



Annual Report 2021

Global Health Connections

A photograph showing a group of approximately ten people, mostly women, working together in a rural, outdoor setting. They are gathered around a dirt ground, some bending over and others standing, appearing to be engaged in agricultural labor like weeding or preparing soil. The background is filled with lush green trees and foliage, suggesting a tropical or subtropical environment. A corrugated metal roof structure is visible on the right side.

Together We Can...

Welcome to Global Health Connections

We are an organization unlike no other that is in the pursuit of promoting health education and economic empowerment in Western, Kenya.

We are focused on an entirely new way of providing assistance--we don't give or do, rather we teach and empower communities to solve both current and future problems. We respect people and believe in their capacity to build up themselves and their villages. In short, we help people help themselves.



Our Mission

“To connect, engage, and empower individuals to improve the health and economic sustainability of their community”



2021 At A Glance

Number of Villages with Community Health and Empowerment Clubs (CHECs):

9

Number of Villagers Currently Enrolled in a CHEC:

900

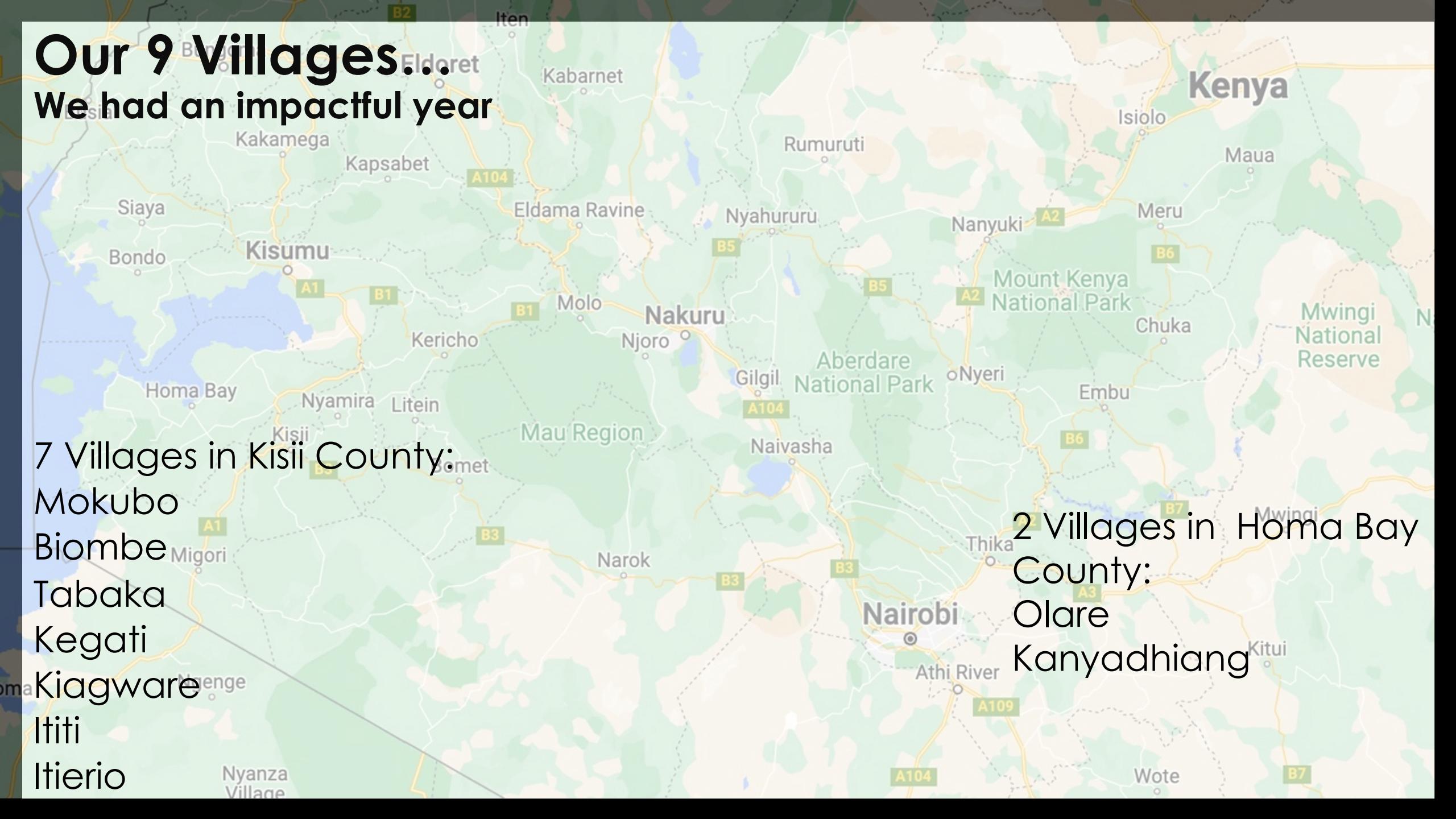
Number of Sustainable Economic Projects Started:

12

Number of Kenyans Impacted by CHECs:

Over 10,000

Our 9 Villages... We had an impactful year



7 Villages in Kisii County:

Mokubo

Biombe

Tabaka

Kegati

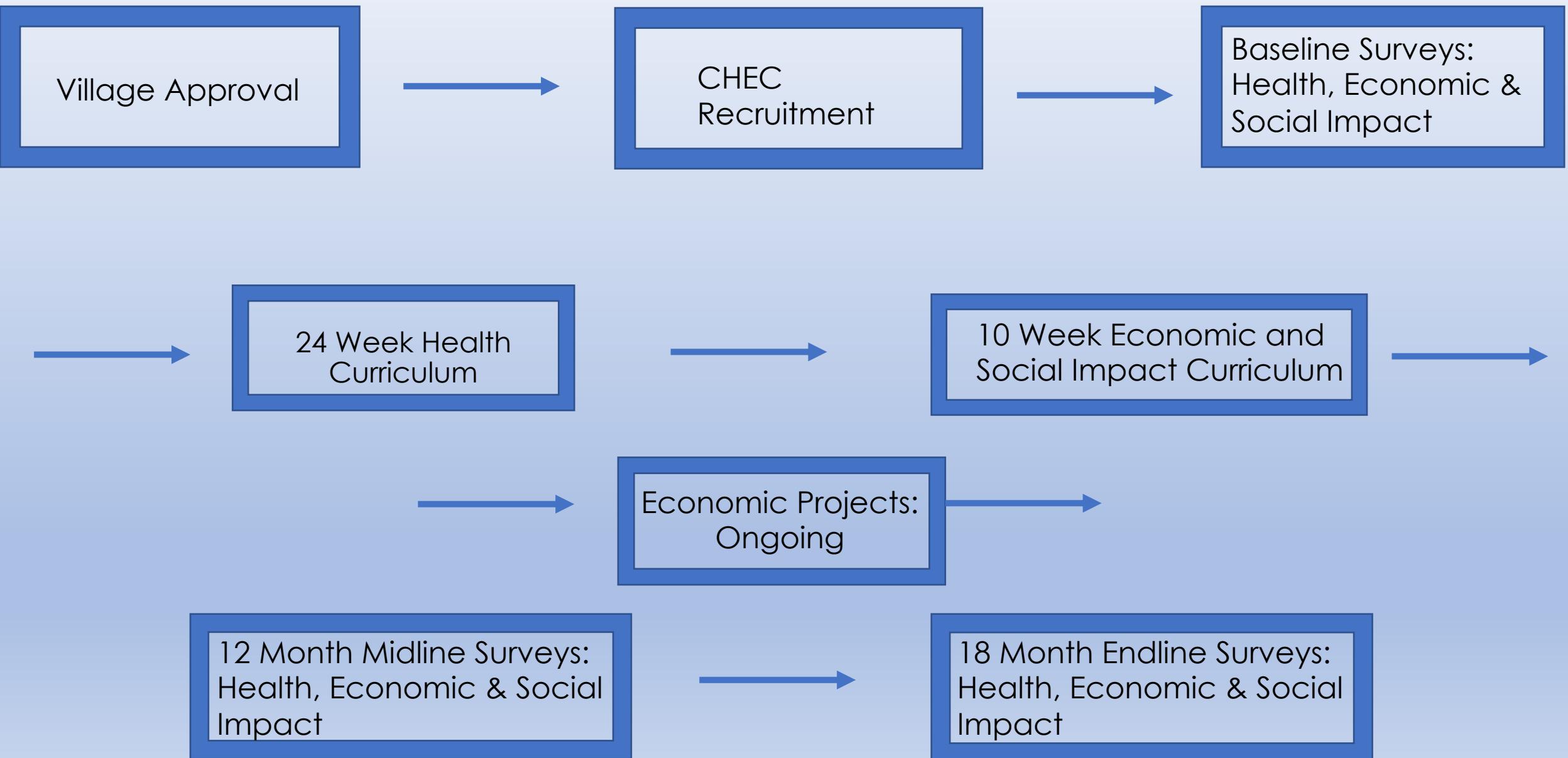
Kiagware

Ititi

Itierio

2 Villages in Homa Bay
County:
Olare
Kanyadhiang

Our Programmatic Strategy



Program Details

24 Week Health Curriculum

Our 24 Week Program includes such topics as WASH, Nutrition, Disease Prevention and more.

We train CHEC members on the importance of sanitation and hygiene, given that health only gets better when all of these factors improve. We also spend time on building kitchen gardens, latrines and wash stations.

10 Week Economic and Social Impact Curriculum

Our 10 Week Program includes such topics as Entrepreneurship, Financial Literacy and Business Financing.

Every village has unique needs and resources. Our team takes into account existing conditions, terrain, and population as we determine which economic programs will best serve each individual community. This means a variety of different projects—beekeeping, soap making, millet farming, and more—are implemented.

Village Highlight

MOKUBO

Mokubo Village, in Kisii County, is where it all started for Global Health Connections. We began our first CHEC in December 2020 and graduated 145 members, in July 2021 from the health training program. 80% of the participants were women. 125 of these graduates went on to complete the 10-week Economic Empowerment curriculum and 119 members are currently involved in one of many economic projects.

Pre-GHC Garden



Post-GHC Garden



Successes

MOKUBO



The Napier Grass Group, comprised of 12 women, have surpassed all expectations. With the money from the first two harvests in January and April, they were able to buy 8 goats. Their 3rd harvest will be in July and with this money they will pay for the land lease for next year plus buy 4 more goats for remaining members. They are truly an inspiration.

Successes

MOKUBO

The Soap Making Group, comprised of 13 members, has repaid ¼ of their loan in cash thus far. They have become a registered business in Kenya and have opened their own bank account, giving them the option to sell soap anywhere in Kenya. They were recently awarded a contract with the Mokubo Secondary School to supply soap for them for the year.

Each member was also able to purchase a chicken from their own savings.



Village Opportunity

Biombe



Biombe, a village comprised of 6000 inhabitants, is Global Health Connections 2nd village. We recently decided to make Biombe Village our model Beekeeping community. This region of western Kenya is densely covered with vegetation and has the perfect climate for raising bees. There were also many CHEC members with existing knowledge about bees, thus providing the perfect environment for GHC to start an apiary.

We teamed up with KARI - Kenyan Agricultural Research Initiative – to help assist and provide expertise on beekeeping, apiary construction, and honey and wax extraction. We hired a local KARI expert to help us full-time train the members and manage the apiary as well.

We currently have 80 beehives in the apiary and will start collecting honey and wax for processing this summer.

Operations

GHC's mission is focused on empowering individuals from a health, economic and social perspective. From day one, we've relied on generous private donors to fund our operating expenses. It hasn't been easy, but it's an approach we believe in deeply. And our commitment to maintaining this inspires support from passionate donors, enthusiastic fundraisers, long-standing clubs, and loyal volunteers—a community that believes, as we do, that teaching and empowering is the way towards a sustainable and prosperous future.

Highlights include:

- Awarded a \$70,000 Rotary Grant at the end of 2021
- Working towards promoting our Adopt-a-Village program
- Teaming up with Mediae Group for a Village Makeover television show



Our Board



USA

Board of Directors

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Faith Mageto, Secretary
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Our Team

Our team is small, but mighty. We are comprised of intelligent, generous, hard-working people who are committed to changing the world together.



USA

Dr. Blair Gifford,
PhD, Chairman
and Founder of
Global Health
Connections

Holly Church,
Executive
Director

Mimi Gordon,
Managing
Director

Suzanne
Dirksen,
Secretary/
Treasurer

Kenya

KISII TEAM:

Faith Mageto,
Managing
Director

Margaret
Moraa
Regional CHEC
Coordinator

Mark Orondo,
CHEC Project
Officer

HOMA BAY TEAM:

Jannes Kodero,
Regional CHEC
Coordinator

Salome Nyariro,
CHEC Project
Officer

Samson Oseko – Resident Beekeeper

A photograph showing the back of a person wearing a purple short-sleeved shirt and a colorful, patterned headwrap. They are carrying a large, heavy bundle of green leafy vegetables on their back. The person is walking through a lush, green, overgrown field. In the background, there are dense green trees and foliage, suggesting a rural or forested area.

Financials

We are currently a small operation, with big dreams and plans to expand. From day one, we've relied on generous private donors to fund our operating expenses. It hasn't been easy, but it's an approach we believe in deeply. And, our commitment to focusing on empowering individuals from a health, economic and social perspective inspires this support. From passionate donors, enthusiastic fundraisers, long-standing clubs, and loyal volunteers, we have found a community that believes, as we do, teaching and empowering is the way towards a sustainable and prosperous future.

Financials

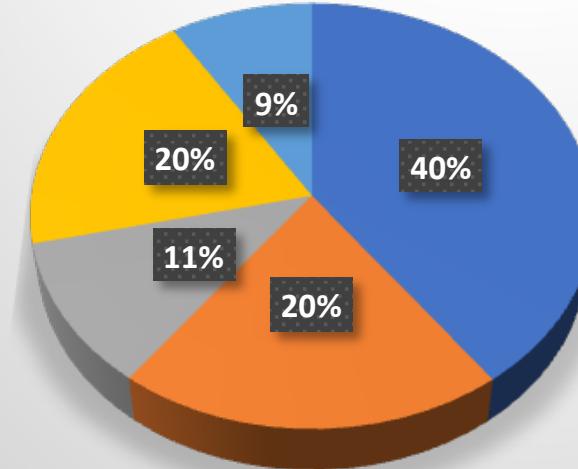
TOTAL BUDGET FOR 2021:
\$129,383

We do our best to keep our operating costs in both Denver and Kenya as low as possible. Operating costs in Kenya include the extensive surveying we do in all our villages and the data analysis that goes along with it.

We were recently awarded a \$70,000 Rotary Grant and 100% of it will go towards funding new villages and ongoing village costs in 2022. We will also use part of it to purchase honey processing equipment.

Our goal for 2022 is to lower Denver operating costs and to make them around 20% of the total budget.

GHC 2021 Budget Including Grants/Donations



- Denver
- Kisii
- Hom a Bay
- New Village Start-up Costs
- Ongoing Village Costs

GHC Has Big Plans for the Future.

We want to expand into more villages in Kisii, Nyamira and Homa Bay Counties in western Kenya.

We want to expand our beekeeping endeavors into more villages and have a central processing center to extract honey, wax and other products.

We want to continue developing our Adopt-a-Village program to attract more donors.

We want to teach more Kenyans and provide opportunities that lead to more healthy, financially stable and empowered lives.

