



## DREAMS for Refugees

# Almost half of the world's refugees depend on food assistance for survival.

DREAMS will support refugees to provide for their own families, transforming how the humanitarian sector funds and prioritizes self-reliance for refugees worldwide.

## Delivering Resilient Enterprises and Market Systems (DREAMS)

### THE CHALLENGE REFUGEES FACE

For more than 10 million refugees without a reliable source of income, the only way to feed their families is through food assistance. Food aid in East Africa has been cut by 40% in the past year, and further cuts are likely. We risk hunger, unrest, and deepening humanitarian crises without a scalable solution that facilitates sustainable self-reliance.

**Refugees are being told to become 'self-reliant' but receive no support to make this transition.**

# 50%

of refugees depend on food assistance



10M+ refugees depend on food assistance

# 70%

of funding for refugees allocated to short-term humanitarian aid



40% cut in food aid to East Africa

### OUR MODEL

Our innovative approach layers two evidence-based models to achieve increased household income, savings, and assets; improved food security; and improved well-being for women, children, and men. Poverty graduation will provide the capital and skills to support refugees as they establish businesses. Market Systems Development will help build market access pathways to ensure those businesses can be successful.

#### PHASE 1 TARGETS

# 150k

refugees improve food security, income, savings and assets

# 20.6k

new entrepreneurs establish 6,880 new businesses

# 66

private sector businesses expand partnerships with refugee communities

**Through a rigorous evaluation, we will generate the evidence needed to fundamentally change how self-reliance is perceived and funded in the refugee space.**

## Our solution has three components:

# 1

### Build small businesses

to support vulnerable refugees to earn an income, build savings and assets, and change how they perceive themselves.

# 2

### Connect to markets

to increase the reach of goods and services, and make the markets work for refugees.

# 3

### Sustain and scale

using evidence.

## IMPACT

Through rigorous evaluation of our large-scale pilot's impact in Uganda and Ethiopia, we will generate evidence that DREAMS' approach to self-reliance is not only possible but also more cost-effective than long-term food assistance. We will transform the humanitarian system so that refugees will be equipped to develop their own reliable sources of income and savings through a strong emphasis on evidence dissemination and advocacy.

### FIVE YEARS:

- › 150,000 women, men and children impacted by DREAMS
- › Robust evidence proves the effectiveness of DREAMS in building self-reliance for refugees, in comparison with other common approaches
- › DREAMS is operating in at least three new refugee contexts
- › At least two additional implementing agencies adopt the DREAMS approach





### TEN YEARS:

- › DREAMS is the recognized model for supporting refugees to achieve self-reliance in protracted displacement settings

## CONTACT

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## HOW YOUR INVESTMENT CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR REFUGEES

With a catalytic investment, DREAMS can transform a growing humanitarian crisis into an opportunity for hope, enabling millions of the most vulnerable refugees in the world to achieve

**\$1M**

- › Establish 200 new businesses

- › Reach 600 Ugandan households

- › Engage 7 larger-scale companies & distributors

**\$5M**

- › Establish 2,320 new businesses

- › Reach 6,960 Ugandan & Ethiopian households

- › Engage 37 larger-scale companies & distributors

**\$10M**

- › Establish 4000+ new businesses

- › Reach 12,000+ Ugandan & Ethiopian households

- › Engage 60+ larger-scale companies & distributors

## THE PARTNERS

The DREAMS model is a collaboration between three leading organizations in global poverty alleviation: **Village Enterprise, Mercy Corps, and IDinsight**. Together we have the experience, teams, and global presence to lead this change for millions of refugee households.



Village Enterprise works to end extreme poverty in rural Africa through entrepreneurship and innovation.



Mercy Corps works with local changemakers, global innovators and people most affected by crises to help fragile communities break the cycle of poverty.



IDinsight is a global advisory, data analytics, and research organization that helps develop leaders to maximize their social impact.