



## Impact Report

Protecting the Homes and Land  
of the World's Most Vulnerable  
Widows and Orphans

### Summary

- Over 30,000 abuses prevented
- Over 1,000,000 vulnerable people living in measurably greater safety

## For widows and orphans in Africa, **land is life.**

A family's land is their primary source of food, shelter, income, security, savings, and standing in the community.

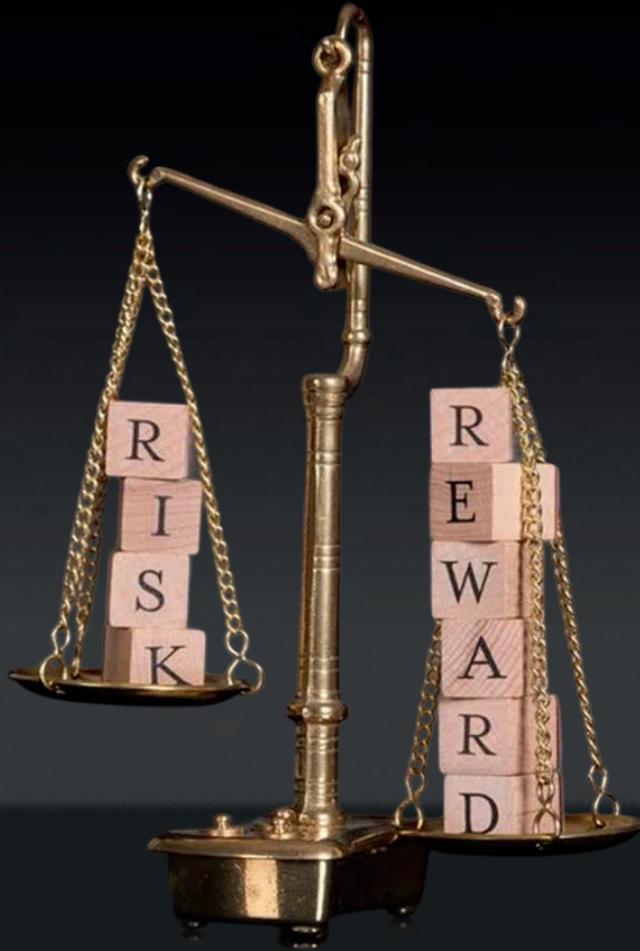
Unfortunately for vulnerable women and children, *land is also a highly coveted asset.*

Land owned by a widow or an orphan routinely attracts the attention of land thieves who use violence, fraud, and intimidation to tear these families from the homes they live in and the land they depend on for survival.

A photograph of a dilapidated building with a brick chimney and a wooden bench, overlaid with a text box. The building appears to be in a state of disrepair, with a large pile of rubble and debris in the foreground. The text box is white with a black border and contains the following text:

**OVER 50%**  
of Africa's 34 million widows  
lose everything.

of Africa's 34 million widows  
lose everything.



**At its core, land theft is an economically motivated crime.**

Land thieves are not monsters under compulsion to prey on innocent women and children. They also are not fools unaware of the consequences of their actions.

They are callous opportunists who perceive that stealing land offers financial rewards that greatly exceed the risks of accountability.

*To protect widows and orphans from the devastation of land theft, we had to change the risk-reward calculation for those who steal land.*

# We launched Redeem International with a simple theory of change:



**LAW ENFORCEMENT  
LEADS TO  
DETERRENCE**



**DETERRENCE  
LEADS TO  
SAFETY**



**SAFETY  
LEADS TO  
PROSPERITY**

**Over the last five years**, we have been working to test that theory - restoring widows and orphans to their homes, prosecuting land thieves for their crimes, and broadcasting the results of every case. At the same time, we have been measuring the impact of our work in creating safety for entire communities.

When we designed our intervention model, we hoped that our teams would achieve land theft victimization rate reductions of 1% in year one, 5% in year two and 15% in year three.

According to our most recent round of impact studies, our hopes were far too small. **What we saw instead was average victimization rate reductions of 34.3% in year one, 37.0% in year two, and 50.9% in year three.**

## What The Numbers Mean

**As of 2023, our intervention teams have already:**

- Prevented **over 30,000 people** from falling victim to land thieves.
- Preserved the rightful ownership of **over \$30 Million worth of land**.
- Created a measurably safer world for **over 1 Million widows, orphans, and their dependents**.





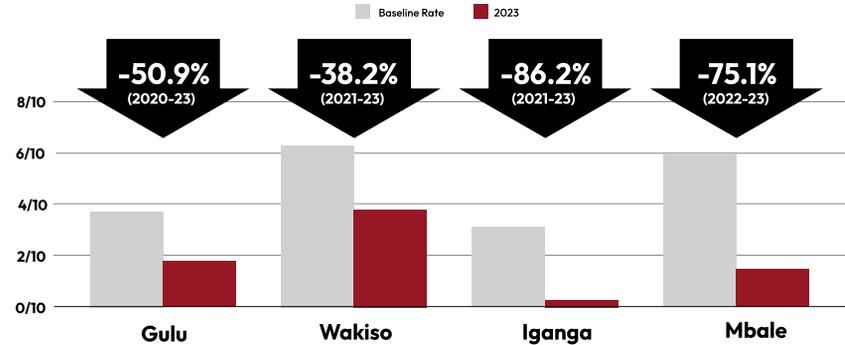
## Deterrence Leads To **Safety**

When the perceived risks to land thieves rise to exceed the perceived rewards for stealing land, the behavior of would-be land thieves changes dramatically. This change drives down land theft victimization rates, providing safety and security to all of the widows and orphans in the community.

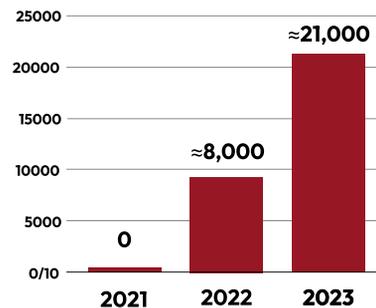
To test this proposition, we developed a methodology for estimating the number of land theft abuses each of our teams prevented by measuring the changes in land theft victimization rates in our project areas. Using newly-widowed women as a proxy for the vulnerable population, we conducted annual surveys two years after-the-fact.

**These annual surveys revealed that victimization rates were dropping further and faster than we had even hoped in each project area, preventing tens of thousands of land theft abuses from occurring.**

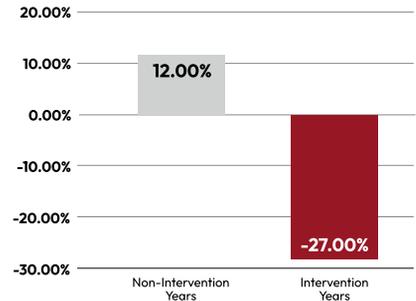
Victimization Rate Change



Abuses Prevented



Average YoY Victimization Rate Change





## Safety Leads to Prosperity

**When these strong, resilient women and children are freed from the fear of having everything they own stolen from them, it unleashes their potential.**

To test this proposition, one only needs to look at our clients. We estimate that, in 2022 and 2023, our teams restored or prevented the loss of over

**\$30M WORTH OF LAND.**

*To put that in perspective, \$30 Million is roughly 7.5X our total global expenditures for those same two years.*

### On that land

- farms that had gone fallow are now producing nourishment
- homes that had been destroyed have been rebuilt
- businesses previously too risky to pursue are generating income
- children held at home by fear have returned to school
- hope for a prosperous future has been restored

When Olivia\* returned to the land that had been stolen from her, she wasted no time. She planted a farm of cassava, potatoes, matooke, and coffee. She opened a little roadside business that grew 6X in its first year. She built a brick home for her kids and sent them both back to school.

\*Pseudonym





**REDEEM**  
INTERNATIONAL

**She is strong.  
Together, we make her safe.**

PO Box 2991  
Merrifield, VA 22116  
EIN: 35-2674436

**Give Today**



[www.redeeminternational.org](http://www.redeeminternational.org)

