



**Brighter
Communities**
Worldwide

CREATING BETTER FUTURES

Formerly Friends of Londiani



**2019
ANNUAL
REPORT**

**Community
Development**



Creating better futures

www.brightercommunities.org



**A world where strong,
healthy communities
can thrive, building
sustainable livelihoods
and brighter futures.**



Cover photo: Celebrating Menstrual Hygiene Day
May 2019

Inside cover photo: Celebrating Menstrual Hygiene
Day 2019

Abbreviations

BCW	Brighter Communities Worldwide
CHA	Community Health Assistant
CHC	Community Health Committee
CHEW	Community Health Extension Worker
CHS	Community Health Strategy
CHV	Community Health Volunteer
CRA	Community Referral Assistant
CU	Community Unit
FGM/C	Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting
FOK	Friends of Kipkelion
G4G	Girls for Girls Programme
EONC	Essential Obstetric and Neonatal Care
HECA	Healthy Environment for Children's Alliance
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals

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Chairperson's Message 2019

Looking back at 2019, I am heartened as Chairperson, that the work of Brighter Communities Worldwide' has continued to have a significant impact on the communities we work with in Kenya.

As we move into 2020, it is clear that the COVID-19 pandemic will present Brighter Communities Worldwide and other development organisations with a very changed environment and some difficult challenges.

We have been through some very tough challenges in the past. Since 2002 we have built an amazing team of staff, volunteers and management in Kenya and in Ireland. Along with the Irish and Kenyan boards we are passionate about improving the lives of the people across Kericho County. I feel strongly that we are in a position to face the challenge ahead.

A key pillar of Brighter Communities Worldwide is our ongoing commitment to partnership – we take a partnership based approach each and every day in identifying the new and emerging needs of the communities we serve.

We work with hundreds of Kenyan volunteers to help deliver our key programmes. These volunteers are respected in their communities and are motivated to be part of improving the lot of the people in their area. We also work closely with the Ministry of Health and with local government at county and sub-county level.

Brighter Communities Worldwide are fully committed to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. We believe that community development can only be truly sustainable if we empower local communities through partnership with staff, volunteers and other stakeholders in the community. While the challenges ahead are not yet clear, we feel that our approach gives us the best possibility of developing solutions to these new challenges together with the communities we serve.

Another key to our continued success is the support of individuals and bodies who provide funding for the work we do. We continue to receive funding from Irish Aid and Friends of Kipkelion. We also enjoy the support of a large number of loyal individual and corporate donors. Our donors contribute amounts, large and small and are critical to our continued ability to make a difference where we work. We were delighted to welcome our supporters to our Kenya Ball in October and remain hugely grateful for their contributions to the work we do in Kenya. In 2019, to continue the good work with our donors, we added a dedicated fundraiser to the office staff in Ireland.

In light of COVID-19 we are working hard to come up with new and innovative ways to fundraise while adhering to the necessary restrictions. Our challenge for 2020 is to broaden our support base and raise our profile so that we can attract new donors.

Thank you to the members of the board for their commitment and dedication throughout 2019. I would like to pay special tribute to Christine Burke who left the board in October 2019. Many thanks to Christine on behalf of Brighter Communities Worldwide for her valuable service. We welcomed Jane Beare to the board for a short spell during 2019 before she switched roles to join the staff team early in 2020.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to the hard-working staff in Ireland and in Kenya under the leadership of our CEO, Martin Ballantyne. Martin is working hard to ensure the safety and security of our staff and volunteers while we contribute to the new and emerging needs of the communities we serve.

Best regards,

Colum Horgan
Chairperson



*Colum Horgan,
Chairperson*

CEO's Message 2019

Brighter Communities Worldwide began 2019 with a new Strategic Plan (2019-23). This plan sets out a pathway for sustained growth for the organisation. It is based on four goals which guide the direction of our work over the next 5 years. This plan was developed through an inclusive process involving staff, volunteers, partners, donors and beneficiaries, and was officially launched in April 2019.

The principles of the Sustainable Development Goals sit at the foundation of our plan and ensure we remain committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the aim to 'leave no one behind'. The level of inequality, rates of poverty and hunger, the degradation of the environment, access to energy, jobs and good health are everyday challenges in the communities we serve.

Our 2019 Annual Report documents our achievements and I would like to highlight some key areas:

- With the addition of **9 new community units** in 2019, our work is now reaching almost 600,000 people across Kericho county.
- The need to strengthen **maternal and child health** across the region is so important to us and in 2019 we were pleased to see our Antenatal Care (ANC) Follow-up Tracker system gaining strength since it's introduction in 2018. To date, through support from their Community Health Volunteers, we have seen a 44% increase in the number of women completing 4 ANC visits and a 27% increase in the number of mothers delivering in health facilities
- **Healthy homesteads** are at the core of our community health programme – we now see 73% of households with access to latrines (increase of 4.7% in 2019); 47% of households with access to clean water (increase of 23%).
- **Smokeless stoves** have contributed to an **18% reduction in the level of respiratory illness** reported in the health facilities.
- Our strategic plan focuses on **mainstreaming gender equality across all our programmes**, while still focusing on particular gender-focused needs where these are identified by the community.

- Our **healthy schools programme** reached 289 schools during 2019 enabling 46,442 boys and 50,147 girls from primary and secondary schools to benefit from the programme
- During 2019 **24 volunteers and visitors** from overseas travelled to Kenya to work in partnership with our staff and volunteers in Kenya on a variety of projects. I would like to express my sincere thanks to them for the contributions they made. Asante Sana!



*Martin Ballantyne,
CEO*

As I write this at the start of 2020, we are facing a more challenging world with the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in unprecedented times. For us in Brighter Communities Worldwide the safety of our staff and their families is our first priority. Our programmes remain more relevant than ever before but adhering to safety restrictions has called for a creative approach to delivery. Our experience gained over 18 years and our network across Kericho County are some of our greatest strengths. We've leveraged these strengths to respond to COVID-19 through pivoting our activities in an innovative and safe way. The impact of COVID-19 on our income in 2020 is significant, and it will impact future programme delivery. We will continue to do what we can to support communities and our partners across the region to address the enormous challenges that we face as a result of COVID-19.

I would like to thank the Staff team in Ireland and in Kenya who have worked tirelessly throughout 2019. I would also like to thank our Board of Directors in Ireland and in Kenya, our volunteers, partners, and donors. Thank you for your commitment, your support and your teamwork.

2020 is already a challenging year – I invite you to join our journey as we navigate this new reality focusing on delivering programmes that enrich the lives of those we work with and help create better futures for them and their families.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Ballantyne
CEO

About Brighter Communities Worldwide

How We Work

Founded in 2002, Brighter Communities Worldwide implements programmes in Ireland and Kenya and we completed a pilot project in Uganda in 2019. Our work is based on the needs of the community and focuses on the key areas of health, education and economic empowerment.

Our community development model creates an enabling environment for communities to realise change and uses a partnership-based approach to deliver relevant programmes to meet the needs of communities and individuals.

- Brighter Communities Worldwide is a charity registered with the Charities Regulatory Authority, registered charity number 20059583 and has been granted tax exemption by the Revenue Commissioners in Ireland, registered charitable taxation number CHY16505.
- Brighter Communities Worldwide is also an International Non-Governmental Organisation registered in Kenya (OP/218/051/2005/0295/3731). Brighter Communities Worldwide in Ireland has a partnership with Brighter Communities Worldwide in Kenya which is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding. Both organisations work together to deliver programmes.

Our Vision

“A world where strong, healthy communities can thrive, building sustainable livelihoods and brighter futures.”

Our Mission

To work in partnership with communities, to deliver programmes that enrich their lives and help create better futures for them and their families.

Our Values

Our values underpin everything we do and every decision we make. They also help communicate the way we work and how we do things.

- **Integrity** – We are an organisation built on integrity and good governance with a track record for success.
- **Passion** – We work passionately in all that we do to realise our vision across communities.
- **Togetherness** – We work together with all our stakeholders; all programmes are based on community needs as identified by themselves.

Our values are based on the way we work:

- As **advocates** for people who don't have a voice
- In **partnership** with local people, officials, NGOs and governments
- Giving people the **tools** to build on what they already have
- **Building** on the traditional way of doing things to improve lives for everyone
- Working together to create **brighter communities worldwide**

Our Strategic Plan

The commitment to “**Leave no one behind**” is the essence of the Sustainable Development Goals. The gaps between rich and poor are growing across the world. It is not just the level of income in the community that matters, but how this income is distributed. Rising inequality in the world has a significant negative impact upon health and educational outcomes as well as economic growth.

In preparing our current Strategic Plan (2019 to 2023) Brighter Communities Worldwide reaffirms its commitment to the poor and most vulnerable. We strengthen our commitment to targeting inequality through focusing on universal access to basic services with a particular focus on gender equality.

Our Strategic Plan has four goals

Goal 1: Implement Holistic, Impactful Programmes that contribute to the Global Development Agenda (SDGs)

Goal 2: Build Effective Strategic Relationships

Goal 3: Strengthen Organisational Capacity

Goal 4: Ensure Strong Governance

THE GLOBAL GOALS

For Sustainable Development

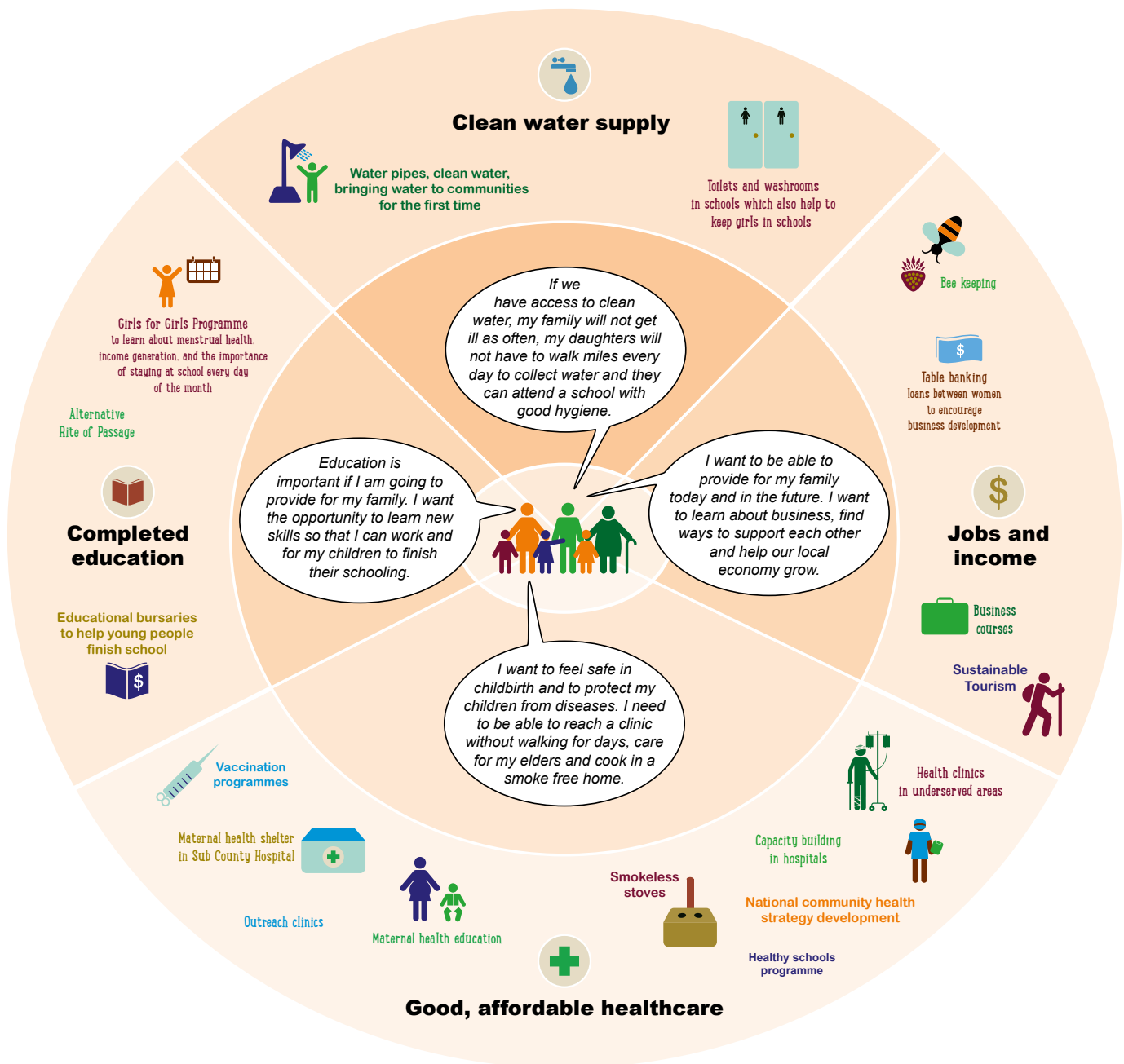


Context





Brighter Communities Worldwide works in Kericho County – population 955,517 – in North West Kenya.

- **Access to essential health services** is difficult, particularly for rural and remote communities due to poor infrastructure, terrain, education etc.
- The county perinatal mortality rate is 63 per 1,000 meaning that 1 in every 15 infants die at birth or within their first 7 days of life
- **Educational challenges** include early school drop outs, child marriages, Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting, and inadequate school facilities. Girls often miss up to 5 days a month due to lack of sanitary products.
- **Gender inequality is endemic.** Women and girls do the bulk of unpaid work (such as caregiving, household tasks) and lack access to essential services including reproductive health, education and maternal health. Girls and women are more likely to be subjected to physical, sexual or emotional violence – ranging from female genital mutilation (FGM) to unwilling prostitution to violence in the home and the practice of early marriage.
- **Economic opportunities** and access to finance are not equally distributed and infectious diseases such as HIV and AIDS, TB and Malaria impact the poor and vulnerable (only 13% of children under 1 year of age sleep under a malaria net; 3.5% of the population are HIV positive; and the TB rate is 127 per 100,000)
- **People with disabilities** (mental, physical) are often ignored, and there are little to no services available to them. As a result they often opt out of society with families keeping them isolated from the community.

Our Unique Approach



Creating brighter communities means ensuring:

-  Access to good, affordable healthcare
-  Education to help people find a job and be able to articulate their needs
-  An income that can sustain a family
-  Healthier lives with a supply of clean water and better facilities

Our Theory of Change

The change we want to see: as authors of their own development, the people with whom we work lead healthier lives and apply their increased education and knowledge to creating sustainable livelihoods and stronger communities.

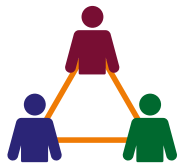
What we will achieve:



What we will deliver



How we will deliver



Partnerships



Community solutions (empowerment)



Equal access for all



Sustainability



People are central



Volunteerism



Gender



Alignment with national and global agendas

Working with people



Women & girls

Families

Men

Children & youth

The vulnerable

Government agents

Communities

Looking Back – 2019 Highlights

- In 2019 we launched a new strategic plan which sets out a pathway for sustained growth for Brighter Communities Worldwide over the next 5 years. The principles of the Sustainable Development Goals sit at the foundation of our plan – responding to current and emerging needs and being an effective partner.
- We now work in 4 sub-counties across Kericho County as our work extended to communities in Ainamoi and Soin Sigowet in 2019.
- One 2019 target was to increase the number of Community Units we work with to 44 by setting up 8 new units – we set up 9 new units and now work with 45 units serving 45,000 households.
- The Ante Natal Care follow up tracker system set up in 2018 was strengthened through training for 686 Community Health Volunteers with results showing a 44% increase in the number of women completing 4 Ante natal care visits in 2019.
- 62 new schools (from a target of 60) were added to the Healthy Schools Programme which is now benefiting a total of 96,589 children with a clean, safe, healthy environment at school.
- 2 Partnership Seminars were held during 2019 which brought together representatives from our partners across Kericho County to evaluate our programmes.
- 24 volunteers travelled to Kenya to work alongside the community volunteers and staff to support delivery of our programmes.
- The link between Mayo University Hospital in Castlebar and Londiani sub-county hospital was expanded to include the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences at National University Ireland (NUI) Galway, Kenyatta University in Nairobi and Department of Health Services, Kericho. Representatives of all these partners met together in Kenya in June to plan programmes for the next five years.
- Our pilot community development project in Offaka Sub County in Northern Uganda which began in 2016 was completed and evaluated in 2019 with the decision taken to continue.



Staff and volunteers on trekking route as part of Sustainable Tourism Programme (November 2019)

Going Forward – Plans and Targets for 2020

Brighter Communities Worldwide - Strategic Plan 2019-2023

Goal 1

Implement Impactful Programmes

Goal 2

Build Effective Strategic Relationships

Goal 3

Strengthen Organisational Capacity

Goal 4

Ensure Strong Governance

Goal 1

Implement Impactful Programmes

- Add 60 new schools from across Kericho County to the Healthy Schools Programme; support 14 more schools to build new toilets/washrooms; build 18 new water tanks; build 12 industrial stoves in schools that provide cooked food to their students.
- Supporting 20 Outreach Clinics every month to provide Maternal Health and other health services to the most remote communities.
- Establish 8 new Community Units across Kericho County bringing the training and support required to improve the health and well-being of another 8,000 households with smokeless stoves, access to clean water, income generating and all other elements that create a Healthy Homestead.
- Train an additional 128 stove installers who will increase the number of smokeless stoves installed providing a clean, safer and healthier cooking environment while also saving on time and money as less wood is required.
- Incorporate People with Disabilities as Trainers of Trainers in new facilitators workshops.
- In Ireland complete a review of our Development Education and Volunteer programmes.

Goal 2

Build Effective Strategic Relationships

- Strengthen the partnership link between between Mayo University Hospital, Londiani sub-county hospital the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences at National University Ireland (NUI) Galway, Kenyatta University in Nairobi and Department of Health Services,

Kericho working from baseline data on 3 specific programme areas – Trauma Care, Maternal and Perinatal Health and non-communicable diseases through virtual meetings planned for 2020.

- Build on new relationships for example – Engineers Without Borders, Houston, USA.
- Continue to strengthen local partnerships with Ministry of Health for example, supporting an additional 40 Health Field Days across Kericho County bringing access to health information.
- Strengthen relationships with Kenya Forestry to tackle climate change with specific re-forestation projects in the area of the Sustainable Tourism Programme.
- In Ireland continue our membership of Dochas and Comhlamh to strengthen our relationships with key NGO/Development organisations.

Goal 3

Strengthen Organisational Capacity

- Implement new Fundraising Strategy in Ireland to support the needs of the communities we work with.
- Complete a skills profile of staff team in Kenya to identify gaps to be addressed and make plans to upskill.
- Apply to at least 3 Kenyan grant possibilities per year to increase income by 20% year on year.

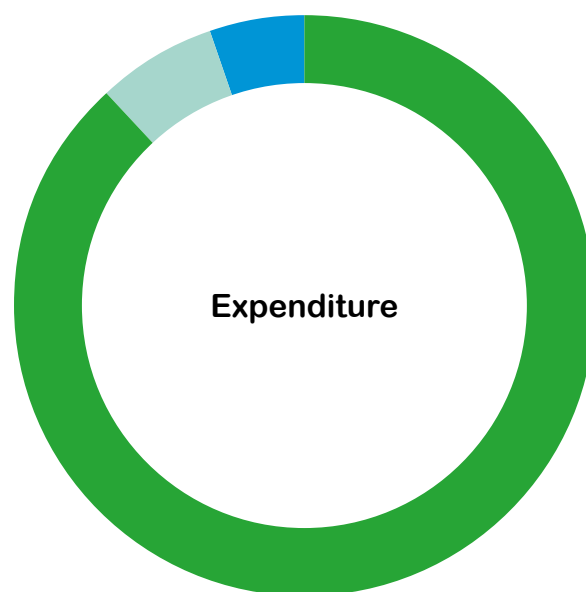
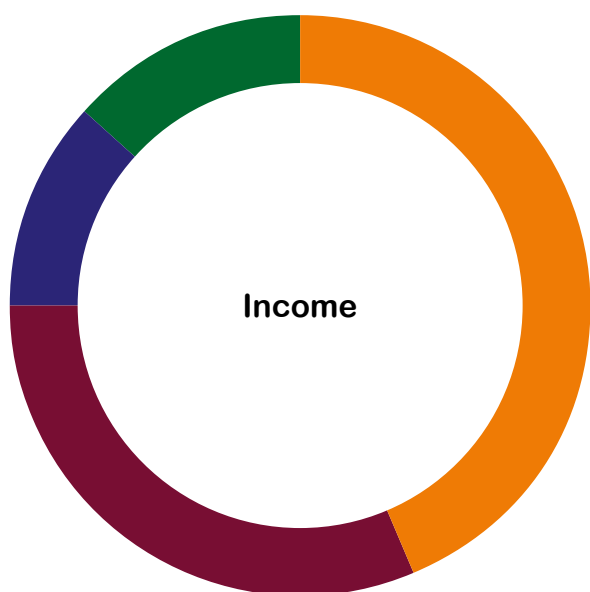
Goal 4

Ensure Strong Governance

- Develop and implement a structure for the worldwide organisation that is fit for purpose into the future.
- Review board portfolios and adjust where necessary to ensure they are fit for purpose.

2019 Financial Summary

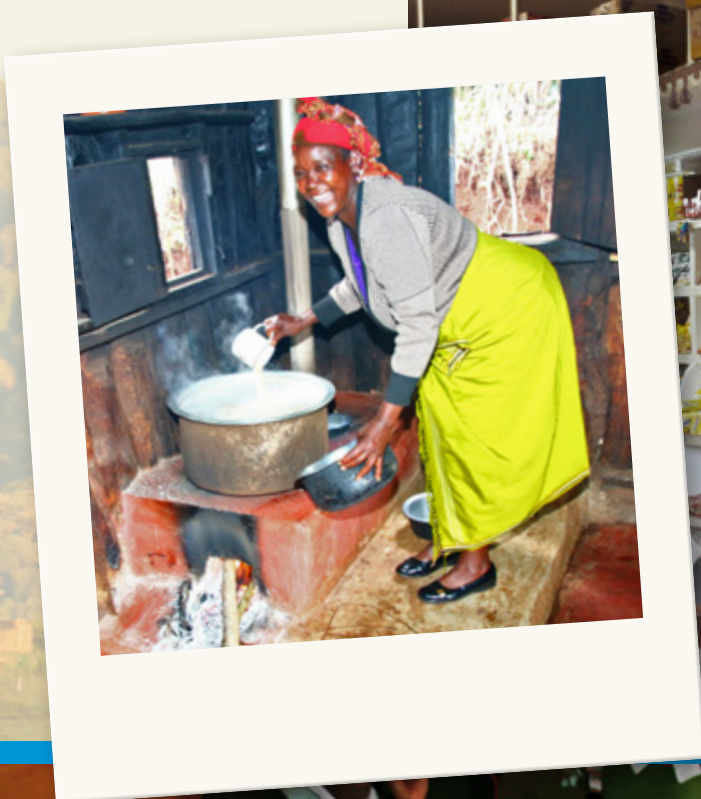
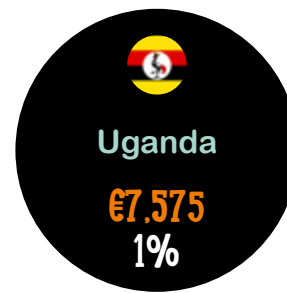
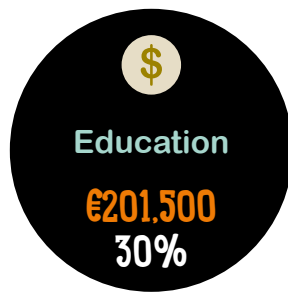
Our Accounts are independently audited every year and comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) standard and with Dóchas and Irish Aid guidelines on financial reporting. We publish our Annual Accounts online every year and these are available on our website: tinyurl.com/BCWAccounts



Irish Aid	267,669
Donations and Legacies	191,888
Fundraising	70,326
Volunteers, Foundations	80,935
Total	610,818

Development Programmes	626,295
Education	201,500
Health and Water	339,467
Economic Empowerment	30,213
Uganda	7,575
Development Education	47,540
Raising funds	37,043
Total	663,338

2019 Programme Expenditure





The aim of our Health programme is to strengthen the health of the people we work with by making sure they have a healthy living environment, access to the knowledge and information they need to live healthy lives and a health care system that is strong enough to deliver to their needs.

Our Health programme is aligned with the **Kenyan Community Health Strategy** and our partnerships with the Ministry of Health and local community groups are central to its delivery. The strategy is a bottom up approach aimed at creating healthy communities through empowering Kenyan households to take charge of their own health.

A **Healthy Homestead** has a number of key elements which when put in place result in better health conditions for the household – elements include a safe water supply; good sanitation; rubbish disposal; smoke free cooking environment; space and ventilation; progressive

vector control; nutrition and food supply (kitchen garden); improvement of maternal and newborn health and income generating activities.

The **Community Health Strategy** operates through the creation of **Community Units** – each unit is formed by local volunteers along with Community Health Extension Workers who link to the health systems available. Each unit is made up of 1,000 households totalling approximately 5,000 individuals. We train local volunteers to form Community Health Committees who manage the units.

We train local people to become **Community Health Volunteers** who support households to become healthy homesteads and who build a picture of health issues in their area which can then be prioritised and dealt with in partnership with their nearest Ministry of Health facility. Each volunteer monitors up to 100 households and they are an essential part of the health systems in Kenya.

> continues on page 16



Nutrition stand at community Field Day (May 2019)

Words from our beneficiaries

2019
CASE
STUDY



Ambrose Sang

Ambrose Sang has attended several trainings facilitated by Brighter Communities Worldwide in his community – Alternative Rite of Passage (ARP), Stove installation and Life Skills Peer Education.

Ambrose says these trainings have been most beneficial to him personally and also to his community. In particular, the Alternative Rite of Passage course provided for the girls as part of the Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Abandonment programme mean that FGM is no longer practised in his community.

Ambrose has trained as a facilitator to speak to communities about the dangers of FGM – this is a role he says:

“has broken taboos and also earned me a lot of respect in the community as teaching girls, particularly in relation to FGM, was previously viewed as a woman’s role”.

He says that that the ARP is educational for all genders and not exclusively for girls.

He has taught and advised many in his community about FGM. He says that people have changed their attitudes. With the stove installations he has seen improvements made in the homestead improving the health of those living in the household.



2019
CASE
STUDY

David Tonui got to know about Brighter Communities Worldwide through the impact of their programmes in his home area and by seeing projects in action such as the school water tanks, education bursaries, Girls for Girls Programme and the Alternative Rite of Passage.

David has attended a number of trainings facilitated by Brighter Communities Worldwide. It was way back in 2010 that he attended his very first training which was about setting up and improving small business. David has since then attended other trainings on Remote Emergency Care, Alternative Rite of Passage and Menstrual Hygiene Management.

Coming from a community where menstruation matters have always been hushed up David had this to say about the trainings on Menstrual Hygiene Management:

“The trainings have been valuable to me as they have enabled me to sensitize my community about menstruation matters. This sensitization”, he said “has helped as people are now not embarrassed when talking about menstruation issues.”

The girls he said are also now more at ease asking for sanitary products during their menses.



David Tonui





Community Health Strategy

9 new Community Units added in 2019 (2019 target 8)

45 Community Units supported in total **45,000** households reached (225,000 people)

261 local volunteers trained in implementation of the Community Health Strategy (target was 240)

30 dialogues days and **21** actions days (2019 target 48)

Continued to strengthen health services across Kericho County

Target of 8 new units for 2019 increased to 9 as one unit was split in 2 due to remoteness

Key achievements

We are now supporting community units across 4 sub-counties of Kericho County – Kipkelion East, Kipkelion West, Ainamoi and Soin Sigowet

18 World Health Day events undertaken reaching over 9,000 participants



Public Health

40 Public Health Field Days held


9,158
attending

240 Outreach Clinics


9,158
attending
(2019 target 20 per month)

Key achievements

The percentage of children under 5 receiving Vitamin A supplements increased by 2%

Met targets for Outreach Clinics and Field Days bringing access to health information and services to the most remote communities



Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

19 Maternal Health Courses with 612 Community Health Volunteers

25 Community Maternal Health events & trainings with 686 participants

32 health care providers trained in Essential Obstetrics and Neonatal Care 5 day course

Supportive on the job training & supervision for **23** health care providers across **22** health facilities Neonatal Care 5 day course

Key achievements

5% reduction in the perinatal mortality rate (number of stillbirths and deaths in the first week of life per 1,000 total births) from 28/1000 to 26.4/1000 in the region

3% increase in the number of children under one who are fully immunised (coverage rate now 66%)



Ante Natal Care follow-up Tracker System

382 monitoring visits

85 villages reached

A system to track a woman from the beginning of her pregnancy, through a minimum of 4 Ante Natal Care visits to delivery at a health facility

Key achievements

Health issues that may arise with pregnancy were identified and addressed

44% increase in the number of women completing 4 Antenatal Care visits from 1,941 to 2,804

37% growth in the number of births taking place in health facilities (from 2,898 to 3,959)



Remote Emergency Care

9 Remote Emergency Care courses were held



291

participants trained
(2019 target 240)

Key achievements

Increased presence in the community of volunteers trained in first response, stabilisation and transfer of patients in remote settings



Smokeless Stoves

1,237 household installations
(serving approx. 6,185 people)



111 new stove installers trained
(2019 target 128)

12 institutional stoves installed

Key achievements

3,619 students across 12 schools benefited from the institutional stoves installed

99.50% of new stove users reported spending less time collected firewood

99.79% of households with new stoves have seen an increase in household income

97.54% have seen no respiratory illnesses in the household since the stove was installed

Dialogue Days are held to look at the bigger picture of health needs emerging in each community unit and **Action Days** follow once health issues are identified and prioritised. During 2019 actions undertaken included an information and treatment campaign for jiggers; construction of smokeless stoves for the elderly; basic community First Aid training; educating on importance of using pit latrines; spring protection and clean up of local centres.

To **strengthen the capacity of the volunteers attached to each Community Unit**, trainings we provide include Maternal Health, New-born and Child Health, installation of Smokeless Stoves and Remote Emergency Care. Community Health Volunteers also support public health events such as Outreach Clinics, Field Days and World Health Days.

Outreach clinics are held by Ministry of Health staff in remote areas that do not have access to a local clinic and services provided include – immunisation of children less than 5 years of age; weight monitoring; ante-natal care; deworming; nutrition and Vitamin A supplementation; family planning and identification and referral of cases to health facilities.

Health Field Days are held to increase knowledge and awareness of health issues, We support a number of health field days every month in local communities across the region Activities carried out during these health field days include: mother and child health; family planning; water and sanitation; health homestead; nutrition; Volunteer Counselling and Testing (HIV); dental hygiene; malaria control; HIV/TB prevention.

To safeguard the lives of the mothers and babies in the communities with whom we work, we have a **Maternal, New-born and Child Health Strategy** (MNCHS) the aim of which is to strengthen the delivery of essential services for mothers and babies. The strategy is multi-faceted in its approach including skills, education, awareness, strengthening services and infrastructure on three levels – community education courses, community health volunteer training, health care professional development through Essential Obstetrics and Neonatal care courses.

We have supported the provision of a **Maternal Health Shelter** at Londiani sub-county hospital to provide a free and secure place for expectant mother to come and stay when delivery is near so that they can be in the right place at the right time. In 2019, 171 pregnant women used the shelter.

The **Remote Emergency Care** (REC) course focuses on immediate and urgent care in remote settings. It includes first response, stabilisation and transfer of patients. The Community Health Volunteers trained are a vital part of providing essential health services in a community through their work as part of a Community Unit.

A **smoke free cooking environment** is a key element of the Healthy Homestead and to accelerate this in the community, we work in partnership with the Ministry of Health to train Community Health Volunteers on how to install smokeless stoves and we undertake pre and post stove surveys to capture the impact of the stove on the health of the household. ●

Mother and new-born following delivery at Londiani Sub-County hospital Maternal Health Shelter (June 2019)





Outputs/Activities

Key Achievements

7,138 school pupils benefitted from new water & sanitation infrastructure in their schools

4 water protection schemes completed serving **2,829** people across **4** communities

Water projects supported by us have potential to serve **35,000** people

**2019
INVESTMENT**

€339,467

This is the Health investment figure which includes Water and Sanitation

Latrine coverage has increased by **4.7%** to **73%** across the region

Increase in the percentage of households who have access to clean water to **47%** (from 24%)

7,138 school pupils benefitted from new water & sanitation infrastructure in their schools, the benefit of these projects can also be extended to staff of schools and the wider community.

The aim of our **WASH – Water, Sanitation and Hygiene – programme** is to make sure communities can access a supply of clean water for washing and drinking and to use recommended model of improved pit latrines (toilets) at home and in schools.

Responsibility for collection of water for household use remains the duty of the girls and women in the family.

We do this by working in partnership with the communities, schools, Ministry of Water and Ministry of Health, to find the best solutions for them depending on geographical and environmental factors. We practice cost sharing across all water projects with parents at school contributing financially and/or with labour and households pay a fee to be part of a group water scheme – this fee covers ongoing maintenance.

55% of households across Kericho County lack access to safe water and up to 80% of households are without latrines. Instead, water has to be collected from various sources including streams, ponds and rivers which are contaminated by animal waste and other water borne diseases such as cholera and typhoid. Access to clean, safe water remains the number one need for the communities that we are working with.



Collection of clean water can take up hours in the day at the expense of school time (November 2019)



Water protection scheme which protects the source while providing safe, easy access to clean water (November 2019)

Our WASH programme includes the following:

- **Rain water harvesting tanks** – for schools these are made from ferrous cement with a storage capacity ranging from 32,000 to 84,000 litres and through a gutter system collect rain water from the classroom roofs for handwashing and drinking.
- **Gravity fed water schemes** – these provide long term, best solutions for communities to access clean water. They bring water from natural springs at higher elevation, down through a series of pipes to a storage facility and then on to water kiosks that are located at easily accessible points near where people are living.
- **Water kiosks** – these are small structures which are connected to a water scheme and have water taps on the outside to dispense the water. Local people collect their water from here and as they are located in central points the girls and women can spend less time travelling to collect water and use that time for other activities such as school and work.
- **Improved pit latrines** – these are pits over which is built a structure for protection and privacy. Improved models include a ventilation pipe in the design that will trap flies in the pit and cut off the transmission route which spreads germs and bacteria from the waste in the pit.
- **Protection of water springs** – natural water springs bring water to the surface which gathers in shallow pools that can contaminate easily and can be difficult for people to access over boggy ground. Protection of the spring means incorporating drainage and building a structure that allows for a pipe under which a container can be placed for easy water collection.
- **Tippy Tappys** – any container which can hold water and include a stop and release mechanism from which the water can flow provides access to a flow of water for handwashing. The mechanism can be a tap or even a hole that is stopped with a small stick or a biro.



The aim of our Education programme is to equip the communities with whom we work with the knowledge, strength and confidence they need to achieve for themselves a healthy and fulfilling life. Programmes take place in the schools and in the communities empowering participants, providing options and addressing inequalities in gender, income and opportunities for growth.

Our **Healthy Schools programme** is a joint partnership between Brighter Communities Worldwide, school management, staff and students, the local Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education. It includes teacher training, direct involvement by the students in identifying health risks, making action plans to address them and classroom studies to increase awareness of environmental health issues and the behaviour changes needed to improve them. These changes impact the wider community as children take home what they learn about water, sanitation and hygiene and put these changes into practice with their family as well as at school.

Construction projects to improve hygiene, sanitation and access to clean water in the schools are part of the action needed to provide a clean, safe place for children to learn. These include water tanks ranging in storage capacity from 32,000 to 84,000 litres made from ferrous cement with a system of guttering on the school roofs to collect and store rain water for handwashing and drinking.

Latrines blocks are constructed over a 20' pit lined with concrete and with 8 individual cubicles with doors. Girls' latrines have 2 washrooms incorporated into the design. All latrines include ventilation pipes and a rain water harvesting system for handwashing.

Many schools provide food for the children and construction projects include provision of institutional design smokeless stoves with chimneys to replace open fires.

› continues on page 22



Children from Chepseon Primary School Healthy Schools Club awarded Silver HECA Flag for their school' (September 2019)

Words from our beneficiaries

2019
CASE
STUDY



Magdalene Sang

Magdalene Sang is the assistant chief of Kutung sub-location in Kenya. When Magdalene took up her role as administrator she says that she had little experience and it was Brighter Communities Worldwide who helped to build her capacity to manage issues arising in her community.

There are two key areas where Magdalene sees the work of Brighter Communities Worldwide changing lives – **Business Trainings** providing skills and teaching to help set up a new business or improve existing business and **Maternal Outreach Clinics** bringing ante-natal care to women in her community along with immunisation programmes for their babies.

Magdalene is pictured attending the Partnership Seminar in March 2019, representing her community bringing their needs and experiences to the seminar. This is a forum for community to come together to evaluate the previous 12 months and prioritise their needs for the next 12 months. It is a networking and sharing opportunity for all involved, and enables Brighter Communities Worldwide to capture feedback and ensure their programmes remain relevant to the needs of the communities.

Magdalene says that in her community: *“Business groups have formed, mothers & babies can access health services and men even accompany their wives to outreach clinics”*.



2019
CASE
STUDY

Roda Kosgei was a participant at a Brighter Communities Worldwide Business training course which ran over 3 days to teach participants basic skills needed to run a business.

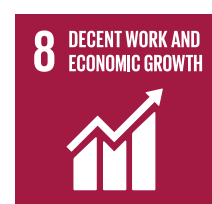
Roda felt the need to participate as *“it has a lot of important topics I am interested in especially record keeping and how to write a business plan.”*

Roda says that people have gained more knowledge and now have skills in identifying income generating activities. After the training, Roda used the acquired knowledge and skills to improve her savings and record keeping. The table banking group where Roda is currently a member also successfully applied for a loan from a financial institution. Through this loan they started a business of buying and selling potatoes.

Roda's advice to those who would like to start a business or even to those who already have ventured into business is to attend the Brighter Communities Worldwide business trainings to improve their skills.



Roda Kosgei





Healthy Schools

62 new schools added to Healthy Schools programme

186 teachers trained from the new schools joining the programme



289 schools now involved in the programme

Total of **46,442** boys and **50,147** girls benefit from the programme by end of 2019

Key achievements

Number of new schools joining the programme more than doubled 2018 numbers

92% of teachers/principals surveyed stated positive changes in behaviour and hygiene practices

86% of students stated changes in behaviour in terms of health practices at home

92% of students believe the programme has contributed to better student performance



Girls for Girls

21 new schools added – additional **1,076** girls benefiting



Programme is now reaching

4,127

girls in **83** schools

Key achievements

102 teachers trained in the programme from the new schools

95% of students and 86% of teachers surveyed believe that more girls attend class due to Girls for Girls

Keeping girls in school protects them from violence against women as they understand their rights and have greater life choices



School Infrastructure

4 girls latrine/washrooms blocks built



4 boys latrine blocks built

7,138

students benefitting from improved infrastructure

8 water tanks built in schools

Key achievements

Children demonstrated handwashing and latrine sanitation to family and community on school action days

Decrease in the number of cases of water borne diseases

Improvement in school attendance and retention of students in school



Girls graduating from the Alternative Rite of Passage November 2019

Education is free in Kenya but because schools are under resourced they have to come up with funds for extra teachers and improvements to school facilities. Not all children can afford these fees and Brighter Communities Worldwide **Education Bursaries** support them to stay in school and complete their education. Without this support the children whose families cannot afford to pay will drop out of school limiting their future prospects.

One particular challenge to girls staying in school is their monthly periods. Girls often choose to stay home for one week in four due to lack of facilities at school, not having the means to purchase sanitary products and because menstruation is not talked about and is surrounded in myths and taboos. It doesn't take long for some girls to fall behind and often drop out of school altogether. Our **Menstrual Health programme** has two elements that work towards addressing menstrual health challenges for girls and women – **Girls for Girls** in schools and **Jiamini** in the community where women also suffer the same challenge. Both programmes provide education around sexual health and reproduction, income generating skills, access to affordable, reusable sanitary kits, school infrastructure including latrines, washrooms and access to water, raising awareness of menstrual health among the whole community,

eradication of stigmatising girls and women due to menstruation.

Our community education programme includes a 5 day **Lifeskills course** to learn about HIV/AIDS (awareness, treatment and prevention); communications & values; relationships; stage of development; maternal and new-born health; sexuality, nutrition; family planning; mental health; drugs and addiction. Lifeskills is often our first involvement in a community and contributes to the strengthening of trust between community members as well as the formation of community groups who focus on addressing key issues in the community.

The overall aim of our **Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) Abandonment programme** is to address the social pressure that exists in communities to have their girls circumcised. The belief that FGM will ensure a girl's proper upbringing, future marriage or family honour still persists in some regions. Our community based programme involves all members of the community in learning about the dangers of FGM, working with them to abandon the practice, involving health workers and volunteer facilitators, including an annual Alternative Rite of Passage course for girls and a powerful, public affirmation from the girls, their families and communities that collectively they stand against FGM. ●



Educational Bursaries

66

students supported across primary, secondary and polytechnic schools



2,749

bursaries awarded in total since scheme began

Key achievements

Enabling the most disadvantaged children the chance to increase their opportunities



Life Skills

41

courses run



1,796

participants

Key achievements

Participants are empowered through shared learning and knowledge of topics that are relevant to communities



Community Menstrual Hygiene Management

11

communities added to the programme

14

community based workshops held for 782 women

377

Community Health Volunteers trained in MHM

Key achievements

Increased community awareness of the challenges surrounding menstruation

Increase involvement of men and boys across all communities

Reusable sanitary kit sale agents appointed in every Community Unit providing access to kits and a source of income for the agents



FGM/C Abandonment

25

Alternative Rite of Passage (ARP) Courses held



1,498

participants

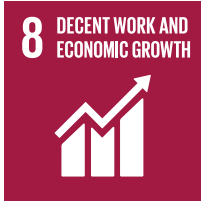
Key achievements

Community engagement led to support for the programme at 30 stations across the county

24 new community facilitators recruited and trained in the programme

19,869

community members attended a sensitisation event



Outputs/Activities

Key Achievements

Business courses held in 5 locations with 172 participants
49% of participants set up a new income generating activating after participating in the course
13 womens' groups successfully accessed capital to improve their business
129 communities were represented
63% of the beneficiaries were youth

2019 INVESTMENT



€30.213

New elements added to the campsite and trekking route as part of our Sustainable Tourism project
New business set ups included selling farm produce, barber shop and improving farms to product more crops
50% of the course participants successfully applied for funding through bank, SACCO and other institutions
Follow ups meetings were organise for participants to share learnings and progress and discuss challenges with each other
13 women's groups (210 members) accessed finance following the business course

The aim of our **Economic Empowerment programme** is to increase household incomes and subsequently improve the community standard of living which will lead to sustainable livelihoods and a more secure future. We incorporate information and learning about income generating activities into many of our programmes for example – the Community Menstrual Health programme. We run business trainings for community members to learn how to set up a business or improve on an existing one. Participants learn basic business principles, identify local business opportunities, know what can bring success and learn how to access funding. They are supported in developing a business plan and meet other entrepreneurs who may work together and support each other to achieve their goals.

Together with the communities we have defined a **Standard of Living Index** which measures the impact of development being carried out across the region. This index has a number of elements including education, the homestead, standard of health, adequate and quality food and income levels. During our annual Partnership Seminars in 2019 our partners/community representatives scored each element and the results were compared to the previous year. On average there was a 9% increase in scoring across all elements. However, 'adequate and quality of food' fell by 8% which could be attributed to crop failure caused by change in weather patterns coupled with a rise in the cost of living and increase in taxes nationwide.



Fruit and vegetable stall for neighbourhood custom (November 2019)

The goal of the **Sustainable Tourism programme** is to develop a community based sustainable tourism project that provides employment and financial benefit to the local communities, which in turn raises the standard of living, improves health, encourages gender and social equality and biodiversity conservation.

The programme works through a number of elements:– **Partnership** – people working together to build strong communities; **Health** – focus on creating Healthy Homesteads along the trekking route and linking back to the community health strategy; **Economic Empowerment** – creating opportunities for income from tourism through leading walks and staying at campsite and **Protection of the Natural Environment** – increase in the number of local people learning about biodiversity and conservation which will improve and protect their environment in the future.

During 2019, there were several visits from volunteer groups and visitors to stay at the campsite and take part in the trekking. Further work was undertaken including developing a proto type for access gates to use on the trekking route, completion of a viewing area

at the campsite, installing wooden doors on the huts for privacy and security, installation of solar power and completion of the kitchen, wash up area and store on the campsite. Trainings in Remote Emergency Care, guide and porter roles, catering and committee management were held for those attached to the sustainable tourism project. Local community engagement included business trainings for Kapngetung Women in Coffee group and visitors welcomed to local homes and to the Kipkelion coffee mill and factory. ●



Raw coffee beans harvested and ready for the coffee roasting mill (November 2019)

2019
ANNUAL
REPORT
Uganda



2019
INVESTMENT
€7.575



"Bringing Health to Communities"

Brighter Communities Worldwide has worked with the Franciscan Brothers as a partner since 2005. The Franciscan Brothers established an agricultural college in Uganda in 2012 to provide education and training in sustainable livelihoods for rural communities.

As well as education and training, the college has an outreach programme **focusing on community development needs** and in 2016 they asked us to work with them to devise a community-based health project to meet the needs of the people in Northern Uganda.

We undertook a pilot project called 'Bringing Health to Communities' which completed early in 2019 with the decision to move to the next step and develop a 3 year project (subject to financial support). The aim of the pilot was to provide access and an understanding of key health issues to the local community so they would be able to lead healthier lives.

The project is based in Offaka Sub County, Arua District in Northern Uganda. This is a region that has suffered conflict over a very long time period (30+ years) and the impact is still apparent; unemployment is widespread and levels of education are very low; there is a very wide gender gap in education (for every 10 boys enrolled there are only 5 girls); it is an extremely poor area and there is only one health centre serving the entire population and limited knowledge of health issues in the community.

We took our community development model with the Healthy Homestead at its base and adapted it successfully to suit the Ugandan context. At the end

of the pilot, the elements of the healthy homestead were implemented across 4 villages resulting in 44 households living in healthier homes. As well as this the entire village population engaged in the project directly through community discussions, sharing knowledge and engagement of the centre committees with all households in each village.

Partnerships were strengthened between all parties involved and children and teachers are benefiting from safer and healthier school environments. It was the first time that we layered our programmes across an agricultural programme and it worked and shows how with a strong partnership we can have a deeper impact on changing lives for the better.

The pilot enabled a cultural exchange between the Kenya staff team and the Ugandans providing an opportunity for a South South partnership which moves away from the traditional North South model.

The capacity of both teams has been strengthened across many areas including project management, programme implementation, monitoring, evaluation and communication.

This project gave community members the opportunity to be part of their own future which is hugely significant in terms of taking ownership of the project in an area where 30 years of conflict have led to a culture of dependency. ●



Development Education and Public Engagement

Development Education

Brighter Communities Worldwide's Development Education programme aims to encourage people to question the inequalities of the world we live in, deepen our awareness of global justice issues and act to do something about it. Every community has problems to deal with but we live in an interconnected and interdependent world where all issues are linked and if we are to achieve sustainable development for all we need to act together.

The Global Goals aim to "leave no one behind" and have a vision of a "just, equitable, tolerant, open and socially inclusive world in which the needs of the most vulnerable are met". We promote that vision across all of our programmes in Ireland and in Africa.

Schools Network

Our schools network is made up of Mountrath Community School, Colaiste Pobail Acla and Cobh Community School partnering with Siret Secondary, Baraka Secondary and Londiani Township secondary schools. We received funding through Irish Aid's WorldWise Global Schools for the 2018 to 2019 academic year. In the spring of 2019 activities included classroom

workshops with the students on the theme of 'my role & responsibility in achieving the Global Goals for sustainable development'. These culminated in a combined schools workshop in Ennis in February and included video input from the Kenyan schools about the Global Goals in their communities. The Kenyan schools held their workshop in May to coincide with Global Menstrual Health day and they focused on 'Menstruation matters in achieving the Global Goals'.

Harambee Volunteer Programme

'Harambee' is the Swahili word meaning 'working together'. We have adopted it as the name for our overseas volunteer programme. Volunteers travel to Kenya to work alongside local volunteers on delivery of our programmes. During their time in Kenya engaging with local people, there are many opportunities for conversations that lead to thoughts about a just and equitable world. As part of a comprehensive training programme, we organise a debriefing for volunteers when they come home which provides them with space and time to share thoughts and consider what actions they can take for meaningful change.



Schools network Sustainable Development Goals workshop in Ireland (February 2019)



Attendees at the International Conference on Population and Development Nairobi. Left to right: Meabh Ni Bhuinneain, Katherine Zappone and Maria Kidney (November 2019)

the 2019 Alternative Rite of Passage (ARP) courses and resulted in community support and active involvement in ARP courses at 30 stations across the region.

We celebrated **Menstrual Health day** in May with 982 students, teachers and community members and promoted this global day on our social media and among our supporters and followers to raise awareness of menstrual health.

As members Comhlamh, an organisation that works to mobilise for an equitable and sustainable world, we engaged with the Volunteering and Development education working group during 2019 to promote development education within overseas volunteering.

In April, we held a public meeting to **launch our new Strategic Plan** in Midleton, Co. Cork and share our plans for the next 5 years. We were delighted to welcome Deirdre Clune MEP to officiate at the event and H.E. Ambassador Richard A. Opembe and his wife Suzanne Gachukia as guests.

Public Engagement

We marked several Global Days of celebration and raising awareness during 2019.

Two of our volunteers took part in the **International Conference on Population and Development (#ICPD) in Nairobi** in November. Throughout the Summit there were many commitments from across governments, civil society, private sector and all present to work together to achieve the three zeros: Ending Maternal Death; the Unmet Need for Family Planning and Ending GBV and Harmful Practices.

Early in February, we marked the **International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation** through our social media channels to raise awareness and advocate for a safer alternative to FGM. In Kenya the local volunteer facilitators organised public engagements with 19,869 people across the region including power brokers such as the Chiefs, Village Elders, Pastors and Head Teachers, Women Leaders, Youth Leaders, Government Ministries and Politicians. This was part of their planning operations for

In October two of our volunteers took part in the **Pathways to clean cooking 2050 International conference in Wexford** where we also submitted 2 posters about our Smokeless cooking Stoves programme in Kenya. ●



Schools network Sustainable Development Goals workshop in Kenya (May 2019)



Since its foundation Brighter Communities Worldwide has worked as a partnership based organisation. This includes partnerships in Kenya, Uganda, in Ireland and around the world.

People are central to our approach to community development which is based on community-led solutions with local partners. We believe that partnerships are fundamental to strong local ownership of all our programmes and will lead to long term sustainability.

Partnership is essential with all stakeholders including government ministries, community groups, donors, partner organisations, staff, volunteers and board members.

Our Partnership Framework has a number of core principles on which it bases its partnerships:

- A shared vision of development
- Participation
- Mutual accountability and trust
- A mutual commitment to long-term change

Our full Partnership Policy is available here on our website: tinyurl.com/BCWPolicy

Local Partnerships

We work hard to maintain strong partnerships at local level to ensure that we continue to meet the needs of the communities with whom we work in the most sustainable way possible. All of our local programmes are cost shared, with our partners providing 50% of the costs by way of labour, materials donated or finance. Our local partners include Community Groups; Community Health Units; Schools and Colleges; and Government Ministries. We also

have a strong partnership with the Franciscan Brothers based in both Baraka Agricultural College in Kenya and Adraa Agricultural College in Uganda.

We hold annual partnership seminars with our local partners to evaluate our programmes. Feedback on the previous year is captured in advance and over a 2 day workshop the partners undertake different activities to reflect on changes that took place in the previous year, challenges and their current needs. This enables us to determine community priorities for the coming year and helps us to ensure that our programmes are aligned with community needs.

Corporate Sector Engagement

We are very grateful to have established partnerships with a number of Irish companies who have supported our work over the years and this is an area that we are aiming to expand on. Thank you for the following companies who have supported us in 2019:

- **Aspira** – supported our fundraising Kenya Ball along with annual funding donation.
- **Moneenatieve Windfarm Ltd** – long term supporters of our Education Bursaries Programme.
- **VMWare** – support provided through the VMWare Foundation Cork Giving Network providing employee volunteer hours.
- **Eli Lilly Kinsale Ltd** – donated to us early in 2019 from their staff Christmas fundraising activities in 2018.
- **Janssen** – support through payroll giving donation.

Funding Partners

Brighter Communities works in partnership with many donors and funding agencies and has received grants from a variety of sources throughout 2019 to carry out our programmes. We would like to express our gratitude to the following for supporting our work this year:

- Irish Aid
- Worldwide Global Schools
- Soroptimist International Cork
- Soroptimist International Bangor
- Electric Aid
- Irish Embassy, Nairobi
- Surgeon Noonan Medical Student Society UCC
- Staff of HSE/Cork and Kerry Association for the Relief of Poverty (SHARP)



Friends of Kipkelion is a UK registered charity (no. 1142476) founded by Mr. Michael Deriaz in 2010 working in partnership with the people of Kipkelion in Kericho county. We have worked as partners since 2011 with both organisations sharing the same aims and values and working together to deliver projects related to water, sanitation and healthcare.

During 2019 this partnership implemented many of our programmes through generous funding from the UK Department for International Development, the Guernsey Overseas Aid and Development Commission, as well as from many other organisations and individuals. We would like to thank Friends of Kipkelion and their donors for their support and partnership and look forward to our continued journey together.

Government and Embassies

Brighter Communities Worldwide enjoys good working relationships with both the Irish Embassy in Nairobi and the Kenyan Embassy to Ireland in Dublin. We met with the new Kenyan Ambassador to Ireland Mr. Michael K Mubea in December. Throughout 2019, we continued our engagement with various Government Ministries in Kenya, in particular the Ministries of Health, Education and Water & Sanitation.

New partners

In August 2019, Brighter Communities Worldwide met with Engineers Without Borders (EWB), Houston, USA members to discuss a partnership for future projects together. 4 EWB members spent 2 weeks in Kenya during which they met with communities and our staff to look at different solutions so that villages can have access to clean water. We look forward to developing this partnership further in 2020.



Women from the Kapngetuny Women in Coffee group celebrating International Women's Day March 2019

2019 Volunteers

Volunteers with Brighter Communities Worldwide come from all age groups, backgrounds and experiences and without their support and involvement we would be a very different organisation.

In Kenya there are many hundreds of volunteers who support our development programmes in their own communities as facilitators, community health volunteers and on village health committees. They are passionate about learning, sharing and creating better futures for themselves and their neighbours.

In Ireland we have a strong support base that help with fundraising activities and events, volunteer training, social media, PR, promotion of Brighter Communities Worldwide and programme development. Christmas time is our biggest opportunity for fundraising and volunteers also helped with craft sales and collections.



During 2019, 24 volunteers and visitors travelled to Kenya from Ireland. In June Harambee volunteers included 3 medical students from the Surgeon Noonan Student Society at University College Cork. The volunteers joined with local Kenyan volunteers to facilitate Lifeskills courses, Healthy schools programme, Girls for Girls and business trainings. They installed smokeless stoves, supported Remote Emergency Care trainings and worked on the menstrual health programme.

The medical students divided their time on placement between Kericho County Hospital, Londiani Sub-county hospital and St. Vincent de Paul Hospital in Muhroni. They gained

experience in clinical health including obstetrics and gynaecology, A&E, intensive care and ophthalmology. They also saw public health in action through outreach clinics. As their time in Kenya coincided with a suspected outbreak of Ebola, they saw up close how local public health officials and Brighter Communities Worldwide worked together to put plans and training in place to prepare for an outbreak in the community.



We have an established link between Mayo University Hospital (MUH) and Londiani sub-county hospital and in 2019 this link expanded to include the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences at National University Ireland (NUI) Galway, Kenyatta University in Nairobi and Department of Health Services, Kericho.

In June a study team travelled to Kenya from Ireland to meet their partners and plan the programme of work for the next five years. These volunteers came from MUH, Achill Island GP practice and NUI Galway and their areas of specialisation include obstetrics, orthopaedic surgery, GP practice and radiography.

In November a team of 10 volunteers worked with our staff team and local volunteers to review current construction projects; work on the sustainable tourism campsite; facilitate at lifeskills, business and Essential Obstetrics and Neo-natal courses; support staff with IT training; run advocacy workshops for staff; install smokeless stoves; share the tidy towns concept with the local community around our office in Londiani and support local hospital and clinics in training and supervision

Thank you to all our volunteers in Ireland, Kenya and around the world to all those people who support them in their fundraising and awareness-raising for Brighter Communities Worldwide. ●

Governance

Brighter Communities Worldwide Ireland is governed by a Board of Directors and biographies of the board members are listed on our website: tinyurl.com/BCWBoard

The role of the board is to govern the organisation in accordance with its mission, vision and legal obligations. We are very grateful to all the voluntary directors for their commitment and contribution to the organisation during 2019. The day-to-day management of the organisation is delegated to the CEO and staff in Ireland and in Kenya.

We believe it is important to be compliant and transparent and to promote good practice in everything that we do. We are signatories of and adhere to guidelines and codes relevant to our work. We believe these standards of good practice are essential to making sure that we are working in the best interest of all those involved in the work we do.

- We are registered with the **Charities Regulatory Authority (CRA)** and have formally adopted the Guidelines for Charitable Organisations on fundraising from the public.
- We have migrated to the new **Charities Governance Code** and are ready to meet our CRA obligation to comply with the Code in 2020.
- We **publish our accounts annually** in compliance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) standard.
- Brighter Communities Worldwide in Kenya is **compliant with the terms of the NGO Coordination Act of 1990**, and the attendant Regulations of 1992 in Kenya. This was confirmed by the NGO Coordination Board in January 2016



Brighter Communities Worldwide are members of the Charities Institute Ireland and we operate our fundraising programme to the Triple Lock Standard. This means we demonstrate openness, transparency and integrity to our beneficiaries and donors and comply with best practice in governance and transparency.



Celebrating International Women's Day March 2019



Core Humanitarian STANDARD



With Your Support...

With your support in 2019 we raised €70,326 through a variety of fundraising activities and events. Volunteers, supporters, friends, family all pitched in with passion, integrity and togetherness to donate their time and money in support of our community development work.

Without your support we simply could not create better futures for those communities with whom we work.

Thank you - Asante Sana

2019
**FUNDRAISING
ACTIVITIES
RAISED**
€70,326



Karen Underwood and her daughter Christiana performing in concert at Siamsa Tire Tralee (April 2019)



'Wake up and smell the coffee' in Norah Butler's Kitchen (July 2019)



Group shot at the Mountain Challenge in the Galtee Mountains (August 2019)



Staff member Reuben Koskei leading the way on the Kenyan Mountain Challenge (August 2019)



Great fun at the Kenya Ball (October 2019)



Behind the scenes staff from VMWare Ballincollig help out with tagging and pricing of crafts from Kenya for Christmas sales (October 2019)



Students of St Vincents Secondary School Cork setting up for Christmas craft selling (December 2019)

Our Value for Money Approach

Working with communities to improve lives means being financially responsible and ties in with our core values of Integrity and Togetherness.

We achieve value for money in a number of ways:

- We implement **cost-sharing** across all of our programmes – for example, schools contribute up to 50% of the costs of infrastructure development; parents contribute food and accommodation for Alternative Rites courses. As a result of cost sharing, there is also greater ownership of the programmes; greater efficiency and a greater return on investment for all donors.
- Our ways of work include **multiplier effects** – for example, our peer education programme methodology is a ‘train the trainer model’. Local facilitators deliver the courses enabling a higher number of beneficiaries which is also tailored to local community needs.
- Our use of **Kenya’s mobile banking systems** (MPESA) has considerably reduced our transaction costs and improved the efficiency of our programme delivery.
- Through the recruitment and capacity development of **volunteers** across all our programmes. For example – in 2019, 66 volunteer facilitators were involved in the FGM/C Abandonment Programme. They were responsible for the sensitisation and mobilisation of communities along with the facilitation of the Alternative Rites of Passage courses for the girls.
- Ownership of a project or a programme is key to its sustainability and community members make an **investment** in the project. Investment does not necessarily mean financial investment but can mean time, skills, labour and other resources for example land given for a community water kiosk etc.
- **Skills, expertise and knowledge sharing** – volunteers give freely of their time and skills throughout the year. Some examples during 2019 include – 40 hours from a HR professional to strengthen our HR systems; 80 hours of event management skills in preparation for the fund raising Kenya ball in Ireland; 140 hours of craft selling; 16 hours of mountain leadership; 52 hours of staff capacity building in advocacy; 40 hours of marketing, over 100 hours of obstetrics teaching and 40 hours of hospital management.



DIRECTORS' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2019

Brighter Communities Worldwide's 2019 expenditure on Charitable Activities, including; projects on **Health, Education and Economic Empowerment** in Kenya and Uganda and the relevant support costs, amounted to **€626,295** (2018: €450,912), equating **94%** (2018: 95%) of Brighter Communities Worldwide's total expenditure for the year.

EXPENDITURE ON
**Charitable
Activities**

€626,295

94%

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The Directors present their annual report and the audited financial statements of Brighter Communities Worldwide for the financial year ended 31 December 2019. This report presents the information and disclosures required by a Directors' Report under the Companies Act 2014, together with additional information required by the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

Who are Brighter Communities Worldwide?

Brighter Communities Worldwide is a company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital, incorporated in Ireland on the 23rd February 2005 under the Companies Act, registration number 398094. Brighter Communities Worldwide was initially registered as Friends of Londiani Ireland and changed its name to Brighter Communities Worldwide Company Limited by Guarantee on the 22nd December 2016. Brighter Communities Worldwide is one of the registered business names of Brighter Communities Worldwide Company Limited by Guarantee. As of 31 December 2019, there were 9 members whose guarantee is limited to €1 each. This guarantee continues for one year after membership ceases.

Brighter Communities Worldwide is a charity registered with the Charities Regulatory Authority, registered charity No: 20059583, and has been granted tax exemption by the Revenue Commissioners in Ireland, with registered charitable taxation No: CHY 16505.

Objectives and Activities

Brighter Communities Worldwide believes that stronger people make stronger communities, and that stronger communities make a better world, with a brighter future.

Our Vision

"A world where strong, healthy communities can thrive. building sustainable livelihoods and brighter futures."

The mission of Brighter Communities Worldwide is to work in partnership with communities, to deliver programmes that enrich their lives and help create better futures for them and their families.

Brighter Communities Worldwide considers the whole community, enabling individuals and communities to be authors of their own development, building brighter communities for all. Our model creates an enabling environment for communities to realise change and uses a partnership based approach to deliver relevant programs to meet the needs of communities and individuals.

Directors and Other Information

Directors

Colum Horgan (Chairperson); Kieran Curtis (Vice Chairperson); Maria Kidney; Charles Daly; Linden Edgell; Frederic Spengeman; Christine Burke; Sean O'Sullivan; Anne Healy; Jane Beare (appointed September 2019, retired 13 January 2020); Christine Burke (retired in 28 October 2019)

Company Secretary

Linden Edgell

Chief Executive Officer

Martin Ballantyne

Registered Office

4 The Crescent, Mill Road, Midleton, Co. Cork

Company Number: 398094

Charities Regulatory Authority Number: 20059583

Charity Number: CHY 16505

Auditors: Deloitte Ireland LLP, Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm, No. 6 Lapps Quay, Cork

Bankers: Permanent TSB, Patrick Street, Cork

Solicitors: Charles C. Daly, 2 Westbourne Place, Cobh, Co. Cork

Country of Incorporation: Ireland

Creating brighter communities means ensuring:

- Access to good, affordable health care
- Education to help people find a job and be able to articulate their needs
- An income that can sustain a family
- Healthier lives with a supply of clean water and better facilities

Brighter Communities Worldwide implements programmes in Health, Education and Economic Empowerment.

The impact of the work of Brighter Communities Worldwide is measured against targets using a Results Based Management System. Brighter Communities Worldwide also has a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Policy in place.

Brighter Communities Worldwide carries out monitoring and evaluation activities for two main reasons:

- *To ensure that the organisation is fully accountable for the delivery of all its development activities*
- *To ensure that the organisation learns lessons throughout the implementation of its development activities and that this learning enables improvement and enhancement of its work on an ongoing basis.*

Monitoring is carried out on a continual basis and involves collecting and recording data with information in order to track our progress towards expected results. Evaluation is an exercise that assesses systematically and objectively the relevance, performance and success of ongoing and completed programmes and projects at a key point in time for example monthly; quarterly and annually. Evaluation is undertaken in order to improve the effectiveness of development projects, to help reach objectives, to make good decisions about future activities.

Brighter Communities Worldwide's 2019 expenditure on Charitable Activities, including; projects on Health, Education & Economic Empowerment in Kenya and Uganda and the relevant support costs, amounted to €626,295 (2018: €450,912), equating 94% (2018: 95%) of Brighter Communities Worldwide's total expenditure for the year.

Achievements and Performance

Key outcomes and results are as follows:

Health

- We supported 45 community units throughout 2019, resulting in an improvement in access to quality health services and increased knowledge of health issues for 45,000 households.
- We supported the running of 40 Public Health Field Days and 240 Outreach Clinics as part of our health programme to improve the accessibility of quality health services for all. This resulted in a 3% increase in the number of children under one which are fully immunized (coverage rate now 66%) and the percentage of children under 5 receiving Vitamin A supplements increased by 2%.
- 19 Maternal Health courses with 612 participants took place during 2019 and 32 health workers were trained in Essential Obstetrics and Neonatal Care over a 5 day workshop. Impacts of increased maternal health knowledge included a 37% growth (from 2,898 to 3,959) in the number of births taking place in health facilities in the region and a 5% reduction in the perinatal mortality rate in the region.
- 9 Remote Emergency Care courses were held for community members with 291 (147 Male; 144 Female) people attending. These courses provide community members with the skills to act as first responders in an emergency and teach them how to stabilize and prepare patients for transfer.
- 1,237 smokeless stoves were installed in homes. In addition to this 3,619 (1772 Boys, 1847 Girls) students across 12 schools also benefited from the installation of institutional stoves:
- 111 new stove installers were trained during 2019, adding capacity to allow more households to convert to a smokeless stove.
- 4 water protection schemes completed this year has the capacity to serving 2,829 people across 4 communities. This means that health indicators in this area will improve as a result of access to a protected source of clean, safe water. Current and past water projects supported by us have potential to serve almost 35,000 people.
- In 2019, 7,138 (3,221B; 3,917G) school pupils benefitted from new water and sanitation infrastructure in their schools, the benefit of these projects can also be extended to staff of schools and the wider community.

Education

- 62 new schools were added to the Healthy Schools programme during 2019 (51 Primary and 11 Secondary) – enabling an additional 9,603 Girls, 8,937 Boys and 767 Staff Members to benefit from the programme. This brings the total number of schools in the programme to 289 enabling 46,442 boys and 50,147 girls from primary and secondary schools to benefit.
- There were 21 new schools added to our Girls for Girls programme in 2019, bring the total number of schools involved to 83. This results in 4,137 girls gaining access to knowledge around menstrual health, personal hygiene and economic empowerment as well as increased access to reusable sanitary kits.
- 16 infrastructure projects were completed in schools (4 Girls Latrine/Washroom Blocks; 4 Boys Latrine Blocks and 8 Water tanks). These all contribute to a reduction in water borne diseases in the schools impacting 7,138 (3,221B; 3,917G) students. This

leads to better life changes for these students due to improved school attendance and retention rates.

- 377 community health volunteers were trained in Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM), and 14 community based MHM workshops were held for women in communities, with 782 women attending. This programme contributes to increased awareness of the challenges surrounding menstruation which breaks down barriers, and improves education and economic empowerment.
- 66 students were supported through our Education Bursary Scheme in 2019 across Primary, Secondary and Polytechnic levels. This scheme enables the most disadvantaged children the chance to increase their opportunities.
- 41 Life Skills courses were run in 2019 with 1,694 (573M, 1,121F) community members attending. Life Skills courses empower participants through shared learning and knowledge of topics that are relevant to communities.
- 1,498 girls attended an Alternative Rite of Passage course in 2019, with 25 courses being held in various locations across the region. This has led to an increase in capacity of young women to raise awareness of the negative impacts of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) in their communities.

Economic Empowerment

- Business courses were held in 5 locations in 2019 with 172 (89M, 83F) people participating. 49% of the participants set up a new income generating activity after participating in business training course and 13 women's groups successfully accessed capital to improve their business.
- During 2019, work continued on improving the campsite and trekking routes as part of our Sustainable Tourism project in the village of Ndubusat. A lookout was added to the campsite, and activities continued working with villages along the route.

Uganda

The "*Bringing Health to Communities*" pilot project in Offaka Sub-County in Northern Uganda began in 2016 and was completed during 2019 with a final evaluation conducted in February 2019. Work has begun to explore possibilities of future engagement in Uganda.

Irish Aid Programme

In 2019, we completed year one of a three year Irish Aid project "*Healthier Communities, Brighter Futures*" across Kericho County. The outcomes and results above contributed the overall aim of this project which is to facilitate change that leads to strengthened, healthier and more resilient communities through access to improved health, education and employment opportunities.

Financial Review

Results

The results for the financial year and appropriation thereof are set out in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 50.

Reserves

Brighter Communities Worldwide has determined the following reasons for Reserves which are reviewed and updated on an annual basis by the Board:

- **Education Reserve** – Brighter Communities Worldwide supports education bursaries in the District, and so will endeavour to support a student throughout his/her complete schooling, hence the need to reserve some funds for continuing students. Due to the current fundraising climate in 2019, this reserve will be zero.
- **Emergency Reserve** – This reserve is for the risk of an unforeseen emergency which may arise due to the location of Brighter Communities Worldwide work. In 2019 this is €5,000.
- **Operational Reserve** – This is the amount of money needed to keep the office going for an agreed period of time and is based on the running costs for utilities, rent and staff. Brighter Communities Worldwide has a reserve of 3 months operational costs in Ireland. In 2019 this is €20,000.
- **Grant money received, but not spent in the current year** - Grant money is rarely received and spent in its entirety within the current financial year, and so unspent grant money will be held in reserve until the following year – for example Irish Aid money.

Risk Management

Brighter Communities Worldwide has a Risk Management Policy and a Risk Management Register which is reviewed, updated and discussed at every board meeting with any necessary mitigations being put in place.

During 2019 Brighter Communities Worldwide began adopting the Matrix for assessing impact, likelihood and effectiveness of existing controls as recommended by the Charities regulator as outlined in their Document 'Risk Management for Charities'. The risk register identifies possible risks; scores risk based on the probability of occurrence and the impact on the organisation; lists steps to put in place to prevent the risk and then scores the risk again based on these interventions. The risks to Brighter Communities Worldwide are normally categorised but not limited

to the following heading: Governance, Finance and Fundraising, Human Resources, Operational and Infrastructure, Programme Delivery, Laws and Compliance, Technology and Business Continuity, Political and Environmental. A written strategy for managing each risk is developed and reviewed annually both by the Board and the Executive Committee. Directors are therefore aware of the risks to which Brighter Communities Worldwide is exposed and are satisfied that appropriate systems are in place to mitigate and manage exposure to risks. During 2019 a new section to the risk management register was added to reflect the decision to continue working in Uganda.

Plans for the Future

We believe that stronger people make stronger communities, and that stronger communities make a better world, with a brighter future. Our development model creates an enabling environment for communities to realise change and this will continue throughout 2020.

2019–2023 Strategic Plan

Brighter Communities Worldwide began a new strategic plan on the 1st January 2019 for five years. This strategic plan was developed as a result of a comprehensive review of our previous strategic plan, an environmental review and an inclusive stakeholder engagement process.

Our future strategic direction is based on four goals:



The strategic plan is translated into the Operational Plan for Ireland which is monitored on a monthly basis.

2020 Organisational Strengthening

In 2020 Brighter Communities Worldwide will continue the implementation of its business plan (2017-2021). This plan supports our strategic direction and identifies key areas where the organisation will focus on to support its growth and development.

2020 Development Programmes

Brighter Communities Worldwide will continue to develop and implement its development programmes throughout 2020. At the time of preparing this Annual Report, the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting Brighter Communities Worldwide operations in Ireland and Kenya. At this time the majority of the 2020 Development Programs continue to be delivered – albeit being pivoted to meet to the health prevention and preparation needs identified by the Kenyan Government in their COVID-19 response plan for Kericho County. We have taken the decision to suspend travel to Kenya as part of our volunteer program for the remainder of 2020 and are actively engaging volunteers and supporters in our COVID-19 response.

The **Health Programme** aims to assist in the long term reduction of mortality and morbidity rates, and to improve health security for all the people with whom we work. This is achieved through improving access to knowledge around health, supporting the development and strengthening of sustainable health care delivery systems, and supporting public health interventions in the areas in which we work.

The **Water & Sanitation Programme** aims to support and promote water projects that will improve health indicators, boost education and advance economic empowerment. This is achieved through improving access to sustainable sources of clean safe water, supporting the development and strengthening of sustainable systems for water delivery and consumption by supporting water projects in the areas in which we work.

The **Economic Empowerment Programme** aims to support and promote economic empowerment projects that will raise the incomes, and subsequently, the standard of living of people in the communities where we work. This is achieved through projects and courses developed to support and improve life in the communities where we work by including a focus on business and increasing economic activity.

The **Education Programme** aims to support any person whom we work with access to education of some form based on their wants and needs. This is

achieved through improving access to information around education, supporting the development and strengthening of sustainable systems for formal and non-formal education and supporting education interventions in the countries where we work.

The **Development Education Programme** aims to deepen peoples understanding of global issues and encourages people to act to create a more just and equal world. This is achieved through the training methodologies we use that encourage discussion, analysis and sharing of opinions and through our communications that encourage advocacy and highlight global issues.

The **Volunteer Programme** aims to bring practical assistance, vital skills and diversity to the organisation which is essential to our ongoing success. This is achieved through our overseas volunteer programme and local volunteer programmes in both Ireland and Kenya.

2020 Fundraising

In December 2019 the Board approved a new Fundraising Strategy for the organisation. This strategy outlines our funding approach for the coming year. The Fundraising Strategy identifies the financial needs of the Organisation and outlines the preparation, methods and resources needed to meet these expectations. A fundraising plan was developed for 2020 which implements this strategy. Given changed circumstances in Ireland and other donor countries due to COVID-19, the 2020 Fundraising program is being adapted with creative alternatives being developed by the Fundraising Committee and supporters.

Structure, Governance and Management

Organisational Structure

Brighter Communities Worldwide is governed by the Board of Directors who are responsible for directing the affairs of Brighter Communities Worldwide, ensuring it is solvent, well-run and delivering the outcomes for which it has been set up. The Board is responsible for the strategic direction of Brighter Communities Worldwide, safeguards the ethos of Brighter Communities Worldwide and is responsible for the audit and finance of Brighter Communities Worldwide including money, insurance and legalities. The Directors have responsibility for, and are aware of the risks associated with the operating activities of Brighter Communities Worldwide. Adequate systems of internal control are in place which aims to ensure compliance with laws and policies, ensure efficient

and effective use of resources, safeguard assets and maintain the integrity of financial information produced. Financial information is subject to detailed review at Board level. The day-to-day management of the organisation is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer and the staff Team.

Composition of the Board

Brighter Communities Worldwide's Board currently has nine members, 44% of whom are women. Their professional biographies are available on the Brighter Communities Worldwide website (tinyurl.com/BCWBoard). During 2019 the board met eleven times (2018: eight times), with an average attendance of 85% (2018: 86%). The board has a transparent Board Renewal process in place to ensure that the board has the desired blend of skills and experience at any given time. New board members are elected by the members of Brighter Communities Worldwide at the Annual General Meeting of the Charity.

Appointment of Directors

Directors are recruited through networking by the Board and supporters. Candidates for appointment to the Board are identified based on the Board's requirements for expertise from time to time. The board has specific portfolios in place based on its current and future needs, and uses these to identify gaps in advance of recruiting new board members.

New Directors have an induction programme to ensure that collectively they have the necessary knowledge required for proper governance of the charity. One new member joined the board in 2019. Continuous support is provided to board members throughout their term including training and development related to their role on the board. Training is provided on changes to best practice in corporate governance, charities regulation and development from time to time. Some Board members also participate in charity and related sector networks and peak bodies to ensure the Board is abreast of new information. For example, in 2019 a Board member participated in a two day Comhlámh Safeguarding Workshop alongside the staff team.

Directors are expected to serve a minimum term of three years. Each director is required to submit himself or herself for re-election every three years at the Annual General Meeting. All Directors may serve a maximum of two, three year terms, except in very exceptional circumstances when a further three year term can be served. The current board members are listed on our website: tinyurl.com/BCWBoard

Board Committees

The board has a number of sub-committees including Audit, Human Resources (HR), Executive and Fundraising (which was added during 2019). The chairperson for each of these provides an update at each board meeting as to activities undertaken and decisions made.

The Audit Committee (chaired by Fritz Spengeman (Board) with two external representatives) has the following roles & responsibilities:

- To monitor the integrity of the financial statements of the organisation, and any formal announcements relating to the organisational financial performance, reviewing significant financial reporting judgements contained in them.
- To review the organisation's internal financial controls and to review the Brighter Communities Worldwide's internal control and risk management systems.
- To monitor and review the effectiveness of Brighter Communities Worldwide's internal audit function.
- To make recommendations to the Board, for it to put to the members for their approval in general meeting, in relation to the appointment, re-appointment and removal of the external auditor and to approve the remuneration and terms of engagement of the external auditor.
- To review and monitor the external auditor's independence and objectivity and the effectiveness of the audit process, taking into consideration relevant Irish professional and regulatory requirements.

The Human Resources (HR) Committee (Board Members Colum Horgan, Charles Daly plus one Advisor) has the following roles and responsibilities:

- Annual Review having sought input from all Directors, of the CEO covering both performance and remuneration.
- Advise on training needs for staff.
- Deal with any HR issues that may arise.
- Ensure Brighter Communities Worldwide keeps up to date with changes in Irish Labour Law.
- Ensures that CEO contract is in place and complies with Irish law.

The Executive Committee (Board Members Colum Horgan, Linden Edgell, Kieran Curtis, Maria Kidney and the CEO) has the following roles and responsibilities:

- To meet monthly and whenever else necessary.
- To deal with any urgent matters.
- To ensure Board decisions are implemented.
- To deal with any Conflict of Interest.

- To authorise volunteer projects.
- To approve the necessary visits to Kenya by Brighter Communities Worldwide personnel and volunteers.
- To receive and consider reports from the Brighter Communities Worldwide Board in Kenya.
- To ensure that all projects do not exceed agreed budgets.
- To communicate any matters of importance to the Board in a timely fashion.

The Fundraising Committee (Board Members Colum Horgan, Sean O'Sullivan, Office Manager, CEO and Fundraiser) has the following roles and responsibilities:

- Aligning with the overall organisation strategy, develop the detailed fundraising strategy for the organisation and bring to the Board for final approval.
- Propose annual draft fundraising targets for the organisation to be agreed by the board.
- Make recommendations to the board on budgets, hiring, management and oversight of fundraising staff members.
- Provide ongoing support to fundraising staff with the assistance of external advisers where required.

The fundraising committee work closely with the Public Relations lead and staff whose roles include fundraising and communications through regular face to face meetings and correspondence. This sub-committee provides a link between staff and board in terms of how the board can support fundraising plans.

Brighter Communities Worldwide board members are responsible for specific portfolios. These include Governance – Organisational; Governance-Compliance; Communications; Partnering; Global Citizenship Education; Volunteer; Funding; Continuous Quality Management; HR; Safeguarding; Audit and Fundraising.

Staff and Operations

Day to day operations are undertaken by the Chief Executive Officer, Office Manager and a Fundraiser. The profiles of all staff members are available at: tinyurl.com/BCWStaff

From time to time 3rd party services are provided to Brighter Communities Worldwide and these are coordinated by the Chief Executive Officer. These include suppliers, auditors and solicitors.

Networks and Consortia

Brighter Communities Worldwide is a member of Dóchas – the Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations, The Wheel, Charities

Institute Ireland, Irish Development Education Association (IDEA), Esther Alliance, the CHS Alliance, Midleton Chamber of Commerce, Comhlámh and 2into3. Brighter Communities Worldwide leverages its membership of these organisations to advocate, gain knowledge and advice, and share learnings.

Governance Codes

Brighter Communities Worldwide has adopted the Charities Regulatory Authority Charities Governance Code, and during 2019 work was undertaken to review the charities compliance across all six principles. The Board reviewed this compliance in December and agreed that the organisation is compliant across all six principles of the code.

Brighter Communities Worldwide has a Conflict of Interest policy in place and all potential conflicts of interest are dealt with by the Executive Committee. Directors/Trustees and staff have a legal obligation to act in the best interests of Brighter Communities Worldwide, and in accordance with Brighter Communities Worldwide's governing documents. This policy will assist charity trustees of Brighter Communities Worldwide to effectively identify, record and manage any conflicts of interest in order to protect the integrity of Brighter Communities Worldwide and to ensure that the charity trustees act in the best interest of their charity. Annually each board member completes a Declaration of Interests form. The Company Secretary compiles all forms and maintains the Register of Interests. Conflict of Interests is a standing item on each Board meeting agenda to enable any Conflicts of Interest pertaining to the agenda of the board be dealt with.

Brighter Communities Worldwide has a Conflict of Loyalty policy in place and all potential conflicts of loyalty are dealt with by the Executive Committee. Brighter Communities Worldwide has a Code of Conduct for Directors in place, and all Directors are obliged to comply with this code.

Brighter Communities Worldwide are members of the Charities Institute Ireland and we operate our fundraising programme to the Triple Lock Standard. This means we demonstrate openness, transparency and integrity to our beneficiaries and donors and comply with best practice in governance and transparency.

Charities Regulatory Authority

Brighter Communities Worldwide is compliant with the requirements of the Charities Regulatory Authority and submitted its annual report before the deadline of 31st October 2019.

Board Performance

During 2019 Brighter Communities Worldwide undertook a self-evaluation process in May. Each board member completed a questionnaire on the key areas of board roles and responsibilities and these fed into the September Board development workshop.

Finance

Brighter Communities Worldwide's Accounts comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) standard and with the Dóchas/Irish Aid guidelines on financial reporting. Brighter Communities Worldwide publishes its Annual Accounts on line every year and these are available on our website: tinyurl.com/BCWAccounts

Directors Expenses, Staff Remuneration and Pensions

All Brighter Communities Worldwide board members are voluntary and do not receive payments to attend board meetings. All expenses incurred by board members in fulfilling their duties as board members are paid according to Brighter Communities Worldwide's Expense Policy.

The pay of the Chief Executive Officer is reviewed annually by the HR Committee while the pay of the other staff members is reviewed by the Chief Executive Officer in conjunction with the HR Committee.

Brighter Communities Worldwide pays pension allowances for its CEO and has a PRSA scheme in place should any employee wish to avail of this.

Equality and Diversity

Brighter Communities Worldwide is committed to supporting the communities that we work with to achieve change in their lives that will empower them and improve the health, education and economy of their household. We believe this change happens through **valuing diversity** in communities and building programmes that give equal access according to the needs of the people. We have a policy on Equality and Diversity to provide the organisation with a frame of reference to follow to ensure our equality statement is integrated into all that we do and to honour our legal responsibilities and obligations.

Communications Strategy

Brighter Communities Worldwide has a communications strategy in place which is renewed annually. This sets out the key messages to be used in all communications.

Dóchas Code of Conduct on Images and Messages

Brighter Communities Worldwide is a signatory of the Dóchas Code of Conduct on Images and Messages

("the Code") and commits to applying the Code's principles for all their communications. Brighter Communities Worldwide strives to support the Code's implementation and to promote it across all members of staff, as well as partners, contractors and the wider NGO sector. By signing the Code, Brighter Communities Worldwide commits to a set of principles, ensuring that it will avoid stereotypical or sensational images, respect the dignity and equality of all people portrayed and promote fairness, solidarity and justice through all its communications. Brighter Communities Worldwide also agrees a number of commitments to ensure the Code's principles are implemented throughout all activities of the organisation. Brighter Communities Worldwide has adhered to the seven mandatory principles of the Code during 2019. All feedback and comments on Brighter Communities Worldwide's compliance with the Code can be sent to Brighter Communities Worldwide's Code Champion Rose Hennessy:

rosehennessy@brightercommunities.org.

Comhlámh Code of Good Practice (CoGP)

Brighter Communities Worldwide is a signatory of the [Comhlámh Code of Good Practice \(CoGP\) for Volunteer Sending Agencies](#).

Comhlámh's Code of Good Practice is a set of standards for Irish Volunteer Sending Agencies facilitating international placements. The Code is based on a vision of volunteers working in solidarity for a just, equitable and sustainable world. It promotes responsible and responsive volunteering to ensure a positive impact for the overseas project and community, the volunteer and the sending agency.

The Code promotes development education, which enables people to more deeply understand the world around them and to address the root causes of inequality and poverty.

Every Volunteer Sending Agency, which is party to the Code of Good Practice, commits to the implementation of the Code's five values that underpin the work of international volunteer programmes. These are solidarity, respect, social justice, ecological sustainability and integrity. Full details of the Code are [here](#).

The Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS)

The CHS sets out nine commitments that organisations involved in humanitarian response can use to improve the quality and effectiveness of the assistance they provide. Brighter Communities Worldwide supports the CHS and during 2019 continued its self-assessment

process to implement the code throughout the organisation. This will be submitted in 2020.

Board initiatives during 2019

The Board has undertaken a number of activities during the year. These activities include:

- Holding several meetings and discussions during the year to develop and govern the organisation.
- The Board has reviewed, updated and developed several policies during 2019
- The Board launched the new strategic plan in April 2019.
- During 2019 the Board continued its governance work ensuring compliance with appropriate codes and Charities Regulator.
- During 2019 the Board worked on ensuring that the organisation is compliant with the Charities Regulator Authority Governance Code for Charities.
- The Board developed and approved a new fundraising strategy in 2019.
- The Board participated in a workshop in 2019 looking at BCW's approach to safeguarding; enhancing knowledge and understanding of the new Charities Governance Code and prioritising work for the next year.

Internal Controls

The Directors acknowledge their overall responsibility for Brighter Communities Worldwide's internal control system and for reviewing its effectiveness. The implementation of the internal control system is the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer. This system includes financial controls, which enable the Board to meet its responsibilities for the integrity and accuracy of Brighter Communities Worldwide's accounting records.

Key elements of internal control systems include:

- Brighter Communities Worldwide has a Financial Management and Controls policy in place which outlines the processes for expenditure; the recording of all income; use of bank accounts; financial reporting and asset management.
- Procedures and controls systems are included in all partnership agreements/memorandum of understanding and project contracts.
- There is a formal organisational structure in place with clearly defined lines of responsibility, division of duties and delegation of authority;
- A detailed budget is prepared annually which is in line with the Strategic Plan and approved by the Board. At each board meeting, actual spending is compared against budget and prior year to ensure alignment

with budget, tight administration control, and value for money;

- The Audit Committee reports independently to the Board on all aspects of controls and risks; and
- The Board maintains a reserve policy to mitigate the increasing risks of the uncertain economy and to ensure sustainability of our services.

Internal Audit Functions

Brighter Communities Worldwide uses SAGE for its management accounts system. The management accounts were reviewed by the Board a total of seven times during 2019. Brighter Communities Worldwide is audited by Deloitte and financial statements and annual reports are published online after the AGM each year. Financial statements are prepared in line with SORP standards and the Companies Act 2014; a disclosure statement on senior management salaries is included.

Brighter Communities Worldwide is governed by and adheres to a number of sector-wide codes of conduct. These are outlined in the Governance section of this report. Brighter Communities Worldwide remains committed to continually strengthening its transparency and accountability in order to maintain trust with the public, donors and partners.

Transparency and Accountability

Brighter Communities Worldwide is satisfied that it operates control systems to guard against the risk of fraud or gross financial mismanagement.

Fundraising

Monitoring of fundraising is a responsibility of the Board of Directors whose role includes ensuring the short-term and long-term viability of the organisation. Brighter Communities Worldwide has a fundraising sub-committee whose role feeds into this. In 2019 a Fundraiser was appointed to join the staff team in Ireland.

Brighter Communities Worldwide has formally adopted and adheres to the Charities Regulator's Guidelines for charitable organisations on fundraising from the public and adheres to the standards outlined in the Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising.

Development Programme

The strategic oversight of the Development Programme is a responsibility of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors are responsible for monitoring organisational performance, ensuring programme

results are on-track and ensuring expenditure is in line with targets and budgets. The Board of Directors also ensure that throughout the life-cycle of the Development Programme, outcomes continue to contribute to Brighter Communities Worldwide's strategic objectives.

Going Concern

The directors have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Directors and Secretary

The directors and secretary that served throughout the financial year are outlined on page 2 of the financial statements.

Accounting Records

The measures that the Board of Directors have taken to secure compliance with the requirements of sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 with regard to the keeping of accounting records, are the employment of appropriately qualified accounting personnel and the maintenance of computerised accounting systems. The company's accounting records are maintained at the company's business address at No.4 The Crescent, Mill Road, Midleton, Co.Cork.

Events after the Balance Sheet Date

Since the financial period end there has been a global pandemic outbreak of coronavirus COVID-19. This has been assessed by directors and management as a non-adjusting event. Given the level of uncertainty surrounding the event no financial estimate can be quantified. Directors and management have assessed the impact of this event subsequent to year end and best efforts have been made to ensure continuity of operations.

Statement on Relevant Audit Information

In the case of each of the persons who are directors at the time this report is approved in accordance with Section 332 of Companies Act 2014:

- (a) so far as each director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's statutory auditors are unaware, and
- (b) each director has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's statutory auditors are aware of that information.

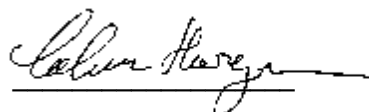
Auditor

The auditor, Deloitte Ireland LLP, Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm, continues in office in accordance with Section 383(2) of the Companies Act, 2014.

Approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by:



Kieran Curtis
Director



Colum Horgan
Director

Date: 24th August 2020

Directors' Responsibilities Statement

The directors are responsible for preparing the Report of the Directors and the financial statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2014 and the applicable regulations.

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law, the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council, as applied in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2014, and with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with FRS102 ("the Charities SORP (FRS102)") ("relevant financial reporting framework").

Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at the financial year end date and of the surplus or deficit of the company for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies for the Company financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS102);

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and surplus or deficit of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and report of the directors comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Legislation in Ireland governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions. The directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the company's website.

Independent Auditor's Report

to the members of Brighter Communities Worldwide Company Limited by Guarantee

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion on the financial statements of Brighter Communities Worldwide Company Limited by Guarantee (the 'Company')

In our opinion the company financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2019 and of the its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework and, in particular, with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

The financial statements we have audited comprise:

- the Statement of Financial Activities;
- the Balance Sheet;
- the Statement of Cash Flows; and
- the related notes 1 to 23, including a summary of significant accounting policies as set out in note 1.

The relevant financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued by the Financial Reporting Council ("the relevant financial reporting framework").

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are described below in the "Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements" section of our report.

We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these

requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions Relating to Going Concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which ISAs (Ireland) require us to report to you where:

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other Information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the reports and financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2019, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of Directors

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (Ireland), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher

than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of the auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that the auditor identifies during the audit.

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

Opinion on Other Matters Prescribed by the Companies Act 2014


Based solely on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited.
- The company financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.
- In our opinion the information given in the report of the directors is consistent with the financial statements and the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2014.

Matters on which we are Required to Report by Exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the provisions in the Companies Act 2014 which require us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions specified by law are not made.



John Kelly

For and on behalf of Deloitte Ireland LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm
No. 6 Lapps Quay, Cork

Date: 25th September 2020

Statement of Financial Activities

(Including Income and Expenditure Account)

For the Financial Year Ended 31 December 2019

	Notes	2019	2019	2019	2018	2018	2018
		Restricted Funds	Unrestricted/ designated Funds	Total	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted/ designated Funds	Total
Income from		€	€	€	€	€	€
Donations and legacies	3	117,511	74,377	191,888	115,053	84,466	199,519
Charitable activities	4	267,669	80,935	348,604	260,000	57,760	317,760
Other trading activities	5	-	70,326	70,326	-	72,790	72,790
Total		385,180	225,638	610,818	375,053	215,016	590,069
Expenditure on							
Charitable activities	6	397,408	228,887	626,295	280,475	170,437	450,912
Raising funds	7	-	37,043	37,043	-	22,284	22,284
Total		397,408	265,930	663,338	280,475	192,721	473,196
Net deficit/(surplus)	9	(12,228)	(40,292)	(52,520)	94,578	22,295	116,873
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward	16	193,277	216,151	409,428	98,699	193,856	292,555
Total funds carried forward	16	181,049	175,859	356,908	193,277	216,151	409,428

There are no other recognised gains or losses other than those listed above and the net expenditure for the financial year. All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

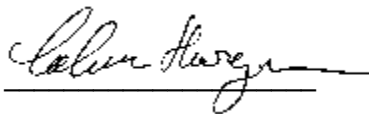
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2019

		2019	2018
	<i>Notes</i>	€	€
Current Assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		367,041	417,489
Debtors	13	4,337	4,337
		371,378	421,826
Creditors: Amounts due within one financial year	14	(14,470)	(12,398)
Total net assets		356,908	409,428
Funds of the charity			
Accumulated – unrestricted	16	150,589	191,151
Accumulated funds – restricted	16	181,049	193,277
Accumulated funds – designated	16	25,000	25,000
		356,908	409,428

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on 24th August 2020 and signed on its behalf by:



Kieran Curtis
Director



Colum Horgan
Director

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Financial Year Ended 31 December 2019

	Notes	2019 €	2018 €
Cash flows from charitable activities			
Net cash (used in)/provided by charitable activities	15	(50,448)	132,504
(Decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents in the financial year		(50,448)	132,504
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		417,489	284,985
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year		367,041	417,489
Reconciliation to cash at bank and in hand:			
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the financial year		367,041	417,489

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. They have all been applied consistently throughout the current and preceding financial year.

General Information and Basis of Preparation

Brighter Communities Worldwide Company Limited by Guarantee is a company incorporated in Ireland under the Companies Act 2014. The address of the registered office of the company is 4 The Crescent, Mill Road, Middleton, Co. Cork. The company number of Brighter Communities with the Companies Registration Office is 398094. The nature of the company's operations and its principal activities are set out in the report of the directors on pages 35 to 45. In accordance with Section 1180(8) of the Companies Act, 2014, the company is exempt from including the word "Limited" in its name. The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council, as applied in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2014, and with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with FRS102 ("the Charities SORP (FRS102)") ("relevant financial reporting framework").

The functional currency of company is considered to be euro because that is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the company operates.

As permitted by section 291(3)(4) of the Companies Act 2014, the company has varied the standard formats specified in that Act for the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheets and the Statement of Cash Flows. Departures from the standard formats, as outlined in the Companies Act 2014, are to comply with the requirements of the Charities SORP (FRS102) and are in compliance with Sections 4.7, 10.6 and 15.2 of the Charities SORP (FRS102).

The Company meets the definition of a Public Benefit Entity under FRS102. As a registered charity, the Company is exempt from the reporting and disclosure requirements to prepare a directors' report under section 325 (1) (c), Companies Act 2014 but does so in compliance with the Charities SORP (FRS102). There is nothing to disclose in respect of directors' interests in shares or debentures of the Company under section 329, Companies Act 2014.

Going Concern

The charity's forecasts and projections, taking account of reasonable possible changes in performance, show that the company will be able to operate within the level of its current cash and investment resources.

The Board have a reasonable expectation that the organisation has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual financial statements.

Income

- (i) Income from voluntary donations is recognised when received. As with many similar charitable organisations, independent companies from time to time organise fundraising activities. However, as amounts collected in this way are outside the control of the company, they are not included in the financial statements until received by the company.
- (ii) Proceeds from the sale of donated goods are recognised in the financial statements in the period in which they are realised. Volunteer time is not included in the financial statements.
- (iii) Grants from the government and other agencies have been included as income from activities in furtherance of the charity's objects and accounted for on a receivable basis.
- (iv) Income from legacies are recognised when the likelihood of receipt is probable, the company is entitled to the funds and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.
- (v) Interest income is recognised on a receivable basis.
- (vi) Revenue refunds in respect of tax relief on voluntary donations are recognised on a receivable basis in so far as the receivable can be established with a reasonable amount of accuracy.

Expenditure

- (i) Charitable activities comprise expenditure incurred by the programme countries for the costs of the development programmes as well as costs incurred at headquarters that are directly related to the implementation of programmes. Expenditure is recognised in the period to which it relates. Expenditure incurred but unpaid at the balance sheet date is included in accruals and other creditors.
- (ii) Expenditure on raising funds comprises all expenditure incurred by Brighter Communities Worldwide on raising funds for the organisation's charitable activities.

Funds Accounting

Funds held by the charity are:

- (i) Unrestricted funds – these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Directors.
- (ii) Restricted funds – these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Financial Instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial liabilities are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into.

Financial assets and liabilities

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Investment Policy

All cash balances for planned development work are held in demand deposit accounts or short term investment accounts at the highest interest rates available at the time of investment. Long term investments acquired by donation or through merger will not be held in the long term and will be disposed of within a reasonable time frame.

Operating Leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all the benefits and risks of ownership

remain with the lessor are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA).

Reserves Policy

In order to secure the long term viability of the charity and to maintain the smooth operation of the organisation, it is critical to ensure that the organisation has adequate reserves. The level of reserves is required to cover the following activities of the organisation:

- Provide funding for sustainable programmes.
- Meet contractual liabilities such as lease agreements, statutory staff payments and payments to creditors.
- Maintain a required level of funding available for overseas programmes during times of financial difficulty where fundraising income is diminished.
- To facilitate programme/project continuation especially where a partner submits a new or additional phase proposal in advance of the current activity being completed, in order to meet seasonal requirements (i.e. farming season) and prevent development gaps
- Meet unanticipated expenses such as repairs and maintenance, currency variances and legal costs.
- Cover day to day expenditure of the company.
- Ensure there is adequate funding should any winding up costs ever arise.
- Provide for any other unanticipated expenditure of significance.

The Board may designate unrestricted reserves for specific future expenditure and any other potential future requirement(s). The Board has adopted a reserves policy based on foreseeable expenditure and in particular, long-term commitments to projects.

Taxation

No charge to tax arises due to the exempt status of the Company. Irrecoverable value added tax is expensed as incurred in these companies.

2. Critical Accounting Judgements and Key Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

In the application of the company's accounting policies, which are described in note 1, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates

are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods. Information about critical judgements in applying accounting policies that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements is included in the accounting policies and notes to the financial statements.

The directors do not consider there are any critical judgements or sources of estimation requiring disclosure.

3. Donations and Legacies

	2019	2018
	€	€
Friends of Kipkelion	117,511	115,053
Education fund	7,500	10,000
General donations	35,979	24,078
Standing orders	19,374	27,777
Taxation refunds	11,524	22,611
	191,888	199,519

4. Charitable Activities – Income

	2019	2018
	€	€
Irish Aid CSF funding for health	260,000	260,000
Irish Aid WWGS fund	7,669	-
Electric Aid	9,713	-
Volunteer project income	42,263	32,018
Other charitable activity income	28,959	25,742
	348,604	317,760

Charitable Activities – Irish Aid

Irish Aid provide support to Brighter Communities Worldwide under the Civil Society Fund (CSF) and the Irish Aid Worldwide Global Schools (WWGS) fund. The CSF fund supports Brighter Communities Worldwide projects in health, water, education and economic empowerment. The Irish Aid WWGS fund is to support the Brighter Communities Worldwide school network in Ireland and Kenya. An amount of €181,049 was unspent as at the financial year end (2018: €193,277) and has been included in the restricted reserve at the financial year end.

Summary of Irish Aid Funding

	Restricted at start of 2019	2019 Grant Income	2019 Grant Spend	Restricted at end of 2019
	€	€	€	€
Irish Aid WWGS		7,559	(7,669)	-
Health projects – 2018/19	193,277	-	(193,277)	-
Health projects – 2019/20	-	260,000	(78,951)	181,049
	193,277	267,559	(279,897)	181,049

5. Other Trading Activities

	2019	2018
Fundraising activities	€	€
Walks, runs and marathons	5,828	10,251
Kenya Ball	36,233	37,510
Merchandise	1,055	1,266
Other fundraising events	27,210	23,763
	70,326	72,790

6. Charitable Activities – Expenditure

Field programme expenditure has been incurred against the following thematic areas:

	2019 Direct Costs	2019 Support Costs <i>Note 8</i>	2019 Total Costs	2018 Direct Costs	2018 Support Costs <i>Note 8</i>	2018 Total Costs
	€	€	€	€	€	€
Education projects	137,158	64,342	201,500	58,617	63,924	122,541
Health including water	234,019	105,448	339,467	190,349	70,867	261,216
Economic empowerment	21,277	8,936	30,213	15,532	1,853	17,385
Uganda project	4,954	2,621	7,575	15,977	1,775	17,752
Development Education	-	47,540	47,540	-	32,018	32,018
	397,408	228,887	626,295	280,475	170,437	450,912

Field programme expenditure has been incurred in the following geographic areas:

	2019 Direct Costs	2019 Support Costs <i>Note 8</i>	2019 Total Costs	2017 Direct Costs	2017 Support Costs <i>Note 8</i>	2017 Total Costs
	€	€	€	€	€	€
Kenya	392,454	178,726	571,180	264,498	136,644	401,142
Uganda	4,954	2,621	7,575	15,977	1,775	17,752
Ireland	-	47,540	47,540	-	32,018	32,018
	397,408	228,887	626,295	280,475	170,437	450,912

Field programme expenditure is directly incurred by Brighter Communities Worldwide (Kenya) through grant aid from Brighter Communities Worldwide in Ireland. Brighter Communities Worldwide in Ireland has a partnership with Brighter Communities Worldwide in Kenya which is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding.

7. Raising Funds

	2019 Restricted Funds €	2019 Unrestricted Funds €	2019 Total Costs €	2018 Total Costs €
Fundraising expenses	-	7,530	7,530	5,362
Support costs (Note 8)	-	29,513	29,513	16,922
	-	37,043	37,043	22,284

8. Support Costs

Support costs which are allocated to activities have been incurred against the following thematic areas:

	2019 Charitable Activities Note 6 €	2019 Fundraising/ Retail Note 7 €	2019 Total Costs €	2018 Charitable Activities Note 6 €	2018 Fundraising /Retail Note 7 €	2018 Total Costs €
Staff Salaries	132,796	10,185	142,981	104,224	3,505	107,729
Office Expenses	12,704	8,288	20,992	13,943	1,416	15,359
Website & IT	3,441	-	3,441	-	-	-
Insurance	3,092	545	3,637	5,053	-	5,053
PR/Events	14,984	3,970	18,954	5,762	5,885	11,647
Governance	8,913	5,212	14,125	5,535	4,001	9,536
Travel Expenses	5,417	1,313	6,730	3,902	2,115	6,017
Development Education	47,540	-	47,540	32,018	-	32,018
	228,887	29,513	258,400	170,437	16,922	187,359

The basis of allocation of the support costs identified above is a mixture of the percentage of time spend on each activity and the pro rata cost of each direct cost when compared to the support cost.

9. Net (Expense)/Income

The net (expense)/Income for the financial year is stated after charging:

	2019 €	2018 €
Auditors' remuneration, including expenses – Audit of the financial statements	6,510	4,200

10. Staff Costs

Staff costs are comprised as follows:

	2019	2018
Ireland:	€	€
Wages and salaries	121,076	100,277
Social welfare costs	13,265	10,769
Pension costs	8,640	1,800
Sub-total	142,981	112,846

The organisation started paying pension contributions in November 2018 and continued to pay these throughout 2019.

The average number of employees during the financial year was as follows:

	2019 Number	2018 Number
Ireland	4	3

No employee of the company acts as director. The total remuneration package of the Chief Executive Officer comprised salary of €58,232 (2018: €60,000).

No member of staff received remuneration in excess of €60,000 during the financial year (2018: None).

11. Director Remuneration and Expenses

Directors are not remunerated but are entitled to be reimbursed for out of pocket expenses incurred in the course of carrying out their duties.

Travel and accommodation expenses relating to meetings of the Board that were reimbursed to the relevant Board members amounted to €879 in 2019 (2018: €520).

12. Key Management Compensation

The total remuneration for key management personnel for the financial year amounted to €96,476 – 3 Staff) (2018: €91,699 – 3 staff).

13. Debtors

	2019	2018
	€	€
Prepayments and other debtors	4,337	4,337
	4,337	4,337

14. Creditors

(Amounts falling due within one financial year)

	2019	2018
	€	€
Accruals	7,544	5,244
PAYE/PRSI liability	6,926	7,154
	14,470	12,398

15. Reconciliation of Net (Expenditure)/Income to Net Cash (Used in)/Generated by Charitable Activities

	2019	2018
	€	€
Net (expenditure)/ income for the reporting year (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(52,520)	116,873
<i>Adjustments for:</i>		
Decrease in debtors	-	16,054
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	2,072	(423)
Net cash (used in)/provided by charitable activities	(50,448)	132,594

16. Funds of the Charity

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Designated Funds	Total Funds
(i) Reconciliation of funds:	€	€	€	€
Funds at 1 January 2019	191,151	193,277	25,000	409,428
Net (deficit)/ income for the year	(40,562)	(12,228)	-	(52,520)
Fund balances at 31 December 2019	150,589	181,049	25,000	356,908

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Designated Funds	Balance 31/12/2019
(ii) Analysis of net assets between funds:	€	€	€	€
Current Assets	165,329	181,049	25,000	371,378
Liabilities	(14,470)	-	-	(14,470)
Total Funds	150,589	181,049	25,000	356,908

	Balance as at 01/01/2019	Income	Expenditure	Balance 31/12/2019
(iii) Movements in funds:	€	€	€	€
Unrestricted Funds	191,151	225,638	(265,930)	150,859
Restricted Funds	193,277	385,180	(397,408)	181,049
Designated Funds	25,000	-	-	25,000
Total Funds	409,428	610,818	(663,338)	356,908

Designated funds comprise of the Incident Management Reserve fund of €5,000 (2018: €5,000) and the Operational Reserve fund of €20,000 (2018: €20,000). These funds have been designated by the company for use in the case of an emergency.

Restricted funds comprise of grant income received during the year which has yet to be spent by the company. This includes grant aid from the Irish Aid Worldwide Global Schools Fund and Irish Aid Civil Society Fund.

The Unrestricted funds reserve represents cumulative surpluses and deficits, net of other adjustments.

17. Contingent Liabilities

Grant funding received during the financial year from Irish Aid Civil Society Fund of €260,000 may be repayable if it is determined that it was not spent on agreed purposes within twelve months of the allocation of the funds.

18. Membership

The Company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. It is guaranteed by members to the extent €1 per member

19. Related Party Transactions

Directors' Transactions

Director's travel and motor expenses were reimbursed during the current and prior financial years. Please see note 11 for details. There were no other transactions to note during the current or prior financial year.

Other Related Party Transactions

The total remuneration for key management personnel for the financial year totalled €96,476 (2018: €91,475).

20. Taxation

The company has been granted charitable status by the Revenue Commissioners. Therefore no provision for taxation is necessary.

21. Preparation of Accounts

In common with many other businesses of our size and nature we use our auditors to prepare and submit annual returns to the Companies Registration Office and assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

22. Events after the Balance Sheet Date

Since the financial period end there has been a global pandemic outbreak of coronavirus COVID-19. This has been assessed by directors and management as a non-adjusting event. Given the level of uncertainty surrounding the event no financial estimate can be quantified. Directors and management have assessed the operational and financial impact of this event subsequent to year end and best efforts have been made to ensure continuity of operations.

23. Comparative Amounts

Some prior financial year comparatives have been reclassified on the basis consistent with the current financial year.

Help us Create Better Futures

- Volunteer your skills, services or time in Ireland or in Kenya
- Volunteer in Africa with our Harambee projects
- Join in our fundraising events
- Make a donation
- Workplace giving
- Leave a legacy
- Host a coffee morning
- Buy gifts from our online shop

CREATING BETTER FUTURES

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