

How the seeds of your generosity are growing around the world!

GROW

Fall
2023

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iDE

Do You Dare?

The Polak Fund is risky.

That's the thing about big ideas. You don't know if they'll work or not until you test them.

As Nadia Campos, iDE's Director of Global Design says; the Polak Fund "was meant to support projects [and] experiments that other donors will never dare to do."

That's why we are so grateful to have daring donors like you who support the Paul Polak Innovation Fund, which provides grants to innovators so they can test their ideas. These ideas have the potential to support entrepreneurs, increase incomes and improve livelihoods for people around the globe.

Hamidatu, featured on page 2 of this newsletter, was awarded a Polak Fund grant to test if it is feasible and scalable to turn recycled plastic into affordable, durable

and easy-to-clean toilet facilities. Read up on how that project is going on page 2. If her big idea works out, that will mean even more families will have a safe, affordable toilet!

That's what makes iDE donors like you so special. **You believe in entrepreneurs and give them the confidence and resources they need to move forward with their big ideas.** You believe in the value of testing these ideas, even if the outcomes are the opportunity to learn, adjust and try again. You show your belief in innovators by supporting iDE and the Polak Fund through your generous donations.

Thank you for believing in innovators.

If you dare, you can make an additional gift to the Paul Polak Innovation Fund by filling out the reply form on the last page or by going to idecanada.org/polakfund.



Cheering for Change:

How You are Encouraging Innovators in Ghana

"I run alongside, cheering her on."

This is how iDE Canada board member Lindsay Poggemiller Smith describes her mentorship with Polak Fund winner Abdul Rahman Hamidatu.

Hamidatu won a Fail Fast Grant worth \$20,000. She is testing her big idea that using recycled plastics in the construction of toilet facilities will make them more affordable for customers while remaining durable and comfortable. If this big idea succeeds, it will mean more people in Ghana will be able to afford toilet facilities, and that means **people will be safer, more comfortable, and proud to own a toilet.**

Lindsay and Hamidatu meet together every few weeks through a video conferencing platform (Lindsay is in Winnipeg, Manitoba and Hamidatu is in Tamale, Ghana). They also have a digital project log they use to keep up to date.

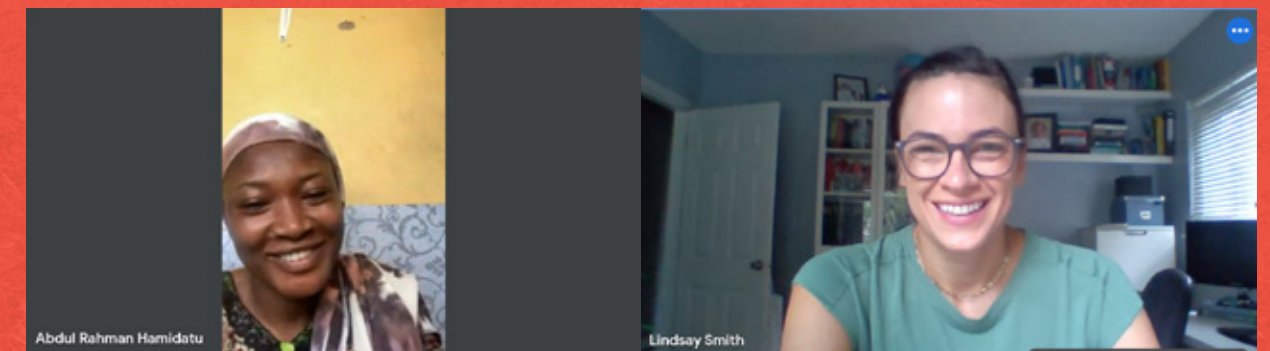
Hamidatu appreciates Lindsay's enthusiasm and excitement for the project and says it helps keep her spirits high. Also helpful is the practical support Lindsay provides like working through challenges, helping with report writing and thoughts on choosing a manufacturer.

Lindsay is impressed with Hamidatu and her team, and believes they are capable of successfully testing and launching their big idea. The mentorship also provides the opportunity to get to know one another personally and celebrate life's milestones (like Hamidatu's recent marriage!).

Hamidatu and her team have recently completed the research phase of the project and have chosen two manufacturers to produce the recycled plastic tiles that will be used to build the toilet structure. From there they will compare the two products and ensure they comply with environmental standards.

Like Lindsay, you "run alongside" the Polak Fund winners. **Your donations provided the funds necessary to award this Polak Fund grant, and through this, you are showing Hamidatu and her team that you believe in them and their big idea - thank you!**

Are you interested in mentoring a Polak Fund winner? If you're a supporter of iDE and have experience in business, you can reach out to us for more information at info@idecanada.org



Creating Opportunities Together:

How Your Generosity is Helping Women Grow Their Businesses

Your enthusiasm and support of the Her Time to Grow project has been inspiring! In just over one year, **you have donated nearly 70% of the matching funds needed to see this project through its four-year implementation.** That's \$527,996!!

That is a HUGE accomplishment - THANK YOU!

Another thing that's needed to get big projects off to a good start is careful research and planning.

Because of your support, the country teams in Ghana, Zambia and Ethiopia were able to do that by focusing on listening, learning and discovering the best next steps. This work was done alongside the women the project aims to support. This aligns with iDE's Human Centred Design approach, which actively involves the people we support in the creation of products, services or solutions. Simply put, don't do anything for them, without them.



During the research phase, the team learned that access to funds that help women start or enhance their business are difficult to come by.

A proposed solution is to create community saving and lending groups for women, called Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA). **A VSLA is a group that pools money together and distributes it as loans to members.** The members use the loans for business expenses, like buying seeds, tools and fertilizer. Loans are then paid back with interest to the pool and the earnings are distributed amongst the members. **The women use their earnings on things like school fees and food as well as an investment into their business.**

The country teams will support and enhance existing saving and lending groups and form new ones in areas where none exist. A long-term goal is for these groups to move from simpler saving and lending groups to a supportive community of business women that celebrate and work together to achieve business opportunities like group money making projects, group purchases and group selling.

Thank you for getting the Her Time to Grow project off to a good start!

Want to read more about VSLAs and how they helped Zambian farmer Tryness Nsofwa? Check out this article:
go.ideglobal.org/vsla



40 Under 40: Making a Difference

This year, we are celebrating our 40th anniversary by spotlighting 40 entrepreneurs who are changing their communities and helping end poverty, all before the age of 40. Amina Bacar and Aspara Timilsina are two of the 40 Under 40 entrepreneurs featured.

Both possess the strength and commitment to take on traditional gender roles and turn them on their heads.

For Aspara, a mechanic in Nepal, this meant enrolling in machine repair and business management skills training with iDE. She repairs all types of equipment in her farming community, bringing her mobile service to her customers' doorsteps. A mother to a young son, she plays a crucial role in food security for her community, as many men have migrated to India for better income, leaving women to manage farms.



Amina is a Farm Business Advisor in Mozambique. Participation in iDE's business plan training allowed her to transition from struggling to sell vegetables to success in running an agriculture supply store. She earns income by gathering crops from farmers and distributing them to buyers. With iDE's support, she advocated for financial decision-making in her marriage. Now Amina helps other women by providing them with the credit they need to be able to stand on their own.

As role models, Apsara and Amina are inspiring the next generation to take charge of their own lives. And they're helping to solve local problems along the way.

For the full list of 40 Under 40 entrepreneurs, go to ideglobal.org/40under40.

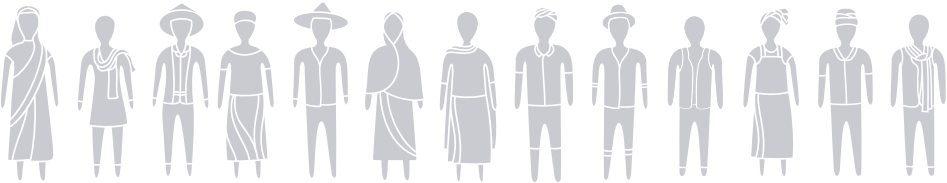


iDE Powering entrepreneurs to end poverty.

Yes, I dare to support innovators and give them the confidence and resources they need for their big ideas!

Here's my daring gift of \$

- ☐ Cheque (payable to iDE Canada)
- ☐ Credit Card (see reverse)



iDE Canada is a registered Canadian charity, business number 11 889 3130 RR 0001.

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Give online at idecanada.org/polakfund



For gifts of stocks, shares, securities, contributions from a Donor Advised Fund and more, please email fundraising@idecanada.org

iDE Powering entrepreneurs to end poverty.



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iDE Powering
entrepreneurs
to end poverty.

2023 FUNDRAISER GALA



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TUESDAY,
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—looking back
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forward —

idecanada.org/gala

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In the event that the goal for this appeal is reached, additional donations will be put towards other areas of iDE operations. Your contribution will continue to make a difference.

**Thank you for investing in innovators
through the Polak Fund!**

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Questions?

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