

# WORLD CONNECT



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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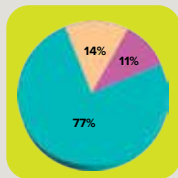
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# OUR VISION



Photo credit: Amber Lucero Dwyer  
Cover photo credit: Julia Haney

World Connect leverages the most valuable asset in development: the power of community. 95% of the projects we invest in succeed because we only invest in projects designed and led at the local level, and our tools optimize community collaboration, assets, and leadership. World Connect's grantmaking accelerates development in communities, as success begets success and accomplishments yield more confidence, innovation, and increased investment.

Authentic community engagement is fundamental to our grantmaking model and evidenced by the fact that the communities we invest in outmatch us nearly 2:1 with their own contributions and other leveraged

World Connect made a \$3,006 investment in a sewing and tailoring training program called "We Can Make it Again" at Dzaleka Refugee Camp in Malawi where more than 50,000 refugees are living in a camp originally designed for 5,000 and income generating opportunities for refugees are limited. 88% of trainees who came out of the program are now working as a result of the training.

investment. The successes reflected in this report demonstrate the urgent need for more of the type of effective grassroots investment practiced by World Connect. Significantly scaling direct local investment is needed to bring the structural change that leads to more durable development and results in improved health, education, economic opportunity, equity and quality of life globally.



# OUR STORIES

## ■ HEALTH: SCHOOL SOAPMAKING

2,195 children globally die each day from diarrheal disease. About 88% of diarrhea-associated deaths could be prevented with improved access to water and soap. With an investment of \$3,000 from World Connect in 2021, leaders in the Nyabirehe community in Rwanda established a soapmaking enterprise at an elementary school to address a high prevalence of intestinal worms in children. Within seven months of receiving funding, the school produced enough soap for use at the

school and to sell in the area. Soapmaking is yielding an additional \$30 per month in income for the parents and teachers in charge of the school-based enterprise.

Nyabirehe School reports a 30% reduction of diarrheal disease in the school population and is now developing a proposal to build a soapmaking factory. This project supports UN Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 6 and advances Rwanda's development agenda.



*"When I visited my home community in 2019 after being away for five years, I saw children laying on the ground, sick with intestinal worms because they had no soap. This soapmaking project flipped a switch in my community. It is often harder to take off than to fly. World Connect is helping communities take off. Once they take off, they can achieve so much."*

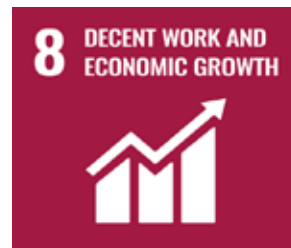
*-Anatole Manzi,  
Deputy Chief Medical Officer & Director, Clinical Quality and Health Systems  
Strengthening, Partners in Health, implementing partner in Rwanda*



Photo credit: Kayitera Egide



# LIVELIHOODS: PUTTING YOUNG LEADERS TO WORK



Over half of Malawi's population are youth, 25% of whom are unemployed. In 2020, World Connect made a first investment of \$2,206 in the 35 member Luso Langa Youth Group to raise chickens, and within a few months of their initial success the group had also launched a barbershop and a phone charging station in their community. Members of the youth group started earning 80,000 Malawian Kwacha (\$78.43) on average per month and dedicated a percentage of their sales to pay school fees for young women in the community who were at risk of dropping out. The success of the Luso Langa Youth Group led to a second World Connect investment of \$5,870 in 2021 to scale up their poultry business. The group has increased earnings by 50% and as a result, nearly doubled the number of young women whose school

fees they are covering. The group has also begun providing seed capital to women to start small scale businesses. This project supports UN Sustainable Development Goals 5 and 8 and advances Malawi's development agenda.

## **FIRST TIME GRANTEE ALERT!**

**48% of our grantees in 2021 had never received a grant before.** This project was led by first time grantee Cannon Chenjezi.





Photo Credit: Cannon Chenjezi

# ■ EDUCATION: CHANGING MINDSETS



In Ecuador, about 7% of the population identifies as indigenous and 80% of indigenous peoples live in rural areas, where the rate of extreme poverty is more than double the national average. Indigenous peoples experience illiteracy at four times the national average, and indigenous children regardless of gender receive on average three years less of schooling.

Over the past five years, World Connect has made two grants to Proyecto Tsere based in the Amazonian region of Ecuador to support early childhood education development. With 11,300, young indigenous children in 44 communities across the

Amazon region now have access to books that reflect and appreciate their cultural norms and realities, and schools where teachers have been trained in cultural literacy are showing increased literacy and increased family engagement. This project advances UN Sustainable Development Goal 10 and advances Ecuador's development agenda.

*"These books had a positive impact in terms of unity, inclusion, and identifying our ways of life in a book. The children said: 'Look! That's the chicha we drink, the carachama we eat, the guayusa we drink early in the morning to share our dreams and listen to our grandparents' advice.'"*

*- Itaya Andi, Project Participant*





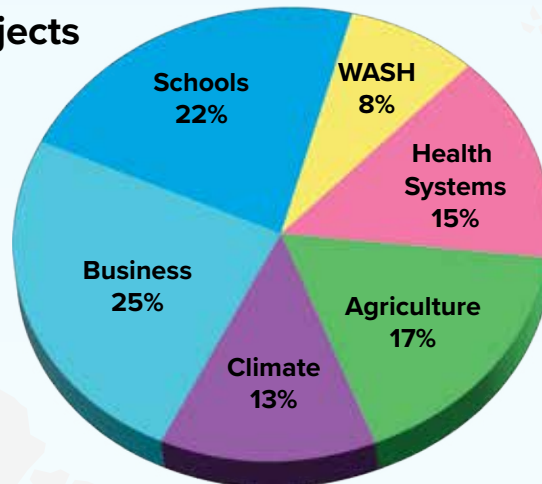
Photo credit: Stephanie Scott

# OUR IMPACT

World Connect funded 92 projects in 2021 across seven countries. World Connect does not tell our community partners what they can or can't do, instead we allow their vision and energy to surface priority development projects that are truly needed and owned locally. The investments we made in 2021 can be broadly categorized as below.

## 2021 World Connect Projects

<sup>1</sup> WASH = Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene



World Connect receives progress reports from 73% of partner communities and comprehensive project completion reports from 96% of partner communities. World Connect has conducted at least one site visit to nearly half of the communities we've funded to validate reported data, and field partners have validated what we have not visited ourselves. All data from projects feeds into a bespoke project monitoring database.

	2021	All Time
Projects Funded	92	1,865
# Countries Funded	7	42
Women-Led Efforts	61%	63%
Grant Amount Disbursed	\$544,000	\$8M
Jobs Created	2,000	31,000
Clean Water Access	13,000 people	47,000 people
Improved Educational Environments	37,250 students	130,427 students
Improved Health Services and Access	18,000 people	272,632 people
Improved Farm/ Agriculture Systems	1,328 people	60,590 people

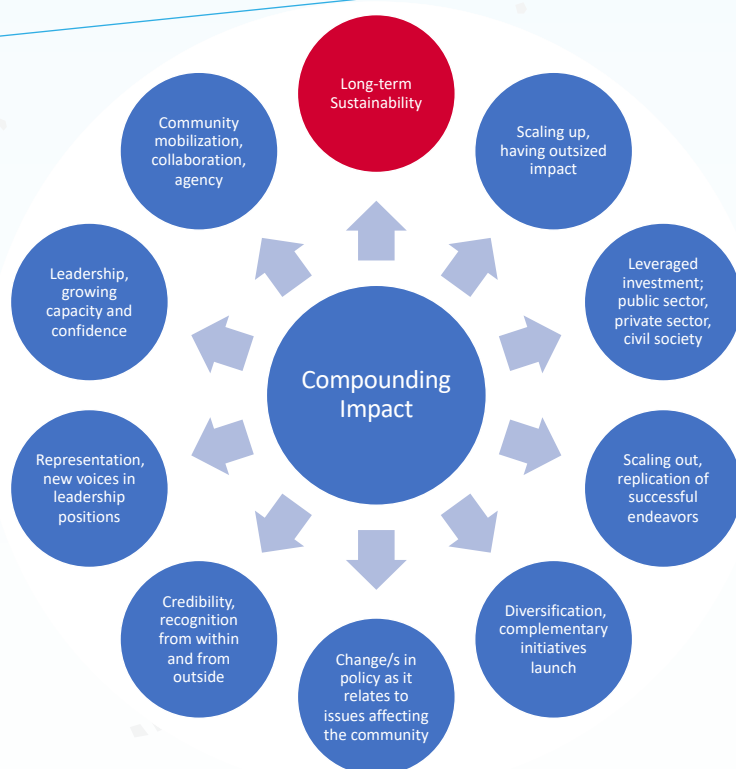
For every dollar that World Connect invests in locally-led development, an additional \$1.56 is leveraged by the communities we invest in; \$0.34 comes from co-investment from our grantee partners, and \$1.22 from outside, new investment. For every \$1,000 granted by World Connect, more than 25% of our partner communities are raising an average of \$7,000 in additional local development investment, what we are calling “leveraged investment.”

## Investment in Locally-led Development 2017-2020

**\$5,540,718**



In addition to the intended impacts our projects have on health, education, and economic opportunity, especially for women and girls, we routinely document the myriad of ways project impact is compounding. We see locally-led projects grow and ripple well beyond our initial investment: funded initiatives take on new momentum and scale vertically, neighboring communities witness and replicate the success of World Connect partner communities, new leaders emerge with new skills and launch new enterprises, and grantees leverage World Connect funding into new funding from other sources.





# SHIFTING POWER

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated a strategic shift of our grantmaking leadership that was already in motion. With an investment of \$1.4M from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in 2018, World Connect established our first local team to lead all aspects of grassroots grantmaking

in Malawi, and as of the printing of this report, we have launched 245 projects in Malawi to date. In 2021 World Connect Malawi successfully closed the grant with USAID, was incorporated as a local NGO, and is now governed and led by a Malawian board and staff.



Photo credit: Umande Muhammed

Being diagnosed with HIV while living in poverty was crippling for women in Katengeza, Malawi. In 2020, World Connect made a first grant of \$685 to a women's cooperative to improve the packaging of their moringa and neem-based nutritional supplements, which increased their sales three-fold within months. A second grant of \$8,663 was made in 2021 for the group to construct a milling room and acquire a milling machine to increase production. Sales and savings from the enterprise are being reinvested in the business, in family health and education, agriculture and housing, and in care for HIV+ community members.

89% of World Connect partner communities in Malawi succeed in architecting improvements in health, education, and economic opportunity with their grant funding, and 77% of projects show sustained impact at more than two years out from their awards. The increased ability of our local team to optimize community engagement can be seen in the fact that Malawian communities are contributing 6x in matching project funds compared to the rest of our global

portfolio. Across the country, 5,328 jobs have been created from the establishment of 30 business enterprises, clean and safe water has been made available for 27,025 people, school environments have been improved for 16,978 students, and 22 health facilities have been built or renovated. World Connect Malawi will be operationally independent by 2023, a flagship of the organization's longstanding commitment to localization.

*"When I joined World Connect in 2018, I was struck by the organization's tools, systems, and values. In my 16+ years of development and grant making experience, this was the first time I experienced the true centering of local voices and vision. It has been exciting and an honor to lead the growth of World Connect Malawi, as we grow into a key catalyst for locally-led development and progress in Malawi."*

*- Frank Charles Kasonga, Executive Director, World Connect Malawi*



Malawi team from left to right:  
Bernadette Mweso, Project Officer,  
Frank Charles Kasonga, World Connect Malawi Executive Director,  
Ruth Chamangwana, Program and Training Coordinator.

# SCALING A POWER SHIFT

World Connect is ready to scale its in-country grantmaking leadership model as part of the rapidly growing locally-led philanthropy sector in the Global South. In the years ahead, World Connect aims to replicate the success of Malawi Connect in Rwanda while laying the groundwork for scaling up similar operations across Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America. After demonstrating success with an initial round of seed investment, these new offices will be positioned ultimately to be scaled further with direct investment.

World Connect was also founded with a spirit of entrepreneurship and we have worked tirelessly to move as much funding via direct investments in locally-led development in the Global South as possible over the past 15 years. Our successful approach globally has led donors to seed a new initiative to apply our locally-led grantmaking approach in New York City, which will see the first grants made in 2023.

The COVID-19 pandemic pushed many industries and systems to adapt and improve by shining a spotlight on global ingenuity. World Connect has always been committed to shifting power in our community grantmaking, as we have witnessed and believed in the enormous potential and capacity of changemakers in even the most difficult of contexts at the outset of our operations. We are proud to be deepening our commitment to shifting power by transitioning the leadership of our already effective locally-led development model into the capable hands of our colleagues in the Global South.



With a \$5,000 investment from World Connect Malawi in 2018, Wandikweza, a local community organization, built a youth information hub, leveraging World Connect's seed funding into new commitments of \$20,000 from the Segal Family Foundation and other donors. In 2019, the group received a second grant of \$7,242 from World Connect to build a women's maternity waiting shelter at a nearby rural hospital. The community then transformed the information hub into a local hospital, adding laboratory services and a pharmacy. The new health infrastructure impacts 4,900 people on average every month. The founder of Wandikweza, Mercy Kafotokoza, is a leading public health figure in Malawi, a board member of World Connect Malawi, and is a rising changemaker in Malawi.



Photo credit: Mercy Kafotokoza

# OUR FINANCIALS

WORLD CONNECT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2021

## ASSETS

Cash	\$415,298
Investments	\$500,000
Contributions receivable	\$189,144
Prepaid expenses	\$21,812
Other assets	\$144,418
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$1,270,672</b>

## LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$72,652
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$72,652</b>

## NET ASSETS

Without donor restrictions	\$500,000
Local leaders fund	\$111,289
Endowment	\$500,000
Operations:	\$379,321
With donor restrictions:	\$207,500
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$1,198,020</b>

<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$1,270,672</b>
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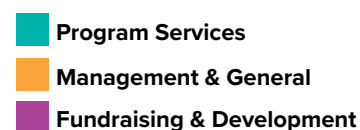
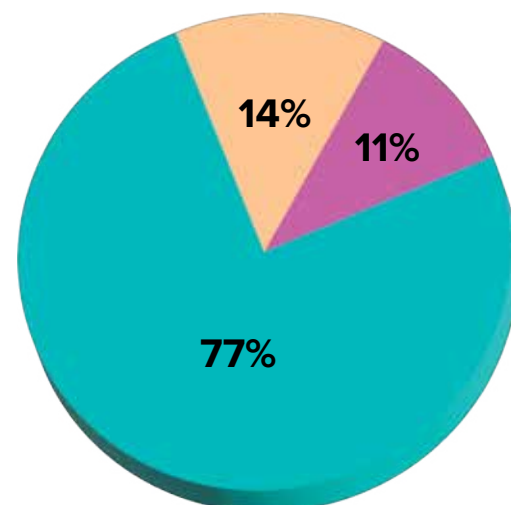
## REVENUE

Contributions and Grants	\$1,568,282
Government Grants	\$206,260
Donated/In- Kind Services	\$78,701
Other Income	\$4,896
Net assets released from restrictions	\$246,465
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,104,604</b>

## EXPENSES

Program Expenses	\$1,475,646
Management and General	\$212,626
Fundraising and Development	\$215,031
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,903,303</b>

<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$201,301</b>
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# OUR DONORS



## \$100,000+

George and Leslie Biddle  
Tim Disney  
Haney Family Fund, Vanguard Charitable  
Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

## \$50,000+

Clara Bingham and Joseph Finnerty  
John and Elena Coumantaros  
Michael and Barbara Eisenson  
Flour Mills of Nigeria, Plc.  
Stavros Niarchos Foundation  
United States Agency for International  
Development (USAID)  
David Wells and Sonya Moore-Wells

## \$25,000+

Anonymous  
Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez  
Patricia and Alex Farman-Famaian  
Patrick Healy  
Robert Hecht and Shan Soe-Lin  
James and Edwina Hunt  
Shelly and Tony Malkin  
Project Redwood  
Sean and Jennifer Reilly  
Tarek Sherif  
Paul Kwan and Karen Wang

## \$10,000+

Anonymous  
Stephanie Cabot and Marcus Lovell Smith  
Linda Cabot and Ed Anderson  
Ellen Goldberg and Barnaby Grist  
Mary Higgins and John Lechner, IV  
Eve Kahn and Bradley Kulman  
Diane E. Lifton, Trustee of the Jerome and  
Dolores Zuckerman Gewirtz Charitable Trust  
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Laura and Scott Malkin  
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William O'Farrell and Sarah Lyall  
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Foundation of Minnesota  
Margaret and Andrew Schilling  
Christopher and Megan Scott  
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Eric Sullivan  
U.S. Embassy in Malawi  
Natacha and Anthony Weiss  
The Wittrup and Rhodes Family Charitable Trust  
Ravi and Suzanne Yadav  
The Zients Family Foundation





### \$5,000+

Anonymous  
David and Betty Bagnani  
Beatrice Hamza Bassey  
Katie and Brian Boland  
F. Bennett Cushman II and George Tuttle  
Donald and Betsy Daniel  
Glen Davis  
RL and Christina Dougherty  
Lucile and Jay Herbert  
Karin Day Kingsley and Paul Kingsley  
Thomas and Patricia Lightbown  
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Sheep Meadow Foundation

### \$2,500+

Diane Archer and Stephen Presser  
The Bicester Village Shopping Collection  
The Nancy Biddle Family Fund  
Christopher and Michelle Daniel  
Peter and Gabriella Daniel  
Dina and Giora Dublon  
Elizabeth Galvin  
Asya Grinberg  
Michael and Jill Kafka  
James and Wendy Karp  
Sheldon Kasowitz and Kathryn Huarte  
Yvonne Lee and Brandon Hornbeck  
Joanne Leedom-Ackerman  
Carolyn Makinson and Terry Walker  
Newman's Own Foundation  
Kevin Plummer  
Gina Podesta and David Stephens  
Stephen Reily and Emily Bingham  
Rotary Club of Los Gatos  
Martha and Paul Samuelson

### \$1,000+

The Susan A. and Donald P. Babson Charitable Foundation  
Blum Family Foundation  
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Isabel Sheinman  
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Maureen and Michael Terris  
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### \$500+

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Judith Nathenson  
Audrey Nichols

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World Connect made a \$3,990 grant to Dharmic Uganda, a youth-led organization committed to empowering women and girls with new skills and income generating opportunities. Introduced to World Connect by our partner, Global Health Corps, Dharmic Uganda trained women in beekeeping, which increases income for women and results in more girls in school.

# WORLD CONNECT

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