

EMPOWERMENT

Global Health Connections Quarterly Newsletter



THIS SPRING'S HIGHLIGHTS

🎓 Graduation Success

100% in 2 villages, 99% in the other 2 — our best yet!

💧 Clean Water Delivered

497 water filters distributed to every CHEC graduate

💼 Financial Literacy Begins

New 10-week training now underway in 4 villages

🗳️ Local Leadership in Action

Newly elected committees now guiding their CHECs

📈 VillageRise in Motion

Laying the groundwork to scale our model

🌟 New Adopt-a-Village Partners Welcomed

Parker RC, Castle Pines RC, Aurora RC & Rangeview
Interact Club

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

In recent months, something extraordinary has taken place in our villages. From graduation ceremonies and new governance committees to water filter distributions and the launch of financial literacy classes, these aren't just milestones — they're proof that sustainable change is taking root.

As we look ahead, we're focused on scaling this impact: bringing GHC's proven model to more communities and more partners across Kenya. With each step, we're reminded that the most powerful change doesn't come from the outside in — it rises from within, driven by the strength and resilience of local communities.

This moment is not just about what GHC can achieve, but what we — alongside our donors, partners, and village leaders — can make possible. Thank you for standing with us and fueling this journey toward stronger, healthier, and more self-sustaining communities.

With gratitude,
Mimi Gordon

PICTURED ABOVE: GHC'S PARTNER, AQUACLARA, DELIVERS SATO PANS TO SOKLO VILLAGE. SATO PANS ARE LOW-COST TOILET PANS THAT IMPROVE HYGIENE BY SEALING OUT ODORS AND INSECTS.



From One Village to Many: Scaling Impact, Strengthening Communities

This season marks a powerful milestone in GHC's journey: four of our villages have celebrated their CHEC graduation, new governance committees are stepping up, water filters were distributed during the ceremonies, and financial literacy training has just begun. But this isn't just a moment of celebration — it's a moment of momentum.

Across Kenya, the impact of one village is sparking the transformation of many, as GHC works to strengthen local communities and explore new ways to scale our proven CHEC model. We're excited to share stories of growth, resilience, and the expanding ripple effects of this work.

PICTURED ON FIRST PAGE: SOKLO MEMBERS WALK TO A MEETING
 PICTURED ABOVE: MAUGO CHEC MEMBERS CELEBRATE GRADUATION AND THEIR NEW WATER FILTERS.



CHEC Graduation Milestone — and the Gift of Clean Water 💧

We are thrilled to celebrate a historic achievement in four of our CHEC villages! In early May, Maugo (123/125 graduates), Soklo (124/125), Nyamokenye (125/125), and Kimuka (125/125) proudly completed their 24-week health curriculum — marking the first time in GHC's history that we've had perfect graduation rates in two villages and near-perfect rates in the other two.

Graduation ceremonies were filled with joy, dancing, and speeches from proud community members and GHC leaders. But one of the most powerful moments? Each graduate received a personal water filter — a life-changing tool that turns everything they've learned about disease prevention into daily action. In total, 497 filters were distributed, bringing safe water into 497 households across western Kenya.



These filters symbolize much more than clean water. They represent knowledge in action, dignity restored, and the power of health education. One community leader shared, “We now understand how small changes can bring big improvements to our families and neighbors.”

We are incredibly proud of these graduates. They’re not just completing a course — they’re leading lasting transformation across their communities.



PICTURED ABOVE TOP: NYAMOKENYE MEMBERS CELEBRATE GRADUATION
PICTURED RIGHT: A CHEC MEMBER'S FLOURISHING KITCHEN GARDEN

Governance Begins: New Committees Step Up

With the close of the health curriculum, each of our four newest CHECs — Maugo, Soklo, Nyamokenye, and Kimuka — has now elected its own Sustainable Governance Committee. These dedicated members will guide the next phase of their village's journey, overseeing income-generating projects, facilitating club meetings, and ensuring long-term sustainability.

At GHC, we believe in empowering communities — not directing them. That's why each committee is chosen by its own members, with GHC providing leadership training, coaching, and tools to help them succeed. But the vision, decisions, and responsibility remain in local hands. It's this commitment to community ownership that makes the CHEC model so powerful — and so sustainable.

One new chairperson from Nyamokenye shared:

“We are ready to lead. This is our village, and now, this is our movement.”

These inspiring individuals are living proof of GHC's mission in action — proof that when you invest in leadership at the local level, the results are long-lasting and deeply rooted.



PICTURED ABOVE: THE NEWLY ELECTED NYAMOKENYE SUSTAINABLE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Next Chapter: Financial Literacy Training Kicks Off

With health education now complete, our four newest CHECs are diving into the next crucial phase — Financial Literacy Training. This 10-week curriculum equips members with the tools to achieve long-term financial independence and economic stability.

Through interactive weekly sessions, members are learning how to budget and save, manage debt, and start and grow small businesses — including idea generation, registration, cost management, and financial planning.

By the end of the course, each participant will have the knowledge and confidence to launch or strengthen a small enterprise — and for many, the timing couldn't be more perfect.

In fact, in the very first week, several members shared business ideas they're eager to pursue — from poultry keeping to tailoring to selling soap. Many have already begun pooling their merry-go-round savings with the goal of using these funds to jumpstart their ventures.

One CHEC member in Kimuka beamed as she said,

"I've always wanted to run a business, but didn't know how. Now I understand how to start and how to make it work."

This training is not just about numbers — it's about unlocking potential and turning ideas into income. For these communities, it marks the beginning of a future powered by knowledge, confidence, and economic resilience.



Looking Ahead: Scaling GHC's Model

As we continue to see the life-changing impact of our CHEC model across Kenya, we're laying the groundwork to share it more broadly. Our team is actively developing new materials and refining tools to make it easier for other organizations and communities to replicate this success.

We're calling this next phase VillageRise — a scalable approach rooted in the same community-led health, economic, and leadership training that defines GHC's work.

"When one village rises, it lights the way for others to follow."

— Blair Gifford, Board Chairman

More to come — but for now, we're focused on making sure our current CHECs continue to thrive and lead the way.



VillageRise

A Toolkit for Sustainable
Community Development





Thank You to Our Partners

None of this would be possible without you — our dedicated supporters, Rotarians, donors, and partner foundations. Your belief in our mission powers every health training, every water filter, and every step toward economic empowerment.

“We’ve seen real change in our village — thanks to this partnership, our people feel empowered, hopeful, and united.”

— Village Leader, Kimuka CHEC

A special shout-out to our newest Adopt-a-Village partners:

- Parker Rotary Club, who adopted Maugo Village
- Castle Pines Rotary Club, Aurora Rotary Club, and the Rangeview High School Interact Club, who joined forces to co-adopt Nyamokenye Village

