



Little Big Fund

Impact Report

2024

Little Big Fund equips aspiring social impact leaders with tools, networks, and funds to catalyze their ideas.

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Photo by Cynthia Muhonja
Little Big Believer '2021

Little Big Mood: A Year Passes: How Do I Measure It?

I'm looking back at the past year of Little Big Fund with an urge to write about how far we've traveled (metaphorically, of course), to write about accomplishments. But it is really hard to grasp the meaning of accomplishments because for me, measuring success is an exercise in proportionality.

I think about what it takes for a squirrel to go through a day. Studies vary, but I've read that gray squirrels (the most common squirrel in the U.S.) can jump up to nine feet horizontally and travel two miles in a day. If the entire two miles of travel were done in nine-foot horizontal leaps alone that would mean over 1,000 leaps in day, about 46 leaps each hour. Many of the leaps a squirrel makes in a day are much littler though, from one branch to the next or up from the street and over the curb. So, when I imagine the accomplishments of the common squirrel--knowing she moves all day in leaps and scurries beyond my close attention and I don't know whether she was successful collecting anything—I am reminded that I really should not match the scale of her leaping with the quantity of her results.

I think about the child pedaling his bike while a caring adult grasps the right handlebar and scurries alongside and all of sudden—it just happens—the adult lets go and the child is off on his own, free for the first time. There it is: a sudden, beautiful accomplishment. The achievement. The mastery of the child. The plentitude of it all. What is the metric of the hugeness of that little moment, of the child's sudden shift from bike-riding dependency to I-got-this-and-I-don't-need-help-anymore bike-riding agency? The evidence of this hugeness is hard to pinpoint. If I try to describe the events and actions that led up to it, I am headed into a mess of misguided beliefs and judgments. I miss the beauty of that single, perhaps immeasurable release into eminence.

I think about the distance music travels from flute to air. The distance between the breath and the fogging glass, between two people growing close, or the air suspended between you and me right now. I'd like to know how to measure right from wrong, or what the distance is between where I stand, where I belong and where I am going. But also, I don't want to know the specific data of these measurements. The potential bias of it all overfills my brain. Most days measuring success is an estimate, some combination of the little and the big, of laughter and tears, enduring and not—and all often happening at the same time.

Now that said, there is so much to be proud of this past year. Please read about our accomplishments, our metrics, measurements, and distance. Think about the complexity behind each measurement, the proportionality of success and the large-scale impact that comes from the human spirit making it all happen. All of the metrics make me very happy yet the measurement of success most important to me is the whopping, daily integrity and commitment from the LBF team—Abhinav and Andrea !!!—and from the Little Big Believers who take amazing leaps and scurries each day, who hold tight and release and make hugeness.

- Gayle Nosal
Founder, Little Big Fund





About Little Big Fund

Our Story



James Ahabyona is a dedicated advocate for youth empowerment in Uganda. In 2021, amidst the global challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, James found himself at the forefront of a mission to support teenage mothers in his community that were facing financial struggles. This led to the founding of Move Network International (MNI).

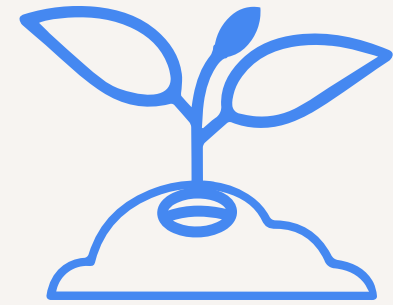
In 2023, James participated in Little Big Bootcamp, organized by Little Big Fund with generous support of Kapadia Education Fund and Rotary Club of Ojai. As part of the Bootcamp, James learned fundraising skills, and developed a clear and succinct case for support. At the end of the bootcamp, James received a micro-grant from the program.

With a micro-grant of \$1536, James spearheaded a Financial Empowerment program to support teenage mothers, offering them entrepreneurship training and while training, childcare support. The grant also allowed James to give micro-funds to the moms, distributing 10 loans of \$80 each. The ripple effect of this initiative aims to empower more participants, ensuring a cycle of financial support for years to come.

James Ahabyona's efforts of MNI is a testament to the transformative Little Big Fund's mission, illustrating how, with training, mentorship, and micro-grants, social impact leaders can overcome challenges and cultivate resilience and prosperity for a brighter future.



Photo by John Kato
Little Big Believer '2022



What We Do

Training

Our intensive five-week program is designed for early-to-mid stage social impact organizations, equipping them with the skills necessary to enhance their fundraising efforts and establish valuable connections within the funding community.

Mentorship

Every month, we bring together a diverse group of social changemakers for mentorship sessions, fostering an environment where ideas can flourish and opportunities for growth are abundant.

Micro-Grants

We offer micro-grants to early stage social changemakers tackling community challenges. From purchasing a motorbike to deliver drugs, to building a water well in the community, we support all forms of projects.

Systems Change

Through our innovative fundSHIFT workshop series, we're reshaping the dynamics of funder/grantee relationships, promoting transparency, co-creation, and shared power among nonprofit leaders and philanthropists.

“LBF has been my power hub,
thank you for showing me the
way and trusting my dream.”

Jacqueline Jijde from Malawi
(City Biomedical Solutions)



Photo by Aisha Bubah
Little Big Believer '2022



Theory of Change

Our theory of change is that if we can equip social impact leaders with the knowledge and skills to fundraiser and build a strong case for support, and then equip them with micro-grants and timely mentorship, then they can test and iterate their social impact work and develop greater resilience, and build successful ventures that can impact communities.

- Train: We host workshops to prepare social impact leaders for funding opportunities.
- Mentors: We connect these leaders with experienced mentors.
- Fund: We offer small grants to assist them in their endeavors.
- Connect: We help our leaders discover additional funding possibilities.

Activities

- Improved confidence to seek and secure funding.
- Expanded networks and access to resources.
- Access to diverse funding sources and opportunities.
- Expanded collaborations and partnerships.

Outcomes

- Increased financial stability and sustainability of projects.
- Expanded reach of supported grantees.

Impact

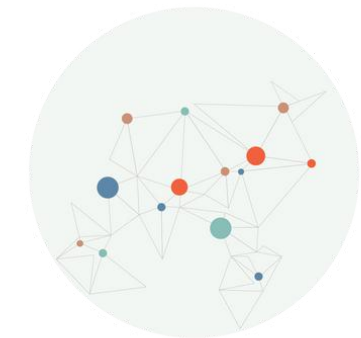


Our Partners

Over the years, we have collaborated with various organizations to extend our reach, deliver relevant courses to their fellows, provide mentorship, and offer valuable resources to social impact leaders.



Photo by James Ahabyona
Little Big Believer '2023



athari group







Impact Evaluation Survey

In early 2024, we conducted an impact survey, the first of its kind, of all Little Big Believers. The survey collected responses from participants who have engaged with LBF's programs over the past few years. Participants represent diverse sectors, including healthcare, education, entrepreneurship, and community development.

As part of Little Big Fund's monitoring and evaluation method, we will measure the following indicators:

- Pre-and-post surveys on [fundraising knowledge](#) growth.
- Pre-and-post surveys on [confidence](#) level and [resilience](#).
- Six-month assessment of increased [access to funding](#) and [mentorship](#) opportunities.
- Case studies of past participants.



Photo by Bienve Kamwendo
Little Big Believer '2021



Photo by Stark Bode
Little Big Believer '2022

LBF Outcomes 2019 - 2023

200+

Number of Participants

30+

Number of Countries Reached

\$67,898

Micro-grants allocated

8.5/10

Value of LBF's monthly
mentorship sessions

8.6/10

Satisfaction with LBF's
fundraising workshops

7.4/10

Overall satisfaction with
LBF's resources

LBF Impact 2019-2023

Increase in fundraising confidence:

- Pre-training confidence: On average, participants rated their confidence at 2.4 out of 5 before participating in a LBF program.
- Post-training confidence: Following the training, the average confidence rating increased to 4.6 out of 5.

This is a 43.42% increase in fundraising confidence after completing a LBF program.



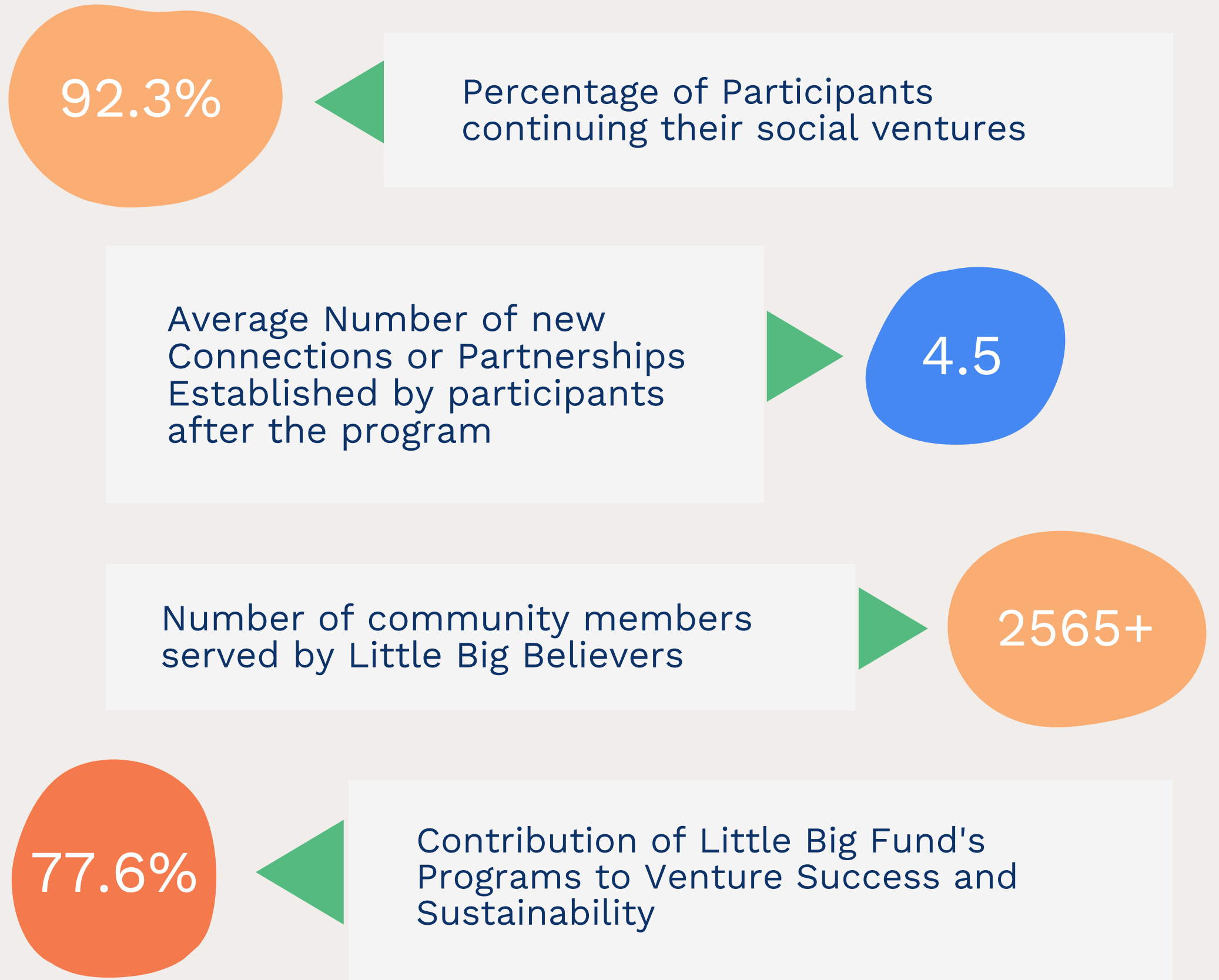
Photo by Hailey Breitenfeld
Little Big Believer '2022



LBF Impact 2019 - 2023



Photo by Milan Kumar
Little Big Believer '2020





Meet Jimmy Kosa

“LBF's seed grant helped us scale from a drugshop to a medical clinic, expanding the scope of what we can do. This grant gave me confidence to work harder on my venture. As the first external support for my venture, it sparked belief in myself and my abilities. Eventually, I started approaching potential funders with confidence. Today, in our network, we have Little Big Fund, Kapadia Education Foundation, The Pollination Project, Norwegian Refugee Council, Hope Transformation Association, and WENIPS (a national NGO in Uganda). My living grant document, fundraising skills learnt from LBF and your recommendations have helped me win grants beyond my venture. Our Ebola awareness campaign Project in 2022 and current menstrual hygiene project are possible because of external grants. Away from my venture, these skills have helped me win a study scholarship to pursue Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery.”

Jimmy Kosa
Little Big Believer '22



Photos by Jimmy Kosa
Little Big Believer '2022



Testimonials

"1. Planning: I definitely learned how, when, what, and why to do the thing you intend to do.
2. Budgeting: I learned to prioritize the most desired needs before others than before."

Kasolo Ali from Uganda
(Ali Fruits Community
Drying Company)

"I love their learn-by-doing approach and constructive feedback. It significantly enhanced my proposal, challenging me to think critically about our work and ultimately improving it."

James Ahabyona from Uganda
(Move Network International)

Susan Sena Azasoo
from Ghana
(Soles for Souls)

"I have been able to assist several junior high and primary school students successfully pass their exams and gain admissions to high school of their choice. Connecting with the facilitators and sharing insights on building partnerships."



Photo by Stark Bode
Little Big Believer '2022

A stylized graphic of an eye, consisting of a white outer shape and a solid orange inner circle, positioned on the left side of the page.

Growth & Next Steps



Ongoing Challenges our Believers Face

Despite LBF's endeavors to bolster access to tools, mentorship, networks, and funds, our Believers have highlighted the following ongoing challenges:

- **Securing Resources:** Participants have voiced difficulties in accessing resources, particularly as many operate as sole founders without the capacity to apply for larger grants.
- **Building Partnerships:** The social ventures supported by LBF often lack formal registration, hindering their ability to forge partnerships with established institutions.
- **Introduction to New Networks:** Participants face limitations in attending global conferences or accessing new networks due to resource constraints.
- **Personalized Mentorship:** Existing mentorship programs often offer generalized advice, failing to tailor support to individual needs and circumstances.

Stark Bode from Togo
(North Change Makers)

"LBF helped us acquire an Athari Group fund, which played an important part in the achievement of our project at that time, and we capitalized on the results of that project to raise funds for our Kids Farm project.

1. The transportation of drugs using motorcycles improved markets for drugs.
2. Varieties of drugs added increased sales."



Photo by Vandana Asha
Little Big Believer '2022



Opportunities for Growth

Here are three ways in which we plan to further support our fellows based on their highlighted needs:

- 1. Personalized Mentorship:** We are expanding our mentorship offerings to provide more tailored opportunities for fellows. This includes increasing one-on-one mentorship connections with leaders in the sector who possess relevant experience working in similar contexts or sectors.
- 2. Facilitated Networking and Partnerships:** We are actively cultivating partnerships to serve as conduits for future networks and collaborations. LBF aims to act as a catalyst, facilitating connections and collaborations for our participants, thereby enhancing their access to opportunities and resources.
- 3. Increased Resources:** We are dedicated to securing additional funding to bolster financial support for our upcoming Believers. By securing more resources, we aim to provide greater financial backing for the impactful work undertaken by our fellows.

Jehu Leconte
from USA (EDEN)



Photo by Eric Nehemiah
Little Big Believer '2023

"Building relationships is crucial, as is knowing how to maintain connections with donors and supporters. Little Big Fund has connected me and my group to mentors, enlarging our network. Having a one-page version of our proposal is something great that we refer back to. Convenings offer inspiration and learning."



Little Big Fellowship!

Based on our learnings, we are excited to announce a new program in 2024 - our own fellowship! The Little Big Fellowship picks promising social leaders every year from all over the world to support them. Here's what the program offers:

- **Funder Readiness Bootcamp:**

Join a rigorous 5-week bootcamp to learn how to raise funds and tell stories effectively. This helps leaders develop solid fundraising strategies.

- **Community and Mentorship:**

Connect with a diverse group of leaders and experts. Attend monthly meetings where fellows talk with experts in fields like climate action, education, agriculture, gender equality, and more.

- **Resources and Support:**

Access a pool of \$30,000 in micro-grants. Lots of learning materials to keep up with new ideas. Also, have open office hours for personalized help all year round.



Our Ideal Fellow

- A solution that works to solve a big social problem.
- An open-minded and ambitious leader!
- A person leading an organization, whether it's a small nonprofit or a startup.

Fellowship Timeline



Search

There is no formal application process. We do an extensive search for fellows through our pipeline partners. We depend heavily on our trusted network for referrals on who's doing excellent work.

Selection

A series of up to 2 conversations with our team for us to learn more about the potential fellows.

Grant Distribution

We distribute grants to all participants.

Screening

We invite 30-40 organizations that broadly fit our criteria to fill a short document. Members of our team independently review every form to evaluate potential fit with the fellowship.

Bootcamp

A five-week virtual workshop on fundraising leadership followed by mentorship sessions.

In-Person

We hope to bring fellows for an in-person retreat.

April

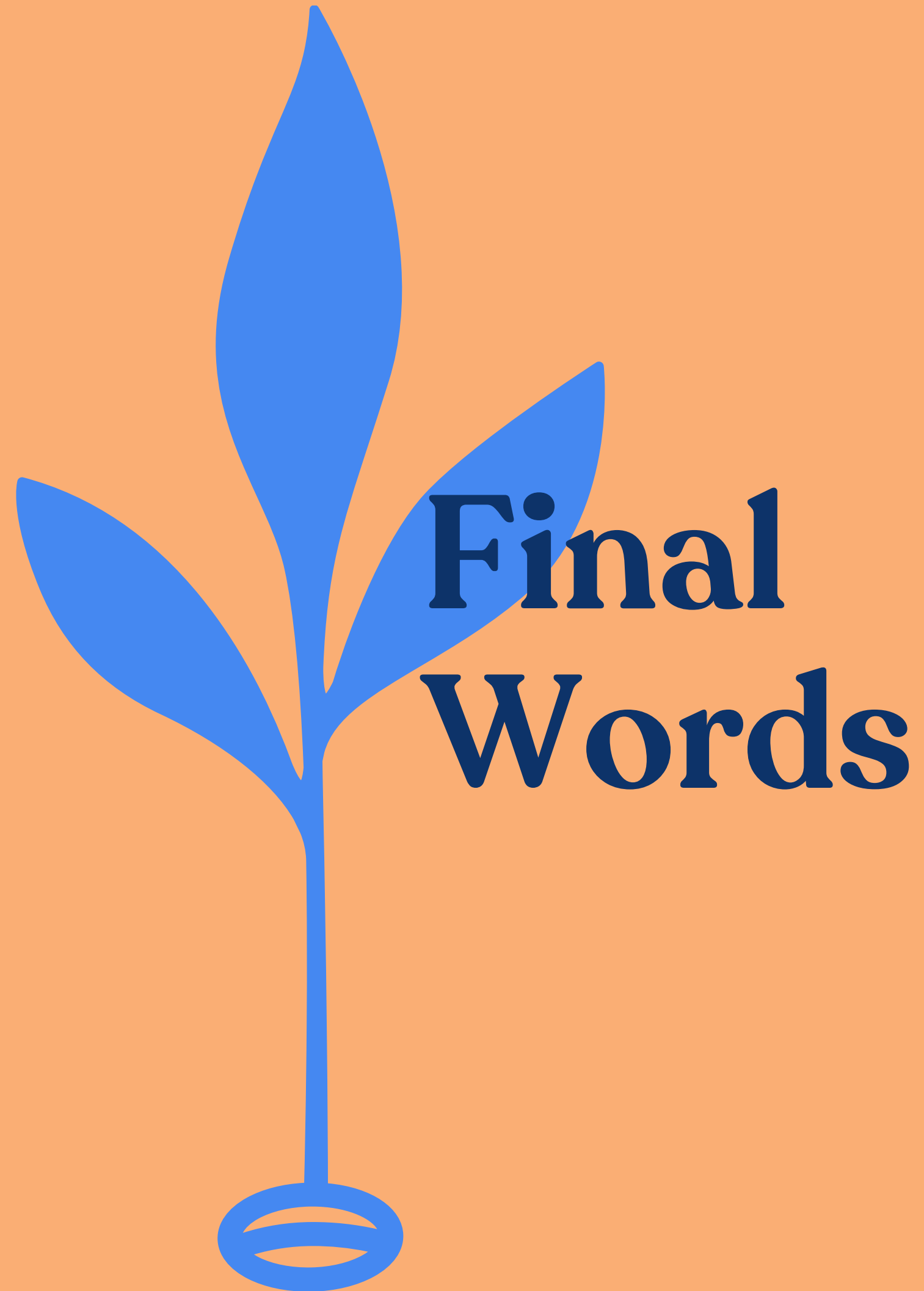
May

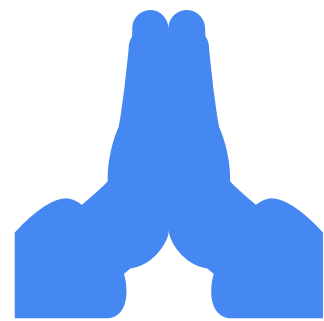
June

July-August

September

February





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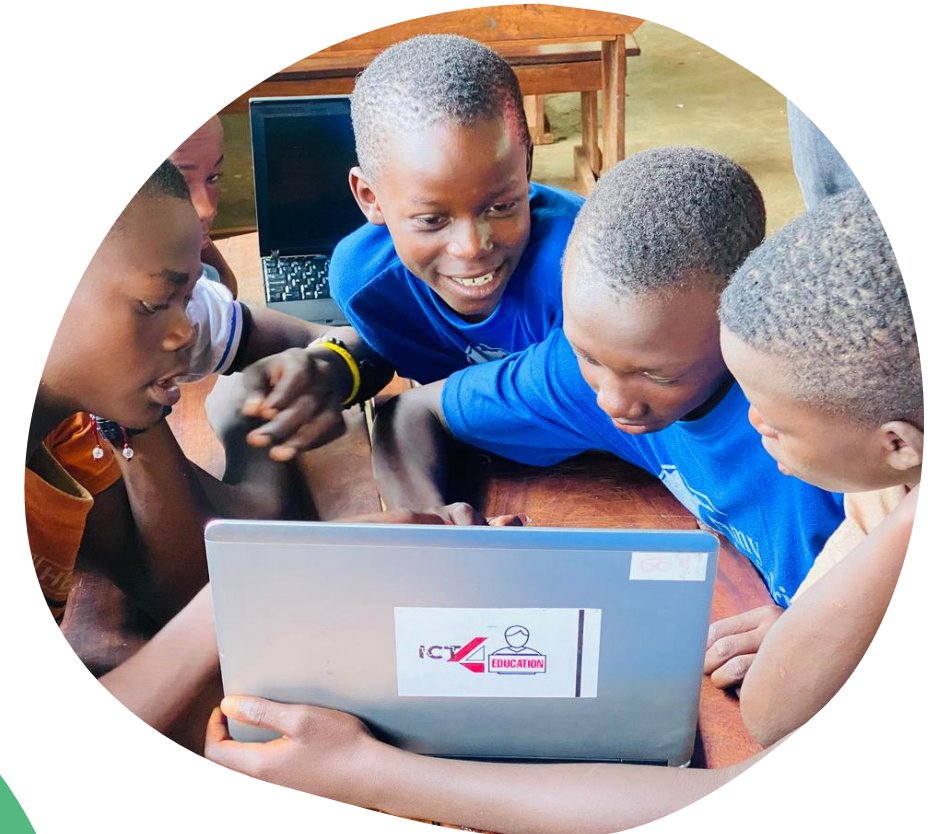


Photo by Ntende Beka Isabirye
Little Big Believer '2022

“LBF has the best facilitators and, more so, they offer content which is directly related different ventures in different location.”

Nakabanda Saudah from Uganda
(Performing Art Training)

Get Involved!



Be a Little Big Mentor

We are looking for leaders who want to support our fellows in 2024-25. It is a 1 hour per month commitment (connect with the fellows via a call) and support their growth.



Be a Board Member

We are looking to build out a board of directors. Do you have experience in scaling a fellowship program for proximate leaders around the world? Sign up to support us!



Co-Finance our Work

We can double our impact together. Join us to co-finance our programs!

@lbfund



www.littlebig.fund



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