial fluencies, we have **provided them with tools for self-reliance** that will serve them for a lifetime.

Whether graduates launch micro-enterprises or seek formal employment in Peru's established textile sector, they are now equipped with the tools and confidence to improve their economic circumstances. With all gifts distributed and mentoring ongoing, this project will conclude in June 2026.

## Partnership

**Jerusalem Stake (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints):** Provided the physical training center, industrial sewing machinery, and volunteer coordination for all workshops.





# Perú - Participant Success Stories



## Sofia



At 65, Sofia was juggling part-time house cleaning, selling grains, and performing small sewing repairs. Although she worked hard, she was barely getting by.

Sofia received more than a sewing kit from the **Giving Machine**; she received **tailored business training** designed for her specific region and skill level. Under the guidance of her mentor, Sofia moved beyond “limiting beliefs” to identify a unique market gap.

While others focused on standard fashion, Sofia’s mentoring encouraged her to analyze her community’s needs. She noticed local field workers lacked adequate protection from the harsh sun. Shifting her strategy, she sourced **breathable, heat-resistant fabrics** and designed durable shirts specifically for agricultural laborers.

Today, Sofia’s client portfolio is expanding, and she is building a life of security and self-reliance that once felt out of reach.



## Carolina



As a single mother in Trujillo, Peru, Carolina spent decades simply surviving. When she enrolled in a sewing workshop through the partnership between Mentors International and the **Giving Machine**, she finally saw a clear path to **economic independence**.

Carolina gained the essential skills to track income, manage expenses, and budget meticulously for her household and business alike.

Through the **Giving Machine**, Carolina received a “starter kit” of cotton fabric, pattern paper, and sewing tools. Mentoring taught her how to leverage this kit into a thriving enterprise.

She produced 12 polo shirts, generating a net income of 360 soles (approximately \$100 USD).

This financial cushion proved vital when her son was hospitalized following an accident. Thanks to her new **financial management skills**, Carolina covered his medical expenses entirely without falling into debt.



# Cape Verde



17

Direct Participants



74

Total Lives Impacted



533

Hours of Mentoring

## Project Overview

- Regions: Espinho Branco, Calheta São Miguel (Santiago Island)
- Timeline: Sep 2025 - Mar 2026
- Items Delivered: Pigs

In the isolated community of Espinho Branco, we launched a culturally sensitive initiative tailored for the “Rabelados”, a group historically dedicated to preserving their religious and traditional culture. Partnering with the Municipality of São Miguel, we introduced sustainable income generation that respects and protects their unique cultural heritage.

We provided **17 families** with 36 pigs for breeding, establishing a renewable asset base within the community. Our mentors worked alongside these families to teach animal husbandry and business skills, focusing on health and feed management suited to the local conditions of Santiago Island. This approach ensures the livestock thrives while honoring the community’s traditional rhythm of life.

The project achieved an encouraging **76% business survival rate**, proving that economic development and cultural preservation can coexist. By transforming livestock into a “living savings account,” these families have significantly strengthened their resilience against external shocks, allowing them to maintain their independence with greater financial security.

## Partnership

**Municipality of São Miguel:** Served as a critical cultural mediator, facilitating entry into the Rabelados community and managing all logistics for animal transportation.





# Cape Verde - Success Stories



## João and Marlene



In the remote community of Espinho Branco, tradition is an art form. João and Marlene are “Rabelados,” a group dedicated to preserving their unique religious and cultural heritage on the island of Santiago. For years, they supported their families by **selling traditional paintings and crafts** to tourists, but found that art alone was financially unpredictable.

Through the **Giving Machine** program, João and Marlene received more than just livestock; they gained technical training and dedicated business mentoring. While they were gifted pigs specifically suited for the island’s climate, the true transformation occurred in their financial notebooks.

João began applying business logic to his artistry, learning to track expenses, manage production time, and strategically organize his displays to attract customers. Simultaneously, Marlene discovered the power of **financial security**, setting aside emergency savings for the first time in her life.

By applying the **principles of reinvestment**, João and Marlene are now using their individual livestock businesses to fuel their creative passion. The income from their pigs funds the canvases, paints, and supplies necessary to **keep their culture alive**. Through the **Giving Machine**, João and Marlene are no longer just surviving day-to-day; they are **strategically planning** for sustainable futures.



# Kenya



**1,381**  
Direct Participants



**7,627**  
Total Lives Impacted



**10,008**  
Hours of Mentoring

## Project Overview

- Regions: Vihiga and Siaya Counties
- Timeline: Apr 2025 - Feb 2026
- Items Delivered: Goats and Seeds

In Western Kenya, Mentors International launched a high-impact intervention targeting some of the most vulnerable: widows and elderly caregivers. Facing critical food insecurity, **1,380 households** partnered with the **Ministry of Agriculture** to transform livestock donations into sustainable assets that now ensure food security for over **7,600 people**.

Families received high-yield dairy goats and drought-resistant maize seeds, addressing both immediate nutrition and long-term income. Central to this success was our **“Plant Your Business”** curriculum. Through group mentoring and government-backed veterinary support, participants mastered animal health and financial planning, ensuring their herds, and their incomes, thrive.

The impact has been absolute: **100% of these projects remain active**. Families now possess a daily source of nutritious milk and a renewable economic asset. By replacing dependency with a model of stewardship, this initiative has successfully broken the cycle of poverty for thousands in Western Kenya.

Hear from members of the Lundha community as they receive their goats and express their heartfelt gratitude to the donors and everyone who makes this program possible.



## Partnership

**Ministry of Agriculture (State Dept. of Animal Production):** Provided essential veterinary expertise, conducted pre-distribution health checks, and delivered technical training on professional animal care.





# Kenya- Participant Success Stories



## Winfred



When Winfred partnered with the **Giving Machine** project, she received two goats and the specialized mentorship to manage them as business assets. Her mentor provided the skills needed to overhaul her stall's operations, resulting in a 20% increase in income in just six months.

The most significant transformation was Winfred's shift to a disciplined culture of saving. By adopting a growth mindset, she **increased her savings by an incredible 80%**.

Winfred is no longer just selling bananas from a roadside stand; she is building a permanent foundation. Her children are now learning firsthand that with a solid plan and self-reliance, their future is secure.

Winfred lives in the Ndere Community of North Gem, Siaya District. Scan the QR code above to watch the day they received their goats.



## Mary



After the tragic loss of a child, Mary, a widow herself, stepped up to raise her **eight grandchildren**. While she provided a home, the financial burden of a ten-person household was immense.

Through a **Giving Machine** project, Mary received two goats and the **business education** required to turn livestock into a sustainable enterprise.

Mary's mentor provided **specialized small-business training**, teaching her how to create a budget and separate business revenue from personal expenses. This knowledge gave Mary the **confidence to lead** both her family and her burgeoning venture.

The results of Mary's discipline are clearly visible in her ledger. Starting from zero, she has built a **\$20 savings cushion**, a vital safety net for a large family. Even more impressively, she aggressively tackled her high-interest debt, reducing it from **\$60 down to just \$9**. Today, Mary is a confident entrepreneur ensuring her eight grandchildren have a secure, stable future.



**1,199**

Direct Participants



**6,262**

Total Lives Impacted



**17,331**

Hours of Mentoring

## Project Overview

- Regions: Lilongwe, Kasungu & Blantyre
- Timeline: May 2025 - Dec 2026
- Items Delivered: Goats and Sewing Materials

In our most intensive Giving Machine initiative to date, Mentors International delivered over **17,000 hours of targeted business mentoring** to entrepreneurs in Malawi. Despite a volatile national economy, the project achieved a **74% active business rate**, a testament to the resilience built through our strategic partnerships with **CESER** and **WOFAD**.

Nearly **1,200 individuals** in Lilongwe and Kasungu received dairy goats, effectively converting these donations into “living savings accounts” that grow over time. Utilizing our proprietary impact measurement platform, we meticulously tracked progress while conducting intensive group workshops. These sessions focused on cooperative business principles and livestock management, ensuring that every participant was equipped to lead a sustainable enterprise.

This rigorous approach has done more than improve asset ownership; it has established a robust social infrastructure. By grouping participants and providing consistent mentorship, we have created community support networks that will sustain these families and their businesses long after the project’s conclusion.

## Partnerships

**Community Empowerment for Self-Reliance (CESER):** Facilitated beneficiary enrollment, managed rural logistics, and coordinated essential veterinary support.

**Women for Fair Development (WOFAD):** Provided established networks for training and community support systems to ensure the longevity of both sewing and livestock businesses.





# Malawi - Participant Success Stories



## Happy



For years, Happy's sewing machine sat silent in her home in Malawi. She lacked the supplies and the knowledge to run a business, leaving the family dependent on a single income to feed their two sons.

The turning point arrived with the **Giving Machine** program. When a donor provided a **Sewing Kit**, the gift was delivered alongside professional **business mentoring**. Happy didn't just receive fabric; she received a **roadmap for success**. Through group mentoring, she learned and implemented financial discipline, inventory management, and **strategic goal setting**.

With these initial supplies, she didn't just sew, she **scaled**. Happy began producing school uniforms and dresses, tracking every cent of profit. She used her earnings to diversify her income, opening a grocery store within her tailor shop. Today, Happy has increased her income by over 800%.

She has eliminated all personal debt and built a **\$300 savings cushion**, which is now funding the construction of a new home for her mother.



## Regina



Regina and her husband worked tirelessly to provide for their family, yet their children's secondary school fees remained a constant, stressful challenge. Everything changed when Regina began working with her mentor, Chifundo, through the **Giving Machine** program.

While she received goats as a foundation, the **business mentoring** served as the true catalyst for change. Together, they developed a **strategic action plan** to ensure immediate and long-term stability. Regina didn't wait for her livestock to mature; she utilized her existing savings to launch a successful snack business at a local school, generating **instant cash flow**.

Her livestock soon "multiplied" her efforts when her goat birthed three kids in January. For Regina, these animals represent guaranteed **tuition payments**.

Today, she has **doubled her monthly income** and has already purchased a sewing machine to diversify into tailoring. Regina is no longer just surviving; she is building a future of self-reliance.

# Leadership Team



**PETER STURGEON**  
CEO

Over a decade of experience in venture capital and private equity as a Managing Director at Sorenson Capital.



**COLTON GARDNER**  
VP OF GROWTH

Successful entrepreneur, co-founder of Neighbor, and a Forbes 30 Under 30 honoree in Consumer Technology.



**ANA PEÑA**  
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Deep expertise in strategy and operations through her experience with Tilting Futures and Teach for All.



**LUCIA CAMINO**  
DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

Expert in Latin American micro-enterprise with 16+ years of experience with Provident Mexico.



**PHILIP WEBB**  
DIRECTOR OF PARTNERSHIPS

Expert in international development with 15+ years of impact investing.



**JUAN CAMARGO**  
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

Passionate, mission-driven leader who most recently led a team of over 100 mentors in Colombia.



**JUSTIN MELLOR**  
CFO

Extensive experience in both finance and accounting for not-for-profits.



**SARAH BARRETT**  
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING

Experienced marketing professional with 20+ years of diverse non-profit marketing expertise.



**BRAD LEES**  
CTO

Experienced software executive with small business and financial services experience with Q2 and Zelle.



*“None of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can all do small things, with great love, and together we can do something wonderful.”*

*– Mother Teresa*