

Opportunity International Canada



A WORD OF THANKS AND HOPE: FROM THE OIC CEO, DAN MURRAY

The recent global pandemic set gains in poverty alleviation back at least a decade and pushed millions more people into extreme poverty. This is a global injustice that should motivate us to redouble our efforts.

One of the most sustainable pathways out of poverty is a sustainable livelihood, providing the income needed to meet a family's needs. Another powerful pathway out of poverty is education. At Opportunity International Canada we apply the principles of sustainable financial inclusion to create opportunities for both livelihood development and a quality education for kids. The 2022 Fall Report captures how we have tackled the challenge this year. All of this is made possible through the generosity of our supporters. Thank you, Dan.

A legacy for the generations. Access to Opportunity's inclusive financial solutions, training, and support empower hurting people who use the tools to increase their incomes and improve their outcomes. Rosenie, (pictured above) and millions more industrious people across the globe are gaining access to safe and affordable finance and growing business and social skills, confidence, and autonomy. Rosenie is a proud graduate of a program led by OIC's Haiti partner, Fonkoze, that focuses on lifting families out of ultra-poverty. A smiling Rosenie says, "Raising my children alone was difficult because it meant they would be hungry. Uneducated. Today, I can support my family through my grocery business. ***You taught me to succeed. I passed those lessons on to my children, and they will do the same for their children.***"

2022 FALL GLOBAL REPORT:

a look back on the accomplishments you
made possible in the first half of 2022



THANK YOU FOR GIVING US MORE THAN TWO MILLION REASONS TO CELEBRATE!

With thankfulness in our hearts, we share the progress achieved through your generosity during the first half of 2022. You made a lasting impact on millions of people who suffer the profound indignities of poverty and exclusion – empowering them with tangible tools that help them trade in their hurts of the past for hope-filled futures. This year, Opportunity International Canada (OIC) **was once again named a Charity Intelligence Top 100 Charities** - thank you for entrusting us to steward your philanthropic support for the greatest impact.

You helped OIC fund life-changing micro-opportunities for about 2.28 million people in 2021, (14 million including family members) and 2022 is pacing to be on track to help more. Through your generosity, families living in some of the most challenging corners of the world are gaining access to finance and growing in knowledge, skills, strength, and resilience, to defy the odds stacked high against them to achieve their goals and dreams which have now been brought within reach. This report is dedicated to their triumphs while honouring their hard work and perseverance along their journeys out of poverty.

YOUR OPPORTUNITY IMPACT

Allow us to begin the celebration by sharing some of the big wins you made possible for OIC and our Implementing Partners so far this year, including:

AFRICA

- **Sinapi Aba in Ghana** received 2022 “Gender Focused MFI”, “Contribution Toward Sanitation in Ghana”, and “Socially Responsible Institution” awards from the Ghana Microfinance Institutions Network, The Financial Inclusion Advocacy Centre, and UNICEF.

LATIN AMERICA

- **IDH in Honduras** launched its 24th location in June - the new Santa Rosa de Copan Branch will increase outreach to 700 new clients in the first two years. The celebratory inauguration was held on July 1, 2022.
- **ASPIRE in DR** was chosen as a 2022 finalist for Best Specialized Radio Program by Premios El Gardon DR in recognition of the weekly broadcast called Growing Together that delivers financial literacy and social awareness programming to thousands of listeners by radio every Saturday.
- **In Haiti, Fonkoze’s** compassionate case managers are making the grueling journey to Savanèt on Sundays when it is safer to travel amid fuel shortages and spiking crime and inflation. Until the crisis abates, they are living in makeshift housing during the week. Their reason for doing so – “Leaving our clients who live in the gravest poverty without training and encouragement isn’t an option.”

ASIA AND GLOBAL SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

- **Opportunity’s AgFinance Program** reached a new cumulative milestone by unlocking \$246M in local capital and providing 600,000 smallholder farmers with access to loans and training that result in crop yield increases of up to 40-70% to impact 3.6 million people living in poverty in rural Africa.
- **Opportunity’s EduFinance Program** surpassed a milestone by cumulatively reaching 10.7 million children in 30 countries who are achieving improved learning outcomes.
- **Opportunity’s Health Finance Program** conducted 22,000 household surveys around Community Health Leader services in the first half of 2022 to continuously improve the Health Program in India.

EMPOWERING FAMILIES LIVING IN EXTREME AND ULTRA-POVERTY IN LATIN AMERICA

OIC focuses on programs that empower those living in extreme poverty and those living in the most severe conditions in ultra-poverty.

For those living in ultra-poverty, even the most basic needs and services remain out of reach. Most people living in ultra-poverty are rural women and children who grow up with little or no education. They spend nearly all their income on food, yet they still struggle with severe food insecurity. They fall through the cracks of traditional poverty alleviation programs, including microfinance, leaving them without any form of safety net or hope.

YOU MADE A LASTING DIFFERENCE IN HAITI. OIC's partner in Haiti, Fonkoze, operates an ultra-poor graduation program called Pathways to a Better Life (CLM). OIC supporters set 150 of the 650 women-led Haitian families who are participating in the Program, along a new path marked by fewer hungry days. They are achieving improved health and sanitation and gaining extensive knowledge about running and growing a business by nurturing tiny assets into sustainable income streams for now, for their lifetimes, and for their children's and grandchildren's futures.

In the first half of 2022, OIC reached 750 Haitians through the CLM program, including 150 women and their family members.



Mitha smiles as she imagines how her daughter's future will be so much better than her own childhood. Life has been very hard with few opportunities to make progress out of poverty, until recently. Until CLM.

YOU MADE A LASTING DIFFERENCE IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. OIC's partner in Dominican Republic (DR), ASPIRE, reaches to the bottom of the economic pyramid through its **Aspiring Together Women's Groups (ATWG)**, one of its many Programs that uplift women living in poverty.

Today, 1,270 members of ATWG are achieving a deeper sense of community through increased inclusion, confidence, and capacity within their groups of 20 to 30 neighbours where they receive financial and life skills training and ongoing support. In the first half of 2022, women living in extreme poverty gained access to informal group saving and lending programs, learned to manage their finances, and prepared to develop income streams, benefitting about 6,350 people including family members.

By investing in families living in poverty in the DR, you helped ASPIRE's sister organization, a formal financial institution, CoopASPIRE increase its outreach by 3.5%. As of June 30, 2022, nearly 190,000 entrepreneurs were working their way out of poverty by expanding their businesses, saving regularly, learning, and earning their way along a path toward financial stability and social inclusion, benefitting 950,000 people including family members.

YOU MADE A LASTING DIFFERENCE IN HONDURAS

With your help, as of June 30, 2022, OIC's partner in Honduras, IDH:

- **Grew outreach by 14% to reach 14,895 active clients (50% of whom are women)**, up from 13,014 on 12/31/2021, and up by 19% from 12,534 clients on 12/31/2020. Including clients and their family members, you helped 74,000 people achieve improved life quality.
- **Expanded to serve more families** in need by opening the doors to a new branch in Santa Rosa.
- **Increased the value of the loan portfolio by 11%** to \$56.3M CAD, up from \$50.6M on December 31, 2021, and by 38%, up from \$40.9 M on 12/31/20.
- **Retained its ACCION CAMEL AA Rating** during this challenging time, a globally recognized indicator of performance excellence by a microfinance institution.

By investing in OIC's Honduran initiatives, you helped empower 74,475 people, including 14,895 clients and their families. As they grew their businesses, clients created jobs for 22,342 neighbours, improving life for another 89,370 people living in poverty.

IRIS INSPIRED HER COMMUNITY DURING CRISIS

Iris lives in a Puerto Cortés barrio in Honduras and owns a walk-up restaurant. Just three short years ago, Iris recalls the day she knew her life was forever changed. After hearing about IDH from a neighbour, Iris used her first microloan to expand her business and at that moment, she could not have known how timely that decision was for her family. In October 2020 she was approved for a second loan. One month later, Hurricanes Eta and Iota destroyed large swaths of the country and flooded Iris' tiny eatery.

With three children to raise, Iris persevered until she found a silver lining in the form of her IDH training, her entrepreneurial skills, and beledas hondureñas. Yes, beledas hondureñas. Iris lovingly prepared Honduras's favorite comfort food when comfort was needed most. She expanded by adding a patio with a tin roof to protect customers from sun and rain and a picnic table that allowed families to eat outdoors while social distancing.

Through a training generously funded by Rotarians, she learned to market her beledas on Facebook and WhatsApp so her customers could send their orders and safely pick up or take advantage of delivery since her husband found a great way to put his motorcycle taxi to work. They were proud that they created two new jobs when they hired their son who also made deliveries. Today, Iris encourages her children to become entrepreneurs, saying, **"As your own boss, you can get through anything!"**



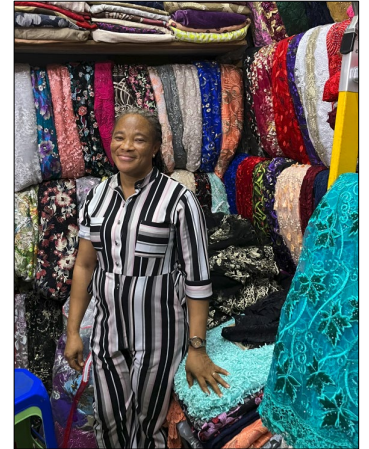
EMPOWERING WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS, YOUTH, AND FARMERS IN AFRICA

YOU MADE A LASTING DIFFERENCE IN GHANA

Sinapi Aba's Women's Mentorship Program built the capacity, skills, knowledge, and experience of 290 marginalized women in 2022 to grow sustainable income-generating, job-creating businesses through training, mentorship, and financial inclusion. Both Mentees and Mentors increased their incomes and made lasting changes for about 1,160 of their families.

Meet Juliet, (pictured right), a client of Sinapi Aba's Women's Mentorship Program and a savvy entrepreneur who has an eye for design. She used a microloan to double her inventory by purchasing in bulk at lower prices. Juliet was thrilled and her clients were too.

Juliet is an energetic, natural-born entrepreneur who has an eye for design, especially beautiful fabrics. Operating her own business for more than 14 years, she recalls the early days when she struggled to purchase all the fabrics her clients most desired. That all changed when she was introduced to Sinapi Aba. She received financial literacy training followed by a microloan that allowed her to double her on-hand selection of goods by purchasing in bulk at lower prices. Her customers were so excited to see the fully stocked shelves. Juliet was delighted to achieve immediate results with her very first microloan.



With each subsequent loan, Juliet attracted more customers, increased her sales and improved her profit margin. Over time, she grew her business into a thriving enterprise. Today, she is poised to launch her third location. She is proud of creating jobs for many of her neighbours who can now support their families.

YOU MADE A LASTING DIFFERENCE IN UGANDA

Motivated by our commitment to support the world's most vulnerable and marginalized communities, OIC supports Opportunity Bank Uganda, Ltd. (OBUL) to provide financial services and training to refugees and Ugandan host families living in refugee settlements. Late last year, OBUL launched a branch in the Nakivale Refugee Settlement in the Isingiro District. In June 2022, Opportunity's Education Finance launched EduQuality in the settlement and successfully onboarded our first school to improve learning outcomes for children.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FRIENDSHIP, PARTNERSHIP, AND SUPPORT.

We are thrilled to announce that Opportunity International Canada has once again been named one of the Top 100 Charities in 2022 by Charity Intelligence. Generous supporters just like are who make it possible for us to press forward in our mission to empower people to break the cycle of poverty.

