

EMPOWERMENT

Global Health Connections Quarterly Newsletter



This Spring's Highlights

💧 Kimuka is building for the future.

Water access, sanitation, fencing, and a new poultry site are now in place and ready for production.

💰 Savings groups are strengthening household stability.

Across villages, table banking and shared savings continue to fund small businesses, school fees, livestock, and emergencies.

🍯 Community income is growing.

CHEC members harvested 120 liters of honey this season, reinvesting earnings locally.

🌍 Global partnerships are expanding impact.

Students from the Chaparral Interact Club and Parker Rotary Club contributed \$1,200 for sports equipment and hygiene kits at Maugo Primary School.

🌱 New roots are forming in Homa Bay.

Communities in Maugo and Soklo are strengthening savings and preparing land ahead of upcoming planting seasons.

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When Ownership Takes Root

Perez Ally walks to the Maugo market before sunrise, sets up her rice stand, and is selling before the other vendors arrive. She is 62, a widow, and the primary caregiver for her grandson. Her business grew out of a merry-go-round savings group inside her CHEC. Her story is becoming common across western Kenya: CHEC members building what they own, with capital that stays in their villages.

CHEC members are building systems of their own: water systems are in place in Kimuka, savings groups are strengthening household stability, and farmers are expanding land use and reinvesting income into new opportunities. Across villages, income from honey, livestock, farming, and table banking is staying within communities and being reinvested locally.

These are signs of something larger forming: communities planning and investing together to build assets that can sustain themselves over time. This is what sustainability looks like: something grown by the people who will keep it alive.



Denver's Message

Dear friends,

Last week, our project officer Quinter sent me a story I've been thinking about ever since. Jemimah lives in Soklo Village. She's raising 8 children, several of them from her husband's first wife, who passed away. She's the one keeping them fed and in school.

When Quinter visited her this season, Jemimah walked her around her homestead. The kitchen garden was almost empty: she'd sold most of what she grew. Her latrine was halfway built, floor poured on one side, superstructure still to come. She didn't have enough cement, so she'd wrapped what she had in iron sheet to keep going while she saved for the rest. In front of her house sat her sundry store. A small one. Stocked with what she could afford. She'd started it with money from her merry-go-round savings group, the one she joined after GHC introduced Soklo to the CHEC model. That sundry store is how she's paying for the cement.

This is what community ownership looks like in motion: resourceful women solving the next problem with what they have, while a savings group, a CHEC, and a half-built latrine all hold each other up.

Thank you for being part of this. Every dollar that flows through GHC eventually finds its way to a woman like Jemimah, who knows exactly what to do with it.

With gratitude,
Mimi Gordon - Director of Marketing



Building Strong Foundations

Kimuka: From Open Ground to Opportunity

In Kimuka Village, CHEC members are turning a bold vision into something you can now walk through, touch, and see. With \$13,200 in funding, followed by an additional \$5,000, the group has made remarkable progress toward building a fully operational poultry and income-generating project site.

What was once open ground is now becoming a hub of opportunity. Water has been connected from Chief Joseph's borehole to the site through newly dug trenches and installed piping, ensuring a reliable source for both current needs and future growth. Two 10,000-liter water tanks have been purchased and installed, complete with protective shades.

Beyond water access, the site now includes newly constructed latrines, a fully fenced perimeter with a secured gate, and a renovated storage building that will house chicken feed and supplies. The chicken coop itself is now fully complete, and CHEC members have planted trees across the property: an investment in today's project and in the future of the land itself.

This is what community-built infrastructure looks like: infrastructure built by the community, for the community, and creating assets designed to serve families for years to come.



Kimuka by the Numbers

- 💧 2 × 10,000-liter water tanks installed
- 🐔 Chicken coop fully complete
- 🚰 Borehole water connected to site
- 🌳 Trees planted by CHEC members
- 🏠 Storage building renovated
- 🏠 Latrines, fencing, and gate completed



PICTURED ABOVE: MEMBERS WORK TOGETHER TO PLANT TREES AROUND THE COOP
PICTURED BELOW; LAYING THE FLOOR; THE STORAGE BUILDING BEING RENOVATED

Growing Through Savings

When financial literacy becomes family stability

Across Kenya, CHEC members are proving that consistent saving, shared accountability, and small loans can create life-changing opportunities. What begins as weekly table banking or merry-go-round contributions is growing into livestock purchases, small businesses, school fees, emergency support, and stronger household resilience.



In Nyamokenye, six active sub-groups are putting financial literacy into action in creative ways. Members are purchasing goats for one another, leasing land, and planting napier grass to support future livestock and income opportunities.

In just the past four months, the CHEC has raised \$1,590 in savings, generating \$326 in profit and interest through disciplined saving and lending.



What Savings Are Making Possible

- Launching small businesses
- Paying school fees
- Purchasing goats and chickens
- Supporting families during emergencies
- Investing in future farming opportunities

In Nyasumi, one of GHC's largest and most financially active CHECs, members raised \$2,340 through table banking last year. Organized into smaller clan-based groups, members are using loans to launch grocery stalls, purchase chickens and goats, pay school fees, and respond to family emergencies, all while earning interest that continues to grow the shared fund.



Growing Through Savings, cont.

And in Maugo, those same savings habits are already changing lives at the household level. At 62 years old, Perez Ally is a widow, a mother of five daughters, and the primary caregiver for her Grade 7 grandson. Each morning, after finishing her household chores, Perez heads to the local market to sell rice, often arriving before other vendors—turning discipline and consistency into daily income. Through Maugo’s merry-go-round savings group, she has been able to expand her rice business, helping provide food, education, and greater stability for her family.

But the changes go far beyond income. Perez’s homestead is clean, organized, and thriving. Her latrine and dish rack are complete. Her maize fields are nearly ready for harvest. When asked how her life has changed since joining the CHEC, Perez simply smiled and said, “My life has really changed.”

This is what compounding looks like: savings becoming assets, assets becoming opportunity, and opportunity becoming lasting change, one family at a time.



From Parker to Maugo 🌍

The impact of Maugo’s story is now reaching beyond Kenya.

This spring, students from the Chaparral Interact Club, alongside members of the Parker Rotary Club, raised \$1,200 to provide sports equipment and hygiene kits for students at Maugo Primary School.

What began as one village’s journey toward ownership is now inspiring the next generation of global leaders: one partnership at a time.



Sweet Signs of Sustainability 🍯

Honey, Ownership, and New Opportunity

Across several CHECs, apiary projects are continuing to create new opportunities for income and long-term sustainability. This season's honey harvest brought excitement as members worked together to manage hives, harvest honey, and begin exploring local markets for future sales. This season, CHECs in villages such as Nyasumi and Nyanturago contributed to the harvest, producing a total of 120 liters of honey.

What began as a small income-generating activity is steadily growing into a valuable community asset: creating new opportunities while strengthening long-term sustainability.

🍯 Sweet Signs of Growth:

- Nyamokenye apiary launching soon
- Majority of apiaries now community-run
- Strong honey harvests this season
- Skills and ownership continuing to grow



Harvesting Opportunity

Nyamecheo: Growing More Than Crops

In Nyamecheo Village, CHEC members are strengthening household nutrition and income through hands-on farming practices and shared agricultural learning.

Across the village, families are improving food production, strengthening their farms, and creating new opportunities for income—progress that is visible both in the fields and within households.

Like many CHECs across Kenya, Nyamecheo's progress is being driven by community ownership, collaboration, and a growing belief that lasting change is possible.



What's Growing in Nyamecheo

- Members sharing and applying agricultural practices
- Farming activities improving food security and household income
- Stronger food production for family consumption
- Community-led growth and resilience

What's Taking Root Next 🌍

Across Kenya, new opportunities continue forming as CHECs build momentum, strengthen local leadership, and prepare for the next phase of growth.

🌿 In Homa Bay...

Soklo CHEC members are preparing for the August hybrid cassava planting, while Kanyipir recently completed its latest savings share-out—another strong sign of growing financial confidence and ownership. Additional progress in Kanyamfwa and Maugo continues to reflect steady momentum across Homa Bay County.

👉 Invest in Her...

Our Invest in Her campaign continues to grow, highlighting women leading change through savings groups, farming, and small businesses.

We are also introducing a pilot “pitch-style” opportunity for women entrepreneurs to present business ideas for potential seed funding from supporters.

The campaign invites new supporters to invest in women entrepreneurs and the businesses they build—strengthening household livelihoods and long-term community well-being.

🌍 Rotary Global Grant #3...

Work on Global Grant #3 is now in its final stages, with submission planned for June 1. The grant will support the next phase of CHEC expansion: deepening impact in current villages while creating pathways for new community sites in the months ahead.



PICTURED ABOVE: A KIMUKA MEMBER TENDS TO HER KITCHEN GARDEN

Help More Villages Take Root

Thank you for standing with Global Health Connections—your support helps community-led change grow across Kenya.

Ways to help:

Invest in Her

Support women entrepreneurs through savings groups and seed funding opportunities that help turn local business ideas into sustainable livelihoods.

Adopt a Village

Sponsor a village's full CHEC journey and follow long-term transformation over time.

Share the story

Forward this newsletter or share our updates to help us reach new supporters who believe in community-led change.

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PICTURED ABOVE: MAUGO CHEC MEMBERS REVIEWING GROUP FINANCES TOGETHER: BUILDING TRANSPARENCY AND SHARED OWNERSHIP