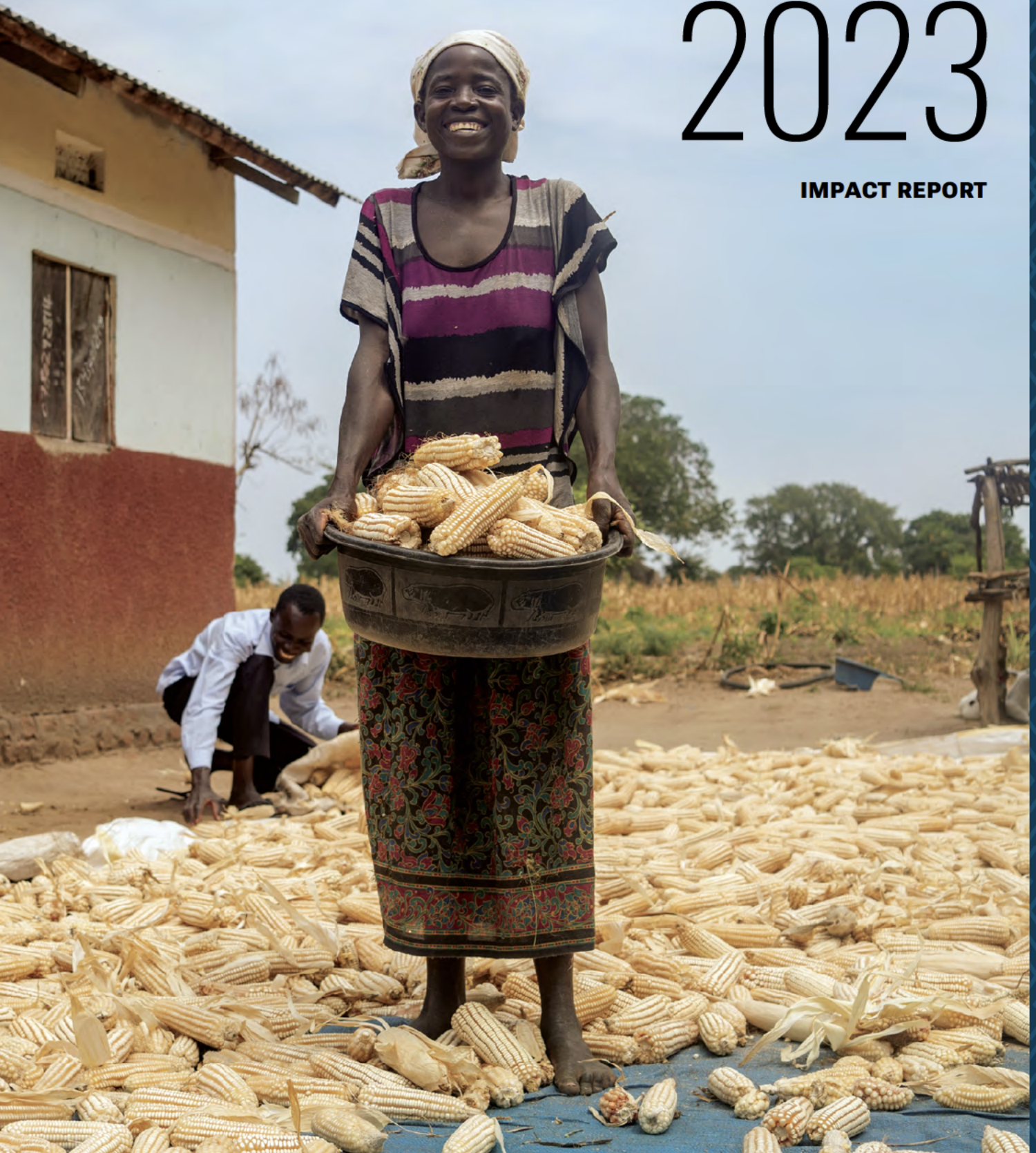


2023

IMPACT REPORT



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READING THIS REPORT

SCOPE

This report showcases the results of our Annual Household Survey (AHS) highlighting the impact of our programs on graduated RTV partner households. Results are presented by cohorts, which is the grouping of clusters according to their year of inception.

- The major focus of this report is on the findings of the cohort launched in 2021, representing clusters of villages completing their 24 months of our program and graduating in 2023. The findings from this cohort are labeled as the **2023 Graduating Cohort**.
- Aggregated results from graduated cohorts launched from 2018 to 2021 are presented at their respective 24-month graduating mark as **2018–2021 Graduated Cohorts**.
- Results from cohorts are also presented annually to showcase trends over time and illustrate how the impact has evolved by each cohort. These are labeled by each cohort's year of inception.

All monetary values are reported in USD.

STRUCTURE

Each section of the report builds upon the preceding section. Whereas the **Overview** section provides impact at a glance, the **In-Depth** section presents a comprehensive analysis of key impact and value drivers. The **In-Focus** section goes into expanded detail about our key impact drivers with a deeper level of granularity focused on the 2023 Graduating Cohort.

Additional information, including a glossary of terms and a list of abbreviations, can be found in the **Appendix**.

REFINEMENTS IN OUR IMPACT REPORTING

As we continue to grow and evolve, we are always looking for ways to improve our impact measurement methodology. Our commitment ensures that our approach stays both rigorous and relevant. The key refinements we have made in this impact report are outlined below:

Inflation and Currency Conversion

To provide a more accurate representation of our program's impact year-over-year, all monetary values in this report have been adjusted for local inflation based on annual inflation published by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, with 2017 as the base year. For currency conversion to USD, a singular nominal exchange rate with 2017 as the base year has been applied for comparison over the years to account for conversion rate fluctuations. For reporting our Return on Investment (ROI) metrics, Cost Per Household (CPH) has been adjusted using the same treatment for true comparison with the outcomes. These changes offer our readers a more precise understanding of our progress and are reflected consistently across this report.

RTV also completed additional analysis to convert all inflation-adjusted outcomes to USD using the 2017 PPP exchange rate for true comparison against the extreme monetary poverty line. Whereas that analysis is not included within the scope of this report, it can be made available upon request.

→ [Appendix: Abbreviations and Glossary of Terms](#)



Terminology Updates

Household Income and Production

We have refined the name of our keystone metric from **Household Income and Earnings** to **Household Income and Production**. This change better reflects the components included in the computation, ensuring clarity without altering the calculation method. Household Income and Production includes the annual income of a partner household earned from all sources, any unsold agricultural production used for consumption or re-planting, and any livestock consumption net of livestock income (net production). This is divided by 365 days to report Household Income and Production per day.

Annual Program Value

Annual Household Value includes the total household income, agriculture and livestock (net) production, and livestock assets. The differential in Annual Household Value between RTV partner households and peer households is being referred to as **Annual Program Value** to reflect the value unlocked as a result of our programs. **Return on Investment** is calculated based on the Annual Program Value.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to express our gratitude to Dr. Emma Riley, Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics at the University of Michigan, for her guidance on refinements in our reporting.

01

OUR COMMITMENT AND COMMUNITY

Introduction to Raising
The Village (RTV) and our
comprehensive strategy for
measuring impact, with a
message from our CEO high-
lighting key achievements.

Introduction



MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER & CEO



Reflecting on this year at Raising The Village, we are proud of our progress, thankful for the tireless dedication of our partner communities and team members, and humbled by the continued trust of our funding partners. Driven by our mission to address ultra-poverty in last-mile communities, our data-informed and adaptive approach continued to evolve this year – as we continued to grow.

Amidst rising inflation, socio-economic challenges, and the increasing impact of climate change on our partner communities who rely on rain-fed agriculture, RTV delivered strong results in 2023. Our key focus has been elevating our standards of program quality while continuing to expand our reach.

Some of the milestones this year include:

- Reached **301,273** people in last-mile villages in 2023, 34% more than last year – taking our cumulative reach to **966,621** community partners to date.
- Partner households graduating in 2023 successfully increased their average Household Income and Production from **\$0.84/day** at baseline to **\$2.23/day** at graduation, \$1.59/day more than the peer households within 24 months.
- Achieved **514%** Return on Investment for every \$114 invested per household by RTV, unlocking **\$697** in Annual Program Value for partner households compared to their peers over 24 months. For our 2018 Cohort that completed five years since inception, our partner households' wealth continued to grow, unlocking \$1,378 in Annual Program Value over 60 months – 12x the one-time investment.
- Rolled out pivotal innovations as part of **RTV Venn**, our advanced data analytics ecosystem, including our custom-built mobile Check-in application that helps our teams track and report progress and access real-time data to guide their work.

Looking ahead, our core strategic priorities remain focused on scaling up and advancing Venn to continuously improve our program methodology, optimize resources, and maximize impact. Our ambitious goals can only be achieved with thoughtful investments in building organizational capacity and infrastructure – a critical priority for us.

We will continue to learn and innovate while deepening our commitment to addressing ultra-poverty in last-mile communities. I extend my sincerest gratitude to our team, our Board of Directors, and all our partners for an incredible year. I invite you to join us in celebrating the progress detailed in this report.

Best,

Shawn Holden Cheung
Founder & CEO



ABOUT RAISING THE VILLAGE

A world without
ultra-poverty is
the vision that
inspires us.

We believe that everyone deserves economic security and fulfilled lives, including communities living in last-mile villages dependent on rain-fed farming for sustenance and livelihood.

Over 1.1 billion people today live in acute multidimensional poverty¹, with half of them living in Sub-Saharan Africa. Ultra-poor communities, the most vulnerable subset, live in hard-to-reach villages earning as little as <\$0.75/day for a household of five and face acute multidimensional deprivations. **This is where RTV comes in – to reimagine poverty graduation as a low-cost, scalable model** for last-mile subsistence farming communities where vulnerable households are concentrated with no or limited access to development opportunities.

Currently operating in Uganda and working in clusters of villages experiencing ultra-poverty, RTV relies on continuous and real-time data analytics to inform decision-making, optimize interventions, and maximize impact. Using a community-driven development approach, we partner with communities for 24 months. Through carefully sequenced activities, our program focuses on increasing Household Income and Production to > \$2/day by driving agricultural incomes, fueling new income-generating opportunities, creating an enabling environment for communities to participate, and ensuring the sustainability of impact and progress after graduation.

→ Appendix: Program Roadmap

¹Global Multidimensional Poverty Index, 2023

PROGRAM PILLARS

KEYSTONE METRIC

Increasing household income and production to >\$2/day



ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

- **AGRICULTURAL LIVELIHOODS**
Increasing agriculture production and income by providing access to improved agriculture inputs and training on modern farming practices while creating a sustainable ecosystem to move farmers with limited land and resources from sustenance to income generation.
- **DIVERSIFIED INCOME STREAMS**
Fueling small business investment and asset gains through financial inclusion.
- **FINANCIAL INCLUSION**
Facilitating savings and access to peer-reviewed loans for investment and asset development through Village Savings & Loans Associations (VSLA) and financial literacy training.



PHYSICAL WELL-BEING

- **FOOD SECURITY**
Improving food security by providing vegetable seedlings, training, and ongoing support.
- **HEALTH AWARENESS**
Improving health outcomes by providing access to preventative care awareness, HIV testing, and referrals through Health Outreach sessions.
- **WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE**
Reducing the incidence of illnesses through sanitation and hygiene training, promoting the adoption of best practices, and providing access to clean water sources in water-stressed communities.



SOCIAL WELL-BEING

- **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**
Engaging communities through a participatory approach in project design and implementation, building community support and leadership structures with peer accountability mechanisms.
- **MINDSET & BEHAVIOR CHANGE**
Inspiring positive mindset and behavior change at individual, household, and community levels through training and ongoing support.
- **GENDER EQUITY & YOUTH INCLUSION**
Fostering gender equity as an integral part of the program through community-wide training and coaching, as well as prioritizing women and youth in program interventions.

UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

While our work touches on many of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) set forth by the United Nations, we prioritize our efforts on five critical goals that form the building blocks for peace and prosperity for last-mile communities living in ultra-poverty.

- 1 NO POVERTY**

- 2 ZERO HUNGER**

- 5 GENDER EQUALITY**

- 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION**

- 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**


IMPACT MEASUREMENT METHODOLOGY

With our responsive program framework, RTV relies heavily on continuous and real-time data collection using several data collection tools and evaluation approaches. RTV Venn, our advanced data analytics ecosystem, comprises intuitive tools built by our in-house Planning, Evaluation, and Learning (PEAL) team in Uganda, enabling us to track, analyze, and prioritize key metrics. This means making evidence-based program adjustments, providing stakeholders with meaningful reporting, making informed investment decisions, and ultimately making a deeper, more sustainable impact.

Using digital tools, **Program Activity Reports** allow us to track progress and community participation. Our custom-built applications enable us to monitor the adoption of recommended practices for every household during **Household Check-ins** by our staff. **Standard Evaluation Surveys**, conducted through independent data contractors at regular intervals of 3 and 6 months during implementation, provide us timely insights on the adoption of good practices strongly correlated to achieving intended outcomes. This timely inflow of multidimensional data with advanced data analysis and integrated dashboards allows our teams to track real-time progress, troubleshoot, and even forecast expected outcomes, which are ultimately measured in our **Annual Household Survey**.

RTV Venn, our advanced data analytics ecosystem, comprises intuitive tools built by our in-house Planning, Evaluation, and Learning (PEAL) team in Uganda, enabling us to track, analyze, and prioritize key metrics.



ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

For impact measurement and reporting detailed in this report, an **Annual Household Survey (AHS)** is carried out to collect household data points on social and economic indicators and key impact drivers.

These annual surveys are completed both for partner and peer groups, from month 0 to 24 to inform and evaluate the impact and up to month 60 to assess its sustainability. For topline impact analysis, we follow the **Longitudinal Study** research design, under which the same samples are followed for the entire period of five years from baseline. To ensure we are reaching and impacting the most vulnerable and to understand the category of income earners where our impact is felt most, RTV also carries out a **Heterogeneity Analysis** by cohorts.

Utilizing statistical modeling, we perform regression analysis to assess impact using Alteryx workflows, STATA, and Python. Specifically, we apply the **Difference-in-Differences** approach to analyze household key metrics such as incomes, income streams, and assets for both partner (treatment) and peer (control) groups. Our analysis includes univariate, bivariate, and multivariate methods to investigate the relationships between various key variables and household income.

HOUSEHOLDS SURVEYED
by independent contractors
across **967 villages**

25,685

SURVEY RESPONSE RATE

99.4%

STATISTICAL POWER

achieved with robust sampling

0.99

P-VALUES USED

to obtain statistically significant
results for publication

≤ 0.05 or ≤ 0.01

→ Appendix: Annual Household Survey Methodology and Standards

02

GOING THE LAST MILE

Spotlight on the scope of our reach across Uganda and insights about the partner communities we serve.

Our Community Partners



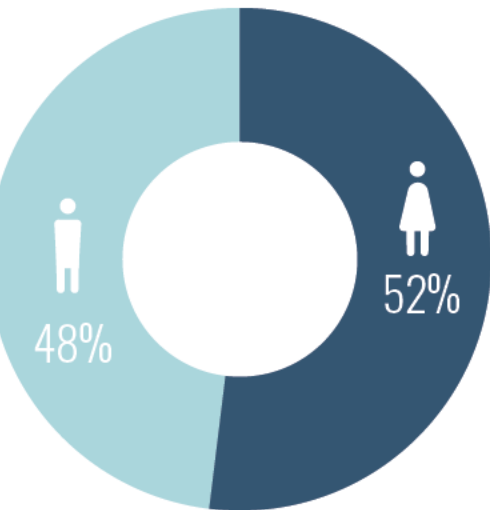
OUR FOOTPRINT

2023 REACH

In 2023 we increased our reach by **34%** over the previous year and expanded our footprint across Uganda, with entry into four new districts.

PEOPLE

301,273

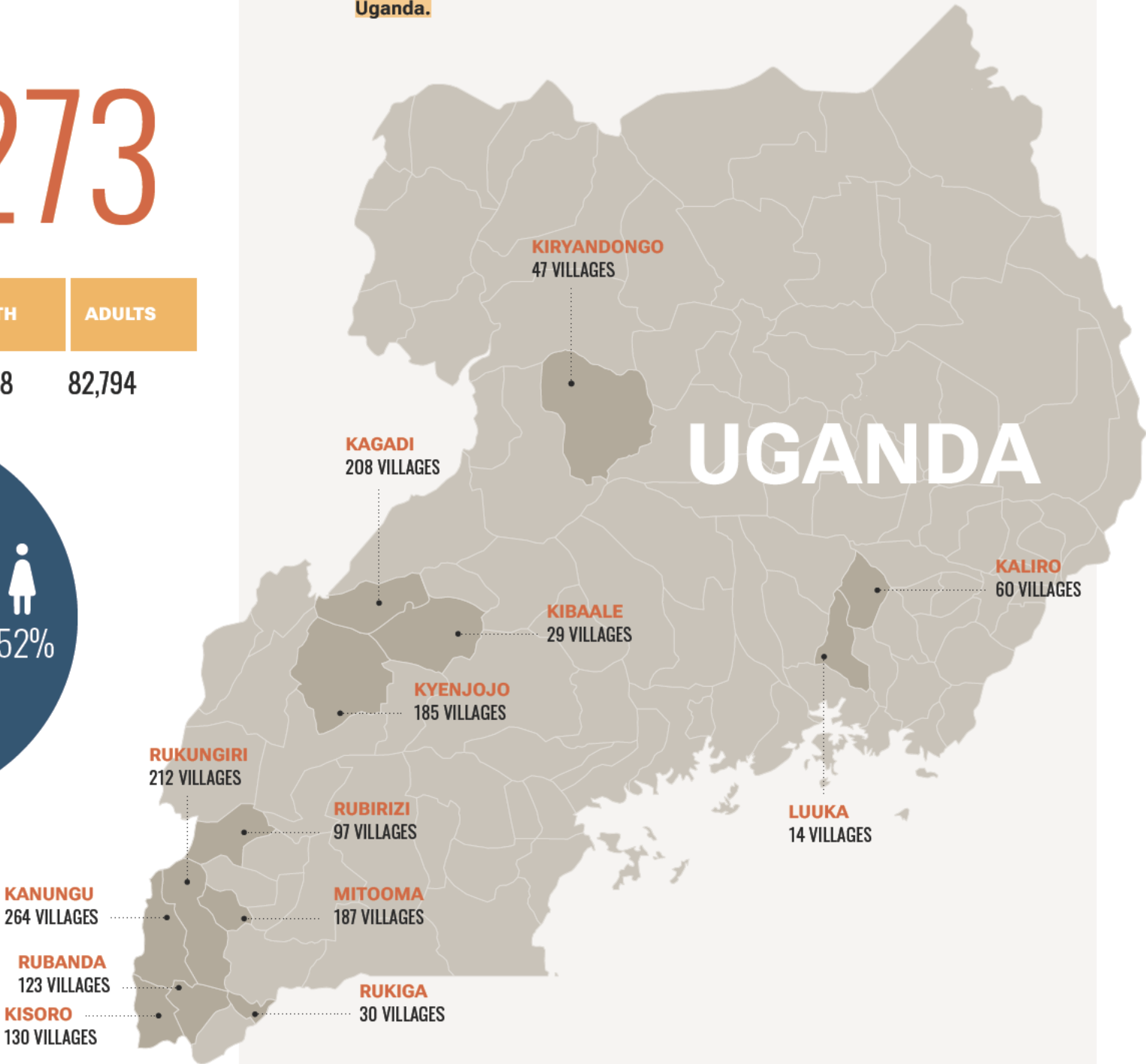


HOUSEHOLDS
59,788

VILLAGES
505

YEAR-OVER-YEAR GROWTH

Raising The Village launched its very first cluster-based model in 2016, reaching 23,913 people in the Kisoro district. Since then, we have partnered with **966,621 community members in 1,586 villages across 13 districts in Uganda.**



2023 REACH
301,273

2022 REACH
225,314

2021 REACH
163,174

2020 REACH
97,368

2019 REACH
67,556

2018 REACH
52,240

2017 REACH
35,783

2016 REACH
23,913

2023 GRADUATING COHORT

Household Characteristics at Baseline

Last-mile communities clustered in remote areas experience multidimensional challenges. The households, earning as low as \$0.52/day for an entire family, experience deep disadvantages, including limited resources, poor agricultural productivity, high food insecurity, lack of education, inadequate living standards, long distances from resources, and limited or no access to government services.

DEMOGRAPHIC	
MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD SIZE	MEDIAN LAND SIZE
5	1 acre
HOUSEHOLD HEAD MEDIAN AGE	LITERATE HOUSEHOLD HEAD*
45 years	62%

ECONOMIC	
BASELINE HOUSEHOLD INCOME & NET PRODUCTION (PER HOUSEHOLD)	
\$0.84/day	
PRIMARY SOURCE OF SUSTENANCE & INCOME	NUMBER OF INCOME SOURCES* (PER HOUSEHOLD)
Agriculture	1.7

ACCESS TO SERVICES	
OUTPATIENT HEALTH SERVICES (ROUND TRIP)	CLEAN WATER (2 ROUND TRIPS PER DAY)
170 min	107 min

*Average

PLANTING SEEDS OF PROSPERITY



“The place where our new house stands used to be a pig sty. This is where things changed for us.”

RTV PARTNER FAMILY, FIVE YEARS LATER

For Penilope and Eric, residents of a last-mile village in the Kanungu district, the past five years have been a transformational journey. “The place where our new house stands used to be a pig sty. This is where things changed for us,” Penilope beams proudly, pointing to their newly constructed home.

She recalls how different their lives were until 2018. “Providing for our five children was a struggle, especially with a land that barely provided a decent harvest.” They would have, at the most, two meals a day, and a financial emergency meant borrowing from local lenders and being burdened by high-interest debt. While Penilope and Eric tried their best to build a better future for themselves and their children, they faced multiple obstacles. “People here did not have proper homes, access to water was a big issue, sending children to school was a distant dream, and our mindset was different as a community. We did not know how to leverage collective savings. But all this changed when we partnered with RTV.”

In 2018, their village was one of the 52 villages in Kanungu that partnered with RTV. To increase incomes sustainably, they participated in training sessions on modern farming practices,

good sanitation and hygiene, financial literacy, livestock management, and more. They received agricultural inputs, including good-quality seeds, to improve farm yields. Additionally, they learned how to plant a compound garden to enhance food security and started growing vegetables for their family.

“We learned how to make compost pits and liquid manure. When we applied all of our learnings, it made a huge difference”, Penilope said. Their farm yield improved dramatically. To grow their income further and access affordable credit for expanding their farming, they participated in the Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) and started investing money in rearing goats and pigs.

After the village graduated in 2020, they continued to receive technical support from local community structures and kept the momentum going. Their children completed their education, with the youngest graduating from college in 2021. Penilope and Eric have since expanded their farming, own much more land, and are still part of multiple savings groups. “The last five years have completely changed our lives. The change they started with us when they came to Kanungu in our cluster of five villages kept growing and expanding to other villages. If we continue doing what we have been doing, Kanungu will soon be unrecognizable.”

“The last five years have completely changed our lives. The change they (RTV) started with us when they came to Kanungu in our cluster of five villages kept growing and expanding to other villages.

Penilope
Partner community member, Kanungu district



03

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

A panoramic view of our key impact metrics for graduated cohorts.

Overview

2023 GRADUATING COHORT (at 24 months)
2018 COHORT (at 60 months, 5 years since inception)

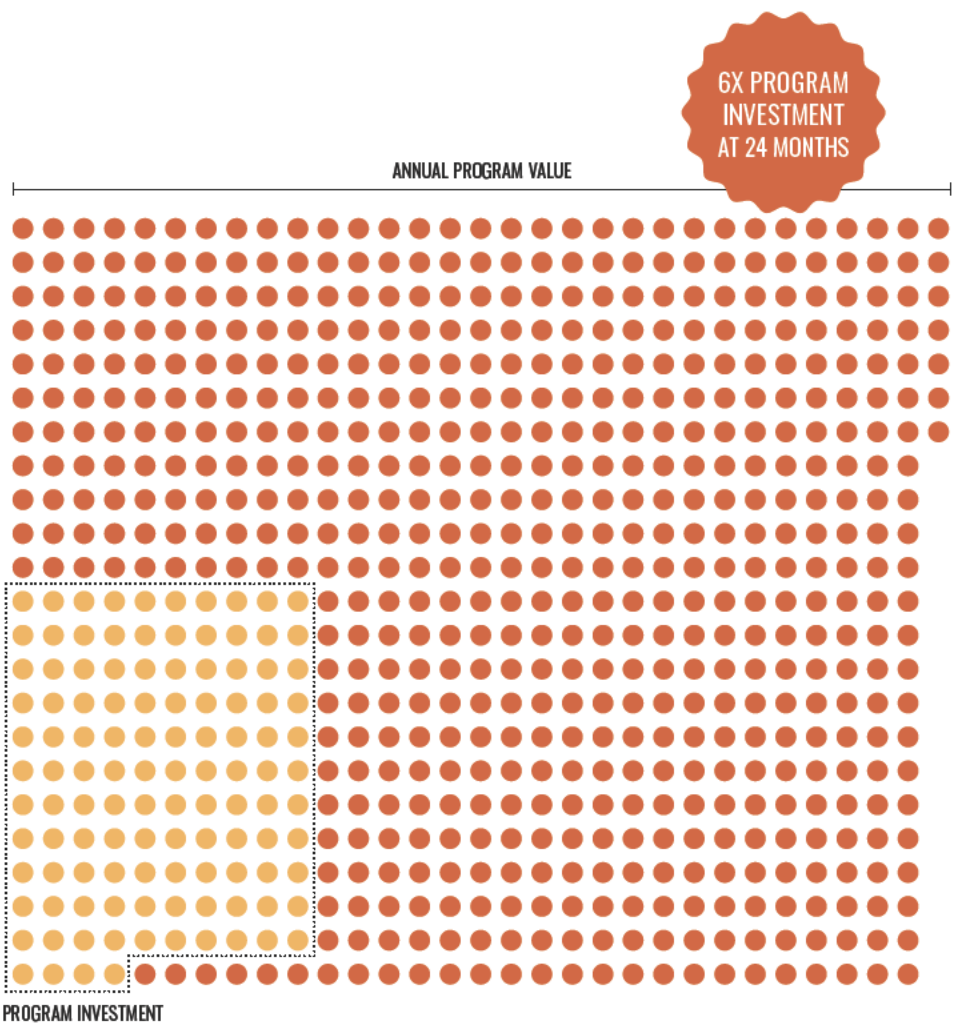
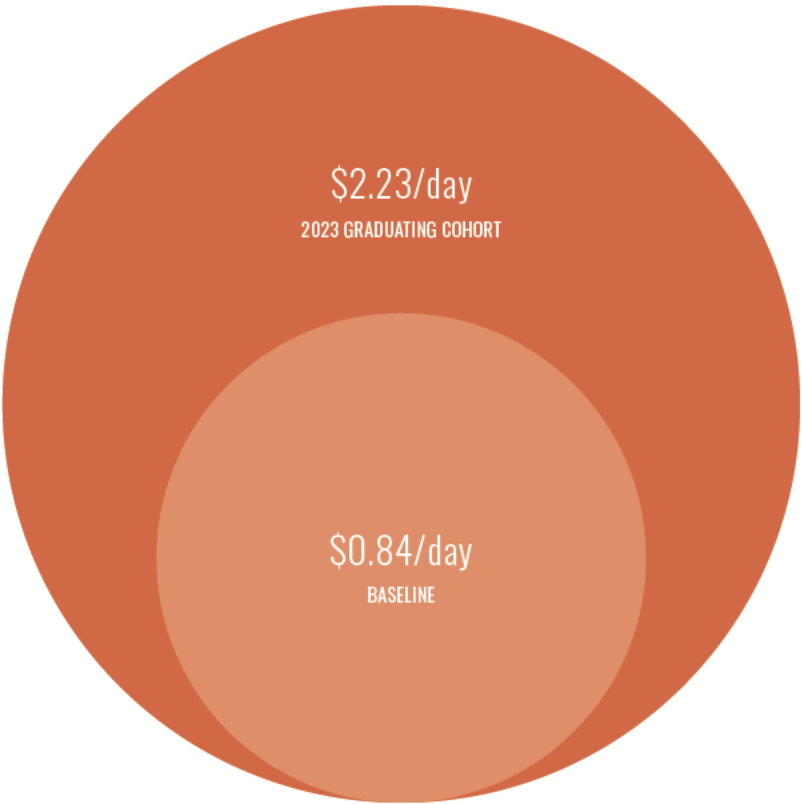
HOUSEHOLD INCOME + PRODUCTION PER DAY (USD)

\$2.23

An increase from \$0.84/day at baseline, outpacing peers by a cumulative differential of \$697 over 24 months.

\$2.56

An increase from \$1.10/day at baseline, outpacing peers by a cumulative differential of \$1378 over 60 months.



RETURN ON INVESTMENT²

514%

Return on an average investment of \$114/household over 24 months.

1140%

Return on a one-time investment of \$111/household over 60 months.

ANNUAL PROGRAM VALUE PER HOUSEHOLD (USD)

\$697

Unlocked by partner households over peers in 24 months, **6X the program investment.**

\$1378

Unlocked by partner households over peers in 60 months, **12X the initial one-time investment.**

KEY INCOME DRIVERS

267%

INCREASE IN HOUSEHOLD ANNUAL AGRICULTURE

Income fueled by an increase in the Annual Agriculture Value from \$203 at baseline to \$578 at graduation, outpacing peers by a cumulative differential of \$465 over 24 months.

133%

INCREASE IN SMALL BUSINESS INCOME

Emerging as a strong contributor to gains over 24 months.

360%

INCREASE HOUSEHOLD ANNUAL AGRICULTURE INCOME

Fueled by an increase in the Annual Agricultural Value from \$221 to \$648, outpacing peers by a cumulative differential of \$861 over 60 months.

PROGRESS OUT OF POVERTY INDEX

20.7

At 24 months, 9.8 points improvement from baseline.

19.8

At 60 months, 7.4 points improvement from baseline.

²At the topline level, ROI is based on total organizational investment, including direct and indirect costs, excluding any other in-kind or service contributions.

04

COMPREHENSIVE IMPACT ANALYSIS

Detailed results from graduated cohorts, with insights on the key drivers of impact across our program pillars.

To make year-over-year monetary values comparable, 2017 has been used consistently as a base year for inflation adjustment as well as for UGX to USD conversion.

In-Depth



2018–2021 GRADUATED COHORTS

The topline below offer a consolidated view of the progress and achievements of cohorts enrolled in our program between 2018 and 2021 during their 24-month program cycle.

RESULTS PER HOUSEHOLD AT 24 MONTHS (USD)

	RTV			PEER			DIFFERENTIAL			
	Baseline	Month 12	Month 24	Baseline	Month 12	Month 24	Baseline	Month 12	Month 24	Cumulative
HOUSEHOLD INCOME & PRODUCTION/DAY	0.99	1.81	2.15	1.19	1.39	1.40	-0.20	0.41	0.75	1.36
ANNUAL PROGRAM VALUE*	445	840	1003	550	635	646	-106	204	357	614
Annual Household Income	223	416	501	269	309	318	-46	108	183	337
Annual Household Net Production	137	243	283	164	200	194	-27	43	89	159
Livestock Assets	85	181	218	117	127	134	-33	53	85	118
GRAMEEN PROGRESS OUT OF POVERTY INDEX	30.0	23.4	21.3	29.4	28.2	27.7	0.6	-4.7	-6.4	-7.0

The average Household Income and Production for RTV partner communities increased from \$0.99/day to \$2.15/day in 24 months.

Household Income & Production/Day

By graduation, partner households were able to increase their average Income and Production per day by **118%** over baseline, \$1.36/day more than peer households over 24 months.

Annual Program Value

\$614 unlocked in Household Income, Net Production, and Livestock Assets compared to peers over 24 months.

Grameen Progress Out of Poverty Index

Improvement in Progress out of Poverty Index in partner households by 8.8 points over baseline, in comparison to an improvement of 1.7 points in peer households over 24 months.

* Differentials depict Annual Program Value created per RTV partner household in comparison to peer households.

2023 GRADUATING COHORT

Our most recent graduating cohort was enrolled in our program in 2021. The following findings showcase partner households’ progress over 24 months from baseline to graduation.

RESULTS PER HOUSEHOLD AT 24 MONTHS (USD)

	RTV			PEER			DIFFERENTIAL			
	Baseline	Month 12	Month 24	Baseline	Month 12	Month 24	Baseline	Month 12	Month 24	Cumulative
HOUSEHOLD INCOME & PRODUCTION/DAY	0.84	1.66	2.23	1.22	1.31	1.37	-0.39	0.35	0.85	1.59
ANNUAL PROGRAM VALUE*	386	774	1023	552	593	620	-167	181	402	697
Annual Household Income	167	377	481	270	294	293	-103	83	188	374
Annual Household Net Production	138	230	332	176	185	208	-38	45	123	206
Livestock Assets	80	166	210	106	114	119	-26	53	91	117
GRAMEEN PROGRESS OUT OF POVERTY INDEX	30.6	24.0	20.8	28.1	27.3	26.0	2.5	-3.3	-5.2	-7.7

For the 2023 Graduating Cohort, the average Household Income and Production for RTV partner communities increased from \$0.84/day to \$2.23/day in 24 months.

Household Income & Production/Day

By graduation, partner households were able to increase their average Income and Production by **166%** over baseline, \$1.59/day more than peer households over 24 months.

Annual Program Value

\$697 unlocked in Household Income, Net Production, and Livestock Assets compared to peers over 24 months.

Grameen Progress Out of Poverty Index

Improvement in Progress out of Poverty Index by **9.8** points over baseline, in comparison to an improvement of 2.09 points in peer households in 24 months.

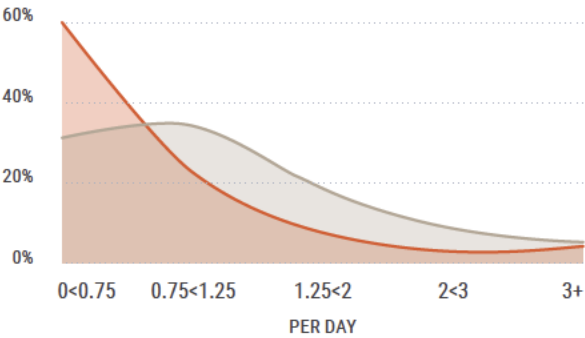
* Differentials depict Annual Program Value created per RTV partner household in comparison to peer households.

INCOME DISTRIBUTION

Examining the shifts in income distribution in our partner communities from baseline to graduation provides us with valuable insights into the progress made in comparison to peers.

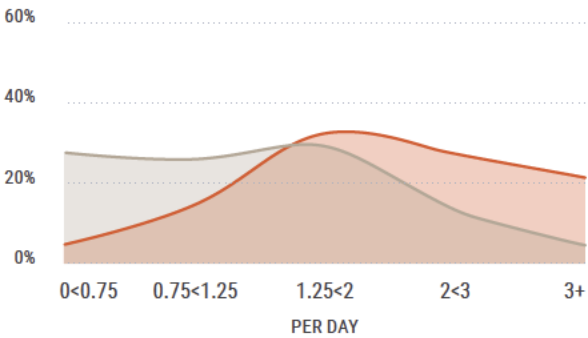


2023 GRADUATING COHORT: INCOME DISTRIBUTIONS AT BASELINE

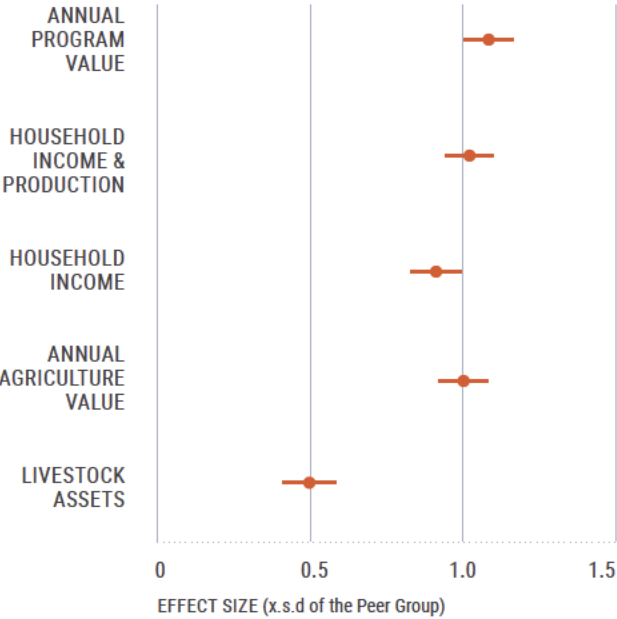


For RTV partner households in the 2023 Graduating Cohort, we see a positive shift in Household Income and Production distribution, with more households transitioning from lower to higher income brackets from baseline to graduation.

AT GRADUATION



DIFFERENCE-IN-DIFFERENCE ESTIMATES FOR MAIN STANDARDIZED OUTCOMES



Relative Impact	Effect Size
SMALL	0.2
MEDIUM	0.5
LARGE	0.8

Using standard deviation units, we assessed the magnitude of difference-in-difference between partner and peer groups. A value of 0.2 or less signifies a small effect size, 0.5 indicates a medium effect size, and 0.8 or greater represents a large effect size. For the 2023 Graduating Cohort, the differences-in-difference estimates expressed in standard deviation units for key standardized outcomes reflect a large and statistically significant effect size for Annual Program Value, Household Income and Production, Agriculture Value/Production, and Household Income, and a medium effect size for Livestock Assets.

2023 GRADUATING COHORT: INCOME DISTRIBUTIONS

HOUSEHOLD INCOME & PRODUCTION/DAY	BASELINE		GRADUATION	
	RTV	Peer	RTV	Peer
\$0 – ≤0.75	62%	32%	5%	27%
\$0.75 – ≤1.25	23%	35%	15%	26%
\$1.25 – ≤2	8%	19%	32%	29%
\$2 – ≤3	3%	9%	27%	13%
\$3+	4%	5%	21%	5%

Significant Reduction in Lowest Income Brackets

The reduction in the number of partner households in the lowest income brackets showcases the transformative impact of RTV’s interventions on the poorest households.

At baseline, 62% of RTV partner households were earning less than or equal to \$0.75/day. By graduation, a significant shift is observed with only 5% of partner households in the lowest income bracket as the average Household Income and Production within the bracket also improves by 30%. Peer households, on the other hand, saw a modest decrease of 4% in the lowest income bracket in 24 months.

The number of partner households in the second lowest income bracket decreased from 23% at baseline to 15% at graduation as the average Household Income and Production within the bracket rose by 8%.

Upward Mobility to Mid-Tier Income Brackets

RTV partner households successfully transitioned to mid-tier income brackets. The households in the \$1.25–\$2 income range increased from 8% at baseline to 32% at graduation, with a 5% improvement in average household income.

Achieving Higher Income Stability

Partner households earning above \$2/day increased from 7% at baseline to 48% at graduation, with 21% earning above \$3/day. Peer households in the top two income brackets saw a slight increase from 14% at baseline to 18% in 24 months, with only 5% in the highest income bracket.



“I have never had such a big harvest! I now invest regularly in our Village Savings and Loans Association. In fact, I recently borrowed from the group and purchased more farmland, and I am confident that my upcoming harvest will help me pay it back. I feel financially free and can now pay school fees for my children and grandkids. We are happy, and our lives have changed.”

ANNET
Partner community member, Kibaale district



IMPACT BY INCOME GROUPS

HETEROGENEITY ANALYSIS: HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND PRODUCTION PER DAY
2023 GRADUATING COHORT

INCOME GROUPS	RTV			PEER			DIFFERENTIAL	
	Baseline	Graduation	Improvement over 24 months	Baseline	Graduation	Improvement over 24 months	Baseline	Graduation
GROUP 1: HIGHEST EARNERS	\$1.65	\$2.28	38%	\$1.58	\$1.40	-11%	\$0.07	\$0.88
GROUP 2 SECOND HIGHEST EARNERS	\$0.98	\$2.16	121%	\$1.06	\$1.46	38%	-\$0.08	\$0.70
GROUP 3 SECOND LOWEST EARNERS	\$0.72	\$2.23	208%	\$0.72	\$1.11	54%	\$0.01	\$1.12
GROUP 4 LOWEST EARNERS	\$0.52	\$2.28	342%	\$0.63	\$1.32	110%	-\$0.11	\$0.96

Based on our findings from the 2023 Graduated Cohort, RTV’s highest level of impact is on the most vulnerable households in groups 3 and 4, earning the least at the start of the program.

To examine where our impact is felt the most, RTV carries out a **Heterogeneity Analysis**. Partner villages are divided into four equal groups (quartiles) by applying daily Household Income and Production as a variable at baseline. Progress is tracked in comparison to respective peer groups from baseline to graduation to ensure our programs are impacting the most vulnerable.

Income and Production
RTV partner households in all income groups improved their average Income and Production over 24 months, outperforming their respective peer groups.

The two lowest-earning RTV groups achieved the highest level of progress from baseline to graduation.

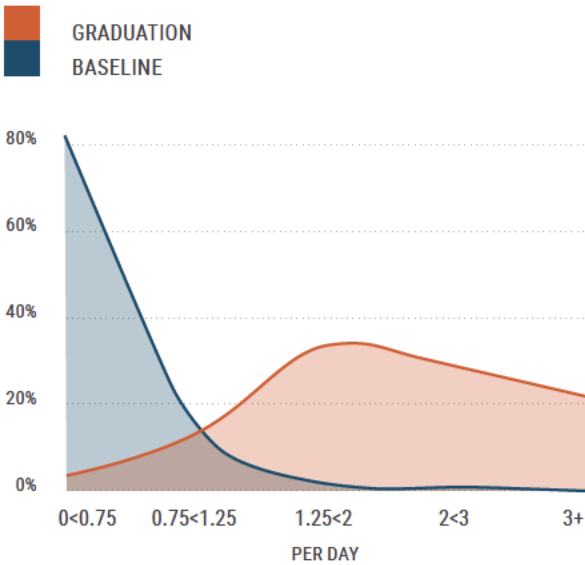
For the lowest earning group in the 2023 Graduating Cohort, the income distribution data highlights a transformative shift.

GROUP 4 – LOWEST INCOME EARNERS:
INCOME DISTRIBUTION

Household Income & Production/Day	Baseline	Graduation
\$0 – ≤0.75	82%	4%
\$0.75 – ≤1.25	15%	13%
\$1.25 – ≤2	2%	33%
\$2 – ≤3	1%	28%
\$3+	0%	22%

At baseline, 82% of partner households in Group 4 were earning less than or equal to \$0.75/day. By graduation, this number significantly reduced to 4%. Households earning more than \$2/day, which was a mere 1% at baseline, increased to 50% at graduation, with 22% of households earning more than \$3.

GROUP 4 – LOWEST INCOME EARNERS:
RTV PARTNER HOUSEHOLDS



“We have little knowledge of how to create capital. Most of us have not had a chance to go to school. So many grow old and don’t know how to run a business. After partnering with RTV, we started a youth VSLA group. From our savings, each member is buying animals. I plan to grow my animal business and earn money for my education.”

CLEOPHUS
Partner community member, Kagadi district

IMPACT ON WOMEN-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS

Women in rural Uganda make essential contributions to agriculture and local economic activities. Women-headed households in our partner communities, representing single women household heads, carry a disproportionate burden of poverty due to societal norms, limited access to resources, and other compounding disadvantages. As part of our program design, women-headed households are prioritized in our interventions, with emphasis on addressing systemic barriers, increasing representation in leadership, changing behaviors around gender roles, and prioritizing the allocation of program inputs and support.

At graduation, women-headed households in the 2023 Graduating Cohort successfully increased their daily Income and Production to \$2.12, \$1.65/day more than peers over 24 months.

198%
Increase in Household Income and Production from baseline to graduation, compared to a 12% increase in the peer group.

\$743
Annual Program Value per household created over 24 months in comparison to peers.

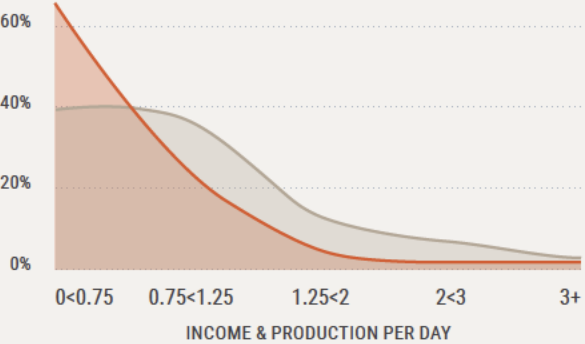
303%
Increase in Agricultural Income, compared to a 5% decline in the peer group.

144%
Higher annual savings for women-headed households participating in VSLAs in comparison to peers.

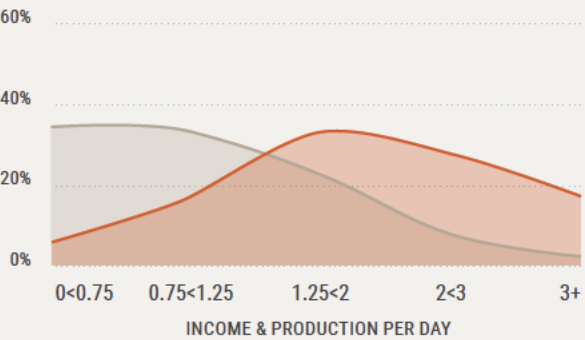
The income distributions for women-headed partner households in the 2023 Graduating Cohort showcase an upward shift from baseline to graduation.

RTV
PEER

WOMEN-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS: INCOME DISTRIBUTIONS AT BASELINE



AT GRADUATION



At baseline, 66% of the women-headed partner households earned less than or equal to \$0.75/day; by graduation, this decreased to only 6%. Those earning over \$2/day jumped from 3% at baseline to 45% at graduation, with 17% of the households earning above \$3/day. In contrast, the percentage of women-headed households in the peer group earning below \$0.75/day saw a modest reduction from 40% to 34% over the same 24-month period, with the highest earners increasing only marginally from 9% to 10%.

IMPACT ON YOUTH-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS

Living in ultra-poverty has long-lasting effects on marginalized youth who are often excluded from traditional development programs. By prioritizing youth-headed households in allocating program inputs, addressing barriers to financial inclusion, and offering ongoing coaching and support, RTV programs aim to break the generational cycle of ultra-poverty for young adults and their families.

Youth-headed households in the 2023 Graduating Cohort outperformed their peers over the 24-month program period.

\$507
Annual Program Value per household created over 24 months in comparison to peers.

147%
Increase in Household Income and Production from baseline to graduation, compared to a 24% increase in the peer group.

113%
Higher annual savings for youth-headed households participating in VSLAs in comparison to peers.

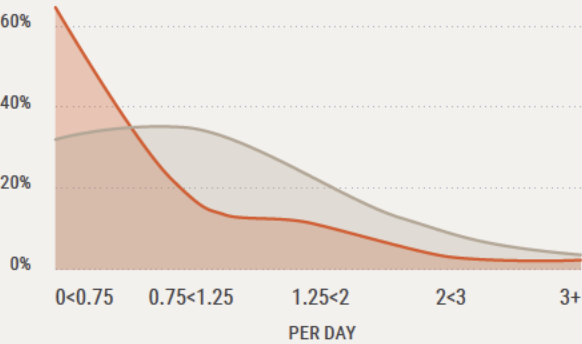
189%
Increase in Livestock Assets, compared to an 18% increase in the peer group.

220%
Increase in Agricultural Income, compared to a 2% increase in the peer group.

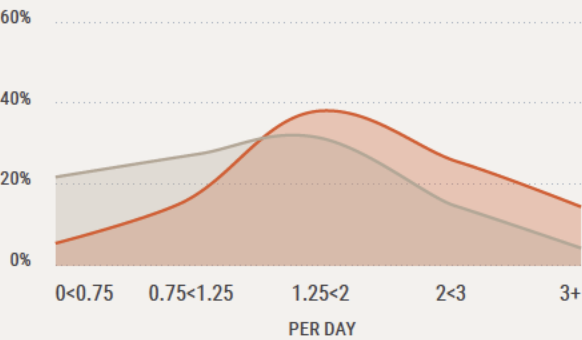


RTV
PEER

YOUTH-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS: INCOME DISTRIBUTIONS AT BASELINE



AT GRADUATION



Youth-headed partner households in the 2023 Graduating Cohort exhibited significant income distribution shifts from baseline to graduation.

The proportion of youth-headed partner households earning less than or equal to \$0.75/day decreased from 65% to 6%, while those earning over \$2/day increased from 5% to 40%, with 14% of the households earning above \$3/day. In contrast, the peer group saw a decline from 32% to 22% in the lowest income bracket and an increase in households earning over \$2/day from 12% to 20% over 24 months.

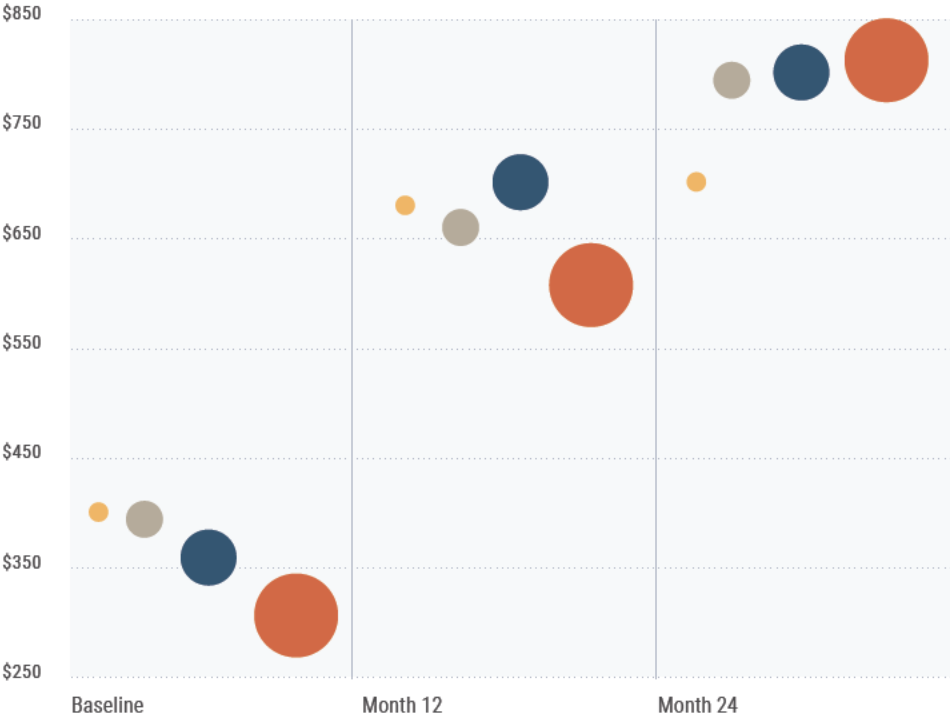
RESULTS BY COHORTS

RTV continues to improve program impact year-over-year, with our partner communities maintaining the momentum of growth after graduation.

With each successive cohort, we expanded our reach and optimized impact in our partner communities – demonstrating continuous improvement in our methodology. Our data-informed and adaptive approach, smart allocation of resources, and commitment to innovation are some of the factors that enable us as we scale.



RTV COHORTS YEAR OVER YEAR
ANNUAL INCOME AND NET PRODUCTION



2021 REACH
163,174

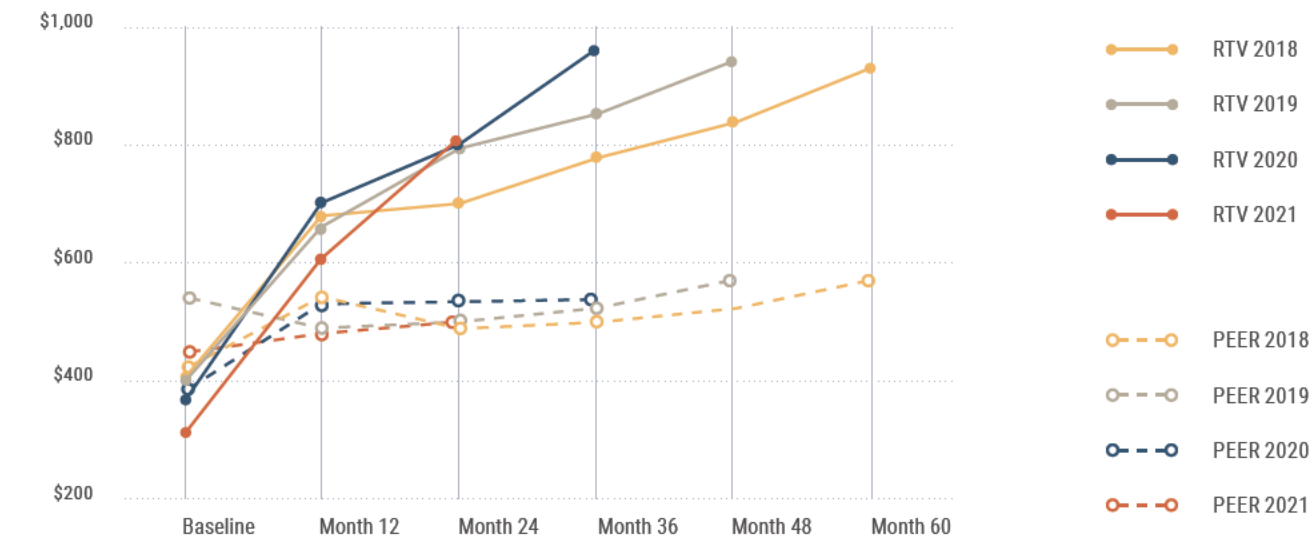
2020 REACH
97,368

2019 REACH
67,556

2018 REACH
52,240

Annual Income and Net Production/Household

RTV cohorts continued to sustain income growth after graduating from the program. Five years since inception, partner households from the 2018 Cohort increased their income and net production by 133% from baseline, compared to 37% in peer households.



RTV

2018	\$400	\$680	\$701	\$779	\$840	\$935
2019	\$394	\$661	\$795	\$854	\$946	
2020	\$360	\$702	\$802	\$966		
2021	\$305	\$607	\$813			

PEER

2018	\$417	\$543	\$488	\$499	\$523	\$573
2019	\$543	\$488	\$499	\$523	\$573	
2020	\$379	\$531	\$533	\$539		
2021	\$446	\$480	\$501			

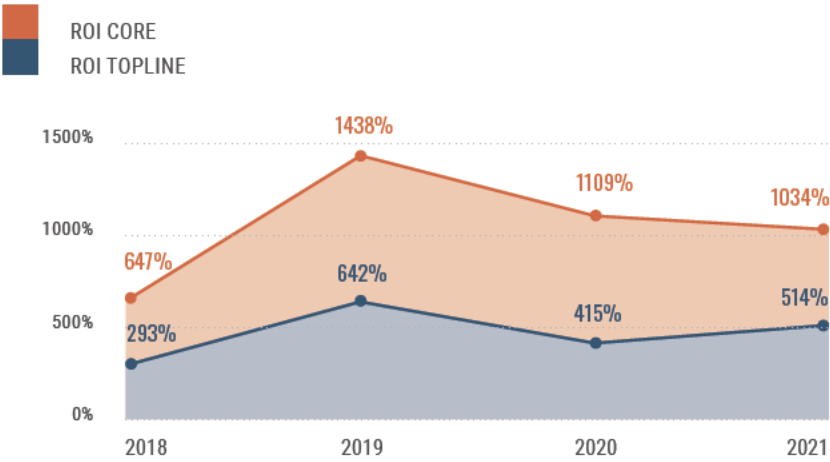
RETURN ON INVESTMENT

For RTV, optimizing resources isn’t just a logistical priority – it is a commitment to ensure that every action we take maximizes our impact and brings us one step closer to addressing ultra-poverty in last-mile communities. Based on the Annual Program Net Value differential (RTV partners vs. peers) in relation to investment per household, our program’s Return on Investment (ROI) stands as an important measure.

The value unlocked by RTV programs in 24 months was 6X the program investment. Five years in, the value increased to 12X the initial one-time investment.

ROI AT 24 MONTHS

YEAR-OVER-YEAR TREND BY COHORT



RETURNS BY COHORT AT 24 MONTHS

	2018	2019	2020 ³	2021
ROI – TOPLINE				
Based on total RTV expenditure per household	293%	642%	415%	514%
ROI – CORE				
Based on direct program cost per household only	647%	1438%	1109%	1034%
ANNUAL PROGRAM VALUE				
Cumulative Differential between RTV and peer households over 24 months	\$437	\$807	\$551	\$697
COST PER HOUSEHOLD				
Total RTV expenditure per household	\$111	\$109	\$107 ⁴	\$114
DIRECT COST PER HOUSEHOLD				
Direct Program Cost per household	\$58	\$52	\$46	\$61

COST COMPOSITION

All cost breakdowns have been adjusted for inflation to 2017 as the base year and converted at a constant exchange rate of the same base year to provide a true comparison to outcomes adjusted using the same methodology. Average household investment is calculated by the average cost per participant multiplied by the average household size of five.

³ Results from the 2020 Cohort have been adjusted since the last publication, reflecting the refinements in the reporting methodology introduced in this report.
⁴ Cost per household for 2020 Cohort has been standardized, reflecting adjustments made to account for pandemic-related activity delays.

Scale and Impact

RTV has demonstrated consistent growth and program impact year-over-year while maintaining stable program costs as we expand our footprint. Reviewing data at 24 months for cohorts launched from 2018 to 2021, the Annual Program Value in RTV partner households has consistently outperformed peers, with the 2019 Cohort showcasing the highest returns.

Despite the effects of the pandemic and rising global economic challenges, the 2023 Graduating Cohort launched in 2021 realized an ROI of 514%, reflecting optimized results at a larger scale.

Core Return on Investment

The core ROI serves as a measure of the effectiveness of our program implementation with a narrow focus on the operational efficiency of funds deployed in direct program activities and inputs. From 2018 to 2021, our core ROI shows a significant rise as we expanded our reach threefold, from 52,240 households in 2018 to 163,174 in 2021.

Partnerships and Collaboration Value

In-kind service and input contributions by local and national governments result in average savings of \$25 per household for RTV in program cost, showcasing organizational cost efficiencies and tangible, valuable contributions achieved as a result of our strategic partnerships.

Core

The core ROI reflects the Return on Investment on Direct Program Costs.

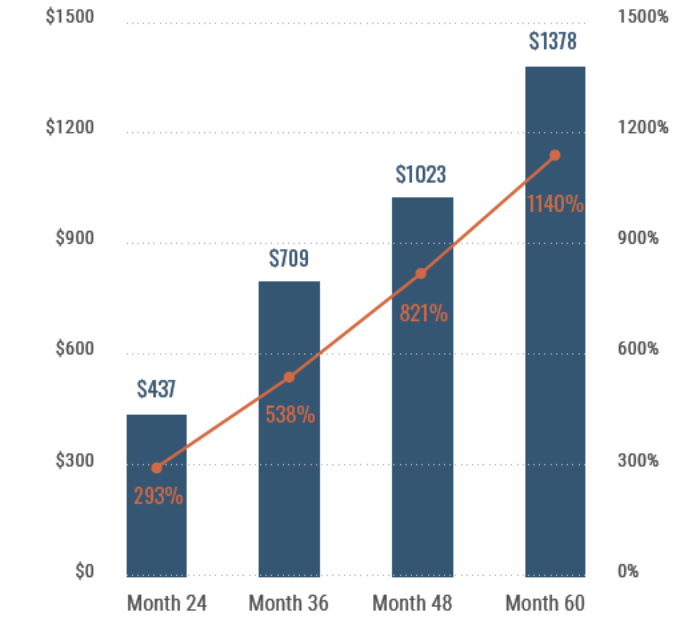
Cost Savings

In-kind contributions by local governments lead to significant savings in program costs based on our integrated service delivery model. The computation includes:

- **Time and Service:** Local government extension workers work closely with our teams to conduct community training sessions, provide technical advisory, and follow up on programs. This

ROI AT 60 MONTHS

RETURN ON INVESTMENT
ANNUAL PROGRAM VALUE DIFFERENTIAL



For the 2018 Cohort, partner communities continued to grow after graduating at 24 months. Five years since inception, partner households unlocked **\$1378** in Annual Program Value in comparison to peers – realizing a Return on Investment of **1140%** on the initial one-time investment.

contribution is calculated based on the daily salary rates for government staff participating in program activities, prorated for the number of allocated days per cluster minus the travel support RTV provides. Cost per program participant is estimated based on the average number of program participants per cluster.

- **Cost Savings:** This represents the costs RTV would have incurred if we had to hire or utilize internal resources to perform the work carried out by government extension workers in program delivery.
- **Input Contribution:** Additional in-kind government contributions and savings in inputs, estimated as an annual average based on historical trends.



“We had no source of income and did not know how to use scarce land to maximize output. We sometimes had only one meal a day. But after we partnered with RTV, we learned new farming techniques, making manure, and planting compound gardens. I now grow groundnuts, beans, and vegetables.”

JOHNSON
Partner community member, Mitooma district

WHAT IS DRIVING IMPACT

Graduating Cohort 2023

INCOME AND VALUE DRIVERS

Analyzing by income and value streams of RTV partner communities in comparison to peer communities over 24 months, Agriculture Income remains the most significant contributor to income gains as a result of our programs, followed by Small Business Income.

Households that are involved both in agriculture and small businesses are able to achieve the highest income gains across all income groups. Participation in the Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) is a key driver of growth for Agriculture Income, Small Business Income, and Livestock Assets for our partner households.

2023 GRADUATING COHORT AT 24 MONTHS
RESULTS PER HOUSEHOLD (USD)

	RTV			PEER			DIFFERENTIAL			
	Baseline	Month 12	Month 24	Baseline	Month 12	Month 24	Baseline	Month 12	Month 24	Cumulative
A. INCOME										
FORMAL EMPLOYMENT	11	30	40	13	32	30	-2	-2	10	10
SMALL BUSINESS	30	57	70	27	42	47	3	16	23	36
CASUAL LABOR INCOME	37	68	60	100	91	72	-63	-23	-12	27
REMITTANCES & GIFTS	8	29	31	11	20	25	-3	9	6	18
RENT INCOME	2	5	6	5	4	6	-3	1	0	3
AGRICULTURE INCOME	68	173	249	99	93	101	-31	80	148	260
Seasonal Crop Income	38	77	128	42	50	50	-4	27	78	110
Perennial Crop Income	30	96	121	56	43	50	-27	53	70	150
LIVESTOCK INCOME	12	16	25	16	13	12	-4	2	13	20
TOTAL INCOME	167	377	481	270	294	293	-103	83	188	374

B. PRODUCTION

ANNUAL AGRICULTURE VALUE/PRODUCTION	203	401	578	273	276	308	-69	125	270	465
Season 1 Value	78	106	180	68	91	115	10	15	66	70
Season 2 Value	57	94	146	50	67	76	6	26	70	90
Perennial Value	69	201	251	155	118	117	-86	84	135	304
LIVESTOCK INCOME & CONSUMPTION	14	18	28	18	15	14	-3	3	15	21
TOTAL PRODUCTION	218	419	606	291	291	321	-73	128	285	486
NET PRODUCTION*	138	230	332	176	185	208	-38	45	123	206

C. ASSETS

LIVESTOCK ASSETS	80	166	210	106	114	119	-26	53	91	117
NET VALUE**	388	774	1023	552	593	620	-167	181	402	697

*Net Production= Total Production - Agriculture - Livestock Income
** Net Value= Total Income + Net Production + Livestock Assets

AGRICULTURE

Improvements in agricultural yields and market value for seasonal and perennial crops remain the primary drivers of increased agriculture income. Comprehensive agricultural training program, improved seed inputs, mobilization of Agricultural Committee and Community Agricultural Teams (CATs), and ongoing support and coaching to ensure adoption of Good Agronomic Practices (GAP) remain key program activities influencing agricultural outcomes.

SMALL BUSINESS

Fuelled by access to affordable credit and group enterprises through Village Savings and Loans Associations and Financial Literacy Training, small business incomes continue to grow in our partner communities.

VILLAGE SAVINGS AND LOANS ASSOCIATION (VSLA)

Providing access to affordable loans and group initiatives focused on generating income and value, Village Savings and Loans Associations offer growth opportunities to partner communities. These informal cooperatives are an essential program component contributing to improved Program Value – including higher agricultural value, higher small business incomes, increased livestock assets, and more resilience to development shocks.

LIVESTOCK ASSETS

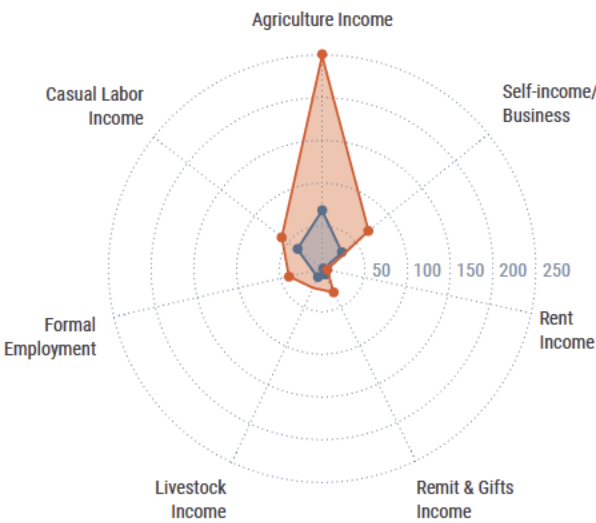
Livestock assets contribute to household economic resilience and offer sociocultural advantages. Since its inception, our cluster model has included the direct transfer of livestock assets to women and youth-headed households, with a community-wide focus on driving asset building through VSLAs, establishing and training local structures for livestock support, and providing training and ongoing coaching on Livestock Management and Care. To evaluate the impact of direct asset transfers on household incomes, our keystone metric, RTV undertook a pilot study in the 2023 Graduating Cohort enrolled in 2021, under which 3 out of 62 clusters did not receive livestock assets as part of the program, with the associated investment redirected to agricultural programming. Based on our data analysis from the pilot, RTV is continuing the study with extended pilots in cohorts enrolled in our program in 2022–2023.

A. Income Streams

Progress in partner households outpaced that of their peers across all income streams, with the trajectory of change representing significant gains, particularly in Agriculture and Small Business.

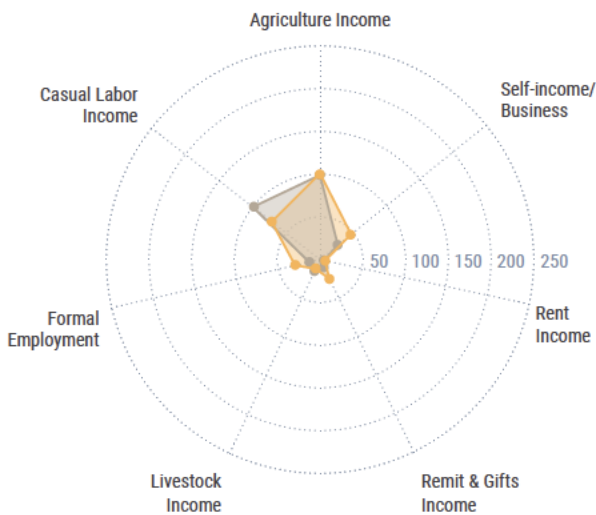
RTV PARTNER HOUSEHOLDS

RTV GRADUATION
RTV BASELINE

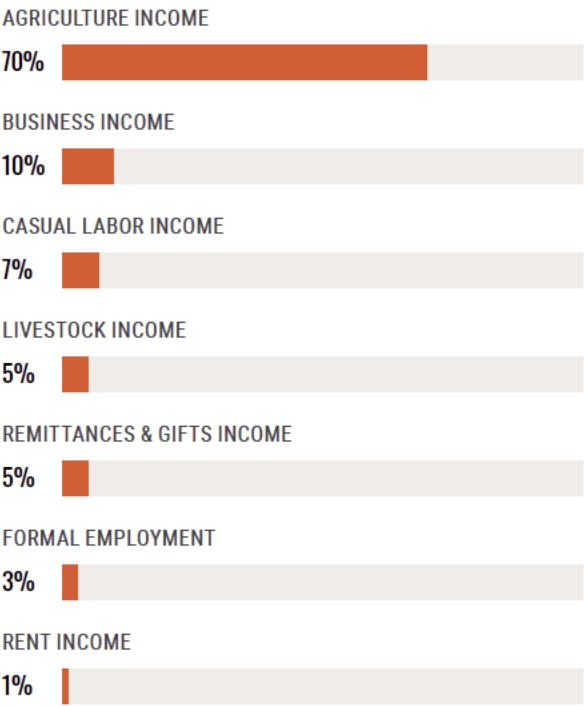


PEER HOUSEHOLDS

PEER GRADUATION
PEER BASELINE



CONTRIBUTION TO INCOME GAINS
RTV PARTNER HOUSEHOLDS VS. PEERS



267%

Increase in Annual Agriculture Income from baseline to graduation in RTV partner households, contributing **70%** of the total income gain in comparison to peers over 24 months. Of these gains, 42% were contributed by seasonal and 58% by perennial crop income.

133%

Increase in Small Business Income from baseline to graduation in partner households, contributing **10%** of total income gain in comparison to peers over 24 months. Of RTV partner households engaged in small businesses, **54%** accessed credit through VSLAs. Partner households participating in VSLAs also benefited from group enterprises, with **19%** earning income from group enterprises.

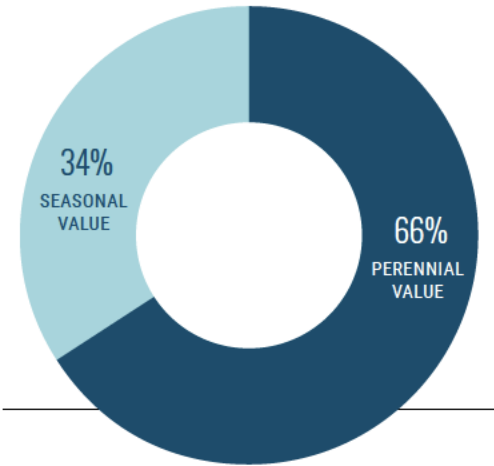
B. Production

Comprising total seasonal and perennial crop value and livestock production, agriculture remains the primary driver of gains in total production in RTV partner communities due to higher yields and market value.

184%

Increase in Annual Agriculture Value in RTV partner households from baseline to graduation. This reflects a **\$465** gain compared to peer households over 24 months, of which **\$304** was contributed by perennial crop value and **\$160** by seasonal crop value.

ANNUAL AGRICULTURAL VALUE GAINS IN 24 MONTHS
RTV PARTNER HOUSEHOLDS VS. PEERS



C. Assets

Partner communities continued to grow their Livestock Assets, outperforming their peers year-over-year.

162%

Increase in Livestock Assets in RTV partner households from baseline to graduation, **\$117** more than peers. **23%** of VSLA loans accessed by partner communities were focused on building Livestock Assets as an income-generating activity (IGA).

SOCIAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DRIVERS

In our pursuit of increasing household incomes and production, we also focus on creating an environment conducive to participation, financial growth, and sustainable progress. The interplay of food security, health, hygiene, and social empowerment are foundational drivers that lay the groundwork for improved lives and, consequently, livelihoods.

For our 2023 Graduating Cohort, partner households spent less on food expenditures than peers while consuming a more nutritionally diverse diet.



“Earlier, we used to eat two times a day, but now we have three meals daily. We even sell the surplus harvest and have more income. My babies no longer fall sick because of lack of food. My mother never used to have an appetite, but now, with vegetables, she enjoys her meals, and her health is better.”

ANITA
Partner community member, Kisoro district

Food Security and Nutrition

With each household receiving 12 varieties of vegetable seedlings, agricultural training, ongoing support, and knowledge about balanced nutrition for their families, partner communities were able to improve food security and nutrition.

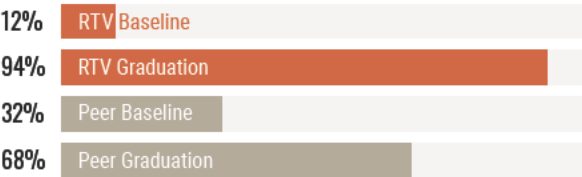
90%
Partner households consumed vegetables grown in their own gardens at graduation, an increase from 8% at baseline and 31 percentage points more than peers.

42%
Less spending by partner households on vegetables for consumption in comparison to peer households. For overall food consumption, partner households spent 6% less than peers.

94%
Partner households are planting vegetables for consumption by graduation compared to only 12% at baseline.

49%
Partner households earned an additional average annual income⁵ of \$17 from surplus vegetable produce.

VEGETABLE FARMING PARTICIPATION



“Partnering with RTV has improved agriculture, brought health services closer, and improved our sanitation and community well-being.”

ROBERTSON
Partner community member, Kagadi district

Health

RTV programs improve access to health for partner communities so they are able to improve overall quality of life and focus on improving livelihoods. With training on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) and adoption of best practices, access to clean water near their homestead, and preventative health awareness offered through Health Outreach (HOR) sessions, partner communities have been able to improve health outcomes. Based on our analytics to date, a reduction in the number of illnesses improves Household Income, contributing to higher earnings per day.

RTV partner households reported fewer instances of illnesses and spent \$3.40 less in monthly medical expenses when compared to their peers.

44%
Reduction in the number of waterborne illnesses in partner communities from baseline to graduation. In comparison, peer households experienced a 9% increase over 24 months. At graduation, partner households reported 39% fewer waterborne illnesses than peer households.

84%
RTV partner households at graduation have access to clean water from protected sources, compared to 50% of peer communities. Partner households were also able to reduce their average water collection time per trip from 54 minutes at baseline to 31 minutes at graduation.

79%
Partner households adopted and maintained improved sanitation and hygiene practices in comparison to 57% of peer households. The incidences of household illnesses decrease as compliance with improved WASH practices increases. Key drivers of this impact include having a functional tippy tap with soap, constructing and maintaining covered and enclosed pit latrines, installing a dish rack, and ensuring proper kitchen ventilation, among others.

⁵ At the topline level, income and value streams, vegetable crop value, and incomes are included in seasonal income.

Children’s Well-being

When families and communities live in ultra-poverty, children face heightened risks across multiple dimensions of their lives, including nutrition, health, and education. Addressing childhood vulnerability requires interventions aimed at alleviating the conditions of ultra-poverty.

With improved economic, social, and development outcomes at the household and village levels, partner families are able to improve their children’s well-being.



“I learned about good nutrition in school. We learned how a balanced diet includes proteins, carbohydrates, and vitamins from vegetables and other foods that boost our immune system. My grandmother’s vegetable garden now has many such vegetables – nakati, eggplants, spinach, and others. Some of which were completely new for me, and I liked how they taste.”

KEMIGISA
Partner community member, Kyenjojo district

23%

Fewer children below five years in partner households suffered from waterborne illnesses compared to peers, with 96% of partner households with children under five reporting no waterborne illnesses.

41

Average Food Consumption Score for children under 5 years, above the acceptable threshold. The Food Consumption Score (FCS) is a composite indicator used to assess household food security based on diet diversity, frequency, and nutritional quality, with a score of 0-21 reflecting poor food security, 21.5 -35 showing borderline food security, and above 35 indicating acceptable food security. This means children in our partner communities are consuming nutritionally diverse food in sufficient frequency.

98%

Children between 6–12 years in partner communities are enrolled in school compared to 86% at baseline. For children between 13–18 years, **91%** are in school at graduation compared to 80% at baseline. The proportion of children dropping out of school in partner communities is 9 percentage points lower than in peer communities at graduation. Parents in both partner and peer communities cite economic barriers as the primary reason for school dropouts. In addition to improvement in household income to support children’s education, RTV VSLAs serve as an important source for our communities to overcome this barrier. For our 2023 Graduating Cohort, 25% of loans accessed by partner households from VSLAs were utilized to pay school fees for their children.



“Training sessions conducted by RTV have uplifted us. As women, we are more confident, we are generating income and contributing financially to the household.”

SILVIA
Partner community member, Kyenjojo district

Gender Equity and Youth Inclusion

To foster equitable development, we actively address the unique challenges faced by women and youth. Our programs are meticulously tailored to prioritize these groups, ensuring their representation in leadership roles, encouraging positive behavior shifts at both household and community levels, and addressing systemic barriers to development. Through specialized training on Gender Equity and ongoing coaching, we influence gender dynamics within communities, paving the way for improved social and economic outcomes.

Women and youth in partner communities are actively engaged in RTV programs, highly represented in leadership structures, and report enhanced capacity to participate in social and economic decision-making.

138%

Increase in community leadership positions with 46% of the positions held by adult women, and 19% by young men and women.

74%

Women-headed partner households and **80%** of youth-headed partner households feel an increase in capacity for economic decision-making.

84%

Women-headed partner households and **81%** of youth-headed partner households feel there is a reduction in time constraints as a result of RTV project interventions.

13

Percentage point decline reported in acceptance of domestic violence in partner households over 24 months. In comparison, peers saw an increase of 5 percentage points.

23%

Decline in instances of self-reported domestic violence in joint partner households from baseline to graduation. In comparison, we see an increase of 1.5% in such instances in peer households.

Living Standards and Satisfaction

Measuring changes in household characteristics and household asset ownership and gaining insights about the community's perception of life satisfaction allow us to understand the improvements in quality of life beyond income indicators.

Amongst our partner households, 59% feel that their quality of life has improved, and 67% feel optimistic about continued improvement in the next year compared to 47% of peer households.



85%
Own a phone
compared to
77% at baseline



66%
Own a radio
compared to
47% at baseline



74%
Own at least one
pair of shoes
compared to 38%
at baseline.



50%
report achieving a personal
goal in the past year,
compared to 36% in
peer households. The key
primary goals included
improvements to their
homes, starting small
businesses, sending their
children to school, acquiring
land or livestock assets, and
paying off their debts.

REAL-TIME DATA
FOR REAL-TIME IMPACT

HOUSEHOLD CHECK-IN MOBILE APPLICATION

At RTV, we see data not only as a means to evaluate our impact but also as an essential tool to shape that impact in real time. This philosophy is deeply ingrained in our ethos.

As part of our commitment to make data accessible to our implementation team and partner communities and enable them to utilize it in their day-to-day decision-making, RTV launched a custom-built Household Check-in mobile application in 2023. This innovation is part of RTV Venn, our integrated data analytics ecosystem. It focuses on providing 'data-for-action' to our field teams during their daily check-ins with partner households and tracking their day-to-day progress throughout the program cycle. By harnessing the power of real-time data through this app, our on-ground teams are able to access critical information they need to prioritize, adjust, and succeed in optimizing resources and maximizing impact. Above all, it ensures that our work is always aligned with the needs of the communities we serve.

Maximizing Impact

An upgrade from our previous digital data collection tools, the Check-in application continues to focus on progress tracking with an added emphasis on key drivers of change. Our advanced data analytics not only help us identify primary drivers of impact to achieve our ultimate outcome of increasing household incomes but also guide us in understanding the granular relationships between key program outputs and the desired outcomes. Optimal water and irrigation management, effective use of three types of composts, and soil management are some of the practices contributing to the highest gains in agricultural productivity for partner households. Building upon such insights, the check-in application allows RTV teams to track household, village, and cluster-level adoption for 23 critical practices under key programmatic areas, including agriculture, WASH, and Village Savings and Loans Associations.

"A deep dive into the link between various agriculture-related activities and the growth in household income reveals critical insights. The new Check-in application helps us track the compliance around these key activities to maximize income gains for our partner communities." PEAL team member.

Optimizing Resources

Reaching the most vulnerable households in last-mile communities at a larger scale to provide them with adequate support and follow-up is a key operational area the application focuses on. Access to important indicators for each cluster, village, and household through a user-friendly interface and an intuitive dashboard helps identify partner families that need additional support.



"I can quickly check key metrics for the most vulnerable households in my cluster and plan my household visits accordingly." – Implementation team member

The Check-in application is enabling our Implementation team members to successfully complete multiple check-ins in thousands of households across our partner communities and provide the essential support needed to achieve the impact that continues to grow.

05

KEY PROGRAM INSIGHTS

Honing in and expanding
on our main income and
value drivers for the 2023
Graduating Cohort.

In Focus



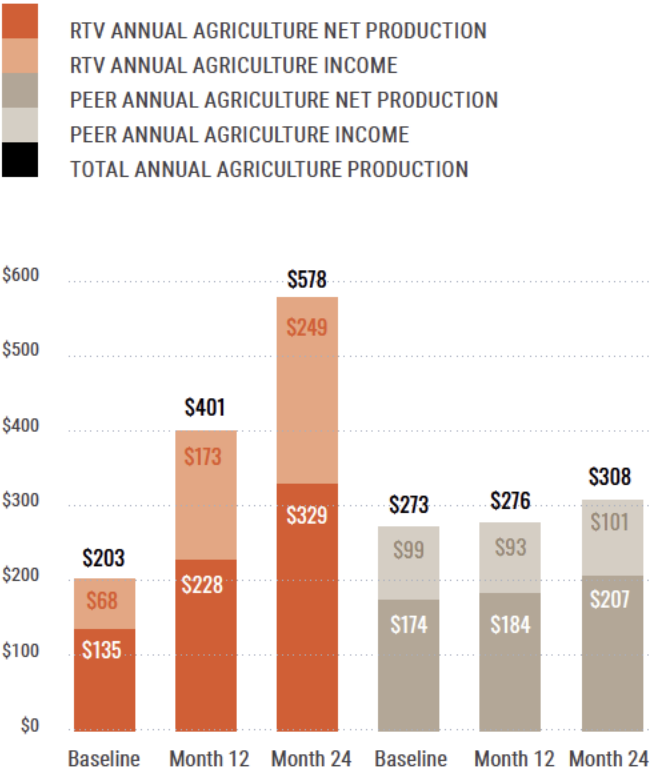
AGRICULTURE

Our partner communities living in last-mile villages primarily rely on agriculture for sustenance and livelihoods. Increasing household income through Agriculture is a core focus area of RTV programs and a major impact driver for building sustainable livelihoods.

At the topline level, RTV partner households increased their total Annual Agricultural Value by **184%**, from \$203 at baseline to \$578 at graduation, outperforming their peers by **\$465** over 24 months.

Partner households were able to move from subsistence to income generation with a significant increase in agricultural income by **267%** from baseline to graduation, earning \$260 more than peers over the 24-month program period.

ANNUAL AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION & INCOME



KEY DRIVERS

RTV offers a holistic and data-informed Agricultural program to increase participation, land utilization, yields, and market values. Key contributing factors include:



Improved Seeds

Access to climate-resilient and high-yield seasonal seed inputs.



Crop Diversity

Guidance on planting multiple crop varieties to optimize space, increase soil fertility, and receive higher values.



Knowledge Transfer and Adoption of Best Practices

- Comprehensive agriculture training program focused on agricultural preparation and organic farming practices, pre-planting and in-season care and management, post-harvest management, and market access.
- Access to inputs and knowledge for environmentally sustainable and affordable organic pesticides and fertilizers.
- Follow-up on adoption of best practices.



Financial Services

Access to affordable loans through VSLAs, as well as group initiatives focused on agriculture.



Ongoing Support

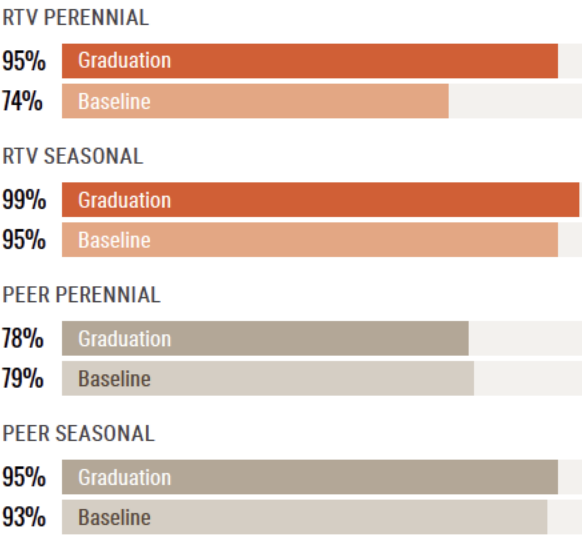
- Agricultural Committees and Community Agricultural Teams for sustainable and community-led support.
- Household-level support and check-ins throughout the year by RTV teams, including agriculture experts and local government extension workers.

Increased Participation

With access to agricultural knowledge, inputs, and ongoing support, more partner households are participating in crop cultivation and income generation.

Whereas seasonal crop participation is high amongst partner and peer communities as a critical source of sustenance and livelihoods, we see a significant increase in participation in perennial crop production in partner households. At graduation, **95%** of the partner households are participating in perennial crops compared to 74% at baseline.

PARTICIPATION IN CROP CULTIVATION % OF HOUSEHOLDS



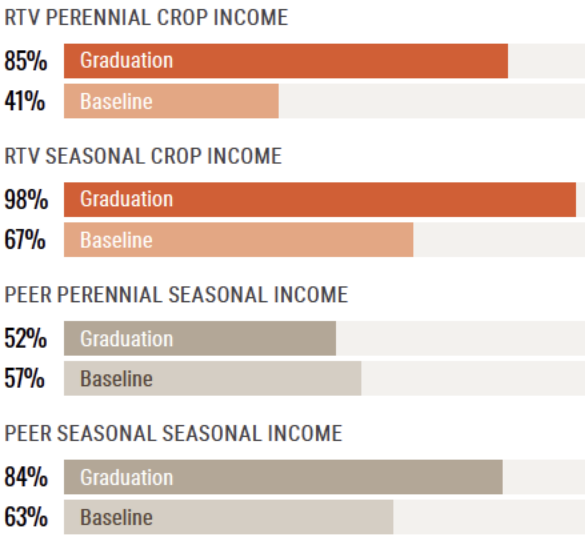
“Our biggest challenge was buying artificial fertilizers from the shops, which are very expensive. After RTV taught us about compost pits and how to make our own manure, we are now saving money and investing it in our savings group.”

MARGARET

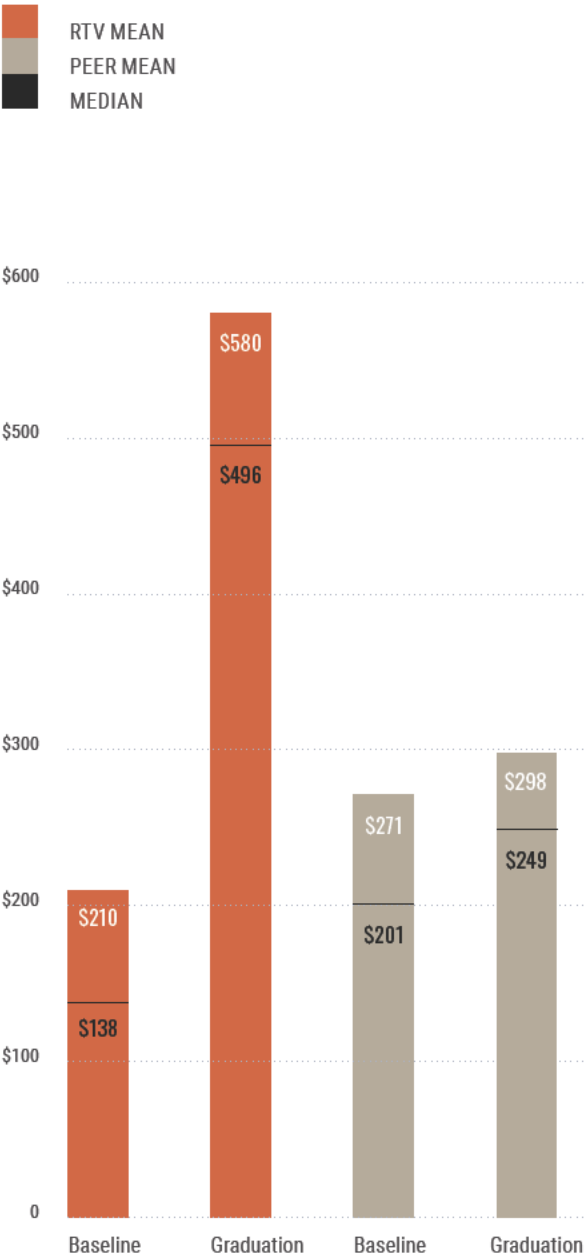
Partner community member, Kyenjojo district

More partner households are transitioning from sustenance to income generation through agriculture. At graduation, **98%** of partner households participating in crop cultivation are earning from seasonal crops and **85%** from perennial crops, an increase from baseline of 67% and 41%, respectively.

AGRICULTURE INCOME PARTICIPATION % OF HOUSEHOLDS

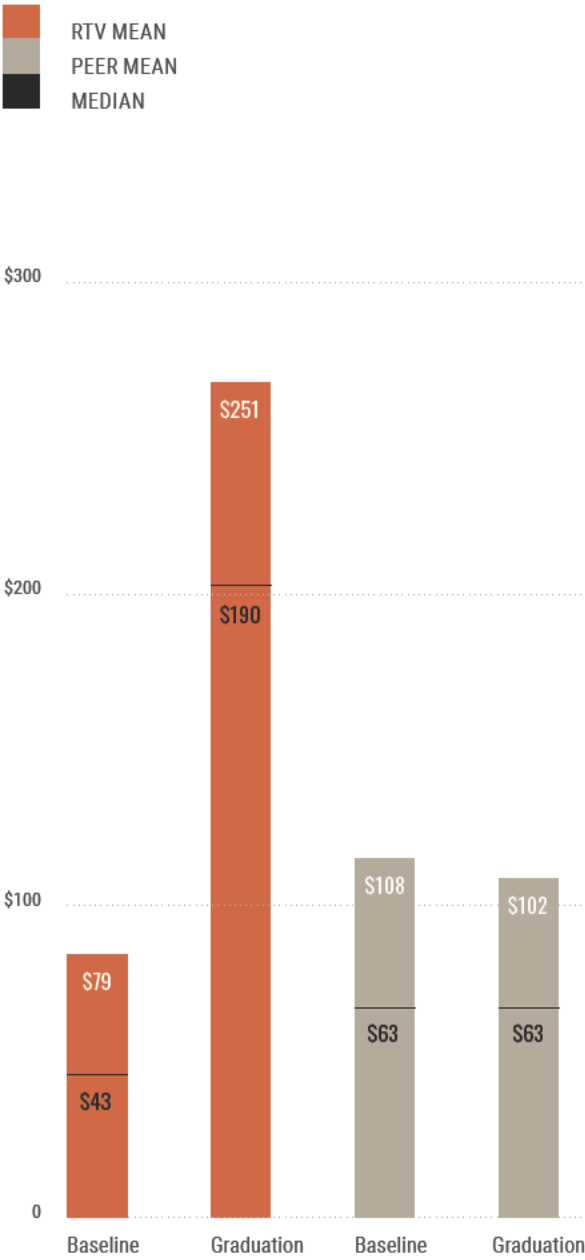


AGRICULTURE VALUE
HOUSEHOLDS PARTICIPATING IN CROP CULTIVATION



Honing into households participating in crop cultivation, RTV partner communities increased their average household Agriculture Value by 177% and median values by 260% from baseline to graduation, compared to an increase of 10% and 24% in peer households for mean and median values, respectively.

AGRICULTURE INCOME
HOUSEHOLDS PARTICIPATING IN CROP SALE



For partner households participating in generating income from crop sales, average Agriculture Income increased by 217%, and median Agriculture Income increased by 344% from baseline to graduation. In comparison, peer households saw a 5% decline in mean income.

Increased Yields

Higher yield per unit planted remains a core driver of increasing agriculture production and income in our partner households. In addition to using improved and high-quality seeds, adopting good agricultural practices and modern farming techniques help partner communities improve yield and maximize agriculture value.



⁶ Topline yield improvement % for seasonal crops Includes beans, Irish potatoes, maize, millet, and sorghum – crops with clear units of measurement at planting and harvesting. Groundnuts are not included in improvement metrics due to the availability of baseline data.
⁷ Topline yield efficiency % for seasonal crops Includes beans, groundnuts, Irish potatoes, maize, millet, and sorghum – all the major crops with clear units of measurement at planting and harvesting.

SEASONAL CROPS

76%⁶

Improved yield per unit planted for RTV partner households from baseline to graduation. Peers, on the other hand, saw a 6% average increase in yield/unit for the same crops over the 24-month period. Topline yield improvement represents the average increase in yield per unit planted, weighted by crop participation, from baseline to graduation.

47%⁷

Yield efficiency achieved by partner households compared to peers for major seasonal crops. For beans, Irish potatoes, maize, and groundnuts – the main RTV input crops – partner households achieved **78%** yield efficiency compared to peers at graduation. Yield efficiency reflects the differential in average yields per unit planted, weighted by crop participation, between partner and peer households at 24 months.

27%

Partner households continue to use improved seed inputs for beans, maize, and groundnuts at graduation. In comparison, only 6% of peer households are utilizing improved seeds. For those varieties, partner households are achieving **63%** yield efficiency per unit in comparison to peers.

PERENNIAL CROPS

39%

Average yield improvement for the highest participating perennial crops – plantain and coffee. In comparison, peer households experienced a 9% yield improvement over the same period.

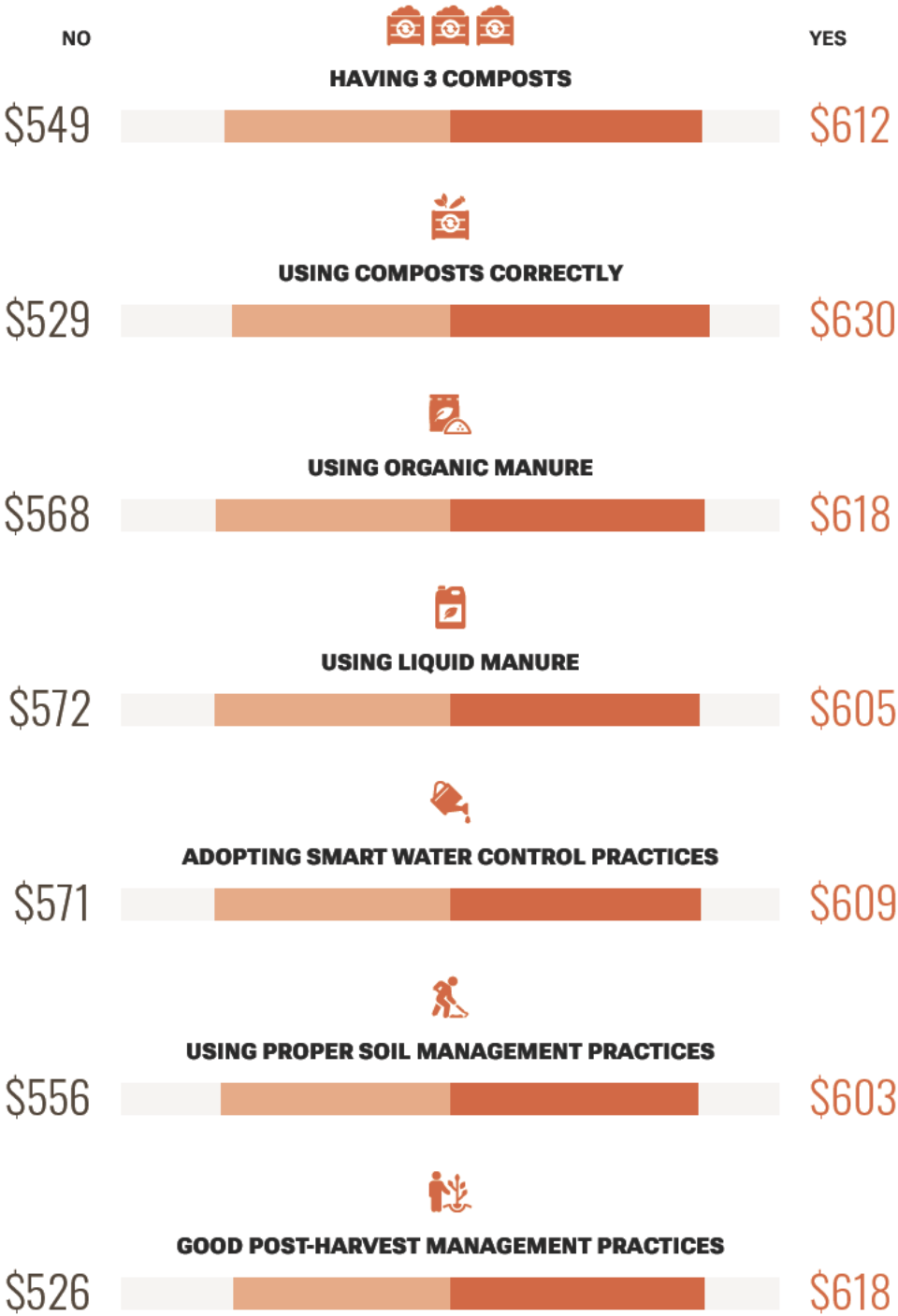
54%

Yield efficiency achieved by partner households in comparison to peers for plantain and coffee.

When households adopt and maintain key agricultural practices, the Annual Agriculture Value rises.

A comprehensive agriculture training program and our continuous focus on mentoring and supporting partner households throughout the 24 months are critical components of our program.

To the right are the results for annual agriculture value per household in relation to adoption of best agricultural practices at 24 months.



Higher Market Values

With higher yields and value addition, particularly for perennial crops, partner households sold more quantities at competitive or higher average market price per unit, generating significantly higher market value than peers.

93%
Higher quantities sold for major seasonal crop varieties by partner households in comparison to peers. These include beans, groundnuts, Irish potatoes, maize, millet, sorghum, sweet potatoes and cassava.

87%
Higher quantities sold for major perennial crops by partner households in comparison to peers, fetching higher market prices. Significantly higher quantities sold for value-added processed coffee was a key driver of perennial value for our partner households.

Decreased Spending

Access to homemade organic fertilizers and pesticides, improved seeds, and agricultural knowledge allowed our partner households to spend less on farm expenditures while producing more.

51%
Less on artificial pesticides. 12% of partner households are using artificial pesticides compared to 19% of peer households.

81%
Less on organic pesticides. 39% of partner households are using only organic pesticides compared to 9% of peer households.

On average, our partner households are spending 24% less than peers on farming expenditures:

31%
less on expensive synthetic fertilizers. Only 5% of partner households are using artificial fertilizers exclusively, compared to 11% of peer households.

59%
less on organic fertilizers. 61% of our partner households are exclusively using organic fertilizers compared to 19% of peer households.

23%
Less on seed inputs while planting more quantities on average than peers.

Access to Credit

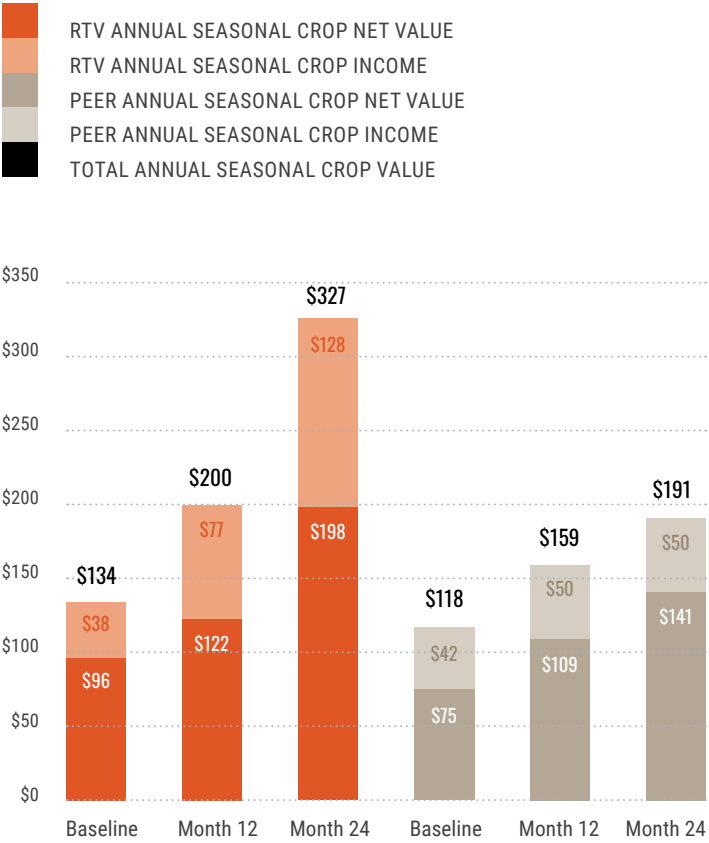
Access to low-interest, peer-reviewed loans from RTV Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) enables higher participation in agriculture as an economic activity and removes barriers to gaining long-term economic self-sufficiency.

22%
of the VSLA loans accessed by partner households in our 2023 graduating cohort were invested in agriculture.

SEASONAL CROPS

For our partner communities, seasonal crops are pivotal to their livelihoods. Improvement in the yields and market value for seasonal crops contributed **42%** to the total gains from Agricultural Income in comparison to peers over 24 months at the topline level.

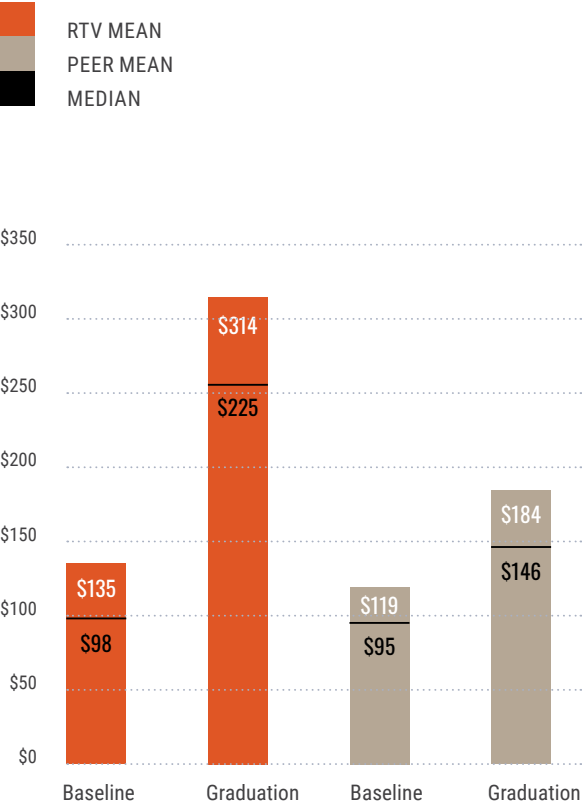
ANNUAL SEASONAL CROP VALUE & INCOME



Partner households increased their total seasonal crop value by **143%** from baseline to graduation, compared to a 62% increase in peer households.

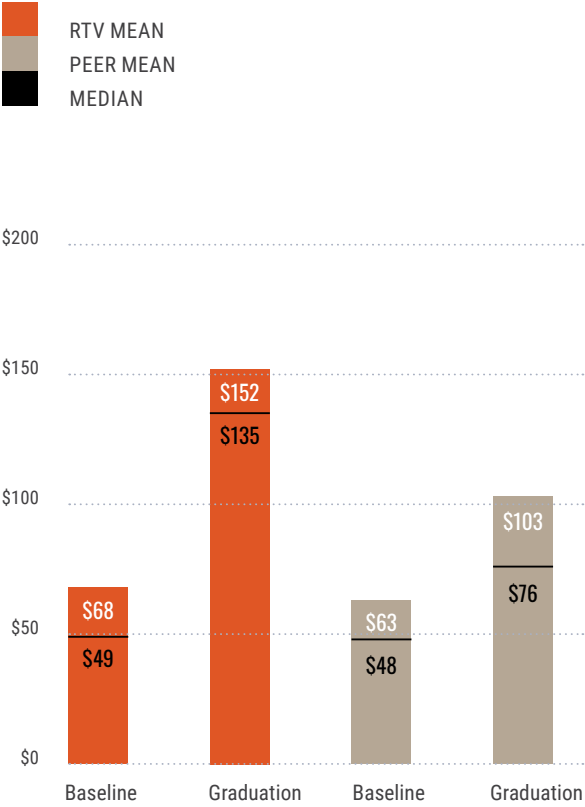
Annual income from seasonal crops increased by **236%** in RTV partner households compared to a 19% increase in peer households. Partner households earned **\$110** more than peer households from seasonal crops over 24 months.

SEASONAL VALUE
ALL HOUSEHOLDS PARTICIPATING IN CROP CULTIVATION



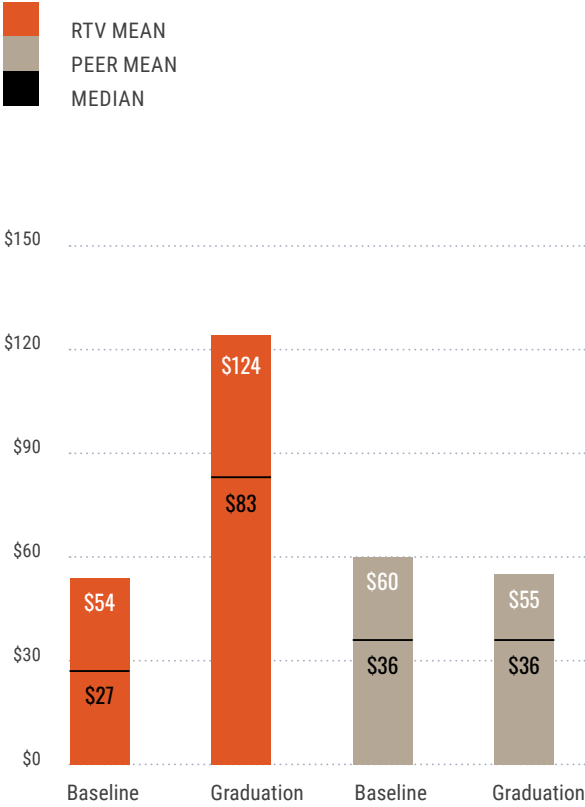
RTV partner households participating in seasonal crop cultivation increased their Seasonal Value by 132% (mean) and 161% (median) from baseline to graduation. In comparison, peer households saw a 55% increase in mean value and a 52% increase in median value from seasonal crops during the same period.

SEASONAL VALUE
HOUSEHOLDS PARTICIPATING IN CROP CULTIVATION ONLY



The most vulnerable partner households participating in seasonal crop cultivation but not seasonal income generation represent 2.5% of the total households engaged in seasonal agriculture at graduation. These partner households relying on seasonal crops primarily for sustenance were able to increase their average Seasonal Value by 124% and median Seasonal Value by 176% from baseline to graduation. In the peer group, representing 16% of total peer households engaged in seasonal agriculture, the mean and median Seasonal Values increased by 64% and 60%, respectively.

SEASONAL INCOME
HOUSEHOLDS PARTICIPATING IN CROP SALE



Partner households participating in income generation through seasonal crops represent 98% of the households engaged in seasonal crop cultivation. Partner communities in these households experienced a 129% increase in average Seasonal Income and a 207% increase in median Seasonal Income from baseline to graduation. In contrast, peer households experienced an 8% decline in average income and a 2% decline in median income during the same period.

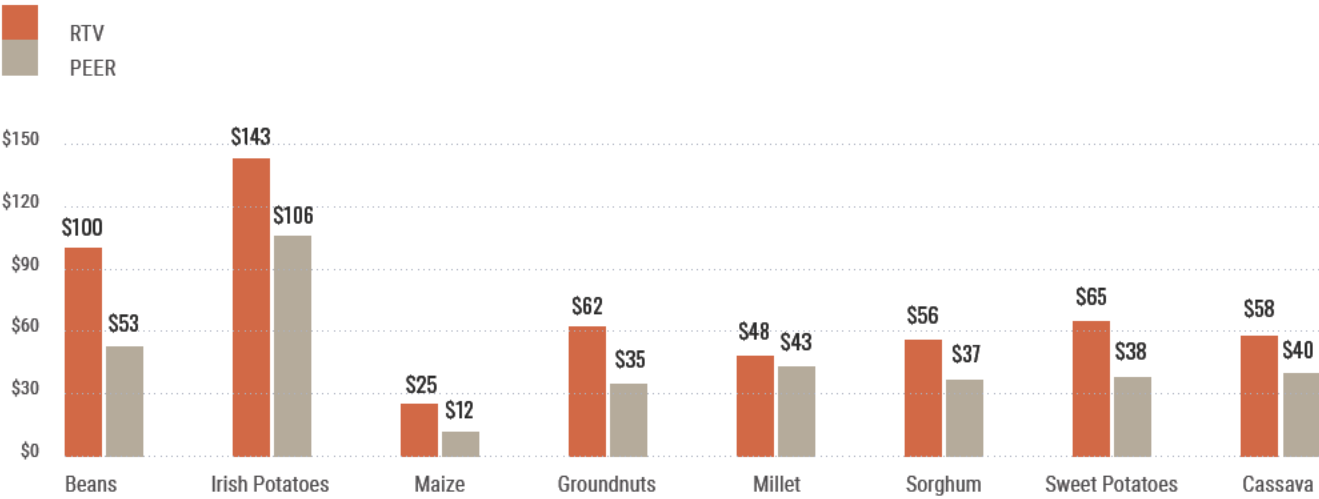


Yield Analysis

Partner households achieved **47%** average yield efficiency/unit planted in comparison to peers for major seasonal crops, including beans, Irish potatoes, groundnuts, millets, and sorghum. Isolating beans, Irish potatoes, maize, and groundnuts representing major RTV inputs, the yield efficiency achieved at graduation was **78%**. The average household yield⁸ for sweet potatoes and cassava crops improved by 47% from baseline to graduation, whereas peers saw a decline of 14% for these crops during the same period. These significant improvements in yield translate to bigger harvests and tangible results for our partner households.

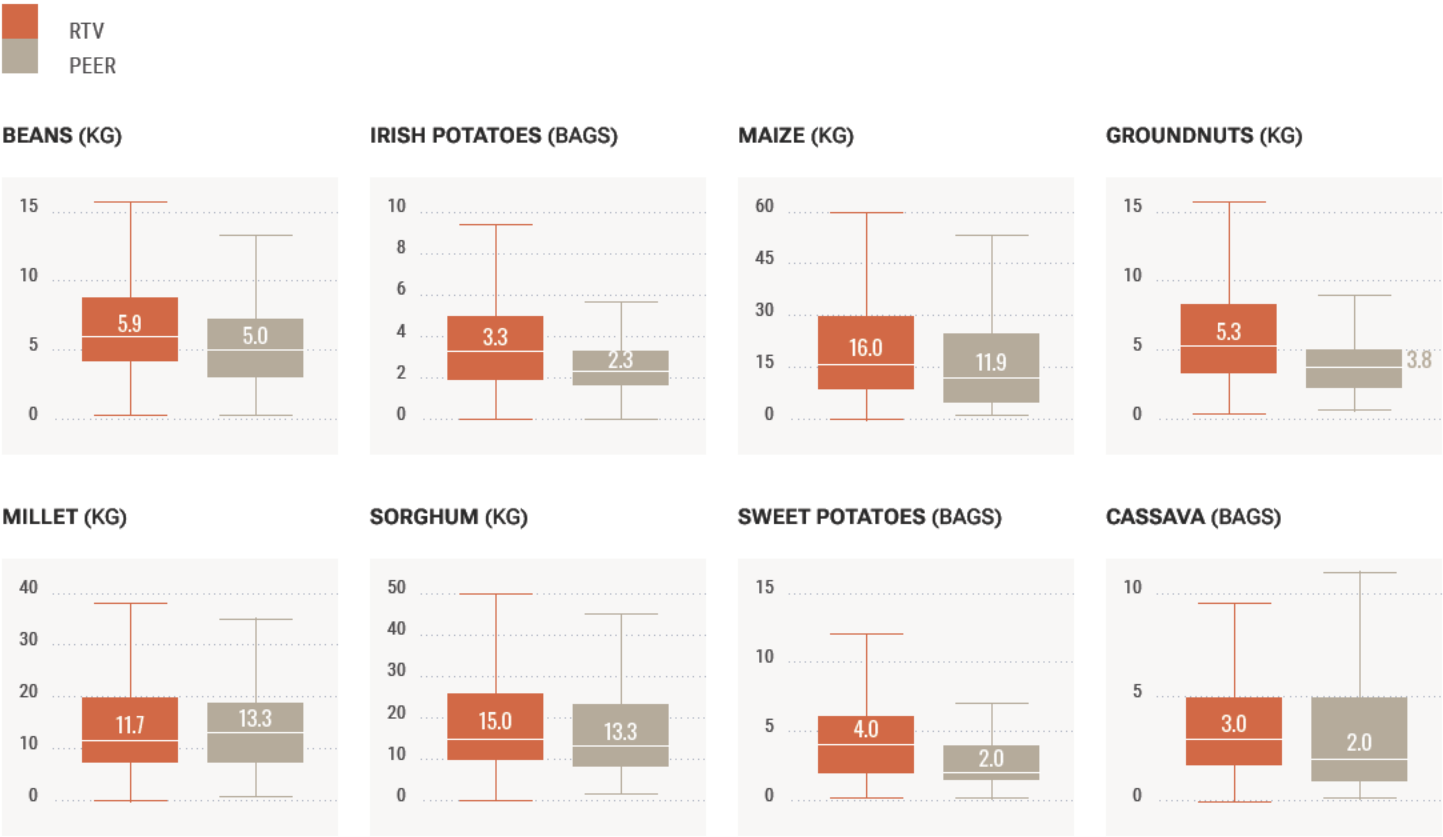
For the highest participating seasonal crops, partner households realized larger yields, sold the harvest in greater quantities, and achieved higher average market value – outperforming their peers across all varieties.

SEASONAL CROP VALUE BY CROP TYPE
AT 24 MONTHS



⁸ For sweet potatoes and cassava, the calculation of yield improvement is based on average household yield due to the complexity of equating the unit of measure at planting with the unit of measure at harvesting. For other seasonal crops, the yield analysis is based on per unit planted.

SEASONAL CROPS: DISTRIBUTION OF YIELD PER UNIT



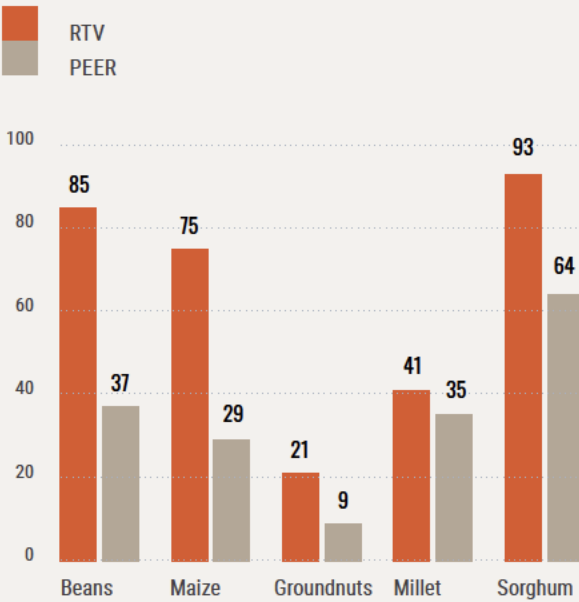
“My harvest more than doubled with the improved seeds provided by RTV. The plants thrived in both rainy and dry seasons without significant damage. Both the corn and the cobs were bigger in size, which meant more profit.”

SOLOMON
Partner community member,
Kyenjojo district

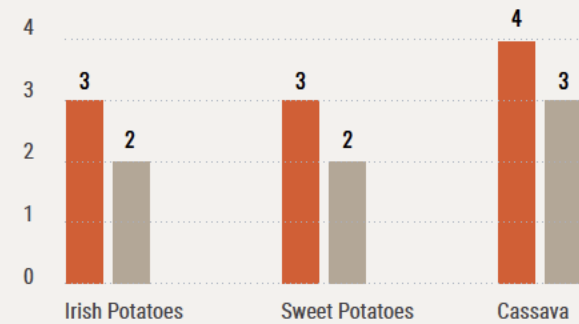
Market Value Analysis

With significant yield improvements, partner households were able to sell greater quantities to achieve higher values across all major seasonal crops. On average, partner households sold 93% more than peers at graduation across all eight crops, with six of the crops fetching higher market prices per unit sold. We see a pronounced differential in average market price between partner households and peers for beans, groundnuts, and sorghum of 5%, 6%, and 18%, respectively.

AVERAGE SEASONAL CROP QUANTITIES SOLD (KG) AT 24 MONTHS



AVERAGE SEASONAL CROP QUANTITIES SOLD (BAGS) AT 24 MONTHS



* For root and tuber crops, quantities per bag vary. Approximate quantities: Irish Potatoes, 1 bag=100 kg, Sweet Potatoes and Cassava, 1 bag= 140 kg

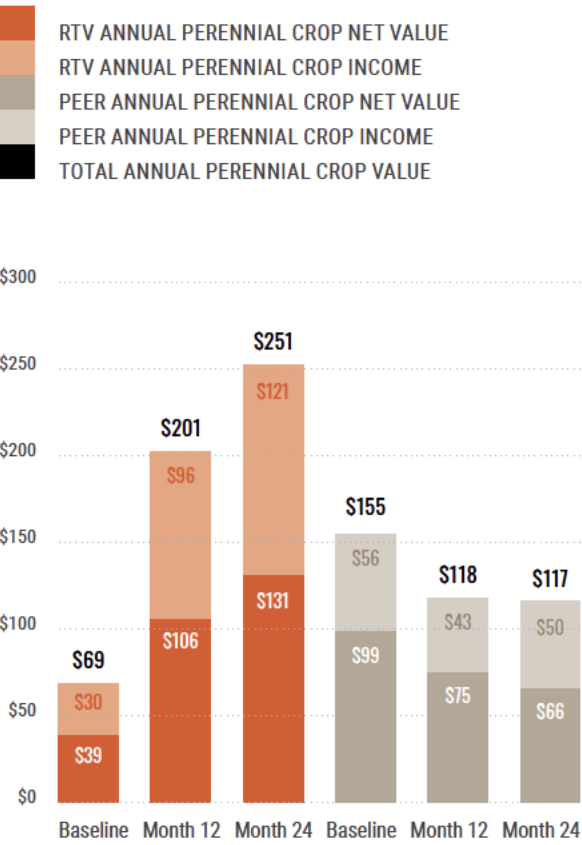
SEASONAL CROPS: DISTRIBUTION OF MARKET PRICE PER UNIT (\$)



PERENNIAL CROPS

For our partner households, perennial crops contributed **58%** to the total gains from Agricultural Income compared to peers at the topline level over 24 months.

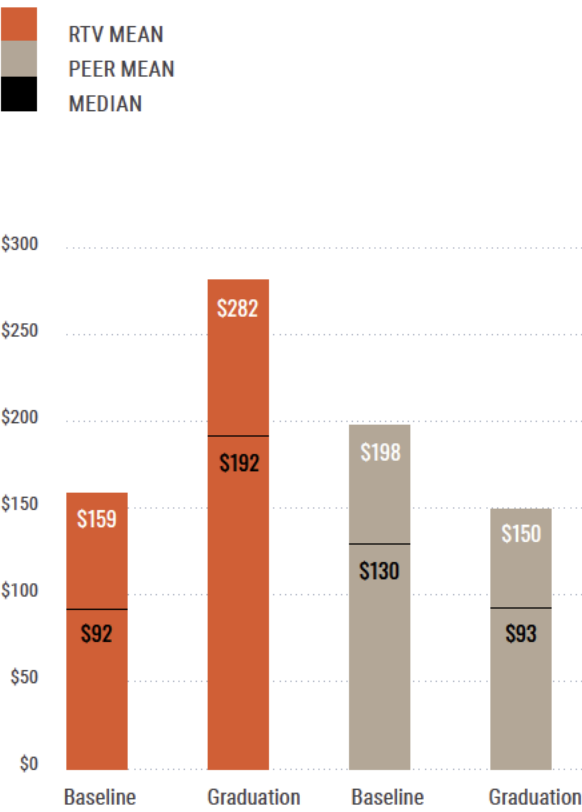
ANNUAL PERENNIAL VALUE & INCOME



Partner households increased their total perennial crop value by **264%** from baseline to graduation compared to a 25% decline in peer households. Partner households outperformed their peers by **\$304** in perennial crop value over 24 months.

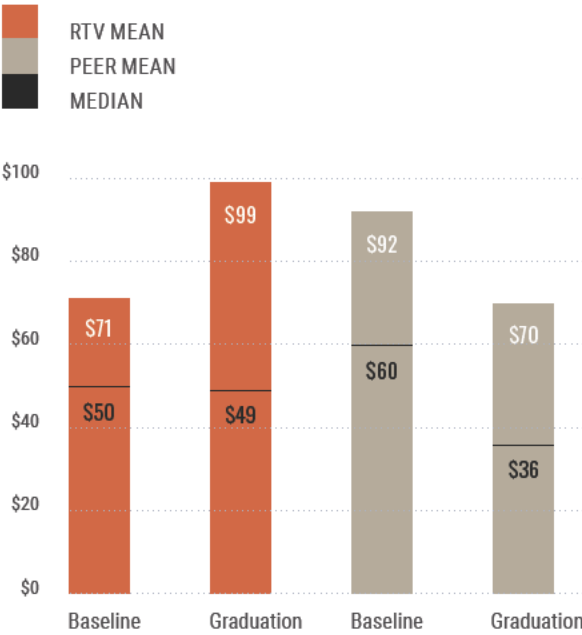
Annual income from perennial crops increased by **307%** in RTV partner households compared to a decline of 11% in peer households. Over 24 months, partner households earned **\$150** more than their peers.

PERENNIAL VALUE HOUSEHOLDS PARTICIPATING IN CROP CULTIVATION



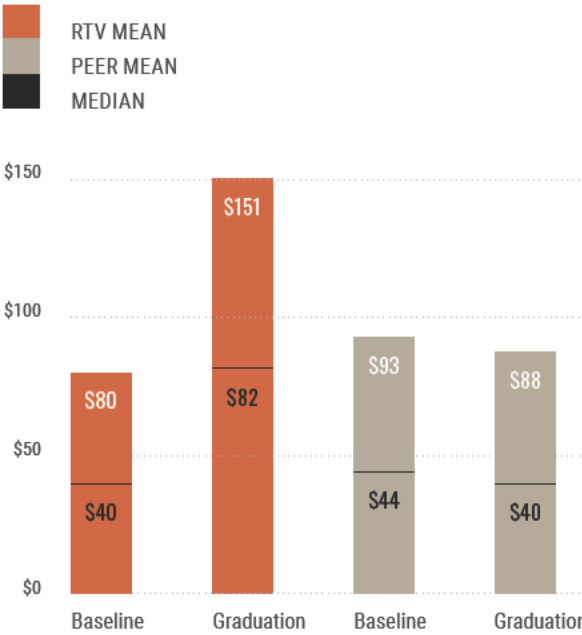
Partner households participating in perennial crop cultivation increased their average Perennial Value by 77% and median Perennial Value by 107% from baseline to graduation. During the same period, peer households experienced a 24% and 29% decline in mean and median Perennial Value, respectively.

PERENNIAL VALUE
HOUSEHOLDS PARTICIPATING IN CROP CULTIVATION ONLY



Partner households participating in perennial crop cultivation but not income generation represent 15% of RTV households engaged in perennial agriculture. These households have smaller average land size and lower participation in perennial crops compared to households engaged in perennial income generation. Partner households in this group experienced a 40% increase in the average Perennial Value, while median values reflect a 2% decline from baseline to graduation. Comparable peer group, representing 48% of all peer households engaged in perennial agriculture, experienced a 24% and 41% decline in mean and median Perennial Value, respectively.

PERENNIAL INCOME
HOUSEHOLDS PARTICIPATING IN CROP SALE

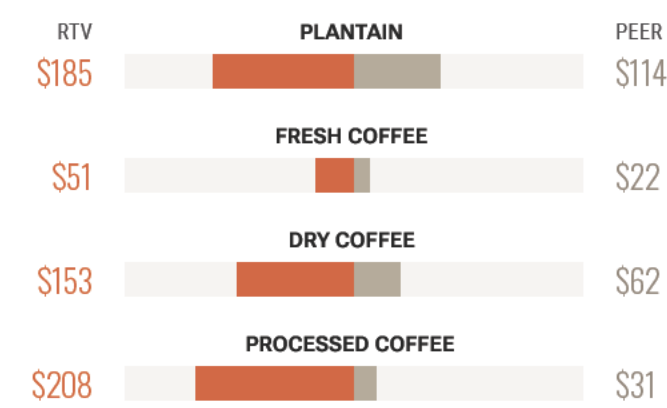


RTV partner households engaged in perennial crop sales represent 85% of partner households engaged in perennial crop cultivation. These partner households increased their mean Perennial Income by 90% and median income by 106% from baseline to graduation. Peer households, on the other hand, saw a decline of 6% and 8% in mean and median Perennial Income, respectively.

“I participated in training on modern farming practices. We learned about planting in lines, preparing organic manure, and other techniques we didn’t use earlier. We also received good seeds. The crops look healthy and better than before; I am very excited about the upcoming harvest”.

FRANCIS
Partner community member, Kyenjojo district

PERENNIAL CROP VALUE BY TYPE
AT 24 MONTHS

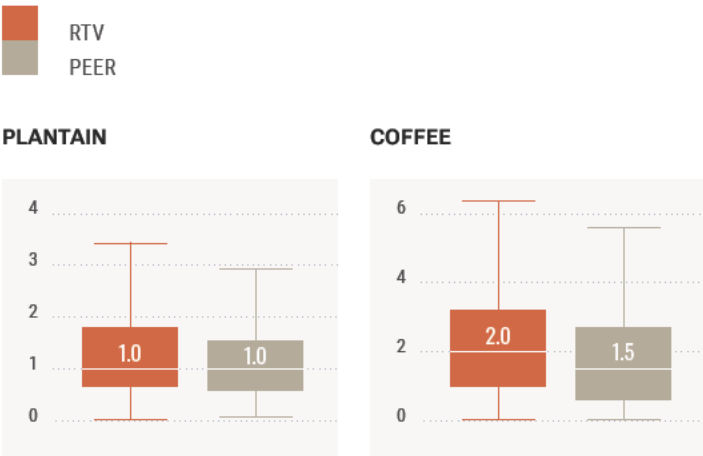


Whereas partner households plant a variety of perennial crops specific to geography and availability, the top two varieties driving income gains are coffee and plantain. Improved agricultural practices, including addressing the spread of Banana Bacterial Wilt (BBW), value addition in coffee production, and ongoing agricultural support, have enabled households to take advantage of the competitive market for these crops and significantly increase their perennial crop value and income.

Yield Analysis

For plantain and coffee, partner households achieved **54%** average yield efficiency over peers. At 24 months, partner households are yielding **84%** more than peers for plantain and 14% more for coffee.

PERENNIAL CROPS: DISTRIBUTION OF YIELD PER UNIT



BANANA BACTERIAL WILT

Banana Bacterial Wilt is a bacterial disease that affects banana plants, resulting in considerable yield loss. In Uganda and across the East African region, this disease has caused significant damage to banana crops, especially in subsistence farming communities that rely heavily on bananas for both food and income. According to a study, if BBW is not controlled, Uganda stands to lose an estimated \$295 million worth of banana output valued at farm gate prices⁹.

Through training and ongoing support, RTV creates awareness about the disease and its management, contributing to the prevention of yield loss and subsequently increasing banana production.

87%
of partner households are actively managing the threat of BBW in their plantations, compared to 65% in peer communities.

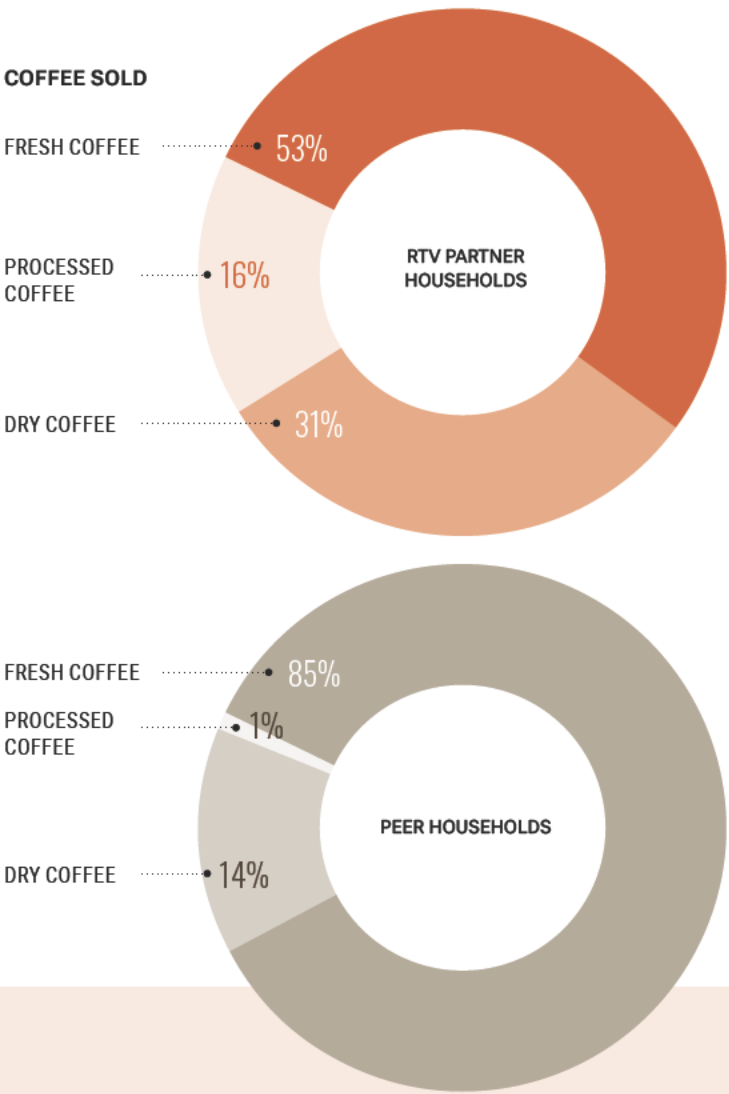
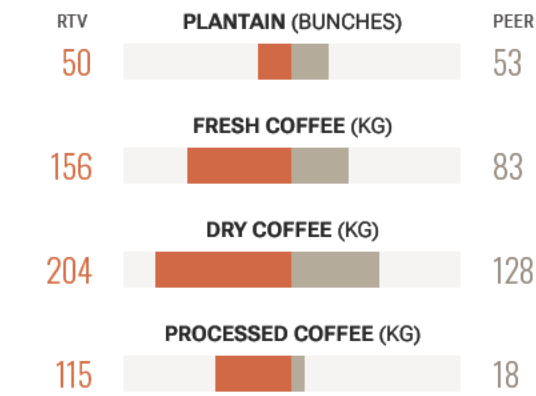
63%
of the partner households that reported instances of BBW are implementing the best practice of removal of infected plants (cutting and burying) compared to only 29% in peer communities. **43%** of those households are also disinfecting the tools as advised, compared to 29% in peer communities.



Market Value Analysis

Partner households sold higher quantities than peers, particularly for coffee, and were able to receive a higher average market price per unit for both crops.

PERENNIAL AVERAGE QUANTITIES SOLD AT 24 MONTHS



HIGHER MARKET PRICE PER UNIT

Participating partner households sold plantain at a **28%** higher average market price per unit than peers.



VALUE ADDITION

Participating partner households fetched **93%** higher price per unit sold for dry coffee and **441%** higher for processed coffee in comparison to the market price they received for fresh coffee.



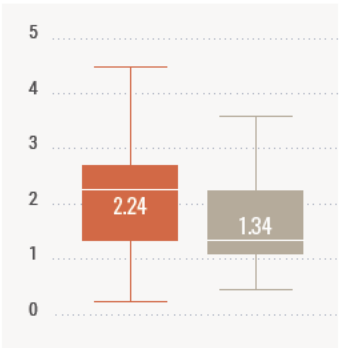
HIGHER QUANTITIES

Major gains in comparison to peers were realized as partner households sold **528%** higher quantities of value-added processed coffee than peers.

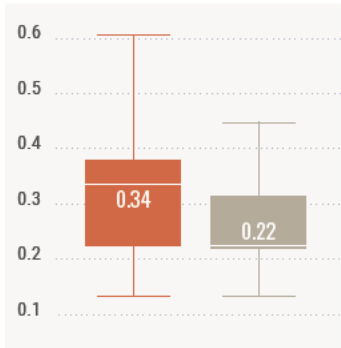
PERENNIAL CROPS: DISTRIBUTION OF MARKET PRICE PER UNIT



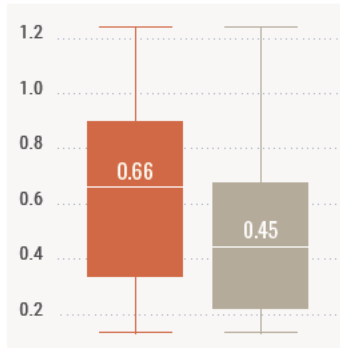
PLANTAIN



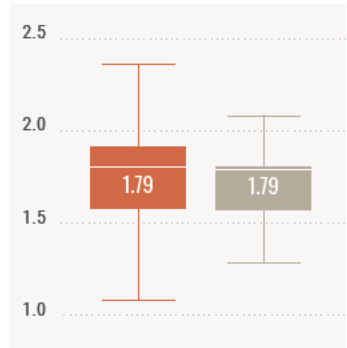
FRESH COFFEE



DRY COFFEE



PROCESSED COFFEE



CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Last-mile subsistence farming communities bear a disproportionate burden of the consequences of climate change, magnifying existing vulnerabilities.

Due to unexpected and adverse climate events, our partner households experience setbacks in crop performance, and consequently, income and opportunity.

Recognizing the gravity of this issue, our program is progressively integrating climate resilience strategies and innovations into our agricultural interventions to support farmers in adapting to climate change and empower our implementation and technical teams to provide ongoing support and guidance.



71% of partner households have reported experiencing negative impacts of climate change on their agriculture livelihoods, including reduced crop yields, crop failure, late planting and harvesting, soil erosion, and degradation. The most common weather changes impacting our partner households include drought, excessive rainfall, increased pests and diseases, and hailstorms.

Climate-Resilient Seeds

We equip partner households with drought-tolerant, early-maturing, and disease-resistant seeds and offer guidance to navigate the uncertainties of weather patterns for continued and sustained agricultural productivity. Each region receives climate-resilient seeds that can thrive in that area based on the climate conditions and soil profiles.

Organic Farming Practices

Using organic pesticides and fertilizers offers accessible and environmentally sustainable solutions to our partner communities. RTV provides each household with organic seed inputs, including hot pepper, garlic, and onions, for use as organic pesticides. Inputs to facilitate the formation of organic liquid manure with readily available organic materials and regular use of compost manure help farmers boost crop productivity and soil fertility. Training and ongoing support are provided to ensure the adoption of organic farming practices.

Knowledge and Ongoing Support

Through training and ongoing support from RTV’s agriculture specialists, partner households are empowered to respond to climate shocks by adopting Good Agronomic Practices (GAP) and using low-cost and available resources, like drip-bottle irrigation and mulching. These climate-responsive techniques are reinforced by establishing and training Community Agricultural Teams (CATs) in each village for long-term sustainability.

83% of partner households feel that RTV interventions have helped them address climate-related agriculture challenges.

HOUSEHOLDS REPORTING RTV INTERVENTIONS EFFECTIVE IN RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHALLENGES



RTV CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE SYSTEM

In 2023, as part of RTV Venn, RTV designed the **Climate Smart Agriculture System**, piloting the **Monitoring & Forecasting** and **Soil Profiling & Land Mapping** modules. This system aims to build climate change resilience in our partner communities and inform our project designs and program activities in line with location-specific soil profiles, land suitability, and weather forecasts.

Soil profiling at baseline and land mapping through satellite imagery helps us develop climate-smart designs, including optimal crop selection, and provide integrated solutions to mitigate risks. Weather forecasting enables us to generate seasonal activity guides for each planting season and partner district. These guides inform our teams and partner communities to time all agricultural activities from pre-planting to harvesting in accordance with forecasts based on historical

weather patterns. The forecast further enables us to issue regular weather outlooks with early warnings and relevant advisories to guide our partner households to respond in time to any climatic variations. RTV recently signed an MoU with the Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA) to access historical and forecasted weather data to strengthen the rainfall predictions and improve the robustness of the **Monitoring & Forecasting** module.

This year, the modules were piloted in four districts with plans for expansion in the coming year. Activities included soil profiling and crop suitability analysis for climate-smart designs, testing predictive mapping, developing an interactive dashboard, and distributing offline planting calendars to provide critical insights to our team and partner communities for data-informed decision-making.



“A few years ago, you couldn’t see a house from a mile away without being blocked by trees. Now, it is as clear as a desert. It used to rain sufficiently before, but now it is unpredictable. We learned farming techniques that used less water, made organic fertilizers, and received seeds that can grow during dry spells. From our harvests now, I can feed my family and pay for my children’s school fees.”

TEOPISTA
Partner community member,
Kaliro district

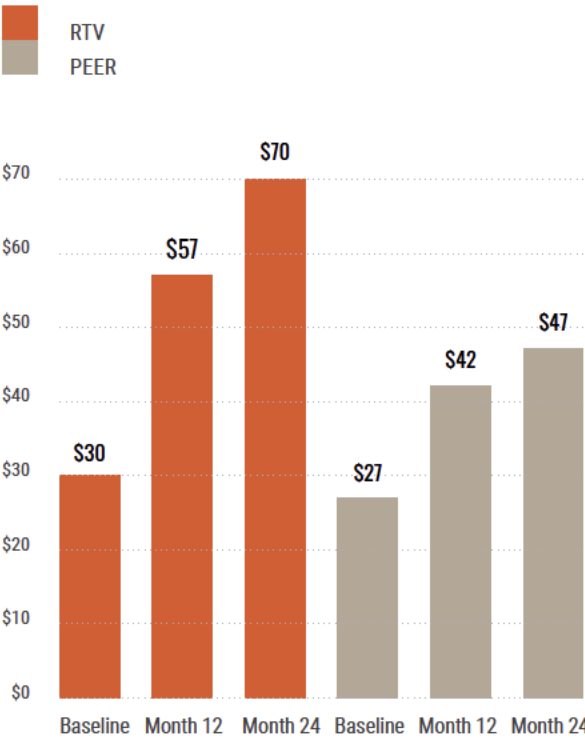
SMALL BUSINESS

Small businesses continue to increase household incomes and boost local economies in last-mile communities.

Fuelled by access to affordable loans for individual enterprises and participation in income-generating group enterprises as part of RTV VSLAs, partner households are able to diversify their income sources and create new avenues for growth.

Over the span of the program cycle, topline small business income for RTV partner communities increased by **133%** from baseline to graduation. By month 24, RTV partner communities’ small business income growth outpaced their peers by \$36.

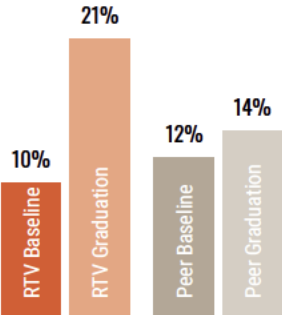
SMALL BUSINESS INCOME



HIGHER PARTICIPATION

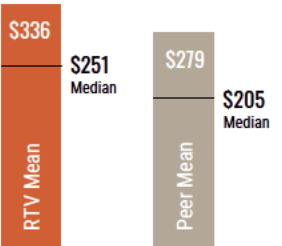
From baseline to graduation, we see a greater shift in the percentage of households engaged in businesses within RTV partner communities in comparison to peers.

HOUSEHOLDS ENGAGED IN SMALL BUSINESS



The proportion of partner households engaged in small business increased from 10% at baseline to 21% at graduation. Peers see a marginal increase of 2 percentage points in participation during the same period.

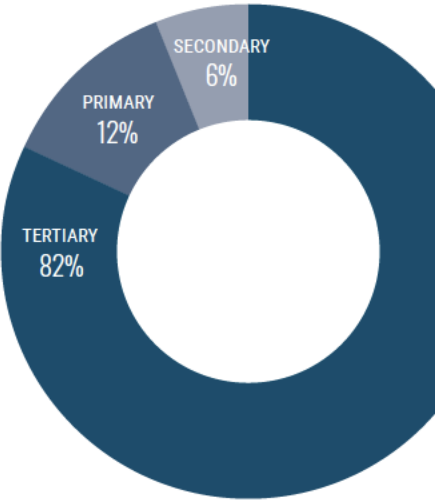
ANNUAL BUSINESS INCOME FOR HOUSEHOLDS IN BUSINESS AT 24 MONTHS



For the households engaged in small businesses, partner communities’ enterprises are, on average, generating 20% more income than peer businesses at 24 months.

SMALL BUSINESS DISTRIBUTION BY SECTOR

There is higher participation in tertiary businesses, both in partner and peer communities. Tertiary businesses in partner communities include home-based or small-scale enterprises such as retail shops, food vending, craft making, hair-dressing, and other service-related businesses.



BETTER PERFORMANCE

Profitability

In terms of monthly average profits for small businesses, RTV partner communities consistently outperformed their peers in the secondary and tertiary sectors. The differential becomes more pronounced in the tertiary sector, where we see the highest participation of households.

MONTHLY AVERAGE PROFITS
SMALL BUSINESS BY SECTOR

	RTV	Peer	Differential
PRIMARY ¹⁰	\$39	\$34	\$4
SECONDARY	\$43	\$27	\$16
TERTIARY	\$65	\$31	\$34

Stability

Gains are realized as partner households’ businesses are open for more months per year. For secondary businesses such as grain milling and brick-making, partner households’ enterprises, on average, operated four months more than those of peers in the last 12 months.

OPERATING MONTHS
MEDIAN

	RTV	Peer	Differential
PRIMARY	9.5	9.1	0.4
SECONDARY	9.4	5.5	4
TERTIARY	10.8	10.6	0.2

PRIMARY
BUSINESSES

The highest differential in inventory is seen in primary businesses, which include livestock trading, fish mongering, mining, and carpentry.

Across primary, secondary, and tertiary businesses, entrepreneurs in partner communities are able to maintain more inventory and supplies than peer businesses, allowing for smooth and consistent business operations.

AVERAGE INVENTORY

	RTV	Peer	Differential (\$)	Differential (%)
PRIMARY	\$167	\$91	\$76	83%
SECONDARY	\$103	\$76	\$27	36%
TERTIARY	\$226	\$185	\$41	22%

¹⁰ The difference in average monthly profits between partner and peer households for primary businesses is not statistically significant, indicating that the \$4 differential is inconclusive. Results are included only for context.



IMPROVED ACCESS TO FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS

In our partner communities, the growth of small businesses is bolstered by multiple avenues of financial support and financial literacy skills learned through our training program.

54%

of business owners in partner communities accessed low-interest loans through RTV VSLAs. In comparison, 24% of peer business owners accessed credit through their respective VSLAs.

19%

of VSLA members in partner communities earned income from group enterprises launched as part of the VSLA cooperative model. In peer communities, only 0.4% of members earned any income through group businesses.

“My business has changed my relationship with the community. People come to me and my husband to ask for advice on poultry farming, and we love educating them on it. RTV’s support has been very important in all this. Their constant visits and advice have encouraged us to keep improving our business and increasing our income.”

JOLLY

Partner community member, Rukungiri district

FINANCIAL INCLUSION: VILLAGE SAVINGS AND LOANS ASSOCIATIONS

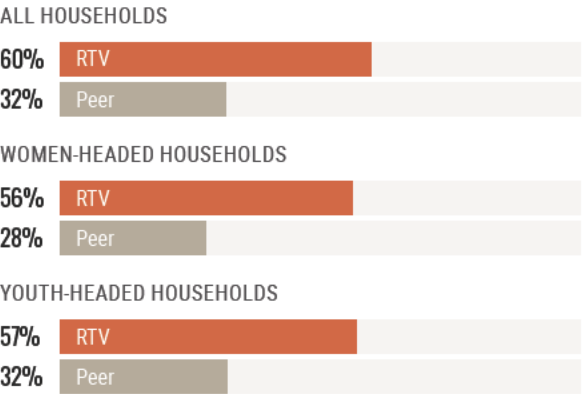
Access to financial services is critical in addressing ultra-poverty in last-mile communities. The Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs), established as part of our program, serve as informal cooperatives for communities to pool their savings, offer low-cost loans, improve market linkages, and jointly work towards shared community development or income-generating goals. Access to affordable credit and pooled resources for investment allow members to invest in small businesses or agriculture and build livestock assets in addition to supporting basic needs or responding to any developmental shocks. Financial Literacy and VSLA training ensure essential skill transfer for the VSLAs to succeed.

For RTV partner households, participation in the Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) results in tangible economic gains, both in comparison to partner households not participating in VSLAs and to peer households participating in their respective VSLAs.

VSLA RESULTS AT GRADUATION
PARTICIPATING VS NON-PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS

	RTV		PEER		DIFFERENTIAL	
	Non-Participating Households	Participating Households	Non-Participating Households	Participating Households	RTV: Participating vs Non-Participating Households	RTV vs Peers: VSLA Participating Households
HOUSEHOLD INCOME & PRODUCTION/DAY	\$2.16	\$2.30	\$1.25	\$1.52	\$0.14	\$0.78
ANNUAL LIVESTOCK ASSETS	\$184	\$238	\$93	\$121	\$54	\$117
ANNUAL AGRICULTURE VALUE	\$561	\$609	\$278	\$336	\$49	\$274
ANNUAL AGRICULTURE INCOME	\$239	\$284	\$86	\$105	\$45	\$179
ANNUAL BUSINESS INCOME	\$66	\$100	\$32	\$49	\$34	\$51

HOUSEHOLDS PARTICIPATING IN VSLAS



PARTNER HOUSEHOLDS
PARTICIPATING IN RTV VSLAS

51%
Higher Household Income and Production/day in comparison to peer VSLA members and 7% more than non-participating partner households.

169%
Higher Annual Agriculture Income than peer VSLAs and 19% more than non-participating RTV households.

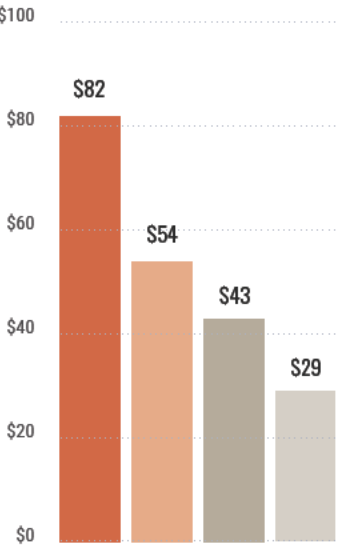
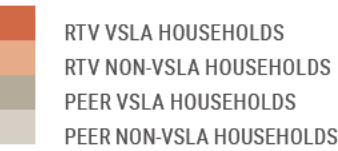
103%
Higher Annual Business Income when compared to peer VSLA participants and 52% higher than other partner households who are not participating in RTV VSLAs.

96%
Higher Livestock Assets compared to peer VSLA members and 29% more than non-participating RTV households.

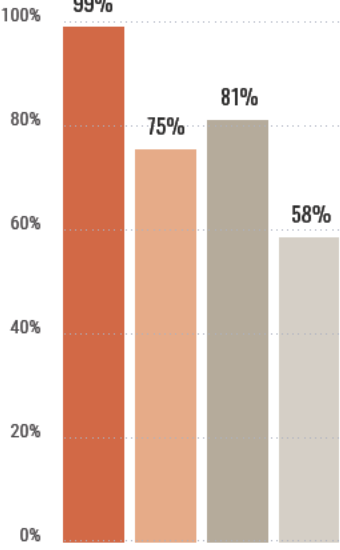
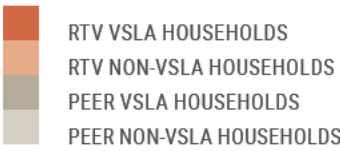
SAVINGS

Consistent savings not only cater to unforeseen expenses or economic shocks but also allow our partner communities to plan and invest in future opportunities. Although partner households utilize multiple avenues for savings, those enrolled in RTV VSLAs report having higher savings than peers and non-participating RTV households.

TOTAL ANNUAL SAVINGS



HOUSEHOLDS ACTIVE IN SAVINGS



89%
Higher savings in partner households participating in RTV VSLAs compared to their peer participants and 53% higher than non-participating partner households.

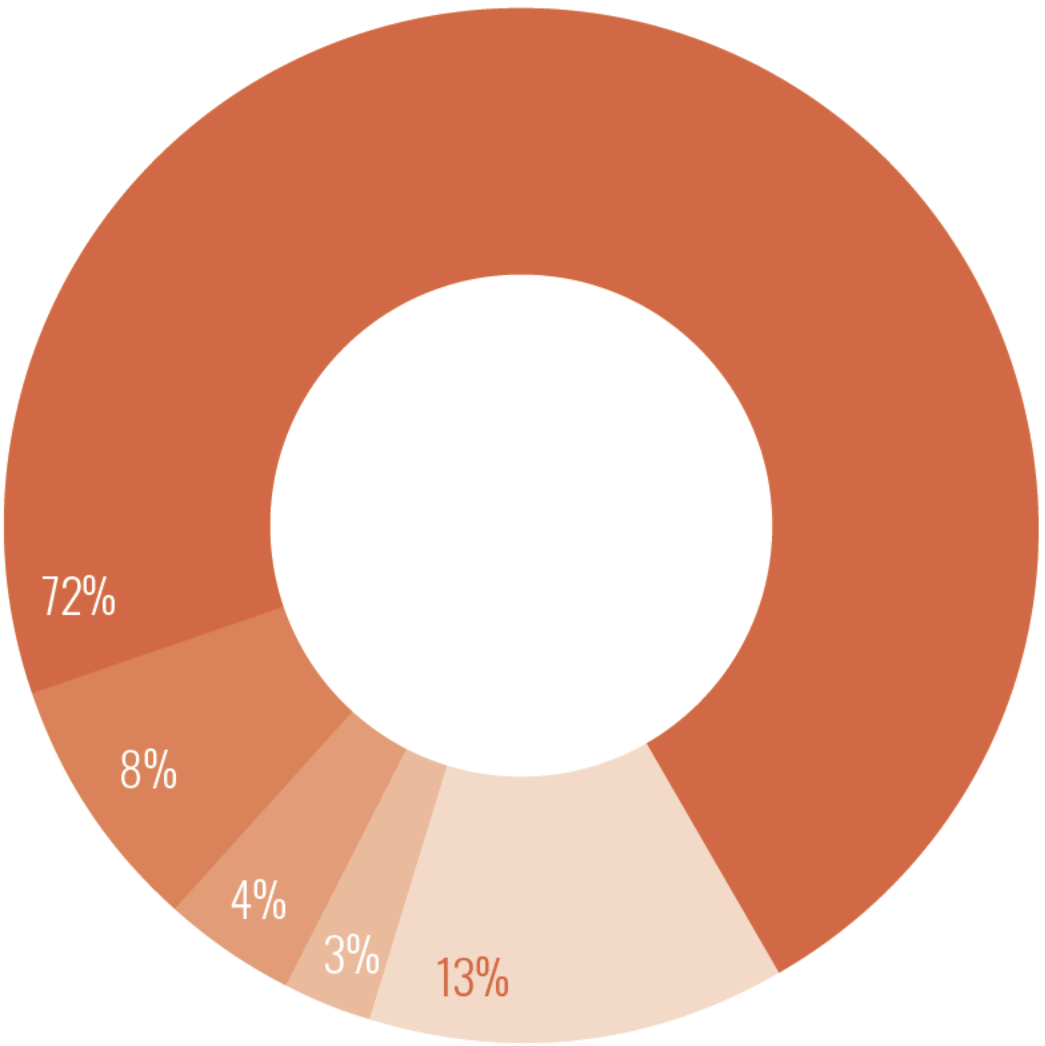
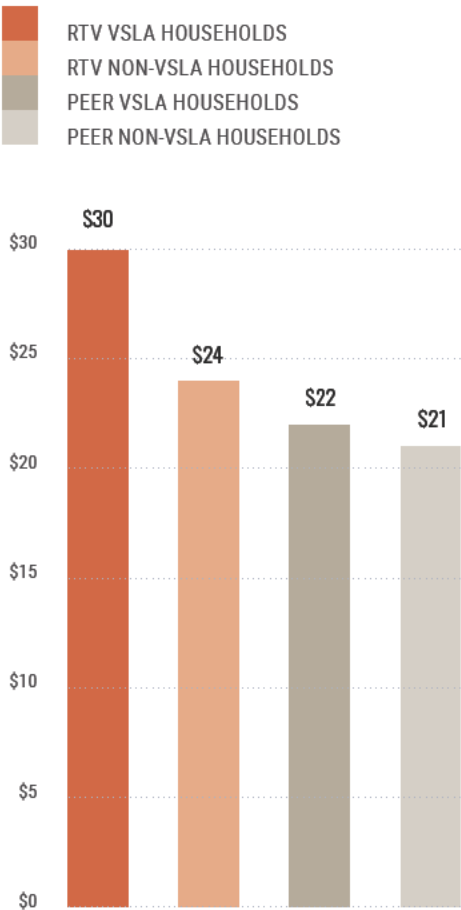
99%
of partner households participating in RTV VSLAs are saving actively.

LOANS AND INVESTMENTS

VSLAs are effective tools for accelerating growth in addition to improving welfare in partner communities.

Access to affordable loans enables partner communities to respond to urgent needs, invest in economic activities, and acquire essential financial management and business skills.

ANNUAL LOAN AMOUNT



SOURCES OF LOANS FOR RTV VSLA PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS

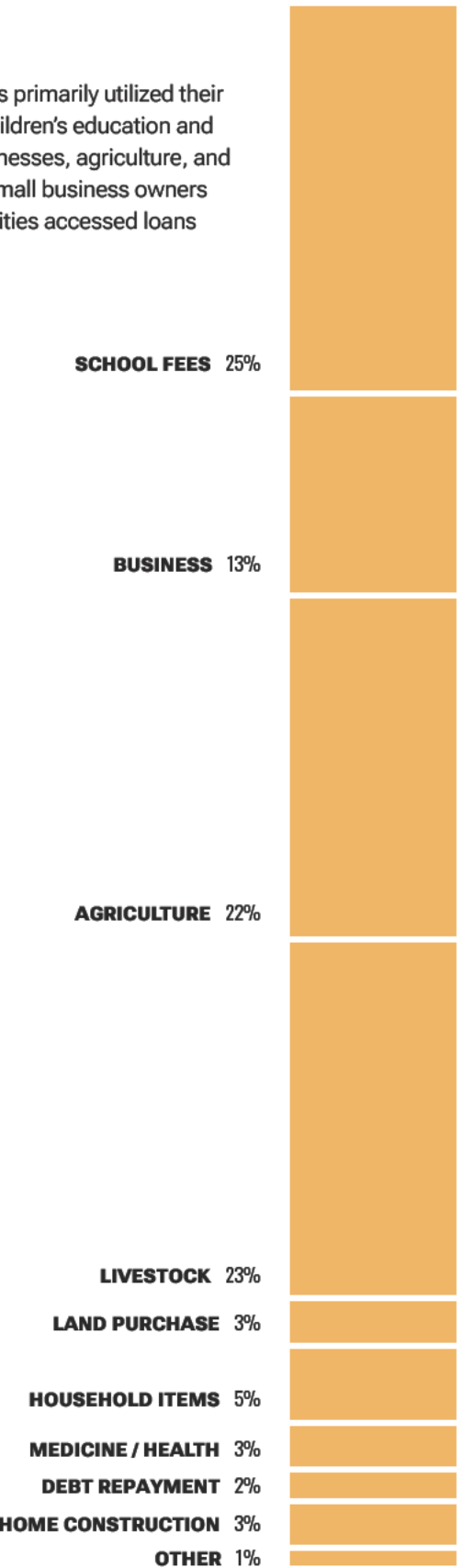


Partner households participating in VSLAs are accessing higher loan amounts in comparison to peers. Despite having higher amounts of loans, these households are able to maintain a 0.05 outstanding debt-to-annual income ratio, same as their peers.

72% of the VSLA member partner households accessed loans through RTV VSLAs at an average monthly interest rate of 3.38%, lower in comparison to banks (3.86%), formal cooperatives (3.97%), and other VSLAs (5.9%).

LOAN USE

RTV VSLA members primarily utilized their loans to support children's education and invest in small businesses, agriculture, and livestock. 54% of small business owners in partner communities accessed loans through the VSLAs.



KEY DRIVERS

In combination with training and as a key intervention integrated with our holistic program model, the community-led VSLAs enable partner communities to upscale economic activities, improve household welfare, and acquire financial management skills. Key contributing factors for success include:

- Participation**
Community engagement and mobilization for high and active participation.
- Income and Value Focus**
Guidance on effective utilization of loans particularly focused on income generation, with group enterprises targeting income generation and asset development.
- Training**
Knowledge and skills transfer on savings, financial literacy, setting up and managing VSLAs, VSLA leadership, and sustainability.
- Access**
Equitable access with three categories of VSLAs established – Joint, Women, and Youth.
- Goal Setting**
Support for setting clear goals and by-laws.
- Leadership**
Support for setting up a strong, representative, and well-trained VSLA leadership.
- Ongoing Mentorship**
Ongoing mentorship and support throughout the program cycle.

VILLAGE STARTUP FUND

As part of our responsive program framework, RTV piloted the Village Startup Fund (VSF) to improve partner communities’ access to affordable credit. VSF provides top-up funds to existing RTV VSLAs selected from villages with the greatest need defined by household incomes and assets. These VSLAs are vetted for their performance and track record, and participating members are eligible for a maximum loan of \$50 at a low-interest rate. In 2023, we extended the pilot program further to increase coverage and evaluate impact at scale. This project catalyzed the development and roll-out of a custom-built VSF mobile application. Community Champions in each village have been trained to digitally report using smartphones provided by RTV. A midline evaluation for the third phase of the pilot is currently underway.



29,387
Community members in 498 villages have accessed low-interest loans to date through the Village Startup Fund.

\$1.1 M
disbursed in loans since the project’s inception in 2020.

“I am a farmer and a business-woman. We trade in beans, coffee, and sorghum and raise pigs, goats, and rabbits. We learned to multiply our money through the Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA), helping us buy the animals and pay our children’s school fees.”

CHARITY
Partner community member, Rukungiri district



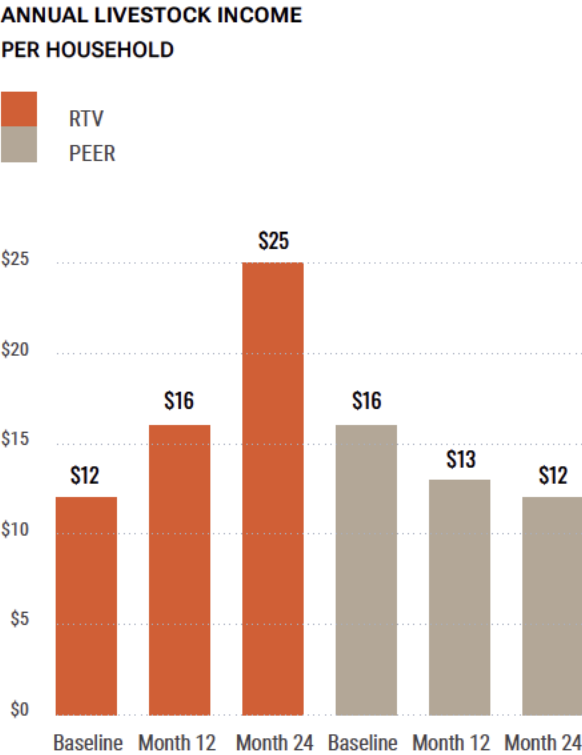
ADDITIONAL
DETAILS
2023 Graduating Cohort

LIVESTOCK

Since its inception, our cluster model has included the direct transfer of livestock assets to women and youth-headed households, with a community-wide focus on driving asset-building through VSLAs, establishing and training local structures for livestock support, and providing training and ongoing coaching on Livestock Management and Care.

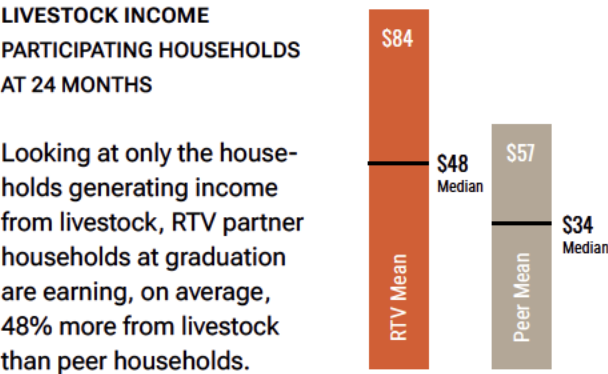
To evaluate the impact of direct asset transfers on household incomes, our keystone metric, RTV undertook a pilot study in the 2023 Graduating Cohort enrolled in 2021, under which 3 out of 62 clusters did not receive livestock assets as part of the program, with the associated investment redirected to agricultural programming. Based on our data analysis from the pilot, RTV is continuing the study with extended pilots in cohorts enrolled in our program in 2022–2023.

Livestock Income



In our partner communities, livestock contributed 5% of total income gains in comparison to peers over 24 months.

At the topline level, RTV partner communities increased their Livestock Income by **118%** from baseline to graduation. In comparison, peer households experienced a decline of 22% over the same period.

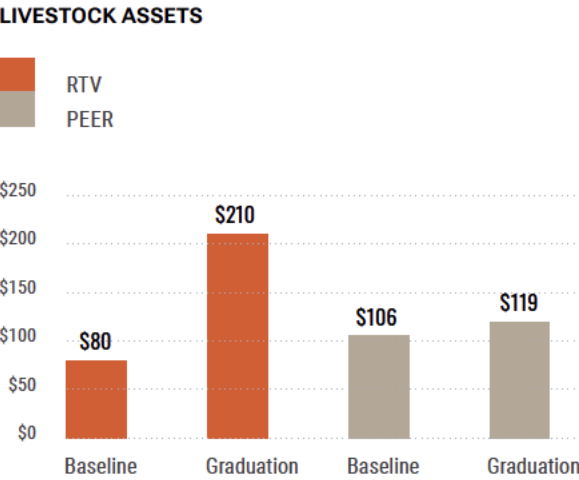


Looking at only the households generating income from livestock, RTV partner households at graduation are earning, on average, 48% more from livestock than peer households.

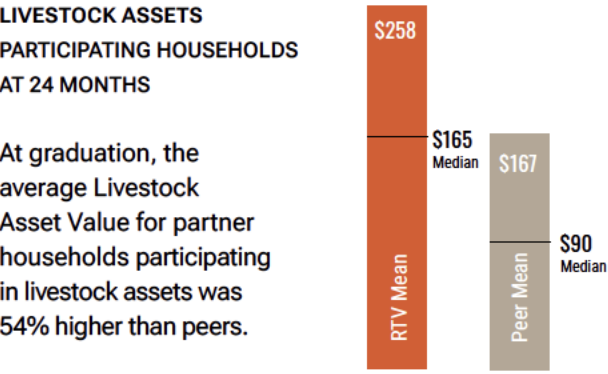
Livestock Assets

Livestock training, ongoing support for the adoption of best practices, and trained Village Livestock Teams (VLT) are key components of RTV programs that encourage broader participation in and improved management of Livestock Assets.

RTV VSLAs continue to be a catalyst for building Livestock Assets in partner communities. For the 2023 Graduating Cohort, 23% of VSLA loans accessed by partner communities were focused on building Livestock Assets as an income-generating activity (IGA).



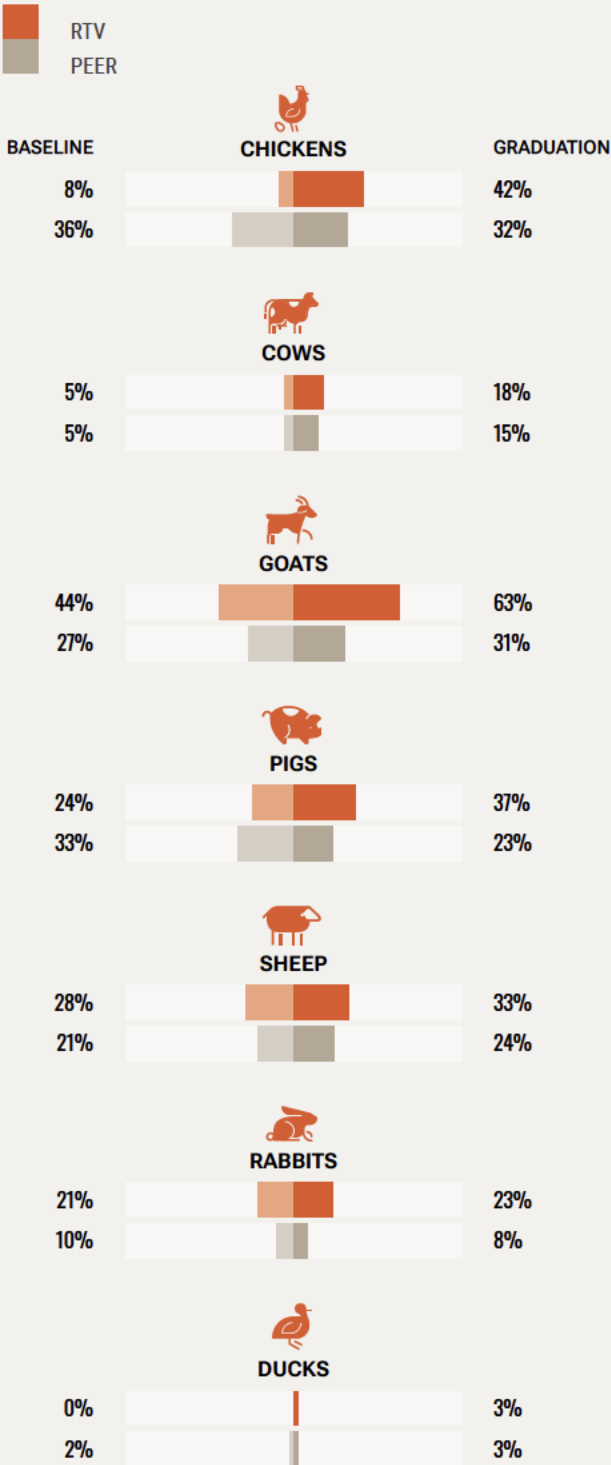
At the topline level, average Livestock Assets for partner households increased by **162%** from baseline to graduation, \$117 more than peers over 24 months.



At graduation, the average Livestock Asset Value for partner households participating in livestock assets was 54% higher than peers.

LIVESTOCK OWNERSHIP

As partner communities increase their earnings and savings, the percentage of partner households owning Livestock Assets significantly increased from baseline to graduation.



DID YOU KNOW

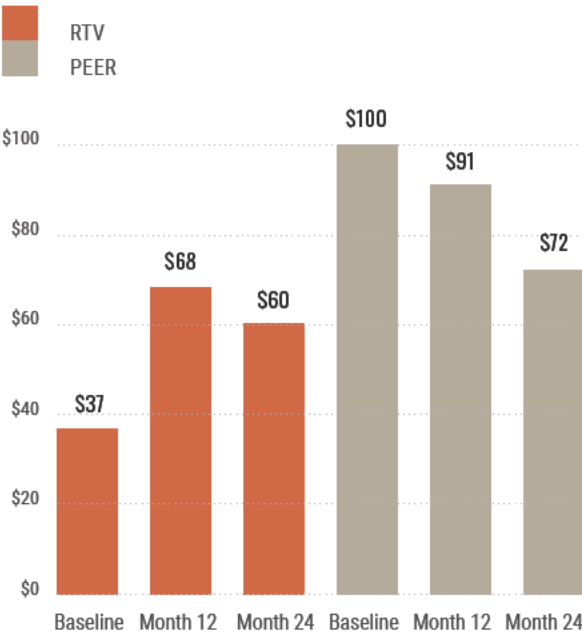
Livestock Assets play a multifaceted role in poverty alleviation in rural communities. They represent wealth accumulation, income diversification opportunities and enhancement of agricultural systems.

CASUAL LABOR

Casual labor provides last-mile households with an immediate source of income, allowing them to address urgent basic needs. However, casual labor is often uncertain, especially in contrast to more predictable and scalable sources of income.

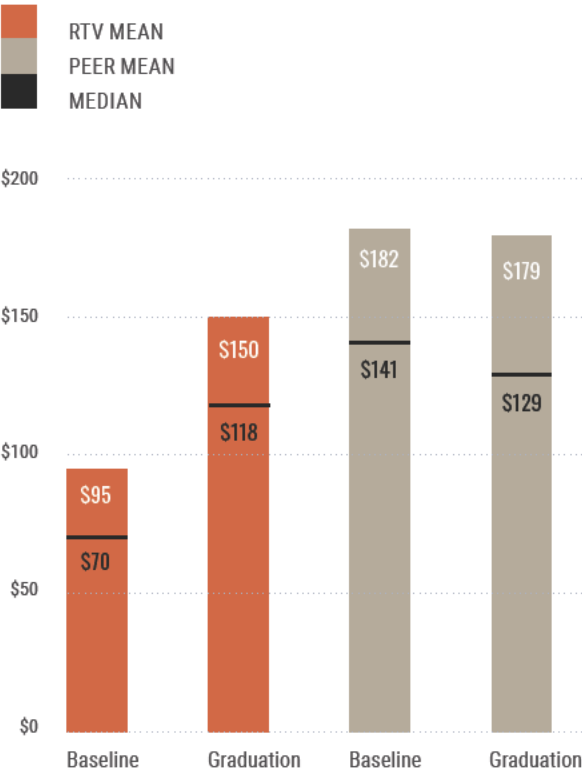
Casual labor activities can be influenced by a myriad of factors, including seasonal agricultural demands, economic conditions, local infrastructure development, creating short-term demand, and alternative livelihood opportunities, among others.

CASUAL LABOR INCOME



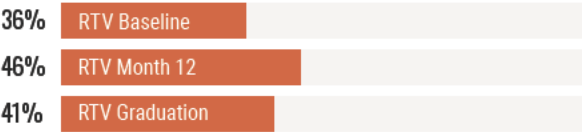
Whereas the average casual labor income in peer households remains higher than partner households at the topline level, casual labor income in partner households increased from baseline to graduation by 63%. In comparison, we see a 27% decline in peer households. This indicates a \$27 gain in casual labor income for partner households in comparison to peers over 24 months.

CASUAL LABOR INCOME PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS



Observing the casual labor income metrics only for households participating in this income stream, we get similar insights with RTV partner households increasing their casual labor incomes from baseline to graduation, whereas we see a decline in earnings amongst peer households.

CASUAL LABOR PARTICIPATION PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS



TIME ENGAGED IN CASUAL LABOR ON AVERAGE

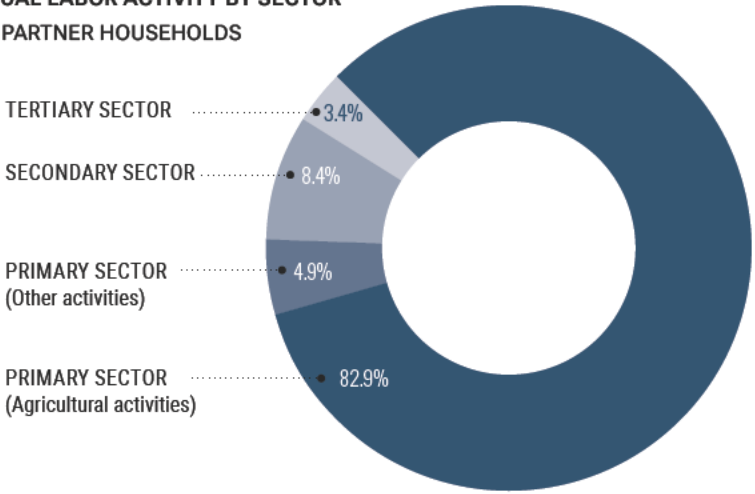
	BASELINE		GRADUATION	
	RTV	Peer	RTV	Peer
MONTHS WORKED IN A YEAR	7.1	7.5	6.2	6.5
DAYS WORKED IN A WEEK	4.2	3.2	3.1	3.5
HOURS WORKED IN A DAY	7.7	7.0	6.9	7.5

WEEKLY EARNINGS AT 24 MONTHS

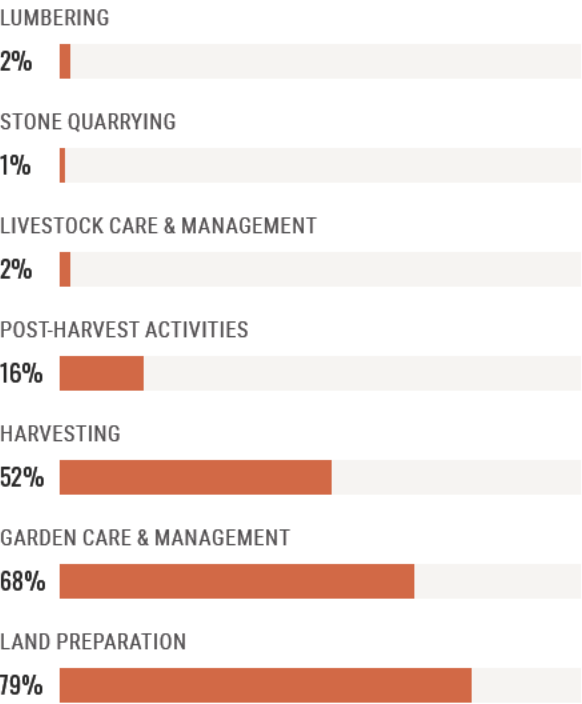
	RTV	Peer
CASUAL LABOR WAGE	\$3.41	\$3.74
CASUAL LABOR PAYMENT IN KIND	\$0.89	\$1.17
TOTAL EARNINGS	\$4.30	\$4.91

We see an increase in participation and income in partner households in their first 12 months. However, as income and earnings from other income streams improve by month 24, partner households’ reliance on casual labor as an income source declines. At graduation, partner households, on average, are spending fewer months, days, and hours than baseline and compared to peers, translating to lower weekly earnings.

CASUAL LABOR ACTIVITY BY SECTOR RTV PARTNER HOUSEHOLDS



CASUAL LABOR ACTIVITY IN THE PRIMARY SECTOR RTV PARTNER HOUSEHOLDS



A major proportion of casual labor activity in both partner and peer communities is focused on seasonal demand based on agricultural activities, including land preparation and garden care, harvesting, and post-harvest management.

Studying the relationship between casual labor and other income streams in partner communities, we find a statistically significant inverse relationship between casual labor and other more stable income streams particularly perennial crop income, business income, and formal employment income – with households engaged in casual labor reflecting low incomes from other sources and vice versa.

CASUAL LABOR INCOME IN RELATION TO OTHER INCOME STREAMS
BY HOUSEHOLDS

	RTV		PEER	
	Engaged in Casual Labor	Not Engaged in Casual Labor	Engaged in Casual Labor	Not Engaged in Casual Labor
SEASONAL CROP INCOME	\$116	\$125	\$43	\$49
PERENNIAL CROP INCOME	\$104	\$146	\$37	\$53
BUSINESS INCOME	\$43	\$93	\$15	\$57
FORMAL EMPLOYMENT INCOME	\$20	\$53	\$14	\$47

CASUAL LABOR PARTICIPATION BY HOUSEHOLD HEADSHIP

	RTV			PEER		
	Men	Women	Youth	Men	Women	Youth
PARTICIPATION IN CASUAL LABOR	42%	36%	52%	45%	38%	63%
LAND SIZE FOR AGRICULTURE (ACRES)	1.41	1.17	0.90	0.99	0.95	0.73
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS ENGAGED IN CASUAL LABOR	1.40	1.30	1.40	1.50	1.20	1.40
AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE	5.61	4.27	3.89	5.48	4.37	3.79
HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS ENGAGED IN CASUAL LABOR IN RELATION TO TOTAL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS	25%	30%	36%	27%	27%	37%

Insights from RTV partner communities and peer groups further indicate a relationship between the level of household's social and economic vulnerability and participation in casual labor.

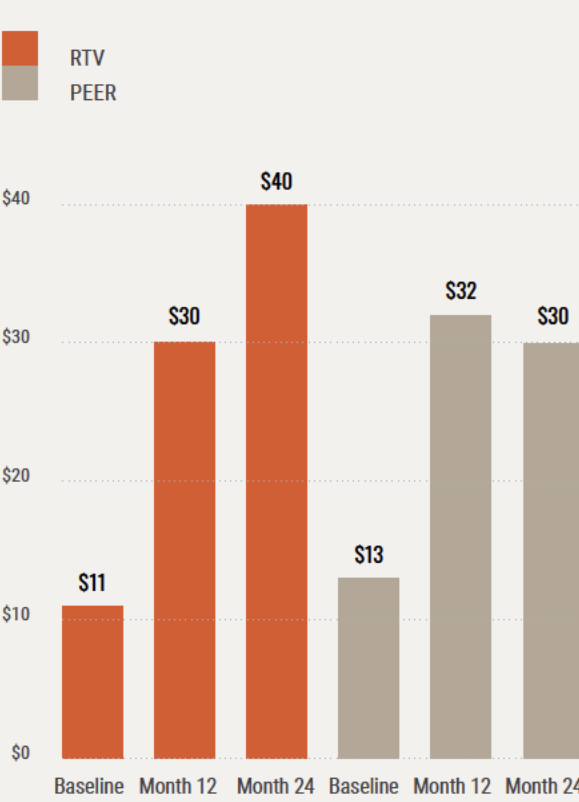
Youth-headed households, in both RTV and peer communities, have the smallest average land size for agriculture and the highest participation in casual labor in comparison to men-headed/joint and women-headed households. Despite having the smallest average household size, youth-headed households have a higher dependency on casual labor, with the ratio of household members engaged in casual labor to the total number of household members the highest in comparison to men-headed/joint and women-headed households. Youth-headed households are headed by young adults from 18 to 30 years and are considered vulnerable groups amongst our partner communities.

RTV continues to further study the casual labor dynamics in partner and peer communities for further analysis and evaluation.

SALARIED EMPLOYMENT

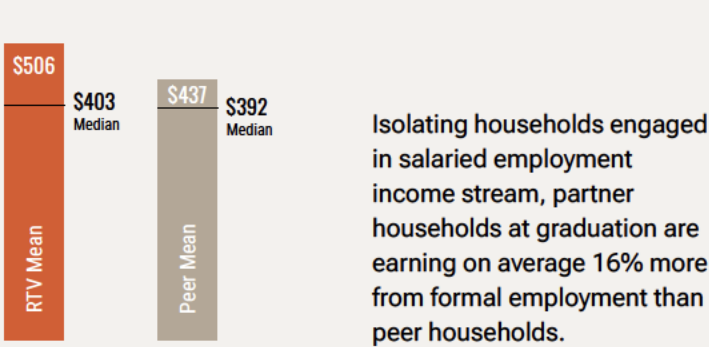
While formal employment is not a major contributor to income streams in last-mile communities, our partner households experienced an increase in earnings from salaried employment in comparison to peers.

SALARIED EMPLOYMENT INCOME



At the topline level, partner households increased their salaried income by **269%** from baseline to graduation. In comparison, peer households saw a 129% increase during the same period. RTV partner households earned \$10 more than peers over 24 months, representing a 3% contribution to total income gains in comparison to peers.

SALARIED EMPLOYMENT INCOME
PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS AT 25 MONTHS

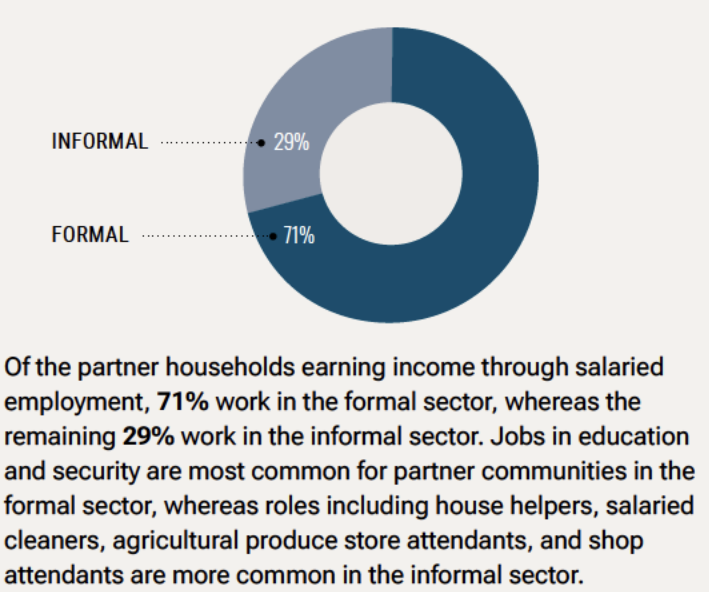


HOUSEHOLDS ENGAGED IN SALARIED EMPLOYMENT

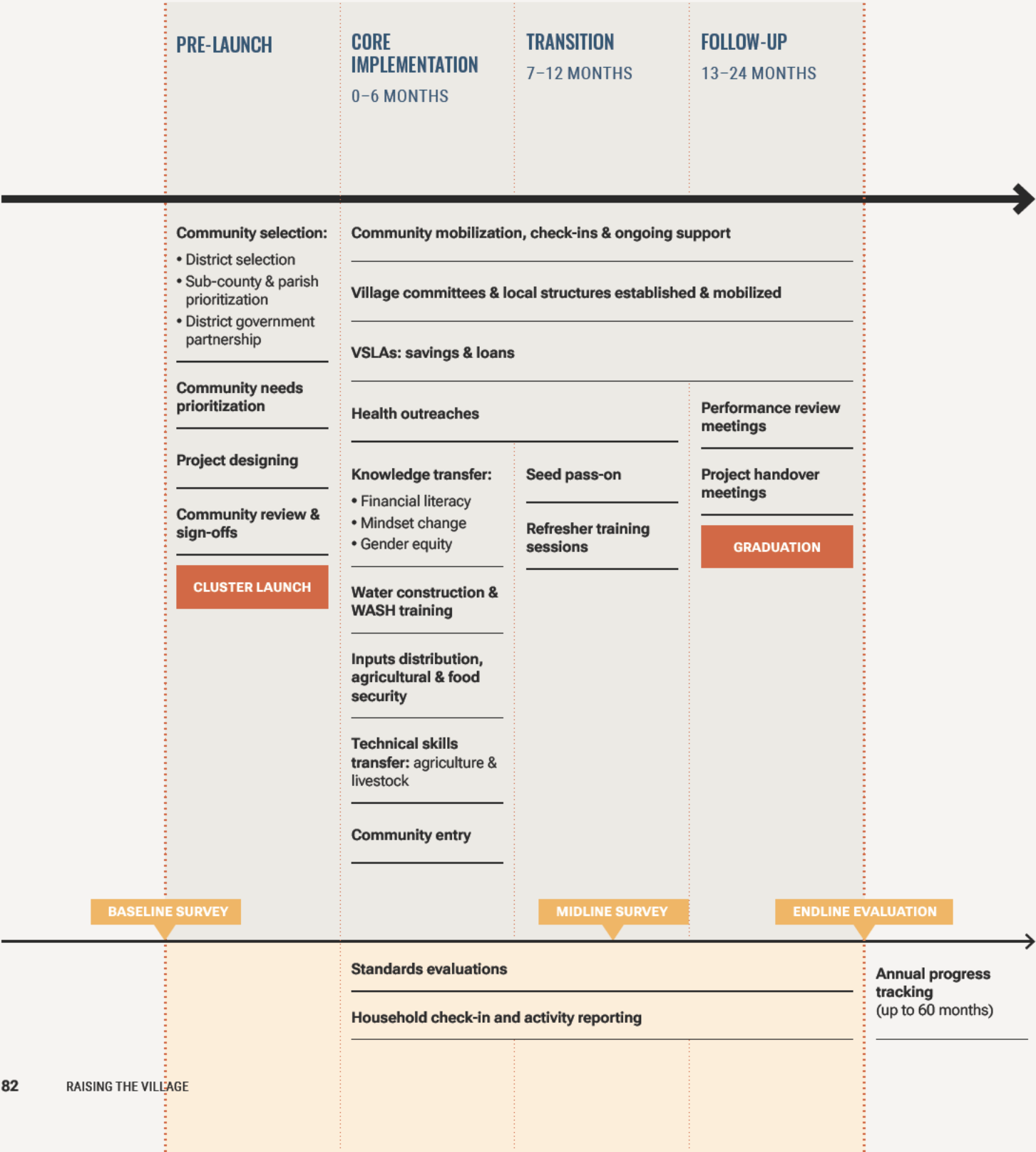


At baseline, 2% of partner households were engaged in salaried employment as one of their income streams. At graduation, the participation rate increased to 8%.

SALARIED EMPLOYMENT BY SECTOR
PARTNER HOUSEHOLDS AT GRADUATION



PATHWAY OUT OF POVERTY: PROGRAM ROADMAP



ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY METHODOLOGY & STANDARDS

For impact measurement and reporting detailed in this report, an **Annual Household Survey (AHS)** is carried out to collect household-level data on social and economic indicators and key impact drivers.

Research Design

For topline impact analysis, we follow the **Longitudinal Study** research design, under which the same samples are followed for five years from baseline. RTV also carries out a **Heterogeneity Analysis** by cohorts to ensure we are reaching and impacting the most vulnerable population and understand the category of income earners where our impact is felt most. In our heterogeneity analysis, partner households are divided into four groups based on their household income and production at baseline. To measure the impact of RTV's interventions, the differences in the incomes and production of these households are compared at baseline and graduation.

Sampling Approach

Random sampling of the target and reserve households is done once at baseline, and the same sample is followed for the entire longitudinal study period.

- Sample/Sampling Frame:** This is a representation of all listed village households randomly selected to represent the entire population.
- Sampling Strategy utilized:** Probability sampling
- Sampling Method:** Stratified Random Sampling
- The Different Strata include:** Men-Headed Households (single or joint), Women-Headed Households (single), and Youth-Headed households (single or joint).

Sample Selection

RTV applies a (24/30 sampling) approach. From the village census, households are stratified across household types with a random selection of households based on village size aligned with Uganda's 2014 Census village demographics for both Peer and RTV households:

- Villages consisting of >100 Households:** A sample of 30 households is drawn with a 60/20/20 ratio of Men/Women/ Youth Headed Households
- Villages consisting of <100 Households:** A sample of 24 households is drawn with a 50/25/25 ratio of Men/Women/ Youth Headed Households

The activity is applied to create a reserve list of survey participants with an identical reserve by strata type and sample characteristics. If a target household drops from the study, it is replaced with a reserve household from the relevant strata.

Sampling of the target and reserve households is done once at baseline, and the same sample is followed for the entire period of the longitudinal study. When a target household drops from the study, it is replaced with a reserve household with similar characteristics from a pool of reserve households. This is done for Year 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 evaluations.

Data Collection & Quality Assurance

- Data for AHS is collected electronically using Survey123 and SurveyCTO, programmed with logical flow, consistency, and speed violation checks.
- Prior to data collection, the AHS is tested in the field for up to 3 days, and feedback from testing is incorporated into the tool. During the course of survey administration, daily reports are submitted by enumerators and activity reports are compiled by the PEAL team to help identify errors and to inform any modifications to improve the survey.
- To keep our findings and results as independent as possible, we hire and train independent contractors as enumerators to ensure uniform collection across all households in accordance with our data privacy and protection protocols. One field supervisor is assigned to 15 independent contractors to ensure the quality of data collection.
- Enumerators, each with their unique identifier, receive village track sheets of randomized survey households (with assigned IDs) generated from Household Census data.
- Household surveys are unlocked by GPS satellite coordinates and must be completed within a small radius of 10 meters of the household location. For further diligence, we layer the GPS of the HH visited to our census base map to validate that the two GPS coordinates are aligned.
- Backchecks and callbacks are conducted for 10% of all households surveyed within 1 week of the survey. These checks are conducted for a random subset of surveys to ensure the quality of data collection and conformity with data collection protocols.
- The collection time for AHS ranges from 45 minutes to one hour per survey, with 6 surveys completed daily. With an average of 5 contractors per village, we limit the time commitment for partner communities by covering one village in one day.

Analytical Approach

We utilize the Difference In Differences (DID) approach to measure the true impact of our program by comparing changes in outcomes over time between partner communities (treatment group) and peer communities (control group).

To apply the Difference-in-Differences method, we collect baseline data for both control and treatment groups. Baseline activities involve identifying and randomly selecting control and treatment sub-counties. The pre-treatment differences in outcomes across the two groups are captured at the household level, ensuring that our control and treatment groups have similar characteristics, creating a level playing field for comparison. The treatment group is then exposed to the intervention, after which we analyze the differences in differences between both groups. The impact of the treatment is the difference after intervention (second difference) minus the difference pre-treatment (first difference).

Data Analysis

Utilizing statistical modeling, we perform a regression analysis to assess impact using Alteryx workflows, STATA, and Python. Our analysis includes univariate, bivariate, and multivariate methods to investigate the relationships between various key variables and household incomes. Univariate analysis is conducted to determine various household characteristics, whereas bivariate and multivariate analyses are done to examine key relationships between different key variables and household incomes. Evaluation files are prepared for each cohort at the district level.

To manage outliers and achieve a normal distribution, data is sorted in ascending order using household program value. Five percent of the data is dropped from the analysis (1% at the bottom and 4% at the top) for every cohort at the district level for a true comparison. The dropped data is also not considered for the heterogeneity analysis. Outlier management for both control and treatment is done separately following the same procedure.

Findings are assumed to be true and published only when 95%** to 99%*** statistical significance is achieved with a p-value equal to or less than 0.05 or 0.01.

Data Collection Schedule

1. **Baseline:**
 - Villages census for both partner and peer communities.
 - Baseline Household Survey for both partner and peer communities.
 - Community Needs Prioritization for partner communities.
2. **Implementation:** Annual Household Survey for both partner and peer communities.
3. **Reporting Endline:** Annual Household Survey for both partner and peer communities.
4. **Sustainability:** Progress of partner households continues to be monitored each year post-graduation through the Annual Household Survey for up to 60 months.

ABBREVIATIONS

AHS	Annual Household Survey
BBW	Banana Bacterial Wilt
CAT	Community Agriculture Teams
CPH	Cost Per Household
DID	Difference-in-Differences
FCS	Food Consumption Score
GAP	Good Agronomic Practices
GPS	Global Positioning System
HH	Household
HHI+P	Household Income and (net) Production
HOR	Health Outreaches
IGA	Income Generating Activities
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
PEAL	Planning, Evaluation and Learning
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
ROI	Return on Investment
RTV	Raising The Village
SE	Standards Evaluation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UNMA	Uganda National Meteorological Authority
USD	United States Dollar
VLT	Village Livestock Team
VSF	Village Startup Fund
VSLA	Village Savings and Loans Association
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
YOY	Year-on-Year or Year-over-Year

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The following definitions provided are not all-encompassing but are adequate for understanding the key themes and ideas presented in this report.

Agricultural Cycles: Uganda has two planting seasons in accordance with the weather patterns. Communities are ready to plant from March to May and August to November. RTV launches clusters in alignment with the two planting cycles - January (Agricultural Cycle A) and June (Agricultural Cycle B), respectively.

Annual Program Value: Differential between RTV and peer households’ Annual Household Value, which includes Household Income, Net Production, and Livestock Assets. The Annual Program Value represents the Household Value gained, directly or indirectly, as a result of our programmatic interventions in comparison to peers.

Cluster: Grouping of neighboring villages that share social networks, resources, and infrastructure such as water sources and markets that help Raising The Village (RTV) build area-wide community cooperation while maximizing program resources.

Cohort: Grouping of clusters according to the time of their launch.

Differentials: RTV partner communities’ annual outcomes minus peer groups’ annual outcomes per year. These reflect the trajectory of change in outcomes between partner and peer households. Cumulative differentials or differentials at graduation include the sum total of differentials at year 1 and year 2 minus baseline differential.

Graduation: The end of the project cycle of 24 months. At the end of the 24-month period, communities are able to independently manage initiatives and graduate from the program. RTV continues to monitor key outcomes after graduation until year 5.

Household: On average, there are five members in each household across our partner families.

Household Headship: Household headship is considered our primary unit of impact analysis to assess the economic well-being and progress of the economic status of the entire household. Based on local social constructs, our prioritization strategy focused on women and youth, and information on household head gender and age; the following household headship categories are used:

- Women-headed households: Households that are headed by women older than 30 years and are one of the following: single, divorced/separated, never married, or widowed.
- Youth-headed households: Households that are headed by individuals between 18 to 30 years of age.
- Joint or Men-headed households: Households that are headed by an adult older than 30 years and are either of the following: married joint households or adult men who are divorced/separated, never married, and/or widowed.

Household Income (HHI): HHI includes income generated from salaried employment, business, casual labor, remittances, and gifts, agricultural income, including seasonal and perennial crops, and livestock income.

Household Income and Production: Household Income + Net Production. This represents household income and agricultural and livestock net production for the year. Household Income and Production per day is calculated over 365 days.

Household Net Production: Total production minus agricultural and livestock income. Net production represents unsold agricultural and livestock production. All aggregated Household Income and Production data reflect net production.

Household Total Production: Total agricultural crop value (seasonal and perennial) + livestock and livestock by-products’ consumption. Total production represents the total value of agricultural and livestock production in the year for sale, consumption, and residuals.

Last-mile village: The term “last-mile village” represents isolated communities, villages without paved roads, with little access to communication, and having poor infrastructure. Without access to basic government services, people are disconnected and often left in a perpetual state of ultra-poverty.

Partner Households: Partner Households or Communities represent the communities where RTV programs are implemented.

Peer or Control Group: To track the progression of RTV partner households over time, in comparison to households where RTV programs have not been introduced, Peer or Control groups are selected. Control groups are randomly selected using STATA at the subcounty level. As part of our methodology, multiple treatment groups are compared to a smaller number of control groups, with a moving baseline used for true comparison by cohort. The number of control villages is selected based on power calculations to ensure that the control group is representative of the overall sample population.

Progress Out of Poverty Index (PPI): The Grameen Progress Out of Poverty Index is a poverty measurement tool consisting of a country-specific survey that considers changes in household characteristics and asset ownership. PPI is one of the measures we use to assess the effectiveness of our programs and track multidimensional poverty levels in our partner communities over time.

Randomized Control Trial (RCT): RCT is a third-party impact evaluation that uses randomized access to social development programs to limit bias and generate and validate impact assessments of a program. RTV launched our randomized control study with Dr. Riley, University of Michigan, and Dr. Mahmud, University of Exeter, in 2020 for a period of five years post-implementation.

Residuals: Residuals are part of the agricultural harvest that are kept by households for future consumption or replanting in the next planting cycle. These are included in net production.

Return on Investment (ROI): Calculated as the cumulative differential between the Annual Net Program Value of graduated RTV partner households and peer group households over 24 and 60 months, minus the one-time average investment/partner household, divided by the average investment/partner household.

Ultra-poverty: The most severe form of poverty, representing populations experiencing deep disadvantages, including poor health, inadequate living standards, lack of access to education and basic infrastructure, and severely low income or consumption.

VSLA: Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) are groups of rural community members who have clear by-laws, SMART goals, and agreements outlining financial contributions and responsibilities and meet regularly to save money towards a specific goal and loan out money to its members. VSLAs facilitate further economic growth beyond our immediate interventions and ensure the sustainability of incomes and asset gains for the communities.

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