Dear Friends of BOMA,

This Quarter, we celebrate the transformation of 704,352 lives thanks to BOMA’s work. We have not achieved this milestone alone, however. Since our work began in Northern Kenya more than a decade ago, BOMA has been bolstered by partnerships.

While the list of BOMA’s partners has grown and evolved over the years, their impact on our work cannot be discounted. It is through partnerships with funders, peer organizations, governments, and more that we have rapidly scaled the reach of BOMA’s Rural Entrepreneurship Access Program (REAP). Together, we have reached more and more diverse groups of participants in Kenya and beyond — while also improving the quality of programming we deliver. By leveraging the experience of partners in specific contexts, BOMA has refined multiple adaptations of REAP to address climate change, food security, youth unemployment, and the unique challenges faced by refugees, displaced persons, and host communities.

Beyond the partners that help BOMA fund and implement our REAP programs, we also celebrate the partners who help us understand and evaluate the true impact of BOMA’s work. Our engagements with research organizations including the USAID Feed the Future Lab for Markets, Risk, and Resilience at the University of California, Davis; Expanding Opportunities; and Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) are driving the continued scaling and refinement of BOMA’s work in pursuit of our mission to provide the people and governments of Africa’s drylands with economic inclusion programs that increase resilience to multiple crises.

While this insight is invaluable, we also recognize that data cannot fully convey the human impact of BOMA’s work. Above all else, our partnership with BOMA participants is paramount. In reading this report, I hope you will find the same hope and inspiration that I have derived from entrepreneurs like Angelica Ng’andu and Terezi Shali. Through the Kenya Social and Economic Inclusion Project (KSEIP) implemented alongside the Government of Kenya, these women have found a lasting livelihood and widespread support among their community. In partnership with BOMA, they have lifted themselves and their families from the vicious cycle of extreme poverty.

I am proud to share these achievements from BOMA’s proximately led team as well as the partners and participants who enable us to achieve impact at scale. Together, we are putting power in the hands of local leaders — from BOMA entrepreneurs to the field officers who support them — to transform lives.

In solidarity,

Sam Owilly
Chief Executive Officer
NEWS FROM THIS QUARTER
THE LATEST FROM BOMA’S PROGRAMS IN KENYA AND BEYOND

Our Programs in Africa

BOMA is half-way to our goal of reaching 50,000 participants in 2023 thanks to our programs in Kenya and beyond. This Quarter, BOMA’s work grew with the enrollment of 6,090 participants — split into 2,030 business groups — through our Rural Entrepreneurship Access Program (REAP). These participants spread across Turkana, Marsabit, Samburu, Wajir and Garissa are participating in a pilot for the 12-month version of our standard REAP approach. While updates from the government adoption of REAP are featured in a special section on Page 4, we are proud to have launched three cohorts of participants alongside our partners by the end of Quarter Two. In Ethiopia, we are continuing to implement the Entrepreneurship and Market Inclusion for Transformation (EMIT) project alongside Caritas Switzerland with support from Whole Planet Foundation, and Cartier Philanthropy. EMIT has enrolled 3,000 participants in REAP since 2022 and will is expected to lift 21,000 people in Ethiopia’s Borena Zone from extreme poverty by 2024.

A number of new participants were also enrolled under BOMA’s climate-adapted approach, Green REAP, this quarter thanks to Livelihoods and Inclusion for Transformation in Kenya (LIFT). Read more about LIFT on Page 7. We are also beginning to implement Green REAP in Ethiopia through a program that will ultimately enroll 2,100 new entrepreneurs while supporting the restoration of degraded forests and pasture in the drylands of southern Ethiopia.

BOMA is promoting food security through our REAP for Nutrition approach, currently being implemented directly by BOMA in Kenya’s Isiolo and Marsabit counties. These participants, enrolled in May 2022, are on track to graduate in Quarter Three with 90 percent reporting multiple income sources, 92 percent of households eating at least two meals per day, and 79 percent of households with all female children enrolled in school. This nutrition-focused approach has been developed through the ongoing USAID Nawiri consortium, being implemented in Samburu and Turkana counties, Kenya. Nawiri is a five-year program funded by USAID’s Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance and led by Mercy Corps, with consortium partners BOMA, the African Population and Health Research Center, RTI International, Save the Children, and the Government of Kenya. This Quarter, BOMA and our Nawiri partners distributed progress grants — intended to help participants grow and diversify their enterprises — to 2,900 business groups.

BOMA’s REAP for Youth approach is currently being implemented through the Sustainable Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (SEED) for Vulnerable and Marginalized Youth program, launched in partnership with Smart Regional We talk a lot about the Rural Entrepreneurship Access Program (REAP) as BOMA’s flagship approach to building prosperity with dignity.

If you’ve been with us since BOMA’s work began, you’ll know that REAP began as a focused project to lift pastoral women in Northern Kenya from extreme poverty. Our reach was small, but lives were transformed: women embraced newfound respect and resilience as entrepreneurs, households were able to save for the future and eat regularly, and more children were enrolled in school.

Though BOMA’s work has grown to reach more diverse populations at scale, the heart of our approach has held strong.

BOMA participants enroll in REAP for 12 to 24 months, during which they learn valuable skills, launch sustainable businesses, and form savings groups with their peers — all with the guidance of their BOMA mentors. Upon graduating from REAP, participants have measurably grown their family’s savings, assets, and household income.

As you’ll see in this report, BOMA continues to expand the reach of REAP and its adaptations:
BOMA CEO Dr. Sam Owilly and Senior Director of Development Anjum Khalidi attend Segal 2023.

Consultants (SRC). SEED aims to empower 2,400 youth in Kenya’s Marsabit and Isiolo counties, Kenya, to graduate from extreme poverty through the establishment of 800 youth enterprises over two years. The first SEED cohort of 1,200 entrepreneurs graduated from the program in April, and BOMA is now collecting our learnings from this initial group of youth participants. In May, BOMA and SRC also celebrated the launch of a third cohort made up of 1,200 participants. Monitoring for the second cohort of SEED participants, enrolled in October 2022, is on track with 93 percent reporting strong business values.

BOMA is reaching participants throughout Africa under REAP for Refugees, with programming adapted for refugees, displaced persons, and host communities taking place in Kenya, Uganda, Cameroon and Burkina Faso. In Cameroon, BOMA is working alongside the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) to reach 2,000 participants including refugees from the Central African Republic. During Quarter Two, we worked with DRC to evaluate the successes and challenges of this project at the halfway point. This evaluation found that the program has helped households to meet their short and long-term goals through the livelihoods they’ve built and the savings they’ve grown through the REAP for Refugees approach. We also found that this project successfully reached a diverse range of participants including senior citizens and people with disabilities and facilitated their effective participation by fostering positive dynamics within business groups.

In Burkina Faso, BOMA has partnered with Caritas Switzerland, APIL, and Fondation Hirondelle to reach 3,000 displaced and host community participants in the Sanmatenga Province. These partners came together in Quarter Two in response to a suspension of cash transfers in the region and shifted to providing support in the form of food distributions for the impacted participants. A total of 75kg of rice, 36kg of cowpea and 9 liters of oil were delivered to communities in Boussouma and Kaya, providing a degree of security while the program’s launch is delayed.

“We came hoping to receive a chicken, and we received the equivalent of a sheep,” remarked one very satisfied participant.

BOMA in the World

As BOMA’s programs continue to transform lives across Africa’s drylands, Team BOMA is ardently working to expand support for our work and share our learnings. Our CEO Sam Owilly traveled to South Africa in June for the Resilience Evidence Forum hosted by the Global Resilience Partnership Forum in conjunction with USAID to share our learnings on resilience, economic inclusion, and even hope. Sam spoke in conjunction with our partners from the Feed the Future Lab for Markets, Risk, and Resilience which is currently evaluating the effectiveness of REAP. In their research, they have found that BOMA participants experienced a 509% increase in savings, bolstering their resilience in the face of crises like drought and empowering their households to invest in the future. Additionally, income increased by 32% and assets grew by 324%, providing participants with a foothold to begin growing generational wealth and upward mobility. Overall, REAP delivers a return on investment (ROI) of 3.1, meaning that every $1 invested in BOMA’s program delivers about $3 in benefits to the communities we serve.

The impacts of REAP are not just financial, however. Feed the Future researchers have also found that enrollment in REAP has a positive impact on participant’s aspirations and hopes for the future.

“We found that [REAP] relaxed constraints enough that participants were willing to work harder to achieve something they value,” said Michael Carter, Director of the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Markets, Risk and Resilience. “Putting a stronger livelihood within reach emboldened women to do what it takes to achieve it.”

Additionally, Sam and BOMA’s new Senior Director of Development Anjum Khalidi traveled to Kigali, Rwanda to share insights from BOMA’s work with participants at Segal 2023, hosted by Segal Family Foundation.
INSIGHTS FROM GOVERNMENT ADOPTION OF REAP
DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, AND OPPORTUNITY THROUGH THE KENYA SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INCLUSION PROJECT

The Kenya Social and Economic Inclusion Project (KSEIP) empowers extremely poor households to participate in social and economic activities by increasing their access to skills, productive inputs, assets, finance, and economic opportunities. KSEIP aims to increase access to social economic interventions for extremely poor and vulnerable persons. The program reaches five counties within Kenya: Marsabit, Kisumu, Taita Taveta, Makueni, and Murang’a. The Project is funded by the Government of Kenya and implemented alongside Global Development Incubator and Village Enterprise. Additional financial and technical support is provided by the World Bank, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, and World Food Programme.

So far, three groups of participants have been enrolled in KSEIP in June 2022, October 2022, and May 2023, respectively. These participants have achieved wide-spread success with 89% of KSEIP businesses seeing profits in Quarter Two. Additionally, a total of 1,552 savings groups had been established by KSEIP participants.

By the end of the quarter, overall, 79% of participant households were reported to be food secure, with 86% eating 2 meals a day past 7 days and 88% of participant households having no child going to bed hungry in the last 30 days.

Alongside this impact, BOMA has collected multiple insights from the government adoption of REAP through KSEIP. First, emerging evidence from the field shows that the program has significantly reduced community stigma on people with disabilities who engage in gainful income-generating ventures. Through KSEIP, BOMA has further explored how we can best serve male participants, participants with disabilities, and other diverse groups.

Additionally, BOMA diverged from our standard approach in KSEIP by forming business groups with one, two, or three members — rather than the standard three-member groups typically employed in REAP. A slight majority of participants (35%) still opted to enroll in three-member business groups, and these enterprises showed significantly higher business values than the smaller groups. Mixed groups of men and women also performed best, with female-only groups outperforming male-only groups.

Implementation and learning continue under KSEIP alongside our partners. However, for participants like Angelica Ng’andu and Terezi Shali (featured on the following pages), the program’s impact is already being felt.
HOPE GROWS ANEW
KSEIP PARTICIPANTS FIND INCLUSION AS RESILIENCE TAKES ROOT

The Kenya Social and Economic Inclusion Project (KSEIP) has restored a beacon of hope to the lives of two resolute widows, Angelica Ng’andu and Terezi Shali, in the vast and arid landscapes of Mwambote village in Taita Taveta, Kenya. KSEIP is a collaborative endeavor led by the Government of Kenya’s Department of Social Development (DSD) in the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP) with partners Global Development Incubator (GDI), BOMA, and Village Enterprise which aims to embed the poverty graduation approach into Kenya’s social protection program.

Angelica and Terezi’s journey from hardship to prosperity exemplifies the power of resilience as well as the transformative impact of the KSEIP initiative.

Both women had faced several challenges in their life prior to their enrollment in KSEIP and thus the launch of their business. They have not forgotten the days of drought when they went to bed hungry and filled with desperation for better opportunities. Their wish became reality when they were selected to enroll in KSEIP, presenting them with the opportunity to build a better life for themselves and their families.

Angelica and Terezi embraced the vegetable business with steadfast determination, a familiar undertaking as both women had some farming experience. Guided by their mentor, Eugene Mwakio, they embarked on their journey to cultivate a variety of vegetables. This business held a promise of a brighter future, a chance to rise above their challenging circumstances.

Their journey was not without trials, however. Caterpillars devoured the group’s precious kale and pesky squirrels feasted on their capsicum, leaving the women of Lumweri Business Group ready to give up. Thankfully, the group’s members came together to persevere. The women sought advice from friends, tested various remedies, and finally found success using pepper and garlic, which eradicated the pests.

“There’s something about working as a team of two or three,” Angelica explained. “If I was alone, I would have given up.”

Water scarcity presented another formidable challenge. Every day, the women braved long distances to fetch water. During the drought, they were faced with the loss of their donkeys that once helped carry the water. With support from their mentor Eugene, Angelica and Terezi adapted to use wheelbarrows to collect the water that was essential to the success of their crops — and thus their business.
Throughout the ordeal, Lumweri Business Group found immense support in their families and community.

“If my daughter had not seen how much work we put into this project, she might not have seen the need to bring the water here,” Angelica said. “She did everything she could to ensure that I had water in my compound.”

“I am grateful to my friend’s daughter,” Angelica added. “She noticed that, given our ages, walking such a long distance is quite difficult.”

Lumweri Business Group has flourished as a result of their perseverance and hard work. Even when faced with caterpillar-infested crops, the community continued to rally behind them, purchasing their vegetables, nonetheless.

“They really gave us a great boost just when we had decided that everything was lost,” Angelica said. “We were about to give up and count our losses.”

Their profits gradually increased, allowing them to invest in a second water tank. Reflecting on their accomplishments, Angelica and Terezi radiate pride.

“My life has changed,” said Terezi. “I no longer sleep hungry, my grandchildren go to school, none of them have the fear of being sent home. As a widow, I am doing well.”

“I am proud because I never used to have water,” Angelica added. “Through this initiative by KSEIP, I managed to get water to my compound.”

Lumweri Business Group is motivated by a vision for the future for their grandkids, one in which their education opens the door to opportunities beyond their own reach.

“I never went to school, but I am hopeful that my grandchild will be able to complete his studies and get a good job,” Terezi said. “My hope for my grandkids is that they will study and go beyond where their mothers could. I want them to continue their education all the way to university.”
UPLIFTING REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES

LIFT NORTHERN KENYA COMMENCES NEW PARTICIPANT BOOT CAMPS IN KAKUMA REFUGEE CAMP

Supported by the IKEA Foundation, BOMA, Smart Regional Consultants (SRC) and Danish Church Aid (DCA) have teamed up to transform the lives of those most impacted by the climate crisis by delivering vital livelihood opportunities in Northern Kenya. Implemented in partnership with respective county governments and local community organizations, this initiative is ultimately expected to benefit more than 93,000 people in Northern Kenya over two years.

Severe and devastating drought — brought on by the climate crisis — has impoverished much of Africa’s drylands, including Northern Kenya. Vital sources of income including livestock and crops have been decimated, as have critical forest ecosystems. Together, BOMA, SRC and DCA, with IKEA Foundation’s support, will empower local communities to develop sustainable livelihoods while protecting their natural resources.

This new initiative, known as Livelihoods and Inclusion for Transformation in Kenya (LIFT), will catalyze opportunities for 15,600 people living in extreme poverty. LIFT will focus particularly on women, youth, refugees, and displaced people, supporting them to launch and build 3,650 environmentally friendly enterprises in Samburu and Turkana counties, Kenya.

LIFT is using BOMA’s Green REAP approach to transform lives. Green REAP focuses on building climate resilience while also working to end extreme poverty. Through this sustainability-driven approach, participants are empowered to launch “green” businesses, contribute to local conservation efforts, and engage in climate mitigation strategies such as purchasing water tanks. These “Green” enterprises will empower program participants to lift their families out of extreme poverty while protecting critical natural resources.

Refugees, displaced persons, and members of the community around Kakuma Refugee Camp and Kalobeyei Refugee Settlement will make up 30 percent of LIFT participants — 3,200 refugees and 1,750 members of the host community. Beyond enabling these populations with green livelihoods, LIFT will also seek to enhance the ability of these groups to
conduct business by promoting structural and cultural change.

The program officially kicked off in June with the first LIFT Northern Kenya Boot Camps being carried out with participants in Kakuma and Kalobeyei. These boot camps provide an intensive introduction to BOMA’s Green REAP approach and what participants can expect during their enrollment, the business and financial skills that will be covered in mentoring and workshops, and expectations for graduation.

Boot camps for the remaining LIFT participants in Samburu and Turkana counties continues into Quarter Three, with the distribution of jump grants to follow. Each boot camp concludes with participants pitching their green business ideas to program staff, based on what they’ve learned during the week of intensive training. Businesses that have a positive or regenerative impact on the environment are granted full funding during the jump grant distribution phase, and businesses with a neutral impact receive base funding. Business proposals that will have a negative impact on the environment are not approved but rather sent back for reconfiguration.

These grants — supplemented with a mobile phone and relevant trainings from BOMA mentors — are the first step in launching the 3,650 green enterprises anticipated under LIFT.

What does a green enterprise look like? For many BOMA participants this includes kiosks, groceries, and more. As we prepare to launch the LIFT Northern Kenya program, however, new and innovative enterprises including insect farming are being introduced by our partners DCA and SRC.

LIFT builds upon an initial pilot of BOMA’s climate-adapted approach, known as Green REAP. This was conducted with support from Whole Planet Foundation and the Climate Justice Resilience Fund in Samburu County, Kenya from 2019 to 2021. The successful Green REAP pilot demonstrated that, after two years of implementation, 60 percent of participants had shifted away from destructive livelihoods such as charcoal harvesting and into sustainable enterprises. These included tree nurseries, beekeeping, and soil-restoring aloe farms. Furthermore, 60 percent of participants joined local community conservation groups and more than 30,000 tree seedlings have been planted to help restore and create healthy ecosystems.

To further our understanding of Green REAP’s impact, BOMA and the IKEA Foundation are partnering with researchers from Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) to conduct an independent randomized controlled trial to evaluate the effectiveness of this climate-focused approach for future expansion. So far, IPA has completed their baseline study, which covers areas where Green REAP is being implemented and areas where BOMA’s standard REAP approach is being implemented.
TOGETHER AT THE START: LAUNCHING LIFT ALONGSIDE IKEA FOUNDATION

BOMA was joined by representatives from IKEA Foundation, Whole Planet Foundation, Smart Regional Consultants, and Danish Church Aid (DCA) for the launch of LIFT Northern Kenya in Kakuma Refugee Camp and Kalobeyei Refugee Settlement in June. The delegation visited various groups of participants undergoing BOMA’s boot camp and also witnessed climate-smart interventions being pursued by DCA including poultry farming, fish trading, and insect farming. The visit concluded alongside the week-long boot-camp with the judging of business proposals presented by the participants. Using BOMA’s green scoring tool, LIFT staff and members of the delegations verified that all planned businesses would have a positive or at least neutral impact on the environment.
Ibrahim Adan, 27, describes himself as a visionary. Ibrahim is a versatile handyman thanks to the guidance of his cousin, a skilled motorcycle repairman. When he encountered the opportunity to enroll in BOMA’s SEED project, Ibrahim knew that he wanted to make a living from the skills he already had — and he uplifted the members of his business group alongside him.

Alongside Abdifatah Adan, 32, and Boru Mohamed Abduba, 24, Ibrahim established Mubeen Business Group upon enrolling in SEED. The men of Mubeen business group launched a motorcycle repair enterprise centered around Ibrahim’s skills, which he began to impart upon Abdifatah and Boru.

“We do motorcycle repair, sell spare parts, repair bicycles and Tuk-tuks,” Ibrahim explained. “We even do DSTV dish installation and house wiring.”

“We are able to do all these by sharing tasks among the three of us,” he added. “We did not have enough knowledge to run a business before SEED came in, but with BOMA’s support we have learned.”

So far, Mubeen Business Group has managed to save and invest in essential tools like a motorcycle air compressor and specialized equipment that opened up new opportunities for their garage. One day, the group dreams of expanding their business and importing spare parts from India.

Beyond their garage, Mubeen business group has engaged in a savings group called Kuva. Through their contributions to the group, Ibrahim, Abdifatah, and Boru were able to obtain a loan to expand their business even further. To diversify their income, the group purchased a Tuk-tuk and ventured into the transportation business.

“I used to be jobless and idle, sometimes I would even contemplate using drugs,” Boru reflected. “Now we have money for emergencies, and we don’t have to borrow from other people like before.”

Together, the group is racing to a brighter future for themselves and their families.
From our founding, local engagement and talent have formed the backbone of BOMA’s program. It is the communities we serve who inform how BOMA’s REAP program is implemented, and local leaders — BOMA’s mentors and field officers — oversee every step. This emphasis on proximate leadership is carried through every level of BOMA as an organization, with 98 percent of our 500+ person staff based in Africa.

As BOMA grows, we have embraced a defined set of values to guide our teams. Shown to the right, the values of passion, pace and professionalism are being embedded at every level of our organization.

Want to see more of our staff? Visit boma.ngo/team-boma

NEW HIRES IN QUARTER TWO
We hired 124 new team members in Quarter Two for a total of 527 staff, with 98 percent from, and based, in Kenya.

Kristina Musili
Executive Assistant

Eunice Chege
Training and Curriculum Coordinator

Bob Opiyo
Monitoring and Evaluation Officer - LIFT NK

Bertha Achieng
Training Officer - LIFT NK

Mercy Mwanzia
Communications Manager

Evans Misigo
Finance and Administration Manager - LIFT NK

Daniel Wenwa
Monitoring and Evaluation Manager - LIFT NK

Rosebellah Saniki
Cluster Office Administrator

BOMA VALUES: PASSION, PACE, PROFESSIONALISM
In Quarter Two, BOMA concretized our team values to emphasize passion, pace, and professionalism at every level.
FISCAL YEAR Q2 REVENUES & EXPENSES

For the six months ended June 30, 2023, revenues recognized were $6.0 million and total expenses were $6.7 million.

Revenues for the six months ended June 30, 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INDIVIDUAL DONORS</td>
<td>$92,820</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOUNDATIONS/ORGs</td>
<td>$2,366,916</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOVERNMENTS</td>
<td>$3,458,871</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER</td>
<td>$96,971</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Revenue</td>
<td>$6,015,578</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenses for the six months ended June 30, 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REAP PROGRAMS</td>
<td>$6,011,868</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUCATION/ADVOCACY</td>
<td>$73,403</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROGRAM EXPENSES</td>
<td>$6,085,271</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMINISTRATION</td>
<td>$378,998</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FUNDRAISING</td>
<td>$224,896</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$6,689,165</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>