

Empower Tanzania, Inc.

# Annual Report 2020



# Our mission is to work in partnership with the people of rural Tanzania.



## Tanzania Team

L-R: Flora Mmbaga, Efrancia Nzota, Eli Kisimbo, Yoeza Mbonea Mnzava, Catherine John Wales, Joseph Kimbwereza, Nteghenjwa Mjema, William Elias Ambwene

# Contents

- U.S. Executive Director Reflection
- COVID-19 Relief Efforts
- Health for Life
- Economic Empowerment
- Education for Tomorrow
- Financials
- Volunteers
- Thanks



# EMPOWER TANZANIA

As we planned for 2020, none of us could have imagined the countless ways we would have to pivot and adjust. Our staff in Tanzania continued to work on public health, clean water, education, and entrepreneurial programs, but in the face of COVID-19, stay-at-home orders, and much uncertainty, their jobs were not easy. Despite the challenges, our team showed nimble skill as they accomplished much in the midst of a global pandemic.

Thanks to continued support from donors, our Community Health Educators distributed an almost unbelievable amount of public health information throughout Same District. This indefatigable group of women reached *hundreds of thousands* of people through radio and print media, educating their communities about the Coronavirus and how to stay safe, all the while wearing PPE. Early last spring, we distributed soap, cooking oil, and food relief to the families of students in our programs. We also provided much-needed cash relief to our 99 gender-based-violence survivors-turned-entrepreneurs to make up for their lost income.

We heard story after story of appreciation. I'll share one that exhibits the resourcefulness, can-do spirit, and deep gratitude we've come to know so well. Joyce Mtera, a gender-based-violence survivor who now is skilled at batik and tie-dye fabric, said this:

*"Your support has helped me to purchase food for my children and also school supplies after the schools re-opened. But also, when I was receiving the funds, I was able to purchase two chickens that I had been saving for. This support has helped me to move from one stage of life to another during a difficult time."*

We are so grateful to all who support Empower Tanzania. The steadfast interest and generosity of this community are what fuel our hope and our work.

Warmly,  
Todd Byerly  
Executive Director, U.S.A.

# Covid Relief Efforts



**Thanks to ongoing support bolstered by a special COVID-19 Relief Campaign, our staff was prepared to help their community during this time of global pandemic.**



## PUBLIC HEALTH MESSAGING

In early April, we addressed crucial public health messaging by distributing 50,000 flyers with accurate COVID-19 information to government offices, healthcare facilities, public markets, motorcycle taxi stands, bus stops, community organizations, churches, mosques, businesses, and other prominent locations throughout the Same District. They were distributed by our 33 Community Health Educators (who wore masks and practiced physical distancing and sanitation measures) in each of the 31 wards where they live so the documents could obtain widespread exposure to the population. This information was also distributed electronically on social media channels and via WhatsApp. Photographs of the women doing this work are on page 5.

Staff continued to find innovative ways to spread important public health information throughout the region, in one instance through spoken word. With the support of the District Executive Director (DED) and the District Medical Officer (DMO), Empower Tanzania staff rented a vehicle and a sound system and logged HUNDREDS of miles in three different districts spreading accurate public health information. The announcement covered the districts of Rombo, Mwanga, and Same. In Mwanga District, all 16 wards were covered. In Rombo District, all 24 wards were covered. In Same District, all 32 wards were covered.

***"In all of the places the activity was conducted people were happy to be reminded about the Coronavirus and how to protect themselves. We give special thanks to the DED and DMO from these three districts as they were very supportive and will welcome us back again whenever necessary."***

***~ Efrancia Nzota, Health Programs Manager***

# HAND-WASHING & HYGIENE

Because of our work on water projects over the past decade—rehabilitating broken-down wells, digging new wells, training well mechanics, and empowering communities with WASH training and education—thousands of people in rural Tanzania have access clean water, which is essential to hygiene and health. We continued to promote hand-washing and crucial hygiene measures during this time of pandemic.

## DISEASE DATA IN SWAHILI

Volunteers and staff in the US and Tanzania worked together to create and send a Power Point presentation and succinct data on COVID-19 in Swahili to hundreds in government leadership, social workers, educators, healthcare providers, police, religious leaders, other NGOs, community leaders, Rotarians, and all other Tanzania contacts. The document included a description of the disease, modes of transmission, symptoms, and prevention and care measures. These items were also shared with radio, newspaper, and television media.

We are committed  
to the long-term →



Several drop-offs of food relief and basic necessities were distributed to the families of all 100+ students in our programs in Msindo and Same Town. This included rice, corn, beans, cooking oil, and soap.



The 99 Beyond Gender Based Violence Survivors-turned-Entrepreneurs received a monthly sum to make up for budget shortfalls while they stayed safe at home and were therefore unable to sell their goods at markets.



Staff worked from home through much of the spring. All staff salaries and the stipends given to Community Health Workers and Educators continue to be paid.



"The help which we have been receiving during this time has helped me and my family with food consumption and other basic necessities during this difficult period of this dangerous disease. Also, the children were at home so it has been a great help to my family. I would like to thank you for remembering us and caring for us. God bless you so much and bless the work of your hands so that you will continue to remember us again and again." - *Salmina Ramadhani*



"The money which we have received, it has helped me to purchase basic needs for my children such as food and their school items. Also it has helped to add capital for my small business. (I am selling tomatoes, cooking oil, and soap.) I am very thankful to those who donated this fund to us and for remembering us. Always may God bless you and keep you all safe." - *Mariana Bonaventure*



"Before I say how this money supported me during this pandemic period, I need to take this opportunity to thank you and the Empower Tanzania team for always supporting us and remembering us. I and my family are praying that God keep you safe and protect your health. The money which we have received has helped me a lot especially during this period when business were closed. I was able to purchase food for my family, pay school fees after the re-opening of schools, and also I was able to invest in agriculture activities. Thank you." - *Namwamo Juma*

# Health Programs

## Community Hospital Alliance Program (CHAP) & Improving Women's Health Program (IWHP)



**Community Health Workers & Educators are FEMALE FIRST RESPONDERS during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Because of past education and extensive training in matters of preventative health and basic health care, Empower Tanzania was able to dispatch a team of more than 60 Community Healthcare Workers, Community Health Educators, and Birth Attendants to deliver crucial health information on the front line of our overall response to Coronavirus pandemic. The women were ready to use their past training to become the first-responders in 2020.

.....

IWHP was established in 2013 and trained 33 Community Health Educators (CHEs) in various health topics and social concepts. Using handouts, battery-operated projectors, and videos produced by Empower Tanzania, these women continue to travel throughout the district conveying important health information. As COVID-19 restrictions were relaxed in Tanzania, they continued to give relevant presentations (wearing proper PPE and implementing all necessary safety precautions) to the community members in their political ward of Same District. Their work before and during the pandemic has been of the utmost importance.

CHAP has trained 34 Maasai women in 21 Maasai villages to serve as Community Health Workers (CHWs) who provide health education, timely life-saving treatments, patient referrals to healthcare facilities, disease surveillance and prevention, and vital events registration. The program began in 2014, now includes 34 Maasai men, and has provided life-saving health education, healthcare services, and hospital referrals to thousands of Maasai community members. The CHWs joined the CHEs in providing crucial public health information throughout 2020.

# Reproductive Health & Relationships Program

The Reproductive Health and Relationships Program (RHRP) was established in 2018 and aims to (1) reduce the high pregnancy rate of Same District school girls, (2) lower the incidence of STDs (including HIV) in school children and young adults, (3) delay the age of sexual debut in Same District students, (4) improve the knowledge and attitudes of students about reproductive health and relationships.



Photos taken at Hedara Primary School.



Sexual and reproductive behaviors are influenced by attitudes regarding gender, power, and many other societal values; therefore, RHRP encompasses many aspects of human relationships. This program includes not only topics such as human anatomy, puberty, menstrual periods, reproduction, contraception, and sexually transmitted infections including HIV, but also other topics such as:

- Family and personal relationships
- Meaning of consent
- Gender & gender equality
- Gender-based violence
- Sexual violence
- Body image
- Self-worth
- Peer influence
- Tolerance
- Respect
- Human rights
- Stigma
- Discrimination
- Harassment
- Bullying
- Negotiation tactics
- Self-defense techniques

The RHRP pilot is now complete except for data analysis, but the teachers continue their student education, demonstrating the ongoing cost-free sustainability of the program. A proposed three-year scale-up of the Reproductive Health & Relationships Program will enable it to encompass all the remaining 64,542 students and 2,022 teachers in the 234 schools of Same District, Tanzania, including government, Catholic, Lutheran and Islamic schools.



Monthly newsletters for the RHRP teachers and students continue to be produced by staff and volunteers to provide updates, share stories, and answer questions.

# Beyond Gender-Based Violence Program



# VUMWE DESIGNS



After two years of culturally appropriate counseling, the 100 survivors of gender-based violence were trained on fabric and reusable menstrual pad production. Further education focused on supply acquisition, quality, marketing, and production techniques. This program continues to grow and to improve the quality of life and financial security of the remaining 99 survivors-turned-entrepreneurs.

This year, the artisans named their social enterprise "VUMWE," which means "UNITY" in the Pare language.



Though production was limited in 2020 due to the communal nature of creation and the risks of COVID-19, a fair trade committee worked diligently on a brand and logo system (pictured left), research and development, customer discovery, and a viable business plan that will ensure the future success of this social enterprise.

# Integrated Farming Program



## EMPOWER TANZANIA MAKE PLANS FOR KIRINJKO

Responding to the belief that no one should be a victim of hunger, Empower Tanzania invested in six acres of verdant farmland in Kirinjiko and staff in Tanzania has begun to develop this land as a center for training farmer-entrepreneurs. With funds raised in 2020, they will soon invite local farmers to reimagine ways of producing food and increasing crop yields through modern techniques. With the right infrastructure and education, farmers in Tanzania can grow enough nutritious food to feed their families and communities, preventing hunger and malnutrition and prompting investment in education and in their communities.

Throughout 2020, we raised nearly \$15,000 to launch this program, which will lead to giant gains in crop production, better health, and stronger communities.

**Phase One:** Build a pavilion used for classes and to house market stalls to sell product.

**Phase Two:** Train groups of 10–100 local farmers on modern methods, hybrid seed and fertilizer, and other best practices that will allow them to earn more income, feed more people, and be more productive with their land.



## #GIVINGTUESDAY WITH EMPOWER TANZANIA

**Supporters received a hand-beaded ornament for every donation they made in support of our farming initiative before the holiday season!**



# Water Projects

**IN THE MIDST OF A GLOBAL HEALTH PANDEMIC, ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER & SANITATION IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER.**



## RUVU

Throughout 2020, staff worked on repairing a broken down water source in the village of Ruvu, which is home to over 3,000 people. Although the main problem with the existing Ruvu water source was the broken windmill, the survey done by technicians and the local government water engineer found many other damaged pieces to the system. After months of planning and work, they expect a re-engineered system and access to clean water in 2021. (Project manager Joseph Kimbrereza is pictured next to five new containment tanks.)

## NJIRO

Construction of a new clean water system was completed in 2018. Since then, community members have taken it upon themselves to raise the funds and do the work for nine more distribution points to serve even more people. We are thrilled to see the ownership the community has taken over this project and the expansion they were able to complete independently.



## NADARURU

The community of Nadaruru has a functioning water system complete with solar panels, storage tanks, and seven distribution points put into place by Empower Tanzania in 2019. The people continue to benefit from access to clean water. This has been especially impactful to the Nadaruru Primary School, which is steps away from one of the distribution points. Teachers and parents report incredible academic progress from kids who are no longer fatigued by the responsibility of walking early in the morning to fetch water and whose overall health has improved thanks to consuming clean water.

# Education Programs



**Though education is a component of every single one of our programs, we have two initiatives that serve under-resourced children in particular, the Most Vulnerable Children's Club at Msindo and the Same Learning Center.**

The SAME LEARNING CENTER (SLC) continues to make an impact on the most vulnerable children in and around Same Town. Programming was paused while schools closed during the pandemic, but students and their families were still visited by staff who provided with food and supply relief. Once the Tanzanian government re-opened schools, students of the SLC resumed twice-weekly afterschool meetings and Saturday morning sessions where they received tutoring in English by our staff of English teachers, along with nutritious meals, snacks, other support services.



After six years, the **MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN'S CLUB** in the village of Msindo continues to thrive thanks to staff in Tanzania and donor support.

Empower Tanzania provides each student in our programs with a school uniform (shirts and shorts or skirts), shoes, and stationary. We also provide other basic necessities monthly like soap, shoe-polish, toothpaste, oil gel, and menstrual pads.

Along with academic tutoring, we teach life skills like gardening, sports and games, cooking, computers, phone skills, personal hygiene, self-defense techniques, balanced diet, and mathematics.

In addition, we help students struggling with mental health issues by giving them the care and assistance they needed to succeed academically.



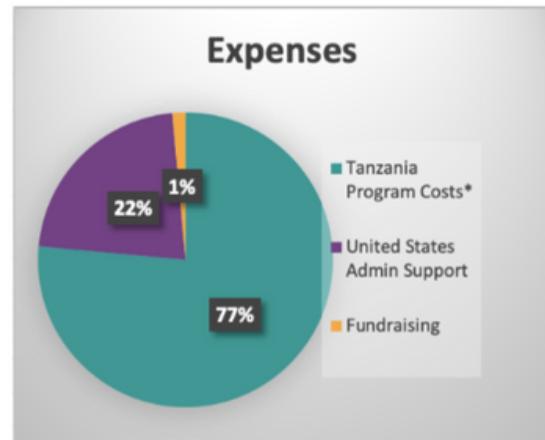
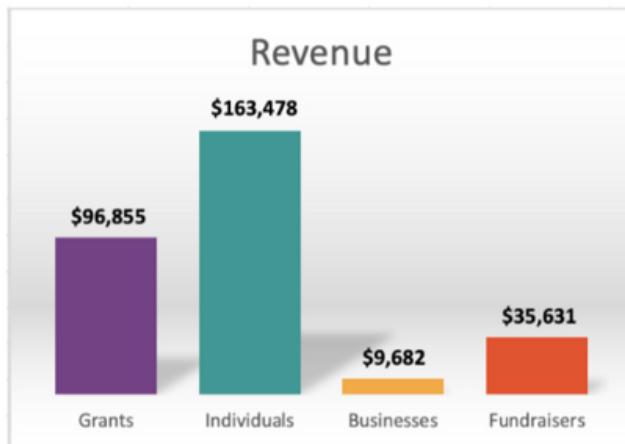
Pictured above are the teachers at the Same Learning Center: (L-R) Meshack Henry Mkongo, Riziki Joseph Kimbwereza, Lilian Karani, Mary Mrutu.

# Financials

Statement of Financial Position		2020
ASSETS		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash + equivalents	\$ 275,672	
Receivable	\$ 46	
Prepaid expenses + other current assets	-\$ 1,917	
Farm Plots	\$ 4,123	
Other Assets	\$ 30,042	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 307,965</b>	
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Liabilities	\$ 6,355	
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Restricted	\$ 222,682	
Unrestricted	\$ 78,928	
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 307,965</b>	

Statement of Activity		2020
REVENUE		
Grants	\$ 96,855	
Individuals	\$ 163,478	
Businesses	\$ 9,682	
Fundraisers	\$ 35,631	
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 305,646</b>	
EXPENSES		
Tanzania Program Costs*	\$ 207,388	
United States Admin Support	\$ 59,951	
Fundraising	\$ 3,889	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 271,229</b>	

\* Includes salary & benefits for Country Director and other local Tanzanian staff



UNAUDITED: For Management Use Only - No assurance has been provided and all disclosures are omitted

We believe that finding answers to rural development challenges requires working together with communities to create a vision and a long-term commitment beyond the life of a project. Empower Tanzania pursues this approach through all we do.

**Hundreds of volunteer hours were spent on behalf of our programs in both the United States and Tanzania in 2020.  
We are so grateful!**

## Board of Directors

Mike Gaul (president), Jodi Morgan-Peters (president), Jake Klipsch (vice president), Kip Peters (secretary), Rebecca Gerke (treasurer), Andrew Bice, Nahana Mjema, Charles Bursch, Jill June, Frank Klipsch, Carol Putz, Jennie Peakin, Holly Bzdega, Rob Craig, Chip Lowe, Ed Bell, Lisa Menzies, Mark Pascal, Vicki Comegys, Amon Noel Mchomvu, Filbert Kaspar, Janeth Malimbwi, Michael Welsch

## U.S. & Tanzania Team

Elibariki Kisimbo, Todd Byerly, Flora Mmbaga, Efrancia Nzota, Yoeza Mbomea Mnzava, Catherine John Wales, Joseph Kimbwereza, Nteghenjwa Mjema, William Elias Ambwene, Meshack Henry Mkongo, Riziki Joseph Kimbwereza, Lilian Karani, Mary Mrutu Phil Latessa, Jeffrey Carithers, Holley Bzdega, Leslie Klipsch, Amy Sivertsen

## Wezesha Circle

Kindra Jacobsen, Mike & Deborah Welsch, Denise Murray Edwards, Robert Craig, Heide & Charles Bursch, Hanne Dalmut, Amy & Andrew Sivertsen, Glen Ripke, Mark & Jan Burnham, John & Anne Hartson, Sara Olson-Smith, Frederic & Martha Hoerr, Eric & Rebecca Gerke, Elaine Olson, Patty & John Johannessen, Jaymie & Jason Wilson, Karen Clark, Jill Hook, Matthew Seberger, Phil Latessa, Jennie & Sean Peakin, Ali Carithers, Dr. Jeff Carithers, Kent & Sara Johnson, Chad & Andrea McKenna, Frank Klipsch, Eric Dreibelbis & Candice Schlafmann, Denise Charter-Jones, Mike Gaul, Andrew Bice, Bonnie & Dick Ekse, Mike Roselli, Noelle & Aaron Fultz, Rachel Stauffer, Debra Parrott, Jill June, Chip Lowe, Ed Bell, Mark Tucker, Sarah Peakin, Lisa Veach, Ryan Schneider & Lindsey Mack, Carolyn Schnell, Sandy Scotton, Jake & Leslie Klipsch, Marta Ford, Dennis Ullom, Elisabeth Woolsey, Dr. Holley & Ted Bzdega, Kip Peters & Jodi Morgan-Peters, Don Wolfe, Marlene Marolf, Lenore Metrick-Chen, Garrett Ullom, Stacie & Tom Franklin, Jean Morgan, Diane Ullom, John & Mary Barnum, Lisa Menzies, Georgia Hanna, Vicki Comegys, Dave King



# HOW WE WORK



## IT ALL STARTS WITH OUR DONORS

Our donors support our work through their generosity. We receive individual donations, donations in response to specific campaigns, monthly gifts, matching corporate gifts, even AmazonSmile rewards! These donations, along with major gifts from foundations and grantors, keep the lights on and the programs in place.



## FUNDS GO TO TANZANIA

We have a staff of 12 in Tanzania. They are the on-the-ground, beginning-to-end implementors, project managers, community members, bringers of hope, knowledge, and care, and all-around incredible humans. Along with our volunteers (based all over the world), we complete an astonishing amount of work that touches tens of thousands of people throughout the Kilimanjaro Region of Tanzania.



## OUR STAFF EMPOWERS THEIR COMMUNITY

We are a community-based listening organization, which means that the Tanzanians on staff take the lead in everything we do. They know what their community needs and implement programs and projects that ultimately change lives. Our staff's shrewd insight and creativity has positioned us in programs involving agriculture, clean water, healthcare, entrepreneurship, the arts, and more. Education is ALWAYS key to our work. Because of the Tanzanian staff, the generosity of our donors, and the tenacity of the Tanzanian people, our organization has been recognized for our excellence and integrity time and time again.



## WE REPORT THE RESULTS

We are SO PROUD of our team and of our work and we love sharing stories with supporters. We do this through a monthly e-blast, quarterly Wezesha Circle updates, phone calls, cards and letters, blog posts, speaking engagements, and frequent social media posts. There is so much good news to spread about the work being done in Tanzania and we are honored to do so.



## WE MAKE MORE FRIENDS & DO MORE WORK

We believe that ALL people, regardless of where they're born or what they look like, should live healthy, safe, joy-filled lives ... and we're grateful to constantly meet people who agree. Our volunteer opportunities range from five minutes a week to planning entire events. We are always careful to match our volunteers with work that will be meaningful to them ... and the world.



**"For there is  
always light if  
only we're brave  
enough to see it,  
if only we're brave  
enough to BE it."**

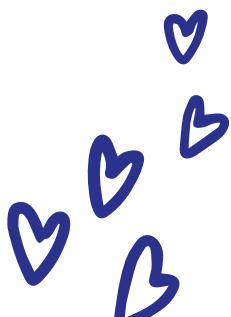
*~ Amanda Gorman,  
Youth Poet Laureate*

We are honored to partner with individuals, groups, businesses, and other organizations to raise funds and awareness...and spread HOPE. We believe donors can most effectively help further our mission by engaging in one of the following:

- Make a contribution via our secure website: [www.empowertz.org/donate](http://www.empowertz.org/donate)
- Write a check to Empower Tanzania. We will gratefully receive your contribution at P.O. Box 1121, Ames, Iowa 50014.
- Join the Wezesha Circle. In Swahili “wezesha” means to “empower” and it’s what we believe in! Join the Wezesha Circle by committing to a planned monthly or yearly donation at [www.empowertz.org/donate](http://www.empowertz.org/donate) or by emailing [information@empowertz.org](mailto:information@empowertz.org).
- If you're over 70 1/2, consider a donation from your RMD.

## **OTHER WAYS TO HELP:**

- Go to our website and sign up for our monthly e-newsletter
- Choose Empower Tanzania on AmazonSmile
- Follow Empower Tanzania on Facebook, Instagram, & Twitter
- Read and share our blog posts
- Invite us to speak at your next group meeting
- Shop our store



# THANK YOU

We are grateful to every single one of you who help make this work possible.



Follow along online: [www.empowertz.org](http://www.empowertz.org) / Facebook @EmpowerTZ  
Twitter @empowertanzania / Instagram @empower\_tanzania  
Empower Tanzania, PO BOX 1121, Ames, Iowa 50014