

ANNUAL IMPACT

REPORT FY 2022





Letter from **Our CEO**

Dear Cycle Connect partner,

Farming has the potential to uplift thousands of rural farmers living in last mile communities from poverty. With the right income generating assets, such as bicycles, motorcycles, oxen and plows, and grinding mills, rural Ugandans can improve their farming yields, launch new businesses, easily access financial tools, and build resilience.

In 2022, we worked with people like Christopher Oyuko, a former nomad mechanic whose earnings could not lift him out of poverty. The grinding mill he received through a Cycle Connect loan enabled him to provide a high demand service to local farmers and helped him increase his daily profit to **\$3**. That income increase changed Christopher's life: now he no longer needs to choose between paying school fees or medical fees, and he can afford a better life for himself and his family.

Over the past twelve months, your generous support enabled our team to work with thousands of rural families to generate **\$3M** in additional income across these communities through the usage of their productive assets.

Looking ahead to 2023, our team's goals are to:

- Expand our reach throughout Uganda and expand into a new region.
- Connect over 1,600 rural farmers with income-generating assets.
- Generate \$5M in additional income across the rural communities we serve.

Will you join us on this 2023 journey? If you make a gift to Cycle Connect before the end of the year, your donation will be doubled thanks to the generosity of a family foundation that is matching donations up to \$25,000. Your support will bring us closer to our vision of a world where every family in the last mile has the means to thrive, not just survive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emmy Okkema', written over a light gray background.

Emmy Okkema, CEO



Key Highlights

- CEO transition
- Served over 1,400 farmers
- Launched six satellite offices over the course of the first six months of 2022
- Adopted agent model adding 21 agents

Key Impact

January-December **2022 in numbers**

1,407

Clients Served

Products distributed

280 Bicycles

931 Oxen and plow

303 Motorcycles

52 Grinding mills

2,042

Trainings Conducted

Lifetime Impact

12K clients served to date of which

50% are women

60K rural Ugandans impacted to date

30% average increase in income

Expanding Growth and Extending Opportunities

Spotlight:

#1 **Launching six satellite offices in last mile communities**

In areas where walking is the primary mode of transportation, distance serves as a challenge to earning a livelihood. Accessibility to income-generating tools therefore plays an essential role in lifting rural farmers from poverty.

Because of your generous support, we have been able to open six new satellite offices, helping us reach more farmers who want to access income-generating tools and increasing our impact in last mile communities.

#2 **Launching an agent model to support farmers where they are**

In line with the new satellite offices, Cycle Connect is really committed to going the last mile. To make further progress toward this bold goal, we came up with a new means to serve both the rural farmers and the local communities we work in.

Our team launched the Agent Model to support farmers where they are. We recruited 11 field staff and 21 young agents to help us go the distance to equip the rural farmers with the necessary tools to thrive.

We experienced great success with this model, as the newly recruited staff and agents live in the communities that we serve, making it easy for them to connect with local farmers and extend income-generating tools to them.

#3 **New leadership**

After ten years of successfully leading Cycle Connect to its current status as a professional, impactful, and well-positioned entity with significant momentum, Molly Burke stepped back from her role as CEO and onto the Board of Directors.

Emmy Okkema, who had been serving as Managing Director, took over the role of CEO in September. Emmy has demonstrated that she has the leadership, organizational, and strategic-thinking skills to continue Cycle Connect's positive growth trajectory.

Cycle Connect's mission remains the same, and our staff's support for that mission remains as strong as ever. We are grateful for all the support that you extended to Molly during her ten-year tenure and are confident we can count on your continued support as Emmy embarks on her new role as CEO.

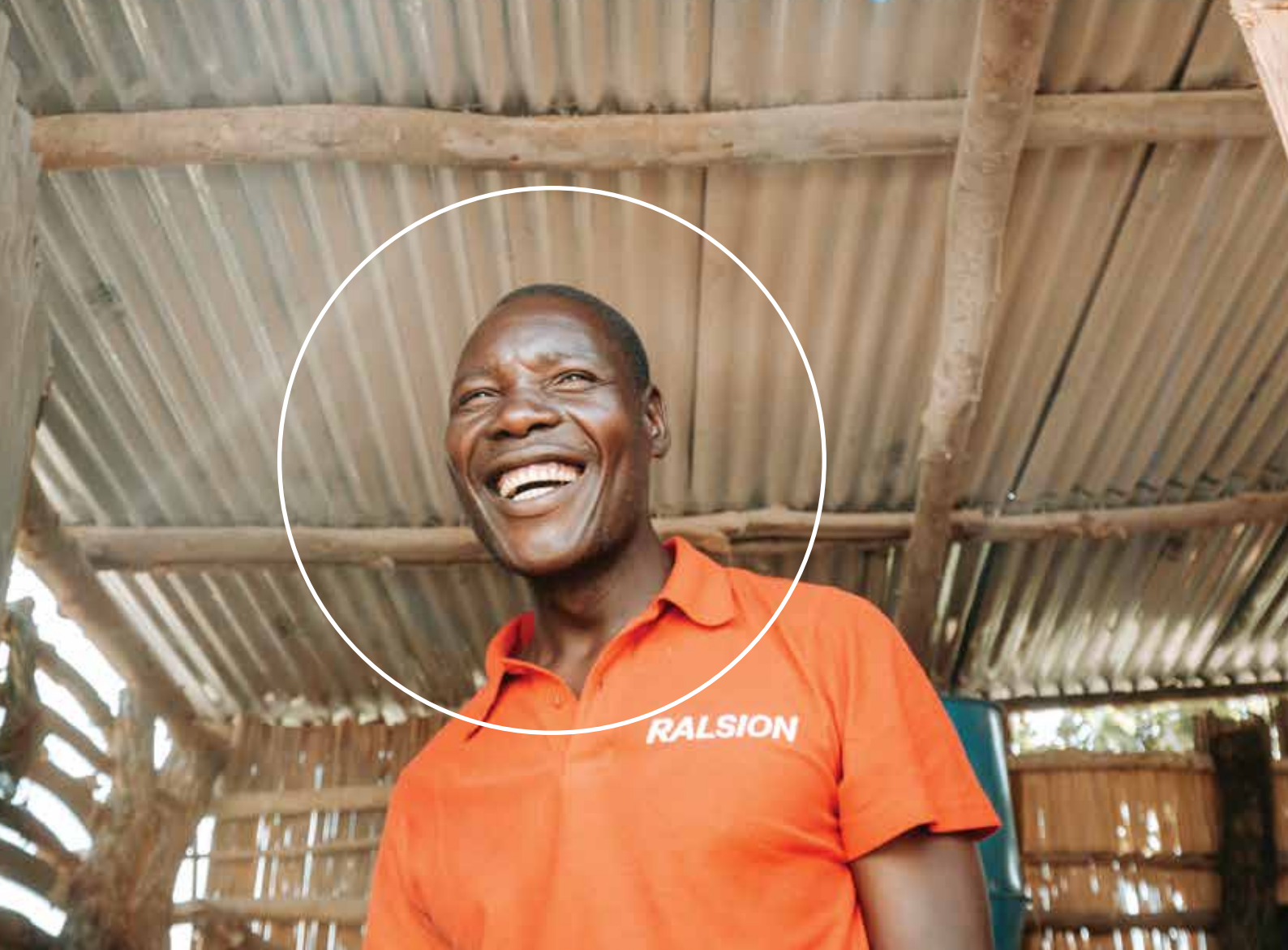


Amule Anna

Anna is a farmer in Gulu who takes care of her grandchildren. Her farm produce was not bringing in enough income to meet both her and her grandchildren's needs. She was spending a lot of money transporting her produce to the market, which often left her with losses.

Anna reached out to a friend, who introduced her to Cycle Connect. Through a Cycle Connect loan, she was able to acquire two bicycles. The bicycles helped her significantly reduce the amount of money she spent on transporting her produce to the market. Her grandchildren also use the bicycles as a means of transport to school and the medical clinic when needed. They also use the bicycles to sell poultry to other families in order to increase their household income.

Several months later, Anna was able to get a pair of oxen from Cycle Connect that helped her cultivate more land and further increased her income. With several streams of income, Anna now pays for her grandchildren's school fees and finds it easier to take care of her household.



Christopher Oyuko

Christopher is a mechanic who started his business by walking from one village to another repairing people's bicycles. Over time, he realized that this nomadic lifestyle left him unfulfilled because he was not spending enough time with his family.

Christopher reached out to one of his friends who had received a loan from Cycle Connect. A Cycle Connect staff member provided information and training about how a grinding machine can be a business opportunity, which persuaded him to apply for a loan. He started using the machine for commercial purposes and now charges his neighbors an affordable fee to help them add value to their agricultural produce, such as maize and millet.

The grinding machine now brings in a daily profit of \$3. Christopher's increase in income changed his life: as he no longer needs to choose between school fees and medical bills, he can afford a better life for himself and his family.

Where We Are Going

in 2023

- Adding new income-generating assets to the loan portfolio to reach farmers in different value chains.
- Expanding into a new region in Uganda to impact more farmers in last mile areas across the country.
- Becoming fully digital, in order to be environmental friendly and work more efficiently.

Special thanks

to our Partners

Thank you for continuously stepping up to support small-scale farmers in rural Uganda. We are grateful to you and the generous support you have extended to us throughout the past year.

Your action has improved the livelihoods of farmers in rural Uganda!

We envision a world where everyone living in the last mile has the means to thrive, not just survive.



Partners in our Mission

