



When Technology Meets Reality

Creating Long-Term Opportunities for Women in Sub-Saharan Africa

The Cyclone Valley Framework

INTRODUCTION

In Sub-Saharan Africa, many women face a daily combination of poverty, gender gaps, the effects of the climate crisis, limited access to education and employment, and technological changes reshaping the labor market at an unprecedented pace.

Many organizations work to address each of these challenges separately - some focus on protection, others on education, vocational training, health, entrepreneurship, or economic development.

Each of these areas is critically important.

Yet in reality, these challenges do not operate in isolation.

Water scarcity affects education.

Lack of employment increases vulnerability.

Climate change deepens poverty.

Gender gaps limit women's choices.

When problems are interconnected, solutions must be interconnected too.

This understanding gave rise to the Cyclone Valley Framework.

It is a methodological framework - not an action plan. It does not describe a specific project and does not replace existing programs. Its purpose is to offer a way of thinking through which different programs can be planned, connected, and implemented together to expand women's choices.

The methodology was developed in Ambovombe, Androy, Southern Madagascar - a region facing some of the most severe climate crisis impacts in Sub-Saharan Africa: prolonged droughts, water and food shortages, and increasingly frequent and destructive cyclones.

The concept of Silicon Valley inspired the name Cyclone Valley, but it represents an entirely different reality. While Silicon Valley grew from a concentration of technology, entrepreneurship, and capital, Cyclone Valley was born in a region confronting extreme climate conditions - prolonged droughts and devastating cyclones. The name reflects the meeting point between this complex reality and innovation, technology, and local

leadership. This is also the founding idea of the document: when technology meets reality, it can become a tool for creating long-term opportunities for women.

Although the methodology was developed in southern Madagascar, it was written for anyone working, researching, investing, or supporting the creation of opportunities for women in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Its goal is not to offer a single uniform model. Instead, it offers a methodological framework that can be adapted to the local reality of each community.

The decision to focus on women does not stem only from equality considerations. When women expand their range of choices, the impact extends far beyond their personal lives - it reaches children, families, communities, and local economies. Creating opportunities for women is therefore also a strategy for long-term community development.

FRAMEWORK AT A GLANCE

Purpose	To create a methodology for developing long-term opportunities for women in Sub-Saharan Africa.
Developed in	Ambovombe, Androy, Southern Madagascar.
Who is it for	Organizations, governments, universities, researchers, philanthropies, and companies are working to expand long-term opportunities for women in Sub-Saharan Africa.
Built Around	Innovation Respecting Culture, Technology Meets Reality, Local Leadership, Research Before Solutions.
Implemented Through	The planned Cyclone Valley Campus, training tracks, research, cooperatives, entrepreneurship, partnerships, and a future graduate community.
Long-Term Goal	To expand women's choices and develop local leadership that creates opportunities for additional women.

The Cyclone Valley Framework is a methodology for creating long-term opportunities for women by connecting innovation, technology, and local leadership with the reality of Sub-Saharan Africa.

1. UNDERSTANDING THE CHALLENGE

1.1 Why Existing Solutions Are Not Enough

In recent decades, significant resources have been invested in advancing women. Thousands of programs have achieved meaningful results in the areas of protection, education, health, vocational training, and economic development.

Yet in many parts of Sub-Saharan Africa, women continue to face the same fundamental barriers.

The reason is not necessarily a shortage of projects. More often, it lies in the fact that each area is addressed in isolation.

In practice, a woman's life is not divided into separate domains.

When she seeks safety, she also needs a livelihood.

When she acquires a skill, she also needs employment opportunities.

When she gains access to technology, she also needs the ability to use it to improve her future.

The challenge is not to build another program.

The challenge is to connect the different programs into a single framework that functions as a complete system.

This is precisely the starting point of the Cyclone Valley Framework.

1.2 Why a Framework?

In the course of developing activities in southern Madagascar, it became clear that no project - however successful - can on its own create long-term change.

A women's shelter saves lives.

Vocational training builds skills.

A cooperative creates a source of income.

A campus develops knowledge.

Technology expands possibilities.

Each is essential. But each is only part of the solution.

The question is not how to build a better project. The question is how to connect all these elements so that each reinforces the others.

This question gave rise to the Cyclone Valley Framework - not as another project, not as a training model, but as a methodological framework grounded in principles that can be implemented through a variety of programs, organizations, and partnerships.

Within the Cyclone Valley Framework, projects can change according to the community's needs. The methodology remains.

1.3 From Experience to Methodology

The Framework was not born from theory. It developed from sustained work in southern Madagascar.

Eldad Garfunkel has personally lived and worked in Madagascar for more than 200 days, primarily in Ambovombe, Androy, Southern Madagascar. This direct field experience included working closely with women, communities, local leaders, public authorities, professionals, and civil society organizations.

In parallel, the partnership with TERATANY - a local, women-led organization - made it possible to test ideas, learn from reality, and understand what conditions truly enable women to build an independent future.

TERATANY is not merely an implementation partner. It is a full partner in the learning process, in testing ideas, and in the ongoing development of the Cyclone Valley Framework. This collaboration illustrates one of the core principles of the methodology: sustainable solutions grow from local leadership, not in place of it.

Since January 2025, Ny Trano Manga (The Blue House), the first women's shelter in Madagascar, has provided important field experience that has informed the development of the Cyclone Valley Framework.

The shelter is an independent protection initiative. It is not the Framework and is not one of the Framework's operational components. The experience gained through its establishment and operation has contributed to a deeper understanding of women's needs, the relationship between safety and economic independence, and the importance of locally led solutions.

The methodology was not developed around a single project. It took shape through a continuous process of listening, research, experimentation, learning, and adaptation.

This is one of the reasons the Framework does not offer uniform solutions. It offers a way of thinking for decision-making.

What Do We Mean by "Framework"? In this document, the term "Framework" refers to a system of principles and methodologies that guide decision-making. Unlike a project, a program, or an operational model, a Framework does not define a single solution - it offers a way of thinking that enables solutions to be developed and adapted to different realities. The Cyclone Valley Framework is not the Cyclone Valley Campus, the training tracks, or the cooperatives. These are possible applications of the Framework, but they are not the Framework itself. Ny Trano Manga is an independent protection initiative whose field experience has informed the methodology.

2. THE CYCLONE VALLEY FRAMEWORK

2.1 Opportunity as a System

The central idea of the Cyclone Valley Framework is simple: opportunity is not an event. It is a system.

A woman does not change her future because she received one training course, one loan, or one computer.

Long-term change occurs when several conditions are met simultaneously:

Safety. Education. Knowledge. Skills. Access to technology. Employment opportunities. Leadership. A support community. And the capacity to continue learning throughout life.

When these conditions operate as a single system, each reinforces the others.

This is why the Framework is not built around a single program, but around a system of opportunities.

2.2 Opportunity Before Technology

Technology is one of the most powerful tools for creating opportunities. But it is not the starting point.

Every decision begins with one question:

How can we expand women's choices?

Only then is it examined whether technology has a role in the solution.

This approach prevents technology from becoming an end in itself. It remains a means of creating value.

This is also where the document's title comes from: When Technology Meets Reality.

Not when reality adapts to technology. But when technology is adapted to reality.

2.3 Framework vs. Model

A model describes a particular course of action. A Framework defines a system of principles within which different models can coexist.

This is a fundamental distinction.

A campus, a training track, or a cooperative can serve as an implementation model. An independent initiative, such as a shelter, may also provide field experience that informs the methodology without becoming part of the Framework itself.

Implementation models can vary depending on the culture, resources, and local needs.

The Cyclone Valley Framework, by contrast, defines the principles on which Framework-based implementation models are grounded. Independent initiatives may inform the methodology without becoming applications of the Framework.

In this sense, projects serve the Framework - the Framework does not serve the projects.

3. CORE PRINCIPLES

The core principles of the Cyclone Valley Framework are not a statement of intent. They constitute a decision-making system. Every program, partnership, investment, or new initiative will be evaluated in their light. They remain constant even as projects, tools, and technologies change.

3.1 Saving and Improving Women's Lives

The purpose of the Framework is not to advance technology, establish campuses, or develop new programs. Its purpose is to expand women's choices and enable them to build a safer, more independent, and more meaningful future. All other components of the Framework are means to that end.

3.2 Innovation Respecting Culture

Genuine innovation does not begin with inventing new ideas. It begins with understanding reality.

Communities are not "problems to be solved." They are partners in developing the solution. Every community has its own knowledge, experience, traditions, and local leadership. The Framework seeks to build on these assets - not replace them.

Solutions that respect local culture earn greater trust, integrate better into communities, and are more likely to succeed over time.

3.3 Technology Meets Reality

Technology is changing the world. But not every technology suits every community.

In the Framework, technology is never the starting point. It arrives only after the need is understood. Every tool, system, or technological solution is evaluated by one question:

Does it expand women's choices? If not, it has no place in the Framework.

3.4 Research Before Solutions

It is relatively easy to generate ideas. Understanding the problem is far harder.

Therefore, every process begins with research - with listening, with data collection, and with understanding local reality. Even after implementation begins, research does not stop. It continues to accompany decision-making and to enable continuous adaptation of the methodology to changing reality.

3.5 Local Leadership. Global Partnership.

Sustainable development cannot be based on external management. International partners can contribute knowledge, experience, connections, and resources. But leadership is not imported. It grows from within the community.

Therefore, responsibility for decision-making, management of activities, and leading change always rests with local leadership. International partnership is meant to strengthen local leadership - not to replace it.

3.6 Quality Before Scale

Many organizations measure success by the number of participants. The Framework chooses a different measure.

The question is not how many women participated. The question is how many women changed their future.

The first cohorts of the Cyclone Valley Campus will be Founding Cohorts. They will not only learn - they will help test, improve, and shape the methodology. The goal is not to grow quickly. The goal is to build a quality foundation that can expand over the years.

3.7 The Day After

Many training programs end on graduation day. In the Cyclone Valley Framework, that is precisely when they begin.

Future graduates of the Cyclone Valley Campus will remain connected to the Campus and to the Framework's Community of Practice. They will be able to continue learning, developing, sharing knowledge, creating partnerships, participating in advanced training, and accompanying new cohorts.

The goal of the Cyclone Valley Campus is not only to train participants. Its goal is to build a professional community that will continue to grow and have an impact over the years.

Future graduates will not only continue learning - they will be invited to create an active professional network of peer learning, mentoring, collaboration, development of new initiatives, and knowledge sharing. Over time, the Community of Practice is intended to become one of the Framework's most valuable assets, serving as a knowledge source, an expert community, and a partner in the ongoing development of the methodology.

3.8 Opportunity Multipliers

The success of the Framework does not end with the success of one participant. It begins there.

When a future graduate establishes a business, leads a cooperative, creates jobs, mentors other women, or leads a community initiative, she expands the Framework's circle of impact.

At that point, she is no longer only someone who received an opportunity. She becomes someone who creates opportunities for others.

This is one of the most important success indicators of the methodology.

4. THE OPERATIONAL MODEL

4.1 From Principles to Practice

The Framework defines the principles. The operational model translates them into action.

Implementation is not based on a single program or a single solution. It is built from several components, each reinforcing the others. Every community may choose to implement some of the components or add new ones according to local reality.

The principles remain the same. The implementation can vary.

4.2 The Cyclone Valley Campus

The Cyclone Valley Campus: A Women's Employment, Entrepreneurship and Technology Campus is one of the primary planned vehicles for implementing the Framework. The Cyclone Valley Campus is currently in the planning and development stage.

Its purpose is not only to impart professional knowledge. It is designed to develop women capable of navigating a rapidly changing world, continuing to learn throughout their lives, integrating into quality employment, establishing initiatives, and leading change in their communities.

The Cyclone Valley Campus is planned to combine learning, hands-on experience, research, leadership development, entrepreneurship, mentoring, and work on real challenges.

The emphasis is not only on knowledge transfer but on developing capability.

4.3 Future Skills Track

This track is designed primarily for young women who have completed secondary school. Its purpose is to prepare them for a world in which technology, the labor market, and professions are constantly changing.

The track will include, among other things:

- ☐ English
- ☐ Digital literacy
- ☐ Research and data collection
- ☐ Critical thinking
- ☐ Problem solving
- ☐ Entrepreneurship
- ☐ Leadership
- ☐ Teamwork
- ☐ Informed use of advanced technologies

The goal is not to train women for a specific profession. The goal is to develop women who are capable of continuing to learn and adapt to a changing reality.

AI as a Tool for Shortening the Path to Skills

Traditional training programs can be long, expensive, and difficult to access - requiring qualified instructors, fixed schedules, physical infrastructure, and financial resources that many women in southern Madagascar do not have.

Artificial intelligence can help shorten parts of the learning process through personalized explanations, immediate feedback, translation support, guided practice, workplace simulations, and access to professional knowledge at any time and from any location. This reduces avoidable delays and helps women reach practical skills, employment, or entrepreneurship more quickly.

AI does not replace teachers, mentors, professional training, practical experience, field research, local knowledge, or human judgment. It is a supporting tool - not a substitute for human connection, community learning, or lived experience.

The goal is not shorter training at any cost. The goal is a shorter, more accessible, and more personalized path to real capability.

4.4 Opportunity & Livelihood Track

Women do not all start from the same place. Many women did not receive a formal education, yet they seek to build a stable source of income, strengthen their families, and expand their choices.

Therefore, alongside the Future Skills Track, a completely different track will operate. It is an independent track. It is not intended to prepare participants for the Future Skills Track, nor does it serve as a transitional stage toward it.

Its purpose is to create economic opportunities through vocational training, micro-entrepreneurship, the establishment and management of cooperatives, basic financial management, and the use of technology at the level appropriate to the activity.

The two tracks are different from each other. Both are equally important.

Although the two tracks are independent, they will operate under the same methodological framework and learn from each other. Participants in the Future Skills Track will be able to conduct research, develop digital solutions, and support cooperatives and initiatives run by participants in the Opportunity & Livelihood Track. In turn, the second track will provide the Future Skills Track with a real learning environment in which ideas can be tested and solutions developed from the challenges of everyday life. In this way, the Cyclone Valley Campus is designed to become a living Opportunity Ecosystem, in which each track strengthens the other.

The Opportunity & Livelihood Track is one specific implementation pathway for women without formal education, while the employment, entrepreneurship, and cooperative options described in Chapter 5 refer more broadly to the different economic paths participants may choose or develop.

4.5 Research as a Practical Skill

Research is not reserved for academia. It is a practical skill.

Participants will learn to identify problems, ask questions, collect information, analyze data, and evaluate alternatives. These capabilities will support them in decision-making, entrepreneurship, cooperative management, developing new services, and leading community change.

Research becomes a working tool - not an end in itself.

4.6 Opportunity Ecosystem

The Cyclone Valley Campus alone will not be able to create long-term opportunities without a broader network of partners. Therefore, the Framework will work to build an Opportunity Ecosystem - a network of partnerships with employers, educational institutions, technology companies, local authorities, civil society organizations, entrepreneurs, and philanthropic foundations.

The goal is not to expand the organization. The goal is to expand the choices available to participants. The broader the partnership network, the wider the opportunities open to future graduates.

4.7 Open Door Policy

The relationship with participants will not end on graduation day. Future graduates will remain connected to the Cyclone Valley Campus and will continue to be an integral part of the Framework. They will be able to return to learning, participate in new training programs, receive mentoring, draw on the professional network that will be developed around the Campus, and share their experience with new cohorts.

This policy reflects the understanding that the world is constantly changing - and that learning must be continuous.

4.8 From Participants to Partners

Participants are not only consumers of knowledge. Over time, they will become partners in developing the methodology. They will test new ideas, contribute from their experience, participate in research, accompany new participants, and help adapt the Framework to a changing reality.

In this way, the community will not only benefit from the methodology - it will be a partner in shaping it and in its continued development.

5. DEVELOPING WOMEN FOR A CHANGING WORLD

5.1 Preparing Women for a Changing World

One of the great challenges of training systems is that they prepare people for the world as it is today. But the world does not stay as it is.

Technologies evolve. Professions disappear. New professions emerge. The effects of the climate crisis, the economy, and society continue to change.

Therefore, the goal of the Cyclone Valley Framework is not to train women for a specific profession. Its goal is to prepare them for a world in which the ability to learn, adapt, and lead change will matter more than any single profession.

5.2 Beyond Skills

Vocational training is only part of the path. Women also need self-confidence, critical thinking, the ability to learn independently, the ability to work in teams, an understanding of processes, leadership, communication skills, and belief in their ability to shape their own future.

These are not "soft skills." They are foundational capabilities that will enable them to navigate change throughout their lives.

5.3 Shortening the Path to Skills and Employment

Traditional training programs may require months or years of study, qualified instructors, travel to a fixed location, rigid schedules, physical infrastructure, and financial resources that remain inaccessible to many women. These barriers are not obstacles to learning - they are obstacles to entering the path at all.

AI-supported learning can help reduce these barriers. It can:

- ☐ Provide personalized explanations adapted to each learner's pace and starting point
- ☐ Generate targeted exercises and practice scenarios
- ☐ Provide immediate feedback without waiting for a teacher
- ☐ Support translation into local languages
- ☐ Simulate workplace situations and professional contexts
- ☐ Allow women to learn and repeat at any time, from any location
- ☐ Reduce avoidable delays between training and practical application
- ☐ Help women reach practical skills, employment, or entrepreneurship more quickly

AI does not replace professional training, teachers, mentors, practical experience, or human judgment. It is a supporting tool that makes the path more accessible - not a shortcut that bypasses what matters.

The goal is not shorter training at any cost. The goal is a shorter and more accessible path to real capability.

5.4 English as a Gateway

In today's global reality, command of English opens direct access to knowledge, research, technology, advanced learning, partnerships, and labor markets.

Therefore, English is not treated in the Framework as just another subject. It is an infrastructure that expands women's choices over time.

5.5 Employment, Entrepreneurship, and Cooperatives

Success is not measured by all participants following the same path. Women may enter any form of employment or economic activity they choose or are able to find, depending on their abilities, ambitions, circumstances, and available opportunities.

The Framework supports three broad pathways:

Employment and Professional Work

Women may work in companies, local businesses, public institutions, civil society organizations, schools, health services, technology teams, or other workplaces. They may work as employees, professionals, specialists, managers, team leaders, consultants, contractors, or service providers.

Independent Work and Entrepreneurship

Women may create independent businesses, professional services, social enterprises, local initiatives, digital services, or other income-generating activities. They may work alone, build teams, develop products, respond to community needs, and create employment opportunities for others.

Cooperatives and Collective Enterprise

Women may work through cooperatives or shared enterprises, combining skills, equipment, purchasing power, production, marketing, knowledge, and responsibility in ways that strengthen individual capacity through collective action.

Continued Support in Every Employment Path

Whatever form of employment participants choose or find, they will be able to receive continued guidance and support. This support may include:

- ☐ Career guidance and planning
- ☐ Job-search support
- ☐ Business mentoring and development
- ☐ Professional development and advanced training
- ☐ Access to professional networks
- ☐ Problem-solving support
- ☐ Partnership development
- ☐ Return through the Open Door Policy at any stage

The Framework's role is not to choose one employment path for every woman. Its role is to help each woman identify, enter, build, or create the path that suits her, and to continue supporting her as that path develops and changes.

5.6 Leadership as Multiplication

The goal is not only to cultivate successful women. The goal is to cultivate women who create change.

Leadership in the Framework is not defined by a role. It is defined by impact.

When a woman creates a job, establishes a cooperative, mentors other women, promotes a community initiative, or solves a local problem, she is exercising leadership.

As the number of women leading change grows, so does the Framework's sphere of impact.

5.7 Learning Never Ends

This approach is supported by the Open Door Policy described in Chapter 4.7.

Future graduates will remain connected to the Cyclone Valley Campus and will be able to continue learning as their professional paths, technologies, and circumstances change.

Continued support may include advanced learning, mentoring, professional guidance, access to networks, problem-solving support, collaboration opportunities, and participation in future programs.

Graduates will also be invited to support new participants, contribute to future cohorts, share knowledge, develop partnerships, and participate in the continued development of the methodology.

Graduation is therefore not the end of the relationship. It is the beginning of a long-term professional and learning connection.

6. MEASURING LONG-TERM IMPACT

6.1 Measuring What Matters

It is easy to measure activity. It is harder to measure change.

The number of participants, the number of courses, hours of study, or certificates issued are all activity indicators. They do not necessarily reflect the success of the methodology.

The Framework seeks to measure, above all, the change created in the lives of women, in their communities, and in the systems in which they operate.

6.2 Three Levels of Impact

Evaluation of success will be based on three complementary levels of impact. These three levels complement one another and reflect the Framework's worldview: meaningful change begins with the individual, expands to the community, and over time influences the entire system.

Personal Impact	Expanding choices, economic independence, continued learning, leadership, and integration into employment or entrepreneurship.
Community Impact	Job creation, establishing cooperatives, developing new initiatives, and expanding women's influence within the community.
Systemic Impact	Creating new knowledge, developing partnerships, promoting the adoption of Framework principles by other organizations, and influencing thinking in the field.

6.3 Quality Before Scale

The Framework does not define success primarily by the number of participants, courses, or graduates.

Its central question is not how many women completed a program, but how many women gained the knowledge, confidence, professional capability, support, and opportunities required to build a different future.

This means that quality must come before rapid expansion.

The first cohorts of the Cyclone Valley Campus will help test, improve, and refine the methodology. Their experience will contribute to the development of future learning tracks, support systems, partnerships, and evaluation methods.

Growth should follow evidence and learning. It should not come at the expense of meaningful outcomes.

6.4 A Framework That Learns

Measurement is not only a way to demonstrate results. It is also a tool for learning.

The Framework will use evaluation, feedback, field experience, and long-term follow-up to understand what works, what does not work, and what needs to change.

Participants, graduates, local leaders, partner organizations, employers, researchers, and community members will all contribute to this learning process.

The principles of the Framework remain stable, but its tools, programs, and implementation methods may continue to develop as new knowledge is gained.

7. CONCLUSION

7.1 Ambovombe - Where the Framework Begins

The Cyclone Valley Framework was developed in Ambovombe, Androy, Southern Madagascar. This choice is not coincidental.

This is one of the regions facing the most complex starting conditions in Sub-Saharan Africa. The combination of climate crisis, water and food shortages, destructive cyclones, social inequalities, and the deeply entrenched low status of women creates a particularly challenging development environment.

Women in the Androy region face a reality shaped by multiple intersecting hardships: low social and economic status, gender-based violence, sexual violence, sexual exploitation, forced and early marriage, economic dependence, limited access to education and employment, restricted access to justice, and severely constrained freedom of choice. These are not background conditions. They are the lived daily reality of women the Framework is designed to serve.

Safety and economic independence are closely connected. Women who have no income, no skills, and no support network are far more vulnerable to violence, exploitation, and coercion. Creating employment, entrepreneurship, education, and long-term support is not only an economic strategy. It is also part of protecting women, reducing vulnerability, preventing future violence, and expanding women's ability to make decisions about their own lives.

Protection without economic opportunity may leave women dependent.

Training without safety may be inaccessible.

Technology without education and local support may create little practical change.

The Framework is built on the understanding that these dimensions must be addressed together.

Developing a methodology under such conditions demands practical solutions. Ideas that do not work in the field do not survive.

For this reason, southern Madagascar serves as the development environment for the Framework - not because it is intended only for Madagascar, but because the lessons learned there may be relevant to many other communities across Sub-Saharan Africa.

7.2 Open Knowledge

Knowledge creates its greatest impact when it is shared. The Cyclone Valley Framework therefore adopts an Open Knowledge approach - the systematic sharing of methodologies, lessons, successes, and challenges, so that others can learn from, adapt, and continue to develop the Framework in different realities.

The methodology, working tools, lessons learned, successes, and failures will be systematically documented and shared with organizations, academic institutions, governments, companies, and other partners.

The goal of knowledge sharing is not to encourage copying the model. It is to enable others to learn from the principles, adapt them to their local reality, and continue to develop them. In this way, the Framework itself will continue to learn and evolve.

7.3 Building Partnerships

Creating long-term opportunities for women cannot be the responsibility of a single organization. It requires collaboration between local leadership, governments, educational institutions, technology companies, the business sector, civil society organizations, and philanthropic foundations.

When each contributes its unique strengths, together they create a stronger and more resilient system than any single program could achieve.

The Framework regards partnerships as a methodological component - not merely a means of resource mobilization.

7.4 From Local Experience to Global Relevance

The Cyclone Valley Framework does not seek to offer a perfect solution or a single model suitable for every community. Its purpose is to offer a way of thinking - one that connects research, innovation, technology, local

leadership, and opportunity development; one that sees women not merely as a target audience of development programs, but as full partners in planning, implementation, and leading change.

The success of the Cyclone Valley Framework will not be measured by the number of places that adopt it, but by the number of communities that succeed in adapting it to their own reality.

About the Framework

The Cyclone Valley Framework was born from practical work in southern Madagascar and from a continuous process of learning, research, experimentation, and adaptation to local reality.

It is a methodology, not a fixed action plan, a business model, or a single project.

The Framework provides a system of principles that can guide the planning, connection, implementation, and evaluation of different programs and partnerships.

The Cyclone Valley Campus is a planned implementation of the Framework. Ny Trano Manga is an independent protection initiative whose field experience has informed the methodology. Neither the Campus nor the shelter is the Framework itself.

The Framework is designed to remain open and capable of learning. Its core principles remain stable, while its tools, programs, partnerships, and implementation methods may change according to local needs, evidence, experience, and new knowledge.

Its goal is to help communities, organizations, governments, and partners develop solutions that expand women's choices, strengthen local leadership, and contribute to building independent and sustainable communities.

About the Author

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Eldad Garfunkel has personally lived and worked in Madagascar for more than 200 days, primarily in Ambovombe, Androy, Southern Madagascar. He is the Founder and CEO of IRC Africa Inc, an American 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

His work is centered on Saving and Improving Women's Lives by connecting protection from violence with education, employment, entrepreneurship, technology, leadership, and long-term economic independence.

The methodology took shape through collaborative work with communities, women, local leaders, public authorities, and professionals, and through a continuous process of research, learning, adaptation, and field-testing of solutions.

The Cyclone Valley Framework combines practical experience, innovation, local leadership, and long-term thinking, with the aim of offering a methodology adaptable to different realities across Sub-Saharan Africa.

Working in Full Partnership with Mamy Duata

Mamy Duata - CEO of TERATANY NGO, Madagascar

Eldad Garfunkel works in full partnership and complete mutual trust with Mamy Duata, CEO of TERATANY NGO - a women-led Malagasy organization based in Ambovombe, Androy, Southern Madagascar.

Mamy Duata's personal experience as a woman in southern Madagascar gives her a profound understanding of the realities faced by women and girls in the Androy region - realities shaped by poverty, gender-based violence, limited access to education and justice, early marriage, and economic dependence. The hardships she experienced are a major force behind her determination to help other women, protect them from violence and exploitation, and prevent them from enduring similar suffering.

This partnership is built on:

- ☐ Full mutual trust and shared responsibility
- ☐ Honest dialogue and joint decision-making
- ☐ Local leadership at the center of all programs
- ☐ A shared mission for women in southern Madagascar

Eldad contributes international experience, technological expertise, organizational development, donor partnerships, and resource mobilization. Mamy provides local leadership, cultural knowledge, field management, community relationships, and a lived understanding of women's daily realities that no external perspective can replace.

Decisions and programs are developed together, with local leadership at the center.

Authorship

This white paper was written by Eldad Garfunkel, Founder and CEO of IRC Africa Inc. It was shaped by field experience and close partnership with Mamy Duata, CEO of TERATANY NGO.

When Technology Meets Reality, innovation becomes meaningful.

When innovation respects culture, communities become stronger.

When women receive genuine opportunities, they not only change their own future.

They help change the future of their families, their communities, and the generations that follow.

The Cyclone Valley Framework does not conclude the conversation. It invites it to begin.

“What is done with love is never too hard.”