

From: [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation - The Optimist](#)
To: ctcinfohub@gmail.com
Subject: The unexpected key to women's economic power: sharing it
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The Optimist

Relentless pursuit of an equitable world

Hello,

“We are not the way we started.”

This deceptively simple statement speaks volumes about the commitment and collective spirit of [a group of women farmers in Kenya](#).

The words belong to Hellen Odira Mwita, the leader of a small collective that's come up with better ways to achieve their goals. There is a story about economics and agriculture, of sweetpotatoes and seeds, and ways women's hard work and ingenuity are creating a better world.

These incredible women sought a way to establish a stable income source—money to send their children to school and keep their families safely housed. The journey on which they embarked led to far greater transformations than they first dreamed. [But we'll let Hellen take it from here.](#)

— The *Optimist* Editors

Meet Hellen Odira Mwita

Featured article



For Hellen, Moheto Muungano is more than a name

Forming a women's collective was just the beginning. To create economic power, Hellen's women's group built a system around belonging.

[Read article](#)

What we're reading

The Economist



Could AI transform life in developing countries?

From helping students learn math concepts to powering medical kits, AI is proving to be a powerful tool for people around the world.

Instagram



We work in global health

Take a peek behind the scenes of the foundation's day-to-day work in global health.

Financial Times



Plant scientists turn attention to African staples

Climate change is threatening food security. Switching to indigenous African crops may be the solution.

Gavi



Six things you need to know about the latest tool against polio

Variant poliovirus disproportionately impacts underimmunized communities. nOPV2 could be their best defense.

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