



Final Grant Report - Thankyou

July 2020 – June 2021

IMPACT MILESTONE 1: Develop governance structure, prioritizing African leadership at all levels

Key Results

- Recruited [4 Advisory Board members](#) during the grant period, 75% of whom are African
- Engaged Advisory Board in first grant selection process & board made grant recommendations totaling US\$1M in [multiyear commitments](#) to African visionaries
- Developed co-leadership model in partnership with Founding Working Group
- Recruited [Atti Worku](#) as co-CEO & announced her appointment with [video introduction](#) and interview with co-CEOs [featured on Skoll.org](#) & [Alliance Magazine](#)
- Piloted grantmaking selection & decision-making process for first round of grants announced in February 2021 and currently reviewing & iterating this process for the second round of grants to be announced in Q4 of 2021
- Created mechanism for Advisory Board to create Advisory Council/Committee of visionary partners into our bylaws

IMPACT MILESTONE 2: Raise \$4 million in multi-year commitments by June 2021 towards \$10.5 million fund

Key Results

- Raised \$3.9M raised towards our \$10.5M 2023 goal, 95% of this is unrestricted and 80% is multi-year funding
- Launched our grantmaking at the beginning of 2021 with an announcement of US\$1M committed to six African Visionary Partners through an [announcement video](#), launch of a [new section](#) of our website, and social media & marketing campaign. This campaign generated 20,000 impressions and resulted in mentions in [Devex](#) and [CNBC Africa](#).
- Welcomed 6 new funding partners including the Schooner Foundation, Tawingo Fund, PilotHouse Philanthropy, Patrick J. McGovern Foundation, Sint Antonius Stichting Projecten (SAS-P Philanthropy), and Vibrant Village Foundation
- Further developed fundraising strategy focusing on key funder audiences who most need the job that AVFund can do.

IMPACT MILESTONE 3: Make grant commitments totaling \$750k to 8-10 African Visionary Partners by June 2021

Key Results

- Founding Working Group designed the Fund's [grantmaking criteria](#) centered on equity and trust. In July, co-CEO Atti began a process to review and revise our grantmaking criteria with input from

our visionary partners, our first-round semi-finalists who did not receive funding, our Founding Working Group, and our Advisory Board.

- Founding Working Group and Advisory Board supported the design of our grantmaking selection process for our first round of grants and will participate in review & revision of the process alongside our visionary partners and first-round semi-finalists
- Received 70+ prospective visionary partner referrals from a diverse network of referral partners across Sub-Saharan Africa
- US\$1M [committed](#) to [6 high-impact African-led organizations](#) delivering deep, systemic, community-rooted change
- Kicked off co-designing capacity support programming with our Visionary Partners through surveys, key informant interviews, and research into existing organizational capacity assessment tools
- Streamlined our grantmaking from two selection processes to one. Therefore, we are currently launching our selection process with plans to announce our next round of \$1.5M in grants in December 2021 to 8-10 new visionary partners.

IMPACT MILESTONE 4: Build an organizational structure that is lean, effective, and sustainable

Key Results

- Acquired pro-bono legal support from a law firm in Boston to support us with our application for 501c3 public charity status
- Developed bylaws with our Advisory Board that align with our values and best practices in nonprofit governance
- Developed three-year budget projections and preliminary staffing projections aligned to achieving 75% grantmaking goal by end of 2023
- Collected baseline impact data from visionary partners to help us track their impact over time

IMPACT MILESTONE 5: Raise the profile of the African Visionary Fund & our Visionary Partners through crystal clear brand and value proposition

Key Results

- Created & curated a [bank of evidence & resources](#) on funding inequity, implicit bias in philanthropy, and the impact case for funding African visionaries.
- Participated in recent Bridgespan and African Philanthropy Forum [research](#) on the funding gap to African NGOs.
- Developed a communications strategy for the Fund that prioritizes advocacy, ecosystem building, and highlighting the work & achievements of our partners.
- 10 articles published on the AVFund and our Visionary Partners in leading publications including [The New York Times](#), [Devex](#), [The Guardian](#), among others.
- Developed updated branding and marketing materials including [explainer video](#), [website](#), pitch deck, and one-pager in fall 2020.
- 7 speaking engagements featuring our co-CEOs and Visionary Partners on innovative approaches to addressing funding inequities that African social innovators face, how funders can build equity-based relationships with local leaders for impact, and much more.