



# GLOBAL PROJECT UPDATE: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Your Impact: Community Transformation through Economic Development

Globally, 689 million people live in extreme poverty, meaning they survive on less than \$1.90 US dollars per day. Situations of poverty around the world have only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The United Nations estimates that four years of progress toward ending global poverty have been lost. Poverty disproportionately impacts women and children. When financial resources are strained, children have less access to education because families cannot afford school fees, children need to work, or children help care for the home while their parents work.

With the support of Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, local churches are creating opportunities for hope and economic development across the globe. In Burundi, the poorest country in the world, church-sponsored agricultural association groups provides food for families involved, as well as small business loans that empower people to step out of poverty through job creation, provide for their families, and give back to their communities.



Ester rests with her association members and shares about her experience.



In **Armenia**, economic development is helping refugees successfully settle in society.



New job skill trainings are being introduced in communities in **Sri Lanka**.



In **Malawi**, local churches set long-term goals to create resilience through economic development.



Local churches in **Zambia** are distributing unique varieties of produce seed to generate new streams of revenue.

## From vulnerability to stability in Burundi

In Cibitoke, Burundi, where jobs are scarce, community-led associations bring vulnerable people, primarily women and youth, together for training in agricultural development. Ester joined an association that cultivates farms based on the agricultural training local churches provided, in conjunction with NCM. She explained that before the training, her life looked very different. "I was so vulnerable and weak," she says.

By working in teams of 30, these associations develop large areas of land and pool resources, allowing Ester and others to harvest enough produce to take home what they need and sell the rest. The association provides small business loans for families within the group through the income generated. Ester purchased goats and chickens with her loan, which provides more opportunities for nutrition and economic development and good manure to use on the farms.

Ester said, "Now I am strong. Though we still struggle with finances, we know how to use what we have to be healthy and happy and do good in our village. We have knowledge and friendship. I add value to my community."

Learn more at [ncm.org/economicdevelopment](https://ncm.org/economicdevelopment)