



**Brighter
Communities**
Worldwide

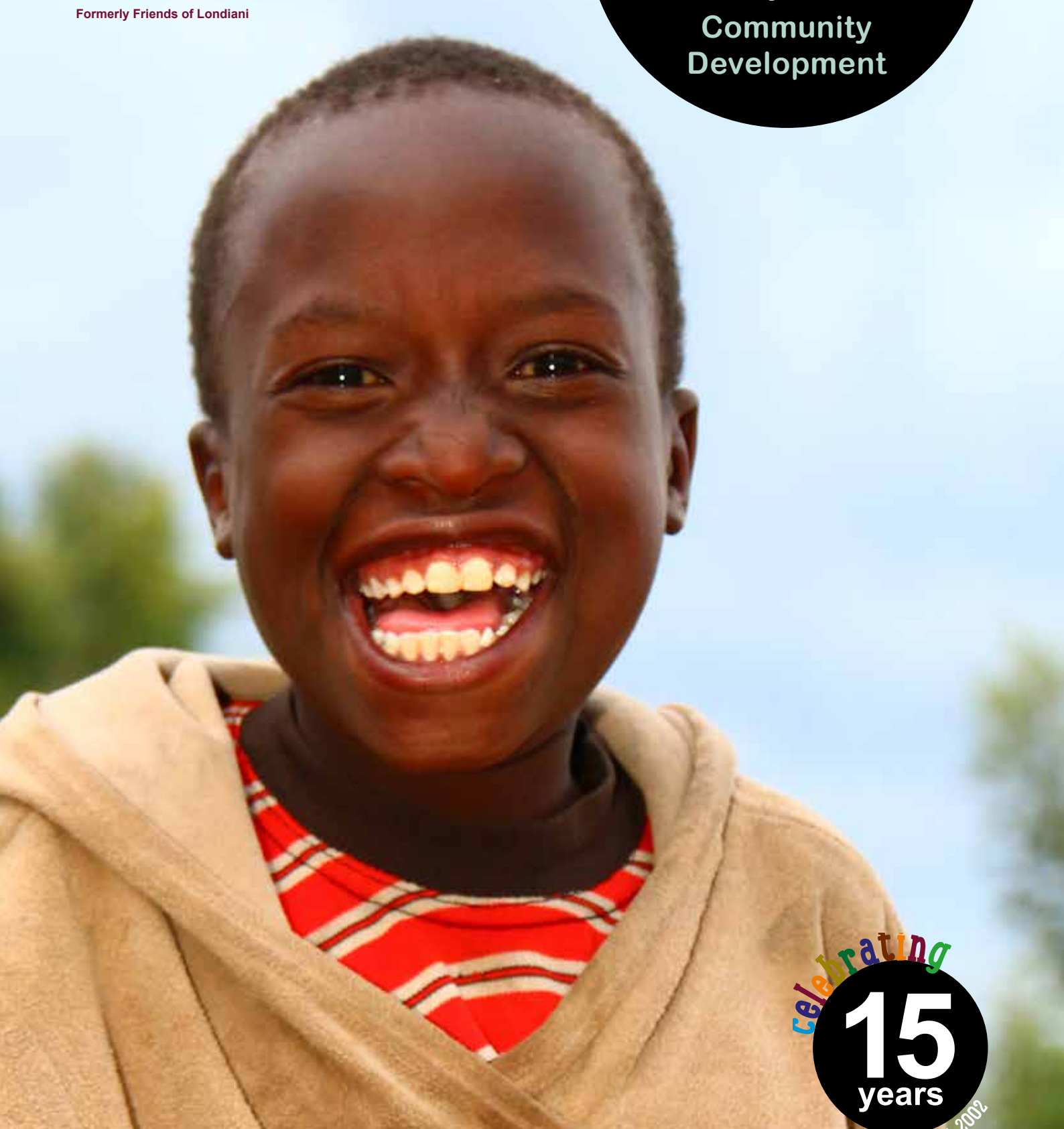
CREATING BETTER FUTURES

Formerly Friends of Londiani



IMPACT REPORT

15 years
Community
Development

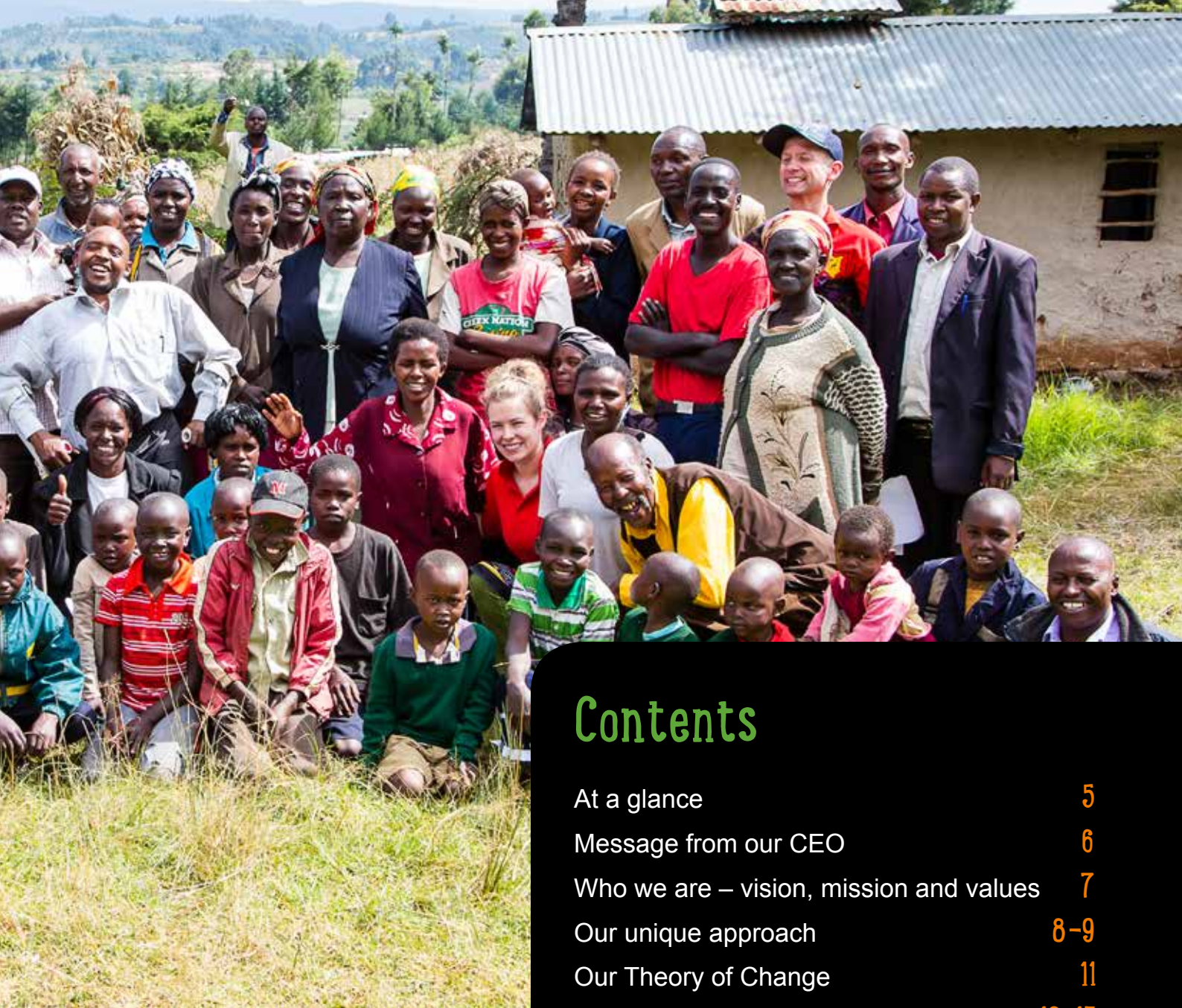


Creating better futures

www.brightercommunities.org



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



Life Skills course graduates November 2013

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
FOL	Friends of Londiani (our former name)
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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**“ One child, one teacher, one book,
one pen can change the world”**

Malala Yousafzai



At a glance

What we do

- Brighter Communities Worldwide has been operating as a locally staffed NGO in Kericho County, Kenya for 15 years.
- In partnership with local communities it operates programmes that focus on health, education and economic empowerment.
- Brighter Communities Worldwide initiatives take account of whole communities, enabling individuals and communities to be authors of their own development.
- Service priority is given to vulnerable groups, particularly women and people with disabilities.

Leading impacts

- In collaboration with the Ministry of Health we have rolled out **25 new Community Units** serving **25,000 households** or **more than 125,000 people**. Community Units act as gateways to key community health initiatives that include local outreach clinics, smokeless stoves, maternal health, menstrual hygiene management and FGM abandonment resources.
- We ran **454 outreach clinics**, with **27,450 people attending**.
- We ran **167 public health field days** with **117,000 people attending**.
- Access to **safe water has increased by 20%** across the region, with a **23% increase** in the number of households using handwashing facilities.
- Our smokeless stove programme led to an **11% reduction in respiratory illness** in communities where they were installed.
- Households that installed stoves experienced a **27% reduction in fuel costs**.
- Maternal and child health have improved. There has been an increase of **36% in the number of mothers delivering in health facilities** and a **51% reduction in the perinatal mortality rate** in Londiani Sub County Hospital.
- There was a **12% increase** in people accessing HIV Voluntary Counselling and Testing services.
- We have seen a **7% increase in attendance** at schools for students in the Healthy Schools and Girls for Girls programmes.
- Since 2009, **more than 9,000 girls have graduated from an Alternative Rite of Passage** which provides a culturally appropriate alternative to FGM.
- Through our business courses, **10 community groups (particularly women's groups) have access to finance** which contributes to an increased level of income for their families.

Message from our CEO

It is my pleasure and honour to introduce a report highlighting our achievements and impacts over the last 15 years. We began in 2002 when a team of 20 volunteers travelled from Ireland to Kenya, and we are now an organisation reaching over 330,000 beneficiaries.

This report takes you through our journey since 2002. A journey of:

- partnership, friendship and working together;
- volunteerism where people share their time, talents and learn from each other;
- development based on the needs of people and communities;
- innovation and entrepreneurship.

This is a story of how working in partnership has impacted peoples' lives, how the organisation has grown to reach more and more communities and how our development model has evolved and proven itself.

The world officially began implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on 1 January 2016. This agenda commits to **"leaving no one behind"** and addresses urgent global challenges over the next 15 years. The agenda serves as a roadmap for the global community to integrate and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental – in a global vision.

Global data (May 2016) shows that about one in eight people still live in extreme poverty; nearly 800 million people suffer from hunger; 1.1 billion worldwide are living without electricity, and water scarcity still affects more than 2 billion people.

Brighter Communities Worldwide works with communities who are part of these statistics. We are working across many sectors through a variety of programmes and partnerships to strive for the achievement of these goals to eradicate poverty, bring justice and equality to

all, address climate change and ensure a sustainable planet for future generations.

Since 2015, the richest 1% has owned more wealth than the rest of the planet. Eight men now own the same amount of wealth as the poorest half of the world. We see this growing inequality every day across Kenya and Uganda which is a major threat to social stability. We will continue to work with communities and advocate on their behalf to reduce this inequality.

I would like to thank our volunteers, supporters, families and friends for your support since our inception – know that you have made an incredibly valuable contribution to bringing the organisation to where it is today.

I would also like to thank the Board of Directors in Ireland, the Board of Management in Kenya, the Executive Committee, and the staff for your passion, support, and hard work since our inception.

To conclude, I borrow words used by **Ban Ki-Moon** on the launch of the UN Sustainable Development Goals:

"Looking ahead to the next 15 years, there is no question that we can deliver on our shared responsibility to put an end to poverty, leave no one behind, and create a world of dignity for all."

As Brighter Communities Worldwide continues to work with communities to create better futures will you join us on this journey? Become part of the generation that creates a world of dignity for all.



Martin Ballantyne, CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Ballantyne'.

Martin Ballantyne, CEO

Who we are

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

How we will achieve this

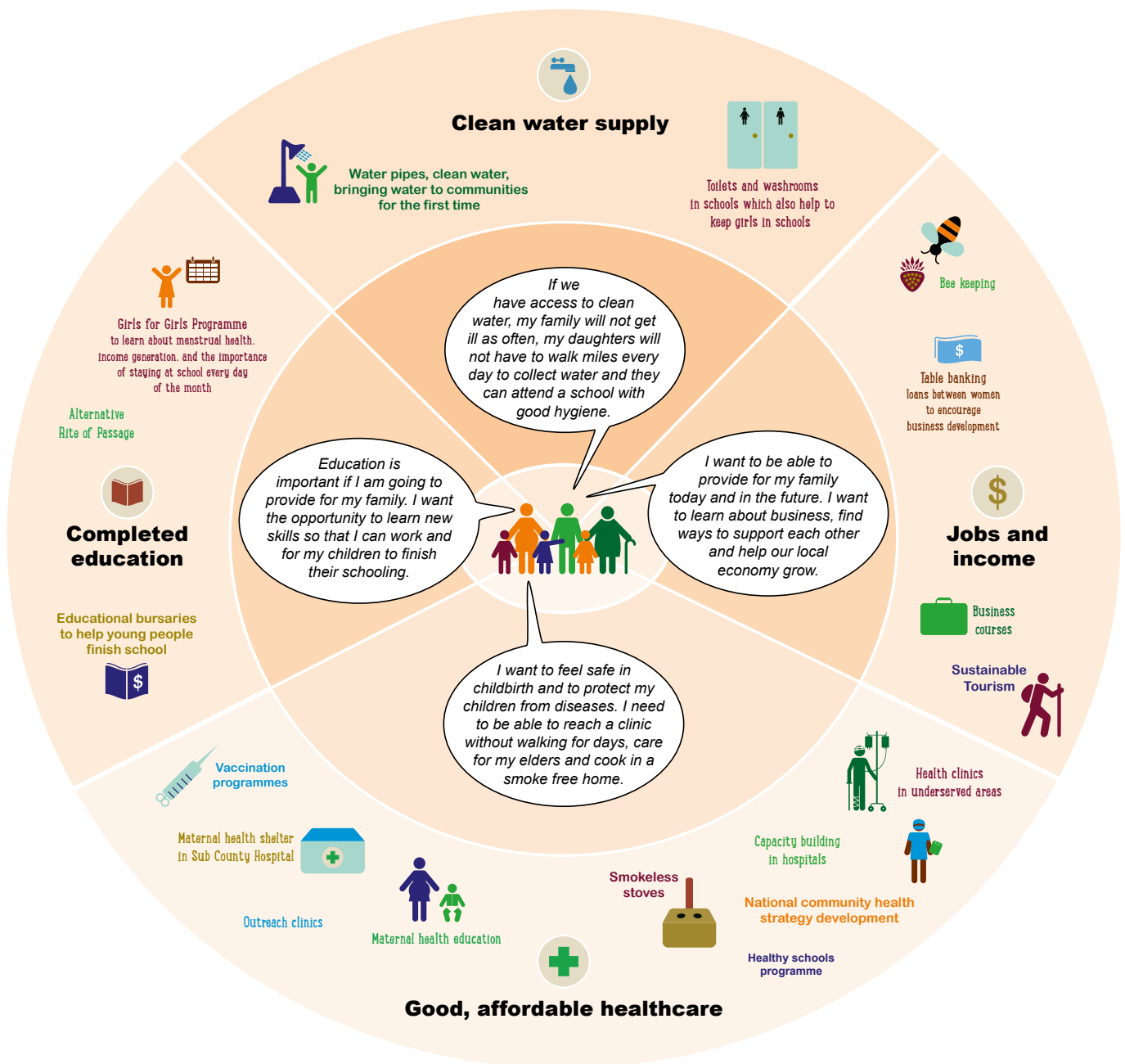
Brighter Communities Worldwide considers the whole community, enabling individuals and communities to be authors of their own development, building brighter communities for all. Our model creates an enabling environment for communities to realise change and uses a partnership-based approach to deliver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

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 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

Brighter Communities Worldwide has been operating as a locally-staffed NGO in Kenya since its inception in 2002. The office is based in Londiani Town. Over this time its model of community development has evolved and adapted to its changing environment, and the changing needs of the communities it works with.

Brighter Communities Worldwide continues to build on its learnings and experiences over the past 15 years. During this time we have worked in partnership with many stakeholders in designing, developing and implementing a development approach to address specific aspects of poverty and provision of essential services.

Brighter Communities Worldwide takes a holistic approach to the needs and priorities of a community. Empowerment is key and people are at the centre of our approach as *“authors of their own development”*. Our approach is multi-faceted and focuses on the key areas of health, education and economic empowerment.

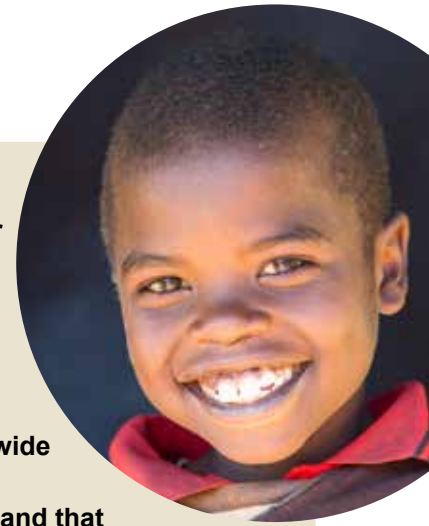
We have proven this model and achieved positive impacts and results over time.

Our value for money approach


Working with communities to improve lives means being financially responsible. We ensure the optimal use of resources to achieve the intended outcomes – and we use a balance of three principals to achieve this – economy, effectiveness and efficiency.

We scrutinise our expenditure at every step and ensure benefits can be passed on and multiplied over time and costs shared whenever possible. We also benefit through the commitment and input of our international and local volunteers and local resources.

A strong focus on good management, financial discipline and monitoring and evaluation systems doesn't diminish our projects – quite often it enhances them – but it reduces waste, improves efficiency and, most importantly, brings even better outcomes.



- **People are central to Brighter Communities Worldwide's approach which is based on community-led solutions with local partners**
- **Brighter Communities Worldwide believes that stronger people make stronger communities, and that stronger communities make a better world**
- **Brighter Communities Worldwide sees itself as a catalyst for change; it kick-starts development and enables communities to prosper and grow through creating connections and empowering people**
- **Priority is given to vulnerable groups particularly women and people with disabilities, and Brighter Communities Worldwide endeavours to ensure its approach is all-inclusive**
- **Brighter Communities Worldwide focuses on the whole person and the whole community**
- **Sustainability is key, and is integrated across Brighter Communities Worldwide's approach – design, development and implementation**
- **Partnership is essential with all stakeholders including government ministries and communities**
- **Gender equality, the environment, HIV/AIDS and good governance are mainstreamed across the approach**
- **Our work is not a single intervention: it tackles the whole community and all linked issues**
- **We make sure that the right resources are used in the right quantities and the right way to gain the right results**
- **This approach is the most effective way to achieve our desired outcome because it is all-inclusive, needs-based, beneficiary-focused and aligned with development strategies**



“ It is my aspiration that health finally will be seen not as a blessing to be wished for, but as a human right to be fought for.”

Kofi Annan

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.

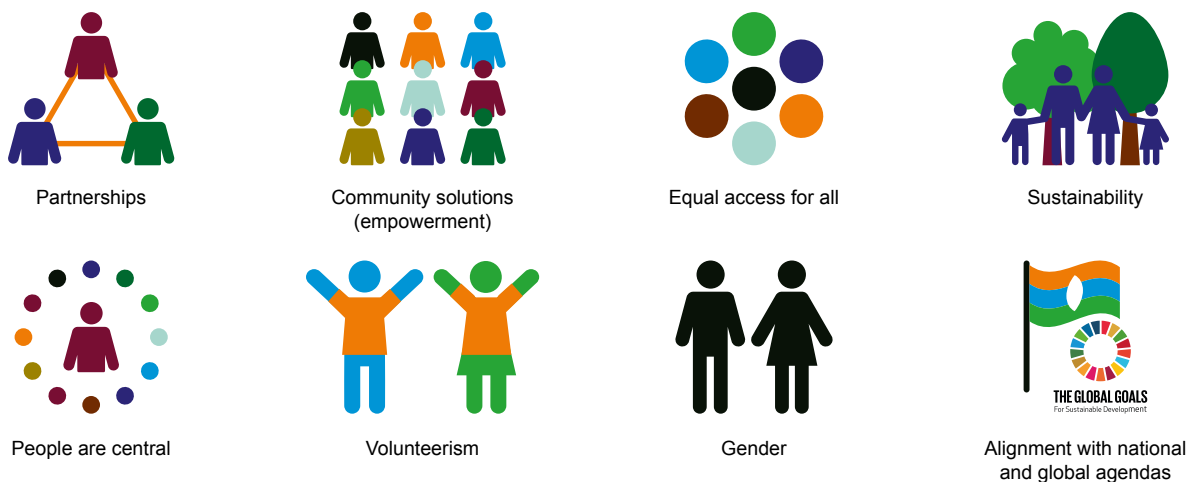
What we will achieve:



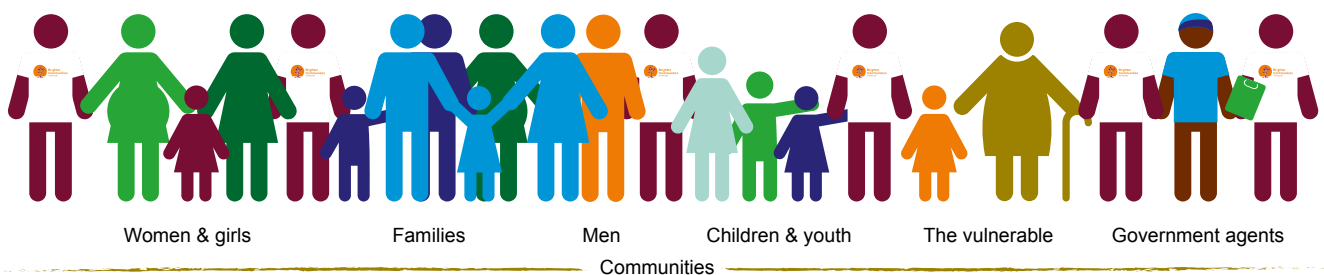
What we will deliver



How we will deliver



Working with people



Our 15 year journey

2002



The seed was sown – **first FOL volunteer team** from Ireland worked with Bethel Children's home; the first **Life Skills Peer Education course** was held in Londiani

2009



New ambulance provided for Londiani District Hospital; households surveyed for the creation of Healthy Villages; first **Alternative Rite of Passage** for girls took place; first **WAGGGS** volunteer team worked with FOL

2003



FOL supported the opening of a **medical clinic in Kebeneti**; work focused on maternal health needs in the community; in Ireland word spread of the communities in Kenya

2008



FOL provided **emergency support** in aftermath of post-election violence; a link between **Mayo General & Londiani District Hospitals** was forged; Kenyan Ministry of Health Community Health Strategy was implemented

2004

Work began on the **Ndubusat Gravity-fed Water Scheme** to bring clean water to the community, school and health facility; **Community Outreach programmes** were initiated



2007

Work began on **Essential Obstetrics Neo-natal Care programme**; **Education Bursaries** scheme was extended; partnership with the Ministry of Health to create **Public Health Field Days**



2005

Healthy Schools Programme and **Community Water Tanks** project began; First mixed-gender **Life Skills Peer Education** course was held; **Maternal and Child Health Clinic** was built in Ndubusat



2006

In Ndubusat, the **Gravity-fed Water Scheme** was turned on and the **Girls dormitory** was added to their secondary school; FOL received **Irish Aid** funding to support further community partnerships



2010

Girls for Girls Campaign was launched; network link was formed between Irish and Kenyan schools as part of **Worldwide Schools Programme**; mapping of the region began



2017

Organisation re-branded to **Brighter Communities Worldwide**, our new name reflecting the way we work with communities at a local level and our commitment to long term, positive change



2016

Partnership with Adraa Agricultural College, Uganda – pilot project *"Bringing health to communities"*; hosted **National Menstrual Hygiene Day** in Kenya; **Nduro Water Project** opened bringing clean water to 8,000 people



2011

First Girls for Girls training held; **Londiani District Hospital Operating Theatre** completed; research into a sustainable tourism project and microfinance for community groups began; new partnership with **Friends of Kipkelion**



2015

Link between Mayo University Hospital and Londiani Sub County Hospital strengthened by accreditation with **ESTHER Alliance Ireland**; over 2,000 girls graduated from **Alternative Rites of Passage** courses



2012

Smokeless stoves installed across the region reducing smoke and using two-thirds less fuel; **business trainings** continued and economic activity increased; Ireland and Kenya celebrated **10 years of community development**



2014

Maternal Health Shelter constructed to enable expectant women to deliver in health facilities; **Campsite** established on the sustainable tourism project trekking route; new modules added to **Life Skills** course



2013

New strategic plan developed; **Maternal Health Task Force** aimed to encourage expectant women to deliver in health facilities; **Remote Emergency Care** courses supported community members to develop wilderness first aid skills





A healthy outlook – for families, schools and communities

Strong communities that can thrive, build sustainable livelihoods and look forward to brighter futures for all. That is our vision – and health is central to that vision. Here's why.

We work with communities to promote and improve health. That doesn't just mean emergency care. Our focus is on everything from clean water, good sanitation and maternal health to safer fuel for cooking and of course, access to good, affordable healthcare.

Our health focus is wide ranging and aligns with the Ministry of Health's Community Health Strategy. It brings together households, volunteers and extension workers. We all work together to help families and communities to take an active role in health and health-related development issues. Alongside government and local people we support outreach clinics, immunisation, mother and child health clinics, reproductive health clinics, malaria treatment and prevention, and provision of vitamin A supplements.

There are also field days where people can access key health information on preventable diseases, water treatment, deworming, HIV/AIDS, malaria, and mother and child health services. And yes, there is emergency care – a two-day first aid course on immediate treatment in remote settings.

But that's far from all. If a homestead is healthy it enables a family to be healthy, resulting in a

healthy community. That's the philosophy behind another health initiative: the **Healthy Homestead – Healthy Village programme**. And it works. It focuses on areas like space and ventilation, safe water supply, progressive vector control, good sanitation, rubbish disposal, nutrition and food supply (using kitchen gardens), improvement of maternal and new-born health, and income-generating activities.

But our **Smokeless Stoves** programme is perhaps the clearest example of practical steps that can make a homestead healthier. It helps households to install smoke-free stoves – and to cut the rate of respiratory diseases in the process.

We also work with schools. Many schools in Kenya do not have adequate sanitation and hygiene facilities. Improvement of school

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Mother and children with a smokeless stove



Community Health Strategy

25

Community Units supported



25,000

households served
(125,000 people)



605

Community Health Volunteers trained

Community-led holistic approach to healthcare

Key achievements

Access to safe water increased by 20%

23% increase in the number of households using handwashing facilities

27% increase in latrine coverage

More people are accessing quality health services.

Increase in immunisation of children under 5 years old.



Public Health

167

Public Health Field Days



117,000

attending

454

Outreach Clinics



27,450

attending

Key achievements

Improvement in maternal and child health.

Improvement in access to health services, and **increased knowledge of health issues** in communities.



Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

30 Essential Obstetric and Neonatal Care courses

668
participants

45 Maternal health courses

1,872
participants

Ambulance delivered 2009

Operating theatres commissioned in 2012

Maternal Health Shelter commissioned in 2016

Key achievements

Improvement in maternal and child health.

Increase of 36% in the number of mothers delivering in health facilities.

Improvement in the quality of service delivered at Londiani Sub County Hospital.

Shared learning through partnership between Mayo University Hospital and Londiani Sub County Hospital.



Smokeless Stoves

1,196 household Installations **24** institutional installations

394 installers trained

Respiratory illnesses down by **11%**

27% reduction in cost of firewood per household on average

Key achievements

Increase in economic activity among women – as they have more time they are engaging in small enterprises such as selling vegetables to increase family income.



Remote Emergency Care

14 Remote Emergency Care courses

372
participants

33 local trainers trained

Key achievements

Greater skills amongst community members in first aid for remote settings.

“A healthier community has more time and money to focus on education and building businesses”

hygiene, sanitation and water infrastructure is a key component of our **Healthy Schools programme**. This even extends to support for construction projects – for latrines, washrooms and water tanks in schools across the region. Many of our education and economic empowerment projects also have a health component – as this report makes clear. That’s because good health – and healthy practices – play a key role in many areas of development.

In fact all of these projects and programmes have important effects beyond the immediate improvement to community health. Less money is spent on medication so income goes up. Preventable emergencies and illnesses are avoided. Less time and energy is wasted searching for clean water or wood for burning. A healthier community has more time and money to focus on education and building sustainable livelihoods.

Better health – and understanding of health – makes all this happen. That’s why better health is central to our vision. ●

Water and sanitation

We believe that water is life and the foundation for better health and education. Access to clean water enables stronger, healthier families to create stronger communities.

Our programme includes rain water harvesting; water pumps; gravity fed schemes; protection of water sources; improved pit latrines and washrooms and ferrous cement storage tanks.

Brighter Communities Worldwide has responded to the communities need for clean water since 2002 and we have expanded the programme to incorporate sanitation and hygiene to provide a full WASH programme (Water, Sanitation & Hygiene).



WASH spreads right across the community through hygiene education; handwashing; building new latrines and washrooms in schools and building capacity for communities to manage their own water schemes. ●



Water Projects

Ndubusat Gravity Water Scheme

11,000

people served

Nduro Gravity Water Scheme

8,000

people served

Water Pump Scheme (20 pumps)

2,000

people served

Key achievements

In Community Units **64% of households are treating water** (increase of 31%) and **60% of households are handwashing** (increase of 24%).



Better education – better life

Education is a core element to our programmes and key to empowering people to create their own opportunities for a brighter future.

Education matters. Whether it's awareness-raising – on health, pregnancy or sanitation – or supporting people through school, education makes a difference. Job prospects can be expanded, wellbeing enhanced, financial security improved and life opportunities generally made better. But education means many different things – as we acknowledge in our work.

Take life skills. Brighter Communities Worldwide has run a **Life Skills course** since 2002. The course is designed to assist people facing life challenges and to help them make complex decisions – about their sexual and reproductive health, for example. It also helps them to develop positive health behaviours – and stick with them.

Then there's the **Healthy Schools programme**. Staff, students, government and Brighter Communities Worldwide, come together for this. Teachers are trained and students informed so that both can be aware of environmental health issues through classroom studies. Student Health Clubs then act on this training and spread the ideas to the wider community. Some of the ideas are straightforward but important, like teaching children that everyone can protect their families and their

communities through hand-washing with soap. Some are more complex, like running hygiene programmes in schools and homes and new water projects for communities. Some are practical efforts like building new latrines and washrooms in schools. All are highly effective in raising awareness and understanding and, in turn, promoting health.

“Job prospects can be expanded, wellbeing enhanced, financial security improved and life opportunities generally made better”

Women's health is an important part of our work, and here too education can make

› continues on page 20



Participants on a Remote Emergency Care course in Londiani



Healthy Schools Programme

198 schools
69,262 students
35,734 girls
33,528 boys
2,338 teachers


71,600
participants

Key achievements

Over the last 2 years there has been an average increase in attendance of 7% across all schools on the Girls for Girls and Healthy Schools Programme.



Menstrual Hygiene Management Programme

43 No of schools participating


2,222
girls participating

(Girls for Girls)


Key achievements

Girls for Girls has been extended to include women and girls in the community. The aim of the MHM programme is to break the taboo surrounding menstrual health in the community, and enable women and girls to become empowered.



School Infrastructure

9,794 girls impacted directly
8,403 boys impacted directly
23 pit latrines built for boys
27 pit latrines/washroom blocks built for girls
99 water tanks in schools


18,197
students impacted directly

Key achievements

Contributes to improvement in attendance in schools.

Contributes to a reduction in water borne diseases.

Enables students to become advocates for health and hygiene in their homes and communities.

a massive difference. Raising awareness of menstrual hygiene and how to manage it is an incredibly simple way of ensuring that fewer girls miss school during their periods and fewer boys and men feel uncomfortable discussing periods. Our **Female Genital Mutilation**



Abandonment programme rejects a violation of human rights in favour of a safer, but culturally appropriate alternative. Working with communities to encourage more mothers to give birth in health facilities and to attend antenatal clinics reduces the number of mothers and babies who die during childbirth and improves mother and child health so they survive their first weeks of life.

All these forms of education increase awareness, build healthier communities and improve life prospects.

We even help to educate doctors. In 2005 Brighter Communities Worldwide established

a link between Londiani Sub County Hospital and Mayo University Hospital in Ireland and ever since has promoted reciprocal education in medical areas ranging from obstetrics and surgery, to paediatrics and project management.

But we never overlook formal education. There are many opportunities for community members through our Brighter Communities Worldwide's **Education Bursaries programme**. It helps students from disadvantaged backgrounds to successfully complete their education, mostly through secondary school, although we have also supported students in primary schools, polytechnic colleges, third level and short technical courses. Since the programme started in 2002 a total of 2,331 students have been supported.

All these efforts raise awareness and in turn offer people the chance of a healthier, longer, better life. A life in which education matters. ●

Hand washing demonstration at a public health field day





Education Bursaries



2,331

bursaries awarded

Key achievements

Increased opportunities for children to go to school.



Life Skills



185

courses

8,356

participants

The impact of this course is far reaching as it is often the first time that communities work with us or work together. Participants are empowered to collaborate to build brighter communities.

Key achievements

Since 2002 the Life Skills programme has contributed to the reduction of HIV/AIDS in this region (now at 3.5%). The Life Skills Programme aims to bring community members together, increase knowledge around HIV/AIDS, reproductive health, and other community issues.



FGM/C Abandonment Programme



192

Alternative Rites of Passage courses

8,762

Girls participating

Key achievements

Increased awareness in communities of the health impacts of FGM/C.

Greater understanding amongst community members on the benefits of an Alternative Rite of Passage.



Economic empowerment: making connections

Economic empowerment can benefit standards of living, gender equality and the environment. Here's how.

Many of us have relatively easy access to courses that can improve our standard of living. For rural communities in some parts of Kenya it's not that easy. But increasing the incomes, and standard of living of a community is possible, with a little help – and a lot of cooperation.

Brighter Communities Worldwide's **Economic Empowerment programme** works with communities. It develops projects and courses to support and improve life in the region – including a focus on business. However, whatever the focus, the courses must be appropriate and useful. They must be in tune with the needs of the region. And they must reflect the development aims that we and the communities have agreed upon together.

Our business training courses cover topics ranging from accounting to business concepts and principles. But these courses don't just explain entrepreneurship. They make it happen. The courses support people to set up a new business – or improve an existing one. And they don't just help individuals – they contribute to the improvement of economic activity in the region.

We form partnerships with local financial institutions in the region. This helps to create important connections for community members. These financial institutions are an integral part of the business courses we offer. Their representatives present their services and opportunities for community members. The business courses offer both education for community members and introductions to the world of business. They break down barriers for community members and enable them to access finance.

We also look at practical ways of building economic activity that use local knowledge and respect the local environment.

One such project is the community-based **Sustainable Tourism Project**. By helping to develop a community campsite and several trekking routes in the region the project has provided employment and financial benefit to the local communities. That in turn raises the standard of living, but it also encourages gender and social equality and promotes biodiversity conservation.

And that's what properly managed economic empowerment does. It helps people to understand and work with business and finance but also to see a wider picture and be able to work for the benefit of communities and the environment. It's about making connections – in more ways than one. ●

“These business training courses don't just explain entrepreneurship. They make it happen.”

Participants at a Life Skills course in Kenya





Business Courses

17

courses



526

participants

10

community groups (particularly women's groups) have accessed finance through business courses

Key achievements

Increased business knowledge amongst communities.

Contributes to an increased level of income for families.



Sustainable Tourism

Sustainable trekking route and community campsite built

Welcoming visitors to share our natural, social and cultural assets; to partner with us; to learn with us and to realise our dream of healthy, strong communities now and in the future.

Community definition of sustainable tourism

Key achievements

The aim is to improve the health and livelihoods of communities along the trekking route.



Words from our beneficiaries

Healthy
Schools
programme



Londiani Girls Boarding Primary School in Chepkongony

Rachel Langat, Head Teacher of Londiani Girls Boarding Primary, Chepkongony location, Londiani

July 2017

Rachel has been involved in the Healthy Schools programme since 2014, when she first attended a training seminar for teachers to introduce the initiative to them. The seminar motivated her to adopt the programme in her school.

“Sanitation in my school was big issue. We had temporary latrines which had dangerous holes. With one latrine per 150 pupils, there was also a lot of queuing and congestion, which wasted a great deal of time.

“These challenges prompted the school management board to approach Brighter Communities for support. A cost-sharing approach was agreed and new latrines were built.

“Today the girls are very comfortable with their modern latrines and washrooms. The project has delivered improved sanitation, and now we have one latrine per 30 girls which wastes less time and improves educational performance. In addition, the new showers mean that during their menstrual cycle girls no longer take time out from school. I greatly appreciate Brighter Communities Worldwide for their good work. I hope it can extend the same support to the other regions, and prevent girls from dropping school young, becoming pregnant too soon and failing to achieve their dreams. I believe educating a girl means educating the whole community.”

Esther Soi, 48 year old, retired teacher, Kiptenden village

During the 2017 January Partnership Seminar, Esther explained that her community wanted to become involved with the Community Menstrual Hygiene Management programme.

“For a long time, the women and girls in my village did not have regular access to sanitary towels. This made them stay at home when they had their periods. They lacked finances to even buy enough innerwear; clean, safe water was hard to come by. Also little information was shared regarding menstrual health, and many taboos and myths were considered to be facts...

“Through the Brighter Communities workshop, as a community we are now able to talk about menstrual health-related matters without fear or shame. This means our girls and women are now able to fulfil their dreams of studying and working, without fear of leakages and infections. Through the income-generating class, we feel financially empowered and have formed women groups to support our ambitions. We are also able to treat water, which means we can keep our families healthy and safe and, most importantly, our girls are not dropping out of school due to pregnancy related cases and lack of sanitary products, Thank you Brighter Communities Worldwide for the work you do in our communities, it really does make a difference.”

Community
Menstrual
Hygiene
Management
programme



Esther Soi,
retired teacher from Kiptenden



Alice Jane Chebet,
stove installer in Chebewor

Alice Jane Chebet, trained stove installer, Chebewor

June 2017

“Having a smokeless stove in my kitchen and becoming an installer has significantly contributed to my wellbeing and that of my family. Prior to installing a smokeless stove in my kitchen, the smoke meant I frequently suffered from nose and chest congestion and strained eyesight. Being financially dependent on my children did not make things any easier. This all changed with the training I received from Brighter Communities.

“The training enabled me to become an installer. When I installed the smokeless stove in my house the problem of smoke was resolved. The installations I have done in other homes have helped me become financially independent. At a time when many felt the impact of the recent shortage of food and consequently high food

prices, I was able to provide for my family. The income has also enabled me to undertake a number of other home improvements.

“The smokeless stove installations are also having a positive impact on other families in my community. Many local families had the same health difficulties I experienced. The time wasted fetching firewood and the costs involved was another problem. Wherever I have installed smokeless stoves, there has been a positive change in health and finances.

“I am very grateful for the training I received from Brighter Communities Worldwide and all I need to do is to keep working hard, stay focused and remain committed to doing my job well.”

Moses Yegon, trained stove installer, Masaita

June 2017

“Stove installation is beneficial for both the community level and at a personal level. At a community level, people have told me:

- Less smoke in the kitchen means men can now spend time with their wives while they are preparing food in the kitchen.
- Less firewood is used, which eases the work of the women fetching firewood and thus lessens backaches, and reduces time wasted and cost.
- Iron roof sheets last much longer.
- Smokeless stoves mean much cleaner kitchens.

“At a personal level, stove installation has given me opportunities to get to know many more people. The job means I am now self-employed and better off financially. As an installer of the new energy saving stoves, I have had the opportunity to work in Malaba, Kericho, and many more other places.”



Moses Yegon,
stove installer in Masaita

Words from our beneficiaries continued

Education
Bursary
programme

It cannot be overstated what a difference the opportunity to go to school makes to a child in Londiani; these educational bursaries not only help the child, but also the child's family.

Caroline Chelangat, Healthy Schools Programme Manager

Caroline is a young woman from Ndubusat in Kenya. In 2004 she began working for Brighter Communities Worldwide at the Ndubusat Clinic as support staff. Through this role she decided to pursue a career that would involve helping the community. Brighter Communities Worldwide supported her to complete a Diploma in Nutrition and Dietetics. She has also completed a Diploma in Community Development and Social Work. Caroline now manages the Healthy Schools Programme for Brighter Communities. She now believes "the sky is the limit".



Caroline Chelangat
from Ndubusat

Daisy Chepkoech 2015

Daisy has seven siblings; four sisters and three brothers. They live with their parents, who are small scale farmers. Daisy and one of her siblings attend St. Kizito School for the Deaf in Litein. Daisy is a good student who likes helping out and loves going to school. She is supported by the Brighter Communities Worldwide bursary scheme.

Her father says his family is thankful for the help provided to Daisy, which means he is now able to pay for all his children's schooling.



Daisy Chepkoech

Ruth Chelangat 2016

Ruth is an orphan who is being raised by her grandmother, who also looks after her other five siblings. Due to old age, her grandmother is unable to work and, when not at school, Ruth is among the people who take care of her.

Ruth is a young girl with great potential. She goes to school at Moi Tea Girls High School; she will be joining Form 3 in the coming year and wants to become a doctor.

Ruth is grateful for the support with her education as it has not only helped her stay in school but also helped her extended family.

Monica Chelangat 2016

"In God everything is possible."

Monica is a 24-year-old woman with two older sisters and two younger brothers. Her father passed away in 2012, the same year she was set to complete her final secondary level exams. With the death of her father, it proved difficult for her mother to support her studies and Monica's dreams of becoming a nurse were put on hold.

Through the Brighter Communities Worldwide Education Bursary programme, Monica has now been able to complete her nursing studies and she is now doing a midwifery course at Mater Hospital.

Monica is delighted to have been given the opportunity to become the nurse she always wanted to be.



David Cheruiyot,
volunteer facilitator in Kamasia

David Cheruiyot, volunteer facilitator, Kamasia

“In 2007 I trained to become a peer educator through the Brighter Communities’ Life Skills programme. The following year I also trained as a facilitator for the Alternative Rite of Passage (ARP). I decided to become involved in ARP because my community was deeply rooted in FGM culture. People were living in poverty due to this culture, with a lot of early marriages taking place.

“There are now three facilitators working in my area and female genital mutilation (FGM) is now almost entirely a thing of the past. It’s extremely satisfying to see the change in girls who have been trained in ARP.

“For me, involvement in this programme means that I have become confident in public speaking. I have also become involved in a mosquito spraying initiative, which is helping more people in my area.

“Because of my Brighter Communities Worldwide training, I am now able to go to other areas to train more people in the ARP programme, as girls are still sometimes travelling for FGM.”

Naomi Chebet, Kipsegi

“I remember my first ARP course. There were 55 girls involved and it was amazing to see the change in them after the course. Their friends came to their graduation and they were talking about FGM. I know some of the girls from that course are now in college and polytechnics. To see the difference in the girls – they are committed to improving their education and they know all about economic empowerment. School dropouts have reduced.”



Naomi Chebet from Kipsegi



Simon Koskey from Sorget

Simon Koskey, Sorget

“I think the most important part of the programme is giving awareness of risks to the girl child. The risks involved in FGM, the risk of diseases. The programme makes both the communities and the girls more aware of the life choices that are available.”

Learning and sharing: our volunteers

How important are volunteers to Brighter Communities Worldwide?

Volunteers are the lifeblood of this organisation: whether in Kenya or Ireland – or coming from one country to another – they have one thing in common. Without the time they generously give and the skills they selflessly share our work would be impossible.



Harambee volunteers



2002 Harambee team

Who are our volunteers?

They are brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers; they are students, they work full-time, they work part-time, they work from home; they are in between jobs; they are in between college and employment; they are retired; they are from Ireland, Kenya, Uganda, UK, New Zealand, Australia, Portugal, USA, Lebanon... in short, worldwide!



Volunteers installing smokeless stoves



Mountain Challenge fundraiser

What do our volunteers do?

Many of our programmes require the support of volunteers to run effectively and efficiently – and in Kenya that's exactly what we get – from all sorts of people. Many volunteers from the local communities – parents, teachers, students and others – work with us. They offer their services as Community Health Volunteers. Or they make courses such as Life Skills, Remote Emergency Care and the FGM/C Abandonment Programme actually happen by training as course facilitators. Or they support and sustain the Healthy Schools and Girls for Girls programmes.

The members of our board in Kenya and in Ireland are all volunteers along with our audit committees. They have ultimate responsibility 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.

In Ireland volunteers support us by raising awareness of the work that we do, promoting our projects and helping with fundraising events. That could mean organising sporting events, glittering charity balls and Christmas craft fairs. It could mean building and running our Schools Network student workshops. It could even mean helping with administration in our Irish office. Over the years volunteers outside of Kenya have given their time and skills to help us develop policies for the organisation; given input into a review of the Lifeskills manuals; helped develop the Remote Emergency Care course and the business course; investigated Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and fundraising opportunities; facilitated workshops on Development Education for youth groups and schools; created graphics, short films and animation for promotion of the organisation; represented the organisation at volunteer fairs and on Comhlamh member support groups.

Volunteers also help with training teams bound for Kenya. These are our overseas volunteers,

two teams of up to ten people who visit Kenya on what we call a Harambee (Swahili for "working together") project in July and November each year. Once they reach Kenya, these volunteers work alongside local community members to get courses up and running – courses like Life Skills, Business Training and Remote Emergency Care. The work varies – one day they may be helping to run a community Menstrual Hygiene Management workshop. The next they may be installing household smokeless stoves – or hiking on a sustainable trekking route.

There is a sharing of experience and skills between the overseas volunteers and the local volunteers and by the end of their time together the volunteers' greatest feeling is that they take away far more than they think they have brought to the experience.

The volunteers often include medical students who gain valuable experience learning about medicine – both clinical and in the community – in an area with fewer resources than they may be used to. These medical volunteers help to train health workers. They support field days and outreach clinics. They work in hospitals and pharmacies.

We've had volunteer teams from local companies give their time and skills to help with our business training, and to prepare our crafts for Christmas markets as part of their company's employee volunteer incentive programmes.

Above all, they, like all our volunteers, learn and share, and we are – and always will be – enormously grateful to them for that. ●



Development Education programme

The Development Education programme aims to deepen peoples understanding of global issues and encourage people to act to create a more just and equal world.

We consider development education to be about challenging mind-sets, opening people's eyes to the realities of inequality, raising awareness of issues facing people living in the developing world, or creating a space to encourage critical thinking that may inspire action.

There are several strands to this programme – our **Schools Network** is made up of post-primary schools in Ireland linked with schools in Kenya. The network is part-funded by Irish Aid WorldWide Global Schools who provide a range of supports for development education initiatives at secondary school level. Activities between the schools involve student workshops; communications by email, Skype, video and letters; classroom workshops by Brighter Communities Worldwide and action projects. The activities focus on the Global Goals for Sustainable Development. Teachers from the schools in the network have also been on return exchange visits between Ireland and Kenya.

Other involvement with schools over the years has included teaming up with An Taisce on the **Walk for Water campaign** with locals schools around World Water Day in March; giving talks and workshops with local schools.



We provide **training to volunteers** who are going to Kenya on Harambee projects to help to prepare them for the experience. The training is part of our Development Education programme in that we follow development education methodologies in the delivery and the aim is to support the volunteer in their first-hand experience of development and deepen the experience for them as they try to make sense of the injustices in the world.

We partner with the **Global Citizen Award** which is a personal development award that enables volunteers to share their overseas volunteering experiences and raise awareness of global issues in Ireland.

We have worked with the **corporate sector** providing a one-day workshop to explore how economic empowerment comes about through our programmes in Kenya and availing of the employees skills and knowledge to help develop our business training course in Kenya.

Each year we use our **social media** channels and blogs on our website to support many global days and activism campaigns including the Global Goals for Sustainable Development, ending FGM/C, International Women's Day, World Health Day, World Menstrual Hygiene Day, International Friendship Day, Day of the Girl, World Toilet Day, International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women, World Contraceptive Day, World AIDS Day and Global Hand Washing Day.

We are **members of the Irish Development Education Association**. We are also members of **Comhlámh** which is a member and supporter organisation open to anyone interested in social justice, human rights and global development issues and we are part of their Volunteering and Development Education working group. ●

The future



Brighter Communities Worldwide's programmes all contribute to bringing about change in the communities in which we work. These programmes are based on our strategic plan which was developed in partnership with all our stakeholders. We will continue to work and develop the programmes highlighted throughout this report, which include:

- The **Health Programme** which includes public and clinical health and involves us working closely with the Ministry of Health to roll out the Community Health Strategy.
- The **Water Programme** which looks at the sourcing, quality and security and distribution of water to the District. This includes management, metering, maintenance and the sustainability of the water supply and ensuring access for villages across the District.
- The **Economic Empowerment Programme** which aims to work with communities to raise their incomes, and subsequently, their standard of living.
- The **Education Programme** which includes both formal and non-formal education and includes supporting the Kenyan education system and community education.
- The **Development Education Programme** which aims to deepen peoples understanding of global issues and encourage people to act to create a more just and equal world.

Links with Uganda

In January 2016, representatives from Brighter Communities Worldwide travelled to Adraa Agricultural College in Offaka Sub County, Northern Uganda, to learn about its development programme and discuss a potential partnership and pilot project. During this visit, a partnership was agreed between Brighter Communities Worldwide and Offaka Development Programme (based in Adraa Agricultural College).

A pilot project was developed called "Bringing Health to Communities" and aims to improve the health of those living in the pilot communities. Work has continued since then, and many exchanges between the two countries have taken place. Schools in Uganda are participating in the Healthy Schools and Girls for Girls programmes; communities are participating in Smokeless Stoves, Life Skills and Village Health; skills and experiences between Uganda, Ireland and Kenya are being shared.

This is the first time that Brighter Communities Worldwide has delivered its programmes outside of Kenya, and we are looking forward to the journey ahead.

Partnerships

Since its foundation Brighter Communities Worldwide has worked as a partnership based organisation. We believe that partnerships are fundamental to the strong local ownership and hence the long term sustainability of interventions. To this end, we have established and maintained numerous partners in all regions where we work – with locally-based community groups, government ministries and other stakeholders. Our partnership framework has a number of core principles on which it bases its partnerships including a shared vision of development; participation; mutual accountability and trust; and mutual commitment to long term change. Our full Partnership Policy is available here on our website: tinyurl.com/mvydkv9

Our partners include the organisations who have funded and contributed to many of our programmes over the years.



We first received Irish Aid funding in 2006 and this supported us to implement projects across all our programme areas. We gratefully acknowledge this support and partnership with Irish Aid.



Friends of Kipkelion is a UK registered charity (no. 1142476) founded in 2010 to work with the people of Kipkelion to build a better future. Brighter Communities Worldwide has worked in partnership with Friends of Kipkelion since 2011. Both organisations share the same aims and values and work together to deliver projects related to water, sanitation and healthcare.

We would like to thank Friends of Kipkelion for their support and partnership and look forward to our continued journey together.

Thank you to all our donors and partners over the 15 years who have supported communities in Kenya to Create Better Futures.

- ACC Bank
- Aspira
- Association of Secondary Teachers Ireland
- Baraka Agricultural College
- Electric Aid
- ERM Foundation
- Esther Alliance
- Irish Foundation for Co-operative Development
- Irish Girl Guides
- Kava Communications
- Kenyan Ministry of Education
- Kenyan Ministry of Health
- Kenyan Ministry of Water & Sanitation
- Mayo University Hospital
- Moneenatieve Windfarms Ltd
- Musgrave Group plc
- Soroptimist International Bangor Co Down
- Soroptimist International Cork
- Training Expertise Ltd
- Ulster Girl Guides
- VMWare
- World Association Girl Guides & Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)
- WorldWide Global Schools



TOGETHER TO END FGM



sustainable sanitation alliance



THE GLOBAL GOALS

For Sustainable Development



**“ A world where
1% of humanity
controls as
much wealth as
the bottom 99%
will never be
stable”**

Barack Obama



Compliance, transparency and governance

At Brighter Communities Worldwide we believe that it's important to promote good practice in everything that we do. Here is a sample of the codes and principles we are signatories to and to which we adhere. We believe these standards of good practice are paramount to making sure that our organisation is working in the best interest of all those involved.

Following assessment by Comhlámh's recognition panel we were awarded Comprehensive Compliance status in 2016 for our adherence to the Code of Good Practice (CoGP). This means that we have attained over 85% of the indicators, including the core indicators, of the CoGP in preparing volunteers for overseas placement. Comprehensive Compliance status is the highest award for quality responsible volunteering programmes available to Irish international volunteer sending agencies.

We are members of Dóchas which is the Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations. We have implemented the Code on NGO corporate governance, comply with all its principles and carry out an annual review. We are a signatory of the Dóchas Code of Conduct on Images and Messages and committed to applying the Code's principles for all our communications.

We support the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability and are striving to implement the code throughout the organisation. The code sets out nine commitments that organisations and individuals involved in humanitarian response can use to improve the quality and effectiveness of the assistance they provide.

We are committed to achieving the standards outlined in the Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising supplied by Charities Institute Ireland (formerly from ICTR), the organisation representing the interests of Irish charities.

For more information on any of these codes or organisations, please visit our website: www.brightercommunities.org



Governance

Brighter Communities Worldwide Ireland is a registered charity in Ireland (CHY16505); Charity Regulatory Authority Number CRA 20059583 and a company limited by guarantee (398094). The company was incorporated on 23 February 2005 and is a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital. As of 31 December 2016, there were 10 members whose guarantee is limited to €1 each. This guarantee continues for one year after membership ceases.

Brighter Communities Worldwide Kenya is an International Non-Governmental Organisation registered in Kenya (OP/218/051/2005/0295/3731).

We comply with The Wheels' Governance Code Type C for community, voluntary and charitable organisations in Ireland. We carry

out an annual review of our organisation's compliance with the principles of the Code. This review is based on an assessment of our organisational practice against the recommended actions for each principle. The review sets out actions and completion dates for any issues that the assessment identifies as needing to be addressed.

Our accounts comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) standard in general and with the Dóchas/Irish Aid guidelines on financial reporting. We publish our annual accounts online every year and these can be downloaded from our website.

Brighter Communities Worldwide is compliant with the terms of the NGO Coordination Act of 1990, and the attendant Regulations of 1992 in Kenya.

Structure, staff and operations

Structure

Brighter Communities Worldwide is governed by a Board of Directors in Ireland and a Board of Management in Kenya. The role of these boards is to govern the organisation in accordance with its mission, vision and legal obligations.

Both boards:

- are composed of 10 Non-Executive Directors plus the Chief Executive Officer.
- meet six times a year and have ultimate responsibility 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.
- are responsible for our strategic direction, safeguard our ethos and are responsible for the audit and finance of Brighter Communities Worldwide including money, insurance and legalities.

The Board of Directors has a number of sub-committees including Audit, Human Resources (HR) and Executive. The Executive Committee deals with any urgent matters in between board meetings, and ensures board decisions are implemented.

Adequate systems of internal control are in place, which aim 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.

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 our Expenses Policy.

The profiles for all board members are available on our website at: tinyurl.com/mq5932c



Staff and operations

Day-to-day operations are undertaken and delegated by the Chief Executive Officer. An office manager and a development analyst work in the Irish office while there is a team of more than 20 working in the Kenyan office. The Kenya team consists of a Programme and Operations Manager, Field Officers for the various programmes, health workers, and administrative and security personnel.

The entire staff team works together on the implementation of our strategic plan in the areas of water, health, education and economic empowerment under the direction of the CEO.

The profiles of all staff members are available on our website at: tinyurl.com/kfwhz27

From time-to-time third party services are provided to Brighter Communities Worldwide and these are coordinated by the CEO. These include suppliers, auditors and solicitors.

Our thanks to Kava Communications for their help in producing our Impact Report.
www.kavacommunications.com

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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