

IMPACT REPORT

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2025



SINA (SOCIAL INNOVATION ACADEMY)

WE ARE THE CHANGE WE WANT TO SEE IN THE WORLD

SINA grows a movement of locally owned, self-organized communities by enabling disadvantaged youth to become changemaker-makers. They launch social enterprises that solve local problems, create jobs, and support others to do the same. Today, SINA is a network of 23 SINA Communities and has helped create around 2,000 jobs through youth-led social enterprises.





NGI
NATI

KULISHA
ORGANICS

Saaf

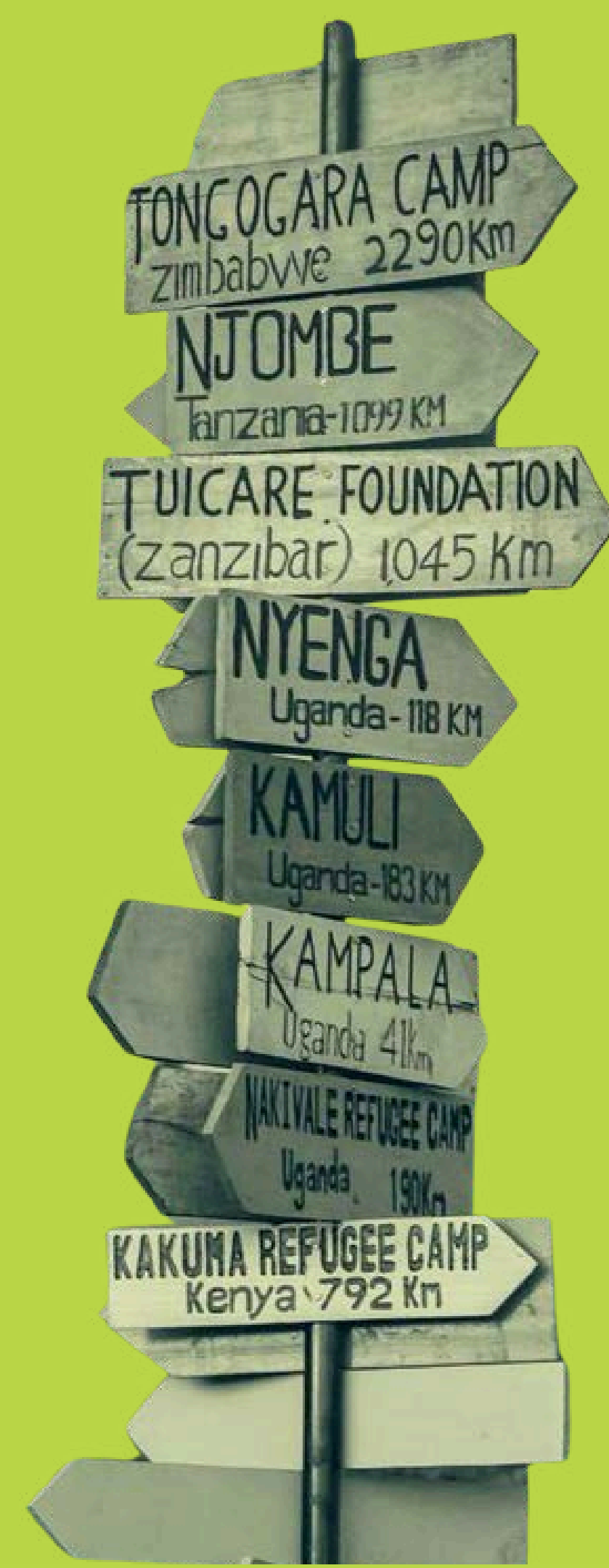
POWDER

POWDER

POWDER

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NEW VIDEO: HOW SINA WORKS



How SINA Works (and How It Built 120 Social Enterprises Without Managers)

Corporate Rebels



It's called SINA:
the Social Innovation Academy.

Watch on  YouTube



WHO WE ARE

In the past, we were refugees, former child soldiers, and individuals from traumatic and impoverished backgrounds in Africa. For most of us each day was a struggle for survival to meet the most basic needs.

Today, we are changemaker-makers with the abilities to turn challenges into opportunities and create a future for ourselves. We are setting examples of a different system where everyone is powerful and can pursue their dreams and create a prosperous and dignified life. We are creating a global movement of 1,000 SINAs and 100,000 social enterprises by 2035 for self-reliance and collective systemic change.

We create a world that works for everyone.

PROBLEM WE SOLVE

Millions of young people facing disadvantage (including refugees) are ready to work and lead, but the systems around them rarely offer a genuine path to reshape their own realities. Training often ends without translating skills into livelihoods. Communities lose talent while solutions remain stuck in dependency instead of becoming locally owned.





OUR PURPOSE

REGENERATIVE COMMUNITIES IN A FREESPONSIBLE WORLD.

*Freesponsibility

A word coined by SINA combining freedom with responsibility. It is the awareness of the positive and negative effects the execution of freedom has on others and the environment.

**Regeneration

Continuous improvement in all aspects of work, life, and learning instead of sustaining the status quo. It involves understanding SINA as a living system with an evolutionary purpose, emphasizing a systems view and a decentralized organizational design with distributed authority.

WHAT WE DO

SINA unleashes the potential of disadvantaged youth in Africa to become the change we wish to see as social entrepreneurs.

As disadvantaged and refugee youth, we transcend our challenging experiences through SINA's freesponsible and self-organized five-step empowerment process. We develop personal and professional skills and uncover our life purposes, refusing to let our pasts define our futures. Through education, we acquire the skills and experience necessary to become social entrepreneurs. We become changemakers and shift from being passive recipients of aid to active drivers of our own future, one person and one community at a time within self-organized and freesponsible "SINAs."

Each SINA Community unites youths (called "scholars") to locally own and locally self-organize through the freesponsible SINA Framework. Each SINA is for the community, by the community. All SINAs collaborate to achieve a greater outcome than could be achieved alone.



THE SINA FRAMEWORK

Like caterpillars unable to imagine they can transform and fly, marginalized youth and refugees discover their purpose and become social entrepreneurs while leveraging existing strengths to turn challenges into opportunities. By taking on responsibilities and roles to run SINA, we create our own curriculum and gain the skills and experience necessary to develop social enterprises. Unlike in formal educational institutions, we do not graduate with a certificate and drown in unemployment. Graduation happens when a social enterprise is financially self-sustainable and jobs have been created.





3 PILLARS OF THE SINA FRAMEWORK

- Community (life within the community) **“Live”**
- Empowerment (unleashing potentials) **“Learn”**
- Enterprise (operations and processes) **“Lead”**

OUR 5-STAGE EMPOWERMENT MODEL:

1. CONFUSION STAGE

Also referred to as “Applied Social Innovation”, the initial step is an intense and structured three months training about unlearning limiting beliefs, eliminating the fear of failure, expanding one's comfort zone, discovering oneself and one's personal purpose, and setting goals and action steps to achieve the personal goals. It focuses on personal development, self-reflection, building a growth mindset, and the ability to challenge ourselves. It is experiential, problem-based learning by doing in a responsible way.

2. EMERGING STAGE

We use Holacracy to self-organize and gain hands-on experience in accounting, logistics, and outreach, building our own curriculum through the roles taken. Through freesponsibility, we understand the impact of our actions. Decision-making goes beyond hierarchy or consensus, with role-holders holding each other accountable. Teams conduct customer research to validate new social enterprise ideas. We stay as long as needed, continuously growing and contributing to the community.

3. CONCENTRATION

Five-day bootcamp for social enterprise ideas and teams to validate assumptions and gain traction. We pitch to judges and can receive prize money for further implementation. Working spaces and mentoring are provided. Those not chosen try again in the next bootcamp, returning to the Emerging stage to continue growing in skills and abilities until another idea gains traction.



4. LINKING STAGE

Once an enterprise has generated revenues of at least 150 USD per month for three consecutive months. In that case, it enters the linking stage, where it is supported to formalize, register and be accelerated through intense mentoring to grow the impact and create financial forecasts, pitch decks and a business plan. Enterprises from all SINAs can apply to the SINA Acceleration Program to further scale their impact and receive support.

5. MASTERY STAGE

We have graduated from SINA with our own jobs and social enterprises established instead of a certificate. In the final path, called the Mastery Stage, alumni usually stay in close contact with SINA and often become mentors and coaches of new scholars to pass on the skills and experiences gained. At this stage, the social enterprise is financially self-sustainable and has substantial positive social and/or environmental impact.

**“YOU NEVER CHANGE THINGS BY
FIGHTING THE EXISTING
REALITY. TO CHANGE
SOMETHING, BUILD A NEW
MODEL THAT MAKES THE
EXISTING MODEL OBSOLETE.”**

—BUCKMINSTER FULLER



OUR IMPACT TO DATE



23

SINA
Communities
in 9 Countries

1,982

Total Number of
jobs created
(cumulative since 2015)

152

Social Enterprises born
at SINA and still
operational

460+

Informal Enterprises
born through SINA
(estimation based on information
and interaction with alumni)



WHERE SINA SOCIAL ENTERPRISES FOCUS

Most SINA social enterprises address basic needs and pressing local challenges in their communities. One enterprise can contribute to solving more than one challenge.

34%

Agriculture, Food
and Nutrition

24%

Environment and
Circular Economy

18%

Health

8%

Water and
Sanitation

7%

Education

Based on our data, each dollar invested in a SINA scholar is estimated to generate about 5x in increased future earnings over 10 years. This figure does not yet include additional social returns from jobs created and broader social or environmental impact.

86%

Scholars developed a
Growth Mindset

1,150

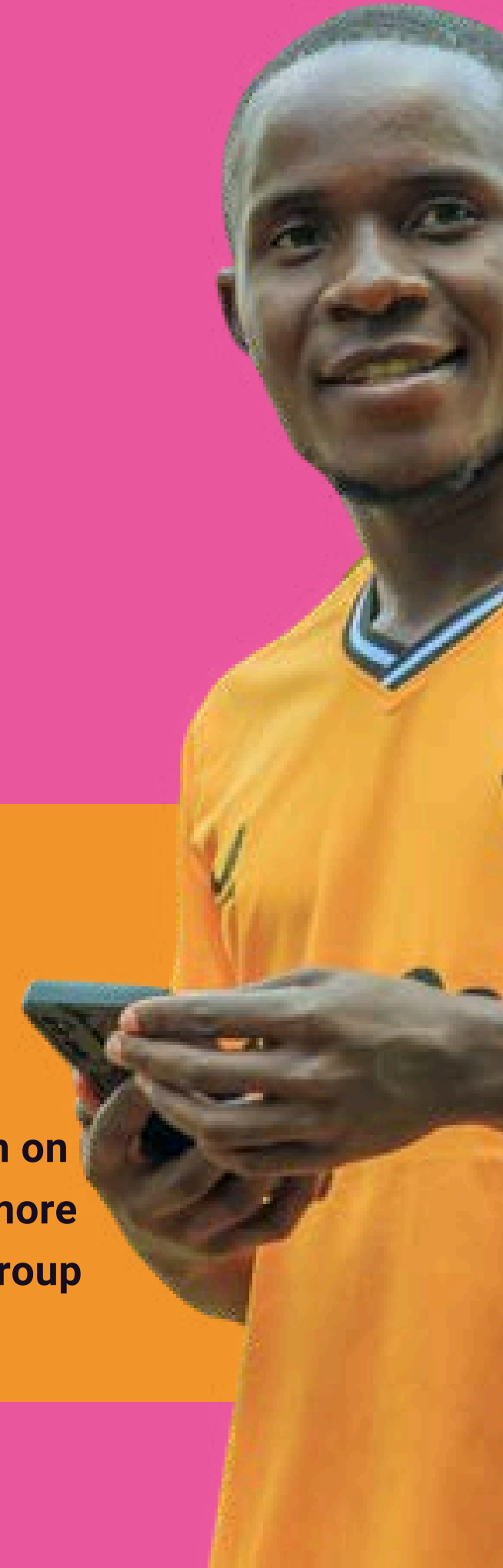
Total Scholars
active across 23
SINAs in 2025

50%

of SINA Alumni work in
their own enterprise

3X

SINA Alumni earn on
average 3 times more
than the control group





DIRECT IMPACT ON SINA SCHOLARS

We have seen a deep personal transformation of SINA scholars. Like caterpillars becoming butterflies, in SINA, the person transforms by discovering their purpose and adopting a growth mindset of possibility. Many youths, who seemed to have given up on life or resorted to coping mechanisms such as drugs or alcohol, found a new purpose in life and gained the skills to create a social enterprise that often supports others as well.

SINA alumni experience a shift in monthly income **from zero or close to zero** through infrequent small daily jobs before SINA to a monthly and often formal income of **typically \$50 - \$130 USD**, up to over \$2,500 USD per month in individual cases, lifting themselves out of poverty, while supporting others to do the same.

We have seen scholars turn down higher-paying job opportunities if they do not align with their purpose or cause harm in the world.

IMAGES BEHIND NUMBERS

The Home of a SINA Scholar at the beginning of his journey in the SINA Community of “Global Innovation Valley” in the Kakuma Refugee Settlement in Kenya, taken in June 2025.



To place these income figures in further into visual context, Gapminder’s Dollar Street project shows how families live at different monthly income levels, including around US\$32 per month.





DIRECT IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

In 2025, SINA-born social enterprises paid an estimated total of more than **US\$850,000** in salaries. Since inception, they have created 1,982 jobs and generated social and environmental impact in their communities.

The capital raised in 2025 to grow their social enterprises independently exceeded **US\$650,000**. The funds are often spent on infrastructure development or hiring additional staff, benefiting the community.

IMPACT ON THE SOCIETY

SINA-born social enterprises and alumni address critical social and environmental challenges across the SDGs. One 2025 example is SINA alumna Janet Aguti, founder of Totya Platform, who joined a Vatican delegation to amplify survivors' voices and call for a zero-tolerance policy and systemic change on sexual violence in the Catholic Church.

[Read more here:](#)



Image Copyright: Vatican Media

SOCIAL IMPACT EXAMPLE

Many women in Uganda give birth at home without medically trained personnel. Many lack the essentials needed to be brought to a clinic and fear being shamed or turned away. That pushes some mothers toward traditional birth attendants even when complications arise, and it leaves mothers often without medical guidance during pregnancy.

Vital Care Connect addresses this gap through two linked solutions: Safety Birth Kits that bundle the essentials women are expected to bring for delivery, and mobile clinics that bring midwives and health workers into communities in coordination with community health workers who mobilise mothers.

Since starting in 2023, 15,000 women and children have been reached with services and products, and more than 9,000 people with antenatal support and maternal health education. The work has also created income for women through production, marketing, and service delivery, engaging 52 women and midwives across the operations while using a cross-subsidy model where clients who can pay support access for those who cannot, including single mothers, teenage pregnant girls, and women in rural and refugee settings.



ECO IMPACT EXAMPLE

In the Kakuma Refugee Settlement, most families still cook with firewood and charcoal, often on open three-stone fires. With a quickly growing population in Kenya, demand for cooking fuel quickly strips already dry landscapes of trees. One tonne of dry wood is roughly 50% carbon, and when it is burned that carbon becomes about 1.8 tonnes of CO₂. The smoke also drives severe respiratory illness, and in Kakuma, women and girls can spend several hours daily searching for firewood, with real safety risks along the way.

Green at Mind manufactures energy-efficient double-burner cookstoves in Kakuma and distributes them across the Turkana region, using an insulated ceramic-fibre liner that keeps heat focused on the pot and reduces fuel use by around 40% compared to traditional cooking.

Since 2023, the team has produced over 7,500 stoves, reaching more than 7,000 households, and created 23 permanent jobs across production and distribution. The environmental impact translates to an estimated 5,000 to 10,000 tonnes of firewood saved and roughly 9,000 to 18,000 tonnes of CO₂ avoided per year, while reducing pressure on scarce trees around the settlement.





DIRECT IMPACT ON SDGS:

- SDG 1: no poverty
- SDG 4: quality education
- SDG 8: decent work and economic growth
- SDG 9: industry, innovation and infrastructure
- SDG 17: partnerships for the goals

Indirect impact on SDGs, by SINA Social Enterprises and Changemakers:

- All SDGs

SELECTED SINA SOCIAL ENTERPRISES 2025



CANDELA HABITUS

JANGU INTERNATIONAL

Autistic children in Uganda remain hidden at home because families face stigma, safety fears, high therapy costs, and little inclusive support. Candela Habitus creates safe, fun outdoor and hands-on experiences that help autistic children play, learn, socialize, and build daily living skills.

NUTRICYCLE

KIIRA INNOVATION ACADEMY

Farmers struggle with the high cost of animal feed, making it hard to keep livestock healthy and productive with limited resources. This enterprise produces a liquid feed booster from organic waste and farm byproducts, helping farmers improve animal nutrition at lower cost.

MARIPAT

JANGU INTERNATIONAL

Ugandan fruit farmers face poor market access, unstable prices, and produce going to waste, while communities struggle with malnutrition and pollution. Maripat turns local fruit into natural juice and processes waste into vermicompost, improving incomes, nutrition, and soil health.

ABSOLUTE CLEAN

JANGU INTERNATIONAL

Urban and peri-urban professionals and families struggle to find reliable, hygienic cleaning services, as most providers are informal and inconsistent. Absolute Clean offers accessible, dependable cleaning services that save working professionals many hours while ensuring healthier living spaces.

NYOTA LIFE LINE

KAMULI INNOVATION HUB

Young entrepreneurs and small business owners often fail early because they lack business skills, mentorship, and access to affordable formal financing. Nyota Life helps them build sustainable businesses through entrepreneurial training, mentorship, and access to formal credit in a community-driven funding model.

AFYA MOMS & TOTS

COSMO FOUNDATION

Afya Moms and Tots addresses child malnutrition in Uganda through nutritious products, nutrition education, and community empowerment. Its Wise Baby Porridge is a locally made, affordable, nutrient-rich food for children older than six months, designed especially for vulnerable communities where malnutrition among children under five and mothers remains a serious challenge.

RESILIENT ACHIEVER FOUNDATION

YINNOH

Pregnant and lactating mothers in the Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement face widespread anemia and child malnutrition, harming maternal health, caregiving capacity, and children's development. RAF provides affordable, nutrient-rich baked products and mother-to-mother support circles to improve maternal nutrition, health, and family wellbeing.

MEILI ESSENCE

UBUNIFU FOUNDATION

Acne, skin damage, and low confidence caused by it affect many young people. Meili Essence produces affordable organic skincare from Zanzibari seaweed, helping women treat acne safely while supporting local women seaweed farmers.

SAFARI QUEENS

UBUNIFU FOUNDATION

Many travelers in Zanzibar, especially women and families, struggle to find safe, inclusive transport and authentic cultural experiences they can fully trust. Safari Queens offers female-led tours and transportation that make exploring Zanzibar safer, more comfortable, and more meaningful through authentic local experiences.

ZANIMO

UBUNIFU FOUNDATION

Declining soil fertility in Zanzibar has become a serious barrier to growing healthy crops and earning a reliable income. Zanimu addresses this by providing affordable organic fertilizer and practical training in regenerative agriculture, helping farmers restore soil health, improve crop growth, reduce pests, and strengthen their livelihoods.



THE SINAs

SINAs are locally owned, self-sustaining, and independent organizations and communities implementing the SINA Framework of freesponsible empowerment for social entrepreneurship.

All SINAs implement the SINA Framework:

- **unleashing individual potentials** of marginalized youth
- **eliciting relevant skills and experience** through scholars running the SINA community
- **giving birth to social enterprises** with purpose and profit



A Growing Movement of 23 SINA Communities

Kenya
Global Innovation Valley

DR Congo
Social Entrepreneurship Academy
Congo Innovation Academy



Cape Verde
Morabeza Academy

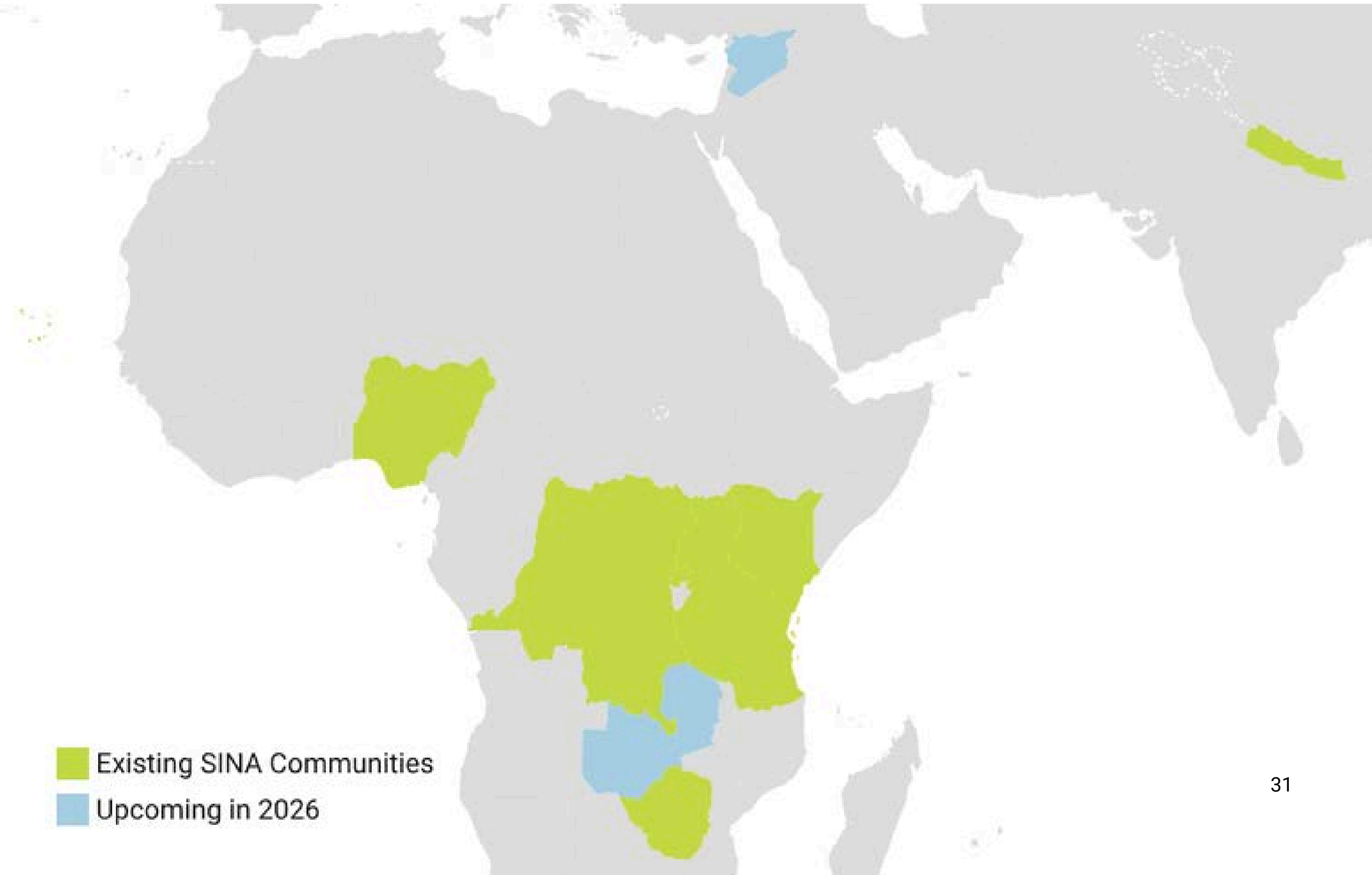
Tanzania
Njombe Innovation Academy
Ubunifu Foundation

Uganda
Jangu International
Arise Youth Foundation
SINA Loketa
Youth Innovation Hub
Kamuli Innovation Hub
Tunaweza Academy
Lazima Innovation Hub
Kiira Innovation Academy
Patapia Innov8
Cosmo Foundation
OPPORTUNIGEE

Zimbabwe
Transformation Innovation Hub

New SINAs of 2025
Hope Innovation Academy, **Nepal**
DIKKO Academy, **Nigeria**
IKAZE Academy, **Rwanda**
Twero Academy, **Uganda**
Kiroto Academy, **Uganda**

 Existing SINA Communities
 Upcoming in 2026



HIGHLIGHTS OF SINA COMMUNITIES 2025

To mark 10 years of SINA, scholars, alumni, partners, and supporters came together to celebrate the journey so far and strengthen the shared vision for the next phase of the movement.



6 HOURS LIVE

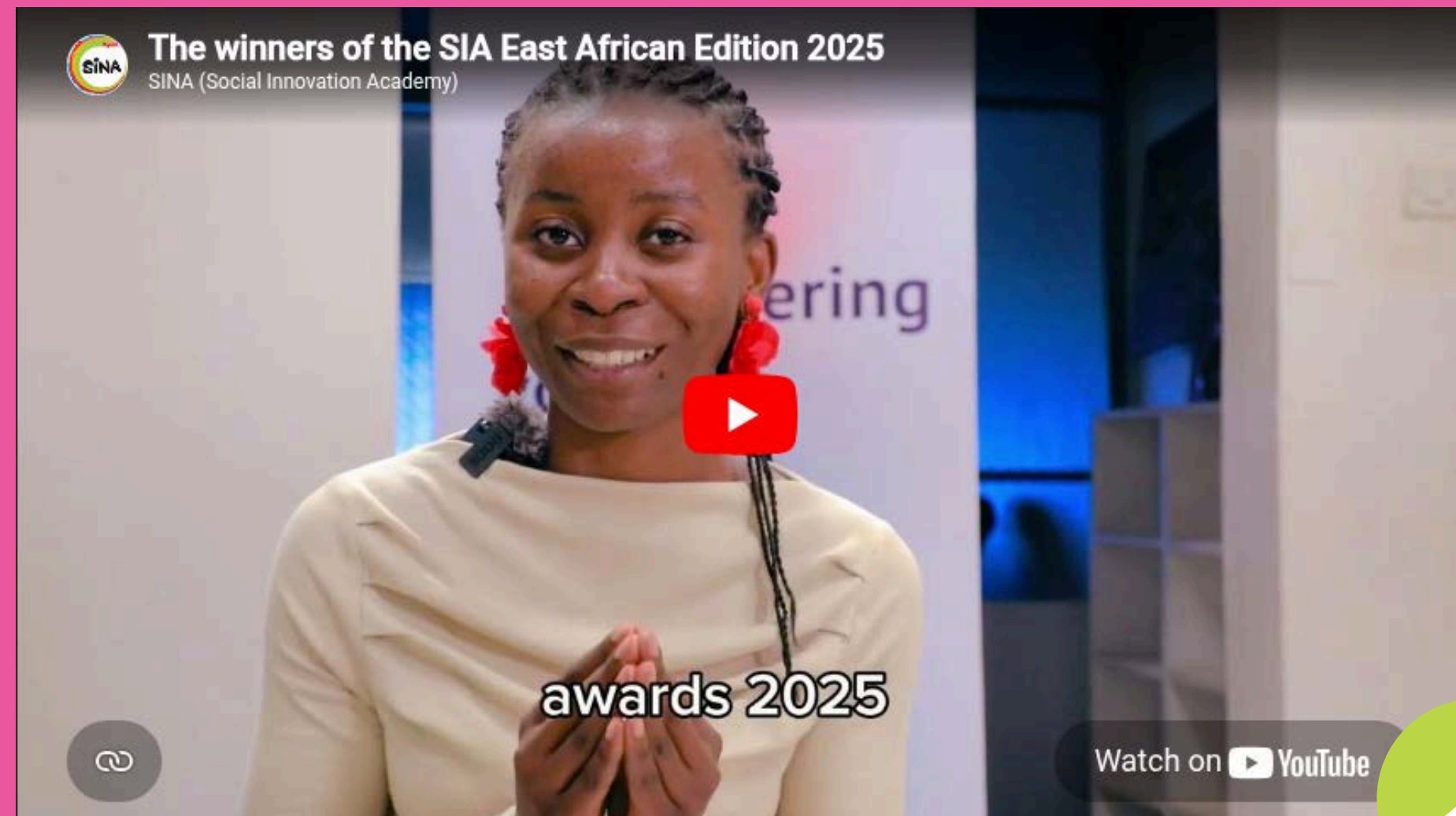
On "Giving Tuesday," 3rd December, we hosted a 6-hour continuous live stream across all 5 new SINA Communities and 4 impactful SINA social enterprises.



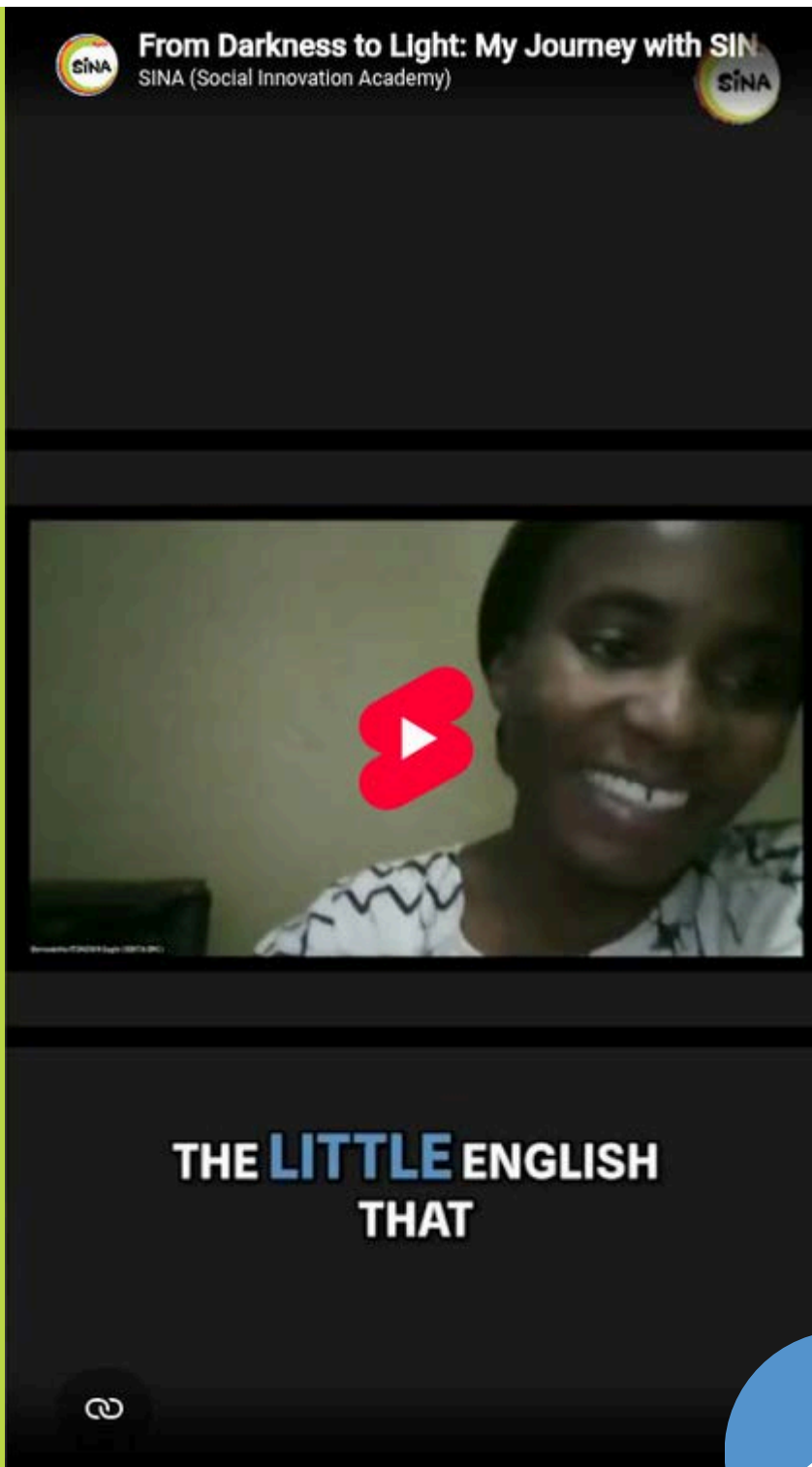
SOCIAL IMPACT AWARD

Across East Africa, the 2025 edition was delivered in English- and French-speaking clusters, allowing founders to develop and pitch their ideas with greater clarity and confidence. Following a regional call, fifteen finalist teams joined a practical incubation focused on customer needs, value proposition, revenue model, and execution, culminating in the Grand Finals in Kampala. The event brought together mentors, alumni, jury members, and SINA supporters, creating a strong space for peer learning and cross-border exchange.

Three ventures emerged as winners: Candela Habitus from Uganda through the community vote, and Natural Uhai Food from the DRC and Nest Guard Ltd from Rwanda through jury selection. Although visa rejections prevented most winners from attending the global summit in Ljubljana, the cohort left with stronger business models, clearer customer focus, valuable regional connections, and small grants to support their emerging enterprises.



SCHOLAR TESTIMONIES

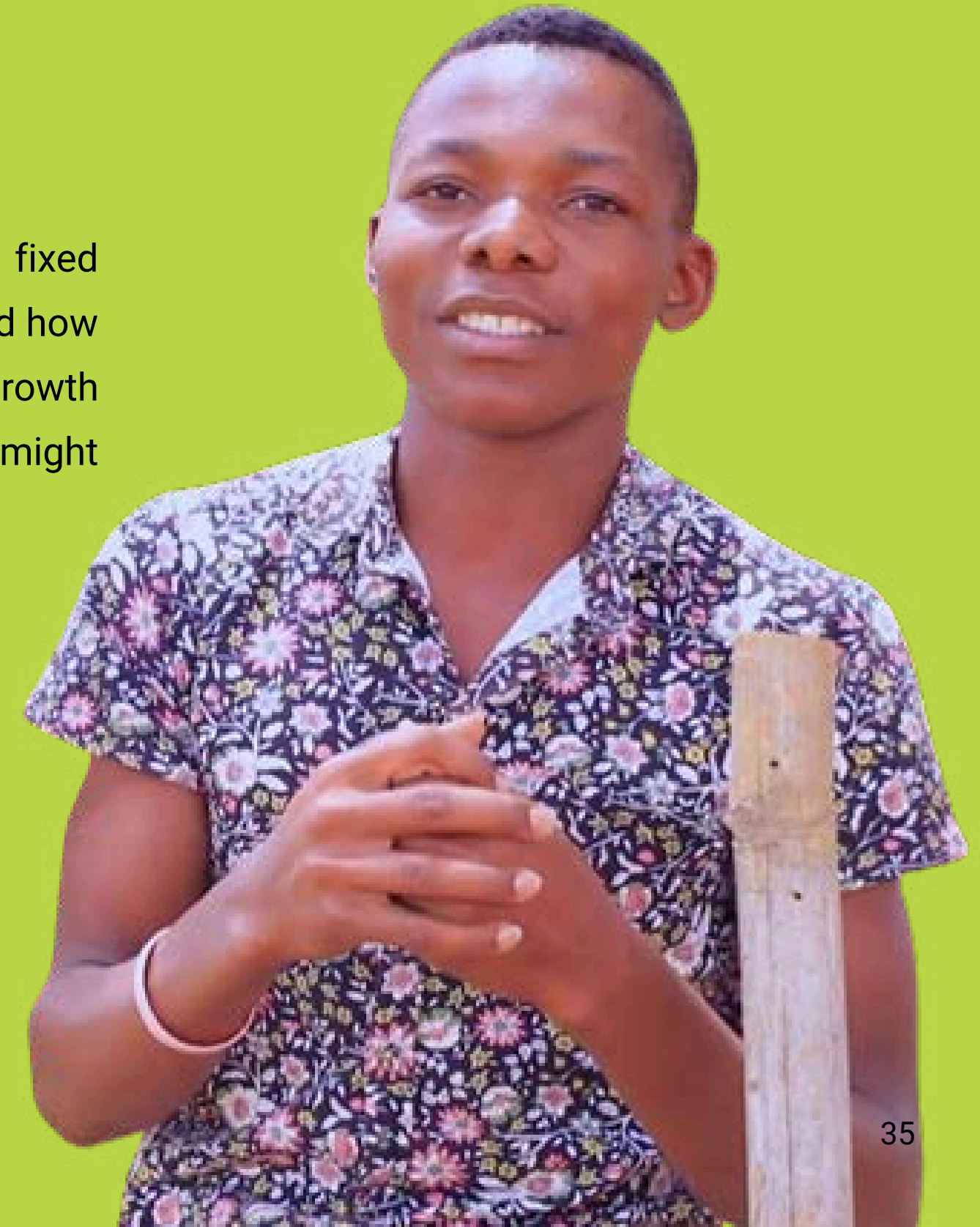


Bernadette Itongwa

[watch full testimony \(24 mins\)](#)

"I learned about mindset. Before, I was in a fixed mindset, feeling like I couldn't do things. I learned how to grow my mindset, to move from fixed to growth mindset, and to try things even when I think I might not succeed, and achieve something from it."

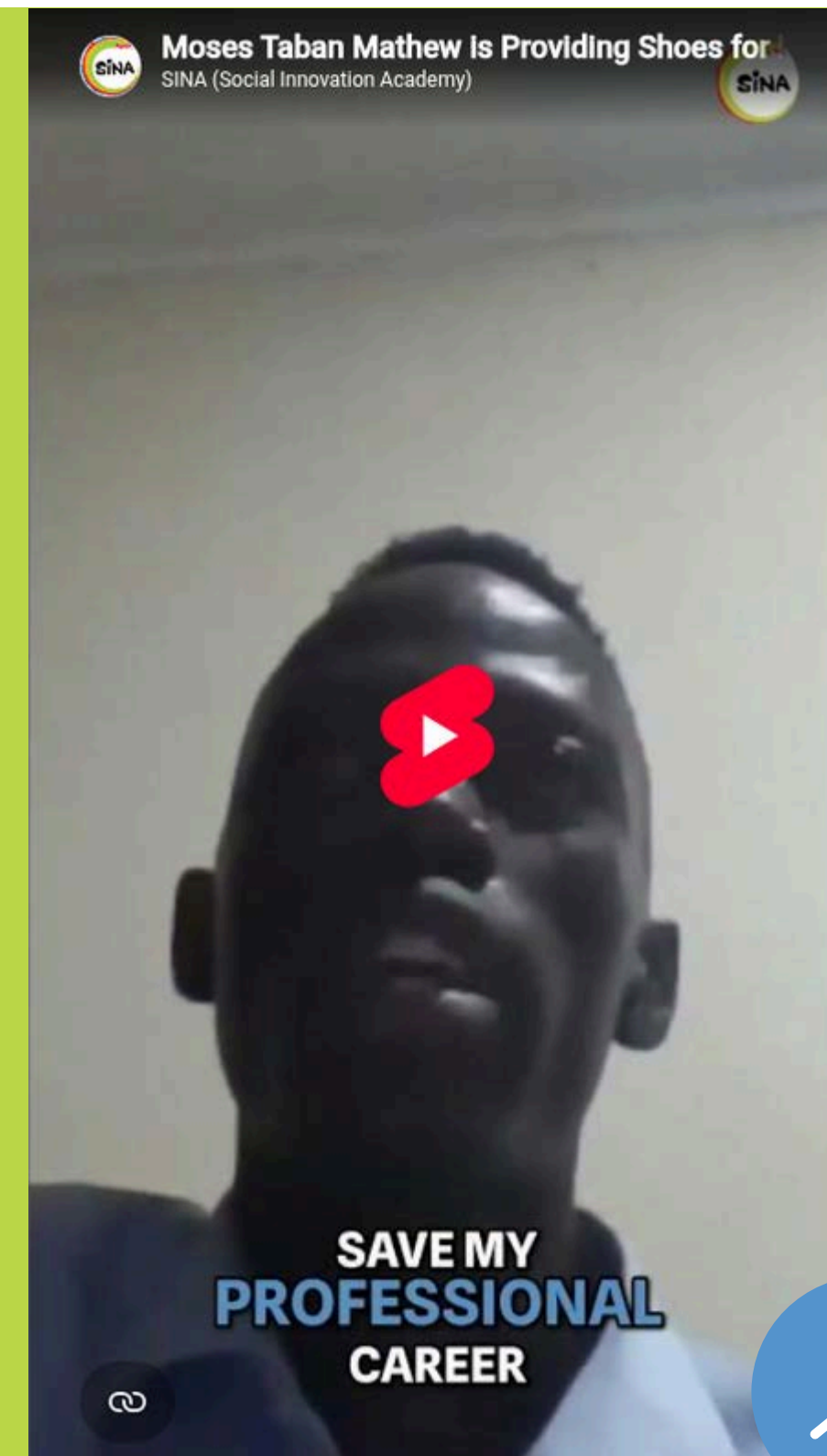
Ronald Mayambala (SINA Replicator)



SCHOLAR TESTIMONIES

"I looked at my life history, my life chances were limited as a young, unemployed single mother. I knew I wanted to make a difference, not only for myself but for other people like me and beyond. SINA showed me how to turn challenges into opportunities. SINA midwifed my dream that has today helped hundreds of people access clean water in rural Mpigi, enabled me to meet global scientists, and allowed me to make meaningful connections with like-minded people. Congratulations SINA, your impact is a testament to the power of local action and the potential within every individual."

Aisha Nankanja (SINA Alumni)



Moses Taban
[watch full testimony \(12 mins\)](#)

ECOSYSTEM TESTIMONIES

"I will tell you through all my life in education the only institution that I have encountered that begins by introducing people to the method of understanding themselves is SINA, only SINA. So the testimonies here, I know some of them where they started, where they are at. And my message to the government of Uganda, can it pick interest to understand this SINA Model? It might offer us a great answer to many of the puzzles."

– Ambrose Kiibuka

(educationalist and Board member of Kampala International University)

"SINA doesn't just improve the lives of its participants; it drives structural change for local communities and even entire regions. Through its self-organization model and its focus on social entrepreneurship, SINA builds sustainable structures that aren't fully dependent on donations. Every SINA Scholar who founds a successful social enterprise goes on to create jobs and tackle social and environmental challenges in their community—a multiplier effect. SINA reaches exactly the people who are often left out: refugees, orphans, former child soldiers, and young people living in extreme poverty. The model has proven that it works across very different contexts and can be replicated."

– Patrick Knodel

(Founder and Director of the Chancemaker Foundation)



CHALLENGES INTO OPPORTUNITIES

THE RELOCATION OF SENTA FROM THE DRC TO UGANDA



In SINA, challenges are not the end of the story; they are often the beginning of transformation. When the M23 conflict and insecurity made it impossible for our SINA Community “SENTA” in Bukavu, Democratic Republic of the Congo, to continue safely, it would have been easy to quit. But instead of letting crisis define the future of these scholars, we turned disruption into a new pathway. Through the rapid relocation of SENTA’s core team and 20 scholars to Kampala, an emergency response became an opportunity for healing, rebuilding, and reimagining what is possible. Living together in a single physical space allowed the team and the scholars to focus and to create new social enterprises. When the situation in Bukavu had stabilised after close to 5 months in Uganda, everyone returned to Bukavu and SENTA resumed operations united.

IMPACT WEEK 2025

Impact Week Uganda 2025 at Jangu International in Mpigi brought together local and international changemakers for a week of innovation and collaboration. Through a Train-the-Coach workshop and a Design Thinking challenge, 77 participants from 10 SINA Communities developed solutions to real social challenges, supported by 24 newly trained junior coaches. The week concluded with 12 teams pitching their ideas to a jury including the German Ambassador to Uganda, Ashoka East Africa, and UNDP Accelerator Labs, highlighting the power of youth-led innovation and SINA's freeresponsible learning approach.



NEW PARTNERSHIP



IKEA Foundation

We are excited and grateful to have secured a partnership with the IKEA Foundation, which provides three-year funding for 10 SINA communities across Uganda to help refugees in Uganda achieve economic self-reliance and build sustainable livelihoods through social entrepreneurship.

The partnership also builds on SINA's earlier Purpose Pool, which from 2020 to 2024 invested in 10 SINA social enterprises. That work has since continued through "Relevant Impact Innovation", a sister entity co-founded by three SINA members, which now invests in emerging enterprises in displacement-affected communities.

NEW SINAs

SINA scales like nature does, through replication. To create a new SINA, a team of 2 - 3 young people from a community spends 6 - 12 months in an existing SINA Community in Uganda to experience and live the SINA Framework. They go through the SINA Framework for a deep personal transformation and are then trained on everything needed for successful replication, to create their own locally led and locally self-organized and freesponsible SINA Community.



HOPE INNOVATION ACADEMY

Founded: 2025

Number of Scholars: 40

Location: outskirts of Kathmandu, Nepal

Hope Innovation Academy (HIA) is the first SINA Community outside Africa. Located on the outskirts of Nepal's capital city Kathmandu, the community targets marginalised youth who often only see opportunity abroad as unskilled labourers on construction sites or domestic helpers in the Middle East. HIA is proving that opportunities can also be created within Nepal through social entrepreneurship.



DIKKO SOCIAL INNOVATION ACADEMY

Founded: 2025

Number of pioneer Scholars in 2025: 31

Location: Katsina, Nigeria

In collaboration with the Katsina State local government and its agencies, the Dikko Social Innovation Academy was created as a SINA replication in Nigeria.



A live tour in the DIKKO Social Innovation Academy, a SINA in the Katsina region

SINA (Social Innovation Academy)

Sarkinyaki Maryam

Watch on YouTube

The image shows a YouTube video player interface. At the top left is the SINA logo. The main title is "A live tour in the DIKKO Social Innovation Academy, a SINA in the Katsina region". Below the title is a video thumbnail showing a man in a dark traditional Nigerian outfit and a woman in a green hijab sitting in a modern, brightly lit room with green and white curved seating. A red play button is centered over the thumbnail. At the bottom left of the video frame is the name "Sarkinyaki Maryam" and a small circular icon. At the bottom right is the text "Watch on YouTube" with the YouTube logo.



IKAZE INNOVATION ACADEMY

Founded: 2025

Number of pioneer Scholars in 2025: 22

Location: Gashora, Rwanda



TWERO INNOVATION ACADEMY

Founded: 2025

Number of pioneer Scholars in 2025: 43

Location: Palabek Refugee Settlement, Uganda



KIROTO INNOVATION ACADEMY

Founded: 2025

Number of pioneer Scholars in 2025: 37

Location: Mityana, Uganda



A live tour of Kiroto innovation Academy, a SINA in Mityana, Uganda

SINA (Social Innovation Academy)

mayambala

Watch on  YouTube

The image shows a video player interface. At the top left is the SINA logo. The main title is "A live tour of Kiroto innovation Academy, a SINA in Mityana, Uganda". Below the title is a video thumbnail showing a woman in a colorful patterned top smiling, with a red play button icon overlaid. In the background of the video, another person is visible. At the bottom left is the "mayambala" logo, and at the bottom right is the text "Watch on YouTube" with the YouTube logo.

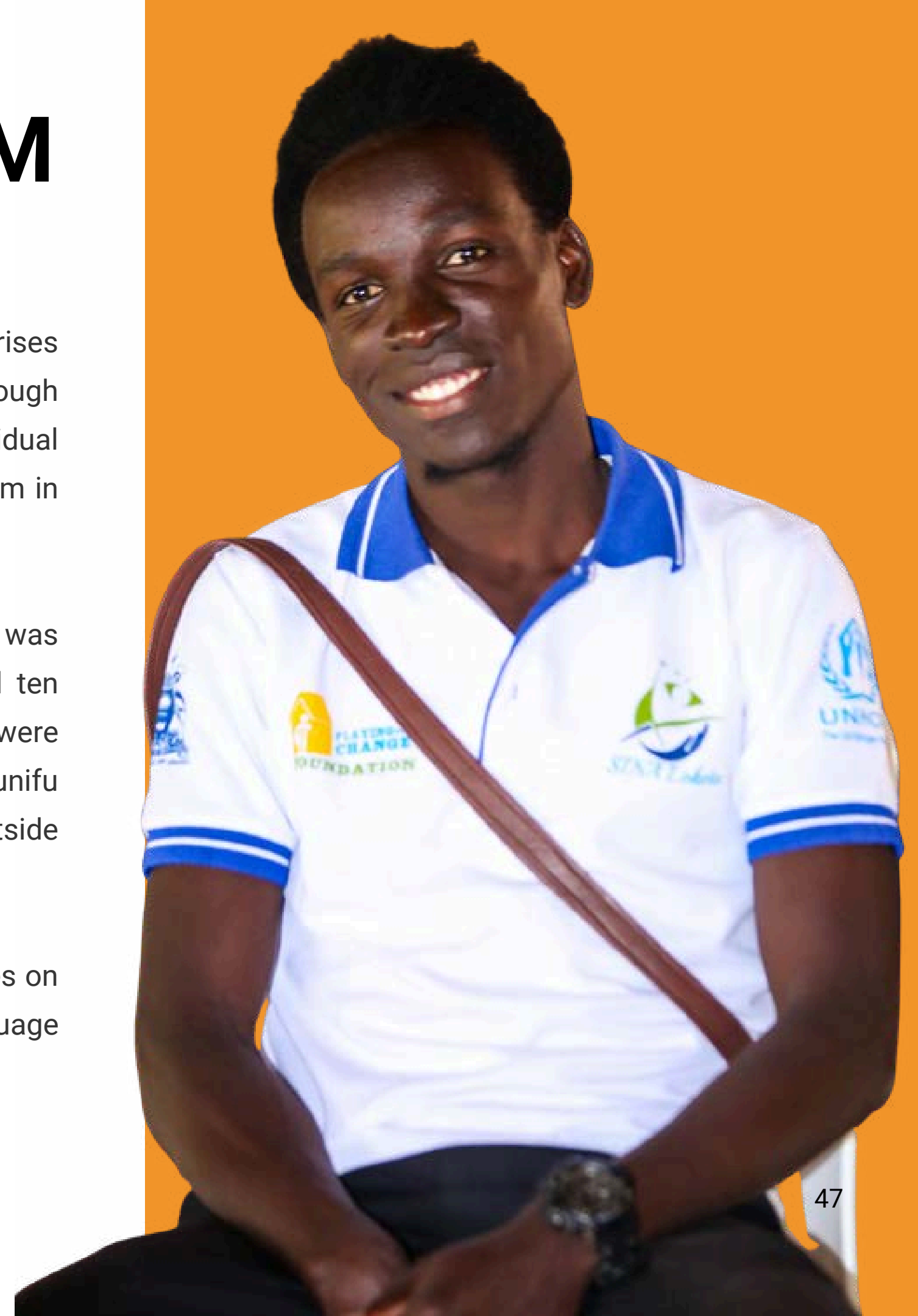


SINA ACCELERATION PROGRAM

The SINA Acceleration Program is open to all established, early-stage SINA social enterprises across all SINA Communities. It assists enterprises to grow and scale their impact through focusing on three crucial areas: enterprise development, team development, and individual development. Two cohorts, Cohort 10 and Cohort 11, were successfully hosted by the program in 2025.

Cohort 10 comprised eight enterprises, six from Uganda and two from Zanzibar. The cohort was supported by a team of 8 coaches from different SINA Communities. Cohort 11 included ten enterprises, seven from Uganda and three from Zanzibar. Two separate bootcamps were conducted, one in Uganda for the seven enterprises and another in Zanzibar for the three Ubunifu enterprises. This marked the first time the acceleration program hosted a bootcamp outside Uganda, making it a significant milestone.

The Zanzibar bootcamp created a more engaging and hands-on experience, with three coaches on the ground, including one coach originally from Ubunifu Zanzibar, who provided language translation and valuable local context to better guide the enterprises.



TESTIMONIAL

AFYA MOMS AND TOTS

My name is Esther and I work with Afya Moms and Tots Nutrition Hub, a refugee-led social enterprise in Uganda. My journey as an entrepreneur began with a strong desire to create impact in the communities around me. When I came across the Cosmo Foundation [a SINA Community in Kampala for urban refugees], it opened a new chapter. Within just a few months, we were given a platform to engage, learn, and grow. That engagement exposed us to a broader ecosystem of social entrepreneurs.

Through the Acceleration Program, we have gained far more than technical knowledge. One of the most valuable aspects has been access to a dedicated business coach who has been extremely instrumental in supporting our daily operations and consistently following up with us. That close guidance has helped us think more strategically, organize our priorities, and strengthen our decision-making as a team. The program has significantly improved our operational capacity and sharpened how we approach growth.

The acceleration support has also enabled us to set up stronger systems that help us run the business more efficiently and sustainably. The mentorship and networking opportunities have allowed us to learn from fellow entrepreneurs within the program. Sharing experiences, challenges, and solutions has expanded our perspective and built our resilience.



TESTIMONIAL

VALUECROWN AGRO PROCESSING

My name is Asaph Ankunda, a young social entrepreneur and the founder of ValueCrown Agro Processing Company Limited. I grew up in a family where the primary source of income was small-scale subsistence farming, watching my guardians work tirelessly yet continue to earn very little from their produce. Seeing them sell agricultural products at low prices, facing large post-harvest losses, and having limited access to reliable markets, it planted the desire to find a practical solution.

And when I joined Jangu International [SINA Community in Mpigi, Uganda], we were guided to deeply understand community challenges before trying to solve them. Through community problem identification, customer discovery, and solution testing, I began engaging directly with farmers and listening to their experiences. This process helped me realize that one of the most powerful ways to improve farmer livelihoods was through value addition and better market access. That insight became the foundation of ValueCrown Agro Processing Company Limited.

We increase the income of smallholder farmers by processing agricultural products locally, reducing post-harvest losses, and connecting farmers to better markets. By working closely with farmers, organizing them, and promoting quality production and processing, we aim to build a fairer agricultural value chain that benefits both farmers and consumers.

Participating in the SINA Acceleration Program later became an important milestone in my journey. The program strengthened my leadership skills and helped me think more strategically about building a sustainable enterprise. Through mentorship, practical training, and collaboration with other young innovators, I gained the tools to refine our business model, strengthen our impact approach, and build stronger systems for the enterprise. With the support and guidance from the SINA team, we were also able to formalize our work by registering and incorporating ValueCrown Agro Processing Company Limited.

To other young entrepreneurs, I would say this: “Start with the real problems in your community. Listen carefully to the people you want to serve, test your ideas, and build solutions that truly improve lives. Entrepreneurship is about creating impact, restoring dignity, and opening opportunities for others.”



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION



1

Asaph Ankunda, selected for the Anzisha fellowship with Trust Agro Processors

2

Charles Busuulwa, Vincent Ubeling and Marjorie Angella featured in Builders of Africa's Future

3

EverGrow Organics, featured by FUSE after winning the Agricultural Social Enterprise of the Year Award

4

Generous Designs Africa, selected as a supported project by UNHCR Innovation

5

Jackline Birungi, winner of the SRHR category at the National Girl Champion Awards

6

Janet Aguti, named Child Safeguarding Champion of the Year by Keeping Children Safe

7

Mackline Kobusingye, featured among the standout changemakers in the SAF Africa Accelerator

8

Sarah Nakibuule, named in the Anzisha cohort for SwiftSan Hygienic Solutions

9

Stéphane Kulimushi Mutanda, recognised as a UN Young Leader for the SDGs

10

Suzan Nassolo of EverGrow Organics, second place at the POWER Demo Day.

ZERODX AWARD

SINA received the ZeroDX (Zero Distance Excellence) Award 2025, our second consecutive win in the “Benchmark Innovators” category, with Etienne Salborn invited to Beijing to present SINA and accept the award in person at the RenDanHeYi Forum. Hosted by HMI alongside the Business Ecosystem Alliance (BEA) and Management Lab (MLab), the award recognises organisations that remove “distance” between themselves and the people they serve through self-organised, responsive ways of working. For SINA, the repeat recognition reflects a consistent way of turning intention into outcomes through the SINA Framework and freesponsibility.



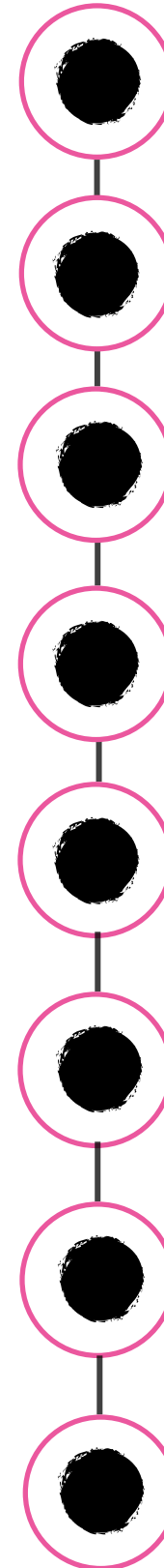
HUNDRED GLOBAL COLLECTION 2026

In November 2025, SINA was selected for the HunderED Global Collection 2026, HunderED's annual list of 100 education innovations recognised for impact and scalability, with the 2026 Collection unveiled on 11 November 2025. The selection highlights SINA's approach to learning as something young people actively design and lead through real responsibilities and community building, translating that learning into practical solutions and social enterprises rooted in their own lived realities.

In September 2025, the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship shortlisted SINA and its founder, Etienne Salborn, as finalists in the Collective Social Innovation category of the 2026 Social Innovation Awards, selected from more than 400 nominations. The World Economic Forum's published finalist list places SINA among 18 organisations represented by 24 individuals, with winners to be announced at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in January 2026. It is a strong external signal that SINA's work is being recognised as systemic, not just project-based.

FINALIST: SCHWAB FOUNDATION FOR SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

MEDIA AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT



[Albert Ayiga, profile on the NUNU Fund as a business model for social change](#)

[Bidi Bidi Performing Arts Centre, featured by The Guardian for creating healing and creative space](#)

[Grace Nabuuma, featured by TeamUp Uganda on her journey from peer facilitator to entrepreneur](#)

[Janet Aguti, Daily Monitor on meeting Pope Leo and calling for zero-tolerance on clergy sexual abuse](#)

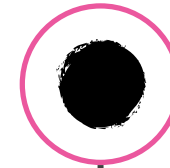
[Janet Aguti, profile by Brave Movement on her leadership, healing journey and advocacy](#)

Janet Aguti, quoted in America Magazine after Pope Leo's meeting with Ending Clergy Abuse

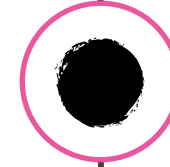
[Janet Aguti, speaker on the UNICEF panel at One Young World Summit Munich](#)

[Joan Nalubega and Uganics, featured by Ventureburn as a social enterprise tackling malaria](#)

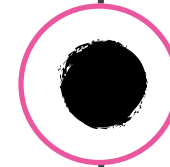
MEDIA AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT



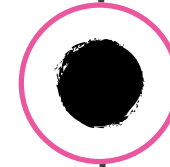
Joan Nalubega and Uganics, partnership spotlight with Lufthansa Group, help alliance and Brussels Airlines



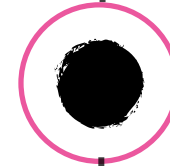
Joan Nalubega, speaker at Woman Impact Summit with Uganics Repellents



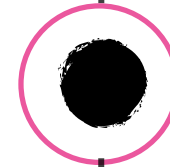
Juliet Namujju, featured by BusinessBeat 24 for Kimuli Collections



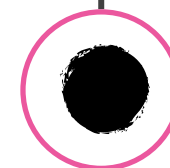
LDC5 private sector commitments document by UN OHRLLS mentions SINA



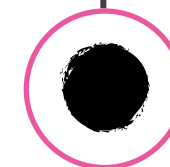
Mahoro Diane, Happy Cheeks featured by Global Solutions Initiative



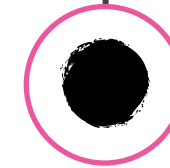
Seminaris Uganda learning journey at SINA



Stéphane Kulimushi Mutanda, BBC Afrique profile on the founder of Refugee Basketball Academy.

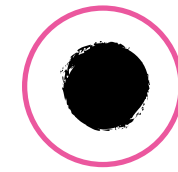


Suzan Nassolo, featured in Anzisha's "The Journey" series

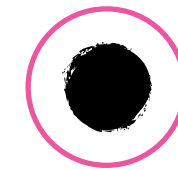


Climate Action Summit in Mpigi, held with Youth Challenge International, SINA and Jangu International

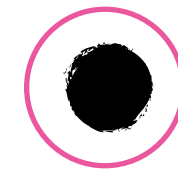
SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND CASE STUDIES 2025



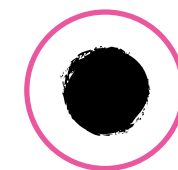
SINA featured in the book *A Modern Guide to Refugee Education – Comparative Perspectives and Innovative Practices* by Elgar Modern Guides. Chapter 19



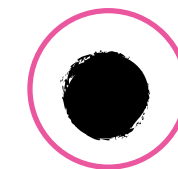
The Five Development Stages to Make Self-Management Thrive, by Corporate Rebels



ChanceMaker Foundation: “The SINA model works – even in the toughest conditions”



From Refugee Camps To Self-Management: What We Can Learn From SINA, by Corporate Rebels



SINA Purpose Pool and its Innovative Revenue Based Financing (RBF) Model

WAYS TO SUPPORT

We're on a mission to empower 1,500 changemakers for 2026.
Your contribution can sponsor a SINA scholar to unleash her potential and become a social entrepreneur.

[DONATE NOW](#)



Unleash Potentials (40 €)

Sponsor a disadvantaged youth in SINA for 40 € per month to become a changemaker and social entrepreneur.



Transform a Life (480 €)

Sponsor a youth for 1 year to become a changemaker and social entrepreneur.



Scaling Impact (1,800 €)

Become a changemaker-maker & sponsor a SINA social enterprise to scale its impact.



Sponsor a Cohort (4,800 €)

Sponsor 10 scholars in one intake in a SINA to become the change they wish to see as social entrepreneurs.



Turning
Challenges
Into
Opportunities

www.socialinnovationacademy.org

SINAs:

Jangu International – Uganda, Mpigi, founded 2015
OPPORTUNIGEE, Nakivale Refugee Settlement, Uganda, founded 2016
SINA Loketa – Uganda, Bidibidi Refugee Settlement, founded 2018
Lazima Innovation Hub – Uganda, slum area in Kampala, founded 2019 (rebranded 2024)
Arise Youth Foundation – Uganda, Kyaka II Refugee Settlement, founded 2020
Transformation Innovation Hub – Zimbabwe, Tongogara Refugee Camp, founded 2020
Social Entrepreneurship Academy (SENTA) – Bukavu, DRC, founded 2021
Congo Innovation Academy (CINA) – Kinshasa, DRC, founded 2021
Youth Innovation Hub (YINNOH) – Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement, Uganda, founded 2022
Global Innovation Valley (GIV) – Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya, founded 2022
Njombe Innovation Academy – Njombe, Tanzania, founded 2023
Ubunifu Foundation – Zanzibar, Tanzania, founded 2023
Morabeza Academy – Sal, Cape Verde, founded 2023
Tunaweza Innovation Hub - Bombo, Uganda, founded 2024
Kamuli Innovation Academy - Kamuli, Uganda, founded 2024
Kiira Innovation Academy - Nyenga, Uganda, founded 2024
Patapia Community Group – slum area in Kampala, Uganda, founded 2024
Cosmo Foundation – slum area in Kampala, Uganda, founded 2024
Hope Innovation Academy – Kathmandu, Nepal, founded 2025
DIKKO Social Innovation Academy – Katsina, Nigeria, founded 2025
Twero Innovation Academy – Palabek Refugee Settlement, Uganda, founded 2025
Ikaze Innovation Academy – Gashora, Rwanda, founded 2025
Kiroto Innovation Academy – Mityana, Uganda, founded 2025

SINA Global:

Uganda: "SINA (Social Innovation Academy)", registered in 2018
Germany: "SINA (Social Innovation Academy) gGmbH", registered in 2019
SINA was started in 2014 under, and is still supported by "Jangu e.V.", founded 2009