

RTV x THANKYOU CHARITABLE TRUST

2020-2021 Final Report



Our Focus

Raising The Village is on a mission to end ultra-poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa by eliminating barriers of scarcity, nurturing income-generating activities, and building local capacity, so communities can break the cycle of poverty and invest in food security, health, education, clean water, and more.

A Year of Partnership: 2020-2021 Summary

With support from Thankyou Charitable Trust, Raising The Village continued the expansion of our “Secure, Improve, Sustain” (SIS) poverty graduation model to reach 260,739 community members from 50,952 households in 479 villages. To date in 2021, we have reached 163,174 beneficiaries from 31,163 households in 288 villages from 62 clusters, exceeding our annual target of 140,000 beneficiaries for the year.

Through SIS, we continued working with partner communities to identify and respond to their needs through a range of interventions, including ensuring access to water through construction and rehabilitation of water sources, ensuring food security and income and asset growth and diversification through distribution of agriculture and livestock inputs and trainings, supporting access to health through four to six health outreach activities in each community over a six to twelve month period and investment in the continued growth and resilience of partner communities through the creation of Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) and the provision of Healthy Household Trainings.

Improved quality of life for
260,739
community members
across 479 villages

Improved food security for
1,220,000+
community members
through our Ready-To-Eat
Initiative

Reached
1,883
households through
VSLA Credit Facility

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In November, Raising The Village completed our initial analysis of our Annual Household Survey, which examines at the impact on income and earnings of all RTV communities.

Select highlights are shared below, with full findings available in our 2021 Impact Report.

2021 at a Glance

- 163,174 community members from 33,290 households supported with access to food, water, health, and livelihood programs
- 79% of program participants are women and children
- 1,220,000 community members reached through our COVID-19 food security initiative
- \$2.29/day household average income after 24 months, an increase from \$1.01/day that moves households beyond the extreme poverty line of \$1.90/day
- 565% ROI at 24 months on a one-time average investment of \$20 per person
- 1736% ROI at 60 months, representing a household gain of \$1302 after a one-time investment of \$75 per household
- 17.3 Progress Out of Poverty Index of partner households after five years, 8.8 points improvement from baseline and below national average of 20
- 32% higher agricultural yield per acre for partner households compared to their peer group
- 25% higher pre-lockdown and 68% higher post-lockdown net profit for partner households' small businesses as compared to their peer group
- 130% more nutritious vegetables consumed by partner households from baseline
- 50% reduction in instances of illnesses in partner households
- 1 hour/day saved by reducing the households' distance to clean water sources

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Key Activities in Grant Period

Over the course of this funding period, Raising The Village has also focused on three key areas of innovation:

- The Ready to Eat initiative in response to the Covid-19 related development shocks and food security concerns to reach a total of 1,220,000 beneficiaries from 246,000 households from last mile communities.
- The VSLA Credit Facility through which 1,883 households (78% of total VSLA membership in the district) across 41 villages in Rukungiri accessed \$34,351 USD in affordable loans as part of the pilot.
- The technological development of RTV systems which enable us to better track, record and analyze progress across key data metrics.

	Clusters	Villages	Community Members	Households
2021 Cycle 1	21	119	56,126	11,428
2021 Cycle 2 - June	22	93	55,924	11,273
2021 Cycle 2 - July	3	29	21,469	4,300
2021 Cycle 2 - September	16	47	29,745	4,162
Total 2021	62	288	163,174	33,247
2020 Cycle 1	7	61	33,406	6,381
2020 Cycle 2 – Aug	4	45	16,715	3,398
2020 Cycle 2 – Oct	17	85	47,444	10,010
Total 2020	28	191	97,565	19,789
TOTAL ACTIVE BENEFICIARIES	90	479	260,739	53,036

57 of the 83 clusters launched in the reporting period are part of the Randomized Control Trial. In July 2021, the implementation of our integrated Pathway to Replication Strategy—leveraging partnerships with the District Governments for resource sharing in the implementation of RTV initiatives—started with the launch of 3 clusters in the new district of Rubanda. As per RTV strategic growth plans, all future districts will be implemented using our integrated replication strategy.

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Implementation Summary

RTV's "Secure, Improve, Sustain" poverty graduation model focuses on 24 months of community partnership. The first six months are active implementation activities related to agriculture, livestock, access to clean water and sanitation, and the creation of savings groups. The next 12 months focus on sustainability-focused pass-on and expansion activities, ongoing training, health outreach activities, and ongoing support. The final six focus on ensuring the sustainability through continued support to VSLA activities and community organization structures developed at the village level.

Implementation Details for Reporting Period

With Thankyou Charitable Trust's support, RTV has conducted activities in clusters from Cycle 1 and 2 2020 and Cycle 1 and 2 2021. Currently, our Cycle 1 2020 clusters are in their transition period (12-18 months), while Cycle 2 2020, Cycle 1 2021 and Cycle 2 2021 clusters are in their implementation phase (0-12 months).



432

villages supported with agricultural inputs

690

clean water projects completed

3,327

livestock distributed for sustainable income generation

472

VSLAs launched

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Update on Cycle 2 2021 (June and July Launch) Clusters

- Cycle 2 2021 (June and July Launch) clusters are in the active implementation phase.
- The first two of four planned agriculture, livestock, WASH and Healthy Household Training #1 training has been conducted for the clusters.
- The first Health Outreach (HOR) has been conducted in all but 2 clusters, which were delayed due to pandemic-related delays in the national drug supply chain.

Community Household Participation in Trainings and Health Outreaches-Cycle 2 (June and July) 2021	
Agriculture Trainings: Trainings 1: Organics and Liquid Manure Training 2: Land Preparation and Planting	94%
Livestock Training	94%
Healthy Household Trainings: Three trainings scheduled in the first 6 months of implementation that support households and build management and financial literacy capacity within the formed VSLA groups.	94%
Healthy Outreaches: A series of 4 to 6 Health Outreaches scheduled to be held over 12 months.	92%
WASH Training	94%

155

clean water projects
completed

1,022

pigs distributed

95

goats distributed

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Update on Cycle 1 2021 Clusters

RTV launched 21 clusters in December 2020, reaching 56,126 beneficiaries from 11,428 households in 119 villages. These clusters are currently in the six month phase of implementation.

- All agriculture, livestock, Healthy Household Training and WASH training conducted
- We have also completed three planned Health Outreaches. We are currently rolling out our fourth Health Outreach, with a fifth planned for early Q1 2022
- Community participation has exceeded the 85% attendance target for 2021

Community Household Participation in Trainings and Health Outreaches - Cycle 1 2021	
Agriculture Trainings: Trainings 1: Organics and Liquid Manure Training 2: Land Preparation and Planting Training 3: Post Harvest Training Training 4: Refresher	92%
Livestock Training	92%
Healthy Household Trainings: Three trainings scheduled in the first 6 months of implementation that support households and build management and financial literacy capacity within the formed VSLA groups.	93%
Healthy Outreaches: A series of 4 to 6 Health Outreaches scheduled to be held over 12 months. Three Health Outreaches have been completed and the fourth and final Health Outreach is ongoing.	92%
WASH Training	94%

453

clean water projects completed

1,177

pigs distributed

200

VSLAs launched and operating

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Update on Cycle 2 2020 (October Launch) Clusters

RTV launched an additional 17 clusters in October 2020 as part of the Cycle 2 roll out, reaching 47,444 beneficiaries from 10,010 households in 85 villages. In order to align with plantation cycles, intervention activities in these clusters officially began in March 2021. These clusters are currently in the first six month phase of implementation.

- Agriculture and livestock pass on activities scheduled for the six to 12 month period are currently ongoing at the Cycle 2 2020 October Launch clusters
- All planned health outreach activities and Healthy Household Trainings have been conducted

Community Household Participation in Trainings and Health Outreaches - Cycle 2 2021	
Agriculture Trainings: Trainings 1: Organics and Liquid Manure Training 2: Land Preparation and Planting Training 3: Post Harvest Training Training 4: Refresher	90%
Livestock Training	94%
Healthy Household Trainings: Three trainings scheduled in the first 6 months of implementation that support households and build management and financial literacy capacity within the formed VSLA groups.	90%
Healthy Outreaches: A series of 4 to 6 Health Outreaches scheduled to be held over 12 months.	89%
WASH Training	88%

53

clean water projects
completed

295

livestock distributed

109

VSLAs launched
and operating

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Update on Cycle 2 2020 (August Launch) Clusters

Implementation activities were rolled out in four Cycle 2 clusters in August, reaching 16,715 beneficiaries from 3,398 households in 45 villages). These clusters are currently in their 6 to 12 month phase of implementation.

- Community participation in the trainings has exceeded our 2020 target of 80% attendance
- Agriculture and livestock transition phase activities, including transplants from demonstration and nursery beds to household gardens, as well as seed and livestock pass-ons to secondary beneficiaries, are still ongoing
- 4 planned health outreaches and 3 Healthy Household Trainings have been conducted.

Community Household Participation in Trainings and Health Outreaches - Cycle 2 2020 (August)	
Agriculture Trainings: Trainings 1: Organics and Liquid Manure Training 2: Land Preparation and Planting Training 3: Post Harvest Training Training 4: Refresher	95%
Livestock Training	92%
Healthy Household Trainings: Three trainings scheduled in the first 6 months of implementation that support households and build management and financial literacy capacity within the formed VSLA groups.	93%
Healthy Outreaches: A series of 4 to 6 Health Outreaches scheduled to be held over 12 months.	86%
WASH Training	94%

20

clean water projects
completed

418

livestock distributed

45

VSLAs launched
and operating

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Update on Cycle 1 2020 Clusters

At the start of the Thankyou grant period, seven Cycle 1 2020 clusters (reaching 33,406 beneficiaries from 6,381 households in 61 villages) were in their 6 month implementation period.

- Community participation in the trainings has exceeded our 2020 target of 80% attendance
- Agriculture, Livestock, Wash and Healthy Household Trainings completed in all partner communities except Kabukanga, which was delayed due to flooding.
- Agriculture and livestock transition phase activities, including seed and livestock pass-ons, are still ongoing in the Cycle 1 2020 clusters.

Community Household Participation in Trainings and Health Outreaches - Cycle 1 2020	
Agriculture Trainings: Trainings 1: Organics and Liquid Manure Training 2: Land Preparation and Planting Training 3: Post Harvest Training Training 4: Refresher	90%
Livestock Training	84%
Healthy Household Trainings: Three trainings scheduled in the first 6 months of implementation that support households and build management and financial literacy capacity within the formed VSLA groups.	81%
Healthy Outreaches: A series of 4 to 6 Health Outreaches scheduled to be held over 12 months.	82%
WASH Training	87%

9

clean water projects
completed

415

livestock distributed

118

VSLAs launched
and operating

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As part of our monitoring & evaluation framework, we conduct Standard Evaluations (SEs) at the 3-month, 6-month, 12-month, 18-month, and 24-month marks from baseline to track compliance and adoption. RTV also incorporates a Net Promoter Score (NPS) survey to better understand partner communities' experience and satisfaction with RTV.

2021 Cycle 1:

- Net Promoter Score reflects a community satisfaction level of 9.6/10.
- SEs conducted at 6 months for our Cycle 1 2021 clusters indicate 98% community compliance in WASH (baseline 31%), Agriculture (baseline 16%), Livestock (baseline 26%) and VSLA activities and best practices, reflecting an increase in compliance rates over month 3. 100% of our water construction and rehabilitation projects in these clusters continue to meet quality standards and community needs.

2020 Cycle 2:

- Net Promoter Score reflects a community satisfaction level of 9.6/10.
- SEs conducted at 6 months for our Cycle 1 2021 clusters indicate 98% community compliance in WASH (baseline 31%), Agriculture (baseline 16%), Livestock (baseline 26%) and VSLA activities and best practices, reflecting an increase in compliance rates over month 3. 100% of water construction and rehabilitation projects in these clusters continue to meet quality standards and community needs.

2020 Cycle 1:

- Net Promoter Score reflects a community satisfaction level of 9.6/10.
- SEs conducted at 6 months for our Cycle 1 2021 clusters indicate 98% community compliance in WASH (baseline 31%), Agriculture (baseline 16%), Livestock (baseline 26%) and VSLA activities and best practices, reflecting an increase in compliance rates over month 3. 100% of our water construction and rehabilitation projects in these clusters continue to meet quality standards and community needs.

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COVID-19 Impact Study

RTV conducted a study with Oxford University to better understand the impact COVID-19 has had on communities. Interview 1,277 households across 114 villages in Western Uganda.

Key findings of the study included:

- Household income (HHI) equivalent earnings declined by up to 60%
- Households experienced a 50% increase in the likelihood of missing a meal
- Households used nearly 50% of their average savings and increased net borrowing by 100%
- 53% of households are unable to access medical health facilities
- An increase in the perceived frequency of intimate partner violence against women

Despite these development shocks, the study identified productive assets such as land and livestock were not yet liquidated, presenting an opportunity to limit the long-term effects of the pandemic with interventions that increase household resilience and sustainable income sources to rebuild savings.

These interventions include addressing immediate food insecurity through Ready-To-Eat, expanding Healthy Household Trainings with a focus on financial literacy, development of VSLAs, sensitizing communities about gender-based violence, enhancing our work on gender equity, and expanding digitization of our VSLA's to address limitations of operations during the pandemic. The VSLA credit Facility pilot has also been developed to provide partner communities with access to credit at low interest rates.

1,277

households interviewed
across 114 villages

50%

increase in likelihood of
missing a meal

Household incomes
declined by up to

60%

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New Initiatives: Ready-To-Eat

As part of our COVID-19 response efforts to address rising food insecurity, RTV rolled out the RTE initiative to ensure food security for vulnerable populations through the provision of RTE garden boxes. These garden boxes provided a sustainable food supply for a family of 5 with at least one nutritious meal per day over 12 months.

The first phase of the RTE initiative, launched in July 2020, in the districts of Kanugu, Rukungiri, Mitooma,

benefitted 46,408 households (220,000 beneficiaries). Ready-to-Eat Phase II was launched in an additional eight districts in East, South West and North Uganda (i.e. Abim, Kagadi, Kaliro, Kibaale, Kyenjojo, Luuka, Mitooma, Rubanda) in the first quarter of 2021 and reached a total of 201,556 households (1,007,780 community members). Key outcomes from the RTE initiative include:

- 99% of our Phase II beneficiary households and 96% of our Phase I partner households established vegetable gardens which are being harvested for supplement food supply.
- 80% of our partner households have transitioned to the use of organic pesticides.
- RTE partner households are consuming 130% more vegetables compared with the baseline. Only 14% of the RTE partner households spent funds on vegetables, compared to 45% of their peers, and the amount spent was 90% less than their peers.
- Total cost of \$1.64 per household returned a value of \$13.10 per household, an ROI of 697%, and created \$2.6 million in value across participating households.
- RTV moved beyond its traditional implementation regions of Midwest and Southwest Uganda to provide support to other districts in the country. The resulting relationships with the governments in non-RTV districts are now laying the groundwork for current and future expansion in Uganda.

Reached
246,000
from last-mile
communities

Improved food security for
1,220,000+
community members
through our Ready-To-Eat
Initiative

Achieved a
697%
Return on Investment

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New Initiative: VSLA Credit Facility Pilot

From September 2020 to June 2021, RTV piloted a Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) Credit facility in the district of Rukungiri, targeting VSLA groups under its programs. The main aim of this initiative was to promote rural banking and financial access to vulnerable households that faced constraints in accessing credit, further exacerbated during the pandemic. The eligibility criteria for participation in the pilot was membership in a RTV VSLA with at least 3 months operation and in good standing. Facility loans were disbursed at an interest rate of 2% (versus local interest rates of 15-20%), with 1% of the interest repayment being retained by the VSLA.

Our analysis indicates that the loans were utilized to meet the following community needs/goals:

- 38% - livestock and productive asset investment
- 35% - bridge financing and setup costs for small businesses
- 20% - agricultural seeds, and additional labor for farming
- 7% - basic needs and household supplies



1,883
households
participating in pilot
program

\$34,351
disbursed in loans

100%
repayment rate

\$1,525
generated in interest
to be used for
community projects

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VSLA Credit Facility Pilot Impact & Results

Our results also show that:

- VSLA Credit facility participants' income and earnings were 21% higher than RTV peers over the same period.
- Despite having the highest debt load, participants had the lowest interest payments and the lowest debt to equity ratio, demonstrating a lower risk profile.
- Loan investments saw livestock assets double, and income and earnings increase by 56% in participating households as compared to their RTV peer group, which saw 17.5% growth, and the non-RTV peer group, which experienced a decline of 7% in income and earnings.
- VSLA credit facility participants had 48% higher savings vs peer group

New Initiative: VSLA Credit Facility Pilot

Given the outcomes of the pilot and continued demand for credit from RTV member VSLAs, we have decided to expand the program to new clusters in Rukungiri as well as the districts of Mitooma and Kanungu, in November 2021. We estimate the targeting of 7,432 beneficiaries across 136 village VSLAs in 14 clusters.

We plan to invest \$225,000 USD over a 12-month period as part of Phase II, of which \$25,000 is being funded through the loan repayments from Pilot Phase I. RTV will also invest approximately \$6,000 USD over a 12-month period starting in October to support the Credit Facility initiative through the development of a monitoring, digital tracking, and data collection infrastructure.

56%

increase in income
and earnings

48%

higher savings

7,432

expected reach of
Phase II expansion

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Using learnings from Project Venn, our advanced data analytics, RTV continues to improve impact in our year-over-year expansion by improving sequencing, rebalancing direct inputs, and allowing for a greater emphasis on behavioural mindset trainings on gender equity and financial literacy. This is how we make that possible.

Project Venn

SurveyCTO / ESRI / Alteryx: RTV has integrated systems with automated activity reporting workflows (standards evaluation and mater scorecard) and is now beginning to utilise this for preliminary project trend analysis and impact analysis on key improvement metrics.

Program Dashboards (ArcGIS): RTV has completed information gathering requirements to set up baseline visualization and dashboards for learning and tracking program outcomes for stakeholders and program users. The designing of 4 program activity (healthy, water, VSLA and Livestock) dashboards and 2 operations (procurement and bike registry) dashboards has been completed.

Advanced Data Collection and Analysis: RTV completed its True Time in Field (TTF) pilot, which optimizes field officer coverage and layers in household adoption and training scores, helping the team prioritize efforts and focus on households requiring more intensive support. Utilizing the GPS tracking, data from the Kagadi field team is currently collected and analyzed to understand the officer's TTF. TTF is now scheduled for an expansion across the Midwest region with future efforts focused on advanced forecasting of village outcome trends (sustainability risk) and suggested officer routings. These efforts will be supported by advancements in RTV's regression analysis around historical household outcomes and correlated indicators on project performance.

Household GPS-tracking: Digitized household registration via RTV's household census was linked to allow the GPS-integrated household location of participating beneficiaries. The primary use of this data triangulation in assessing our construction and rehabilitation of water points and maximising access to water. As we develop this process, we also plan to use the unique household ID to track household participation in RTV training and gather data on compliance with improved practices.

Drone Mapping Technology: Following months of trials, a hybrid satellite-drone mapping process has been selected to enable the next phase of visual recognition development for three primary areas: monitoring crops; creating early weather warning systems to minimize loss and maximize production; and value chain development. This work will begin in November 2021 in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture.

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Randomized Control Trial

The 3rd party evaluation is an academic study validating impact across income, consumption, and socio-economic factors like women's empowerment and early-child development.

The RCT was launched in October 2020 in Kagadi and Kyenjojo Districts in 4 planned cohorts. The active implementation period for the RCT clusters is 24 months followed by an evaluation period of three years. A midline evaluation is to be held at 12 months post implementation (i.e. January 2022) and a final evaluation is to be conducted at 24 months post implementation.

Cohort	Cycle, Year	Clusters	Districts	Beneficiaries	Households	Villages
Cohort 1	Cycle 2 2020	11	Kagadi	21,691	4,776	32
Cohort 2	Cycle 1 2021	13	Kyenjojo	20,446	4,181	41
Cohort 3	Cycle 2 2021 (July)	17	Kagadi	31,086	6,266	45
Cohort 4	Cycle 2 2021 (September)	16	Kyenjojo	29,745	6,246	47
Total		67	4	104,268	21,469	165



104,268

program participants
involved in RCT

165

villages participating

4

Districts involved

67

clusters participating

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We continue to engage with different government stakeholders for cost-sharing agreements and continue to evaluate and learn and refine the strategy for further replication in new districts.

Refining the “Pathway to Replication” & Government Partnerships

RTV programs are designed to involve government participation. As part of our integrated replication strategy, RTV has launched three clusters in Rubanda, reaching of 21,469 beneficiaries from 4,300 households in 29 villages in July 2021, where interventions are being implemented using government human resources. RTV has trained relevant participating government employees in RTV implementation guidelines and their specific roles.

In order to further refine our replication strategy and ensure the incorporation of learnings and feedback, RTV also held a Replication Workshop in September 2021, involving key stakeholders from both our organization as well as the government. The workshop was key in creating ownership of the strategy within all stakeholders and clarity around implementation roles and responsibilities.

A dedicated eight-person replication unit has been established within RTV to further refine the replication strategy and in the future, RTV intends for expansion to future districts within the overarching pathway to replication strategy. A 5-year MoU agreement with the MAAIF has been approved by the Solicitor General, with signatures to be appended by RTV’s CEO and the Ministry’s Permanent Secretary. The MoU’s primary focus is the coordination of national agriculture strategy, RTV methodology adoption, and in-kind contributions of agricultural inputs from the GoU.

- RTV received a tax-exemption status from the Government of Uganda, eliminating tariffs relating to organizational purchases of critical infrastructure including motorbikes, laptops, and equipment.
- A Government Relations Taskforce has been convened to focus on advancing partnerships at the federal level. As the next step in our strategic partnerships strategy, we expect our dialogue with the Ministry of Health, National Water, and Sanitation and the Bureau of Statistics to continue and lead to integrated cooperation in policy design and execution in 2021-2022.