

# WOMENSAVE

The WomenSave website is live!  
Check it out at  
[www.womensave.org](http://www.womensave.org)

## Quarterly Update

### Who We Are

**Vision:** a world where every woman has the tools, skills and confidence to shape her own financial future

**Mission:** to expand financial access to women in developing economies, with goal-based savings plans & mobile money

### This Quarter By the Numbers

**751**

Clients Saving

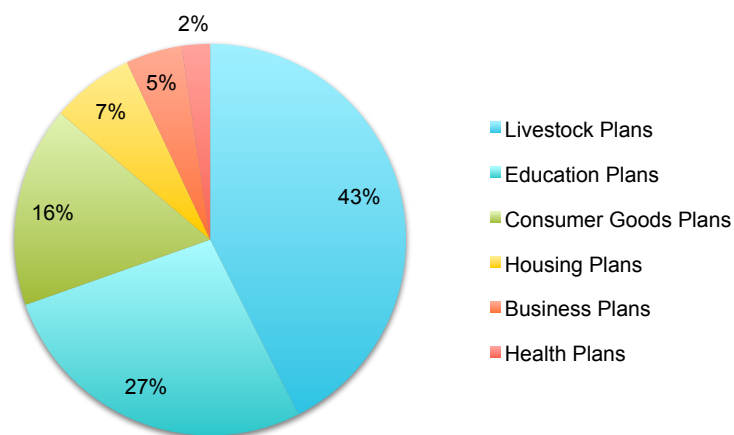
**Ushs 31,228,000**

**US\$8,522**

Saved

**111**

Financial Goals Met



### Starting to Scale

2021 is off to a great start for WomenSave! 100% of our pilot clients met their savings goals by the end January. As a result, women who participated in the project were able to purchase livestock, pay school fees, buy household goods, start/expand businesses, make home improvements, repay loans and address health problems. One client used her savings to deliver her baby in a clinic! (Please see her inspiring story on the next page.) Savings Officers worked with existing clients to design new commitment savings plans, and recruited a new set of clients to train, advise and design savings plans for too. Overall, those goals are largely similar to the pilot project, and summarized in the chart above. Currently, 751 clients have saved an average of Ushs 41,000 or US\$11 per person. At this pace, they are on track to have over Ushs 160,000 or US\$40 per person by the end of the year. We look forward to following their progress!



## Meet Dorcus!

She is a:

- 26-year-old married mother of 3;
- Resident of Rukungiri; and
- Farmer of beans, millet & corn;

Dorcus wanted to deliver her baby in a local health clinic. So she and her Savings Officer designed a savings plan, whereby Dorcus deposited roughly Ushs 1,000 (25 cents) a week for seven months. She had some difficulty making contributions because she had to stop working (farming) on account of her pregnancy. She also needed to withdraw some savings early to pay for transport to her antenatal visits at the hospital. Nonetheless, Dorcus surpassed her goal of Ushs 25,000 (\$7) and delivered a healthy baby boy at the clinic. Her long-term goal is to build a house!

## News from Uganda

Yoweri Museveni, President for 35 years, was declared winner of the January election with 58 percent of the votes. His main opponent, lawmaker and pop star Bobi Wine, rejected the results alleging widespread rigging. There were riots, some of which turned violent, and he continues to call for peaceful protest. Recently, the U.S. imposed visa bans on Ugandan government officials accused of acts that tainted the election. In terms of impact on WomenSave, the Internet was shut down across the country for nearly one month. Thankfully it was restored fully in February and our operations returned to normal too.

With respect to COVID-19, Uganda received its first doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine in March and as of April 12, 189,409 individuals across the country had been vaccinated. The Government of Uganda aims to vaccinate up to 60 percent of the total population of 45 million. But major challenges remain, like vaccine hesitancy, lack of operational funding, last-mile distribution and uncertainties regarding more vaccine delivery. On a positive note, daily new cases have been relatively low at 15 so WomenSave Savings Officers have been able to resume attending client meetings monthly (with distancing and masks).

## WomenSave Plans for Next Quarter

### 1. Support Clients

Savings Officers will continue weekly SMS text reminders to all clients to make contributions to their commitment savings plans and emergency funds via mobile money.

### 2. Share Work

WomenSave will post regular updates on our FaceBook and LinkedIn pages. Please follow us to stay up-to-date!

### 3. Complete Registration

WomenSave still is awaiting its charitable 501(c)3 status in the United States and is preparing to register as a NGO (Non Governmental Organization) in Uganda. Hopefully we will complete both processes by the summer.

If you have any comments or questions, please do not hesitate to reach out ([mmintalucci@gpfd.org](mailto:mmintalucci@gpfd.org)).