

FALL 2025

# IMPACT REPORT



“Thanks to our supporters, quantifiable progress is being made. However, the challenges these women and girls face—such as gender-based violence, female genital mutilation, early marriages, and lack of education—remain significant. We must continue to work towards an equal, sustainable world for all through international cooperation.”



CROSSROADS  
INTERNATIONAL

Thank you to everyone – volunteers, staff, donors, friends, and our foundation and corporate partners. Because of you, thousands of women and girls were empowered with education, leadership, health and economic opportunities to live brighter lives.

# CHARITY CHALLENGE 2025

In February 2025, a dozen Crossroaders prepared for the trip of a lifetime: **The Senegal Charity Challenge**. From February 10<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup>, and after fundraising over \$7,500 each, the participants visited partners, projects and community members all around Senegal. Here is a recap of the communities they visited, from Kaolack to Kedougou, and many regions in between.

## EMPOWERED WOMEN, THRIVING COMMUNITIES

Since 2018, women in Senegal have transformed their communities through Crossroads-supported initiatives, including thriving market gardens and over **330 microfinance groups**. With training in farmer field schools that supports climate change adaptation, land access and financial tools, they've dealt with food insecurity, funded healthcare and solar energy, and saw a reduction in gender-based violence instances.

In Kaolack, partner organization APROFES (*Association pour la promotion de la femme Sénégalaise*) has led this movement for over 40 years, offering vital support through a **Listening Centre** for survivors and championing women's health, safety, and economic independence. Despite this progress, challenges persist—from child marriage to limited access to education. But the impact is clear: **where women and girls are empowered, communities thrive.**



# A LIFE-CHANGING TRIP

## TECHNOLOGY MEETS EMPOWERMENT FOR EDUCATION

Participants also visited the **Mobile Learning Labs** in Kedougou, an initiative of the DAMCAM (My Voice, My Health) project. Equipped with solar-panels, tablets, interactive educational software, and offline Rachel servers, these fifteen labs enable adolescents—especially young women—to learn at their own pace about reproductive health, gender equality, digital skills, and more.



As a result, students show increased motivation, stronger academic performance, and enhanced digital literacy—laying the groundwork for healthier, more empowered communities.

*Spending time with women farmers engaged in market gardening and talking to adolescents learning about their sexual health, schooling and rights illustrates that quantifiable progress is being made. However, the challenges these women and girls face—such as gender-based violence, female genital mutilation, early marriages, and lack of education—remain significant. We must continue to work towards an equal, sustainable world for all through international cooperation.*

– Susan Green, Chair of Resilience Initiative and 2025 Charity Challenge Leader



## CHARITY CHALLENGE 2027

Where to next? Join us in 2027  
for a life-changing adventure  
in **Eswatini!**

Interested? Contact  
[donorrelations@cintl.org](mailto:donorrelations@cintl.org)

# SCHOLARS FOR SOCIAL CHANGE



Launched in October 2023, the Scholars for Social Change (SSC) project is a three-year partnership between Crossroads International, the Mastercard Foundation, and Makerere University. The project connects Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program alumni in Uganda—especially young women, refugees, and people with disabilities—with **paid internships, mentorship, and career development opportunities**. By partnering with 26 local organizations, the initiative helps young people gain real-world experience, build skills, and find meaningful employment in the community development sector.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **50 Mastercard Foundation Scholars** recruited in the first phase—76% were young women, including internally displaced persons, refugees, and people with disabilities.
- **26 local Ugandan organizations** partnered with Crossroads International to host Scholars in paid internships.
- Launched a **Partners Forum** to build collaboration and a Scholars Forum focused on developing soft skills for workplace readiness.
- Ongoing **monitoring and feedback** sessions provide continued support throughout the journey of each Scholar.

This initiative reflects Crossroads International's commitment to fostering local leadership and advancing gender equality—empowering young Africans to take charge of their futures with confidence and purpose.



# GRACE AKELLO - A SCHOLAR SUCCESS STORY

In Kumi District, Uganda, over **140 orphans and vulnerable children** are now receiving free education—thanks to the dedication of Grace Akello. As a Scholars for Social Change (SSC) project scholar placed with Touch Ministries, Grace led the recruitment process that opened the doors of the school to those most in need.

*“The SSC project gave me an opportunity to join an NGO that is advancing community change. For me, this is a dream opportunity to make a real difference in people’s lives as a social change agent,” she shared.*

Through her work, Grace is not only shaping young futures but building the leadership skills she needs to keep driving change in the communities she cares about.



## DIAMOND SPONSOR

Our heartfelt thanks to Whelton Hiutin LLP for their longstanding support of our work, including the Annual Day of the Girl Breakfast.



# VOLUNTEER SUCCESS STORIES

## Breaking Barriers to Health and Dignity for Girls and Adolescents

In communities across Guinea, all the way to the remote Kassa Island, **784 young people** took part in health workshops and vital conversations about contraception, menstrual hygiene, and preventing early pregnancies. These sessions didn't just provide information—they helped build trust between adolescent girls and healthcare providers, making it easier for them to seek the support they need.

**Mah Traoré**, Crossroads' Program Support Advisor, led a powerful discussion with the girls and distributed reusable sanitary pads. A young participant shared: *"I realized how important it is to talk with our parents—and that menstrual hygiene is essential to prevent infections."* These moments of learning and empowerment are helping to shift norms, build knowledge, and ensure that girls have the tools they need to protect their health and futures.



# GUINEA



## Building a Brighter Future for Children with Disabilities

Thanks to the dedication of Crossroads' volunteer Brenda Okorogba, a major milestone was achieved in Eswatini: an **€808,000 grant** secured to support a transformative project for children with disabilities. As a Resource Mobilization Advisor, Brenda worked with local partners Imbita Swaziland Women's Finance Trust and Young Heroes to bring invaluable skills in proposal writing, risk management, sustainability planning, and monitoring and evaluation.

Beyond the technical support, Brenda helped build local capacity—empowering staff to confidently plan, fund, and lead future initiatives. The approved project will create meaningful change in **14 communities**, improving the lives of children with disabilities and strengthening support systems around them. This collaboration shows how strategic volunteer partnerships can unlock critical resources—and lasting impact.

# ESWATINI

# IN MEMORY OF CHARLES BROWN A LIFELONG CROSSROADER



Crossroads International honours the life and legacy of Charles Brown, one of our first volunteers and a lifelong supporter, who passed away this year at the age of 100. Charles was a trailblazer—volunteering in Uganda in 1963, just as Crossroads was taking root, and remaining dedicated to our mission for more than four decades.

A close friend of founder Dr. James Robinson and co-founder Don Simpson, Charles was motivated by a deep concern for global injustice and inequality. His experience abroad was life-changing, and he often spoke of how it shaped his worldview and commitment to social change.

Charles went on to serve as Crossroads' Chair of the Board, volunteered on several committees, and played a key role in recruiting volunteers and supporting African students in Canada. His generosity—as a donor, legal advisor, and advocate—helped sustain and grow our work for many years.

We are deeply grateful for Charles Brown's unwavering belief in Crossroads and our vision of ONE WORLD. His legacy lives on in every step we take toward equality and eradicating poverty.

\$15,000



Will support over 1,000 girls in extreme poverty areas of Ivory Coast and Uganda to access reusable sanitary pads.

\$46,000



Supports 400 women farmers and their families in Senegal with high-quality seeds and training in climate-adapted farming methods that increase food security.

## WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

1. Volunteer with Crossroads.
2. Become a monthly donor.
3. Make a one-time gift.

**Please consider a gift to Crossroads International today. Every dollar makes a difference.**

Visit [cintl.org/donate](https://cintl.org/donate)  
or contact  
[donorrelations@cintl.org](mailto:donorrelations@cintl.org)





CROSSROADS  
INTERNATIONAL

# MAKE A LEGACY GIFT



## MAKE A BIG IMPACT WITH A FUTURE GIFT



*"My parents helped found Crossroads in Canada in 1958. In those early years, our living room served as the National Selection Headquarters. Little did I know that I would someday become a Crossroader myself, and it would be one of the most significant experiences of my life."*

**Rick Lane, long-time Crossroads supporter.**

A legacy gift is a powerful way to support charitable causes beyond your lifetime, allowing you to **create a lasting impact** by expressing your values through a planned gift in your Will, a life insurance policy, or other assets like gifts of securities.

These types of donations are powerful because they can provide significant tax benefits, reduce the tax burden on your estate, and empower organizations like Crossroads International to achieve their long-term goals.

More and more Canadians are leaving a gift in their Will to charity. The percentage of Canadians donating through their estate plans has increased significantly in recent years, as ordinary people can use the power of their Wills to **make a big difference in this world**.

To learn more about legacy gifts, please visit [cintl.org/legacy](http://cintl.org/legacy). When preparing your Will, please note that our legal name is Crossroads International and our Charitable Registration number is below. *Together with supporters like you, we are transforming lives. Thank you!*



In partnership with

Canada

1-877-967-1611  
donorrelations@cintl.org  
12981 4570 RR0001