

Henri Nyakarundi is Founder and CEO of ARED, a Rwanda-based company providing green solutions to expand digital access and electrical connectivity in four African countries.

A native Rwandan, Nyakarundi moved to the US in 1996 to study computer science. After graduation, he soon realized that a 9-5 was not his calling, and he was an entrepreneur at heart. Over the next 10 years, he founded and developed trucking and construction businesses in both the US and Burundi. However, the green sector is his true passion. After developing ARED over the course of three years, in 2013 he returned to Rwanda to start up the company full-time.

Nyakarundi is a well-respected voice on entrepreneurship in Africa, renewable energy, innovation & technology impact and more. As a mentor, speaker, strategist on social entrepreneur in Africa, he sheds light on some of the challenges in the African marketplace, but also the key solutions needed to solve some of the major challenges the continent faces, such as unemployment, lack of access to energy, and access to smart funding.

Nyakarundi is a talented and engaging communicator who can cut through the myths and misunderstandings to provide clarity and perspective on what it means to be a green leader in business. He brings to his audiences a clear understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing mainstream entrepreneurs on the ground as they try to build their own social enterprises in a way that drives bottom-line performance and top-line growth.

His balanced, personal experience, and credible approach to green business and clean technology has offered a different perspective on the potential of product innovation and the impact it can have for the people and the key partners.