

AWCE

Accelerating Women Climate Entrepreneurs



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION
CANADA

PROJECT REACH

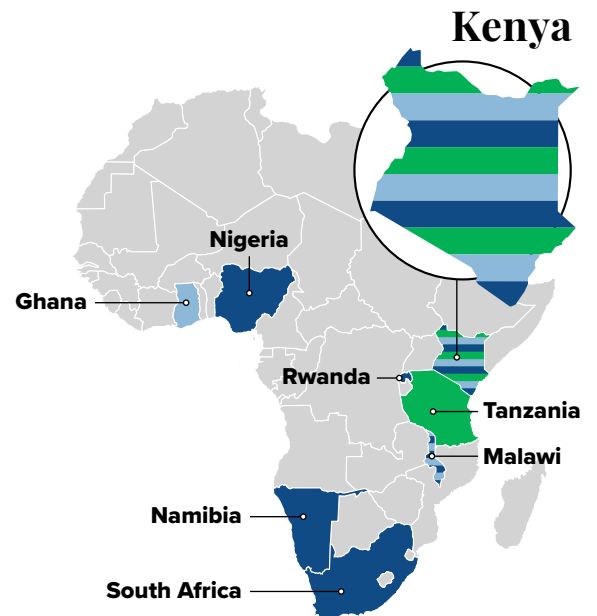
180+ women entrepreneurs, and 6,000+ people in their communities.

OUR GOAL

Reduce poverty by supporting women entrepreneurs in climate-related businesses.

OUR APPROACH

- Strengthen local organizations to better support women who are starting or growing a climate-related business, with services that respond to their specific and unique needs.
- Build the skills and knowledge of local organizations to apply a climate change and gender lens to their business operations.
- Engage business incubators, accelerators, investors, research institutes, organizations, and national governments on integrating gender equality and climate change into climate finance and investment portfolios.



Programming led by:



PHOTO: BIGZ Image / Aga Khan Foundation

CASE STUDY: ONGOZA

Theodore is a growth partner at Ongoza, an organization in Kenya that supports local businesses. He helps coach entrepreneurs in areas like strategy, financial management, and fundraising.

For women entrepreneurs, particularly in the climate space, Theodore noticed information asymmetry in the local economy.

“A lot of knowledge about climate solutions was not reaching the women from the men. Many women had no idea what buzzwords like “green financing” or “climate financing” [meant].” – Theodore

AWCE helped Ongoza connect with each business to identify their specific challenges and provide flexible support tailored to each entrepreneur. Through AWCE, Theodore has seen an increase in the confidence of women entrepreneurs as they gain the skills and knowledge to grow their business.

“We’ve also noticed networks between the women and [the creation of] opportunities for businesses to work together. We are creating an ecosystem where women can come together to help the country and combat climate change.” – Theodore

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Patvention Ltd.

One of the businesses that Theodore has supported is a beekeeping business, Patvention, that recycles rice husks and plastic to make beehives. “Initially, we had challenges getting [Patrice, the founder,] to visit because she had a young child.” So, they travelled to her instead.

“When we visited, we found that she is doing so much for climate change.” – Theodore

Patvention collects plastic and waste around central Kenya to transform into beehives, while also educating farmers to help the bee population.

Through AWCE, Theodore has supported Patrice in expanding and growing her business by working with her to develop a pitch deck, financial model, marketing, and connecting her with institutions. By helping Patrice map out her revenue streams and target markets based on her different products, she can make informed business decisions using reliable data.

“Now, she is doing an environmental impact assessment to know how her business is impacting the environment.” – Theodore

Griincom

Another business Theodore has supported is Griincom, owned by a woman named Mildred. Griincom collects organic waste and turns it into organic fertilizer.

Theodore worked with Mildred to create synergies with other businesses in the county. Mildred also employs local women and community members who lost their employment during COVID.

“It’s not just about making a profit, but helping people, creating employment, helping the environment, and supporting individuals economically.” – Theodore

Throughout AWCE, Theodore has noticed the increased confidence of women entrepreneurs in communicating about their businesses and successes. “We are [also] creating an ecosystem where women can come together to help the country and combat climate change. We noticed this year that the climate has been unstable and affecting farmers badly,” says Theodore.

“If we are able to empower one entrepreneur like Griincom, then we are able to address these real problems and continue empowering more women.” – Theodore

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The \$2.1 million AWCE initiative was undertaken with the financial support of:



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