Every once in a while, we at Outreach International have to take a few steps back from our work to really appreciate its impact. To consider the totality of every successful project, every empowered mindset, every new generation born into a world more capable of ensuring its success is to witness the awesome power of what happens when we care for one another.

It starts with you. Your capacity for love and enduring belief in the potential of all persons continues to make possible every single thing we do at Outreach. Your generosity continues to truly, measurably change the world for the better every single day. Your gifts support our mission in every way – far beyond practical and material needs; you inspire all of us with your enthusiasm and partnership, and offer comfort and encouragement to our community partners, who know that you care enough about their wellbeing to help them reach their fullest potential. You matter so much to all of us at Outreach, and by extension, mean so much to the future we all share.

This partnership update represents some of the latest ways you have touched the lives of our community partners, and provides a closer look at why you matter so much. From everyone in the Outreach family, thank you for your trust, partnership, and love. You make so many good things possible.

In order to maximize available material resources and their own respective commitments to one another, community-led teams in Outreach-affiliated DR Congo have maximized their capacity for innovation. Rather than mobilizing on one large group project, together, community members have implemented 20 low-cost, high-impact projects to sustainably address short- and long-term goals related to food security and income generation.

Among these projects, community-managed food loan projects gathered 3,212 kg worth of corn to distribute to 198 households hit hardest by the economic effects of the pandemic. Elsewhere, teams implemented six new agriculture projects, focused on fast-growing, high-yield crops, and gathered 1,050 kg of organic fertilizer to boost the output of the 3,500 kg worth of seeds they acquired.

Additionally, teams established 10 income-generating endeavors, ranging from brick-making to renting out heavy-duty carts for hauling purposes. All told, teams in DR Congo acquired four carts to rent, and made 10,000 bricks to sell.

The DR Congo teams’ enthusiasm for community-led development is not only the latest, thrilling example of their ongoing empowerment and expanding hope, it is also a smart move from an organizational perspective – each of the 20 projects they have undertaken is already turning a profit, which allows them to purchase and distribute even more food supplies to local families, giving everyone delicious evidence of success, as well as the nourishment and energy to maintain their momentum for all the days ahead.