

BUILDING INSTITUTIONS AND NETWORKS

We Believe in Resilience in Systems

This video transcript captures an interview with Purity Kagwiria, former executive director of Akili Dada, a leadership incubator for girls and young women across East Africa—and one of the first organizations to receive a BUILD grant. The Ford Foundation’s BUILD initiative provides grantees with multiyear flexible funding, enabling them to build more durable, resilient, and impactful organizations and networks.

Transcript begins.

[A Black woman with a buzz cut sits for an interview.]

PURITY KAGWIRIA: I like to think of BUILD as just having the peace of mind to know that the work you do matters, and it matters that you do it well. So, for us, what has changed is the fact that BUILD is allowing us the space to actually think strategically.

The organizational support that we’re getting through the BUILD grant is helping Akili Dada sort of solidify our ground. We’ve never had an institutional lawyer, and we didn’t stop to think, what does that mean to the staff, what does that mean for the brand of the organization, even for the safety of the people that we are working with. So BUILD gives us an opportunity to engage a professional who would help us draft a security policy, have the staff trained on security, have the staff just recognize that when we’re in the field there are certain things you can do and shouldn’t be doing, because that safety of an individual determines how they end up showing up in that space, the quality of the work they end up doing in that space. And we have a good opportunity now to just put that down on record and actually start living it.

[on-screen text: We believe in systems.
We believe in building resilience.
We believe in reimagining philanthropy.
fordfoundation.org/build]

[on-screen graphic: Ford Foundation logo]

End of transcript.