

20 BAF 25 SYSE IMPACT REPORT

ACCELERATING AFRICA'S MOST
PROMISING EARLY-STAGE ENTREPRENEURS

FUNDED BY

CONRAD N.



FOUNDATION

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LETTER FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

On behalf of the African Diaspora Network (ADN), it is my honor to share with you our **2025 Impact Report on the Builders of Africa's Future (BAF)** program and the **Start Your Social Enterprise (SYSE)** initiative, made possible through the generous support of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. What began as ADN's first accelerator in 2018 has grown into a vibrant platform for catalytic innovation, community leadership, and cross-sector collaboration across the African continent and its global diaspora.

Each year, BAF recognizes and accelerates some of Africa's most promising early-stage entrepreneurs, leaders who are addressing critical challenges in health, agriculture, education, climate, manufacturing, technology, and more. Since its inception, the **program has supported 93 founders** who build transformative ventures, strengthen local economies, and inspire new models of impact. Some alumni have even gone on to partner with one another, a testament to the powerful ecosystem that BAF fosters.

Within BAF, the Start Your Social Enterprise (SYSE) program, launched in 2022, supports Catholic Sisters in transforming their community-based initiatives into sustainable and scalable social enterprises. To date, **47 sisters have participated in SYSE**, bringing extraordinary vision, compassion, and operational leadership to issues ranging from healthcare, food security, and gender empowerment.

This year, we were especially moved by the remarkable turnout and enthusiasm at the BAF Pitch Day. The energy, the shared purpose, and the commitment to building a more prosperous and inclusive Africa reaffirmed why this work matters—and why supporting these changemakers remains at the heart of ADN's mission.

We are also thrilled to celebrate a major milestone from within our community: **Sr. Juunza Mwangani**, a 2022 BAF and SYSE alumna, was awarded the prestigious **\$1 million Opus Prize** for her work advancing agribusiness, enterprise education, and youth empowerment through the Emerging Farmers Initiative and the Sisters' Blended Values Project. Her recognition this year reflects not only her extraordinary leadership, but also the ongoing strength of the BAF and SYSE ecosystem, which continues to uplift and champion alumni as they scale their impact across their communities.

As we continue strengthening BAF and SYSE, we invite funders, partners, and community members to learn more about the journeys, achievements, and ongoing impact of the innovators who make up this growing network. Their work is not only shaping the future of African enterprise—it is expanding what is possible for communities around the world.

We extend **our heartfelt gratitude to the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation** for their steadfast partnership and belief in the power of both innovation and leadership to drive meaningful change.

Thank you for being part of this journey.



With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Almaz Negash".

Almaz Negash

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Builders of Africa's Future (BAF) is African Diaspora Network's flagship accelerator uplifting bold innovators who are shaping Africa's future. The program identifies early-stage entrepreneurs—leading both nonprofit and for-profit ventures—who are addressing the Continent's most pressing challenges with culturally grounded, community-centered solutions. Whether improving access to healthcare, expanding educational opportunities, strengthening food systems, or advancing renewable energy and financial inclusion, BAF empowers leaders who are driving meaningful and sustainable impact.

Since 2018, BAF has trained and supported **93 African entrepreneurs**, equipping them with leadership development, business training, mentorship, and access to global networks. Through this support, founders strengthen their models, build organizational resilience, and expand their ability to improve the lives of youth, families, and entire communities.

A PIPELINE FOR COMMUNITY-BASED INNOVATION

As part of its commitment to nurturing leaders on the ground, African Diaspora Network also advances the **Start Your Social Enterprise (SYSE)** initiative—an entrepreneurship pipeline that supports Catholic Sisters transitioning their community-service initiatives into sustainable social enterprises. Deeply embedded in underserved communities, these Sisters have long been at the forefront of poverty alleviation efforts across the Continent.

SYSE equips participants with core business skills, practical tools, and mentorship to strengthen their ventures and enhance their readiness for BAF. Each year, a select number of SYSE graduates join the BAF cohort, bringing forth mission-driven enterprises rooted in lived community experience.

Together, BAF and SYSE strengthen an ecosystem of innovators committed to expanding opportunity and advancing prosperity across Africa.

Indeed, the future belongs to those who prepare for it. I am delighted that ADN has trained and supported you in engaging in activities that will help you diversify your organization's revenue generation and to work towards solving social and economic concerns facing the communities you serve. We will continue working alongside you in supporting you in order to serve the people you are called to serve.

– Sr. Jane Wakahiu, LSOSF, Ph.D., Associate Vice President of Program Operations and Head of Catholic Sisters, Conrad Hilton Foundation

OUR IMPACT SO FAR

BAF



19 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

Botswana
Burkina Faso
Cameroon
Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
Gambia
Ghana
Guinea
Kenya
Liberia
Malawi
Morocco
Nigeria
Rwanda
South Africa
South Sudan
Tanzania
Uganda
Zambia



TOP SECTORS REPRESENTED



SYSE



TOP SECTORS REPRESENTED



BAF ENTREPRENEUR WINS \$1M OPUS PRIZE



Sr. Juunza Mwangani, BAF '22 alum—along with her business partner, Sr. Rosalia Sakayomboon—were selected as the 2025 Opus Prize Laureates. A graduate of the inaugural SYSE cohort and a member of the Religious Sisters of the Holy Spirit in Mazabuka, Zambia, Sr. Juunza was awarded a \$1 million award in recognition of her groundbreaking social enterprise, the Emerging Farmers Network.

The Opus Prize is an annual humanitarian award for social entrepreneurs who champion faith-based solutions to persistent problems in their communities. We are incredibly proud of Sr. Juunza and her congregation for this well-deserved global recognition.

[Read more here.](#)

PROGRAM EXPERIENCE

MONTHLY LEARNING LABS

The four-month program, held virtually, is facilitated by ADN's academic partner, the African Management Institute (AMI). Following the program kick-off, entrepreneurs participate in monthly Learning Labs where they engage with expert facilitators, gain valuable business and management training, and collaborate with their peers.

The BAF Program's Four-Phase "Grow Your Business" Model



The SYSE program's Four-Phase "Start Your Business" Model



MENTORING

Mentorship is a critical component of the accelerator programs that affords entrepreneurs the opportunity to engage with ADN's distinguished network of global industry leaders, advisors, investors, and thought leaders. Through a thoughtfully developed matching process, entrepreneurs identify critical areas of support and are paired with experts who offer their support.

BAF PITCH DAY

As part of ADN's commitment to scale transformative for-profit and non-profit ventures across the continent, ADN curates a special Pitch Day for BAF graduates—welcoming potential funders, investors, and partners to support the entrepreneurs' work by hearing their exhilarating pitches and considering ways to partner with them to sustain their impact.

This year's Pitch Day featured inspiring keynotes from Tomi Davies, renowned investor and active stakeholder in the African start-up ecosystem, and Joan Rukundo Nalubega, BAF '20 alumna.

A SNAPSHOT OF BAF



16

ENTREPRENEURS
GRADUATED



55%

WOMEN PARTICIPANTS,
A FIRST FOR THE BAF PROGRAM

7

COUNTRIES
REPRESENTED

Ghana
Kenya
Nigeria
Senegal
South Africa
Uganda
Tanzania



8

SECTORS
REPRESENTED



Agriculture /
AgTech



Healthcare /
HealthTech



Renewable
Energy



Food &
Beverage (CPG)



Education /
EdTech



Marketing



Circular
Economy



Apparel
(Footwear)

“Since joining the programme, we have become more conscious about inventory management and stock accuracy. We also identified and acted on loopholes that led to staff theft, which meant making some difficult but necessary decisions; including letting go of certain staff and tightening internal controls. This has made us stricter and more disciplined as a business.”

–Bidemi Ojo, Gleeworld Pharmacy

MEET THE BAF ENTREPRENEURS



Cecil Sagawala
Green Composting



Tanzania

Green Composting is a youth-driven organization that transforms organic waste into compost through a franchised, community-based system promoting sustainability and a circular economy.



Kenya



Anefwa Vincent Ubeling
Green at Mind Ltd

Green at Mind Ltd converts scrub metal and mechanic wastes into smart and clean cooking technologies that cook twice faster and save 40% on the fuel consumption, adapted to household and social institutions in rural and semi urban areas in Kenya.

[Watch Pitch Video](#)



Uganda



Charles Busuulwa
She Deserves Uganda

She Deserves is a social enterprise in Uganda with a vision to create a world where girls have access to the right menstrual information and materials, allowing them to have safe, happy, and pain-free periods to enable them to reach their full potential regardless of their background.

[Watch Pitch Video](#)



South Africa

Phumzile Khoza
Lathitha Biodiesel



Lathitha Biodiesel is a South African green energy company that recycles waste cooking oil into eco-friendly biodiesel, reducing pollution and creating sustainable employment in township communities.

[Watch Pitch Video](#)



Ghana



Shallon Atuhaire Mugabe
Franklyn Institute
Ghana

The Franklyn Institute nurtures competent selfless leaders for transformation through a robust values and competence based curriculum.

[Watch Pitch Video](#)



Uganda



Atuhurra Marjorie Angella
Gejja Women Foundation

The Gejja Women Foundation is a social enterprise dedicated to empowering and supporting rural, marginalized girls and women through education, advocacy, and socio-economic development initiatives.

[Watch Pitch Video](#)

MEET THE BAF ENTREPRENEURS



Bidemi Ojo

Gleeworld Pharmacy



Nigeria

Gleeworld Pharmacy uses Medfinder, an AI-powered platform, to improve medicine access across Africa by connecting patients to nearby pharmacies via GPS and digitalizing independent pharmacies with smart inventory tools and virtual consultations.

[Watch Pitch Video](#)



Tanzania



Suleiman Salum Suleiman

Bantu Technologies

Bantu Technologies produces clean, affordable biomass briquettes from biomass waste to replace charcoal and firewood for cooking in East Africa.

[Watch Pitch Video](#)



Nigeria



Bayo Adewoye

Agrovesto

Agrovesto is an agritech company helping African farmers produce more food, and facilitates growth through market access and financial inclusion.

[Watch Pitch Video](#)



**Sr. Josephine Ndinda
Kitonyi**

Picard Printing Press



Tanzania

Picard Printing Press is a mission-driven printing company. Owned by the Orantes Sisters of the Assumption, it provides print services to support education, healthcare, evangelization, and community development.

[Watch Pitch Video](#)



Ghana



Faiza Taimako Ibrahim

RAINcorp Ghana

RAINcorp promotes traditional medicinal practices, food and plant production, and processing, research and promotion of indigenous knowledge and practices.



Tanzania



Bahati Mgogwe

Girls First Initiative

Girls First Initiative empowers adolescent girls and young women in Tanzania through education, economic opportunity, and advocacy to break the cycle of poverty and gender inequality.

MEET THE BAF ENTREPRENEURS



Joyce Waithira Rugnao
Ecorich Solutions



Kenya

Ecorich Solutions uses its proprietary, solar-powered Wastebot AI technology to convert organic waste into high-quality organic fertilizer in just 24 hours, utilizing sensors for optimum processing.



Sr. Kamau Josphine Wangari
Rise Agro Processors Ltd



Uganda

Rise Agro Processors is an enterprise processing agro products aimed at boosting the immune system.

[Watch Pitch Video](#)



Olapeju Umah
MyFoodAngels



Nigeria

MyFoodAngels bridges the gap between today's busy professionals, businesses and farm-fresh produce

[Watch Pitch Video](#)



Samuel Kumi-Gyau
Gold Coast Tokota



Ghana

Gold Coast Tokota designs and sell African inspired footwear like Ahenema, traditional Ghanaian slippers and shoes, transforming upcycled raw materials into beautiful, sustainable footwear that celebrate African heritage handcrafted shoes.

“Picard Printing Press has become more structured and disciplined in its operations. We now keep proper financial records, track our growth goals clearly, and use financial analysis to guide decisions.”

—Sr. Josephine Kitonyi, Picard Printing Press

A SNAPSHOT OF SYSE



14 CATHOLIC SISTERS
GRADUATED

100% FELT THE PROGRAM MET OR
EXCEEDED THEIR EXPECTATIONS

6 COUNTRIES
REPRESENTED

Ghana
Kenya
Nigeria
Tanzania
Uganda
Zambia



6 SECTORS
REPRESENTED



Agriculture /
AgTech



Healthcare /
HealthTech



Food &
Beverage (CPG)



Education /
EdTech



Women's
Empowerment



Apparel
(Footwear)

“I’m very very grateful for the people who designed this program and all those that have participated in the implementation of this program. These skills will really help us to [make] this social enterprise sustainable. I’m happy to say to you that I have also asked for two hours from the junior ministries [who] are having the workshop the coming weekend. They have given me two hours so that I can share some of the skills that I’ve received from this program. Thank you very much.”

–Sr. Florence Kapinda, Merdado Joseph Cardinal Mazobwe Pre-Primary School

MEET THE SYSE ENTREPRENEURS



**Sr. Mary Jovita Chinelo
Ejimonye**

Divine Love Agricultural And
Poultry Business Ventures



Nigeria

*Daughters of Divine Love
Congregation, Enugu State*

The Divine Love Agricultural and Poultry Business Ventures started May 2022 and provides cassava, yam, and vegetables to the community.



Sr. Agba Philomena Laadi
DSP Poultry farm

*Holy Family Catholic Church, Life
Camp Abuja*



Nigeria

The DSP Poultry farm, located in the suburbs of Abuja, provides healthy and nutritious chickens and eggs. In addition to serving sisters, caterers and retirees, they also help young people improve their own farm practices.



Sr. Catherine Ndyip Aboi
Nazareth Outreach Initiative

Oblates of Nazareth Sisters



Nigeria

Nazareth Outreach Initiative is dedicated to uplifting the lives of the less privileged by addressing critical social needs in Nigeria through an annual outreach that's been operating for over 20 years. They serve orphans, school-age children, and homeless people.



Sr. Esther Waithira

LSOSF Production Unit Kenya



Little Sisters of St Francis

Kenya

LSOSF Production Unit Kenya was established in 2013 to make clothes for the Nuns including church vestments, school uniforms, hospital and hospitality uniforms, and sweater knitting.



Sr. Eunice Munyiva Ndolo

Bakery And Horticulture Project
At St. Therese Secondary School
(Mapinga School)



Tanzania

*Camelite Missionary Sisters Of St.
Therese Of The Child Jesus (Cmsstcj)*

The Bakery and horticulture Project at St. Therese Secondary School produces and distributes baked products to the school and community.



Sr. Evelyn Claudia Afriyie

Mater Ecclesiae Catholic Hospital



Ghana

*Sisters of Mary Mother of the Church
Institute*

Since its founding in 2004, Mater Ecclesiae Catholic Hospital (MECH) has evolved from a clinic to a hospital, providing quality healthcare services to its clients. In 2018, it was upgraded to hospital status due to its popularity as a go-to medical facility in the Sokode sub-municipality.

MEET THE SYSE ENTREPRENEURS



Zambia

Sr. Florence Kapinda

Merdado Joseph Cardinal Mazobwe Pre -Primary School



Roman Catholic (Good shepherd sisters)

The Merdado Joseph Cardinal Mazobwe Pre-Primary School started in 2011. It now serves more than 300 children ages 3 to 12 years old and offers education and counselling to young mothers, contributing to the reduction in illiteracy and creation of jobs.



Nigeria

Sr. Gladys Kasiemobi Odigwe

Women Empowerment Initiative Center



Holy Family Catholic Church, Life Camp - Abuja

The Women Empowerment Initiative Center was established in 2024 to help reconcile homeless women, girls, and children with their communities and to start a viable business.



Nigeria

Sr. Gloria Ene Godwin OP

Siena Altar Bread Bakery



Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, Gusau, Nigeria

The Siena Altar Bread Bakery is an apostolate owned and managed by the Dominican Sisters of St Catherine of Siena, Gusau, Nigeria. Since 2006, the Bakery produces Altar bread for the Catholic Church. It also employs youth and teaches them a meaningful trade.



Uganda

Sr. Lucy kyokuhirwa

Commercial coffee farming



Roman Catholic Church

It was started in 2023 targeting to provide good quality coffee and some people have been employed to work in our coffee plantation. Our targeted people are the local people most especially the poor in order to improve their standards of living.



Zambia

Sr. MWALE ANGELA

Little Flower Convent School.



Teresian Sisters

Since 2003, Little Flower Convent School is a primary school for girls from grades five to seven that prepares young girls for secondary school. The school also supports families who care for orphans.



Nigeria

Sr. Patricia Nwamaka Nwafor, OP

Empowerment Initiatives for the Indigent Youths and Women



Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church, Enugu

Empowerment Initiatives for the Indigent Youths and Women was established as a ministry of outreach to meet the needs of the youth and women, ages 18-35 years from indigent backgrounds. It offers vocational training skills, educational scholarships and micro-business support to jumpstart their business with seed grants/starter pack kits.

MEET THE SYSE ENTREPRENEURS



Sr. Prudence Musenge
Handmaid Sisters of the
Blessed Virgin Mary



Annunciation Convent School-
Expansion

Zambia

Annunciation Convent School is a primary school for boys and girls Ibex Hill, Lusaka, Zambia. Established in January 2017 by the Handmaid Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the school provides quality education to vulnerable children and reduces poverty and hunger through its feeding program.



Sr. Rosemary wanjiku Ndege 
Emmanuel Broiler
Sisters of Emmanuel

Kenya

Emmanuel Broiler was established in June 2024 to train for vulnerable youth and provide scholarships by raising and selling chickens.



“I have learned so much that already I have put into practice knowing how to delegate others to do some work and then how to go about communicating effectively so that people will get inspired and even without begging them they will voluntarily they will just come and then you see them assisting without you even making much advertisement.”

—Sr. Catherine Ndyip Aboi, Nazareth Outreach Initiative

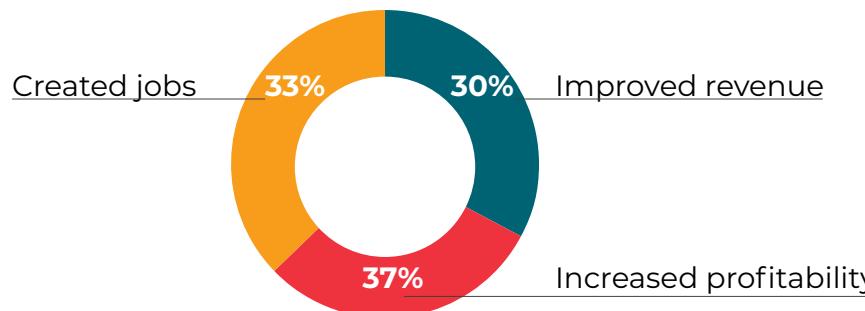


PROGRAM OUTCOMES

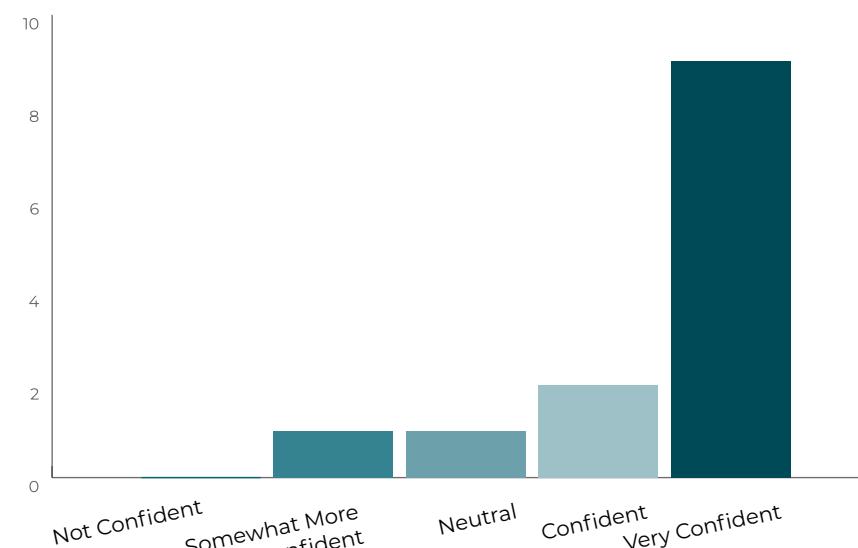
BAF PROGRAM

Composed of 18 bright African entrepreneurs, the 2025 BAF cohort demonstrated enthusiasm and an eagerness to learn impactful ways to grow and sustain their ventures. As demonstrated by the charts below, 11 of the 18 entrepreneurs confirmed that they immediately and regularly apply what they learned from the program to their businesses, and 85% indicated an increased confidence in their ability to raise capital and to drive their business towards growth.

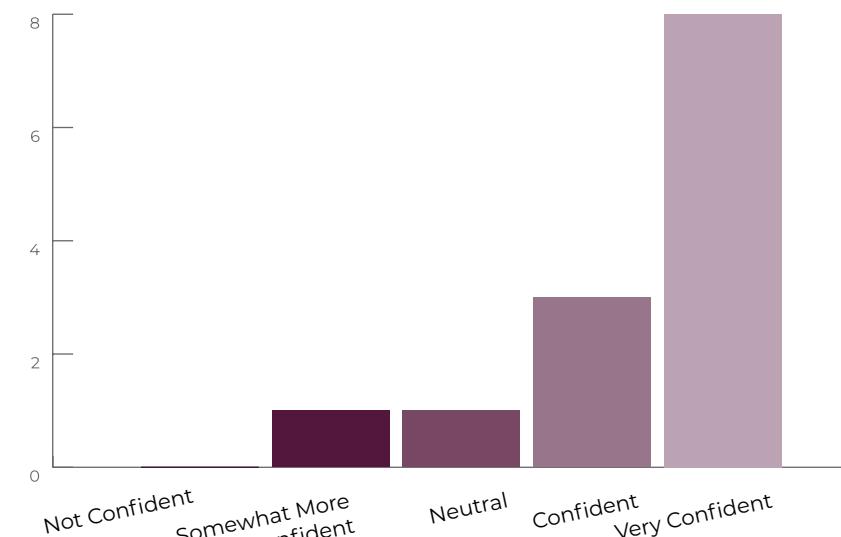
Areas where business has improved since completing the program



Number of people who feel more confident to raise capital



Number of people who feel more confident in their ability to lead their business towards growth



“Since joining the BAF program, I've noticed an improvement in my strategic thinking, a better understanding of business models through the Business Model Canvas, and increased confidence in planning for growth.”

– Phumzile Khoza,
Lathitha Biodiesel

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

SYSE PROGRAM

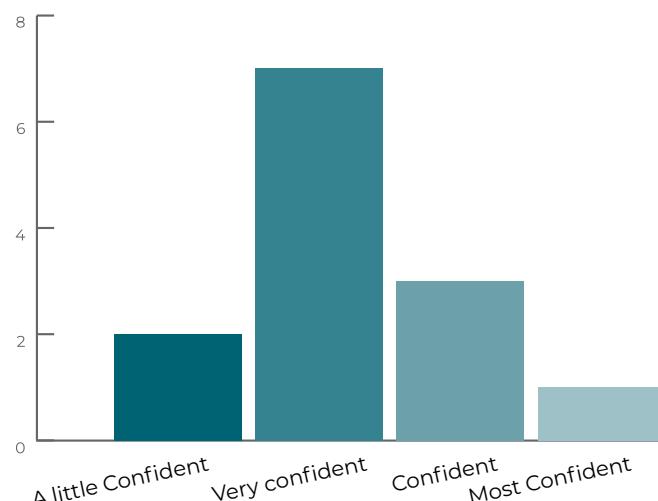
This year's SYSE cohort was passionate, actively engaged, and eager to learn and collaborate throughout the program. All 14 sisters completed the program requirements and went above and beyond in accessing and downloading additional tools to deepen their knowledge of the concepts presented during the program.

Overall, the sisters indicated that they have gained or improved their skills across 8 different concepts. Additionally, 8 of the 13 sisters (total number of survey respondents) confirmed that they **very often apply** what they learned from the SYSE program to their businesses and 85% indicated that the program met their expectations.

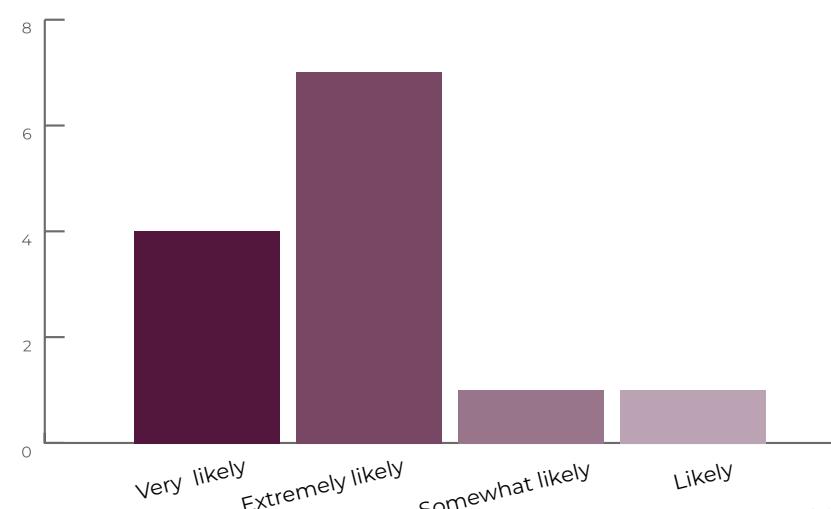
When asked what **the most significant outcomes** were from the program, the sisters identified the following outcomes.

1. How to operate a business effectively
2. Customer acquisition
3. Conducting market research
4. Developing a business plan, and
5. Managing cashflow

Do you feel more confident about launching your business idea/driving your business forward?



How likely are you to start a business within the next 12 months?



"In fact, the program was very very educational and enriching and learned a lot from the program especially on the issue of financial management and the customer channel and market size."

– Sr Jovita Ejimonye,
Divine Love Agricultural &
Poultry Business Ventures

WITH DEEP GRATITUDE

We are deeply appreciative for the unwavering support of 'our funders, volunteers and partners who make this work possible. We are especially grateful to the Conrad Hilton Foundation for their tremendous support of African founders.

FUNDERS



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ACADEMIC PARTNER



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