

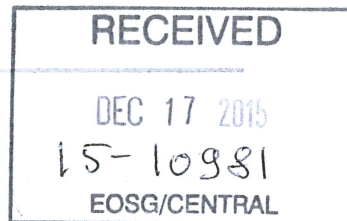
His Excellency Mr Ban Ki-moon  
United Nations Secretary-General  
United Nations Headquarters  
405 East 42nd Street  
New York, NY 10017  
United States

ACTION UN-WOMEN

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1 December 2015

Your Excellency,

As we approach the end of the year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support, which has enabled us to reach thousands of women entrepreneurs. Women like Yvonne, a mentee in our Mentoring Programme, whom I met earlier this year. After surviving the Rwandan genocide 21 years ago, Yvonne worked hard to rebuild her life, setting up a cyber café on a busy street in Kigali in 2011. After being matched with her mentor Barbara, the head of business operations at a global broadcasting company in London, the pair worked on strengthening Yvonne's business strategy and increasing her sales. Over the course of their year together, Yvonne's confidence grew and her turnover increased by 17%.

Meeting Yvonne was truly inspirational – she is a vivacious entrepreneur, full of energy and optimism, and a powerful reminder of how our work can make a difference to both individuals and communities. Over the past 12 months, your support has helped us to empower thousands of other women like Yvonne. I'm delighted to share with you some of our highlights from 2015:

- We have trained over 14,000 women on financial literacy and investment readiness in Rwanda, supporting 2,000 women to start new businesses and creating over 1,500 new jobs.
- We have launched five new projects to support over 10,000 women entrepreneurs in countries including Mexico, India, Palestine, and Lebanon.
- Our Lebanon project dealt with restrictions on movement and trade caused by the refugee situation by providing women with risk management training and helping them find alternative ways to market their businesses and find investors.
- We recently celebrated matching our 2000<sup>th</sup> mentee, and we have continued to engage more men in the fight for women's empowerment, with men making up 22% of mentors in our most recent intake.
- We have forged 10 new partnerships with global companies and institutions, widening the international network of organisations committed to empowering women entrepreneurs.

There are millions of women around the world who have the ideas and talent to run successful, innovative businesses, but lack the training, networks or access to finance they so desperately need. Without your support, the Foundation would not have been able to empower women entrepreneurs like Yvonne to realise their potential and gain financial security for their families. We look forward to achieving even more together in 2016.

With best wishes this holiday season,

Sevi Simavi  
Chief Executive Officer

