

## **James Mwangi**

Dr. James Mwangi is one of Africa's most renowned thought leaders, a disruptive entrepreneur, and philanthropist. As a champion of sustainable, socioeconomic transformation, Mwangi believes that individuals and societies have the potential to solve their socioeconomic challenges sustainably, if they are given the opportunity and access to resources.

As a champion of financial inclusion, Mwangi is credited with democratizing financial access by removing entry barriers in Kenya and the larger region. As a disruptive and turnaround leader, he pioneered a savings-led microfinance revolution giving the largely excluded majority of un-banked households, businesses, enterprises, and communities in the country the opportunity for broader economic participation. As a serial entrepreneur, he has overseen the establishment of geographical and business line subsidiaries in banking, fintech, health, insurance, investment, and telecom.

Mwangi has led Equity to become a publicly listed and integrated banking and financial services group upholding global corporate governance standards. Under his leadership, Equity has made investments in technology and innovation accelerating growth across Africa building a client base of over twenty-two million in seven countries (Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda) with a commercial representative office in Ethiopia, and a total asset base of over \$14 billion USD. Equity Group has one of the most extensive physical and digital distribution networks in Africa with millions leveraging electronic, cards, mobile, and internet self-service capabilities. The Group is renowned for stakeholder value maximization hinged on a culture of innovation, self-disruption, and renewal.

It is the largest financial company by market capitalization in Eastern and Central Africa. Mwangi has earned the trust of many of the world's top socially responsible investors, foundations, development financial institutions, development agencies and strategic alliance partners who subscribe to Equity Group's inclusive social impact investment, and shared prosperity business model.

Driven by the commitment to scale up shared prosperity and social impact interventions that transform lives and livelihoods, Mwangi established the Equity Group Foundation (EGF), the social engine of Equity Group, in 2008. EGF implements innovative programs that leverage the infrastructure of the bank achieving a higher social return on investment.

While serving as the executive chairman, Mwangi has shaped notable EGF programs and mobilized the support of like-minded partners to commit \$690 million USD for social impact. Under the education and leadership development pillar, EGF has offered more than sixty thousand secondary school scholarships to academically gifted but socioeconomically challenged children. Mwangi serves as a lead mentor and coach to the youth and is committed to their transition to tertiary education, where they join the Equity Leadership Program of 23,825 scholars who have joined university, with 970 having joined leading global learning institutions. Furthering the work of financial inclusion, EGF has provided a thirteen-week financial literacy training to three million youth and women and offered a three-year entrepreneurship and business development training to nearly six-hundred thousand entrepreneurs. EGF has impacted the transformation of 3.8 million farmers (with 355,000 of them being small- and medium-sized) into agribusinesses. With a vision of granting affordable, accessible, and quality health care, EGF's health pillar adopted a health franchise model to be run by the Equity Leadership scholars who pursued medicine at the university level.