



Happy International Women’s Day!

Manufacturing Africa prioritizes support for investments that bridge the gender gap in manufacturing. We promote and #inspireinclusion of women from the boardroom to the factory floor and across supply chains.

Celebrating Women in Manufacturing

We are excited to showcase the portraits of some of the exceptional women we have been honoured to work with...



Entrepreneur

“**Meet Francine Munyaneza;** the founder and CEO of Munyax Eco - a Rwandan company providing clean and affordable energy.

Having faced energy access challenges as a young refugee, Francine was inspired to start a solar energy business that has been running for 10 years in Rwanda. She plans to transition her business from an import model to local manufacturing.



MA is helping her raise funds to set up a solar equipment manufacturing unit in Rwanda.



Woman in senior management

“**Sonia Owra** is the ‘super woman’ that runs Mr. Green Kenya.

The company collects and recycles plastic waste into pellets used to manufacture new packaging. As CEO, Sonia manages a 400 strong workforce while ensuring the company remains profitable.

Sonia’s management team comprises of several women including Chief Growth Officer, People Manager, Financial Controller, Head of Supply Chain. In 2020, MA helped the company design its expansion plan. It has since raised more than \$7 million and recently celebrated its 1 billion recycled bottle milestone!



MR. GREEN AFRICA



Manufacturer of a product that disproportionately benefits women

“**Deborah Gael** and her co-founder realized that \$4 billion worth of food is wasted annually due to an energy gap and insufficient cold chain infrastructure.

They founded Koolboks to bridge the gap.

The company manufactures solar powered refrigerators targeting mainly small business owners; particularly women sellers of perishable goods such as meat, fish and vegetables in the informal sector, in off-grid and weak grid areas in Nigeria and across Africa.

MA is helping the company raise capital to expand into new markets and start local manufacturing of the refrigeration units.



Manager in a company with a major share of women employees

“**Haimanot Mersha** leads Supply Chain at Kubik - a company that collects plastic waste and recycles it into building blocks for affordable housing.

Kubik relies on waste pickers to supply raw material for its operations. 70% of their 2,500 waste collectors are women for whom Haimanot has developed special welfare programmes.

The one closest to her heart is the monthly supply of sanitary towels to all the female waste pickers to protect their dignity.

Through MA support the company has raised \$3 million which will allow them hire and empower more women.



Increasingly investors believe that gender lens investing is good investing. To truly move the needle on gender smart investing, we need to engage both men and women to close gender gaps. MA supports gender smart manufacturing which means being intentional about integrating a gender lens across all operational decisions of a manufacturing company including:



Entrepreneurship
Women founded or ownership



Employment
% of direct or indirect or supplier value chain women employees



Leadership
% of women in senior management or Board



Consumption
Products designed and/or tailored aimed disproportionately at women