



Resiliency and Hope

Millions of people around the world have had to grapple with the day to day impact the Covid-19 pandemic has had on their livelihoods.

Julius is a former Kizimani-sponsored college student in Kenya who graduated with a degree in Information Technology. After completing his internship in December 2019, the uncertainty created by the virus in early 2020 led to a freeze in hiring at the company where he was interning. Julius spent several months in Nairobi hoping things would soon return to “normal”. When the global circumstances continued longer than anticipated, Julius reached a point where he could no longer afford meals or his tiny studio apartment in the city. He had

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no choice but to move back and live with his family in the village. Emotionally, it was a difficult move for him knowing that his family had been counting on him for financial support.

After settling down in the village, Julius noticed that due to the Covid-19 shutdowns, members of his community were unable to travel as freely to neighboring towns and villages. This created a need for local poultry businesses because people couldn't purchase the goods that they would typically travel for. Seeing an opportunity, Julius put together a business plan and reached out to **Kizimani** asking if we could support him with a \$250 "**Gift of Hope**" to help him start a chicken coop. Through donor support, Kizimani was able and honored to make a life-changing difference to support Julius. He is now on the cusp of earning a living wage off of his chicken coop to support himself and his extended family.

When **Kizimani** enables individuals to grow a business and create opportunity for themselves, it creates a ripple effect that not only impacts that individual but also their family and community.

