



2021 Annual Report



Reflecting on 2021

Dear friends of Mwanzo,

In 2012, a supporter of the newly formed Mwanzo Proud Farmers asked me, "In your dream for 2023, what do you see that Mwanzo has accomplished?" Back in 2012, we were still dealing with the most devastating impacts of HIV/AIDS on communities. Antiretroviral drugs were beginning to help, but as Janet Andar told me, "Madame, we are tired of dancing only at funerals." That day, as I looked ten years into the future, I dared to envision a well-built primary school, well-fed children, and women and men dancing with hope and joy.

What an ambitious concept it seemed at that time! And look what we have done: You, my dear friends, have accompanied our brothers and sisters in the wider Rabuor community through programs that have lifelong impact. Two hundred and eighty children and counting not only have two meals a day, but a cafeteria where they eat at real tables. They can finish 8th grade before leaving the village for school. Twenty-three members of the Mwanzo staff have meaningful and compensated work and opportunity for advancement. Workers on the school building are learning skills and making decent wages.

Natasha, our first student in 2012 whose guardian/grandma Doris died in 2016, is thriving. Though the annual report is for one year, this 2021 report encompasses the ten years of progress you have helped make possible.

The growth of Mwanzo has been miraculous! When we started in 2012, we had two teachers and 25 students. As of today, we have 23 teachers and 280 students. The last two years have presented new challenges, and still, I hold on to the power of hope and imagine a future of thriving children, youth, and adults with ever-expanding opportunities.

At Mwanzo, we have relied on your faithful support to do this life-changing work, and your love has been unwavering. On behalf of my childhood village of Rabuor and her neighbors, I am deeply grateful. We look forward to your continued journey with Mwanzo into the future.

Sincerely,
Loyce Ong'udi

Loyce Ong'udi



Loyce Ong'udi
Executive Director

Celebrating 10 years of Hope in Action

Founded in 2012, Mwanzo's mission is to cultivate opportunities through education and community-driven development in Rabuor Village, Kenya, and neighboring communities. It is through the hard work of our brothers and sisters in Kenya and our funding partners, that we are able to proudly proclaim "Hope has a Home Here!"

Upper: Natasha (Tasha) as a young child (2012)



Lower: Primary school under construction in 2016



Upper: Natasha (center) is growing up! (2021)



Lower: Primary school (completed in 2019), with new desks and solar array installed in 2021

2012

2022

Nurturing the Children

Mwanzo Education Center has grown into a new name. Now serving almost 300 pre-K to 8th-grade students, Mwanzo Wetu Center of Excellence Academy (MWCEA) provides two nutritious meals a day and a place to grow. An updated competency-based curriculum teaches life skills including agriculture and computers, while expanded extracurricular activities broaden horizons. MWCEA is more than a school!



Agriculture & Environment



Ongoing agricultural training sessions covering raised kitchen gardens, growing trees (for food, fruit, timber and environment protection), and poultry husbandry, serve farmers as they adapt to changing climate and feed their families. Horticulture lessons in school teach children relevant knowledge and skills.

Mwanzo Energetic Proud Farmers (MEPF) poultry project continues to provide both nutrition and income. Chickens are sold locally and to the Catering Group. Extra eggs are shared with neighbors for their hens to brood, extending the benefit to others in the community. Chicken manure is used to fertilize kitchen gardens which enhance diets with healthy vegetables.



Entrepreneurship



Wetu Catering Group

Wetu Catering Group catered more than 10 events in 2021, including the graduation ceremony at MWCEA. Individuals are paid for working at each catering event and the profits are used to expand the catering program. All are hopeful that business will grow again when Covid restrictions are lifted and more gatherings can happen.



Tailoring Program

The Tailoring project launched in 2021. Starting at MWCEA to provide uniforms and masks, this program will be self-sustaining as the sales of uniforms pay for labor and materials. When the community center opens, skills training will be expanded to others in the community.



Village Savings & Loan

Micro-finance networks fund more than 60 short-term loans per year. As loans are repaid, new loans are made. These short-term loans continue to be a lifeline for many, including HIV widows/widowers and others without collateral to qualify for a commercial bank loan.

What's ahead for Mwanzo?

Building Community

The construction of a new community center began in July 2021. Located adjacent to MWCEA, this building will house a health services room, a computer lab/internet café with fax and copy services, a multi-purpose room, library, and daycare. The foundation and ground floor walls are up and the next phase will include the second-floor walls and roof. The final phase of construction includes installing power and finishing the interior and an access ramp. Rock by rock, we will build this home for hope and connection with your support!



Funding a Secure Future

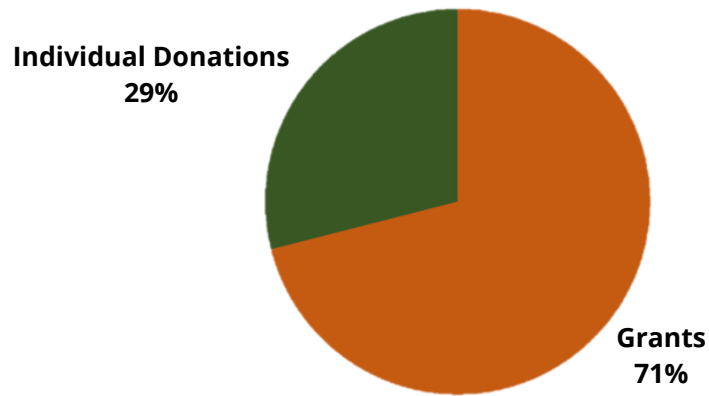
With solid programs for nurturing students, agriculture and microenterprises underway, we invite you to help us build a financially secure future. If you are interested in leaving a lasting legacy, please contact info@mwanzo.org.



Our Financials

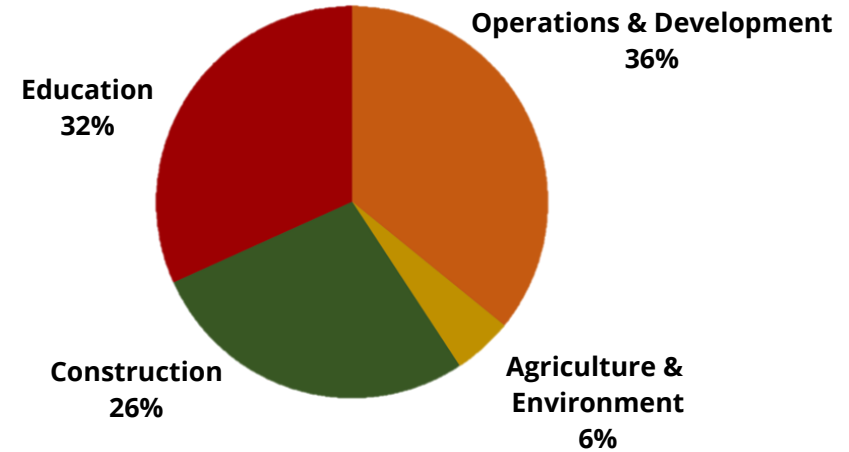
Revenues FY21

Total Revenues: \$347,287



Expenditures FY21

Total Expenditures: \$207,973



23

Kenya based staff

1

U.S. based staff



Recurring Gifts: Encircling us with Hope

Thank you to our partners!

We are very grateful for the incredible support that individuals provide.



University Congregational United Church of Christ has walked alongside us, every step of the way, for a decade.

We are also honored to partner with the following organizations that have joined us on this journey:

