




# THE FORD PROGRAM

## in Human Development & Solidarity

 KELLOGG INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

June 1, 2017



### Highlights

- Kenya Research Focuses on Mentorship
- Why and How Mentorship Makes a Difference in Dandora
- Education that Promotes Awareness of Dignity and Unleashes Human Potential
- Social Enterprise Project Evaluation
- Measuring the Value of Insurance and Maternal Care
- Exploring Motherhood in Dandora
- Meeting Point International Case Study

### Kenya Research Focuses on Mentorship

In many parts of the world, including the Dandora area of Nairobi, Kenya, self-employment is the only reasonable alternative to unemployment—but starting up a business is not easy. Aware of some of these challenges, Kellogg Faculty Fellows [Wyatt Brooks](#), [Kevin Donovan](#), and [Terence Johnson](#) of Notre Dame's [Department of Economics](#) decided to work with the Ford Program in an effort to understand the best way to support women just starting out in business in Dandora. They wanted to determine whether having an experienced business mentor or attending business skills training workshops would be more effective.

Working closely with Ford Program East Africa Regional Coordinator [Jackline Oluoch-Aridi](#) and parishioners at [Holy Cross Parish](#) in Dandora, Brooks, Donovan, and Johnson conducted a randomized controlled trial to compare the business-skills training program and the mentoring program. The research was conducted in partnership with Nairobi's [Strathmore University](#) from 2014 to 2016.

The economists found there was a 20% increase in income for female microenterprise owners who were paired with a business mentor in the same community. There was no effect on profits for those who participated in the business–skills training program. These results suggest that localized and specific information is the key to profitability.

Since the project’s completion last year, Brooks, Donovan, and Johnson have presented their paper at various conferences and workshops, including at Strathmore University and the World Bank. An article, based on their [working paper](#), is under review at a leading economics journal. In the meantime, the Ford Program is exploring how best to share the lessons learned with people in the Dandora community.

## Why and How Mentorship Makes a Difference in Dandora



Although the three economists found that new entrepreneurs in Dandora who had mentors were more successful than new business owners who attended business–skills training workshops, the Ford Program was interested in learning why this was the case. Was it just a matter of the business tips they received from mentors or was there something about the relationship itself that inspired women to persist despite the challenges they faced?



To understand why women with mentors were more successful than women without, Research Assistant Professor [Iliaria Schnyder von Wartensee](#) carried out a 2016–17 case study of mentor-mentee relationships in Dandora.

The results suggest that the effects of having a mentor were not solely due to the business tips mentors shared. Many of the mentees who were most successful in their businesses shared at length about the care and encouragement they received from mentors. This suggests that mentorship may be important not only because of the information and experiences shared, but because of the caring and supportive relationships that mentors had with mentees. The human connection the women shared was a crucial component of their success.

The research appears as a chapter in the book manuscript “Human Dignity and Human Development,” edited by Kellogg Director [Paolo Carozza](#).



## Education that Promotes Awareness of Dignity and Unleashes Human Potential



Teachers play a crucial role in the development of young people, both because of what they teach and how they treat the young people entrusted to their care. When teachers take a holistic approach to education, how does this affect students' self-esteem and academic performance?

Ford Program researchers Ilaria Schnyder von Wartensee and Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist [Danice Brown](#), with [T. J. D'Agostino](#) of the Alliance for Catholic Education, have developed a qualitative and quantitative baseline framework to evaluate programming intended to improve the quality of the teacher-student relationship in seven Ugandan secondary schools. Implemented by the [Luigi Giussani Institute of Higher Education](#), the programming encourages teachers to encounter students on a personal level and in a caring way.

Preliminary findings suggest that the programming did have an impact on students' self-worth and learning processes but there are ways that such impact can be increased. This pilot project began in 2015 and will conclude this year. Currently, the Ford team of

researchers is developing a report for the Giussani Institute and working on academic articles for publication.

## Social Enterprise Project Evaluation

What is the best way to identify those most likely to make the most of a loan to grow their businesses and, by doing so, improve the quality of life in their communities? This is the question Ford



Program had in mind when it launched the Social Enterprise Project (SEP) in rural Nnindy, Uganda.

This project builds on the highly successful Savings and Internal Lending Community (SILC) groups—self-financing savings and lending groups initially created by [Catholic Relief Services](#). Entrepreneurs are selected by their fellow SILC group members to receive larger-than-usual loans to expand their enterprises. These entrepreneurs then receive special mentoring and training implemented by TechnoServe, an NGO. Project Coordinator [Francis Ssekijjo](#) worked with TechnoServe to connect the entrepreneurs with business mentors, building off the lessons learned from other Ford Program research. The Ford Program hopes to learn about the impact of the trainings and the loans on the expanded business and the effects of business success on local communities.



Danice Brown worked with the Business, Administration & Management Department of [Uganda Martyrs University](#) to conduct a baseline study of the existing skills, knowledge, and needs of the SILC group members in the Nnindye area. Ilaria Schnyder von Wartensee will conduct an endline qualitative study to gather narratives that help explain the deeper impact of the project on community aspirations.

## Increasing Access to Maternal Care in Dandora



Holy Cross Parish's newly constructed Visitation Maternity Ward at Brother Andre Medical Center in Dandora, Kenya, aims to ensure that every woman has access to the maternal care they provide. What is the best way to ensure that even the poorest women in underserved areas have access to a clean and safe place to deliver their babies?

The Ford Program is seeking to assist Visitation Maternity Ward in addressing this question and understanding the wider impact of the new hospital on maternal-health outcomes through research led by Faculty Fellow Terence Johnson and [Ethan Lieber](#), both assistant professors of economics. Working closely with Jackline Oluoch-Aridi and biologist [Bethwell Owour](#) of [Catholic University of Eastern Africa](#), they seek to provide credible estimates of the effects of a newly



constructed hospital and an insurance program on maternal and child health outcomes, as well as measure the demand for insurance and care in women of reproductive age in Dandora.

The project began in November 2016. A baseline survey targeting 10,000 mothers has been conducted in partnership with Catholic University of Eastern Africa.

Upon completion, research findings will be disseminated through scholarly publication in economics, public policy, and health policy journals to ensure that they influence thinking beyond academia. Also, there will be an interim policy workshop after the endline survey to discuss research findings and a final policy workshop in two to three years to discuss early childhood development results.

## Exploring Motherhood in Dandora

Approximately 60% of women in Kenya deliver in a health facility but many die during childbirth. As a result, many women avoid using health facilities. This problem is worse for women in Dandora, who in Ford community engagement sessions described mistreatment when accessing health services. In response, a Ford Program study is looking at women's motherhood experiences and how mistreatment can be reduced.



The study aims to document the childbirth challenges women in Dandora face through ethnography/participant observation and cultural consensus. Researchers are studying instances of abuse and obstetric violence and the views of maternal healthcare workers toward their patients as well as stress associated with adverse medical interactions.

Faculty Fellow [Vania Smith-Oka](#), an anthropologist, and Jackline Oluoch-Aridi began the research in January 2017, collecting data from health care workers serving women from Dandora and the women themselves. The findings will serve to inform the services offered at Visitation Maternity Ward at Brother Andre Medical Center, Holy Cross Parish, in Dandora.

### Meeting Point International Case Study

In 1992, Rose Busingye, a Ugandan nurse, began providing medicines and treatments to HIV/AIDS patients in Kireka, a slum of Kampala, Uganda. Many patients refused to eat or take the medicine or did not follow the treatment regimen. However, when she focused on listening to and learning with the women and helping them recognize their basic value as persons, the same women became spirited agents of their own development. Together, they started Meeting Point International (MPI), which

serves over a thousand people and provides indirect services for more than 13,800.

To better understand the surprising transformation, Ilaria Schnyder von Wartensee conducted a 2015–16 study of MPI, analyzing its distinctive approach, which she calls “identity-based human development.” Grounded in the experience of the community, this approach awakens local actors’ sense of their own value and empowers them. Her research explored how identity and awareness of dignity play a role in lasting development.



One important lesson this project highlights is that development is about more than applying techniques and skills to solve specific problems. Instead, caring relationships that restore a sense of value is at the core of development. These relationships help people to believe in their own abilities, develop their own skills, and contribute to the flourishing of the wider community. A paper detailing the research findings has been submitted to a peer-reviewed development journal and is currently under revision.