WORLD CONNECT ANNUAL REPORT 2020
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Cover design by Katherine Goguen and Henry Michaelis
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
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
With an investment of $3,400 from World Connect, an innovative organization, MicroMek, teamed up with YALI Mandela Washington Fellow Dumisani Kalliati 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.

“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
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

- 42% Economic Development
- 35% Health
- 19% Education
- 4% Climate

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
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.

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.

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

$62,388 invested

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

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

16 countries
“If everyone did like World Connect, the whole country would develop.”

Fatou Diokhane, Project Leader, Touba Coffee and Peanut Processing.
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.
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
Since 2012, 110 water and sanitation projects have reduced waterborne illness for 425,100 people across 22 countries.

12 countries

285,876 people with improved water and toilet infrastructure
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.
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
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.

Since 2012, 353 projects have impacted 306,757 women and girls with greater agency and power across 27 countries.
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.
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
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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+
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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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Asya Grinberg
Beatrice Hamza Bassey
Carolyn Makinson and Terry Walker
Clif Bar Family Foundation
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Elizabeth Galvin
Ellen O’Connell
Emily Bingham and Stephen Reily
Funke Opeke
Glen Davis
Ila and John Gross
Martha and Paul Samuelson
Newman’s Own Foundation
Wendy & Jim Karp

$1,000+
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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
Juliette and Patrick Spillmann
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+
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Alec Casey
Amelia Haney
Cynthia and Steve Meyers
Cathy and David Garwood
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Yajun Xu

$100+
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Amazon Smile
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Araik Sinanyan
Ariadne and Mario Calvo-Platero
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Cara Scotto
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Cesar Sandoval and Rachel Wolfe
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Program and Training Assistant,
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Bernadette Mweso,
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**

### Assets
- **Cash** $586,665
- **Contributions Receivable** $252,358
- **Prepaid Expenses** $82,955
- **Other Assets: Website and Logo** $165,519
- **Total Assets** $1,087,497

### Liabilities
- **Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses** $82,058
- **Loans Payable** $108,205
- **Total Liabilities** $190,263

### Net Assets
- **Without Donor Restrictions** $789,219
- **With Donor Restrictions** $108,015
- **Total Net Assets** $897,234

**Total Liabilities and Net Assets** $1,087,497

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

### Expenses
- **Program Expenses** $1,575,995
- **Management and General** $175,521
- **Fundraising and Development** $167,764
- **Total Expenses** $1,919,280

**Change in Net Assets** $130,244
World Connect Global Board of Directors

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Stephanie Cabot, Secretary

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John Coumantaros
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