

The Road To Opportunity: A Family's Entrepreneurial Journey To Financial Stability



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Chelina Odbert, Contributor

Story by Chelina Odbert and Brie Hensold

Kibera is full of entrepreneurs; so many that it's hard to decide whose story to tell and who best represents life in Kibera. The stories that we hear are often the rare tales of overnight success or the polar opposite - a failure and a "lesson learned." But there's a whole group in the middle that never make the headlines.

Instead, they are making a daily living from a solid business, representing a core group of entrepreneurs who have neither made millions out of cents, nor squandered investments.



These "everyday entrepreneurs" work hard, in clever ways, building their success steadily over time. They're a critical part of the discourse because they can teach us the most about the everyday challenges of micro-enterprise and offer valuable insights about how to grow the economies of slums at a broad level. A picture of Kibera is not complete without them. So, let's get to know Dorphine and her family, and their story of how a small idea and a little risk grew into a solid family business.

Dorphine is the oldest of eight kids ranging from age 11 to 26, and her life and livelihood in Kibera are steeped in the family business. Her parents came to Kibera in 1991 from Kisumu in search of work. Like many migrants, they couldn't find steady jobs, so after a few years they decided to create their own. They began by