

JIM LEECH MASTERCARD FOUNDATION
FELLOWSHIP ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Dunin-Deshpande
Queen's INNOVATION CENTRE



mastercard
foundation

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Welcome to the Jim Leech Mastercard Foundation Fellowship on Entrepreneurship program! We believe that fellows have the capacity to solve pressing problems and bring entrepreneurial ideas to life. Throughout the 3 phases of the program, students demonstrate their willingness to learn, take risks, and commit themselves fully to the entrepreneurial journey.

We aim to create a growing movement of inspirational entrepreneurs who are impactful on their peers and communities in a manner that can catalyze market and industry innovations.



I. INTRODUCTION

OUR TEAM

DUNIN-DESHPANDE QUEEN'S INNOVATION CENTRE (DDQIC)

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OUR TEAM

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We strive to engage as many program alumni as possible during each program year. The alumni Mentors, Program Coaches and Ambassadors have been invaluable additions to our team.

OUR VALUES

Every day, we work to encourage individuals across Africa to develop and foster their entrepreneurial mindset. We have a greater impact on society when we tackle problems from diverse perspectives.

FOSTER GLOBAL
MINDSETS

SHAPE DIVERSE
TEAMS

CULTIVATE
CURIOSITY

INVEST IN PEOPLE &
PROBLEMS

CHAMPION SELF-
SUFFICIENCY

MAKE
ENTREPRENEURSHIP
ACCESSIBLE

BADGES & CERTIFICATES

Students who completed each phase of the program received a badge to recognize their progress throughout the Jim Leech Mastercard Foundation Fellowship Program. Students can receive three badges in total: Explore Entrepreneurship, Ignite Entrepreneurship, and Launch Entrepreneurship. Students received three certificates in total: Introduction to Design Thinking, High-Performance Teams, and the Jim Leech Mastercard Foundation Fellowship on Entrepreneurship Certificate of Completion at the end of all three phases of the program.

Badges and certificates are available online so that students can retrieve them anywhere, at any time, and easily share the details of their achievements. The certificates and badges have a unique ID that will be kept as a permanent record using Blockchain technology.



EXPLORE
ENTREPRENEURSHIP



IGNITE
ENTREPRENEURSHIP



LAUNCH
ENTREPRENEURSHIP



EXPANDING OUR PARTNERSHIPS



Expanding Our Partnerships

At the heart of our institution lies a deep dedication for thriving entrepreneurship ecosystems. In line with our unwavering commitment to fostering economic growth and innovation across Africa, we have undertaken a strategic initiative to enhance and expand our program support for entrepreneurs.

To achieve this ambitious goal, we have embarked on a journey to collaborate with a diverse array of partners who not only resonate with our mission and values but also align with our overarching objectives. These esteemed partners, who share our passion for empowering entrepreneurs, will be a great addition to our already existing partners in playing a pivotal role in realizing our vision of a vibrant and prosperous entrepreneurial landscape across the continent of Africa. Through these strategic partnerships, we envision several impactful outcomes.

Impactful Outcomes

1

Train-the-Trainer Initiatives

Our goal is to create a sustainable impact by training individuals to become effective trainers, enabling them to empower more entrepreneurs in their communities.

2

Training Programs & Workshops

Providing aspiring and existing entrepreneurs with valuable insights, practical skills, and guidance to navigate the complexities of business ownership.

3

Mentorship Networks

Connecting seasoned entrepreneurs and business leaders with budding talent to provide guidance, support and opportunities.



Existing Partnerships

Ghana

- Ejobs4All Project with Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI) Ghana

Nigeria

- EGO Foundation
- Wotaboy Nigeria
- UNESCO's Innovation to Transform Education Training

Kenya

- Kenya School of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (KSTVET)
- Strathmore University
- University of Nairobi

Botswana

- Ministry of Entrepreneurship, Government of the Republic of Botswana
- University of Botswana
- Orange Digital Centre
- Botho University



Forbes Under 30 Summit Africa

Trip Overview

DDQIC was invited by the Ministry of Entrepreneurship in Botswana to attend this year's Forbes 30 Under 30 Africa Summit in Gaborone, Botswana. The four-day Summit brought together Africa's most elite young entrepreneurs and change-makers. Attendees included representatives from the government, venture capitalists, and business role models to inspire the next generation of business leaders in Africa.

The Summit served as an opportunity to foster institutional partnerships, share the impact of the program.

Key Activities

- Conducting in-person pitch practice with Fellows in Gaborone.
- Meeting with representatives from several institutions across Africa. These new relationships and partnership opportunities will help us expand our networking to build supportive ecosystems for young Entrepreneurs on the continent.
- Sitting down on the Radio Botswana 2 (RB2) morning show, the largest radio in Botswana, to share more about the Jim Leech Mastercard Foundation Fellowship.



THE EJOBS4ALL SUMMIT

EJobs4All is a spin-off program of Jim Leech Mastercard Foundation Fellowship that provides DDQIC's online entrepreneurship training to 1000 Ghanaian youth per year along with mentorship from experts through Leadogo Incorporated. This project is led by Kingsley Pinkrah (Jim Leech Mastercard Foundation Fellowship 2021 alumnus), Founder and CEO of Community and Entrepreneurial Development Initiative (CEDI) Ghana, in partnership with the University of Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), and JACCD Design Institute Africa.

The Summit

Members of the DDQIC team were pleased to attend the inaugural EJobs4All Summit in Accra, Ghana, for a week of learning and collaboration.

The DDQIC team led a train-the-trainer session for staff, professors

and other leaders delivering innovation programs at their own institutions. They also delivered a Design Thinking workshop for the young entrepreneurs and judged the EJobs4All final pitch competition, awarding 5 teams with seed funding to support their venture development.

75 entrepreneurs received their certificate for graduating from the inaugural EJobs4All program.

The DDQIC team did an interview with Metro TV Ghana, watch [here](#).

The summit brought together distinguished individuals, including foreign diplomats, government officials, policymakers, scholars, investors, CEOs, media outlets, and entrepreneurs to discuss and explore opportunities for fostering entrepreneurship, job creation, and women's empowerment in Ghana.



Jim Leech Mastercard Foundation Fellowship Places 1st in People's Choice Award and 2nd in Global Community Engagement Initiative of the Year Award!

DDQIC was awarded 1st place in the "People's Choice Award" and 2nd place in the "Global Community Engagement Initiative", at this year's Triple E Awards. The "Community Engagement Initiative of the Year" category recognizes initiatives that address a difficult problem and have been scaled to make a far-reaching impact. In only 3 years, the Jim Leech Mastercard Foundation Fellowship has tackled underemployment in Africa by training over 5,000 students across 49 countries in entrepreneurial skills and awarding over \$160,000 CAD to African founders and their ventures. The award recognizes the exceptional results of the program to launch ventures and create jobs in Africa!



"The Triple E Awards are a global recognition of efforts towards the quest for entrepreneurship and engagement in higher education. It is the first award to focus specifically on different dimensions of the universities' third mission. The Triple E Awards aim to foster change in universities and to emphasize their role in their communities and ecosystems."

- Triple E Awards Excerpt
(www.triple-e-awards.com)



PROGRAM UPDATES & CHANGES

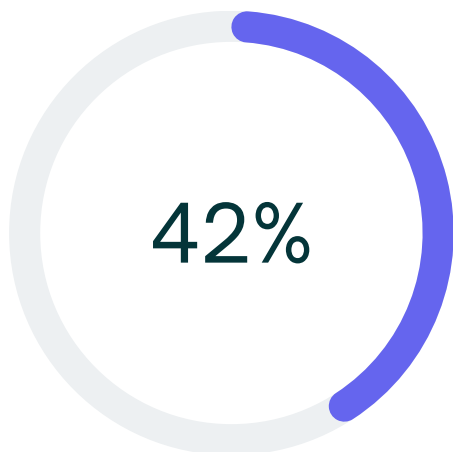
Empowering Female Entrepreneurs

We implemented a multifaceted approach rooted in extensive research to foster greater female representation within our program and ensure their success. We conducted interviews with program alumni to gain valuable insights, introduced female mentors and alumni into the program to provide guidance and inspiration, and facilitated connections between female founders and female program coaches.

These strategies aim to empower and support women on their entrepreneurial journey, ultimately fostering a more inclusive and thriving ecosystem for all participants.



MARIE JAMBAWAI |
FELLOWSHIP MENTOR



Women

We will continue to strategize different ways we can continue to empower and support female entrepreneurs.

We accepted 82 Fellows into the program, exceeding the 15 Fellow target set out at the beginning of the program.

Going Beyond Mastercard Foundation Partner Universities

Due to the strong interest from students across a variety of universities, we recognized an opportunity to impact more students beyond the Mastercard Foundation partner universities.

DDQIC self-funded the additional non-Mastercard Foundation Fellows recognizing the potential to expand the strong impact of this program.

**STUDENTS ARE FROM OVER 300
DIFFERENT UNIVERSITIES
ACROSS 49 COUNTRIES IN
AFRICA**



57% of Launch Entrepreneurship Fellows are from non-Mastercard Foundation partner universities.



Program Growth & Sustainability

The demand for the program continues to grow each year, however, in order to ensure the program remains sustainable, we are unable to continue expanding it.

For the 2023-2024 year, we will be scaling down to the initial program format of 60 Fellows, which already exceeded the target of 15 Fellows. DDQIC's *Scaling Entrepreneurship Education in Africa* initiatives, which includes the Jim Leech Mastercard Foundation Fellowship, has been selected as an institutional fundraising priority for Queen's University, which will invite dedicated support from the Queen's Advancement team to secure donor gifts and philanthropic support. The DDQIC will continue to seek funding and partnerships to run the program at existing or higher capacity and ensure the needs of the next generation of African entrepreneurs are met.



Growing Our Team

Program Coaches from the 2021 and 2022 Jim Leech Mastercard Foundation Fellowship Program



Duncan Asamoah
Program Coach



Rejoice Van der Walt
Program Coach



Avenvuka Pascale
Program Coach



Naturinda Emma
Program Coach

We are delighted to share that we have welcomed four alumni from the 2021 and 2022 *Jim Leech Mastercard Foundation Fellowship on Entrepreneurship* into our team as Program Coaches for the 2023 program. Duncan Asamoah, Rejoice Van der Walt, Avenvuka Pascale, and Naturinda Emma excelled in the previous program cohorts and will also be continuing with our team into the 2024 fellowship year.

We aim to engage as many program alumni as possible in future iterations of the *Jim Leech Mastercard Foundation Fellowship on Entrepreneurship* program. Both the Mentors and Program Coaches have been invaluable additions to our team.

Duncan's Journey: From Aspiring Founder to Mentor

Duncan Asamoah, Founder and CEO of Mr. Neat, 2021 Jim Leech Mastercard Foundation Fellowship Alumnus

Duncan Asamoah, a biochemistry graduate from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana, envisioned a sustainable business during his time at the Jim Leech Mastercard Foundation Fellowship. Under the guidance of his Program Coach and through training videos, he launched "Mr. Neat" with the \$ 500 CAD Fellowship stipend. Duncan created car shampoo that he sold during traffic jams, and he experienced rapid growth in both production and sales.

Mr. Neat expanded to employ three salespeople, introduced new products, and the inception of a mobile car detailing service. In June 2022, the



company purchased land for taro crop farming, using waste from their cleaning products for organic fertilizer and trading plastic packaging with recycling companies—a unique operational model coined the "NEAT CYCLE."

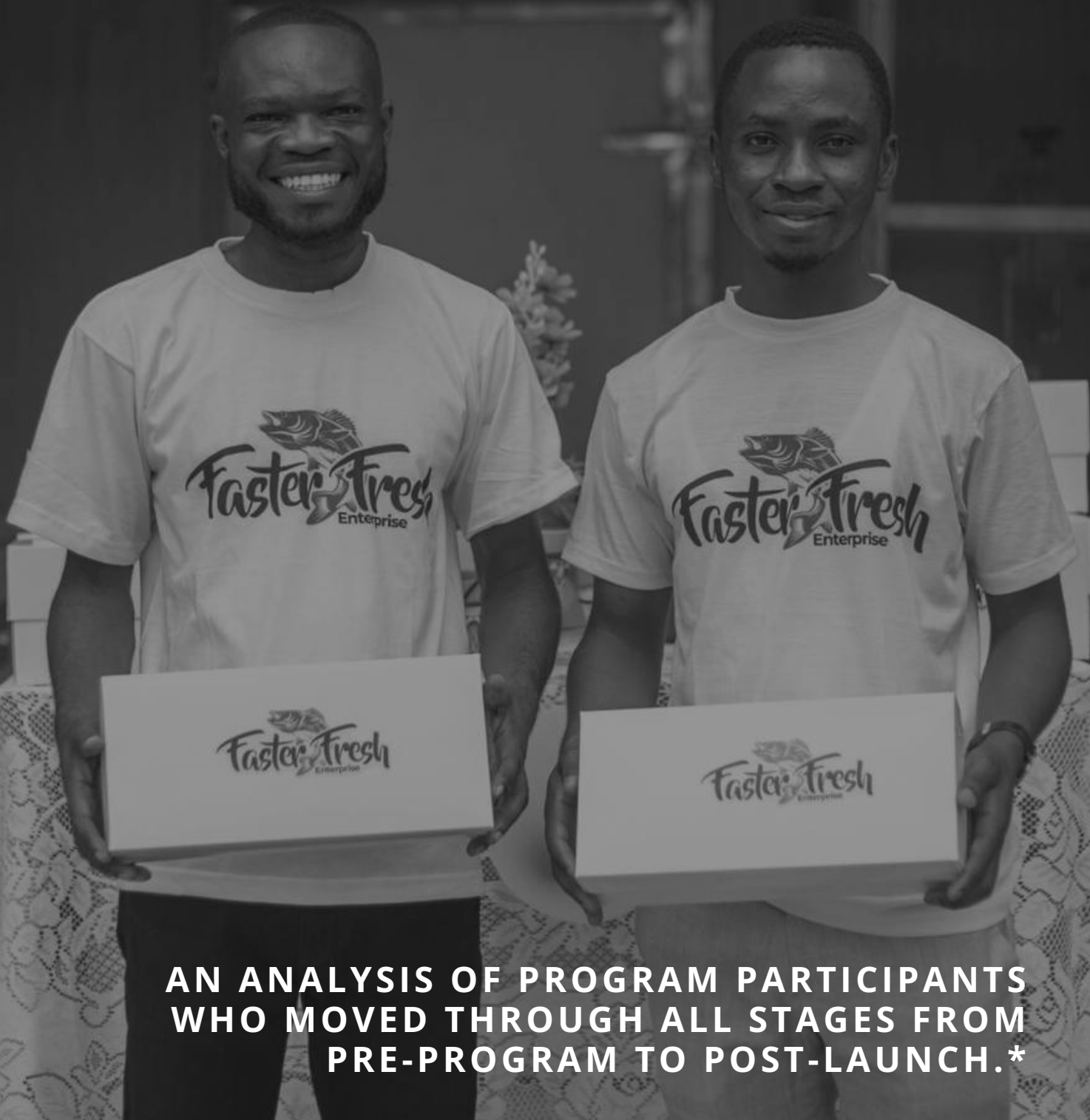
Duncan's remarkable journey also led him to become a Jim Leech Mastercard Foundation Fellowship Mentor, Program Coach, and the first person in Ghana National Service history to complete his service year at his own venture.

Student Testimonial

"Throughout my 8-month fellowship, Duncan has consistently demonstrated an extraordinary and trailblazing spirit. His dedication to fostering innovation and nurturing the entrepreneurial mindset shines through in every interaction... Duncan's mentorship has been transformative for me and countless others, shaping not only our fellowship experiences but also providing a strong foundation for our future endeavors. In a world where true visionaries are rare, Duncan stands out as an inspiring beacon and a catalyst for change. I'm profoundly grateful for the privilege of learning from him, and I can confidently say that he embodies the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship that DDQIC champions."

— Muhammad Bintube
Founder of Nutriguard, a venture that aims to combat malnutrition in Northeastern Nigeria

IV. IMPACT EVALUATION



**AN ANALYSIS OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS
WHO MOVED THROUGH ALL STAGES FROM
PRE-PROGRAM TO POST-LAUNCH.***

**It is important to note that while it is possible to draw insights based on the data presented, conclusions on causation cannot be made definitively, as these are not experimental designs*

INTRODUCTION

This evaluation assesses the impact that can be attributed to the Jim Leech Mastercard Foundation program for changes among participants, both intended and unintended. The analysis included 55 participants who completed all 4 of the impact evaluation surveys sent out after completing each stage of the program: pre-program, post-explore, post-ignite and post-launch.

SHARED MEASURES

The impact evaluation has been mapped out using the Shared Measures created by the Mastercard Foundation in addition to key metrics collected routinely by DDQIC to assess program impacts. It showcases how the Jim Leech Mastercard Foundation Fellowship program complements the Shared Measures used by the Mastercard Foundation in its impact measurement and evaluation.

LEVEL 1: SKILL-BUILDING

- Training
 - Over 1,100 learners participated in training opportunities
 - 124 learners received Explore Entrepreneurship badges, indicating their successful completion of all training opportunities
 - 319 received Design Thinking Badges
 - 193 received High-Performance Teams Badges
 - All participants either agree, or strongly agree that they have the *skills and experience needed to make a difference in their communities, and 85% agree or strongly agree that they have the skills to lead diverse teams.*
- 98% of respondents post-Launch indicated that they either agree or strongly agree that the program helped them develop a community of support and better ability to recover quickly from difficulties.

LEVEL 1: SKILL-BUILDING

- **Formal Education**
 - There was a 21% relative increase from pre-program (62%) to post-launch (75%) of participants strongly agreeing with the following statement: “I believe formal education is useful and relevant experience for my future”.
 - There was a 45% relative increase from pre-program (53%) to post-launch (76%) of participants strongly agreeing with the following statement: “Considering my education and experience so far, I feel well prepared for my next professional steps”.

LEVEL 1: ENTERPRISE SUPPORT

- **Program Coaches**
 - All Fellows had access to a team of 10 Program Coaches in the Explore, Ignite, and Launch phases, who supported them throughout the program!
- **Global Network**
 - 25 Global Network judges attended the pitch competition semifinals, hailing from innovation hubs in Toronto, London, and Hong Kong.
 - All teams were judged by 3 Global Network mentors and received written and live feedback and 9 Global Network mentors and alumni attended the Practice Pitch Day
- All 8 finalist teams had a 30-minute private coaching session on Pitching Excellence before the Final Pitch Competition

LEVEL 1: EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

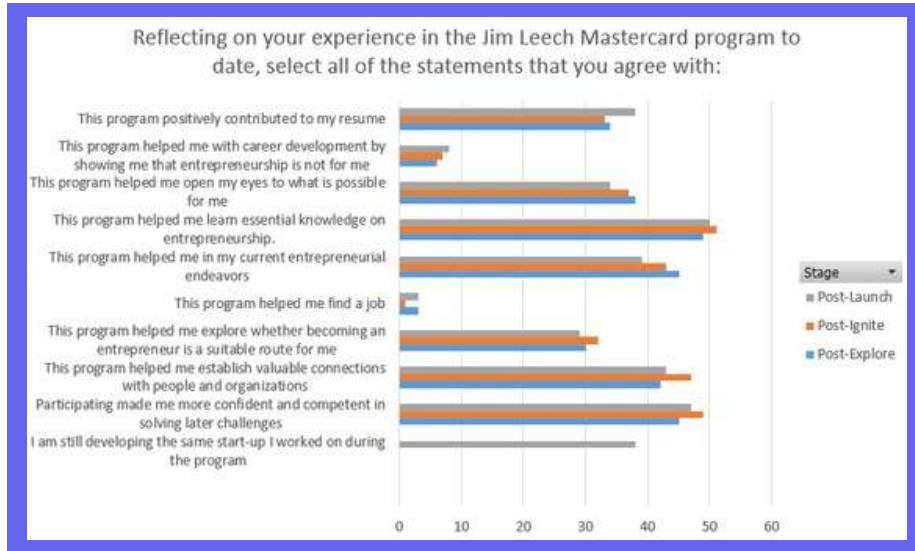
- The goal of the program is to create entrepreneurs, therefore we do not have data on employment services
- DDQIC collects and provide data from entrepreneurs in the program about employment opportunities created by Fellows from the program (shown in level 4)

LEVEL 1: KNOWLEDGE & INFLUENCE

- Innovative Research & Knowledge Platforms
 - The 15 Modules throughout the Explore and Ignite Entrepreneurship courses cover a variety of areas including Intellectual Property, Research, Innovation, pivoting in the process of creating a business, Market research, and Research & Development

LEVEL 2: CHANGES IN CAPACITIES

- 100% of respondents post-launch thought the program was "very" or "extremely" helpful in helping them further their venture
- 89% of responses post-launch indicated that participants either agree, or strongly agree that their experience in the program helped improve their entrepreneurial attitudes/mindset in various ways:
 - More confident in professional scenarios - 95%
 - More confident in their support network- 96%
 - More confident they can build a venture from the ground up - 98%
 - More prepared for next professional steps - 98%
 - Feel they can make an impact or improve the world in some way - 98%
 - More comfortable assessing and taking risks - 98%
 - Feel they have the skills needed to lead a diverse team - 98%
 - Feel they have the experience and tools needed to manage team conflict - 93%
 - More interested in working with a team of co-founders, indicating a preference to working with a team versus working alone - 85%



LEVEL 3: SYSTEMS IN SECTORS / PORTFOLIOS

- Changes in collaboration & coordination
 - 91% of participants post-launch stated that they somewhat agree (5%), agree (20%), or strongly agree (66%) with the statement "I would prefer to launch my venture with a team of co-founders"

LEVEL 4: OUTCOMES

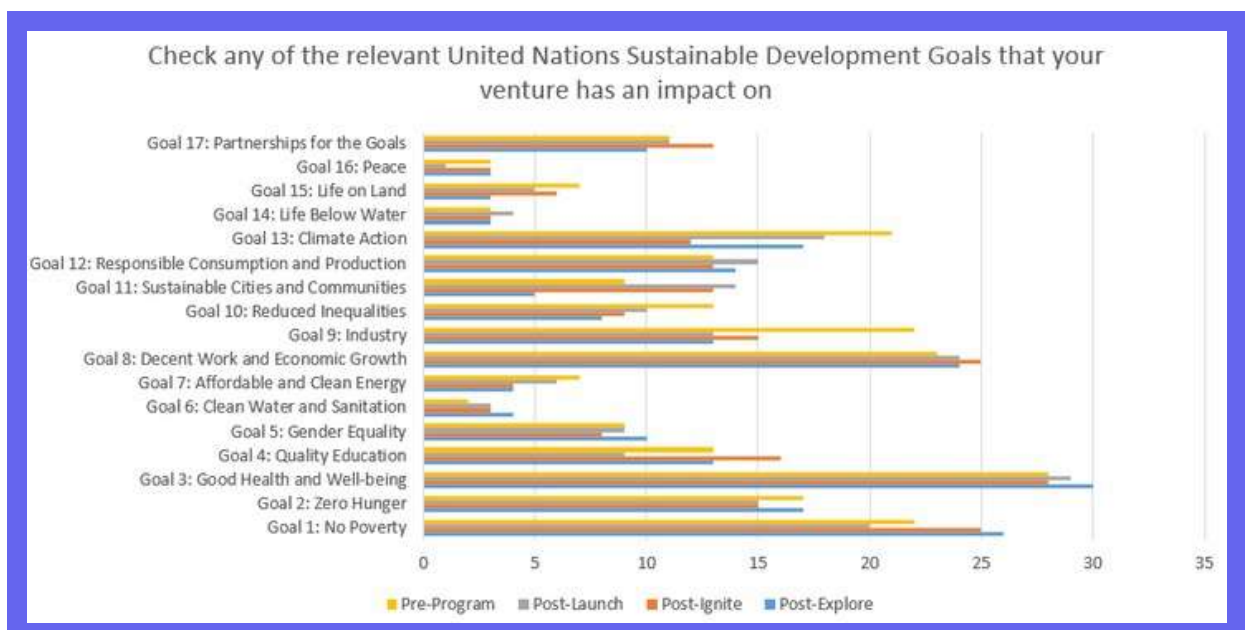
- Self-Employment
 - 84% of the participants indicated that their venture has hired at least 1 youth since January (6% increase from last year)
 - 266 people hired by 47 ventures since January, 253 of them being youth
 - 58% of respondents indicated they "strongly agree" and 29% indicated "agree" that they feel more prepared to create work opportunities for themselves compared to when they first entered the program
- Enterprise Growth
 - There was a 144% relative increase in respondents indicating increase in their revenues from pre-program to post-launch
 - There was a 214% relative increase in respondents indicating they have paying users/customers from pre-program to post-launch
 - There was an increase self-employment (18%) and a decrease in unemployment (33%) from pre-program to post-launch

LEVEL 5: IMPACT

- Resilience
 - All respondents post-launch indicated they either somewhat agree, agree, or strongly agree that the program helped them develop a community of support and better ability to recover quickly from difficulties
- Quality of Life
 - Through an evaluation of subjective well-being, some evidence that program participants felt more satisfied with life, that things they do are more worthwhile, and were overall happier as they advanced through the program

MISSION ORIENTATION

- There was a 9% increase in awareness of SDGs from post-explore (91%) to post-launch (98%)
- The most common SDGs ventures believe they are addressing are: Goal 1: No Poverty, Goal 3: Good Health & Wellbeing & Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, as seen in the graph below

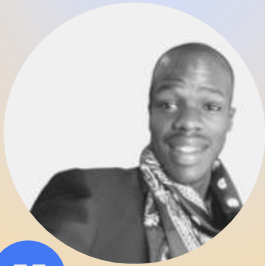




V. FINAL PITCH COMPETITION WINNERS TESTIMONIALS

A review of key takeaways and outcomes of the award winners. A total of \$25,000 CAD in seed funding was awarded at this year's pitch competition.

\$6,000 PRIZE WINNER



Oliver Omondi

Founder of Zuripack
Strathmore University, Kenya



"The Jim Leech Mastercard Foundation Fellowship Program has had a profound impact on me, both personally and professionally. Throughout the program, I have grown significantly in terms of my skills, knowledge, and mindset. Gaining a deeper understanding of key concepts, strategies, and frameworks related to venture development has empowered me to make informed decisions and develop well-rounded perspectives. I have also improved my critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, negotiation, and leadership abilities, which have been valuable in my current venture."

\$5,000 PRIZE WINNER



Milbert Nabatanzi Mbalire

Founder of Organo
Makerere University, Uganda



The Jim Leech Mastercard Program has enabled me to develop an entrepreneurial and resilient mindset, including creativity, adaptability, and problem-solving skills. This growth has been facilitated through interactions with various coaches and my fellow participants. The program has provided valuable networking opportunities and collaboration experiences during different workshops. Additionally, it has empowered me to transform an idea into a viable venture, guiding me through various phases. I am now confident in my ability to assist my fellow participants in achieving the same.

\$4,000 PRIZE WINNER



Arnold Kabare

Founder of Rim-Nextgen
Jomo Kenyatta University, Kenya



“Throughout the program, I've transformed and gained clarity on launching my product by attracting investors and testing my business model. The program's support, including mentorship, webinars, and resources, has been more impactful than pursuing an MBA. I now confidently believe I'm building an African decacorn that will positively impact millions.”

\$3,000 PRIZE WINNER



Maryam Atolagbe

Founder of Machoice
University of Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria



“Participating in the [program] has significantly transformed my approach to engaging with investors. Through this program, I gained a structured method for crafting compelling pitches and effectively communicating the problem statement. My coaches, Mr. Enoch and Mr. Duncan, enhanced my financial understanding, enabling me to confidently discuss fixed costs, conduct breakeven analyses, and determine the path to profitability...My affiliation with Queen's University in Canada has filled me with pride as a Nigerian. The exposure and opportunities provided by the fellowship have greatly improved my design thinking and team management skills. Overall, this program has had a profoundly positive impact on my personal and professional development.”

\$3,000 PRIZE WINNER



Augustine Kojo Wiredu

Founder of Faster Fresh
University Of Cape Coast, Ghana



“The program has profoundly moulded me, instilling a problem-solving ethos that transcends mere commercial pursuits. The Jim Leech Mastercard Foundation program stands as a heartfelt initiative dedicated to empowering the vibrant youth of Africa to tackle the continent's myriad challenges, ultimately contributing to the betterment of Africa and the world at large. Within the framework of this program, we have successfully established physical facilities and introduced our product, which has garnered significant patronage from our valued customers.”

\$1,000 PRIZE WINNER



Rawlings Grace Ogenyi

Founder of Gro-gel
Makerere University, Uganda



“Being part of this fellowship has been a turning point in both my entrepreneurial and personal life. I've been inspired by fellow young entrepreneurs passionate about transforming their communities, which motivates me to persist despite setbacks. The mentorship from coaches and industry experts has driven significant progress in my venture. Their advice is invaluable as they understand the entrepreneurial journey firsthand. This fellowship reaffirms the validity of our dreams and the support available from organizations and individuals willing to champion great ideas. Stepping out of our comfort zones is where genuine growth happens.”

\$1,000 PRIZE WINNER



Emmanuel Sikavi

Founder of Farmsurance
University of Professional Studies, Ghana



“The Jim Leech MasterCard Fellowship program has had a profound impact on my entrepreneurial journey. Through the program, I have gained valuable knowledge, skills, and insights that have transformed both my mindset and approach to building a startup. I have become more adaptable, resilient, and open to embracing innovative solutions.”

\$1,000 PRIZE WINNER



Grace Nduta

Founder of Care Link Daycare Services
University of Nairobi, Kenya



“The Jim Leech Mastercard Foundation Fellowship has been a transformative journey for both me and my venture. This prestigious fellowship allowed me to turn my vision of revolutionizing childcare services in Kenya into a thriving reality. The fellowship provided invaluable opportunities, coaching, and mentorship, helping me validate my concept and conduct essential market research. Through phases of Explore, Ignite, and Launch, I connected with a supportive community of like-minded fellows, enhancing my networking, pitching, and leadership skills.”

\$1,000 PRIZE WINNER



Sharon Natukunda

Safe Harbor Babies Home

Makerere University, Uganda



“Going through this program has boosted my confidence and boldness as a woman entrepreneur. Having attended the online training and the different recorded sessions has equipped me with knowledge in business management that I feel I have acquired a master's degree in business management. With this knowledge, I feel confident to go on to the next steps in my venture.”

VI. Founder Spotlights

Showcasing some of the founders in this year's Jim Leech Mastercard Foundation Fellowship on Entrepreneurship.



HELLEN BIRUNGI |
FOUNDER OF HEB'S ORGANIC

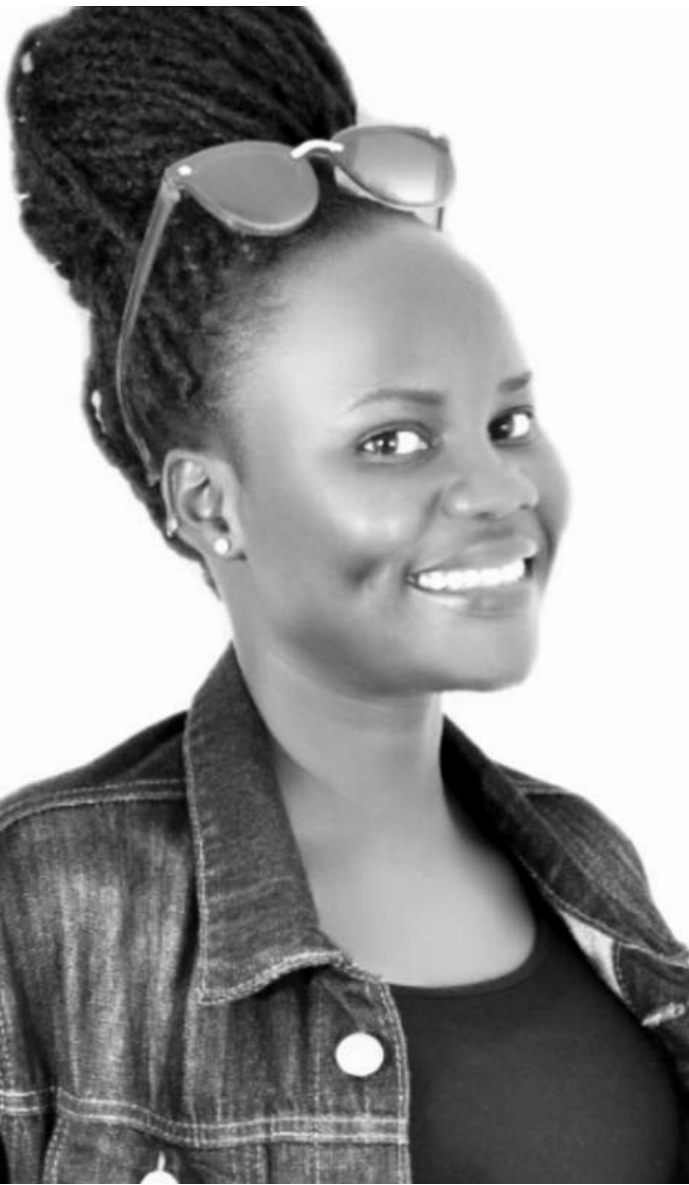
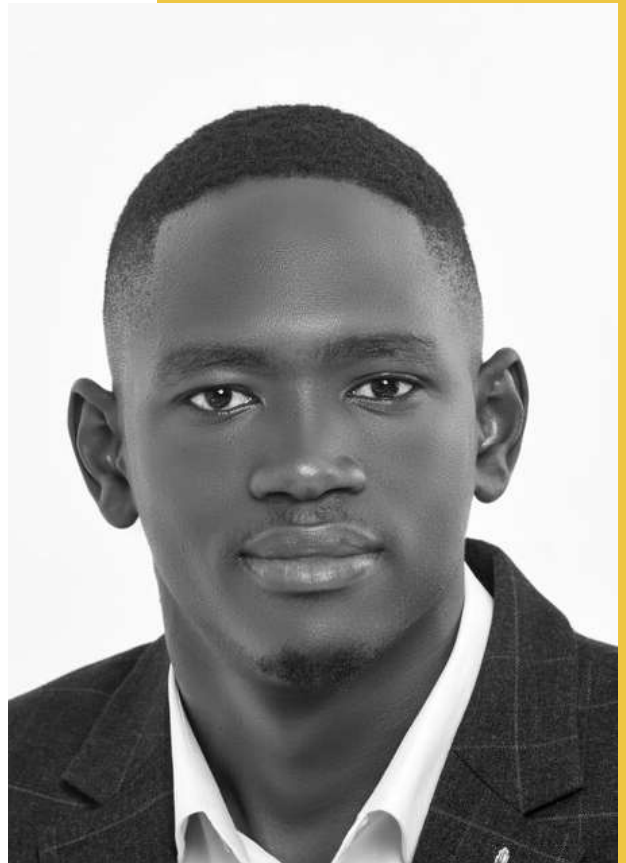
ISAAC DIKAN

FOUNDER OF EUGENE
PROCESSORS LTD

Eugene Processors Ltd is an agritech company that aims to enable rural smallholder farmers to grow and sell more. This will be achieved through a cloud-based mobile and web platform that allows rural smallholder farmer groups to order and access subsidized high-quality inputs, new farm knowledge and digitally high-value market in the comfort of their farms.

Eugene Processors LTD is currently testing the features of their first mobile app and web platform prototype

[Click here to learn more!](#)



JUDITH ONZIA

FOUNDER AND CEO OF AFRI
SHOE UGANDA LTD

Afrishoe is embarking on a transformative mission to revolutionize the footwear experience for individuals living with disabilities in Northern Uganda. Their goal is to provide accessible, durable, and customized footwear solutions that cater specifically to the unique needs of this community. Through extensive research, collaboration with local disability organizations, and engagement with their target audience, they have identified the pressing need for affordable and long-lasting shoes tailored to individual requirements. These shoes not only enhance comfort but also improve mobility and overall quality of life for people with disabilities in the region.

[Click here to learn more!](#)

AYEBARE JAVILLA

FOUNDER OF DIGITAIZA

Digitiza, through both on and off-system engagements, offers foundational digital skills and resources by identifying and assessing the digital challenges faced by rural youth. This has significantly increased digital receptiveness among the target audience. Digitiza further provides tailored solutions for each youth or group of rural youth, along with inclusive and continuous technical support. This is expected to empower rural youths, enabling them to create more opportunities and actively participate in economic growth.

[Click here to learn more!](#)



FLORENCE AWOUR

FOUNDER OF MUKULU KICKS
TALENTS LTD

Mukuru Talent Share Co. Ltd empowers youths and children vulnerable to psychoactive substance use, Gender-Based Violence, and school dropouts through Rehabilitation, Counselling, Sports, education, and ball-making skills.

Mukuru has developed an MVP that has so far been well-received by the market. They plan to expand their business and set up branches in the counties of Kisumu and Trans Nzoia.

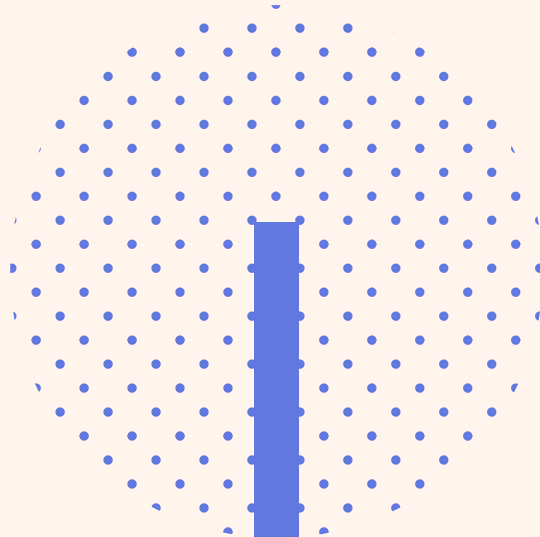
Florence has also won the Anzisha Prize.

[Click here to learn more!](#)



VII. STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

2023 COHORT



STUDENT TESTIMONIAL:



Rahatu Eliasu

Founder of Carrier Clone Initiative
Central University, Ghana



"The Jim Leech Mastercard Foundation Fellowship program has strengthened my interest in entrepreneurship and it has nurtured me to be resilient in what I believe I can do. Through this program, I've developed more confidence in my potential as an entrepreneur and it has made me overcome most of the fears I had in the entrepreneurship journey. Now I believe I can push through anything I put my mind to thanks to the Jim Leech Mastercard Foundation Fellowship program."



Luyombo Abbas

Founder of Matuga Poultry Farm
Makerere University, Uganda



"The program has positively affected me through the acquisition of more entrepreneurial skills on top of giving me the ability to reorganize my business while being intentional hence breathing new life into my poultry venture.

The most helpful aspect of the program has been the consistent support from the program coaches. Great thanks go to coaches Emma, Bruna, and Megan who have ably supported me in the accessibility of the program materials making the training more inclusive. While more needs to be done on inclusion and accessibility, the support has been outstanding."

STUDENT TESTIMONIAL:



Charlotte Ajiko

Founder of Enhancing Innovations in Agriculture

Makerere University Business School, Uganda



"I can proudly say that I have achieved several milestones and accomplishments during the program. I can successfully launch a sustainable social venture that addresses a pressing issue in my community. This would not have been possible without the knowledge, guidance, and support I have received through the program. Additionally, I have had the privilege of networking with industry experts, successful entrepreneurs, and fellow program participants. These connections have expanded my professional network and opened doors to new opportunities and collaborations.

I am grateful for the opportunities provided by the program and confident that the experiences and knowledge gained will continue to shape my entrepreneurial path for years to come."



Baluku Hannington Gift

Founder of Treatinet

Kampala International University, Uganda



"The in-person session by Prof. Hugh Cameroon at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, in April this year was very insightful. This session focused on 'how to build sustainable businesses in Africa,' enabling the Treatinet team to filter ideas, identify pain points and our ideal customer profile, and begin development of a minimum viable product."



VIII. WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Reflecting on the accomplishments of
our program alumni.



Matini Jennipher

Founder of Women Income Network

Women Income Network is a social enterprise located in Luwero, Uganda, empowering rural women through climate-smart agricultural technologies.

Since graduating in 2023, Matini, through her venture, has fostered valuable partnerships with esteemed organizations such as Resolution Project, Echoing Green, Open Data Institute/Microsoft, Bugema University, and Busiika Town Council. These collaborations have further enriched her cause, allowing for knowledge exchange, resource mobilization, and expanded opportunities. She also attended the African Union Climate Change Summit in Nairobi this year.



Marie Jambawa

Founder of SEDS

SEDS seeks to connect businesses and governments, addressing the crucial question of optimal locations for harnessing sustainable renewable energy to fuel their operations — specifically, solar energy. This endeavour aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13, which focuses on combating climate change. Con Since graduation, Marie has developed a design to perform geographical mapping of a given area. Leveraging comprehensive pattern analyses, her device then proposes the most suitable site for solar panel installation. This recommendation is facilitated through a user-friendly web-based software application that also guides the ideal solar panel choices for effectively attaining the required power output, aligning with the objectives of the respective business or country.



Naturinda Emma

Founder of Nugget Poultry Farm

Following the end of the Launch phase of the Jim Leech Mastercard Foundation Program 2023, Naturinda Emma registered his venture and went on to win the social venture challenge award from Resolution Project at the Baobab Summit in Kigali, Rwanda.

As of August 2023, Nugget Poultry Farm (NPF) has supported more than 50 smallholder farmers in rural communities of Sheema District, generating a revenue of close to \$ 8,000 through the sale of poultry feeds, day-old chicks and grants. NPF's mission is to support 1000 smallholder farmers in Uganda in the next 5 years to raise poultry more effectively and improve their livelihoods.



Josephine Bonka

Founder Alfajiri Innovations Ltd

Alfajiri Innovations Ltd exists to help businesses in Africa and beyond grow by providing solutions to their business problems while leveraging technology. This is achieved through providing quality high-tech services, such as web applications development, mobile application development, Business consultancy, and graphics design.

Alfajiri Innovations Ltd prides itself in providing timeless solutions to real-world business problems yet adaptive in technology. Josephine has created employment opportunities for 5 software developers who work with her.



Enoch Muwanguzi

Managing Director of Deploy Resources Africa

Enoch Muwanguzi, who has served as our program coach for the past two years, has continued to develop his venture, Deploy Resources Africa, with their product, Ugabrush, made from cowtail hair. Since graduating in 2021, Enoch has secured several grants, including \$30,000 from the HI-Innovator Challenge and \$80,000 from the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of Uganda. Enoch is also a 2023 Mandela Washington Fellow. His venture currently employs 22 young women.



Reitumetse Kholumo

Founder of Kwera Brews

Reitumetse Kholumo is working to ensure that indigenous knowledge systems and makers of homegrown alcohol (umqombothi) earn their rightful place in South Africa's formal economy.

In 2023, Kwera Brews began testing the market with products – going to Jazz in the Native Yards, a concert hosting South African musicians, primarily held in the Gugulethu township of Cape Town.

They have also now partnered with a local restaurant in Stellenbosch that sees traffic from international students and tourists, so they are widening their reach. Her works have been featured in Forbes Africa and she was the entrepreneur of the month in May 2023 from the Stellenbosch network.



IX. PROGRAM STRUCTURE: THE THREE PROGRAM PHASES

Course Kick-Off Webinar



Our team hosted a live kick-off session in the first week of the Explore Entrepreneurship phase to welcome students into this year's cohort.

During the course kick-off, we had approximately 700+ attendees engaged throughout the two-hour Zoom session.

The students heard from several program alumni about their key tips and takeaways from their time in the program.

Our team reviewed the program outline and Ignite Entrepreneurship admission requirements and held a one-hour-long Q&A.



EXPLORE ENTREPRENEURSHIP | KEY STATISTICS

2595

APPLICANTS

from countries across Africa from a variety of universities and programs.

1514

EXPLORE STUDENTS

accepted into Explore Entrepreneurship working on 1000+ ventures. This is a 50% growth from the 2023 cohort.

17%

INCREASE IN ACTIVE STUDENTS

diligently working through the content and participating in all of the sessions.

Student Distribution

University	Students
African Institute of Mathematical Sciences	11
African Leadership University	36
Ashesi University	5
Carnegie Mellon University	1
KNUST	81
Makerere University	205
United States International University	28
University of Abomey-Calavi	35
University of Cape Town	13
University of Gondar	20
University of Pretoria	54
Other	1025

Regional Representation

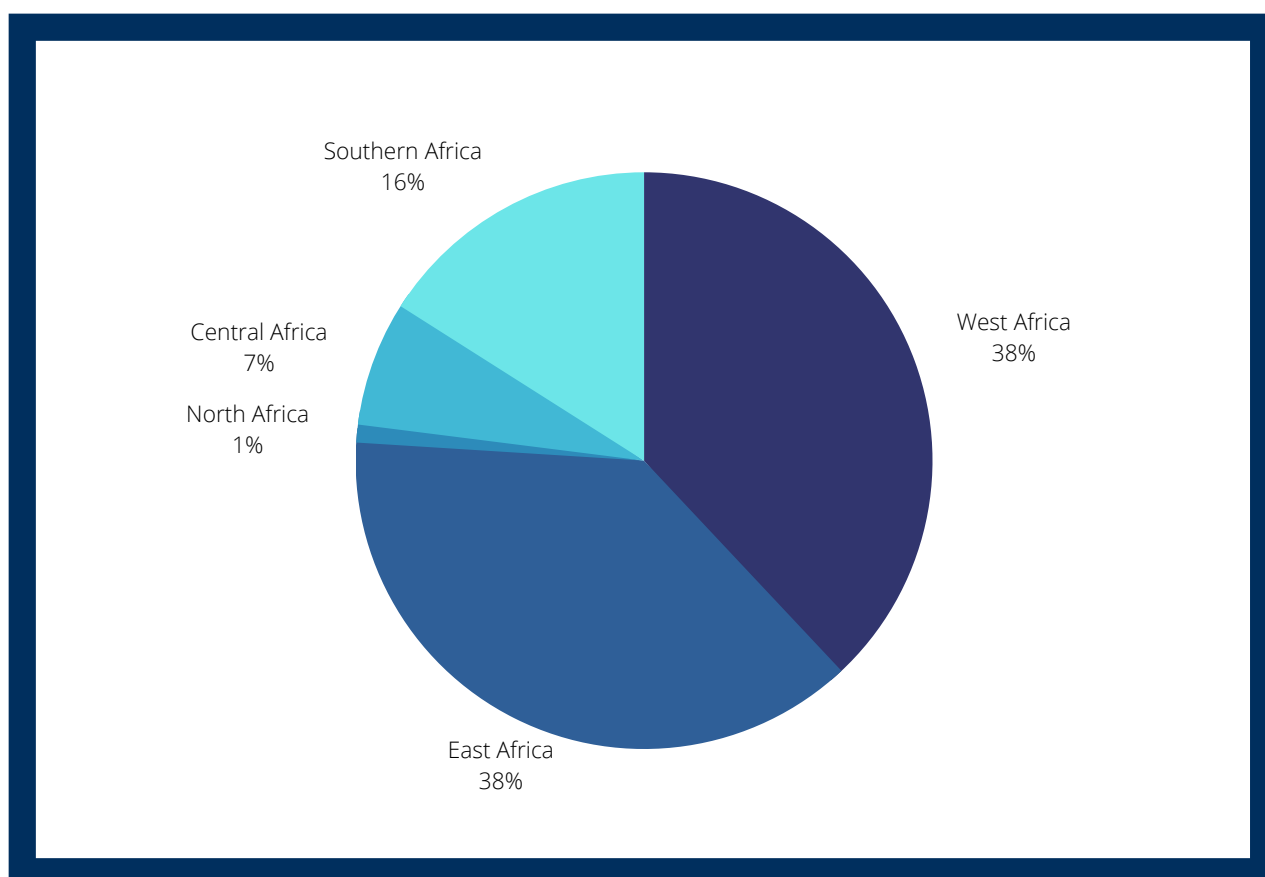


Figure 1 demonstrates the approximate regional representation of the total number of students in the Explore Entrepreneurship program. Each section represents one of the 5 subregions of Africa: Northern Africa, Central Africa, Southern Africa, East Africa, and Western Africa.

Please note that the regions are based on the UN Statistics Division's subdivision of the African continent.

PROGRAM PHASES & MILESTONES

RECRUITMENT

SEPT - NOV 2023

- Develop promotional material
- Run the promotional campaigns through Mastercard Scholars Program network of universities
- Arrange meetings with universities and develop a promotional strategy with each institution
- Connect African universities to DDQIC

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

SEPT 22 - JAN 23

- 3 phases of the program:
 - Explore Entrepreneurship
 - Ignite Entrepreneurship
 - Launch Entrepreneurship
- Build virtual asynchronous sessions & create an application portal and space for participants to interact
- Create and open applications
- Encourage women's participation

EXPLORE PHASE

JAN - MARCH 2023

1500+ exceptional candidates received access to a curated list of online entrepreneurship courses and worked through the first 11 steps of the Disciplined Entrepreneurship Workbook. Candidates had several months to demonstrate their commitment to the entrepreneurial process by completing the training and progressing on their ideas' respective milestones.

MILESTONES

JAN - MARCH 2023

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- Who is your end user?
- What can you do for them?

MILESTONES

- Make observations through interviews or some other means
- Clearly define and validate the problem you are solving by speaking to end-users
- Validate or invalidate key assumptions which are the basis of creating the solution you want to work on
- Ideate — generate solutions to the problem you are solving
- Create a journey map of your end users' experience using your solution
- Create a clear value proposition for your end-user and potential funders

ONLINE LECTURES

JAN - MARCH 2023

The Explore Entrepreneurship course consisted of 8-weeks of workshops and lectures led by professors, seasoned entrepreneurs and business experts. This part of the Jim Leech Mastercard Foundation Fellowship program equipped all students with the knowledge to launch a venture. Throughout this course, students completed the DDQICs foundational training on 8+ themes related to entrepreneurship.

**DISCIPLINED
ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

EXPLORE

At the same time that students completed the training, they were tasked with working through steps 1-11 of the Disciplined Entrepreneurship Framework using their own new business idea or solution as the basis of their work. By the end of the Explore course, students were able to provide validated answers to the following questions on their journey to becoming an entrepreneur:

1. Who is my customer?
2. What can I do for them?

**BUSINESS MODEL
CANVAS**

MARCH 2023

Students had to complete a one-page Business Model Canvas (BMC) or Social Business Model Canvas for their venture that further demonstrated the strength of their solution.

**DESIGN THINKING
COURSE**

MARCH 2023

Students completed the Design Thinking micro-credential to learn about the human-centred and collaborative approach to problem-solving that offers creative, iterative and practical solutions.

**HIGH PERFORMANCE
TEAMS COURSE**

MARCH 2023

Students completed the High Performance Teams micro-credential to learn the current landscape of evidenced team-building knowledge.

KEY ACTIVITIES

JAN - MARCH 2023

- **Pre-program baseline impact evaluation survey**
- **Supporting and monitoring students' commitment and progress**
- **Ongoing and chronological support from the Program Assistant and 10 Program Coaches**

**EXPLORE
EVALUATION**

JAN - MARCH 2023

- **Award badges to participants who have completed the design thinking experiment, Disciplined Entrepreneurship Workbook, OnQ Explore Entrepreneurship program, and submitted a passing grade Business Model Canvas**

Live Sessions

Our team hosted two live sessions throughout the Explore Entrepreneurship phase's first half. During both sessions, we saw high participation and interaction levels.

Explore Entrepreneurship Course Kick-Off January 13th, 2023

During the course kick-off, we had 700+ attendees engaged throughout the two-hour Zoom session. Our team reviewed the program outline and requirements for admission to Ignite Entrepreneurship, discussed the next steps, and held an hour-long Q&A.

Explore Entrepreneurship Update February 10th, 2023

During the Explore Entrepreneurship Update, with 200+ attendees, we reviewed the course requirements and deadlines, walked through course assessments, badges and certificates, and held a one-hour Q&A.

"The world is looking for game changers in all fields around the world, you can be that game changer and leave a lasting impact on our planet."

— Emma Naturinda



Explore Phase Highlights & Improvements

New Badges

We added two additional DDQIC courses that allow students to engage more with the principles of Design Thinking and High-Performance Teams. Upon successfully completing the courses, students can receive two micro-credentials.

Comprehensive Rubric

We created a more comprehensive rubric for the Business Model Canvas assignment to provide more thorough guidelines for admission to Ignite Entrepreneurship. Additionally, four mandatory worksheets were designed to assess if critical aspects of the course were learned. This further helps Program Coaches grade the assignments, allowing the most successful founders to proceed to the following stage.

Office Hours

We created weekly office hours to increase the face-to-face interactions between the students, Program Coaches, and Mentors. Students can attend over 26 office hour timeslots, with a total of over 35 hours of availability per week. The office hours are in place to get to know the students better, learn about their ideas and ventures and guide them through the course content.

Fostering Team Work

We have introduced additional measures to drive collaboration between the 1500+ students. For example, students were placed into networking groups based on venture themes and connected one-on-one if they were well suited for team formation.

Accessibility

To reduce barriers to learning, we have instilled several new ways to improve accessibility. Students with visual impairments received learning material in a format that was more easily accessible for their screen readers. All course materials are available to be downloaded as presentation slides and transcripts. Lastly, all francophone students are partnered with a bilingual Program Coach and assisted with document translations.

Baseline Survey

This year's program had a two-stage application process. After reviewing this year's 2000+ applications, all students who were invited to the Explore stage were required to complete the Pre-Program Evaluation Survey. This ensured that we had a strong baseline understanding of the students in the program and will be able to collect a more fulsome impact report at the end of the Launch phase.



GRACE NDUTA
| CARE LINK DAYCARE SERVICES

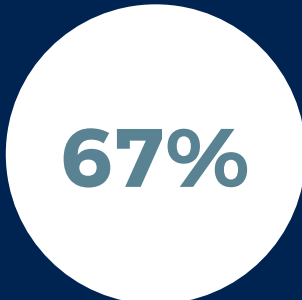
IGNITE ENTREPRENEURSHIP | KEY STATISTICS



216

STUDENTS

accepted into Ignite Entrepreneurship.



67%

WOMEN

We continue to ensure that we are promoting and building the skills of women in the program to build their entrepreneurial skillset.



20%

INCREASE IN ADMITTED STUDENTS
TO THE IGNITE PHASE
FROM 2023 TO 2023

Student Distribution

University	Students
African Institute of Mathematical Sciences	3
African Leadership University	10
Ashesi University	1
Carnegie Mellon University	1
KNUST	9
Makerere University	32
United States International University	6
University of Abomey-Calavi	2
University of Cape Town	2
University of Pretoria	8
Other	142

Regional Representation

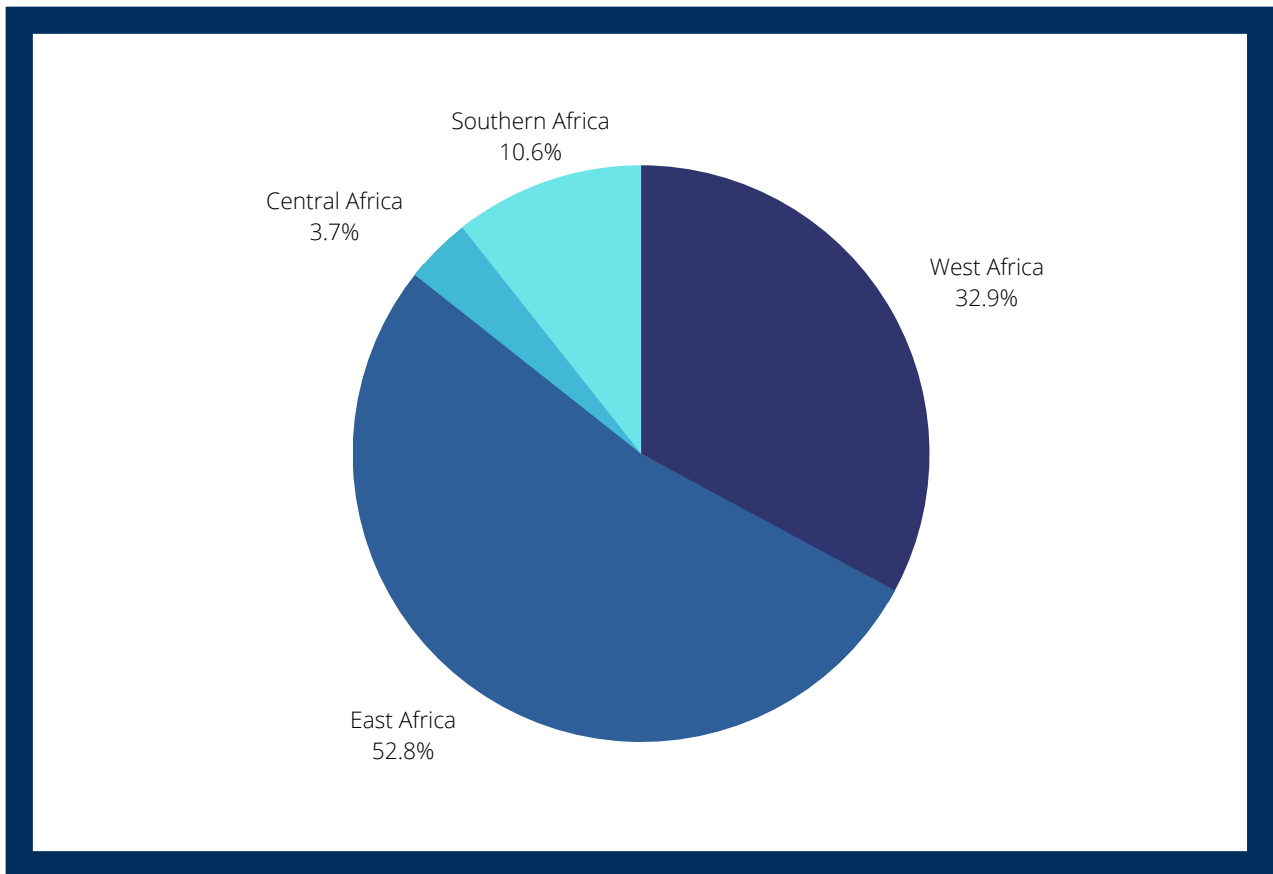


Figure 1 demonstrates the approximate regional representation of the total number of students in the Ignite Entrepreneurship program. Each section represents one of the 5 subregions of Africa: Northern Africa, Central Africa, Southern Africa, East Africa, and Western Africa.

Please note that regions are based on the UN Statistics Division's subdivision of the African continent.

IGNITE PHASE & MILESTONES

IGNITE PHASE

MARCH - APRIL 2023

An unprecedented 216 finalists with an outstanding commitment to the entrepreneurship process who have excelled at the milestones set out in Explore Entrepreneurship were selected to join Ignite. Under this phase, they continue to go through an additional curated list of online entrepreneurship courses and work through the remaining steps of the Disciplined Entrepreneurship Workbook. At the end of this phase, the participants pitch their ideas and the most advanced and promising business ideas become the finalists who receive the fellowship.

IGNITE PHASE

MARCH - APRIL 2023

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- How does your end user acquire your solution?
- How will this be funded or become financially sustainable?

MILESTONES

- Develop channels to market and reach out to any necessary partners
- Create a business model or a plan for funding your solution
- Prototype your solution in the simplest way possible that still allows you to generate meaningful feedback from end users
- Validate all critical assumptions by creating experiments and test your solution using your prototype

COURSE KICK-OFF

MARCH 2023

During the course kick-off, we had 150+ attendees engaged throughout the two-hour Zoom session. Our team reviewed the program outline, requirements for admission to Ignite Entrepreneurship, discussed next steps, and held an hour-long Q&A.

KEY ACTIVITIES

MARCH - APRIL 2023

- Program Coaches and Mentors support and monitor students' commitment and progress
- Students work through online content and attend workshops
- Students to prepare their 4-minute pitch

**DISCIPLINED
ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

MARCH - APRIL 2023

At the same time that students are completing the training, they are tasked with working through steps 11-24 of the Disciplined Entrepreneurship framework using their own new business idea or solution as the basis of their work.

**IGNITE
EVALUATION**

APRIL 2023

- Students must prepare a 4-minute pitch presentation for our team to review and evaluate
- Students are evaluated based on the following criteria:
 - Identified issue / problem
 - Target market
 - Market landscape
 - Feasibility & financial viability
 - Execution plan & risk management
 - Delivery & materials

Ignite Phase Highlights & Improvements

MAKERERE INNOVATION CENTRE

Workshops

This year, we delivered a series of workshops tackling key topics to help prepare prospective Fellows for the Launch phase. We invited experts ranging from cyber security to circular economy and green production, among others, to speak to our Fellows. This was done in response to participant feedback from the past 2 years. Many students requested more live content and meetings with our team. All workshops are recorded and posted to the learning management platform.

In-Person Gatherings

We are developing new opportunities for founders to meet in person throughout the program. An in-person meet-up happened at Makerere University. Hugh Cameron, Visiting Lecturer at Makerere University, invited Jim Leech Mastercard Foundation Fellowship students and alumni to network over refreshments at the Makerere Innovation Centre. A Program Coach (PC), Enoch, also attended! Another PC met with his students to work on their pitch submissions. In addition, we hosted a pitch practice session in Gaborone where our Ignited Fellows received live feedback from PCs.

Pitch Preparation

Several new techniques were implemented to help founders prepare to pitch at the end of the Ignite phase and beyond. The strategies included 3 dedicated workshops for pitch preparation, live pitching dens with Program Coaches, and pre-recorded tutorials. We believe that learning how to pitch effectively is one of the most important skills a founder needs to develop to find investors, attract great co-founders, and fine-tune their ideas.

Emphasis on Feedback

Founders are progressing through milestones on their journey to presenting their final pitch. A key program milestone is collecting feedback from targeted customers early on prototypes. The feedback collection process has positively impacted all the students' ventures. Feedback has shown to be a vital part of the start-up process; gaining confidence and recognizing the presence of demand for their business have been key results from the feedback.



MARYAM ATOLAGBE |
MACHOICE NIGERIA

LAUNCH ENTREPRENEURSHIP | KEY STATISTICS

82

STUDENTS

Accepted in Launch Entrepreneurship.

42%

WOMEN

We continue to ensure that we are promoting and building the skills of women in the program to build their entrepreneurial skillset.

28%

INCREASE IN ADMITTED STUDENTS
TO THE IGNITE PHASE
FROM 2022 TO 2023

Launch Entrepreneurship

University	Students
African Institute of Mathematical Sciences	2
African Leadership University	4
Carnegie Mellon University	1
Kwame Nkrumah University	2
Makerere University	14
University of Abomey-Calavi	1
University of Cape Town	1
Total Partner University Students	35
Other	47
Total	82

Regional Representation

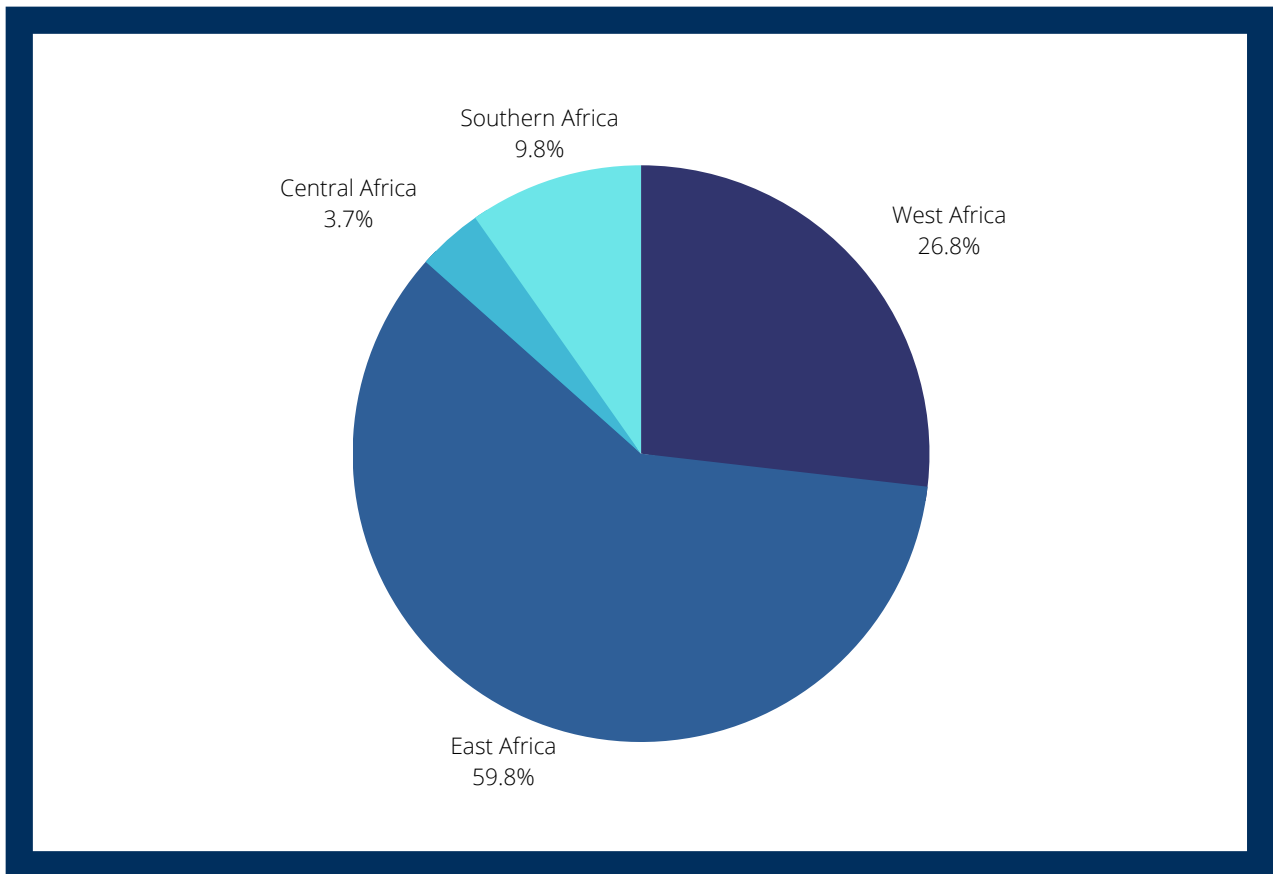


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LECTURES

JUNE - AUGUST

There are 1-3 weekly seminars to gain hands-on skills and mentorship from DDQIC's diverse network. Outside of optional sessions, Fellows worked alongside their team and fellow entrepreneurs to create their venture. Every 2 weeks, all teams and individuals participated in 3-2-1 pitches to update the team on the progress of their venture.

STIPENDS

JULY

As participants in the Launch Entrepreneurship course, Fellows received a \$500 CAD stipend to support their venture's development. A form was sent to them with instructions on how to access the stipend through wire transfer.

PRACTICE PITCHES

JULY

The entire team hosted three Practice Pitch Competitions to help Fellows prepare and understand the format of the Final Pitch Competition. Fellows received extensive feedback on how to improve their pitches prior to the Qualifying Pitch Competition in August.

QUALIFYING PITCH
COMPETITION

JULY 27

Launch fellows participated in a competitive preliminary pitch to be considered for the final pitches and the opportunity to pitch for a prize pool of \$25,000 CAD to continue their venture. 25 entrepreneurs, business leaders and alumni from the DDQIC Global Network along with the 11 program coaches judged the pitches submitted and decided the final 15 admitted into the pitch competition.

**PITCH COACHING
SESSION**

AUGUST 3

The 15 finalists had a 30 minute coaching session with Anil Dilawri, following his live Pitch Excellence lecture.

**GLOBAL NETWORK
PRACTICE PITCHES**

AUGUST 10

The 15 finalists have a 15 minute practice pitch session to a panel of 3 international Queen's Alumni part of our Global Network, who provided important feedback before the final pitches.

**CLOSED PITCH
COMPETITION**

AUGUST 23

The Jim Leech Mastercard Foundation Fellowship program featured a full-day closed pitch competition judged by entrepreneurs, business leaders, and alumni. Fellows provided 7 minute pitches followed by 6 minute of Q&A. Out of 15 Fellows participating this year, 7 were selected by judges at the end of the startup showcase. Additionally, 2 out of the 15 were selected for the audience award during a live watch party held globally the following day.

WATCH PARTIES

AUGUST 24

This year, we had a fully separate pitch competition for the cohort! We organized both in-person and virtual watch parties for the Jim Leech Mastercard Foundation Fellowship 2023 Final Pitch Competition awards. These parties took place via Zoom and in-person across multiple locations including Canada, Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, Ghana, Botswana and South Africa! Finalists had 3 minute pitches to engage 490 attendees, followed by the award announcements.

THE THINKER

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

Fellows took this week to decide how they wished to move forward with their venture. 'The Thinker' is used to discuss the future of their venture with their Program Coach, advisors, and mentors. Fellows thought about how they wished to continue working on their venture or use their newly developed entrepreneurial mindset to pursue entrepreneurship or a different passion. Fellows are now part of the inaugural class of Jim Leech Mastercard Foundation Program graduates and DDQIC alumni.

GRADUATION

AUGUST 30

At the end of the Launch Entrepreneurship program, the team hosted a Graduation Ceremony for all the Fellows in the program. This was an opportunity to say goodbye to the Fellows whom we had worked with for several months.

PROGRAM CLOSURE

POST-PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER -
DECEMBER

- Post-program impact evaluation
- Post-program impact evaluation interviews
- Supporting and matching incubatees with funding opportunities, incubation, and accelerators
- Follow-up to identify potentially successful Fellows, identifying gaps and opportunities
- Identify potential program mentors and ambassadors among successful awardees

Launch Phase Improvements

THE WIT TECHNOLOGIES UGANDA

Watch Parties

This year, we hosted watch parties in various locations, including Canada, Kenya, Ghana, Botswana, South Africa and Uganda, to announce the award winners and celebrate their remarkable achievements. These gatherings served a dual purpose: fostering networking opportunities and raising awareness about our organization's mission and initiatives.

Publicity Campaigns

We actively showcase founder testimonials, articles, select Minimum Viable Products, and products from some of our outstanding and accomplished Fellows and Alumni within our extensive network. This effort is aimed at providing them with visibility among potential paying customers, strategic partners, and prospective investors.

Entrepreneurship Ecosystems

As a vital component of our growth strategy, we are actively creating diverse entrepreneurship ecosystems through strategic partnerships. These ecosystems are designed to provide robust support to our program Fellows and Alumni.

Jim Leech Mastercard Foundation Fellowship Pitch Competition

This year, we organized a distinct and autonomous Jim Leech Mastercard Fellowship competition, providing 15 of our fellows a unique opportunity to compete for a substantial pool of \$20,000 in seed funding."

TOP 15 FINALISTS

Among the 82 fellows who participated in this year's launch, we selected the top 15 with the most compelling pitches. These selected individuals competed for a funding pool of \$25,000 CAD.



OPEYEMI FAJIRE
GIFF GREEN TECH



EFOSA ONAGHINOR
AFROART STUDIOS



MARYAM ATOLAGBE
MACHOICE NIGERIA



SHARON NATUKUNDA
SAFE HARBOUR BABIES HOME



MILBERT MBALIRE
ORGANO



AUGUSTINE KOJO
WIRED FASTER FRESH



RAWLINGS GRACE OGENYI
GRO-GEL



ARNOLD KABARE
RIM-NEXTGEN



OLIVER OMONDI
ZURIPACK



DENNIZ ASINGWIRE
DELI VEN ENTERPRISES



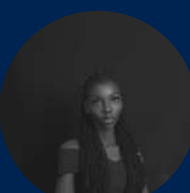
EMMANUEL SIKAVI
FARMSURANCE



BOLAJI KAREEM
BUILDINGBAND



IMMACULATE KUKUBO
AKILI BORA



VICTORIA ANUOLUWAPO
ADEWUYI
SHOPALOTE AFRICA



GRACE NDUTA
CARE LINK DAYCARE
SERVICES



FINAL PITCH COMPETITION RESULTS

Watch the Final Pitch Competition Recording [here!](#)

\$25,000 CAD Non-dilutive seed-funding awards:

- 1st Place: Zuripack \$6,000 CAD (Oliver Omondi)
- 2nd Place: Organo \$5,000 CAD (Milbert Mbalire Nabatanzi)
- 3rd Place: Rim-Nextgen \$4,000 CAD (Arnold Kabare)
- 4th Place: Machoice Nigeria \$3,000 CAD (Maryam Atolagbe)
- 4th Place: Faster Fresh \$3,000 CAD (Augustine Kojo Wiredu)
- 5th Place: Gro-gel \$1,000 CAD (Rawlings Grace Ogenyi)
- 5th Place: Farmsurance \$1,000 CAD (Emmanuel Sikavi)
- Audience Award 1: Care Link Daycare Services \$1,000 CAD (Grace Nduta)
- Audience Award 2: Safe Harbor Babies Home \$1,000 CAD (Sharon Natukunda)

490 attendees joined in the following locations:

- Online via Zoom: 215
- Kingston, Canada- Queen's University: 29
- Nairobi, Kenya - United States International University Africa: 45
- Mbarara, Uganda - The Wit Technologies office: 43
- Lagos, Nigeria - EGO Foundation: 20
- Cape Town, South Africa - Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town: 17
- Accra, Ghana - University of Ghana Business School (UGBS): 21
- Gaborone, Botswana - University Of Botswana: 100

WATCH PARTIES

We were thrilled to announce the remarkable success of the finalists in the 2023 Jim Leech Mastercard Foundation Fellowship on Entrepreneurship Pitch Competition. This groundbreaking event took place virtually and across seven different 'watch party' locations, gathering aspiring entrepreneurs from across Africa to showcase their innovative solutions and commitment to solving pressing global challenges.

The excitement of the pitch competition reached far and wide, as 275 individuals and groups from Uganda, Nigeria, Ghana, South Africa, Botswana, Kenya, and Canada gathered at various watch parties to witness the live virtual event, while 215 joined virtually.



GRADUATION CEREMONY

The 8-month program ended on the 1st of September 2023, marking the graduation of 82 fellows. These Fellows consistently demonstrated unwavering commitment, dedication, and hard work throughout the program. The graduation ceremony was conducted virtually via Zoom, and we were honoured to have esteemed guests in attendance, including Reeta Roy, the CEO and President of the Mastercard Foundation, and Jim Leech, the Chancellor Emeritus of Queen's University.

During the ceremony, we had the privilege of hearing from our two outstanding award recipients, Milbert Nabatanzi and Oliver Omondi, who shared their personal journeys and the invaluable lessons they learned from their eight-month fellowship experience. Their stories resonated deeply with all of us, serving as a testament to their resilience and determination in navigating the rigorous program over the course of several months.



Students want to explore entrepreneurship, and we want to help. This year, we selected 82 ambitious individuals to be a part of the Jim Leech Mastercard Foundation Fellowship on Entrepreneurship Program.

We are excited to watch the ventures develop and the changes they make in both their local and global communities.

Sincerely,

*The Jim Leech Mastercard Foundation
Fellowship Team*

