

# WORLD CONNECT



WORLD CONNECT ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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Photo by Katherine Goguen

# WORLD CONNECT 2020

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The social justice movement that mobilized during the COVID-19 pandemic made it clear that structural inequity worldwide must end. World Connect has long backed the transformational ideas and energy of grassroots leaders of the Global South. Our worldwide trust network sources talented social entrepreneurs and our tools enable quick and direct delivery of vital resources that bring sustained health, education, and economic impact. The time has come to lean into local expertise for development progress. World Connect's success year after year, and especially in 2020, demonstrates the power of locally-led development.

*"World Connect is a catalytic social investor that truly shifts power, placing proximate leaders in the driver's seat of conceptualizing and launching their own initiatives on their own terms."*

*- Ndidi Nwuneli, Founder, LEAP Africa*



Locally-led maternity unit renovation at Lwamaggwa Health Center in Rakai District, Uganda with a \$5,000 investment from World Connect

# LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

In 2020, the world experienced a double crisis – the global pandemic of COVID-19 and the commensurate economic fallout, which slowed progress in reducing extreme poverty in the Global South. Despite the many challenges that World Connect also faced because of the pandemic, our work did not stop or slow. At the onset of COVID-19, we reached out to our partners across the globe who were in the midst of implementing projects, inviting them to pivot their funding to COVID response and relief efforts. We also invited partners to design rapid community preparedness efforts, which we then funded quickly. Within three months, World Connect catalyzed 31 locally-led efforts across 11 countries aimed at providing COVID-19 education, personal protective equipment, and urgent food relief. Our partners built 320 hand-washing stations, made 9,379 masks, distributed 2,280 bottles of hand sanitizer and 3,012 food relief packages, and disseminated accurate COVID health information to 123,161 people.

In addition to funding 31 COVID-19 projects, we launched our usual slate of locally-led development projects. World Connect mobilizes funding and a supportive network for those working at the grassroots to make life in their communities better in the ways they wish. Of the 142 total projects funded in 2020, 64% were led by first time grantees and early indicators are showing high rates of success, consistent with our past global trends. And while the world stood still during the first lockdown, our team in Malawi was able to support the first external evaluation of our work. We amassed more evidence that our approach to finding, funding and supporting grassroots leaders to successfully create change in their communities on their terms, brings communities together, deepens agency and accountability, and builds confidence in leadership. World Connect projects are proving grounds for the local capacity we know exists.

World Connect is grateful to our generous donor community who supported us through the turbulence of 2020. Thank you.



George Biddle  
Chairman

Pamela Nathenson  
Executive Director





*“When we started the training, I did not know how to design anything using a computer or know how to 3D print materials. I have gained so many skills in such a little time that I am able to make a face shield. The trainers are my role models and I hope that I will be able to equip other youth with such skills someday.”*  
- Marble Banda, 16

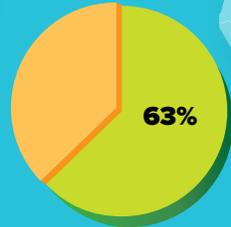
With an investment of \$3,400 from World Connect, an innovative organization, MicroMek, teamed up with YALI Mandela Washington Fellow Dumisani Kalliaty to make face shields and masks with a 3D printer to protect against COVID. Participants, the majority of whom were women, had no previous training and learned design and printing skills within three weeks.

# BY THE NUMBERS

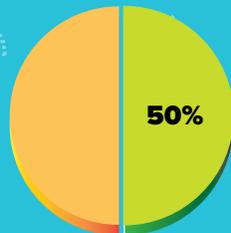
142 projects

20 countries

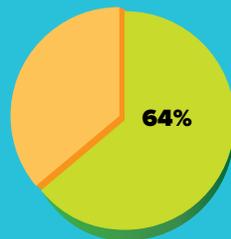
\$534,280 distributed in grants



63% of projects funded in 2020 were led by women



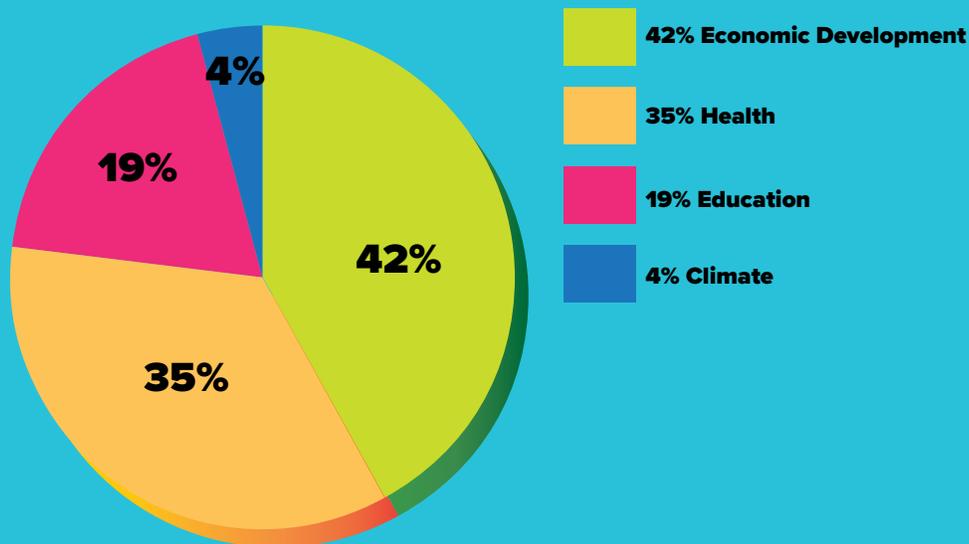
50% of projects funded in 2020 were led by youth



64% of project leaders received grant funding for the first time ever



## 2020 investments by sector



For every dollar **World Connect** spent on projects in **2020**, our partner communities **invested \$0.33** of their own resources and leveraged an additional **\$0.31** of investment from other sources.





*“World Connect is a true champion of local development philosophy and their results demonstrate the power and capacity of what communities can achieve if they take charge of their own development.”*

*The Right Honorable Saulos Klaus Chilima, PhD, Vice President, Malawi*

**12 maternal and child health projects in 2020**

# ■ HOW LOCAL INVESTMENTS TRANSFORM HEALTH CARE ■

With a \$5,000 investment and support from World Connect, a maternity unit was rebuilt at Lwamaggwa Health Center in Rakai District, Uganda. In partnership with Global Health Corps, Brick by Brick, and local government, the health center saw a 35% increase in healthy deliveries, a 49% increase in antenatal care, a 94% decrease in perinatal death, and an across-the-board reduction in obstetric complications.

**Better pre- and postnatal and delivery equipment and services for 247,512 women and babies.**

- Since 2012, 80 maternal and child health projects have improved health for 485,520 mothers and babies across 17 countries and 234 additional health projects have improved the health of 639,756 people across 36 countries

**\$62,388 invested**

**6 countries**



# HOW LOCAL INVESTMENTS TRANSFORM ECONOMIES



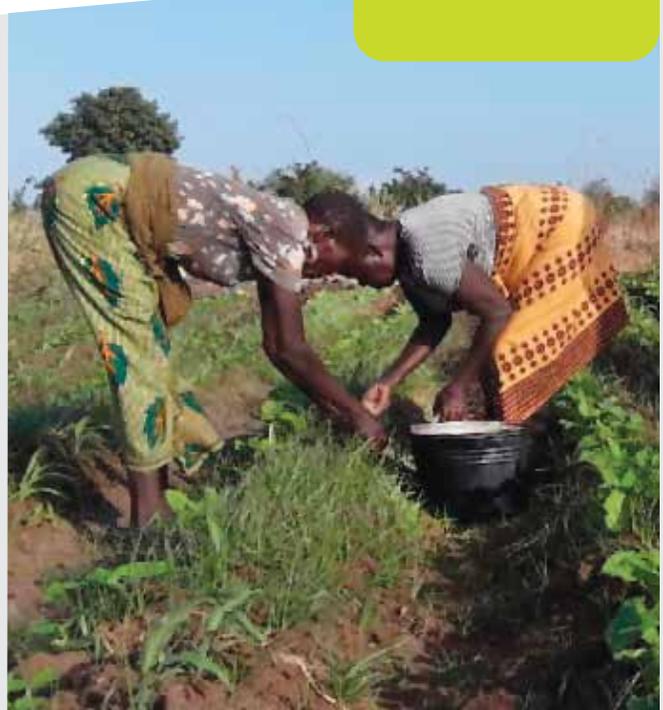
With a \$746 investment from World Connect, a group in Malawi called Community Forum used the funding to purchase housing, solar panels, feed, feeders and conduct

training for 90 quail farmers for their recent acquisition of quail. The group leveraged their World Connect grant into an additional \$15,000 from another organization, Agro Ecology, which allowed them to scale up the project to train 1,000 people, including those living with HIV/AIDS who are traditionally marginalized from economic endeavors.

Community Forum developed a manure-based fertilizer product for vegetable gardens, leading to higher yields and improved nutrition for the community. Thanks to their success so far, the community is planning to expand into goat farming and wants to build an agriculture training center. The improved economic status of the HIV+ quail farmers has made others living with HIV more comfortable disclosing their status, enabling greater progress in treatment and controlling the further spread of HIV. People from other regions are also coming to learn from this innovative group about quail farming.

66 economic development projects in 2020

\$222,063 invested





**16 countries**

**69,604 people with new jobs, seed capital, and business training**

■ **Since 2012, 284 economic development projects brought new income opportunity to 162,262 people across 29 countries**

*"If everyone did like World Connect,  
the whole country would develop."*

*Fatou Diokhane, Project Leader,  
Touba Coffee and Peanut Processing*



21 education  
projects in 2020

# HOW LOCAL INVESTMENTS TRANSFORM EDUCATION.

With an investment of \$3,160 from World Connect, the Kibangu Community Library in Muhanga District, Rwanda, expanded its services, including driving, sewing, and cooking classes, writing and reading competitions, art clubs for children, while adding more books and computers, and launching a banana cultivation economic enterprise. What started as a reading resource space has grown into a community development organization. Local students relied on the library during COVID as one of the only sources of virtual education available in the area.



**40,005 young people with new classrooms, libraries, computers, and trained teachers**

**\$85,819 invested**

**6 countries**

■ **Since 2012, 148 education projects have improved schools, literacy and digital skills for 111,148 people across 24 countries**

# ■ HOW LOCAL INVESTMENTS TRANSFORM WATER AND SANITATION ■

With a \$4,836 investment from World Connect, Bookaclan, a grassroots organization in Kaduna, Nigeria, was able to build water and sanitation infrastructure at a primary school to reduce student absenteeism from waterborne illness— previously 70% of students missed at least 5 days per term due to waterborne illness. The group was able to leverage an additional \$14,000 from Leadway Assurance, a local enterprise, to install a borehole. Building on their momentum, the group’s leaders submitted a proposal to the Governor of Kaduna to rehabilitate two classroom blocks to increase access to education for additional students.

**\$123,970 invested**

**36 water and sanitation projects in 2020**





12 countries

285,876 people  
with improved  
water and toilet  
infrastructure

Since 2012, 110 water and sanitation  
projects have reduced waterborne illness  
for 425,100 people across 22 countries

# HOW LOCAL INVESTMENTS TRANSFORM AGRICULTURE

With a \$750 investment from World Connect, the PAZESA Horticultural Community in Chipata, Zambia, purchased improved banana tissue to grow bananas faster and larger, which increased income for local banana farmers, helping the local community pay for school fees, health care, housing, and food. The group received a second grant of \$3,000 from World Connect to improve agriculture practices and climate change adaptation in the area, which it utilized to plant a demonstration fruit

tree orchard. The group has seen increased revenue and growth in their cooperative, and they have shared their seedlings and best practices with farmers in the area.



**\$103,914 invested**

**29 agriculture projects in 2020**



**34,075 people with more livestock, improved agriculture tools, and farming training**

**■ Since 2012, 119 agriculture projects have increased income and food security for 108,647 people across 23 countries**

**10 countries**

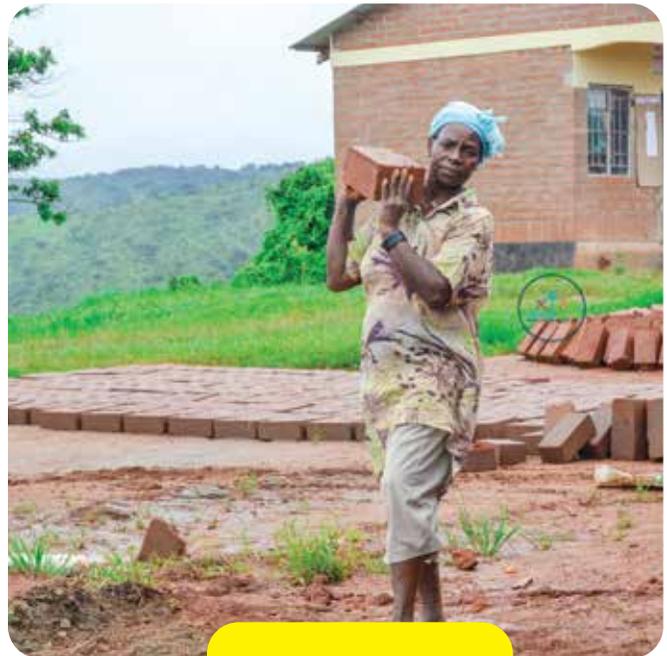


85 women and girls projects in 2020

\$295,354 invested

# HOW LOCAL INVESTMENTS TRANSFORM PROSPECTS FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

With an investment of \$6,581 from World Connect, Wangiwe Kambuzi led her colleagues at Mzuzu E-hub in building a library and resource center at Chipunga Secondary School. In a community where nine out of ten girls are forced into early marriage, the school provides a vital safe space for girls at risk. Some students walk four hours round trip to school, which previously had no electricity. Building on the momentum, the community has molded 25,000 bricks to build two new teachers houses to attract teachers, girls' dorms, and a laboratory.



14 countries

187,935 women and girls impacted



- Since 2012, 353 projects have impacted 306,757 women and girls with greater agency and power across 27 countries

# HOW LOCAL PROJECTS TRANSFORM CLIMATE RESILIENCE

With an investment of \$3,420 from World Connect, Green Change Haiti established a tree nursery and tree farming training center to promote resilient planting, specifically using moringa trees, to improve nutrition, the local economy, and micro-climate conditions. 148 farmers, majority women, were trained in improved tree cultivation techniques.

12 climate projects  
in 2020

\$45,130 invested

4 countries





Since 2012, 130 climate projects have impacted 151,710 people with more climate resilient environments across 22 countries

14,928 people saw new trees planted, clean energy transitions, solar installation, waste management improvements, and hydroelectric power creation

# OUR INVESTORS

## \$100,000+

Elena and John Coumantaros  
Haney Family Charitable  
Foundation  
Leslie and George Biddle  
Tim Disney  
United States Agency for  
International Development

## \$50,000+

Barbara and Michael Eisenson  
Emerging Markets Charity Benefit  
Jennifer and Sean Reilly

## \$25,000+

Edwina and James Hunt  
Heather and Andy Boyd  
Joan Bingham  
Karen Wang and Paul Kwan  
Kim and Paul Broder  
Lisa and Stanley Weiss  
Patrick Healy  
Shelly and Tony Malkin  
Sonya Moore-Wells and  
David Wells

## \$10,000+

Betsy and Donald Daniel  
Clara Bingham and Joe Finnerty  
Christopher and Megan Scott  
Dana Smith  
Diane E. Lifton  
Eric Sullivan  
Eve Kahn and Bradley Kulman  
J. & D. Zuckerman Gewirtz  
Charitable Trust  
Julia and Arthur "RG" Solmssen  
Kristen Anderson-Lopez and  
Bobby Lopez  
Luly and Maurice Samuels  
Mary Higgins and  
John Lechner, IV

Mary Menell Zients and  
Jeffrey Zients  
Margaret and Andrew Schilling  
Natalie Williams  
Sarah Lyall and William O'Farrell  
Shan Soe-Lin and Robert Hecht  
Stephanie Cabot and  
Marcus Lovell Smith  
The Wittrup & Rhodes Family  
Charitable Fund

## \$5,000+

Alison and Christopher Cabot  
Betty and David Bagnani  
Charles Schulze  
Eleanor Bingham Miller  
Elizabeth Littlefield and  
Matt Arnold  
Ellen Goldberg and Barnaby Grist  
Irene Haney  
Isabel and Peter Malkin  
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Nancy Biddle Family Fund  
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Patricia and Tom Lightbown  
Sang Lee and Chris Mansfield  
Sarah and Peter O'Hagan  
Victoria Gray and  
Christopher Becker

## \$2,500+

Anita Scheuber  
Anne Gilson  
Asya Grinberg  
Beatrice Hamza Bassey

Carolyn Makinson and  
Terry Walker  
Clif Bar Family Foundation  
Dina and Giora Dublon  
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Lisa Giobbi and Paul Guilfoyle  
Los Gatos Rotary Charities  
Lucile and Jay Herbert  
Martha and Paul Samuelson  
Newman's Own Foundation  
Wendy & Jim Karp

## \$1,000+

Albert Hsia  
Andrew Morrison and  
Ryder Morrison  
Annie and Governor Ned Lamont  
Anonymous  
Audra Keller  
Averill Babson  
Avinash Kaza  
Ayanna and Richard Wayner  
Barbara Kane and  
Lawrence Wittenberg  
Ben Cushman and George Tuttle  
Bicester Village/Value Retail  
Carolyn Strauss  
Dorothy Porter  
Gabriella and Peter Daniel  
George Montgomery  
Gina Podesta and David Stephens  
Greg Hockman  
Grow Foundation  
Hathaway Brown School  
Jenny Blum  
JJ Ramberg and Scott Glass



Our staff and board giving virtual high fives across the globe.

John Ryan  
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 Kerri and Mark Lehmann  
 Lesley Tannahill  
 Marianne Gimon and  
 Alessandro d'Ansembourg  
 Martine Vice-Holter  
 Mary White  
 Maureen and Michael Terris  
 Michelle and Christopher Daniel  
 Olesia and Sergey Paushkin  
 Pamela and Robert Rosenberg  
 Stephanie Hunt and  
 Stephen Trevor  
 William Pattison

**\$500+**

Adrienne and James Conzelman  
 Alec Casey  
 Amelia Haney  
 Cynthia and Steve Meyers  
 Cathy and David Garwood  
 David Michaelis  
 Diana Pike Harding and  
 Dr. Robert Shaw Oliver Harding  
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 Sarah and Simon Collier  
 Sarah and Charles Cabot  
 Theresa Crowley  
 Tina Novogratz  
 Yajun Xu

**\$100+**

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 Amazon Smile  
 Ande McCarthy  
 Anitra Bajek  
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 Araik Sinanyan  
 Ariadne and Mario Calvo-Platero  
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 David Stewart  
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The Boston Foundation  
Timothy Hotchner  
Toby Barlow  
Vanessa Kastner  
William Kadish  
W. Neal Fisher  
Yvonne Lee and  
Brandon Hornbeck

### In-kind

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP  
Volta Talent Strategies

### Staff

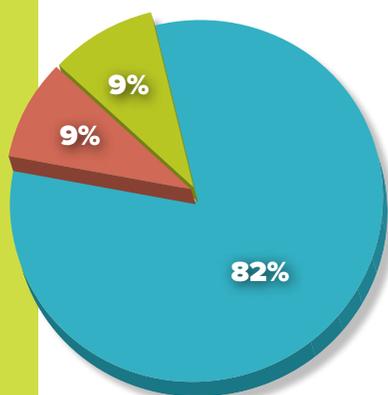
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Field Officer, World  
Connect Malawi  
  
Natacha Weiss, Field Coordinator

### Special Thanks

Avinash Kaza  
Becky Yi  
Sarah Haas  
Sarah Garwood  
Arianne Wunder

# FINANCIALS

## WORLD CONNECT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2020



- Program Services
- Fundraising
- Management and General

### ASSETS

Cash	\$586,665
Contributions Receivable	\$252,358
Prepaid Expenses	\$82,955
Other Assets: Website and Logo	\$165,519
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$1,087,497</b>

### LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$82,058
Loans Payable	\$108,205
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$190,263</b>

### NET ASSETS

Without Donor Restrictions	\$789,219
With Donor Restrictions	\$108,015
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$897,234</b>

<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$1,087,497</b>
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### SUPPORT AND REVENUE

	<b>2020</b>
Contributions and Grants	\$1,340,697
Government Grants	\$489,961
Donated/In Kind Services	\$202,500
Other Revenue	\$16,366
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,049,524</b>

### EXPENSES

Program Expenses	\$1,575,995
Management and General	\$175,521
Fundraising and Development	\$167,764
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,919,280</b>

<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$130,244</b>
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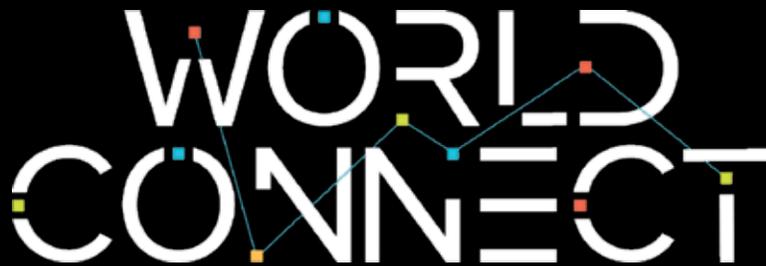
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632 Broadway, Suite 901, NY, NY 10012