

StepLadder Partners with Malipo Circles to Accelerate Collaborative Finance

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StepLadder is excited to announce an innovative partnership with Malipo, one of Kenya’s leading fintechs. This collaboration combines StepLadder’s focus on digital rotating Savings Circles with Malipo’s leading Chamas platform to empower banks and communities in Kenya with better tools for saving, lending, and financial empowerment.

This partnership is a knowledge, technology and commercial collaboration for Kenya and beyond. StepLadder will work closely with Malipo to share insights on scaling and risk management of group savings – super charging both CirclesPRO and Malipo Circles platforms. The companies envision by the second quarter of 2025 launching Advanced Financial Products developed together and localised to succeed.

“We’re thrilled to join forces with Malipo, a home-grown financial technology leader in transforming digital banking in Kenya and throughout Africa,” said Matthew Addison, CEO of StepLadder. *“This partnership demonstrates our commitment to leveraging our deep expertise in collaborative finance to create impactful solutions with first-rate local partners, globally.”*

“Our collaboration with StepLadder is a significant step toward redefining group rotating savings as a scalable cornerstone digital finance proposition,” said Erick Oyugi, CEO of Malipo. *“With StepLadder’s experience in successfully running Circles globally, we can deliver innovative solutions together with greater scale and trust to StepLadder’s multi-regional network of relationships including MENA, Europe and the Americas.”*

This partnership underscores the shared vision of both organizations to bridge gaps in financial access and create sustainable, community-driven solutions. Together, Malipo and StepLadder aim to unlock new economic opportunities and improve financial well-being for millions across both companies’ footprints.

For more information about Circles powered by StepLadder, visit <https://step-ladder-solutions.com>

To learn more about Malipo, visit <https://malipocircles.com> Erick Oyugi is the founder and CEO of Malipo Circles. Erick has redefined interactions among financial networks by building technologies that automate complex operation within those networks.

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Notes to Editors:

Collaborative saving around the world

Using a financial model known as a 'Rotating Credit and Savings Association' (ROSCA) – popular in many nations worldwide – it is also known by names globally such as Susu, Chamas, Paluwagan, Ajo, Gameya, Tandas and Chit Funds. The concept of collaborative saving is not new, but StepLadder is the first to have brought the service to the digital world in the UK.... and now globally.

How a Savings Circle works

Once you know how much you want to save, StepLadder will match you with other people looking to do the same. This is your 'Circle' and you are a Member. Every month you pay into the Saving Circle and once a month a Member gets awarded the money in the Saving Circle. You continue to save for your goal until the Saving Circle ends, but if you get drawn you receive your savings faster, although you continue to pay until the Saving Circle ends.

About Matthew and Lucy, StepLadder Co-Founders

Matthew Addison founded StepLadder in 2016 to make a lasting positive social impact based on his graduate study work at Wharton on group saving. Matthew has spent nearly 20 years in finance and investments at firms including Goldman Sachs and Cheyne Capital, where he was a partner. Lucy Mullins has 20 years experience in education and finance at the University of Oxford and HSBC. She did her MBA at the Saïd Business School and was named Female Founder at Unbound Innovation Awards in 2019 and Innovator of the Year at the Women in IT Awards 2020.