



2024 Impact Newsletter



Rebuilding Lives Strengthening Communities

In the heart of Sherkole Refugee Camp in Western Ethiopia, Mahamat's turquoise house stands as a symbol of resilience. Just two years ago, she sold onions and cooking oil off a tarp—a plastic sheet spread across the dusty ground, offering little protection from the sun or rain. Through her determination and Inkomoko's financing and support, she has grown her business, which is now housed in the two-room shop where she and her children once slept.

Opposite her shop is [Mahamat's](#) new home, powered by solar panels and filled with her children's laughter. This house is more than walls and a roof; it's a reminder of what's possible when opportunity meets ambition. When displacement robs people of everything, rebuilding isn't just an option; it's a necessity.

As 2024 comes to a close, Mahamat's story reminds us all of why we invest in overlooked communities and entrepreneurs. With your support, Inkomoko has partnered with more than 30,000 entrepreneurs this year in Kenya, Rwanda, Ethiopia, and South Sudan, providing tailored financing, hands-on business training, and advocacy. This approach unlocks access to critical services, turning

displacement into a foundation for hope, protection, and dignity.

On this International Migrants Day, we reaffirm our commitment to fostering opportunities for those who rebuild their lives amidst adversity. Standing in Mahamat's home, we were reminded of the profound impact of creating safe and stable foundations. Mahamat's journey—from selling goods on a weathered tarp to building a thriving business and a secure home—embodies what is possible.

Each business launched, each job created, and each home established represents a step toward safer futures and stronger communities.

Thank you for joining us in this work.
With deepest gratitude,


Julienne Oyler
CEO & Co- Founder


Sara Leedom
COO & Co- Founder

Scaling Audaciously to Build Impact



This year has been monumental for Inkomoko, driven by the courage and tenacity of thousands of African entrepreneurs overcoming challenges to rebuild their lives and transform their communities.

Our inclusion in the [Audacious project's 2024 cohort](#) was a defining milestone. It accelerates our Vision 2030 goal of reaching 550,000 entrepreneurs, creating nearly 1 million jobs, and positively impacting almost 8 million lives.

Together, we're not just responding to emergencies but creating lasting pathways to stability and growth.

Refugee Entrepreneur of the Year: Sahar's Home of Creativity



For Sahar Fuad, a Yemeni refugee in Addis Ababa, displacement has been a daunting yet remarkable journey. Needing to rebuild her life in a new country, Sahar looked to TikTok for inspiration. By watching tutorial videos of rug tufting, Sahar taught herself the craft, which became a passion and a thriving business.

At Inkomoko, she received business training and an investment to grow her operations. Her work was celebrated during this year's Global Entrepreneurship Week, and Ethiopia's Minister of Labour and Skills feted her as Refugee Entrepreneur of the Year.

Advocacy in Action: Building Pathways to Opportunity

Through our advocacy, we create pathways for refugee clients to access greater economic opportunities, inclusion, and protection:



Driving economic empowerment: In 2024, clients' income increased by 82%, driving a \$10 million boost in revenue since 2022 and creating 10,000 new jobs, half of which were filled by women and youth.



Unlocking opportunities in Ethiopia: Over 2,400 refugee entrepreneurs—more than one-third of our refugee clients—secured residence permits for the first time, creating valuable legal protections.



Banking in South Sudan: For the first time in history, 438 refugees opened bank accounts in South Sudan, marking a groundbreaking step toward financial inclusion for Inkomoko's clients.



Financial Inclusion Forum: In 2024, Inkomoko convened leaders in Kenya for the first-ever forum on Financial Inclusion for Forcibly Displaced Persons, catalyzing private sector engagement into durable solutions.

Each milestone represents more than numbers. Like Mahamat's home, it forms the foundation of rebuilt lives, a powerful symbol of resilience and the necessity of turning displacement into opportunity.

Looking Forward: Scaling in 2025

Expanding in Chad: Reaching communities displaced by the crisis in Sudan and the effects of climate change, Inkomoko is set to begin operations in its newest country to help refugees rebuild livelihoods and foster resilience in host communities in Chad.

Linking Business Growth to Poverty Reduction: In 2025, more than 50% of our clients' households will live above the poverty line. More importantly, their businesses and assets will provide the necessary foundation for their self-reliance and significant job creation for other members of their communities.

The Africa Forum on Displacement: This 3rd edition is expected to be even bigger and better, convening hundreds of business leaders to champion private-sector solutions for displacement challenges. Leading up to this, we'll host three private-sector CEO roundtable forums in Kenya, Ethiopia, and South Sudan to spark meaningful dialogue and collaboration on addressing displacement issues through entrepreneurial innovation.

These initiatives will ensure that more people like Mahamat and Sahar can transform their circumstances and build lasting impacts on their communities and futures.



In the News: 2024 Media Highlights



This year, Inkomoko made headlines:

Financial Times Coverage: Inkomoko highlighted the untapped entrepreneurial potential in Africa's refugee camps in an op-ed, reframing displaced communities as "thriving, investable markets."
[Read more.](#)

BK Urumuri Initiative: The New Times Rwanda featured Inkomoko and BK Foundation's award to the top five women-led agribusinesses.
[Read more.](#)

From Forced Displacement to Enterprise: This Day Live highlighted Inkomoko's efforts to promote inclusive, durable solutions for refugee livelihoods. [Read more.](#)

Podcast Feature: The episode "Shaping Stories Beyond Stereotypes" on the Inkonversations podcast featured Justin Mahamba, founder of T-Sha Films. Displaced from the DRC in 2009, Justin never gave up his childhood dream of becoming a filmmaker. Today, he tells powerful stories from his unique vantage point in the Kakuma refugee camp.
[Watch here.](#)

Invest With Us: Empower Change, Build Futures



Your partnership makes transformation possible for refugee communities across Africa. As we look to 2025, your support will help us invest in more entrepreneurs like Mahamat and Sahar to rebuild their lives and communities.

[Donate Now](#)

Be part of this powerful movement to drive opportunity and resilience across Africa.