

EMPOWERMENT

Global Health Connections Quarterly Newsletter



This Summer's Highlights

 Global Grant #3 is approved.

\$99,700 will fund 4 new CHECs this fall: one in Homa Bay County (Kawere), three in Kisii County (Bobasi, Gucha, and Rigo)

 Invest in Her is live.

Nyasumi, Nyamecheo, and Nyamagesa each pitched a project, and each winning group received \$500 in seed capital.

 Two villages hit midline.

Maugo and Nyamokenye began midline surveys the week of August 17, twenty-two months after their CHECs started.

 Kimuka's coop has chickens in it.

The flock is 2 vaccinations into a 5-shot schedule, with 3 more still ahead.

 A new apiary found its feet.

Nyamokenye relocated 16 colonies and added honey supers.

 Maugo's rice is almost all in the ground.

5 of 6 shambas are planted, with the last expected end of August.

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Roots Going Deeper

In Maugo Village, rice seedlings that went into the ground in June are now being transplanted, plot by plot. The week of August 17, the CHEC that planted them sits down for its midline survey, twenty-two months after it started. In Kawere, Bobasi, Gucha, and Rigo, nothing has been planted at all. Global Grant #3 was just approved, and the first CHEC meetings are still months out.

Both are Global Health Connections. Both are the same model. They're just at different depths.

This issue follows both ends of that line: the villages old enough to be measured, and the ones about to start from open ground. In between are seedlings that haven't headed yet, hives that haven't been harvested yet, and 3 women-led groups that just got their first \$500. None of it is finished. All of it is real.



Denver's Message

Dear friends,

Jackline Achieng Omondi is 45, a widow, and the mother of four daughters in Kanyamfwa village. Last month, her oldest daughter graduated from university. A good chunk of that tuition came from a sewing machine.

Jackline bought that machine with a small loan from the Kanyamfwa Tailoring Group, the women's savings group she belongs to inside her CHEC. The group just finished its second profit share-out since we arrived: 141,080 KSH saved, 80,010 KSH in interest split among members, 43,000 KSH in profit. They voted, together, to put the profit toward a fourth sewing machine and more fabric. Three women in the group own machines now. A fourth is coming.

This is exactly the pattern we built Invest in Her around: a group of sixty deciding together what to do with the next dollar. This quarter, that idea stops being a plan and starts being real. Three CHECs, Nyasumi, Nyamecheo, and Nyamagesa, have each pitched a project and received their first seed capital.

Jackline's group didn't need us to invent anything. They needed the first \$500 to move faster than a savings rotation alone ever could. That's what we're funding now, in three more villages, and it's why her story opens this issue.

With gratitude,
Mimi Gordon - Director of Marketing

PICTURED ABOVE: JACKLINE AT HER SEWING MACHINE



Building Strong Foundations 🐣

Kimuka: The Coop Isn't Empty Anymore

In June, we told you Kimuka's chicken coop was finished: water tanks installed, latrines built, fencing up, storage renovated. It was a building. Now it's a business.

Training on chicken farming ran the week of June 8. 24 members attended, 4 men and 20 women, taught over 4 days by 2 trainers. The chicks arrived June 17, and Kimuka's CHEC officially launched the poultry project the next day.

Since then, the flock has gone through 2 of 5 scheduled vaccinations: fowl pox on June 26, fowl typhoid on July 10. Three more are still ahead: one next week, one at 18 weeks old, one at 19, then a repeat every 3 months after that.

Kimuka by the Numbers

- ✓ 24 members trained in chicken farming (4 male, 20 female)
- ✓ Chicks arrived June 17, project launched June 18
- ✓ 2 of 5 vaccinations complete: fowl pox, fowl typhoid
- ✓ 3 vaccinations remaining before the flock matures



Growing Through Savings

Every CHEC teaches financial literacy: budgeting, saving, table banking, small loans. What's always been missing is the first chunk of capital big enough to start a group project, not one member's merry-go-round contribution, but real seed money the whole group can build on. Invest in Her is how we're closing that gap. Women-led groups pitch a business plan at a community pitch day in front of their CHEC. GHC deposits \$500 into the winning group's own CHEC table bank. The group runs the project, and repays the \$500, plus any profit above it, back into that same table bank within 12 months at 0% interest. After that, the CHEC's own Executive Committee lends the capital back out to members at the standard 10% rate, the same as every other table bank loan.

Three CHECs launched their first projects this quarter:

- Nyasumi: Napier grass, a fast-growing fodder crop with steady demand from local dairy farmers
- Nyamecheo: a power saw business, cutting and selling timber and firewood
- Nyamagesa: cereal selling

The capital arrives once. After that, the table bank keeps it moving on its own.

Sweet Signs of Sustainability 🍯

A New Apiary Finds Its Feet

Nyamokenye's apiary went from empty ground to 16 working colonies in under 2 months. Beekeeping training ran the first week of June: 15 members trained as apiary managers, 8 women and 7 men, with a hands-on visit to Nyamecheo's established apiary for practice. The building materials, iron sheets, posts, chain link, nails, barbed wire, doors, plus 80 hives, came through Global Grant #2, hosted by Rotary Kisii Central.

Construction finished by the end of June, and by July 24 the team had relocated 16 mature, already-colonized hives into the new apiary. A week later, they added the honey supers, the boxes where the bees actually store surplus honey. There's no harvest yet. That comes next quarter.

Meanwhile, one of GHC's older apiaries, in Nyanturago, pulled 9 liters from a single hive in late August, a reminder of what Nyamokenye's apiary is a few months from becoming.



Sweet signs of growth

- **16 colonies relocated into Nyamokenye's new apiary**
- **80 hives funded through Global Grant #2**
- **9 liters harvested at Nyanturago in late August**
- **28 liters harvested at Nyamagesa this month**
- **First Nyamokenye harvest expected next quarter**

Harvesting Opportunity



Maugo: Six Plots, One Season

Maugo's rice project launched May 31: fertilizer and seed distributed, 6 acres leased across 6 subgroups, one acre per group. By late June, the CHEC had 117 active members, 45 men and 72 women, each subgroup running its own plot on its own timeline.

Rice does not move fast. Seeds soak for 2 to 3 days, then sit in a covered seedbed for 3 to 4 weeks before they're ready to transplant. Through June and July, Maugo's 6 subgroups moved through that sequence at their own pace: clearing land, preparing seedbeds, applying fertilizer, watching the narrow planting window (a seedling planted before week 3 or after week 4 loses yield). By August 10, 5 of the 6 plots were planted. The 6th is expected by the end of August.

Nothing is ready to eat yet. That's the point of this issue: Maugo is deep into a season that doesn't pay off for months, and that patience is the whole story.



PICTURED ABOVE TOP: MAUGO CHEC MEMBERS TAKE A BREAK FROM PLANTING RICE



What's Taking Root Next 🌍

Global Grant #3

GG#3 is approved: \$99,700, covering 4 new CHECs that haven't started yet, Kawere in Homa Bay County, and Bobasi, Gucha, and Rigo in Kisii County. A start date isn't set, but we're expecting fall. Each new CHEC will choose its own income project once health and financial literacy wrap, the way Nyamokenye chose beekeeping and quilting and Maugo chose rice farming.

Midline Surveying

Maugo and Nyamokenye moved into midline surveying the week of August 17, 22 months after their CHECs began. Soklo and Kimuka, also part of Global Grant #2, will field their midlines on a separate timeline still being finalized.

In Homa Bay

Soklo's cassava field is cleared and ready to go, everyone's just waiting on the sky. It's been 2 months since the last rainfall, and at this point, CHEC members could each tell you the exact day count without checking. Planting starts the moment it finally breaks.

Help More Villages Take Root ❤️

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

👉 Invest in Her

Back a whole CHEC's next project with seed capital, the same \$500 that's already funding groups in Nyasumi, Nyamecheo, and Nyamagesa.

🏠 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: TWO NYAMOKENYE CHEC MEMBERS PRACTICE QUILT MAKING

Before You Go 🎉

Jifunze Kiswahili — Learn a Little Swahili

A few words that come up constantly on the ground:

- Pole pole — “slowly, slowly.” Every CHEC in this issue is moving at the pace trust actually takes.
- Harambee — “let's pull together.” Kenya's national motto, and basically the whole CHEC model in one word.
- Asante sana — “thank you very much.”
- Karibu — “welcome.”

Test Your GHC Knowledge

No peeking at the rest of the issue. Answers below.

1. How many hive colonies did Nyamokenye relocate into its brand-new apiary?
2. How much did the Kanyamfwa Tailoring Group save in its second share-out?
3. How many active members does Maugo's rice CHEC have right now?
4. How much is Global Grant #3 worth?
5. How many new CHECs will Global Grant #3 fund this fall?

Answers: 1) 16 colonies 2) 141,080 KSH 3) 117 members 4) \$99,700 5) 4 CHECs



PICTURED ABOVE: CHIEF JOSEPH AND A CHEC MEMBER IN THE CHICKEN COOP