



Empowering Young Rwandans: Harambee's Journey of Great Impact and Collaboration

In June 2023, Harambee marked five years of empowering youth in Rwanda. To honour remarkable milestones achieved, partners from the government, the private sector, particularly from the Global Business Services, and micro-entrepreneurship ecosystems, came together for an evening of joy and celebration. The event also welcomed some young people who went through Harambee programmes and featured insights about our plans for the next five years.

Harambee's mission in Rwanda is to combat youth unemployment at scale through partnerships. We do this by providing opportunities for skill development and job placement. In just five years, we have linked young people to over 5,000 employment opportunities and partnered with 100+ employers, successfully matching 181 young people to jobs in the Global Business Services sector. Additionally, Harambee has equipped over 2,000 graduates with microenterprise training, leading to increased earnings and fueling the vision for a thriving economy powered by the potential of young people.

[Mastercard Foundation](#) was critical in supporting Harambee to bring its vision to life. During the celebration, the Country Director of the Mastercard Foundation in Rwanda, Rica Rwigamba, commended Harambee's impact over the years and recognised its partners and beneficiaries.

“As we celebrate Harambee, we are also recognising all the partners who joined this journey and the outstanding young people who have gone through the work-readiness interventions. You all did a great job,” said Rica.

This journey has been highlighted by incredible growth and breakthroughs. Most notable among them is the development of Rwanda as a Global Business Services destination which attracted over 20 investors and created over 1500 new jobs in the country.

As a result of the training received through Harambee, many young people became more self-reliant, confident and acquired the necessary skills to enhance their employability. Moreover, many success stories have emerged, showcasing this impact in improving livelihoods and fostering economic growth.

Joselyne Iradukunda, one of the candidates and beneficiaries reflected on her story:

“I joined Harambee Rwanda programmes in 2018, a decision that truly shaped me and built my confidence. I improved my English so profoundly, which allowed me to speak confidently in front of a crowd like this. I am grateful for all the support and guidance I received,” said Joselyne.

Our success lies in our collaborative approach. By building and leveraging strategic partnerships with the government, funders, and employers, the organisation managed to reach many young Rwandans and have an impact.

Harambee’s efforts in preparing young people for employment were celebrated by employer partners. Victor Sen, the Country Director of CCI Rwanda shared insights on working with Harambee:

“We have had a very fantastic and progressive journey. We challenged Harambee to look at things in a very dynamic way and they always came through. I hope that as we grow, we will bring more fellow investors to Rwanda which is great news for Harambee’s candidates,” said Victor.

To wrap up the celebration, our Chief Impact Officer Sharmi Surianarain said:

“Five years is a huge milestone for us and we are grateful to everyone who made it possible. Massive thanks to the Government of Rwanda, the Mastercard Foundation, all our partners and supporters, our amazing young people and our team in Rwanda and South Africa. Harambee wouldn’t be where it is today without everyone’s willingness to join our mission.”

Through more and stronger partnerships, Harambee looks forward to designing more scalable solutions, supporting even more young people, and transforming the employment landscape in general.

View photos from the celebration of Harambee Rwanda’s fifth anniversary [here](#).